

To the House Committee on Human Services:

I'm writing to testify with regards to H.57, "an act relating to preserving the right to abortion".

Every person reading or listening to this testimony was formed inside of a woman's womb. Embryology and science and common sense and the language of H.57 points to the fact that life begins at conception, in the mother's womb. If a woman has a right to "give birth to a child or to have an abortion," then what she is aborting is a living child.

I understand that this bill is meant to codify the unspoken law of the land, but in doing so we are making our support of taking life (most often called "murder," except in the case of abortion) explicit. I'm hoping that the language of this bill that allows for abortion at any point in the pregnancy would be eye-opening for any and all who support abortion in the name of a woman's "reproductive healthcare" or "abortion care". Most pro-choice assuage their consciences by calling babies in their early stages a "clump of cells" and not a human life.

I appreciated years ago when I read an excerpt from Mary Elizabeth Williams in Salon Magazine when she said:

"I know that throughout my own pregnancies, I never wavered for a moment in the belief that I was carrying a human life inside of me. I believe that's what a fetus is: a human life. And that doesn't make me one iota less solidly pro-choice."

Here's the complicated reality in which we live: All life is not equal. That's a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about, lest we wind up looking like death-panel-loving, kill-your-grandma-and-your-precious-baby storm troopers. Yet a fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She's the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always.

When we on the pro-choice side get cagey around the life question, it makes us illogically contradictory. I have friends who have referred to their abortions in terms of "scraping out a bunch of cells" and then a few years later were exultant over the pregnancies that they unhesitatingly described in terms of "the baby" and "this kid." I know women who have been relieved at their abortions and grieved over their miscarriages. Why can't we agree that how they felt about their pregnancies was vastly different, but that it's pretty silly to pretend that what was growing inside of them wasn't the same? Fetuses aren't selective like that. They don't qualify as human life only if they're intended to be born.

When we try to act like a pregnancy doesn't involve human life, we wind up drawing stupid semantic lines in the sand: first trimester abortion vs. second trimester vs. late term, dancing around the issue trying to decide if there's a single magic moment when a fetus becomes a person. Are you human only when you're born? Only when you're viable outside of the womb? ...

I would put the life of a mother over the life of a fetus every single time — even if I still need to acknowledge my conviction that the fetus is indeed a life. A life worth sacrificing."

If that sounds on par with Naziism, it's because it is. The whole pro-choice position is. But I appreciate Williams' intellectual honesty and consistency. She's willing to say that she believes it's right to kill innocent people for the sake of a woman's sexual freedom. And anyone who supports this bill is saying the same.

We know the life growing inside of pregnant women are humans. I hear the arguments of women saying that their bodies are their business, and I agree with that, but the children depending on their bodies have rights that parents do not have unilateral authority to take away. The right to life is more fundamental than the right to sexual freedom. We would never promote the sexual freedom of a predator over the life and safety of his victims. We would never agree that parents can abuse their babies or toddlers at home because they depend on the parents and it's their business.

We can support women's rights without supporting abortion! Let's advocate for equal pay and equal job opportunities for women, in this generation and the next, without taking away the lives of unborn women to procure it.

We must no longer guise genocide in the name of women's rights, and I'm pleading with you to not only reject this codification, but to write courageous laws that would protect the lives of oppressed, tiny humans that can't speak up for themselves.

Sincerely,

Ben Whittinghill
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