

Liberty Pike



Testimony for Public Hearing
In Opposition to HCR 6
Human Services and Housing Committee
April 1, 2013

Good afternoon, Rep. Carolyn Tomei and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee. My name is Liberty Pike. I am here, as a concerned citizen, to speak in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 6, which reaffirms the woman's right to make reproductive decisions. Oregon is currently the only state in America that does not have a single restriction on abortion (Kliff, 2013) and is extreme with regards to its support of abortion. Therefore, an additional resolution proclaiming its support of abortion is unnecessary and excessive.

What is truly necessary in the State of Oregon is a restriction on partial-birth abortion that would enable state prosecutors to enforce the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

I am not just a concerned citizen speaking before you today. I am also currently pregnant with a daughter who, at 30 weeks old, is right around the age that countless other babies, in the second and third trimesters, have been aborted by this heinous procedure. I am horrified that there is no state legislative ruling in place prosecuting abortionists who perform partial-birth abortions in the State of Oregon. Perhaps further clarity about what this abortion procedure actually entails is needed.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists describes the partial-birth abortion procedure, medically referred to as “Intact Dilation and Extraction” (or “Intact D&E”) in the following sterile, rather unfeeling way:

This procedure has been described as containing all of the following four elements:

1. Deliberate dilatation of the cervix, usually over a sequence of days;
2. Instrumental conversion of the fetus to a footling breech;
3. Breech extracting of the body, excepting the head; and
4. Partial evacuation of the intracranial contents of a living fetus to extract vaginal delivery of a dead but otherwise intact fetus (ACOG Executive Board, 1997).

In layman terms, during a partial-birth abortion, the baby, who at this point in pregnancy is viable, as babies as young as 21 weeks have now survived with medical support (Edemariam, 2007), is delivered feet-first (a dangerous delivery for the mother (Storck MD & Zieve MD, 2012)) until just the head remains inside the birth canal. The abortionist then uses forceps to pierce the back of the baby’s skull, suctions out the brain, crushes the skull and delivers the dead baby.

This procedure is not safe for women, nor is it ever medically necessary. The following was taken from the same statement quoted from above: “A select panel convened by

ACOG could identify no circumstances under which this procedure, as defined above, would be the only option to save the life or preserve the health of the mother” (ACOG Executive Board, 1997). The then-president of the American Medical Association Dr. Daniel H. Johnson, Jr., agreed in a letter to *The New York Times* on May 26, 1997: “...the partial delivery of a living fetus for the purpose of killing it outside the womb is ethically offensive to most Americans and physicians. Our panel could not find any identified circumstance in which the procedure was the only safe and effective abortion method... The bill is not inconsistent with *Roe v. Wade*, as you suggest. No procedure necessary to preserve the life or the health of the woman will be denied -- it just won't be done in this particular rare and inappropriate way” (Johnson MD, 1997).

Oregon would not be alone in passing a ban to stop this horrendous procedure. Supported by the 2007 decision of the Supreme Court in *Gonzalez v. Carhart* (2007), which upheld states' rights to restrict abortion as well as the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, 32 states have already enacted their own bans on partial birth abortion (The Guttmacher Institute, 2013). This is an accurate reflection of public opinion about partial-birth abortion as well. Gallup found that 64% of Americans are in favor of banning partial birth abortions (Gallup, 2011).

What women truly need in Oregon is not an excessive, unnecessary resolution. What women in Oregon need is protection from the proven dangerous procedure that partial-birth abortion is. What women in Oregon who are like my daughter need is protection from this gruesome and inhuman practice.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liberty Pike

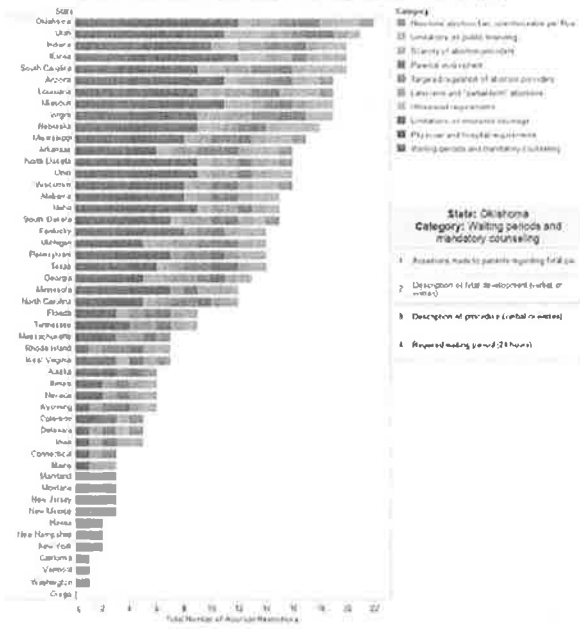
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Appendix

Number of abortion restrictions, by state and category of restriction

FIGURE 1. This chart shows the number of abortion restrictions in each state, broken down by category. The chart is based on data from the Guttmacher Institute's 2014 survey of state abortion laws. The chart is based on data from the Guttmacher Institute's 2014 survey of state abortion laws.



Source: Guttmacher Institute. Center for Reproductive Rights, National Pro-Life Alliance. For more information, see www.guttmacher.org/pubs/factsheet/abrtypes14.html

