

## **HB 1317**

### **House Human Services Committee**

#### **Testimony of Patricia Limpin in support**

**January 20, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I have come today to offer testimony in support of HB 1317 to provide financial assistance for costs associated with a pregnancy that results in the adoption of a newborn.

I am a Social Work student in my junior year, and after graduation and passing licensure, I aspire to work in adoption, foster care services, or crisis pregnancy. I have always believed in the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. 3 months ago, I delivered a baby boy of my own. However, several months before that, I was a 20 year old college student, unwed, unexpectedly pregnant, and afraid of what would happen to me and my baby. If there was only one thing I was certain of at that point, it was that I could not terminate my pregnancy with an abortion - the life of an innocent child is too precious to end because of my own fear. From there, I had to think of what options I had to give my baby a life where he would be safe and where he would be loved. If I were to keep my pregnancy a secret, I wondered if my medical insurance would cover my labor and delivery or if I would have to deliver at home on my own. I worried about home births where babies were breech or had other complications causing the baby or mother to die for lack of proper medical attention. I have been fortunate enough to have the support and assistance of my family, fiance, and friends in my pregnancy and in raising my son, but I know that there are other women who are without support and in worse circumstances.

With the passing of this bill, women in crisis pregnancy can know that the life that they carried within them can come into the world safely and will have a family. There will be a relief for women as they carry out the entirety of their pregnancy without fear of cost of labour and delivery. Couples considering adoption of a newborn will not have any hesitations because of adoption fees and they can give the child the stability of having the same parents since the beginning of their life. HB 1317 could be the reason a woman would not choose an abortion, and that would be one more life saved and to rejoice. I hope to make a stand today for my future clients to have more options, for women to feel safe knowing that they and their child will be taken care of if they choose life, and for the protection and potential of the future generation.

I thank you for your time this afternoon and urge a do pass recommendation on HB 1317.  
I stand for questions.