

## A Fetal Heartbeats is an Indicator of Life

Legislators in multiple states are coming to realize what medical professionals have known for years: the presence of a heartbeats is an indicator of life. Measuring life by the presence of a heartbeat is not new. This is why the only medical emergency code in most hospitals is “code blue” (cardiac arrest).<sup>i</sup> When a “code blue” sounds in a hospital, physicians rush to the aid of the patient because if they don’t restart the heart, the patient will die. Kentucky legislators are answering a call similar to a “code blue” by rushing to the aid of unborn humans with beating hearts.

Legislators in Missouri, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, and Kentucky have all proposed bills that would make abortions illegal after a heartbeat is detected in an unborn child. SB 9 recognizes the heartbeat as a major indicator of life and will protect each unborn human life once the heartbeat is detected.

### Answering the Objections

#### **Q. Why is the bill necessary?**

A. It is the acknowledgement that a viable human life has come into existence and viability is the point in a human’s life journey where the state has agreed to step in to protect that life.

#### **Q. What does this bill do?**

A. It says that once a fetal heartbeat is detected, a viable human being is recognized and purposely ending the life of that human being is illegal.

#### **Q. Some women don’t even know they are pregnant by 6 or 8 weeks.**

A. Signs of pregnancy can actually be detected in the first 4 weeks of pregnancy. In fact, 90% of pregnant women will have symptoms indicating they are pregnant by the 8-week mark.<sup>ii</sup> Knowledge of a pregnancy at any stage of a pregnancy does not change the fact that the human inside of the mother is living.

#### **Q. Shouldn’t women get to choose what they do with their body?**

A. This is the most common argument for abortion, yet it completely ignores the humanity of a child whose heart is already beating. The child had no choice in the matter of its conception, but it is very much alive. The pregnant women may presently have the right to end the life of a living human being in the womb, but is that right? Should this be acceptable?

#### **Q. Shouldn’t abortion be available to save a mother’s life?**

A. When asked whether abortion could save the life of the mother, Alan Guttmacher (former president of Planned Parenthood) said, “Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal disease such as cancer or leukemia, and if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save the life of the mother.”<sup>iii</sup> Medical professionals are split on whether there is ever a situation in which an abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. Many acknowledge that if the pregnant woman is facing a life-threatening situation, their intent is always to treat her carefully and to save both the child and the mother. If the baby dies as a result of this treatment it is a tragedy. But the intention shouldn’t be to kill the child.

#### **Q. What about in the cases of rape and incest?**

A. Statistics on abortion show that less than .5 percent of abortions are for the hard cases of rape, incest, or to save the mother’s life (.1 percent to save the mother’s life, .3 percent as a result of rape, .03 percent as a result of incest).<sup>iv</sup> Both rape and incestual encounters are tragic and terrible things but punishing an innocent life for the horrors committed by another individual doesn’t help the mother. In fact, a study by Dr. Sandra Mahkorn shows that 75-85 percent of women who were pregnant as a result of rape chose to keep the child for any reason.<sup>v</sup>

# ISSUE: Answering the Objections to Fetal Heartbeat Bill

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**Q. Won't the bill face legal challenge?**

A. The Fetal Heartbeat Bill should not be disregarded because of legal opposition. *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* ruled that viability outside of the womb was the measure of life, but this ignores the heartbeat of the unborn human lives. If a heartbeat is acknowledged medically as an indicator of life, then the Supreme Court needs to be given the opportunity to recognize that as well.

**Q. Isn't this a waste of taxpayer money?**

A. If the unborn child with a heartbeat is a human life, it follows that it also has rights. If this very young human being has rights, then it is not a waste of taxpayer money to wage a legal defense to reassert the rights of a class of people who have previously been denied rights.

**Q. Shouldn't the Supreme Court have final say?**

A. The Supreme Court has been wrong on issues of human rights. The Supreme Court was wrong in the case *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) when it ruled that slaves were neither citizens, nor protected by the constitution. It was wrong in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) when it justified second class treatment of black citizens in the "separate but equal" doctrine.

**Q. Why have some conservatives opposed fetal heartbeat legislation?**

A. Ohio Governor John Kasich vetoed a fetal heartbeat bill on two separate occasions (2016 and 2018).<sup>vi</sup> Gov. Kasich reasoned that the bill "will likely be struck down as unconstitutional" and that the state would be "forced to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees."<sup>vii</sup> Truly pro-life leaders should not operate out of a place of fear, especially when it comes to protecting their citizens. When legislators take office, they should lead boldly when it comes to defense of their citizens, including unborn citizens. The fear of failure or the frugality of a state should take a backseat to the protection of the people living in the state. In the defense of life, risks will need to be taken.

**Legal Challenges**

In Iowa, the Fetal Heartbeat Bill was signed into law on May 4, 2018 by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds.<sup>viii</sup> It has since been struck down by Iowa's Polk County District Court on January 22, 2019. However, Gov. Reynolds said that they are reevaluating and continuing to fight for the bill and for unborn human lives.<sup>ix</sup> Similar laws have been blocked in Arkansas, North Dakota, and Mississippi. Also, Ohio legislators are preparing to file the Fetal Heartbeat Bill a third time at the behest of newly elected Gov. Mike DeWine, who says that he will "absolutely" sign the Heartbeat Bill.<sup>x</sup> Ohio State Senator Kristina Roegner reintroduced the Heartbeat Bill in the Senate a State Representatives Ron Hood and Candice Keller have introduced the Heartbeat Bill in the House.<sup>xi</sup>

**Public Opinion is Recognizing the Rights of the Unborn**

According to a Gallup survey released last summer, 72% of Americans are opposed to abortion in the second trimester. A total of 87 % of Americans are opposed to abortion in the third trimester.<sup>xii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> <https://nhcps.com/emergency-preparedness-response-health-care-guide-emergency-codes/>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.babycenter.com/404\\_early-signs-of-pregnancy-when-will-i-feel-symptoms\\_10372077.bc](https://www.babycenter.com/404_early-signs-of-pregnancy-when-will-i-feel-symptoms_10372077.bc)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.all.org/learn/abortion/abortion-exceptions/common-abortion-exceptions-the-mothers-life/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/abreasons.html>

<sup>v</sup> <https://clinmedjournals.org/articles/ijwhw/international-journal-of-womens-health-and-wellness-ijwhw-1-004.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20181221/gov-john-kasich-vetoes-heartbeat-abortion-ban-pay-raise-bill>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/Assets/LegislationDocuments/132/VetoMessageHB258.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/05/05/608738116/iowa-bans-most-abortions-as-governor-signs-heartbeat-bill>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/beta-story-container/GMA/News/iowas-controversial-heartbeat-abortion-law-deemed-unconstitutional/story?id=60595404>

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/23/politics/dewine-heartbeat-bill/index.html>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.ccv.org/2019/02/12/heartbeat-bill-re-introduced-at-the-ohio-statehouse/>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/poll/235469/trimesters-key-abortion-views.aspx>