

Linda Harvey Testimony SB 310 Fetal Development Instruction Act

Thank you, Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing and members of the committee, for considering my testimony in favor of Senate Bill 310, the Fetal Development Instruction act.

Teaching children and teenagers about the intricacies and beauty of human development in the womb is extremely important. Today many current indicators, including opinion surveys, show that more and more young people have a very callous view of human life, even to the point of believing that violence is justified in some cases for political ends.

It is the opinion of many that this is largely a result of the dehumanization of new human life through the promotion of abortion as a positive good. In order to overcome the misinformation being embraced so often by our young people, it is critical that they begin to see the humanity of the embryo and fetus in its developmental stages before birth. How can we have a tender heart toward the most vulnerable among us if we have no appreciation for the wonder of prenatal growth and development?

Welcoming marriage, parenthood and children are milestones of human maturity, yet there are growing numbers of teens and young adults who express a desire to never marry or have children. Learning more about the stages of prenatal development may open the eyes of many teens who have not considered both their wondrous option to become a parent, but also the responsibility to take the possibility of pregnancy seriously.

It would go a long way toward firmly establishing our Ohio messages of abstinence until marriage (ORC 3313.6011) for children and adolescents to learn about what happens after conception as the tiny human takes form. Pregnancy might no longer be a problem to overcome but a joyous event to save until the commitment of marriage.

Fetal development videos provide that missing piece of education that is bypassed in many biology lessons. These have been viewed millions of times. The Baby Olivia video is one example and is a beautiful tribute to the miracle of conception, implantation, and fetal growth.

With the tragic ease of ending unborn life through abortifacient medication, our adolescents need to see a picture of what they may be tempted to do: to cut off a tiny yet awesome person whose human rights should be considered equal to theirs.

I urge you to pass the Fetal Development Instruction Act.