

Testimony of Lori Viars, Vice-President of Warren County Right To Life
IN FAVOR of H.B. 69, the Dr. Willke Heartbeat Bill, March 10, 2015



Chairman Derickson and members of the Community & Family Advancement Committee:

My name is Lori Viars. I am Vice-President of Warren County Right To Life and I have volunteered in the pro-life movement for 25 years. I'm the mother of two and I will never forget when I heard my own babies' unborn heartbeats.

You have heard a lot about the Heartbeat Bill over the last 4 years, but I want to bring your attention to a few key points.

Dr. David F. Forte is a Constitutional Law Professor who was one of the primary drafters of the Heartbeat Bill. He has a long bio filled with impressive awards and credentials. Professor Forte served as chief counsel to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. He has authored a number of briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court. And he has been teaching Constitutional Law at Cleveland State University for over 30 years.

Dr. Forte was described by former Speaker Bill Batchelder as *"the best there is."* The former Legal Counsel for Ohio Right to Life, the late Mark Lally, described Dr. Forte as *"brilliant."* Dr. Forte said:

"Courts never change their minds unless they are invited to... the Heartbeat Bill is the most valuable for protecting the lives of the unborn. With this law, I say unhesitatingly, there is much to gain, and nothing to lose." --Dr. David F. Forte

Dr. Connie Wurzbacher of Mason, OH, and Dr. Carmen Doty-Armstrong of Findlay, OH, are OB/GYNs who were advisors during the creation of the Heartbeat Bill 4 ½ years ago. Dr. Armstrong runs one of the largest OB/GYN practices in N.W. Ohio. She said that *"the Heartbeat Bill makes perfect sense."* She added that a fetal heartbeat *"is the vital sign of an unborn child who deserves your consideration and protection."* Dr. Armstrong also pointed out that *"standard medical practice is to document a fetal heartbeat at every prenatal appointment."*

Dr. Margarita Maria Lassaletta of Wadsworth, OH said: *"I am in favor of HB 69 because it makes sense. It respects the dignity of the unborn human, still part of the human family. It is the truest bill that has come out in a long time."*

I agree with the late Dr. John C. Willke, the founder of Right To Life and an obstetrician. He said:

“While I am for protecting all unborn babies, this bill is a giant step toward our goal... I strongly encourage you to lend your leadership and support to the Heartbeat Bill.”

--Dr. John C. Willke, founder of Right to Life and Life Issues Institute

I myself, and many of you here in this room, were unplanned pregnancies. But our lives are just as valuable as the rest of you here today who were planned by your parents. There are people in this room who were conceived through rape. Their lives are just as valuable as yours. I'm glad they were not given the death penalty for the crimes of their biological fathers.

Personally, I wish the Heartbeat Bill went further---I wish it protected human life from conception, from that moment when God creates a brand new human being. But this legislation will go a long way toward protecting the human rights of unborn boys and girls in Ohio.

Some have raised questions of "Constitutionality". Abraham Lincoln said:

“The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both congresses and courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.”

---Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln also said:

“...if the policy of the Government, upon vital questions, affecting the whole people, is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court....the people will have ceased to be their own rulers... ---Abraham Lincoln

Chairman Derickson and Committee Members, I urge you to pass H.B. 69, the Dr. Willke Heartbeat Bill, to protect unborn babies, the most vulnerable members of our human family. They cannot speak for themselves. Your “YES” vote will speak for them.

Thank you,

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