

## Testimony of Pastor Daniel Kroger RN Senate Health Committee – 3/6/2019– Proponent of SB-23, the Heartbeat Bill

Thank you Chairman Burke and members of the Health Committee for allowing me to testify today on behalf of SB-23, the Heartbeat bill. I count it an honor to stand before you. I deeply appreciate all you do for myself, my family and the great state of Ohio.

My name is Daniel Kroger and I have the privilege of having two careers. One that works on the outside of a person and the other that works on the inside. I'm a pastor as well as an RN.

I want to take you on a journey this afternoon, a journey that I had to go on myself several years ago. Early on as a Christian young man going through nursing school my faith collided with my new secular career on several different fronts, one of those being abortion. I had to make sense of it all, not only in my head but also in my heart.

You see, I already knew what my belief system said about life. "Thou shalt not kill," but the question I asked myself is "Are we really killing a baby or are we just disposing of tissue?"

In order to know the answer to that question I had to ask myself yet another question.

When does life begin?

Prior to Roe Vs Wade it didn't matter because there were no legalized abortions but since we have decided to take power into our hands to end a pregnancy we have an obligation to humanity to find this answer as we are potentially ending the lives of other human beings.

When does life begin?

At what exact, precise moment does tissue from two different humans become a new life all its own?

We must know the answer to this question or we are guilty of ending human life.

I want to notate a couple things that you may or may not already be aware of that I have learned as a Nurse.

1. In Ohio and every other state I've ever worked in, death can be pronounced when a heartbeat is no longer detected. It stands to reason that if we can pronounce death due to the lack of a heartbeat, we should also be able pronounce life with the presence of a heartbeat.
2. I'm sure everyone in here is aware of what CPR is but did you know that CPR is initiated when and only when a person does not have a pulse/heartbeat? The heartbeat is the sole factor that medical professionals around the globe look at to know if CPR is indicated or not. During CPR, if a pulse or heartbeat is not regained then the person is dead. If a heartbeat is regained then the person is alive and further treatment can occur. It all revolves around the beating heart.

I'm aware that everyone in this room already understands current abortion law but as I was preparing last night I reviewed this information again. I am blown away every time I read it.

According to current Ohio law we can end the life of a baby that already has:

fingerprints

hair

eyebrows

lashes

nerve endings that feel pain

ears and a brain waves that can recognize and remember voices and sounds

We are able to end the life of a baby that we say we don't know is human or tissue but we can tell you if it's a boy or a girl.

As I finish, our current law is based on the age of viability meaning that a fetus is only a baby if it has developed enough to live outside the womb.

This logic puzzles me. I don't understand why we use this as the litmus test for life.

-If you left a 3 month old by itself, it would be unable to care for itself and would die.  
-If you took the bottle of oxygen away from a person with severe COPD, they wouldn't live very long.  
Are they any less human than the rest of us because they depend on others?

There's also a question of development. A baby in the womb is obviously less developed than a born baby but with that same logical reasoning...

-Is a 25 year old woman more human than a 5 year old little girl? The little girl's reproductive system has yet to finish developing but the 25 year old's is complete.  
-Diseases like Down Syndrome and Edwards disease are developmental problems where a trisomy takes place on chromosomes and leaves chromosomes fully undeveloped.  
Are these kind hearted, sweet people any less human than the rest of us?

The conclusion I came up with in my own heart and mind is that abortion is the greatest tragedy mankind has ever waged on itself. It's worse than slavery, worse than the holocaust and worse than any war we've ever entered into.

Many great minds of our day have tried to use Science as their tool to measure everything by. The problem is that Science is not capable of this request. Science can and has done many things for us but it does not enter the world of morality, value or belief systems.

Science tells us that in order to have life an object must exhibit:

- Metabolism
- Energy transformation and
- Response to stimuli

Science can tell us what life is but it does not tell us how to value life.

Science defines life but doesn't differentiate it. It doesn't tell us if a human is more precious than an ameba or a mosquito. It simply identifies life.

Science can tell us that something has a heartbeat but it offers nothing when we ask if it is right or wrong to stop that heartbeat.

Science can only take us so far, the rest is up to us.

In the next couple days Senators, you're going to have an opportunity to do something about it.

I pray and plead for you to please help those that are unable to help themselves.

Thank you and may God Bless each and every one of you.