

In Support of  
Protect Life at Conception HB 19-1103

Science long ago established that human life begins at conception and that human development is a continuous, seamless process. To deny this science is as egregious as denying the human impact on climate change. They are both born of willful ignorance. The notion that a human being only becomes human (and acquires basic human rights) by passing through the vagina during birth is scientifically groundless and arbitrary.

The real debate in this country is not when life begins, but rather, when and under what circumstances that human life deserves protection. **I believe all humans have inherent dignity, value, and the inalienable right to life.** 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 sex, her stage in development, her location/environment, her race or ethnicity, whether she is wanted or not, whether she is able bodied or not, whether she is rich or not. By adopting this perspective, sexism, racism, ableism, ageism, and ethnic/religious discrimination become impossible.

Dehumanization is the common thread in centuries of exploitation. 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. Objectification and dehumanization are the tools used by men 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 mass murderers to justify the killing of innocent victims. It is the tool of those who advocate for abortion to justify the killing of millions of preborn humans.

Instead of responding to a crisis pregnancy by killing the developing fetus and ending the pregnancy, the more compassionate life-affirming approach is to address the factors that made it a crisis. The role of the legislator should be to provide more support for pregnant Coloradoans. This includes offering alternative educational programs for pregnant women in high school or college, ensuring paid family leave, streamlining and destigmatizing adoption, guaranteeing that all Colorado women have access to affordable daycare, and providing a robust safety net for Coloradoans with physical or cognitive disabilities.

The right to life is fundamental to our society. A fetus is a vital but vulnerable human being worthy of the protection by our laws. Please support HB19-1103. If you can't support the bill in its current form, I hope you at least consider amending the bill to protect the fetus from third trimester abortions where 82% of Democrats, 87% of Independents, and 94% of Republicans agree (based on 2018 Gallup polling).

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