

Dallas Erickson Testimony  
Senate Bill 406  
House Judiciary Committee  
March 26, 2009

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SB 406

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

Abortion is arguably the greatest moral evil in our nation today. As tragic as this holocaust is, there has been little most of us could do about it, until now. One of the presuppositions underlying the argument in favor of abortion is that the fetus is not a person, or at least not a "full" person entitled to all the rights and privileges of other citizens. In fact, in *Roe v. Wade* the Supreme Court noted that if the "suggestion of personhood [of the preborn] is established, the [abortion rights] case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life is then guaranteed specifically" by the Fourteenth Amendment.

Denying the humanity of a class of persons may sound familiar; it is how slavery was justified at the time of our founding, and how exterminating the Jews was justified under Nazi Germany. It was wrong then, and it is wrong now. Scripture and science agree that the unborn child is fully human from the moment of conception.

As Dr. Seuss put it so well, "A person's a person no matter how small."

While amending the federal constitution is not feasible, Montana allows constitutional amendments by means of a citizen vote. The personhood amendment would define "person" to include every human from the moment of fertilization.

As simple as the amendment is, its effect could be profound. Undoubtedly there will be litigation. As it now stands, the odds are that we would lose, at least in the lower courts. But no one can accurately predict the future, and many believe that the current Supreme Court is more favorably inclined to overturn *Roe* than ever before. And even if not, the question remains: If it is the right thing to do (and it is), if not now, when? And if not us, who?

We believe that now is the critical time. President Obama has promised to make passage of the Freedom of Choice Act ("FOCA") a priority in his administration. At the stroke of a pen, FOCA would wipe out every single restriction on abortion enacted over the past 36 years, both state and federal, and make abortion fully available all over the country at every stage of fetal development right up until birth. This threat alone should be reason enough to support this bill.

One of the hallmarks of true Christianity has always been compassion for the helpless. From the days of Christians rescuing abandoned babies from Roman persecution, to modern adoptions of unwanted children both here and abroad, Christians have always stood up for the most vulnerable and rescued the perishing.

We have before us today a one-of-a-kind opportunity to stand up for the unborn, and to speak out for those who for 36 years have been denied a voice in the ongoing slaughter of untold millions.

Their silence is understandable; ours is inexcusable. We face a monumental task. But our cause is just, and our God is able. He does require us to help him, however, and I would ask you to do that and to support SB406.

Thank you.

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