

**Paula Westwood, Executive Director  
Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati**

**Written Proponent Testimony: House Bill 69**

March 17, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Community and Family Advancement Committee;

The 1973 U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, and companion decision *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason. Despite scientific consensus that human life begins at fertilization (conception),<sup>1</sup> the language of *Roe* stifles abortion bans at this beginning.

Thus some laws to protect unborn human beings are drafted within perceived confines of *Roe* and *Doe* for best chance of success, for example: Informed Consent Laws, Parental Notice and Consent Laws, Post Viability Abortion Bans, and more. These commendably do save some unborn lives.

Other legislative efforts challenge the overreaching confines of *Roe* and *Doe* by exposing abortion's true nature as the death of a human being at any stage of prenatal development, for example, "personhood" bills to change state constitutions to recognize human life's beginning at fertilization.

House Bill 69 falls between these two strategies by prohibiting abortion of unborn babies with a detectable heartbeat, as early as six weeks gestation. While protection from abortion is preferred for every baby at fertilization, House Bill 69 is a solid step towards this.

According to the most recent Ohio Department of Health *Induced Abortions in Ohio* report, over 23,200 babies die annually from abortion in this state.<sup>2</sup> If less than a hundred children statewide were dying from the flu it would be deemed an epidemic. House Bill 69 will protect over 90% of thousands of Ohio children at risk from death by abortion on demand.

Because House Bill 69 is bold in protecting many unborn human lives, pro-abortion advocates are already threatening court challenges—often the case in the struggle for civil rights.

American democracy is the best system of government, but it is not infallible. Some laws bear revisiting and revoking in light of information learned and consequences observed.

If Americans were intimidated by the reasoning that because the Supreme Court has ruled on a law we must work within its boundaries rather than seek to overturn it, we would still have this Supreme Court decision on the books:

*... [T]he legislation and histories of the times, and the language used in the Declaration of Independence, show, that neither the class of persons who had been imported as slaves, nor their descendants, whether they had become free or not, were then acknowledged as a part of the people, nor intended to be included in the general words used in that memorable instrument. (Dred-Scott decision, 1857)*

The Supreme Court ruled that the following did not apply to enslaved persons:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."* (Declaration of Independence)

Through historical efforts to overturn the unjust Dred-Scott Supreme Court decision, the Declaration of Independence was shown to indeed apply to enslaved human beings. And through efforts such as Ohio's Heartbeat Bill these same unalienable rights will rescue unborn human beings at risk for death by abortion.

We already have four U.S. Supreme Court Justices<sup>3</sup> who indicate that *Roe v. Wade* should be revisited in light of what we know now regarding prenatal human development, post abortion physical and psychological consequences, and women's health and welfare. But before *Roe v. Wade* can be revisited, a case must be brought before the Supreme Court to give the Court the opening it needs to do so.

Ohio's Heartbeat Bill may be the very case that initiates the Supreme Court challenge to *Roe v. Wade*—a decision now responsible for the death of over 57 million unborn American children.<sup>4</sup>

When a pregnant woman hears her baby's heartbeat during an early checkup, she knows this little person is thriving and growing. What too many do not realize or even know is that abortion on demand stops the beating of these same tiny hearts forever.

After 42 years of legal abortion-on-demand Americans are numb to abortion's true nature, and further confused by the belief that 'if it's legal it must be right.' The Heartbeat Bill exposes this false state of affairs.

Please support House Bill 69, Ohio's Heartbeat Bill.

<sup>1</sup> For example, <http://www.princeton.edu/~prolife/articles/embryoquotes2.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthstats/vitalstats/abortionmainpage.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, and Samuel Alito  
<http://www.afj.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/SCOTUS-Abortion-Records.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>

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