

## Testimony of Linda Harvey, Mission America, on Heartbeat Bill SB 23

March 6, 2019

Thank you so much for allowing me to testify today. My name is Linda Harvey. I am president of Mission America, and I would like to testify in favor of the Heartbeat Bill, SB 23.

This bill brings forward a key issue in the debate over abortion—the essential humanity of the unborn child. Because no matter what else is going on with a woman’s life, that child inside her is a separate human. It’s not her body—it’s someone else’s. And even if we are truly all about the community of the human family, we can’t keep lying and pretending these are pieces of tissue. Every single person in this room today—every person in the entire globe—was once an unborn child, dependent on someone to bring him or her out of the womb.

Will we keep going with this lie? It’s already costing us a lot and a recognition of the heartbeat of each pre-born human will go a long way in re-connecting us with reality and with true compassion. To keep killing these children, and holding out this temptation for women in a tough situation, is a human rights abuse of the first magnitude. America, even Ohio, can’t keep pretending we are civilized and great proponents of human rights if we don’t do what’s right here.

We should ban all abortions, but this is a start.

I have come a long way myself on this debate. I was once a social liberal and an advocate of a “woman’s [so-called] right to choose.” I was once a volunteer at Planned Parenthood, where I met with new “clients” (many of whom were teen girls) to teach them about options for contraceptives. But I changed my mind, and one of the factors influencing my change was having my own children. I realized these new humans were not something I designed—they were not “my body”—but clearly miracles from an Almighty hand.

Part of my pro-life volunteer involvement has put me in touch with hearing about the circumstances of many women who are unsure about the choices before them. Abortion? Or parenting? Possibly adoption is the answer for some. One thing that comes through loud and clear for many of these women is that they don't feel there's a "choice."

Too many of them are under heavy pressure by the child's father, or their mothers, or sisters, to abort. There are also some being pressured by those whose names and faces seldom surface, until much later. These are the men trafficking these girls and women for prostitution, or for pornography, and who need to get this profit center back in service as soon as possible.

We need to cut off all avenues where women are coerced into killing their own children. And one way to do that, is to recognize that another new human has come into the picture, and we can't assault that unborn boy or girl as well as mom.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am asking for you to vote in favor of the Heartbeat Bill, both in this committee and on the floor.