

HB0049

Favorable

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus

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I ask the members of the committee to return a favorable report on House Bill 49.

The state has a compelling interest to regulate legal medical procedures to establish reasonable regulations and restrictions to ensure the health and well-being of patients undergoing procedures. If I were to ask the committee to consider one piece of this bill above all others, it would be the component that restores the requirement that abortions are performed by physicians, and I ask this for the protection of women undergoing these medical treatments.

This bill seeks to set a new standard based in science as the decision marker for when abortion should NOT be performed. This bill recognizes that the beating of a human heart is detectable in utero, and when that heartbeat can be detected, human life should be protected. Penalties are provided not for the woman, but for the physician who has a responsibility to comply with the law when they determine that a heartbeat is present.

The bill goes further in providing requirements relating to informed consent, sonogram, and protection from coercion. Each of these is designed to provide women with protection and information on the life within her and the procedure she will undergo,

The provisions of this bill boldly look to support life as well as informing and protecting women as they consider abortion. I stand with the sponsors of this bill on the side of protecting human life in the womb—a beating heart means something, especially coupled with all the other scientific markers of human life growing to maturity over the next 20-plus years. I ask that you consider what that means to you, and to consider what other markers you consider significant in the development of that new life. Fundamentally, when does human life begin, and when and why is it worthy of protection?

I ask that you return a favorable report on House Bill 49 for the reasons outlined above.