

April 4, 2020

Theresa Garcia

The Honorable Mayor Peter Buttigieg  
PO Box 1226  
South Bend, Indiana 46624

Dear Mayor Pete,

Hi. My name is Theresa, and I am in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I live in your hometown, South Bend, and I am a devout pro-lifer. By growing up in a large family, I have seen how precious the gift of life is. I believe that life is our most fundamental right and should be given to everyone. But sadly that right seems to be overlooked nowadays, with the Right to Life being given to everyone, but the pre-born. Recently an abortion clinic opened in South Bend, and I know how important it is now to show people that abortion is wrong. I understand that you are pro-choice, but I would like you to consider my pro-life perspective.

I am pro-life because I know how much abortion hurts women. Sometimes my sisters and I go to the abortion clinic to pray, and I see firsthand that the women going into the clinic do not feel “empowerment” as some pro-choice advocates say, but immense fear and emotional pain. Studies show that some women who have had abortions fall into depression, become addicted to drugs, and even commit suicide. One woman who has spoken out about her abortions, Abby Johnson, states “Abortion does not just hurt women. Abortion hurts a family, and it has a domino effect of hurting those related and close to those families through the grief and reality of losing a child to abortion.” Abortion brings a woman and her family the unexplainable grief of losing a child.

I believe that God gave us the precious gift of life. As it says in Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in your mother’s womb, I knew you... Before you were born I set you apart.” I think that passage from the Bible is beautiful because it explains how precious and unique a child is even before that child is born. Some consider this precious gift of life a “clump of cells”. However, a baby in her mother’s womb is a human being, fully known and loved by God. She has her own DNA, her own genes, her own life. What more makes someone a human? And abortion destroys these littlest of humans. The brutality of abortion to an innocent life is unspeakable. How can we do that to these children who are the most vulnerable? We need to stand together as a community to help these most precious babies.

In conclusion, we need to fight to protect women and the innocent lives of their children, lives that are being taken away every week right here in our own town. We need the support of public officials, like yourself. Everyone must see that all humans have value,

including these little humans. After realizing the pain and destruction abortion does to babies, women, and their families, I hope that you will consider fighting for women and pre-born children. They need you now more than ever!

Thank you for taking the time to listen. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Theresa Garcia