

Thank you, Senate Judicial Committee, for taking my written testimony. My name is Brenda Mann Archiquette. I am a member of the First Nations people, Iroquois Clan, Oneida tribe of Indians. I am speaking on behalf of the voiceless unborn, raped and trafficked women who become pregnant, and those who had an abortion and have Survivors Guilt.

At 17, I lost my virginity when my boss drugged, then raped me. To make matters worse, I became pregnant. My Pastor said I needed to have the child, as it was not mine, but God's. I knew I needed to have my child. I chose life, and a few months later, I was happily holding my baby.

To provide for my child, I took a job as a waitress. I met this man who looked like a rock star but was pure evil. He killed 2 people in front of me, saying this too will happen to you, and forced me into trafficking. Holding me hostage, he forced me to do things I never thought I would do, and he himself raped me multiple times. I became pregnant with his baby. His behavior didn't go unnoticed and soon a SWAT team stormed in and took him away.

With my capture now himself captured, the decision with my family to abort my child was made. This was one of the only times in my life I saw my father cry. As a Christian woman, the abortion put a huge stress on me, as I knew that I had killed an innocent child.

The guilt and the shame consumed me. No longer valuing my own life, I made many poor choices, that had my life go downhill and eventually spiral out of control. I tried to numb the pain with sex, drugs and alcohol. I became pregnant and decided again to abort my child.

That abortion nearly killed me. I hemorrhaged and nearly died and had to have an emergency hysterectomy. After I physically recovered, for years I continued to grieve the loss of these children.

I know from my own personal experience that the PTSD from my decision to have abortions was worse than the trauma of being trafficked. Being trafficked was not a personal choice. I was able to come to terms with that much sooner.

My guilt and shame from my own personal choices of killing my babies was harder for me to accept and forgive myself than it was to forgive myself for the lifestyle of being trafficked.

The Survivors Guilt is very real. At the time I had the abortions I thought I made the best decision and had no immediate regret. As time went on, I may not have died on the table from the hemorrhage during the abortion, but inside of me in my soul and in my mind, I was dying. The shame and guilt were now magnified and had me considering taking my life. I lost my desire to live and had no hope.

I felt like I should have died in place of my aborted children. The trauma that women have after an abortion is deep emotionally, spiritually, mentally and physically, that needs to be healed. Regret may not be instantaneous. It may not show up right away, but in time it will manifest, and when it does many deeply regret this decision.

I am now at peace. I am here today by the mercy and grace of a loving Father. God has forgiven me through his Son Jesus, whose death on a cross, paid the price for all my sins.

For those who vote for the bill SF1 and abortion, the trauma it causes women, and the blood of the innocent children, this blood is on your hands. My prayer for you is to repent for the choice you are making. May God have mercy on your souls.