

My name is Tina Fortin. I am currently 51 years old. At the age of 14 I was led to have a surgical abortion by my boyfriend and his older sister. I was not made aware of any other options, such as adoption or parenting. I was not made aware of any physical, emotional, mental, relational potential side effects that abortion could cause. Nobody educated me or informed me that I was already a mom to a baby that was alive and real and growing in my womb. I was not made aware that scientifically my child was already his own person, different from all others having his own unique DNA planned and determined - his eye and hair color, his personality, the sound of his voice, and more. My body was supposed to be the safest place for him to grow in and develop during the very intricate and delicate beginning stages of his human life. Then, he could be born and be part of making a difference in this world.

But legal abortion in Oregon and by the destruction of the abortionist's hands - my child's body was ripped apart and sucked out in pieces with a vacuum. His life was tragically ended after he barely had a chance to live. His life was important and meaningful and a gift to me. He was a valuable person! He is my son and I am his mother. He and the millions of other children's lives taken and might be taken by abortion - chemicals or surgical or any other method - are the reason why I am outspoken today to stand and say please don't pass this bill! I ask you - What age should we begin to have a protective voice for parents and their children? Do you understand the real trauma and devastation and grotesqueness of abortion? There aren't words descriptive enough for what it truly does to human life. Abortion is a human ending the life of other humans - their own kind - their own children - the ones that are least able and weakest to stand up for themselves - they don't have a voice or can't talk yet. Makers and proponents of legalized abortion and bill SB 2002, **do you want blood on your hands?** Do you really want to be a part of making it easier for moms and dads to end the lives of their innocent babies? And this bill in particular wants to allow adolescents to kill their own child - without letting parents help and know what their child is going through.

I personally suffered for years from the pain and trauma of abortion and the grief of losing my child - especially in this way. I had years of mental and emotional health issues - debilitating anxiety and depression. I had physical and addiction issues. Directly after my abortion - I began to binge and purge. Every day of my high school years was controlled by this bulimia disorder. I suffered from using some very unhealthy ways of coping with my unidentified pain. I suffered in silence. My parents didn't know or understand any of it. I didn't understand what I was going through! Nobody informed me what kind of agony abortion would cause.

Me and my baby needed advocates. We were both very young. We didn't know our options or how to stand up for ourselves. I didn't understand my own value and self-worth enough to understand my child's. Today, I still personally struggle with the abortion decision that I made. I miss my baby and long to know him and continue to think about him because he's real. My soul and being knows it well. Thankfully the LORD and some amazing people helped me to find healing and real hope. They helped me to identify and express with words and emotions the pain and grief related to post abortion trauma that I had been suffering in silence and kept in bondage in for over twenty years. They helped me to understand the truth that abortion is a matter of choosing life or death for my child and my soul. They helped me to understand that my baby's life really did matter. And, they helped me to understand that the lies of abortion allowed my motherhood and the childhood of my child to be choked off - essentially killed in an instant - a moment of an abortion procedure - motherhood/childhood relationship severed. Not to mention all the other family members that were impacted - the father, the siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, - abortion removes a person from not only the womb but from an entire family. And it was done in silence. What kind of unexplained trauma might this be causing to lives, our society, our country, our emotional and mental health, our relationships? People are literally missing from our families and from this earth. And, we don't talk about it. What will SB 2002 do to promote healthy living and communication between a pregnant adolescent and her parents? What will this bill do to the people that need to peacefully express and have a voice for innocent lives? We must consider these things.

This is why I stand today, because of the grace of God and the truths that I know today, I am healthy enough to have a passion and a voice to say confidently that every life matters preborn and born. We could do much more positive things with our choices, our money and time and lives and laws - to be life givers rather than life takers. We could make bills that truly help the adolescent pregnant person and baby with life-giving and healing resources. We could help people and families to be more valued, educated, and informed about the importance of their own lives and choices before pregnancy and after. Let's protect and advocate for healthy living rather than promote ending life by abortion in secrecy and silence. I admonish you to not let this SB 2002 to pass and think of better ways to help our children and spend our tax dollars. Please open your eyes and the eyes of your hearts to what abortion really is! Please seek healing for yourselves. Let's truly promote healthier life and families in Oregon and stop this destructive path of death and abortion. Thank you.