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My name is Mark Gaulke; I am a resident in an accredited combined internal medicine and pediatric residency. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 398 because it would hurt women and their children. As a physician of women and children it is my duty to advocate for them. Abortion has been shown to have harmful effects on the mother apart from the loss of her child. It can increase mental health disorders in women such as depression, suicide attempts, and completed suicides. It can also harm the mother years later by increasing her chance of breast cancer. But what of the children of the women I would care for in my practice, if born premature they may have numerous life long disabilities from lung problems to cerebral palsy. The mother having had previous induced abortions makes this more likely.

Some of the patients I care for will likely be adopted or parents wanting to adopt and caring for those children is a joy. Adoption is an excellent alternative to abortion for many reasons and avoids the damage that can be caused that was mentioned above.

In closing, please vote against Senate Bill 398 for the health of the children and families that I take care of now and in the future.

Thank you,

Dr. Mark Gaulke, M.D.