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### Defending Life

The culture of death in our world is absolutely rampant and it is time that the pro-life generation finally takes a stand. From the travesty of abortion, to the millions of children who are being abandoned and neglected, the beauty of life needs to be restored in the minds of all. I believe that we all have a voice in this world and each and every one of us needs to use this gift to defend our amazing gift of life. Death and the loss of belief in the importance of life do not need to continue and I am ready to fight for life

Personally, this epidemic of lives being treated as if they have no dignity hits very close to home for me. When I was about twelve years old, my family of five began to grow, but not in the way anyone would imagine. My house became a safe haven for those that were in need throughout the foster care system. Initially, I was unsure about how this experience would influence me, but little did I know, it would change my life forever. During our five years of taking in foster children, I was able to create a close bond with all seven placements we had the honor of caring for. From a newborn to an eight year old, each child brought me a new perspective of life. I felt as if my role was to show them an amount of love that they had never

seen before. In return, they gave me a sense of joy and thankfulness for the people that have been placed in my life. Suddenly, the slight smirk on someone's face or the uncontrollable laughter when the tickle monster came to town became the best parts of my day. This experience not only brought me a new love, but also seven more family members, one becoming permanent. Each and every placement continued to teach me more and more about the beautiful gift of life; and from this came my little sister who teaches me every day that there is no limit to how much a person can love.

As I watched the lives of so many children be thrown away as if they were toys, I began to think about what could be done to save all lives threatened by the culture of death. How could I show the world the beauty of life? How can the lives of millions be saved beginning with me? The love that I received throughout my years as part of a foster family was the answer to all my questions. If we can show the world the immensity of joy each person can offer, the importance of life is almost completely self-evident. Let the children, the babies, the senior citizens, and all those who are suffering from the dangers of this culture be the center of our fight and speak on behalf of them. We cannot allow the words of abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide be what the world sees, but rather express the words love, happiness, and beautiful to do the fighting for us. If we can shine through the culture of death with a new culture of not just life, but love as well, there is no fight we cannot win.