

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

**PREPARED TESTIMONY OF WALTER JOSEPH VALANTINE**

**JUNE 13, 2006**

My name is Walter Joseph Valantine, and I am from Lordstown, Ohio.

By the time I was seventeen years old, I had been a part of two abortions, one at the age of sixteen and the second when I turned seventeen. As I look back, I realize the two innocent lives that were taken were not the only victims.

I remember how scared we were when my fifteen-year-old girlfriend found out she was pregnant. We did not know what to do or who to talk to. She decided to go to her guidance counselor at school, and the advice given was to have an abortion. The counselor said we were too young to raise a child. She asked us why we would want to ruin the rest of our lives. She asked my girlfriend if she really wanted to be pregnant all through the school year just to give our baby up for adoption. She said she could arrange for everything and even give us excuses to get out of school that day so our parents would not have to know. We were minors making a life or death decision, and she was telling us that we did not have to include our families.

As I look back, she was not giving us choices on what to do, she was telling us what to do, and we trusted her.

When we went to the abortion facility, we were assured that everything would be fine; that it was a safe and painless procedure, and it would be over in a couple of hours. Then we would be able to walk out and leave our problems behind and in a short time we would both forget all about it. It was all lies. It was not a painless procedure for my girlfriend, and our problems were not behind us, they were in front of us as deep as the deepest sea, waiting to drown us, and you never, ever forget. It's been thirty years and it is still with me today.

I bought into all of the lies they told us that day, and went against every natural instinct that a young man is born with; the instinct that we are supposed to be the protectors, providing security and shelter, and creating a safe-harbor for our loved ones to grow and flourish. I did the exact opposite. I did not protect my girlfriend that day. I did not try to talk her out of it. I did not create a safe environment for my child to grow and flourish. I allowed my unborn child to die because I fell for all of the lies, and I suffered the consequences because after the first time, the second was much easier. Again, when I met my future wife a few years later, I pulled her into the lie and made it very easy and appealing for her to go against everything that she believed.

Because of my actions, I had low self esteem, depression, low self worth, and anger issues. I tried to sabotage all of my relationships, especially my marriage, because I felt that I was unworthy to be loved for what I had done.

In closing, I would like to tell the representatives that the millions of innocent lives that are aborted each year are not the only victims. The women and men who have to live with the decision they made, a decision that goes against every nurturing instinct God had given them, are also victims of the lies such as everything will be okay and that you will be able to get on with you life and forget all about it. I plead with you, help stop the lies, do what I failed to do thirty years ago. Please protect women, men and the unborn children.