

Monday, April 8, 2019

To: Representative Merrin and Members of the Health Committee -

My name is Linda Theis from Findlay, Ohio and my family has been involved in pro-life work since the 1960s when my mother answered the Heartbeat Hotline to help troubled young women with unexpected pregnancies. My involvement began in 1975 and has continued in various capacities, at both the local and state levels for many years. I am presently on the Executive Board of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio.

As these hearings come to a close, my thoughts go back to eight years ago when first consideration was given to the Heartbeat Bill. How things have changed since that time - and how things have stayed the same.

The concept was a new one then, as no one had as yet given thought to providing legal protections from the beginning heartbeat of a newly conceived child. Today, there is no doubt that the heartbeat is a significant and obvious measure in the process of human growth for a young tiny human being - a measure that largely determines that the process of development will likely result in a healthy birth within a number of months from that first beat. Today, the world is aware that a heartbeat is a sign that the child is alive and growing and yes, deserving of legal protection.

Your task is to consider extending legal protection to the unborn with a detectable heartbeat. I would ask only that you do what is right and just for every other member of our human family and extend the Ohio law to provide legal protection for those yet unborn - that they be afforded the same consideration given to the rest of our human family from the moment their heartbeats are detected.

Abortion has ravaged millions of babies, their mothers and their families, all across our country over these past 46 years since the Roe v. Wade/Doe v. Bolton Supreme Court cases of 1973. Prior to that time Ohio had remained one of the states where abortion was held illegal.

I thank you for your part in this process that will at last speak to protection of the unborn from the moment of a detectable heartbeat. Hopefully in days to come, our great state of Ohio will once again offer full protection for the unborn.

Until that day comes, let us work together to offer all that we can in the area of love and support to often confused, scared and hurting moms that can help them move through their pregnancies to parent or to place their children into the waiting and loving arms of adoptive couples, many of whom wait for years to adopt an infant. In that way, we can continue to love both the mom and the child in such a way that they both experience positive solutions from troubled situations.

My husband and I were blessed to parent three sons, two of whom were adopted, and three daughters - and recently I became grandparent to a sweet adopted little baby girl. So many can win if we provide legal protection for those yet unborn in our state.

Again, thank you for your consideration, and hopefully final passage, of SB 23, the Heartbeat Bill, out of this committee. Ohio will be a better and stronger state as we opt for positive solutions to difficult situations. We look forward to partnering in any way that we can to aid in that process.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Theis

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