

Good Afternoon (AGAIN),

I am speaking again this time on behalf of myself, Holly Fingerle. Lifetime resident of Cook County. Wife of 25 years. Suburban White Christian Menopausal Mom. Mother of ONE son. Aunt with three nieces in their 20's. One of my biracial nieces lives in GA, the other has another year at Univ of AL. My white niece lives in IL and is safe. I am here today hopefully as a future mother in law and Grandma. This fight is for the generations behind me.

Notorious RBG said it best: "The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman's life, to her well being and dignity.," she said simply, "it's a decision she must make for herself. When government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own human choices."

I sat vigil in Springfield and heard Rep Bourne's testimony. She's got it wrong. Women don't wait until the last trimester for abortions. Women don't decide late term to abort on a whim. As Mayor Pete says those are tragedies. Something has gone terribly wrong and those complicated gut-wrenching decisions should be left up to the woman and her doctor. 89% of abortions happen in the first trimester.

I am pro-faith, pro-life and pro-family. I believe in the separation of church and state but I will remind you of Genesis 2 where life begins at first breath. And look up the sermon Rep West gave on the house Floor last week before you vote. I

I would also like to commend the legislators in Springfield that had to moral courage to take up this vote NOW against immense pressure from those that call themselves religious. My God is a loving and compassionate God that wouldn't force someone to live the life they choose after all he gave us FREE will. My God is forgiving and wouldn't force me to carry a baby. My church wouldn't threaten to shun me and my kids and make me unwelcome. To those Reps I say do your family a favor and find a new church.

WE see you. We applaud the legislators, especially those of faith that may have different personal beliefs but voted yes to protect safe legal access although abortion is not something THEY support. They get it. You shouldn't cast your votes based on your beliefs. You cast it based on your district and what is in their best interest. RHA is what is in the best interest of us all since this act protects and individuals free will and gives them control over their own bodies. Thank you especially to Rep Ford.

If our numbers here today make you think this resolution lacks support I would remind you this County Resolution is symbolic. In recruiting people to come to these meetings I had a hard time convincing people to show up because we are protected by RHA since JB will sign it soon. They showed up for that fight. Your vote today does not change anything. This fight is for the press. The thought of inaccurate claims in the press without an accurate counter got me down here.

For those of you lamenting that this repeals the Illinois Partial birth abortion ban I would remind you there is a federal partial birth abortion ban in place from 2003 that will remain in place. This law was about cleaning up unnecessary laws.

This law removes criminal penalties for any doctor performing an abortion. This is a “trap law.” So if Roe repealed, HB 40 would keep it legal, but any doctor would have been subject to criminal penalties if they did one.

So tell me how that makes any sense other than a hurdle to make safe and legal abortions less accessible. In effect abortion would have been illegal should conservative counties start enforcing this. Look at the 64/106 counties with 9 states attorneys declaring IL gun laws unconstitutional as gun sanctuary counties? Are RHA sanctuaries next? Let me remind you 80% of the public believes Roe should stand and remembered that at the ballot box.

A reminder that Illinois still has a Right of Conscience Act that allows health care providers and institutions to refuse to provide services based on their beliefs. This language was duplicative elsewhere, so it was removed with this law. As for investigating deaths after abortions this law makes abortion like any other death during a procedure an investigation may be done if warranted it doesn't make it mandatory. Just like any other surgery covered by malpractice and hospital policies for any unusual death.

Today highly trained nurse practitioners, physician assistants can dispense emergency contraception and medication abortions. Without RHA that would become illegal. We would be going back and making it so much harder in poor and rural areas for women to take off work and travel to a facility that could provide these meds.

I just want to say it again, for those in the back, RHA won't change anything in Illinois except become a safe harbor for those seeking healthcare from states seeking to overturn Roe.

Doctors take a Hippocratic oath to do no harm and have ethical standards. I trust my doctors. I trust women. I hope you do too and vote to support this resolution in support of the Reproductive health act.

Rep Bourne who testified this bill is unnecessary. You fought like hell for futile legislation? I don't think so. You fought because you knew that when Roe falls IL will be safe and will be an oasis for desperate women that cannot get healthcare at home. This is a life ring for the Midwest. Saving women that know that pregnancy is not the right choice for them. As for their reasons it is none of our business.

For those using heartbeat bills I tell you from experience at 6 weeks you realize you are pregnant for only a week or two. It is nobody's business why someone has an abortion. I don't need to tell you why I had 3 of my abortions but I will. One saved my life and 2 my body wouldn't terminate on its own.

One saved my life it was a post partum complication. They didn't deliver my afterbirth in entirety. My son was maybe 6 weeks old and I was ready to leave the house alone for the first time and was looking forward to a diaper run to Kmart. My husband walked through the door from work and as I put on my sneakers I thought I wet my pants.

I went to the bathroom and the next thing I remember is waking up in his arms in a puddle of blood. He heard me pass out and hit the bathroom door. I went to a catholic hospital where they had trouble finding a Dr to help me. When I woke up from surgery I asked what happened. They said they finally found someone that “aggressively scraped my uterus” to stop the bleeding or what was commonly known as abortion procedure. During delivery they hadn't delivered an intact placenta with it's 8 lobes.

I got pregnant twice and had that gut-wrenching moment when you know something is wrong with the ultrasound and they cannot find the heartbeat and the tech goes quiet and goes to get the doctor. The doctor told me there was no heartbeat. It was an empty sac of cells. They told me to go home and wait to miscarry. I came back the next month and months after that and my body still hadn't rejected those implanted eggs. So I had two simple outpatient surgical procedures because my body didn't realize pregnancy wasn't viable. I couldn't wait any longer knowing the babies I desperately wanted were not viable and wanted it behind me. I wasn't offered medication abortion that I recall.

Those women in GA will need to prove their miscarriages were not self-inflicted. That is heartless and cruel and invasive. I cannot imagine and I am thrilled in IL we won't be subjecting women to this. Come to college in IL and move to IL if you are pro-choice. We value women and you are safe here. We trust women.

I am pro woman, pro freedom, pro-family, and pro faith. Abortion isn't a decision made lightly and without thought. All of us deserve to live as we want. We should have the freedom to decide when and how we become parents. Thank you for supporting this bill and trusting women and voting yes on this resolution.