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**Statement
of
Melissa D'Andre**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary:

My name is Melissa D'Andre. In December, 2002, I was prepared to deliver a healthy baby girl. However, due to medical malpractice, my baby girl passed away while still inside me.

How did this happen? Poorly trained nurses failed to recognize that my baby was in distress - she was running out of time, and the stress of the delivery was prohibiting her from getting enough oxygen.

My baby's death has had a profound impact on me - I feel guilt, anxiety and depression.

Despite asking questions, I was never told what really happened. I found it difficult to find anyone who would help me. When I finally decided to meet with a lawyer, I found it difficult to find a lawyer who specialized in medical malpractice. When I finally did find a lawyer, I learned about the law that was passed in the Summer of '02. I also learned that doctors want to change that law - to make it even more difficult for people like me to hold health care providers responsible.

Every day, for the rest of my life, I will miss my baby girl. I will miss the birthday parties, 1st day of school, class skits, 1st date, drivers license, 1st prom, the wedding and grandchildren, as well as thousands of other unforgettable events.

Please, don't allow laws to pass that will ignore the impact medical malpractice has on people like me. Each of us deserve fairness. It is my fervent hope that no other woman has to experience what I have.

Thank you for your consideration.