

BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO
HB228
CHAIRMAN WHITE AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF MARGE DIXON

JUNE 13, 2006

My name is Marge Dixon and I am from Avon Lake, Ohio.

The test from the store read positive. I was pregnant. I was very happy, but worried at the same time. I asked myself, what should I do now? I was going through a divorce and already had two children. I was barely getting by with the money I had. How could I possibly work, raise two children, and bring another child into my family. It was all so overwhelming. I was so afraid.

I scheduled an appointment with my regular gynecologist and she confirmed that I was pregnant. I told her about my fears, and she told me she did not perform abortions but referred me to a local facility. When I got home I set up the appointment.

On the day of my abortion, I sat in the waiting room with many other women of all races, all walks of life, young girls, and business women. At first, I felt very comfortable. They showed me a movie on the abortion procedure. "Wow no big deal, I thought." They talked with me and the staff person told me that I was doing the right thing and that it was a simple procedure and there would be no problems afterwards. At this point I was feeling very confident.

They called my name and I walked into the room starting to feel a little anxiety. As I lay on the bed the abortionist came in. He never said hello or even told me his name. I thought to myself that I didn't like him, he had no bedside manner. I was beginning to feel really uncomfortable. The same woman who had talked with me was on my right side. Feeling very scared and I asked the woman to hold my hand and she did. They started the procedure and it was very painful. Something was wrong I thought. I looked up at the woman and said "please stop." She looked down at me with cold eyes and said ">It's too late."

When the procedure was finished, the abortionist walked out without a word. I was devastated, and couldn't believe what I had just done. On the way out of the room I glanced over to the side and saw what was left of my baby in the garbage can. I felt horrible and realized that I had killed my child.

In the recovery room, there were many women and young girls seated in recliners who had just had abortions, and most of them were crying. I thought "I have to get out of here."

All that day I kept thinking about my innocent baby and finally the tears came. My life will never be the same, I thought. I was so overwhelmed with emptiness I could not stop crying. No one explained that I was going to feel this way. My life had just taken a dramatic change for the worse.

For years, I went through a deep depression and felt empty inside. I felt hopeless. My abortion had not helped me, it had ruined my life. I was inconsolable, and I kept having visions of my baby in that garbage can. My feeling of remorse was so heavy I felt that I didn't deserve to live. But I kept going for the sake of my two living children.

Life has not been easy since my abortion. I finally sought counseling and went through an abortion recovery program. I am now able to cope much better, but I will always grieve the loss of my child.

I believe that abortion should be banned in Ohio and *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned so that no one else suffers the way I did. If abortion wasn't legal, I never would have considered it. Thank you for listening to my story.