

To the House Committee on Human Services,

Please accept this as my written testimony regarding Bill H.57, An act relating to preserving the right to abortion.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Not man, not woman, but God. In the beginning was Jesus Christ, the Word; and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him, not by man, not by woman, not by a random cosmological explosion that happened to organize itself into the vast and intricate universe we see today. Without Him nothing was made that was made. He is the Head and Sovereign King of all creation. The world belongs to Him, not to us. We belong to Him, not to ourselves. We did not create ourselves, neither did we take any part in our coming into being. Our life is a gift from the Creator. Furthermore, our bodies are not our own. We were created by Him in order to honor and glorify Him. Further still, when God creates a human soul in the womb of a woman, that child does not belong to her chiefly, but to the Him. He knows every single person before He forms them in the womb, and He is the One who carefully knits together each part of a child while inside the womb.

With that said, I unreservedly oppose the passage of this bill on several grounds. First, we must not play God. God is the only One who has the right to determine whether a human being lives or dies. Second, the destruction of a life within the womb leaves an indelible mark on the human soul of the mother. This is evidenced by the psychological trauma women experience after aborting a baby. Such trauma speaks to the reality that the act of abortion is far more than the destruction of a cluster of cells. Finally, we must reckon with the facts of science on this matter, as science has unequivocally determined that life begins at the moment an egg is fertilized. Please see some examples below.

In McGraw-Hill's textbook, "Patten's Foundations of Embryology, 6th ed.," for example, biology professor Bruce M. Carlson of the University of Michigan, writes, "The time of fertilization represents the starting point in the life history, or ontogeny, of the individual."

Another textbook, "Human Embryology and Teratology, 3rd ed.," from publisher Wiley-Liss, asserts that fertilization is the "critical landmark" when a new, genetically distinct human organism is formed. Yet, the text explains, "life is a continuous process" throughout the pregnancy.

As Harvard University Medical School professor Micheline Matthews-Ross testified before a 1981 U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, "It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception ... and that this developing human always is a member of our species in all stages of life" (New York Times, April 26, 1981).

At that same 1981 government hearing, Dr. Watson A. Bowes of the University of Colorado Medical School asserted: "The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter — the beginning is

conception. This straightforward biological fact should not be distorted to serve sociological, political or economic goals."

After examining the evidence, the Senate subcommittee reported: "Physicians, biologists and other scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being — a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological and scientific writings." (Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981)

The 37 years of scientific advancement since that subcommittee hearing have only confirmed its findings. Children survive premature birth today at younger and younger ages, demonstrating how arbitrary it is to argue life doesn't begin until a baby is "viable." And today's 3-D ultrasounds give us astonishing, heartwarming pictures, revealing that the little child in her mother's womb — she's a baby.

In light of this fact, there can be no viable reason given for abortion, whether in month one or month nine. If this living organism inside the mother's womb is a human life, and science has emphatically proven that it is, then that life has all the rights and protections given by God and afforded by the constitution of the United States. And those rights **cannot** be superseded by a woman's right to do what she will with her body.

Please do all that is in your power to prevent the passage of the bill, and may God have mercy on us for such an atrocity even being considered.

Bless you,

Eric James