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To Whom it concerns:

I am writing in support of HB 1373 Relating to the definition of human being and person as the terms relate to the offenses of murder and assault, and civil actions for death caused by wrongful acts.

As a fifteen year old, my boyfriend and I experienced an unplanned pregnancy. Just five days after dropping out of school at 16 years of age, we married and had and kept our baby just one month later. We survived on peanuts and hard work and some assistance from family. It was not easy, yet today at age 60, it was worth it.

Today, While we eventually divorced, I am a college graduate and self-employed. He is a business owner. We had two babies by the time I was 18 and worked hard to get our family started and self supportive. Together those two children are each married 20 plus years with four children each. All self supporting, one with a four year degree and another supporting our trucking industry. Our generations of wealth in the family has multiplied with productive adults that will populate the upper midwest and fill positions within the community.

Together we both remarried and had four more children.. Our large heritage began young with county assistance for a dr appt. I was luckier than most as I kept the pregnancy to myself for 6 months. Another gal in my class was 10 weeks and was taken to Minneapolis for an abortion. She later listened to her parents' conversation about me and my situation and found out ... had she told them, they would have supported her decision.

It is just a shame the emotional pain she suffered at the hands of well meaning solution makers. The choice is not easy when it is easy to follow your friends and organizations to make a decision that will affect you for many years to come. Lets make the best choice be prevention and if it happens, Let us be supportive in the powerful stories of that conceived life. My one decision, easy for me, is now 8 Healthy and happy teen grandchildren. All know the story of where they began. Young foolish Love living on a shoestring.

Sincerely, Connie Smalarz