

Representative Tina Liebling
Health, Finance and Policy Committee
HF259, Draft 1

Good morning, Representative Tina Liebling and members of the Health, Finance and Policy Committee. My name is Carrena Falls and I am a college student and anti-abortion human rights activist in the Twin Cities area. I strongly oppose HF259. Having my stance founded firmly in the biological reality of human life at conception, I am wholly committed to the protection of innocent human life, both inside and outside of the womb. Preborn children and their mothers deserve protection from abortion and its effects. As someone who never knew a time without *Roe v. Wade* until June 24th of 2022, I have seen firsthand the impact of abortion on our nation and on my peers. I stand for the human right to life among the many who have had abortions themselves. Abortion harms women and this has been a longstanding reality. For decades, post-abortive women have regretted their abortions. Those women now bravely pour out their hearts in raw grief over the gruesome destruction of their preborn children. To ignore their grief and dismiss their pain is cruel and blatantly anti-woman. We cannot pretend to stand for the rights of women while turning a blind eye to the results of what we promote. If abortion were merely another health procedure like getting a tooth

pulled, I ask you to consider why post-abortion trauma is so prevalent in our country. No one commits suicide because of the extraction of a tooth, yet studies show that the suicide rate recorded after abortion is staggering. A few studies demonstrating this reality include: “Suicides After Pregnancy in Finland” by Dr. Mika Gissler, “Abortion, Substance Abuse and Mental Health in Early Adulthood: Thirteen-Year Longitudinal Evidence from the United States” by Dr. Donald Paul Sullens, and “Deaths Associated with Pregnancy Outcome: A Record Linkage Study of Low Income Women” by Dr. David C. Reardon. It’s clear that abortion is different. Women grieve after abortion because it becomes painfully clear to them that an innocent human life has been lost. I compel the committee to consider not only the lives of children lost to abortion but the effect of such a procedure on women who undergo them. As women’s suffragist, Alice Paul stated so clearly, “Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women.” I urge you to vote against HF259. Thank you all for your time.

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