

Testimony to The Senate Committee on Rules
Opposition to SJR 33

My name is Amy Miles, and I survived a “therapeutic” abortion procedure here in Oregon in 1980. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SJR 33.

Babies survive abortions.

I am one of the thousands in this country who survived a failed abortion. Many—unlike me—are left to die.

My birthday—or the day that I celebrate as my birthday—was actually the day that I was accidentally born alive.

My medical records state “A young woman went in for a therapeutic abortion and a viable infant was born.” It was determined that I was anywhere between 27 to 30 weeks gestation.

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I am one of those babies. I am a part of this population, and we are deserving of the right to receive the medical care that we need. Size should not dictate who gets care and who does not. Situation should not dictate who receives care and who does not.

In my story, the abortionist did not realize that I was a late term baby; but thankfully someone in that room on that day saw that I needed medical attention, and I needed it quickly. I was transported from the abortion clinic to a large city hospital to receive specialized medical care.

As a result of the abortion procedure, I have cerebral palsy, which impacts my hearing and the coordination of my legs. I’ve had to undergo many years of physical therapy from the injuries sustained by the abortionist. Despite living my life with a disability, I am proud of the life I have. I have a wonderful family who cannot imagine a day in this life without me. I work as an occupational therapist in my community, and I enjoy helping them succeed.

I was and am the baby in this bill that is being discussed today. Every day I wake up feeling grateful that I can exercise my right to life when I know thousands upon thousands of babies do not get that chance.

SJR 33 seeks to make permanent the lack of protections for viable babies due to unlimited therapeutic, elective abortions. It allows babies like me born today to continue to not be given the medical care that they need and deserve after a failed abortion.

The Abortion Survivors Network with which I am affiliated, is one of the only organizations that has analyzed the data and the occurrence of babies such as myself.

During the Roe v. Wade era, nearly 86,000 babies, like me, survived failed abortions. In 2020 alone, an estimated 1,927 infants were born alive after abortion in the United States. That number is expected to rise due to abortion-friendly laws and increased use and availability of chemical abortion pills, which have a significant failure rate.¹

Babies survive abortions.

But the fact that I'm alive to tell my story doesn't negate the fact that thousands of these children suffer a different fate. The reality is that today in this state, children like I was are not protected and guaranteed a chance to live.

Most of these children can never grow up and have the opportunity to share their story.

Babies and mothers living in Oregon deserve much better than what abortion offers.

Don't pass SJR 33. It will enshrine in our constitution the lack of protections for vulnerable babies who have both the right and ability to live. I urge this committee to vote NO on SJR 33 for the importance of these lives.

Sincerely,

Amy Miles

¹ Born Alive Abortion Reporting by Alayna Shamo, the Abortion Survivors Network, June 26, 2022