

My Friend Paul Says

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My friend Paul says abortion
and prenatal testing are necessary
to prevent the birth of babies
who have something seriously
wrong with them like X
and I say, *I have X.*

Paul says, *Obviously, not people like you.*
I often make faces and wonder
if just one muscle stayed tense for good,
if I slurred my speech, if I stuttered,
if I could not swallow, which variable
would make me less worthy of living?