

Senate Testimony in Opposition to HB22-1279

My name is Tom Perille. I am a physician and President of Democrats for Life of Colorado. I stand in strong opposition to HB22-1279 (RHEA).

I would like to use my limited time to make clear what legislators are supporting if they vote for this bill in its current form.

- 1) That a human being with a separate genetic code, separate bodily features, separate sex, separate circulation, separate blood type, and separate human destiny is nothing more than an appendage of its mother without any independent or derivative rights.
- 2) That a baby born prematurely at 22 weeks enjoys all the rights of every Colorado citizen, but a baby at 36 weeks in utero has absolutely no rights.
- 3) That a preborn baby can be killed for no other reason than she is female. (We already know this occurs every year in Colorado based on peer-reviewed scientific studies.)
- 4) That a young woman can be pressured to abort her baby by her parents simply because her baby is mixed race. (We heard testimony confirming this practice in the House hearings).
- 5) That a healthy preborn baby can be aborted simply because she might have anticipated disabilities such as a missing digit, missing appendage, a surgically remediable anomaly, Downs syndrome, Hunters syndrome, Fragile X, and Klinefelter syndrome and a host of other functionally trivial genetic variations. They could even be aborted because they carry one of five genes that is loosely associated with an increase prevalence for being gay.
- 6) That an abortion clinic enjoys special status. Legislators can't enact health and safety laws that might "restrict" or "interfere" with the "provision" of "services" in these abortion "facilities".
- 7) That you will be contravening the will of Colorado voters who by a wide margin believe that abortion should be restricted. Rather than codify the Roe and Casey framework for abortion access before viability and exceptions for rape, health, and life-limiting fetal anomalies post-viability, you are choosing instead to promote abortion for any reason at any time during pregnancy – something no other country in the world does.
- 8) That you endorse the violent killing and torture of viable preborn babies who can feel pain, can perform complex purposeful tasks, respond to their mother's voice, have taste preferences for certain ethnic foods, and can express complex emotions.

Please don't be complicit in this bill that reinforces the worst tendencies in human behavior-ageism, sexism, racism, and ableism. Even if you are firmly prochoice, you can and should oppose this radical bill. Vote no on RHEA.

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President, Democrats for Life of Colorado