



# Center FOR Christian Virtue

*Public Policy. Engagement. Education.*

To: Chair Shane Wilkin  
Vice Chair Andrea White  
Ranking Member Richard Brown  
House Government Oversight Committee

From: Nilani Jawahar  
Legislative Liaison  
Center for Christian Virtue

May 19, 2022

Re: Support for HB 598

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I'm here on behalf of Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in support of HB 598, also known as the Human Life Protection Act.

I know I'm testifying on behalf of my organization but I want to get a little personal for a minute. I volunteer at my local pregnancy resource center. I've been doing it for almost three years now. I didn't really know what I was getting myself into when I signed up for it. I had a little bit of free time, wanted to volunteer. I care a lot about women and women's issues so volunteering at a pregnancy center seemed like a natural fit.

My experience consulting with the women who come to the center has shaken me to my core. I have met women who have been through things I can't even imagine. They've shared their pain with me and we've cried together, and we've prayed together.

Pregnancy and childbirth are not easy things. Motherhood is even harder. Someone wise once told me sometimes you can't solve everyone's problems, but what you can do is carry their burdens with them.

We've heard some very compelling arguments against abortion today. We've heard the medical perspective. We know the science. We know that life begins at conception. But



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what good is it to know that life begins at conception if we don't even know the value of human life?

The woman who walks into the pregnancy center wondering if she might be pregnant—her life has value. So does the life of her baby growing inside her. Their interests are not competing. They're a family. Causing harm or damage to one causes harm and damage to the other. They thrive together.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with some words from Mother Teresa:

“...I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child - a direct killing of the innocent child - murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love, and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even his life to love us. So the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love - that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts. By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

Thank you for taking the time to hear me testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions.

*The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.*

*www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775*