

Testimony for Senate Bill 406

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In the early 1990's, a young woman in Ohio found herself, as the saying goes, in the wrong place at the wrong time. She entered her local bank to do a simple transaction and she found herself in the middle of crossfire between a would-be bank robber and a bank guard. She was hit in the abdomen by a bullet fired from the would-be bank robber's gun. She herself did not die but her unborn baby was killed. The would-be bank robber, when subdued, was charged with attempted bank robbery and with murder of the unborn baby. I might add he was charged and convicted of murder. Meanwhile other *unborn* babies throughout the nation were being killed but it was considered legal because it was called abortion.

Many years ago, I worked for the International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) long before anyone ever dreamed about desk top or lap top computers. A computer then was about the size of a rectangle drawn around all of you sitting at these tables. Information was fed into the computer by means of punch cards which were 100 to a box. A small program might have 10 to 15 boxes. Should a box get out of order, or if someone took some cards out of one box and put them back in the wrong place, or if the programmer had made a tactical error and the computer could not process the information, there followed a garbage dump. The printout which had the English translation of the information on the punch cards printed a lot of gobbeldy gook when there was a garbage dump. It would continue doing this until it was given another command. Once someone noted the garbage dump occurring, they would shout KILL IT! On the side of the computer, there was a raised red button, much like an elevator button and it was known as the KILL button. Once pushed the computer would stop and the printout would be torn off. The very end of the printout had one last sentence in English. Program Aborted. The KILL button was pushed and the program was aborted. Kill-Abort. That terminology was commonly used by the computer industry in the 1940's, 1950's and the 1960's and yet in the 1970's the Supreme Court did not make that connection.

Justice Harry Blackman wrote the opinion Roe vs. Wade but the other justices that concurred offered ideas. Justice Potter Stewart insisted that the opinion should clearly state that an embryo was not a person. That way they could avoid the claim that an unborn baby had any rights. The issue today is when does a human being become a person. The answer is at the moment of conception. The first thing created is the soul which has the powers to think and make a decision. It's also to the soul that God gives the different talents that make each human unique. If there is no soul, there can be no conception. Scientists tell us that at the moment of conception, there exists the DNA, by which a person can be identified throughout life. For these reasons, we say with certainty, that life begins at the moment of conception and at that moment a person exists and must be protected. I urge you therefore to vote for Senate Bill 406.