

Lainey Browning
Oratory Right to Life Speech

Before I begin, I want to thank God for allowing me the means to speak on this stage. For without Him and His perfect plan for me, I would not be here today. He has blessed me with the gift of life. Not an inheritance or an award, but a free and precious gift. I mourn for those that were not given this chance. I stand here today in hopes that hearts will be reached and action will take place. This epidemic has continued for far too long and it is time for a change. To start, I believe it is important to discuss the statistics. They alone are terrifying. World wide around seventy-three million induced abortions occur in one year. Meaning around 200,000 times a day a life is taken and a woman is forever affected (who.int). Abortion is wrong and an evil consuming our world. "God is the giver and taker of life, not man" (spokesman.com).

I believe without the counterargument, it is difficult to emphasize the truth. From the first documentation of abortion in 1600 B.C until now, women have felt immense pressure on them to have an abortion (muvs.org). In the past, arguments in favor of abortion have included population restrictions, race restrictions, and the freedom of choice (Jean A. Cadet). All of which are sorrowful and grievous. One of the more popular pro-abortion arguments today centers around the rights of a woman's body. "My body, my choice" is a chant commonly heard from those who push for women's rights. Essentially, the motive heightens the value of the woman over the child. However, "my body, my choice" is not an accurate statement biologically. What if you were to decide to pilot a plane recklessly with passengers inside? Would you be responsible for their deaths, too? Yes, you being the caretaker of their lives would be held responsible. This parallels to a women whom does not actually murder her own body, but instead the living child inside of her. We do not have two hearts, two sets of lungs, or two souls. Her bones are not breaking and her life is not being taken. The argument is flawed and always has been. The well-known chant and

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abortion itself are only masks for those to hide behind murder. However, when faced with an unwanted pregnancy I do believe that women often see it as the only answer.

In countries such as England, Scotland, and Wales it is legal to kill an unborn baby with down syndrome (cbs12.com). It saddens me to know that people believe life is valued on how it will be lived. Those who need assisted care are seen by these individuals as invaluable and unneeded. Forty years ago my grandma gave birth to my uncle who was diagnosed with mild mental retardation. He has never and will never be able to live on his own independently. From the moment he was born, he has been in need of a 24-hour caregiver. Normal activities are not second nature to him and he struggles to understand how life works. However, that is not where his value is measured. If my grandma were to believe his life was of less worth, I would not be the person I am today. He has shown me patience, compassion and perseverance in times of adversity. By his life, I appreciate mine more. I was able to learn things from him that books could never teach me. Times are hard, that is not to be ignored, but what joy is he to be around. I am thankful for people like my grandma who chose not to be selfish in the face of difficulty. She chose life. His importance was not seen in the way he would live it, but instead how he would utilize it. I stand here today in hopes to stop the killing of those who may not be considered normal. Life inside the womb is not of any less merit than life outside. Additionally, life is not measured in how it is lived or how productive a person is to society. Our country has journeyed too far for us to be taking steps in the opposite direction. There are always other options. Saving lives is a step in the right direction.

Already this year, there have been over five million abortions (Worldometers.com). Over five million times a woman has consciously decided to end her baby's life. Many times, women do not see a way out and believe this is the best option. In response, women are left feeling regretful

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and hopeless (deaconessadoption.org). PAS or Post Abortion Syndrome has been diagnosed to over seventy percent of mothers who have undergone an abortion procedure (cbsnews.com). Not only do they feel somber in an emotional way, but physically, too. After an abortion takes place, a woman's hormones decline quickly and only after an upwards of two months do they recover (healthline.com). There are other alternatives to abortion that our society needs to promote. We need to be concerned about the babies when they are in the womb as well as outside. When comparing abortion and adoption in a financial way, adoption reigns cheaper (deaconessadoption.org). In most cases, the adoptive family covers all costs of the pregnancy. However, the abortion process is the mothers own monetary responsibility (deaconessadoption.org). Adoption allows for a woman to know their child is living a life rather than regretting her decision later on. It provides a peace of mind and life forever saved.

Psalm 139 verses 13-14 say, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (biblegateway.com). How astounding it is to know that your life matters. That God created you with specialized purpose, knowing who and how you would be in later years. Ultimately, you were put on this earth for a reason. I stand before you today in hopes that you would leave knowing how valuable life is- every mother's life and every babies' life.

