

## SB 357– Support

Testimony by Robert Nelson  
to the Senate Finance Committee

March 10, 2020

My name is Robert Nelson, Minister of Pastoral Care at Living Word International Christian Church in Silver Spring.

I'm here today to testify because in my county very late-term abortions are continuing to be performed seven years after the tragic death of a 29-year old woman who was 33 weeks pregnant. Numerous other women have been rushed to the hospital by ambulance.

In searching the scriptures, one can find many citations to a mother's womb and pregnancies. In the book of Luke there is an account of Mary carrying Jesus going to see Elizabeth who is carrying John the Baptist. The Bible says, "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped." Two millennia later, science is now confirming that babies in the womb indeed have sensations and can feel pain.

In a quote attributed to the American Academy of Pediatrics Fetus and Newborn Committee, "Prevention or treatment of pain is a basic human right regardless of the age, and the human care given to premature babies needs to be extended to the fetus." Almost 13,000 American unborn babies who are 19 weeks post-fertilization and older die each year due to late abortion.<sup>1</sup> Currently, commercial livestock in a slaughterhouse and animals in a laboratory have more legal protection from pain than do unborn children.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Ben Carson has performed surgery on babies in the womb and has recognized that the baby experiences pain and needs anesthesia. There is a photo taken during a surgical operation in the womb by another doctor that shows an unborn baby's hand being raised to touch the surgeon's finger.

That's the image in my mind of an unborn child saying, "I can feel this! Remember me!"

What parent when seeing their child crying and writhing in pain would not immediately come to the child's aid? No one wants to see a child in pain.



For many years during my career at NASA, employees of Melwood would come each morning and clean my office. Melwood is a non-profit that creates opportunities for people with disabilities at over 40 area government sites such as the Naval Academy and many other organizations. Some Melwood employees may have mental and physical limitations, but if their mothers had the resources for prenatal diagnosis, they might have come to the unfortunate conclusion that terminating their pregnancy was the answer. These dedicated Melwood employees are a blessing to all of us. They are all God's children!

Maryland prides itself to be in the forefront of legislation. Passing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act will place Maryland in the top third of states that truly have compassion for unborn children.

"The truth always comes out in the end, no matter how hard you try to hide or stop it." You have heard the truth, now it's time to see that justice is done.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill 357.

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<sup>1</sup> "What Science Reveals About Fetal Pain", by Arina O.Grossu, 202-393-2100, [www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org)