

To: Honorable Representatives of the State of Ohio

From: Pastor Walter Moss

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 69

March 16, 2015

Honorable members of this committee. My testimony today is offered to urge your vote to pass HB 69 the Heartbeat Bill. It is offered as a father, a grandfather, a Pastor, a member of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition and a citizen who has for decades and who continues to fight every day to defend all innocent preborn human life.

As a father and grandfather I look at the abundant blessings brought by children and grandchildren and am motivated to dedicate my life to protecting these gifts from God.

As a Christian Pastor, I know and I teach that human life is especially sacred since it is made in God's image. Protecting it is of utmost importance to God. He takes this so seriously and personally because He made humanity to reflect Him. We are His earthly representatives, made in His image. To murder another person, which abortion does, is to mount an attack on the One who created him. When he says in His Word, 'Thou shall not murder.' the Commandment ended with a period. It did not end with a question mark. It was not followed by an asterisk indicating that there were exceptions.

As a member of the Black Pro-Life Coalition, I embrace the organization's core belief that "children are essential and deserve protection, legal personhood, nurture, and love in the womb and throughout childhood."

Previously in these hearings you were admonished by another witness, a clergy woman, who urged you to shift your focus "by tackling poverty issues rather than restricting access to abortions". I will remind you of the words of another religious woman, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who did not see the issues of poverty and killing children as separate issues when she said, "Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor" and again "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish"

The imagined 'right' to abortion was supposedly found in the "penumbra " of the Constitution and was then conjured out of thin air in striking down abortion laws in 1973.

The so-called pre-abortion "viability test" in current Ohio law is in reality a subjective bar that must be reached before a preborn child can be legally dismembered and provides precious little protection for these babies. I personally and the organizations I represent believe children are living persons long before they can survive outside the mother's womb. The State of Ohio has a right and duty to protect the lives of preborn citizens as

outlined in our Declaration of Independence. HB 69, the Heartbeat Bill, affords that protection to a far greater extent than other recently proposed legislation.

Anyone giving the situation the least bit of thought knows that a heartbeat means there is life. This significant legislation will protect over 90% of the over 23,600 Ohio children at risk from death by abortion on demand. While our ultimate goal is to protect human life from its earliest biological beginnings, Ohio's Heartbeat Bill is a huge step towards that goal.

Please support your 50 House colleagues who co-sponsored H.B. 69 and in doing so provide the deserved protection from abortion it will afford for the lives of babies once a heartbeat is detected.

In Christ,

Pastor Walter S. Moss