

**Pastor David Forbes**  
**Proponent Testimony – HB 598**  
**House Government Oversight Committee**  
**May 19, 2022**

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the privilege to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 598, the Human Life Protection Act. I stand before you as a proponent of this bill.

My name is David Forbes. I am pastor of Columbus Christian Center Church here in Columbus. I stand as a proponent of this bill because I am strongly pro-life and pro-woman. I am pro-life because liberty and the pursuit of happiness are not possible without access to life! I am pro-woman because I was born of a strong woman, I am married to a graceful woman, and I am the father to four beautiful women.

The pro-abortion activists speak of caring for women. But I do not see this care. In fact, I see the politicization of one of the most awful human practices against life. As a pastor, I have seen firsthand the guilt, shame, regret, and depression both female and male parishioners can experience years after an abortion. The pro-life movement offers support for BOTH women who have had abortions and those who chose birth and life. Heartbeat International and The Pregnancy Decision Health Center are but two examples.

Emotional and mental care is deeply needed. The pro-abortion lobby does not offer it, but pro-lifers do!

Help finding freedom from guilt and shame is needed. Pro-abortion activists can't deliver it, but pro-lifers can!

Abortion ends life. When the right to life is denied, the rights to liberty and happiness are also forfeited.

I am willing to address the legal aspect by pointing to the poor legal approach the Supreme Court rendered in 1973. The majority of states had already democratically decided against permitting abortion. Knowing there was no chance to advance this life-ending procedure legislatively, abortion advocates chose to stretch the limits of the judicial system. And because those holding this mindset also held the majority on the court, this is exactly what they did. Even the esteemed Ruth Bader Ginsberg remarked that *Roe* is not based on sound footing.

I can also speak from a religious foundation. Abortion advocates rarely lean on a biblical or scriptural basis for one main reason. Because there are none. Individuals even unbelievers instinctively realize the God of life, light, and love would never espouse an act of death, darkness, and destruction upon innocent lives.

I also can address the moral and ethical tone. As lawmakers, I honor your charge to create policy and make laws which support and aid the life and liberty of the greatest number of citizens. To be sure, abortion ends the certainty of such life. An unborn child is nevertheless alive. An unborn

child can feed on nutrients, feel pain, and suffer the effects of her mother's choices. Ending a life is a grave and tragic outcome for a human being who cannot speak for or defend themselves. So those of us who can speak and defend.

Abortion is morally and ethically abhorrent and evil.

Abortion causes death. And this culture of death is the death knell of a civilization.

Abortion invites culture to question the validity of all life.

Abortion invalidates the promise of equal protection under the law as promised by our Constitution

Abortion attacks the very fiber of culture and civilization.

Abortion creates victims...the would-be mother is victimized; the would-be father is victimized; the family is victimized; the baby whose life is destroyed is victimized.

As a **person**, I strongly disavow abortion and promote life.

As a **pastor**, I strongly advocate for the Judeo-Christian truths which form the bedrock of this nation.

As a **parent**, I hold my strongest place to stand. As I said earlier, my wife and I are the proud parents of five; 4 females and 1 male.

The beginning of our third pregnancy was healthy and peaceful. But this third pregnancy was about to end in pain and trauma. In the fourteenth week, we suffered a miscarriage. We later found out that the manual stretching of my wife's cervix by the nurse during her second delivery traumatized her cervix. The muscle structure and elasticity which keeps the cervix closed until birth was compromised. At a certain weight our baby basically "fell out of the womb". I, as a husband, was there; helpless and hopeless, but there. As a husband and father, I felt immense immediate shock, grief, and pain. As I knelt at my wife's side, I cupped my hands to collect our baby as he was involuntarily released from the safety and security of my wife's womb. We both wept and sobbed...

I took full notice of my baby boy, his arms, his legs, and his head. And even at 14 weeks, his writhing and frantic movement as if to fight for the very life that he felt slipping away.

Kneeling next to my wife, holding our baby, I did not view him as a mass of cells, a clump of human tissue, or just a fetus. What I saw, and held, at 14 weeks was a person, fighting for life and deserving the liberty and happiness the Bill of Rights promises all citizens in this country.

Supporting House Bill 598 is the surest way to do several things:

- promote the spirit and culture of life
- secure the liberty and freedom of all life
- truly celebrate the wonder of womanhood and motherhood

Thank you for your time and consideration. At this point, I will answer questions from the committee.

