

Thank you Chairman and committee members.

My name is Stephen Faris, and I am an abortion abolitionist and an interested party in S.B. 23 (The Ohio Heartbeat Bill). I have yet to read the bill, but I have heard much of the testimony and I strongly suspect, that at its core, the bill, and others like it across our country, is too weak to accomplish the thing it is intended to accomplish. Philosophically, S.B. 23 appears to me to mirror certain aspects of Ohio S.B. 285 from the year 1867.

I will read to you from a report from a Select Committee of the Ohio Senate to whom was referred S.B. 285. The bill was introduced to the Senate on February 1, 1867 to amend Ohio's 1834 anti-abortion statute. The introduction of S.B. 285 to the Ohio Senate came only three weeks after both the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate ratified the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. S.B. 285 ultimately passed the Senate and the House by April 11, 1867, but the bill most likely had to overcome significant challenges with its dependency on arbitrary milestones of human development and the subjective nature of detecting the accomplishment of such milestones. S.B. 23 seems to face the same challenges. I have not yet reviewed the text of the final form of S.B. 285, but a review and comparison to both its predecessor of 1834 and today's S.B. 23 would be a worthwhile exercise. I encourage you to perform this exercise letting the voice that you are about to hear from the past guide you.

"The Ohio Medical Society also, at its last meeting, made an appeal to this Legislature to enact more stringent laws upon the subject [of punishing crimes of abortion]. It is true, however, that in all of our cities, and in many of our villages, there is a class of quacks who make child-murder a trade, and we regret to add they are too well patronized and sustained, to a considerable extent, by public opinion."

"Your committee are of opinion that the prevalence of this crime in Ohio is due to a considerable extent to the ridiculous distinction which the law has made in the penalty it inflicts, depending upon whether the offense is committed before or after the period of quickening." [INSERT HEARTBEAT]

[In quoting Horatio Robinson Storer] "' Physicians have now arrived at the unanimous opinion that the fetus in utero is alive from the very moment of conception.' [In 1803, the same year as Ohio Statehood] Dr. Percival declares that, 'To extinguish the first spark of life is a crime of the same nature, both against our Maker and society, as to destroy an infant, a child, or a man.' The erroneous opinion has been entertained by the unthinking - and our law has favored the idea - that the life of the fetus commences only with quickening [INSERT HEARTBEAT], and hence the conclusion that to destroy the embryo before that period is not child-murder, but only a venial offense. No opinion could be more erroneous. Quickening [INSERT HEARTBEAT] is generally purely mechanical."

"Let it be proclaimed to the world and let it be impressed upon the conscience of every woman in the land, 'that the willful killing of a human being, at any stage of its existence, is murder.'"

"We must by proper legislation, and by the diffusion of a correct public sentiment, endeavor to suppress a crime which has become so prevalent."

It is not that remarkable that in 1867, these Ohio Senators found it prudent to do away with arbitrary and subjective milestones of human development as it concerned the preservation of the right to life and the preservation of the right to equal protection of law. The 14th Amendment, ratified by Ohio merely three months prior to the passage of S.B. 285 bound Ohio to such preservation.

It is also not that remarkable that these Ohio Senators found the language of the 14th Amendment inclusive of ALL natural persons, born or unborn. They had only within the last decade suffered through the Civil War that was sparked by the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857). In this ruling, the SCOTUS, "ruled out" black people, free or enslaved, from the citizenry of the United States simply because the Constitution of the United States did not explicitly include them in the citizenry. Such insight, that, "ALL persons" means, "ALL persons" was not lost on Ohio's Senators and is not lost on my five-year-old daughter today. With respect to the SCOTUS quote in Roe v. Wade (1973), "The word "person," as used in the Fourteenth Amendment, does not include the unborn," was immediately discovered and described by my daughter as, "extremely dumb and stupid."

Thank you for hearing my testimony. Please defy the SCOTUS by committing Ohio to the utmost preservation of the right to life and the right to equal protection for ALL persons. Abortion must be abolished.