For 17 years, I was a certified peace officer in the State of Iowa. During 6 of those years, I was assigned to work criminal investigations as a Detective and then a Detective Sergeant. Many of the crimes I investigated were sexual assaults. As anyone whose life has been touched by this crime can tell you, it is not like television. It is a deeply troubling and personal attack upon not only someone’s body, but their mind and well-being.

Victims range in age, socioeconomic status, and in relationship to their attacker. Some attackers are known to the victims, others are not. Some of the most disturbing cases I worked were cases where the offender was an adult and the victim was a child or teenager. Cases of violent sexual assault take a toll on the victim, and their family, and on the investigator as well. For a whole host of perfectly valid reasons, some victims do not immediately report their assault. Imagine having this crime touch you or a person close to you, then learning 8 weeks after the fact that you are pregnant because of a violent assault.

The amendment to the completely unnecessary 'fetal tissue' bill would force women in this situation to be victimized twice. Imagine the anguish of knowing you are carrying a reminder of that most traumatic time in your life, and being FORCED to relive it -- every single day.

This bill will only make matters worse for victims, which is exactly what the government should not be doing. Forcing someone to carry a fetus to term that was conceived against their will is victim shaming of the highest order and reeks of totalitarianism. This is just one facet of this troubling amendment, but it is an aspect that I have dealt with directly.

For the record, I am not pro-abortion. I have never met anyone who is. As a male, I don't have a uterus and I have never felt it my place to dictate to those who do have one what they can do with theirs. What I am is “pro-let women make the deeply personal choice that is right for them.”

During floor debate I heard Senator Sinclair talk about what she faced when pregnant for the first time. She used a critical word: choice. It was her choice to carry the fetus to term. Not anyone else's. Not the Legislature's, not her parents', not her doctor's. Women should be allowed the CHOICE to make their own decisions.

The 6-week abortion ban amendment is unconstitutional and unconscionable, and it should not be allowed to continue on as an amendment to this bill.

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