

HOUSE BILL 1171 Witness Testimony

I proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence – womb to tomb!

HB1171 insists that elective abortion, including late-term elective abortion, is a “human right” and “women’s health care” -- something that should be promoted, funded, and celebrated. In fact, abortion is the opposite of women’s health care, and is an extreme violation of human rights. It has no clear justification in terms of women’s health. Further, abortion may even harm women’s health, and their lives, including or especially low-income women. As soon as the Hyde Amendment prevented federal dollars from funding abortion, abortion complications for women affected by the policy went down.

Answering the needs of women by promoting taxpayer-funded elective abortion, as this bill would do, is a failure to love and serve women. Offering free or low-cost abortions, instead of the resources needed to care for her child, is not “choice” but coercion. It communicates to a mother in need that there is no hope for her or her child and perpetuates injustices that drive mothers to end the lives of their children. As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we must reject this bill and embrace public policy that fully respects and facilitates these rights and needs of both mother and child.

As Pope Saint John Paul II observed, “At the center of the moral vision of [the American] founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person . . .” The greatness of the United States lies “especially [in its] respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development.” This bill, however, would catapult our nation further away from this greatness by legislatively enshrining the killing of defenseless, voiceless human beings. And as Pope Francis stated regarding unborn children, “Their killing in huge numbers is a serious problem that undermines the foundations of the construction of justice, compromising the proper solution of any other human and social issue”.

This bill further undermines the cornerstone of society – the FAMILY! Parental consent is not only crucial to the proper development of the child but necessary in the further success of our nation compatible with generations upon generations of experience.

I strongly recommend that this extreme bill be reconsidered in the context of the above and defeated in the House.

Thank you!