

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

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF CLINT SAIBEN

June 13, 2006

My name is Clint Saiben from Mansfield, Ohio.

So often the focus of abortion revolves around the effects on a woman physically and/or mentally and rightfully so. Well, you either believe in storks or life begins at conception and since I can't imagine a woman being artificially inseminated by a stork and then having an abortion there is always a male involved. For every woman who has had an abortion a man has been involved, for me it was two abortions.

I think we are such a visual world that because we can't see the baby from conception it just doesn't seem real. I know this may seem like a simple analogy but when a farmer plants corn we don't see the corn yet it doesn't make it any less a vegetable.

I can tell you that the long-term effects mentally and emotionally on a man are real.

My story begins at 16 when I heard that first "I'm pregnant" from my girlfriend. I can remember being scared and a little confused on how it all happened. I asked all the questions like "I thought your were protected" and anything else I could think of to say other than taking on the responsibility for my actions. I can remember when the phone call came to my parents. My feelings be being scared and confused changed to terrified and ashamed. I don't know how much time passed from the phone call until my parents came to talk with me but it felt like an eternity. I remember putting on my headphones with the music cranked I guess thinking the news would go away while my parents were trying to talk to me. I just wanted the consequences of MY actions to go away. I'm sure they were just as scared and I'm sure thoughts of "what's next" were running through their minds. Both sets of parents got involved and it ended with the untimely death of Jonathan Michael Saiben who would now be 30 plus years old doing something I never gave him the chance to do.

I don't remember thinking a whole lot about the abortion, after all my busy important life as a teenager was going on and sex, drugs, rock & roll took over with a steady diet of Pink Floyd and others, and all was forgotten.

Well it didn't take long for that lifestyle to catch up with me and I got myself in the same situation with another girlfriend. I remember thinking... "OK this time I will be a man and take care of this baby. I know I'm only 17 but I'll be 18 real soon out of high school and I know I can work hard and make it work out this time."

When we had the sit-down with my girlfriend's dad he proceeded to tell me I wasn't ready for the responsibility of raising a child. After all, I was still in high school and I had no job stability. He continued for some time but all I heard after that was, you are not good enough, you're a loser, what kind of idiot would get my daughter pregnant anyway. I can't believe I even let my daughter go out with you the way you look you longhaired loser. That day ripped my gut out and closed my heart. The end result of that conversation was the decision by her parents for the abortion of Zachary Allen Saiben who would be following his older brother's lead in the life I didn't fight for.

What has been the collateral damage? I really don't let anyone get close to me because I don't want to let them down. I've had one divorce, no current relationship with my two living sons, countless projects unfinished, several jobs left before true success was achieved mainly because I never felt I deserved it.

Where am I today? . After hearing Diane Bailey's testimony and how abortion had effected her, the hammer hit me between the eyes and I knew that day it was time to start dealing with my past. I know there is NO future looking in my review mirror and there is nothing in my past I can change. The wisdom gained through experience and the support from my wife Peggy has been immeasurable in the healing process. She had nothing to do with my past, but only wants the best for our future and to fight and save as many untimely deaths as we can together.

Ladies and gentleman, in my mind, if a trial was held today I would be guilty as charged for being an accessory to two murders. My two sons never had the chance to take their first breath or try their first step. I made the wrong choice to put myself in a bad situation with my girlfriends and then did nothing to fight my way out or protect my unborn children. Now I want to speak the truth that abortion hurts women and men and help protect the unborn children of the future.

Thank you,