

Hello,

I would like to introduce myself to you all. Because hearing stories from a person different from you will require at least knowing something about them to connect with.

My name is Elizabeth Samuelson, but everyone calls me Beth. I am a 31 year old wife, dog mom, social worker, friend, daughter, sister, and am incredibly grateful for the chance to become a mom. A chance some people want to take away from me. But you have the opportunity to change that with HB 1477, HB 1282, and HB 1284.

My husband and I have been able to do so much together. We got married when I was 23 after dating since we were 17, bought a house, took our dog into our home, and then started to plan a family. Unfortunately, this plan did not go as we hoped.

We spent month after month wondering if God had forgotten us. Months of waiting became months of ER visits due to my extreme pain we had no explanation for. ER visits became scans, lab draws and eventually surgery to tell us I had endometriosis. This I knew was the culprit for my infertility.

Despite this, we have been blessed enough to find not only providers of fertility care in our area, but caring ones. They have supported us through truly the most difficult time in our lives. Through failed attempt after failed attempt, they have been there with support and plans to help us.

We have finally made it to the point of trying IVF. We have two little babies waiting for us at the clinic. And are hoping to do a transfer very soon. Therefore, I find it only my Gods direction that I am testifying now. God has made everything in my life happen on such an important and undeniable timeline. From recent job changes all the way back to him saving my life as an infant myself. Nothing has gone wrong, even in the midst of hardship, because his plan has always been there. And I know his plan for my babies at the clinic is for them to have a chance at life. Life that will only be possible through the care our IVF clinic provides.

Some of the proposed bills will effectively cancel our treatment with the clinic. Something the government should not be able to control. Please hear me, along with all the other women and girls who will inevitably need this clinic to do what they want most, grow their families and have babies. This care is necessary, this care is beautiful, this care needs to be covered by insurance (as it is largely unattainable otherwise), and this care is here because of God. All of the beautiful children I know in my life who started as an embryo at a fertility clinic are no less deserving of life than any one of us who began differently than them. Children come to families in all different ways, including IVF care.

IVF care is something that should not only be protected, but expanded. Expanded to those who cannot afford treatment due to its complexity increasing its cost. Expanded to those who live far away from facilities that provide the treatment. As many communities as possible should have a clinic available. Expanded to all hearts and minds to see that what we are doing is supporting families and children through this care, and I know Gods hand has been on this the whole time.

Please consider the women desperate for this care, who are your constituents. The people you are supposed to be here to serve. The beauty of America is supposed to be that you can determine your own destiny and make your own choices. Including accessing care to expand your family. Any care that is needed.

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