

Anne Glaze
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 78
February 23, 2011

Chairman Wachtmann, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Ranking Member Fende, and members of the House Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give proponent testimony for House Bill 78.

Good morning, I am Anne Glaze.

Fifteen years ago I was eagerly expecting our firstborn. I was a little more than halfway through the pregnancy when preterm labor started for no apparent reason. I was hospitalized that day and began to receive medication to postpone the labor. The medicine helped, but not as much as we had hoped. Our son Nathaniel was born at 25 ½ weeks; almost 3 ½ months earlier than the normal 9 month pregnancy. He was born very, very, premature.

He taught us in an instant that a baby is a *baby* long before they are typically born.

Within moments of his delivery, we heard Nathaniel cry – just like all babies do. He was so tiny. At just 1 pound-13 ounces (830 grams) and only 14-inches long, he weighed about as much as two cups of sugar. He was small and frail. He tired easily and needed help breathing and eating and maintaining body temperature. But... absolutely no one would deny that this was a human baby, and everyone was doing everything possible to allow him the opportunity to continue growing.

In addition to crying like every baby does, he also needed a diaper, just like every baby does.

This is the diaper a typical newborn baby would wear. This is the diaper a preemie like Nathaniel would wear – and it was WAY too big.

He cried, he wiggled and squeezed my finger. In every way, he was a baby boy – a baby boy who was only as tall as a Barbie doll!

Nathaniel, would you please join me.

The little baby that I could cup in my hands is now 15 years old and stands 6 feet 3 inches tall. He is in the 9th grade and active in 4-H, church, and his Boy Scout troop. His hobbies are camping and learning outdoor survival skills. Since the very beginning, he has shown a great interest in survival!

Nathaniel is a friend to all, a pleasure to his parents, and a wonderful brother. He is full of energy and ideas, and at times... he is even a little bit ornery. He is a young man you would

want on your son's basketball team, and just maybe, he is a young man that you would like for your daughter to date. ☺

Nathaniel is a living example of the viability of babies early in pregnancy. Nathaniel is a living example, but he is not "the exception". More often than not, babies born today at very early gestational age are "viable" – Given the chance, they grow into delightful young men and women.

In the USA Today newspaper on Thursday, February 17, there was a long article concerning the recall of 500,000 bassinets because they were a potential hazard to babies. I am proud to live in a society where we go to great lengths to protect our babies.

In the USA Today newspaper on Friday, February 18, was an article detailing an FDA announcement concerning limiting the use of a particular drug because of potential adverse effects on expecting mothers. I am *proud* to live in a society where we go to great lengths to protect expecting mothers.

On the other hand... it saddens me deeply that I live in a society that uses artificial words like "choice", and "bio-tissue" and "abortion" to mask the reality of the tragedy of killing our smallest babies when they are most vulnerable and when they most need care and protection.

In the 15 years since Nathaniel was born, several thousand babies right here in Ohio, so very similar to Nathaniel, have been killed. They could be growing up to be Nathaniel's friends, or leaders amongst their peers, or the star player on your son's baseball team. They are, however, not even alive today because someone called them a late-term "choice" instead of a *baby*.

Please join Nathaniel, my family, and me in supporting this bill to take a step toward protecting those who most need our help.

I look forward to hearing about the passage of this bill.

Chairman Wachtmann and members of the Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the privilege of speaking to you today. I greatly appreciate your consideration of House Bill 78, and would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have for me.