



ILLINOIS FAMILY INSTITUTE (IFI)

Testimony by Karen Hayes

Cook County Board, 118 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL, 5th Floor Board Room

Legislation & Intergovernmental Committee

Item 19-3758

RE: Illinois House Bill 2495 & Senate Bill 25 "Reproductive Health Act"

Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Illinois Family Institute (IFI) is a Christian pro-life/pro-family organization dedicated to life and the well-being of Illinois families through education and public policy.

IFI was one of many groups and part of the over four thousand others who filled our State Capitol on March 20, 2019 to oppose HB 2495 (and later SB 25 as amended) (misnamed "Reproductive Health Act"). We were also part of the 84% of witness slips opposing these extreme bills. This clear message of overwhelming opposition to these anti-life *and anti-women bills* were, as we all know now, completely dismissed. We hope it won't be ignored today.

We bring to this Committee and County Board the same plea to please reject any Resolution favoring these extreme bills. We believe that Christian Scripture*, medical science, human rights, social justice, economic impacts, common sense, and more, all point to no other responsible stand than for the protection and well-being of innocent life and family.

One important part of that well-being (which is often lost in this debate) is abortion's harms to women. The women who conceive and nurture our (mostly female) unborn to the stage of birth and then over a lifetime are, of course, our mothers. While some women today strangely claim to celebrate abortion, real-life consequences can and do follow any brief optimism when they seek one. The evidence is clear-- celebrations fade quickly when women are put at risk and harmed by abortion physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Beyond the baby's death and the gruesome procedure itself, the higher risk of breast cancer to women is real, as are future pre-mature birth issues, post-abortion syndrome and father & family stress which are no picnics when suffered. To be sure our Christian Good News offers healing and forgiveness through Jesus Christ; still many, including a few modern misguided clergy, do women a great disservice and injustice to support public policy that puts the very women in danger they claim to be trying to help.

Whether women are pressured; desperate; rich or poor; black, brown or white; deceived due to abortion profiteering; or just misinformed, **ABORTION HURTS WOMEN**. And if we're honest, surely more irresponsible men have and will celebrate abortion than women.

Finally, I wish I had more time to also tell you about a beaming young African-American girl who stopped on the way out of a Planned Parenthood parking lot to tell us she and "the daddy" had changed their minds and would have their baby. Her infectious smile alone would have made a difference here today!

*Ps 139:13-16; Jer 1:5; Ps 127:3-5; Gen 1:27; Ps 8:5-7; Job 31:15; Ps 22:10; Is 49:15; Matt 18:1-6; Matt 19:13-15