

Wyldeewood Member Testifies Before Assembly Committee

On Wednesday, September 2, 2015, Shanah Zastera attended a hearing at the capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin, to testify against Planned Parenthood. The following is her experience.



My purpose for writing this is to inform others about this hearing and to show how relatively easy it was to participate, so that others may be encouraged to attend a hearing as well. In short, the day was well spent, and I will do it again, because it was a productive use of my time as a Christian. It was also an effective way to educate my children and to show my support of the other Christians who were present, such as Andre Jacque, the author of the bill; Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action; Andy Buhrow, director of Baptists for Life of Wisconsin; and the *majority* of other citizens there who were in favor of the pro-life bill and who spoke to the panel.

My testimony to the panel of representatives included the following: I explained what my education and experiences were to build credibility and interest. Then I said that I did not want one dollar of my taxes to go to Planned Parenthood because this organization hurts women and families. God is the giver of life, and He will judge us for the shedding of innocent blood. When I was in college I very well could have been pro-choice, but when I met the Lord Jesus Christ, I became pro-life. It is through His Word (and I held up my Bible to them) that I now know how to serve Him. The legalization of abortion is continually heavy on my heart. As I gave my testimony, several of the representatives non-verbally scoffed and smirked, and I confronted them, expressing my disappointment in those expressions toward those of us they opposed. There were many things I had written down that I did not get to. Nonetheless, I went up with the strength of God and was very direct. It was so empowering and relieving to attend and speak for the Lord.

Although it was a full day, I was very blessed to hear other Christians discuss things like Margaret Sanger's documented racism, Planned Parenthood's sexualization of children, a Vietnam veteran's dismay at the sale of baby parts in his country, a black man's horror at the fact that his people are 25% decreased because of Planned Parenthood, etc. Of course I also had to hear the opinions of those who testified that Planned Parenthood is helpful, good, and capable, and that AB 310 would hurt Wisconsinites.

It was easy to participate in Madison. I signed in with the clerk just inside the hearing room. I wrote my name and address and indicated that I was speaking in favor of the bill. Citizens desiring to speak were called up after the presentation of the bill by the author and the Department of Health and Human Services. At least 100 people of all ages and backgrounds were present, and I did not speak until about 1:30 p.m., which was four and a half hours into the hearing. I found parking easily; we ate at Cousins Subs, just a few yards from the capitol; and I treated the children to a pint of ice cream at The Carousel restaurant afterwards!

This bill will probably pass because the Republicans outnumber the Democrats in the Wisconsin Assembly. As always on this bill and any others, prayer is needed for God to get the glory. If and when AB 310 (to end Planned Parenthood's overbilling of Medicaid) and AB 311 (to defund Planned Parenthood) go to the Senate, people will be asked to testify at those hearings, and Christians will have opportunity to make their voices heard. If anyone would like to attend a hearing like this one but has questions, please feel free to ask the Wyldeewood Watchmen or Shanah Zastera for assistance.

“The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 18:10