

My name is Luana Stoltenberg and I am here to testify in support of AB 427.

My life has been **devastated** by abortion. I have had 3 abortions because I didn't think I had any other choices.

My first abortion was done in Madison, Wisconsin. I was 17 years young and my boyfriend told me if I didn't have the abortion that he would leave me. I thought I loved him, and I knew I could not have a baby without his help and support. So I did what I was told and went through with the abortion.

When going in for my abortion I was told by the "professionals" that it was only a blob of tissue, and it would be safer and easier to abort than to carry my baby to term. I would later find out that was a lie.

I remember laying on the cold table with no anesthetic for the pain, staring at the ceiling, wishing I were someplace else. It seemed to last forever and the pain was unbearable. No amount of anesthetic could dull the pain in my heart and mind. The types of abortion I had was the vacuum aspirator method. I could hear by the increased labor of the suction machine when a part or limb of my baby was being extracted. Each time I tried to look at the jar with my babies remains they would push me back down. To this day I still hear that haunting suction sound.

When it was finished I was sent to a waiting room with the other girls. I was given a cup of juice and told I could leave in 20 minutes if I felt alright. I had never felt worse but I told them I felt fine because I just wanted out of there.

On the drive home I was in extreme pain and bleeding profusely. After returning home I called them for help, but was told it wasn't their problem, to call my doctor. I was too afraid and ashamed to call the doctor so I laid there and waited and wondered if I would die.

A part of me died that day as I realized I would never hold or see that child. I became angry and depressed. I started drinking heavily; doing drugs, and became very promiscuous. I didn't think anyone would love me unless I gave them sex in return. I got pregnant two more times and choose abortion each time.

With each abortion my addictions got worse. I even attempted suicide 3 times. Because of the choices I had made my life was a mess and was spiraling out of control.

I later met and married a wonderful man. After trying to start a family with no success, we learned I was infertile because of the abortions. The suction from the vacuum aspirator destroyed my tubes and ovaries.

I had to tell my husband that because of the bad choices I had made, he would not have his own biological children.

Everyday I live with the reality that the only children I will ever bear I killed.

Today I am **still** living the effects of those abortions. A few years ago I had a hysterectomy because of the severe damage caused from the suction procedure.

The only way I have been able to live through this nightmare is because I have had the loving support of my husband, and I have come to know my Lord Jesus Christ. He has forgiven me and set me free. There has never been a day that I don't regret the "**choices**" I made to have those abortions, or think about those 3 children and who they would have been. Abortion didn't solve my problems it only created more. **I am still a mother it's just that my 3 children are dead.** I want the world to know the harmful, horrible effects of abortion and how it destroys not only a child's life, but the woman's, the families, and our whole society.