**Heartbeat Bill Testimony [HB258]**

**Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee**

**December 4, 2018**

**Good Morning Mr. Chairman, and member of this committee.**

I am Reverend Katherine Marple; I am a wife, a mom, a grandmom, an Ordained minister, an Advocate & Activist, a new foster mom and I have supported Ohio’s ***Heartbeat Bill*** since the very beginning. As some of you may know, this is not my first time testifying for this critical and relevant life saving bill.

These are exciting times! Imagine! An unborn Ohioan will be a protected person because of their own precious beating heart! It is humbling to be even the smallest part of the right to life and love of all unborn persons in Ohio, inside and outside of the womb. My own glad, beating heart is full and joyous!

Even so, this is my 40th year since an abortion change my life forever. I was lied to; my unborn child was not an undiscernible ‘clump of cells’, nor was my child a blob of tissue. She was a human person, with a heartbeat, and with a plan that God had just for her, just as He does for EVERY unborn child. Rather, she was taken from me, maybe sold to the highest bidder for her tiny body parts, or her final resting place in a landfill or incinerator. These things I do not know because abortion and abortion businesses keep this information a closely guarded secret because *it is* so abominable and abhorrent and sleazy.

My story is not much different than other post-abortive moms, but it is important to me because it created an activist and ministry rather than a victim. My child should be remembered rather than banished to a place of shame.

My child’s heartbeat was ignored, just as over 22,000 other unborn children last year in every abortion facility in Ohio, about 57 per day. I suppose these so-called ‘doctors’ do not believe a detectable heartbeat to be a sign of life?

Then, do we trust God or an abortionist to determine the humanity of an unborn child? It is grievous that we determine who lives and dies by the stroke of a pen. Since we are in a world that ignores God but believes man-made abortion science, we have to adhere to the laws that abortion has governed. And by that, the Heartbeat Bill will rise above this pseudo-science of determining an unborn child’s life or final resting place.

An unborn child came to save the world, His birth is celebrated this Advent Season with a regale of decorations, ornaments, hymns & carols, and tall brightly lit trees. While still in His mother’s womb, without doppler or ultrasound to prove His humanity, it was known that He and other unborn persons of that time were human persons, with a special purpose & plan, regardless of ageism or geography. His name is Wonderful, Counselor, MIGHTY God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, He is Jesus - the government on His shoulder, as this is said in Isaiah, chapter 9 (v6-7). Every child is made in the very image of God, created and known by Him, every single time regardless of his or her circumstances. How wonderful to have this opportunity to honor Jesus Christ’s birth this Advent Season with honoring His creation while in the womb, and after.

A person’s life should never be judged as worth living or worth death by anyone. An unborn child’s heart beats very early, in about 18 days - because a beating heart sustains LIFE.

And just as it should be, the beating heart of an unborn Ohioan will stop abortion. It is time to pass the Heartbeat Bill. It is time to celebrate our unborn children.

Thank you for this consideration,

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