

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

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF NICOLE GOSTOMSKY

JUNE 13, 2006

Hello, my name is Nicole Gostomsky. I am from Englewood, Ohio. I have suffered from the after affects of abortion for over 10 years. It all started when I met the love of my life 11 years ago. We were instantly in-love and I knew we would marry one day. We enjoyed everything together and never fought. A year after we had been dating, I woke up thinking I should have started my menstrual cycle. I asked my boyfriend to take me to get a pregnancy test. We talked about what we would do if I was pregnant. He said, "I don't even know if I love you!" Completely surprised and heartbroken, I picked up the pregnancy test and went home to take it. I started screaming, it's positive. My boyfriend began to pace back and forth not being able to believe what he was hearing. He suggested abortion. I thought of a couple of my friends who had abortions and they seemed fine.

I started thinking about all the negatives of having a child at the age of 20. I had all these fears:

We had partied a lot and I felt we would not have a healthy child.

"The baby wouldn't live anyway."

We lived on the second level of a barn and thought we would have to live on welfare.

"What would everyone think?"

"Would they think I had trapped him?"

The worst of it was, the man that I had given my life to didn't even know if he loved me. It broke me. I couldn't let my child be raised in an environment like I was, never really having a stable home. He didn't want the baby and I was confused.

We scheduled the appointment for the abortion. The misery of that day does not even compare to the misery that followed. I have never felt so isolated, alone and dark. I drove everyone away from me. I felt hatred mostly for myself, my boyfriend, his mother and my family.

I began drinking often and fighting with my boyfriend, loving him and hating him all at the same time. I knew if we broke up I would be more miserable than if we stayed together. So we stayed together, never being able to hear the words abortion, baby or anything related to children. It broke my heart and I would feel so much shame and sorrow when I would here any of those

words. It became extremely hard for me to be around children, when in the past I loved being around them. I was not able to be around the two friends that I had told about my abortion. I felt they thought all these horrible things about me. I actually began to think God had made me infertile and I would never be able to have children. The agony of that thought drove me into even a deeper depression. I went off the pill knowing it didn't matter anymore.

Everything I feared if I didn't have an abortion became a reality for me. I was pregnant again before we were married. People thought I had become pregnant on purpose. We lost our precious Hannah five days after birth.

Six weeks after losing her, we became pregnant and delivered a beautiful boy. Seven months later, I was pregnant again with another beautiful boy. Every time I was pregnant I felt God had blessed me and every time I was not, the depression would begin to overtake me. So, I again became pregnant and discovered after an ultrasound that my son would be born with many abnormalities and probably would not live. He was born with many, but he is almost three and is doing great.

A year after my last son was born, depression again set in and I could not even get out of bed. I had many appointments with my doctor, feeling I was dying and had some kind of cancer. I had many of tests run for almost every type of disease. Eventually I suffered a nervous breakdown.

Abortion disrupted everyone's life that was close to me. I think of all the time that I was depressed, the friends I have lost from feeling hatred, shame, and bitterness and how I missed enjoying my life. Everyday I regret my abortion and wish I had chosen life. But I didn't, so now I have to live with the knowledge of what I have truly done and learn to cope with it one day at a time.

I want to thank the members of this committee for letting me share my story in hopes of bringing abortion to an end. If abortion had been illegal, I never would have had one.