

Good day to you. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to speak, and I do not take it lightly that we live in a republic where a normal citizen like myself has such a right. Let me introduce myself in this way. My name is Michael Coughlin. I am 43 years old, and I have called Ohio my home since conception.

I say conception because that is the key word here that I want you to focus on. The scientific fact of the matter is that life begins at conception. I don't need to prove this because everyone here already knows this truth. This is why we tell people we are sorry whenever they have a miscarriage; no one here, even the most ardent pro-choice or pro-abortion person would ever ask someone "did the fetus have a heartbeat yet?" before offering their condolences for a lost baby.

So ultimately, that is the point here. Abortion is not healthcare, it's an act of murder of a human being who has been created by God in His image. Whether that little boy or girl has achieved heartbeat status or not is irrelevant to the truth that we cannot dehumanize that little boy or girl. Sanctioning or regulating abortion is wicked because it's regulating murder. Think about it, if abortion ISN'T murder, why should it be legally regulated at all? I mean, we don't have laws about removing moles, do we? If abortion IS murder (which it is), then it ought to be intolerable altogether.

Now that I've established that human life begins at conception and that abortion is murder, I have to ask you, do you believe that someone who is being paid to murder a baby (particularly with the financial backing of many government entities)...do you think that person will detect a heartbeat? Let's be honest, here. A heartbeat bill, as well intentioned as it may be by many who support it, is inhumane, illogical, and practically unenforceable.

It is inhumane because it denies that we are all created equal by explicitly giving a protective status to some but not all people. It's illogical and unenforceable because we can't honestly expect a mother who wants an abortion and the killer who is paid to perform the murder to document that they found a heartbeat – in a fetus of any gestational age. How simple would it be, frankly, for facilities of child sacrifice to simply begin *never detecting a heartbeat, even in babies older than a few months gestational age?*

Some will say, even if you make abortion illegal entirely, it's unenforceable, people will do it anyway. This is true. I don't tell you to make abortion illegal because I think that will make people stop. I tell you to do that because it is right. We don't regulate thievery just because we know people will steal anyway. We don't make cheating on your taxes *acceptable in some cases*, just because we can't catch everyone who would do it.

Let me urge you that you will stand before God one day. And God will judge you not only for your decision in regards to making laws that protect innocent life, but He will also judge you for every thought, word or deed you've even had. God is holy, and he hates hearts that devise wicked plans and hands that shed innocent blood. God has been merciful to each of us by allowing us to continue to breathe His air that He provides, even though we are all deserving of death. And why does God allow you to take even one more breath?

God is patient so that all of those whom Christ died for will hear the gospel and come to him. The Gospel is that Jesus Christ came into the world, was conceived in a virgin's womb of the Holy spirit, lived the perfectly sinless life you could not live, and then was crucified and died on a cross where he not only suffered at the hands of wicked men, but was crushed by His father for the sins of his people. So that, by

his resurrection from the dead 3 days later, he could make many righteous. Jesus said that HIS sheep hear his voice. Do you hear it? Then repent of ALL your sin and trust in Him alone for salvation today. And do the BEST good you can when making laws and make laws that do not show partiality, but reward those who do good and punish ALL those who do evil.

Heartbeat bills are inherently wicked because they ignore the sin of the mother who desires to kill her baby. If you truly love people, Ohioans, and mothers, you would do well to oppose laws that do not punish women for murdering their own children. What kind of society do you want to live in? One that would protect innocents or protect murderers? The role of lawmakers is to make just laws and then to enforce them and let the lawlessness of the people fall where it may. Do not concern yourself with “potential consequences” of a just law, nor who will oppose you. Would you not rather be opposed by mere men than by God Himself? It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

My name is Michael Coughlin and my website is ThingsAbove.us. I have nothing to hide and I am happy to consult with anyone concerning a life of submission to God through His Son Jesus Christ. I hope that everyone who hears me would come to know Him, even today.