

Hearing Testimony for the Coercive Abortion Prevention Act Assembly Bill 427

My name is Anna Anderson. I am the Executive Director of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Green County in Monroe, WI. I am here today to testify in support of Assembly Bill 427.

Every day in this state and across the nation, girls and women are being forced to abort their unborn babies with devastating consequences. In Monroe a community of between 10,000 and 11,000 residents, I am aware of as many as three (3) girls and women annually who are forced into surgical abortion procedures and even more who are forced to take the morning after pill or RU-486 abortion pill.

Some of the people who force these girls and women into abortions might not surprise you but others might. Young girls are being forced by their parents to have abortions because although this might seem old fashioned, they don't want the embarrassment or disgrace of an unwed pregnancy. Sometimes it is the grandparents or other legal guardians who force young girls to take the lives of their unborn babies. I have heard parents and grandparents say, "I am not going to let her make the same mistake I did." For this reason, they force her to abort her child. If the girl is under the age of 16, she has no say in whether or not she has an abortion. Once the parent or other legal guardian signs the abortion papers and pays the fees, she will be forced to have the abortion.

I would suspect that most people assume boyfriends and men involved in one night stands are the main causes of forced abortions. They certainly are a contributing factor to this tragedy. When these men force a woman to abort it is generally because they do not want the financial responsibility of paying child support for the next 18 years. But sometimes, it is the woman's husband. The reasons husbands force their wives to abort their children include financial reasons, an unwillingness to raise a child, their age, perhaps their other children are already grown, an impending divorce, and on occasion because he does not believe he is the father of the child.

Some of these men will force the abortion before there is an opportunity to determine paternity.

In some cases, it is the woman's employer who forces her into abortion by threatening to fire her or prevent a promotion if she does not end the pregnancy. College students are forced to make the choice between losing their athletic scholarships and their college educations or aborting their babies.

Girls and women are forced into abortions in many other ways as well. Some girls are thrown out into the street by their parents, grandparents, legal guardians or boyfriends with no food, money, shelter or means of support. They are not allowed to return until they have an abortion. Women have told me that men have held guns to their heads and their stomachs threatening to kill them if they did not abort their children. Still other boys and men have driven erratically at outrageous speeds, screaming at the girl that they will crash the car and kill both of them and the baby if she does not abort their child. Some pregnant women have been severely beaten by boyfriends, husbands, parents or other legal guardians. Some of these women have been beaten with belts not only on the stomach but around the head and face. No girl or woman should be forced to make a choice between her life and that of her child simply because someone else will be inconvenienced or embarrassed by her pregnancy or her child.

Then there are the child molesters and pedophiles who love abortions because they destroy the evidence of their crimes. There are child molesters who are taking young girls into abortion facilities on a regular basis to abort the children that are produced by their illegal sexual acts. There are girls between the ages of 11 and 14 who have been taken to abortion facilities by their molesters for multiple abortions. These little girls do not have a voice in whether or not they have the abortions and end the lives of their babies.

There are teenaged girls who are being told they will never have children or that they have to have hysterectomies because of the damage done to their very young developing bodies by surgical

abortion procedures that were forced upon them. Not only did the people who forced the abortions deprive these girls of the gift of that child but also the blessings of any future children.

One of the most appalling sources of forced abortions is medical professionals; people who take the oath to preserve and protect human life yet force women into destroying the lives of their babies. Some are more subtle than others. For example, they present the results of a Down's Syndrome Test that is positive but neglect to tell the woman that this test is not accurate a significant percentage of the time. They then suggest abortion as a "treatment option" to spare the woman of being "burdened" with a "defective child". Others are more persistent; demanding the woman undergo additional tests and insisting that she see other medical professionals for testing and opinions. At times numerous medical professionals will meet with the woman simultaneously to put even greater pressure on her to abort the child.

This is difficult to fathom but there are actually "medical professionals" who have tried to force women to abort their babies because they suspect a rare genetic disorder and they want the child aborted for research purposes. This actually happened at a medical facility here in Madison. When the woman resisted their pressure to abort, some of these "medical professionals" actually became irate. She felt very intimidated by them. The baby did not have the suspected genetic disorder.

Another disorder that is being suspected quite often recently is Trisomy 18. People are being told by medical professionals that they must abort their babies because the child has Trisomy 18 and will die in utero or shortly after birth. Our Center knows of couples who were told this and whose doctors pushed them to abort. They nearly caved to the pressure but their babies were born perfectly healthy.

Just this week I learned of a couple who was told by medical professionals that they had no choice but to abort their conjoined twins because they were going to die anyway. When she hesitated on having the abortion, she was told she must have the abortion if

she wanted future children. This woman is struggling with the fact that she believed the medical staff and ended the lives of her twins.

An obstetrician who claimed to be 100% pro-life once told me that he always offers abortion as a “treatment option” because he fears wrongful birth lawsuits. Upon investigating this further I learned that other doctors not only “offer” abortion as a treatment option but try to force women to abort when they suspect even the slightest possibility of a less than perfect baby.

Girls and women are being forced to end the lives of their unborn babies through abortion often by the very people who are legally responsible for protecting them and/or have taken oaths to preserve and protect life. These young girls and women are then left to suffer the consequences which can include post-abortion syndrome; physical complications which can result in sterility; and in the worst case scenarios, death. Often times, young girls and women who are forced into abortion develop drug and alcohol addictions, depression with suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. So not only does the person who coerced the abortion destroy the life of the unborn child. He or she also destroys the life of that child’s mother.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before this Assembly committee today. In conclusion, I would respectfully encourage you to vote for Assembly Bill 427.

Down Syndrome Statistics from Dr. Thomas Yetman

Dr. Yetman shared some interesting statistics with me about the pre-natal tests for Down’s Syndrome.

- He said 40 out of 100 women who have a negative Down’s Syndrome test result will actually deliver a baby with Down’s Syndrome.
- Even more startling was that for every 100 positive Down’s Syndrome tests, 99 women will deliver perfectly healthy babies!

He found these statistics to be true in his own practice as well.