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**Pastor Arnold M. Culbreath's Official "Dr. Willke Heartbeat Bill (H.B. 69)" Statement**  
**(Testimony to be read during March 10, 2015 hearing at Ohio Statehouse)**

Good afternoon. My name is Pastor Arnold M. Culbreath. I am founder & CEO of the Breath of Life Foundation located in Cincinnati, OH; a founding member of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition; and also Assistant Pastor of Heirs Covenant Church of Cincinnati. Having worked fulltime for the past 8 years with Dr. John C. Willke, I'm honored to stand before you today to urge the passage of the Dr. Willke Heartbeat Bill (H.B. 69). As long as this life-affirming piece of legislation remains stalled, the lives of over 20,000 precious pre-born babies, babies with heartbeats, will continue to be systematically snuffed out in our state!

My heart breaks for every single life lost by abortion. I'm particularly saddened by the fact that the Black community is the hardest hit by abortion. Abortion remains the #1 killer of African Americans, higher than AIDS/HIV, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, violent crimes, accidents and all other causes of death combined! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, there were 289,072 Black deaths from all causes excluding abortion. However, the total number of all other Black deaths was exceeded by the 360,000 abortions in that same year.

To give you a local perspective, the African American population in Ohio is currently 12.5%, but Blacks suffer 42% of Ohio's abortions. Furthermore, the Black population in Hamilton County is 26%, but African Americans make up 56% of Hamilton County's abortions. This must stop, and when passed the Dr. Willke Heartbeat Bill (H.B. 69) can help to bring this disproportionate, genocidal, decimation of Ohio's Black community to an end. As a Black American, a pastor, a national pro-life leader and a lifelong Ohioan, I passionately encourage you to pass this bill.

As I close, allow me to quote my friend, mentor and previous employer Dr. Jack Willke, "While I am for protecting all unborn babies, this bill is a giant step toward our goal since it will protect at least 95 percent of all babies in Ohio who would otherwise be aborted. Ohio can see history repeat and lead the way. I strongly encourage you to lend your leadership and support to the Heartbeat Bill." Thank you.