



Hello everyone. My name is Mollie Kennedy and I am the Community Outreach Coordinator for the ACLU of West Virginia.

Through my work, I've been fortunate to meet and speak with people throughout the state, many of whom wished they could be here today to voice their strong opposition to HB 4012.

They want to tell you that they wished you would spend your time on other issues rather than rehashing the same arguments about our right to obtain an abortion; that this bill does nothing to prevent unintended pregnancies. It only serves to create an environment in which poor women feel forced to seek unsafe, potentially life-threatening options; if you truly wanted to address the issue of abortion, you could work towards ensuring that every West Virginian has access to quality, comprehensive sex education and reproductive healthcare.

They would express their disappointment in the lack of regard or compassion for cases of rape and incest in this discussion; that members of our legislature respect their rights so little that they would prevent them from exercising those rights even in some of the most unimaginably painful situations a person could experience.

They want you to know that they recognize this bill for what it is: a politically-motivated attack on poor and working-class people in this state, and a total disregard for the rights and bodily autonomy of West Virginians.

Thank you.