

## **REAGAN O'NEILL ...Age 14, Grade 8**

Abortion is a real problem around the world. However, according to my quick research, the amounts of abortions have dropped significantly over the years. In 1980, there were over 1,000,000 abortions. In 2015, there were around 637,800 abortions. Although the numbers have dropped, one unnecessary abortion is too many. This topic is more personal to me than it is to some people. This is because I am grateful to be adopted from China into a wonderful family who loves and supports me.

I am adopted from China because my biological parents couldn't take care of me. I don't know the exact reason, but I think that it is because of a law that was in effect when I was born that stated that you could only have one child. It could have also been that they were too poor to take care of me, which would have made sense because I was born in a poverty-stricken city. My parents knew about these reasons to not keep a baby, so they put me in a busy marketplace in hopes I would make it to the orphanage safely. Although it seems strange to put a child alone in a busy market place, this is what most parents who put their baby up for adoption do because bringing a baby to an orphanage is illegal. Even though they could not take care of me, they still let me live. Even though abortion is also illegal in China, my biological parents could have found a way to abort me instead going through the pains of giving birth. I am so thankful that my biological parents chose not to abort me so that I could have a chance to have a good life.

Being aware of my past, I would like to prevent abortion. I could do this in several ways. I could participate in the March for Life and other protests against abortion. A more powerful way is to tell my story and show how wonderful my life now is because my biological parents gave me a chance to live. I could also contact people with influence in the government to try to convince them to create laws against abortion. When I am older, I could vote for politicians who are against abortion. I could also convince other people to vote for politicians against abortion. I could also tell people what actually happens to their body and the baby's body when they

commit an abortion. The gruesome details might be enough to stop someone from going through with the abortion. I could also explain the alternatives to abortion. For example you could tell the person having an abortion that they could put the baby up for adoption or give it to a relative. Trying to convince someone that abortion is wrong is never a waste of time. Saving one baby's life is better than saving none.