



CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY VALUES

November 29, 2017

TO: Ohio House Health Committee
Chairman Representative Stephen A. Huffman

FROM: Citizens for Community Values
Josh Brown, Esq., Legal Counsel and Director of Policy

RE: **Support** for House Bill 258 – Fetal Heartbeat Protection Act

Chairman Huffman, ranking member Antonio, and members of the Committee,

Today we write you to express the **support** of Citizens for Community Values for House Bill 258, The Fetal Heartbeat Protection Act. We felt the sponsors' testimony gave a great overview of the scientific and legal issues behind the bill, supporting the assertion that human life begins at conception. We would like to state our basic reasons for supporting this bill, expanding upon the sponsors' testimony with the points below.

- 1) We deeply care about and love the people involved in these processes. This includes both the children who are to be aborted, the women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, and our society that is suffering under the abortion culture.
- 2) Basic ethics for orderly society dictate the importance of valuing human life and defining when human life begins. If one is to define when it begins, then it is difficult not to define it as beginning at the point the cells become unique from its parent's cells, or at least when the child's body begins performing distinctly live-human functions (such as producing a heartbeat). This is discussed in great detail in the sponsors' testimony.
- 3) The biological evidence is clear: the process of human gametogenesis and fertilization transform—from two different incomplete parts provided by a mother and father—genetic material into a new and distinct individual, different and separate from the parts that it is made up of, genetically unique from the child's parents, and whole.¹
- 4) We know that children can feel pain, recognize voices, develop a heartbeat and brain activity, early in a pregnancy.

¹ The sponsors' testimony discusses this in detail. See also: Dianne Irving, Ph.D., "When Do Human Beings Begin? 'Scientific' Myths and Scientific Facts," <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/abortion/ab0027.html>.

- 5) Abortion culture has targeted the black populations in America and Ohio, reducing the black population to a fraction of what it would otherwise be, had there not been a disproportionate number of abortions among our beloved brothers and sisters in this population.²

Given these facts, CCV supports House Bill 258.

Citizens for Community Values (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.

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² According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) black babies make up 35% of the aborted population. See: "Abortion Surveillance—United States 2013. Can be accessed at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6512a1.htm>