

Thank you, Senate Committee, for taking my written testimony. My name is Brenda Mann Archiquette. I am a member of the First Nations people, Iroquois Clan, Oneida tribe of Indians. I am speaking on behalf of the voiceless unborn, raped and trafficked women who become pregnant, and those who had an abortion and have Survivors Guilt.

At 17, I lost my virginity when my boss drugged, then raped me. To make matters worse, I became pregnant. My Pastor said I needed to have the child, as it was not mine, but God's. Seven times I went to an abortion clinic but deep down, I knew I needed to have my child. I chose life, and a few months later, I was holding my newborn baby who is now a beautiful person. I could not imagine my life without him.

To provide for my child, I took a job as a waitress. I met a charming, unassuming man who looked like a rock star but was pure evil. After invading my home, he held me hostage, killed 2 people in front of me, saying this will happen to you and your family if you don't do exactly what I want and forced me into trafficking, making me do things I never thought I would do. He raped me multiple times and I became pregnant with his baby. His behavior didn't go unnoticed and soon a SWAT team took him away.

With my capture now himself captured, the decision with my family to abort my child was made. This was one of the only times in my life I saw my father cry. As a Christian woman, the abortion put a huge stress on me, as I knew that I had killed an innocent child. The guilt, regret and the shame consumed me.

No longer valuing my own life, I made many poor choices, that had my life go downhill and eventually spiraled negatively out of control. I tried to numb the pain with sex, drugs and alcohol. I became pregnant and decided again to abort my child. This abortion nearly killed me. I hemorrhaged and nearly died and had to have an emergency hysterectomy that psychologically destroyed my identity as a woman. After I physically recovered, for years, I continued to grieve the loss of these children that I chose to murder.

I know from my own personal experience that the PTSD from my decision to have abortions was worse than the trauma of being trafficked. Being trafficked was not a personal choice. I was able to come to terms with being trafficked much sooner than making the decision to terminate the life of my children.

My guilt and shame from my own personal choices of killing my babies by abortion, was harder for me to accept and forgive myself, than it was to forgive myself for the lifestyle of being trafficked.

Survivors Guilt is very real. At the time I had the abortions I thought I made the best decision and had no immediate regret. As time went on, I may not have died on the table from the hemorrhage during the abortion, but inside of me in my soul and in my mind, I was dying. The shame and guilt were now magnified and had me considering taking my life. I lost my desire to live and had no hope.

I felt like I should have died in place of my aborted children. The trauma that women have after an abortion is deep emotionally, spiritually, mentally and physically. Regret may not be instantaneous. It may not show up right away, but in time it will manifest, and when it does, many deeply regret this decision, wondering what might have been that now can never be.

I am now at peace. I am here today by the mercy and grace of a loving God. God has forgiven me through his Son Jesus, whose death on a cross, paid the price for all my sins. God loves the little children and is just. For those who are voting for the bill SF70 and abortion, knowing now the trauma it causes women, men and family members, and the blood of the innocent children that's aborted, this blood is on your hands. My prayer for you is to consider your eternal salvation, repent for the choice you are making, and change your vote to choose life on SF70.