

My Experience With Kermit Gosnell

While I remember the summer of 1998, I don't remember the date that I had my abortion at Gosnell's office. I have blocked that out of my mind. But, I will never forget going into that clinic early in the morning to have my baby's life terminated.

I was 20 years old and scared as hell, but I believed I had no other choice. My mom encouraged me to have an abortion and since I was a single mother, she was still helping me get my life together and I heeded her voice. I had just purchased a home and had a great job and believed a baby would mess up my life. So, I thought abortion was the perfect option. No one at Gosnell's clinic took the time to review options and alternatives – all of our business was contracted on the phone.

I was 14 weeks pregnant when I first contacted the office, but I did not have the \$700-\$800 I needed. Someone at the clinic told me that if I could bring some of the money, they could do the procedure, but without anesthesia, and that I would be in "just a little pain." By the time I raised the money for the procedure, I was 18 weeks pregnant. I walked in and paid the money requested. I was never given counseling before the procedure or any support or guidance afterwards.

As I lay on the table, 18 weeks pregnant and no anesthesia, I literally felt my insides being ripped apart. I screamed as I felt my baby being torn out of me.

I was in a lot of pain for over two weeks. I was bleeding very badly, had severe cramping and was feverish. But, I was afraid to go to my primary care physician and when I called Gosnell's office about the symptoms I was experiencing they offered pain medicine but wasn't encouraged to come in for a follow-up visit. I was afraid of what could possibly happen to me after having an abortion at 18 weeks without the proper medical care. Years later when I was married and I had trouble conceiving I knew it was due to the abortion.

Your committee should change the law so that other women are not treated this way at abortion clinics. My eyes are filling with tears as I write this testimony. Abortion hurt me, Dr. Gosnell hurt me and I feel like maybe I would have made a different choice if I had been given counseling or seen an Ultrasound or had been given the proper counseling on how abortion can effect women. I believe that if women knew that there was help available to them, like that given by pro-life organizations, they would not choose to abort their babies. Our country needs fewer abortion clinics and more places to help young men and women live a life where they keep their virginity so that abortion would not be a temptation.

I testify today in the hope of persuading other vulnerable women from killing their baby as I did. Please pass new legal requirements on our State's abortion facilities.