

Introductory Remarks by Michael J. McMonagle for the Panel of Testifiers from the Pro-Life Viewpoint

Good afternoon, Madam Chairman and other Senators and your staff members. My name is Michael McMonagle and I am the President of the Pro-Life Coalition of Pa.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. I particularly thank the Committee's Executive Director, Amy Bolze, for the professionalism and courtesy that she has extended to me.

Our organization advocates that every child should be welcomed in life and protected by law. While we look forward to someday soon testifying regarding legislation to protect children in the womb from abortion, we testify today to advocate statutory protections for the second victim of abortion, the mother.

In overall support of our specific legislative proposals to achieve this goal, I offer the following underlying points.

1. Abortion is an invasive surgical procedure that can cause numerous and serious medical complications to the mother. These complications are listed on Exhibit One to my testimony.
2. Abortion providers do not foster or maintain a patient-physician relationship with women. In fact, some abortion facilities, such as the Philadelphia Women's Center, refuse to tell their patients the name of the physician doing the abortion until she is in the operating room.
3. Because abortion is a direct contradiction of the healing nature of the medical profession, those physicians who commit abortions at free-standing abortion facilities have disproportionately high rates of incompetent, unethical and criminal behavior.

In summary, we urge this committee to act because the actions of abortionist Kermit Gosnell, the operation of his abortion facility and the gross negligence of state and local regulatory agencies toward his facility are not that "rare" or "extreme." The Gosnell case provides an ugly exposé of an industry that routinely abuses women, violates state laws, and receives political protection from state and local law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

Our specific legislative proposals are that

- 1) abortion facilities should be licensed and be required to meet the same standards as Ambulatory Surgical Facilities
- 2) those personnel committing abortions, including surgical and medical abortions, in Pa. should be licensed physicians in Pa., who have certification as obstetricians/gynecologists and have admitting privileges at a Pa. hospital within 30 miles of the abortion facility.

In support of these proposals, the members of our panel will offer testimony.

We begin with Dr. Joseph Castelli, who will testify as to the medical necessity of licensing abortion facilities under the standards of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.

(I will then introduce the other members of the panel at the beginning of their testimony.)