

March 29, 2022

To whom it may concern.

I am a retired Probation Director, and prior to retiring as a director, I worked as a children's treatment counselor, group home supervisor, deputy probation officer, working with various teen, young adult and adult groups. HB 1171, if passed, would create more broken teens, young adults and adults. In my previous work, we found that with just additional time and care, the teens, young adults and adults who found themselves in a situation with an unplanned pregnancy, had ALWAYS been able to find a caring adult relative to take their baby in. Abortion is NOT the answer. Those babies placed with caring family or friends have grown up in loving homes, where the teen/young adult/adult mother or father have been able to gain access to their child at some point, in a healthy environment. On the other hand, those who elect to end their pregnancies or participate in the ending of the pregnancies have later in life experience SERIOUS, LIFE ALTERING breaks, including, but not limited to deep remorse, and even suicidal ideations. Our society can very easily accommodate young innocent babies, but we cannot allow the continued exploitation of vulnerable teens, young adults & adults.

I implore you to NOT pass this legislation. In it's current form, it would allow for abortions, would remove statutory rape laws and eliminate laws concerning the age of reason. Our vulnerable youth and adults need protection, as do the innocent babies.

Respectfully,

Maria Vicente