

**SB 406 - CLOSING**

**1. Court Terms:**

*Person – Unborn – human being – human life – potential human life – a living being*

**2. Biological Developmental Terms:**

*Zygote...embryo...fetus...unborn...born...baby...infant...toddler...child...pre-teen...teenager...adolescent...mature adult...Silver Tsunami...senior citizen...*

**3. Senate Bill 406 is necessary to submit to the people of Montana the opportunity to define Person.**

4. The people (i.e., the “Persons”) of Montana have the right and duty to determine this issue pursuant to Article II, Sections 1 & 2.

5. The People (i.e., “Persons”) of Montana must decide this question.

**6. FACTS...**

- One egg...one sperm...conception...one specific instant in time...never before in the history of mankind...never again.
- A unique life begins. It has its own DNA; Its own blood type...gender...fingerprints...A unique genome of homo sapiens” (N.D. Bill)
- A unique human-being life begins...A person begins.

**7. Slavery...a parallel moral issue.**

- In the early to mid-1800’s this country faced a moral issue. That issue was slavery.
- In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Dred Scott decision of 1857 that black persons who were slaves were “chattel property; had no rights in the courts; and could be bought and sold. The decision opined that blacks were substandard as compared to whites.
- Abraham Lincoln, in his First Inaugural Address stated: *“I do not forget the position assumed by some that constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court...At the same time, the candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made...the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having...resigned their Government into the hands of the eminent tribunal... Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.”*

- From our historical perspective, few among us, if any, would argue today that slavery is acceptable; that a black person is “chattel property”, or that a black person is substandard.
8. The issue of slavery, the moral issue of the time, led to:
    1. a unique executive order, “The Emancipation Proclamation”,
    2. a civil war in which more Americans died than in all other wars combined (600,000+);
    3. two amendments to the US Constitution, the XIII and XIV amendments, which finally outlawed slavery in the United States.
  9. The moral dilemma of our time, and for the past 36 years: life and abortion.
    - Scientifically, it is proven that a unique life begins when the chromosomes of the sperm combine with the chromosomes of the egg to create 46 chromosomal pairs. That combination occurs at conception or fertilization.
    - Life begins at conception; A person begins at conception.
    - This is a fact, not a theory; nor is it faith, nor an argument of religion.
    - Abortion kills unborn human life.
    - Abortion kills a person, regardless of the developmental term used to describe that person, i.e., “fetus”, “zygote”, etc.
    - This is a fact, not a theory; nor is it faith, nor an argument of religion.
  10. Defining that *a person is a person at conception* may be inconvenient to some; defining that a black person was a person was also inconvenient to some. **Inconvenience does not alter the truth.**
  11. People are fallible. Courts are made of fallible people. The Court was wrong in Dred Scott. The Court was wrong in Roe v. Wade. Even Jane Roe says so.
  12. The People of Montana must be given the opportunity to speak on this issue; an opportunity denied to them by the 1972 Constitutional Convention, and relegated to the Legislature.
  13. It is our duty as the People’s Legislature to allow the will of the People we serve to be expressed. They have the right and duty to so express themselves - with or without our concurrence.
  14. I ask for your courageous support of SB 406; for this request, indeed, calls for courage.

Thank You.