

### Protect Life at Conception HB 18-1225

Science long ago established that human life begins at conception as a zygote and that human development is a continuous, seamless process. The real debate in this country is not when life begins, but rather, when and under what circumstances that human life deserves protection.

I am firmly in support of any measure that reinforces the inherent dignity and value of every human being from the moment of conception through the embryonic/fetal periods, infancy, childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, and late adulthood until natural death. The value of human life does not increase or diminish based on certain physical or cognitive milestones. A human being's worth is not dictated by her size, her stage in development, her location/environment, her race or ethnicity, whether she is wanted or not, whether she is convenient or not, whether she is able bodied or not, whether she is rich or not.

**Imagine a world where every human life was cherished and celebrated equally, where attempts to dehumanize individual human beings were not tolerated.** Dehumanization is the root of evil and the tool used for centuries to justify the exploitation of others. Dehumanization is the tool used by slave owners to justify slavery. It is the tool used by Hitler to justify the Jewish genocide. It is the tool used by men to justify the disenfranchisement of women. It is the tool that Harvey Weinstein used to justify the abuse of women. It is the tool used by certain segments of society to marginalize and persecute gays and lesbians. It is the tool used by Nikolas Cruz (and all mass murderers) to justify the killing of innocent victims. It is the tool of those who advocate for abortion and who venerate personal autonomy to justify the killing of millions of preborn humans.

Planned Parenthood and NARAL refuse to contemplate any restrictions on abortion. As a result, abortion has been used as a vehicle for all the "isms". Abortion has been used for the most extreme form of sexism – female genocide – most notably in the diaspora of Southeast Asia and China. It has been used for an extreme form of ableism – the elimination of fetuses with Downs syndrome – Iceland has been nearly 100% "successful". The impact of abortion falls disproportionately on the shoulders of people of color and represents implicit, if not explicit, racism. While being gay is by no means a reflection of simple Mendelian inheritance, there is little doubt that Planned Parenthood and NARAL would also oppose any regulation to prevent the abortion of potentially gay male fetuses (using the Xq28 allele). Theirs is an extreme position not in harmony with the vast majority of Coloradoans. It is past time to remove the shackles imposed by Planned Parenthood and NARAL.

The right to life is fundamental to our society. A fetus is a vulnerable human being worthy of the protection by our laws. Please support HB18-1225. If you choose not to support HB 18-1225, I hope you at least reconsider the humanity of the fetus and the health of our very troubled society as you deliberate over future legislation.

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