

Testimony on Sb17-284**Read by Bethany Janzen, Students for Life Representative**

When I was 19 years old in 1978, I became pregnant for the first time. I was so scared and ashamed that my family would find out, that I went to a Planned Parenthood clinic and had my baby aborted. My girlfriend at work told me about a Planned Parenthood clinic where she had her abortion done and that having an abortion was no big deal. I wanted to believe her even though deep down inside, I knew the truth.

Having an abortion was a terrible experience and for the last 39 years, I have regretted killing my child. Many times I have wondered if my baby was male or female and what she or he would have looked like and what his or her personality would be like.

My baby would be 39 this September and maybe I would also have grandchildren. Back in 1978, there were no ultrasounds, so I could pretend the baby didn't exist and try not to think about it. I was taught in school that abortion is just another birth control option with no consequences and that it is a good thing not to have a child when you are "too young", but that is a lie!

Every time I see a young woman with a baby, I am reminded that although it can be hard to raise a child, especially if you are single, letting a child live is a better option than killing a child and living a lifetime of regret.

I am in favor of having a law requiring an abortion clinic to offer an ultrasound to a woman. It may save young, scared women years of depression, regret, and self hatred.

Sue