

January 14, 2023

Honorable Members of the Minnesota Senate:

My name is Michael Blissenbach, and I am an attorney who lives in Apple Valley, Minnesota. The views I express in this letter are my own personal views and are not necessarily the views of any other individual or organization. Also, I speak solely in my personal capacity and not in my professional capacity.

I write to you today to share with you a story, the story of my youngest sister, Connie Blissenbach, whose life on this earth was a short one. Connie was stillborn at 22 weeks gestation on March 25, 2005.

I'll never forget when I visited the hospital to see my mom and Connie. Even at 22 weeks gestation, she was extremely well developed and I'll never forget seeing her little hands and fingernails. To this day, I still get sad every March when the anniversary of Connie's death approaches.

I share Connie's story in opposition to HF1/SF1. I know my fellow Minnesotans' views on abortion vary wildly, and that Minnesotans have grown more polarized on this issue since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Dobbs decision. I have friends and relatives who have wildly different views on this issue whom I love and respect very much.

HF1/SF1, however, does not even attempt to reflect the complexity of views that citizens of our great state have on the issue of abortion. If enacted, HF1/SF1 would allow abortion at any stage of pregnancy, for any reason, even mere minutes from birth, and would disallow any restrictions, even the requirement that fetal remains be buried or cremated. If this bill were to be enacted, we would treat pets more humanely in this state than we treat unborn children, and I think that should give us all pause.

I think most Minnesotans would agree that unborn children at the same stage of development as Connie should be protected by the laws of our land, and that late term and post-viability abortions should be disallowed in Minnesota. I urge you, therefore, to oppose and reject HF1/SF 1.

Respectfully,

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