EXHIBIT 6
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HB 425

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Presented to House Judiciary Committee on HB 425

I'm here to argue for the personhood of the unborn. In 1973, the year of Roe v Wade, it was known that human life begins at conception. That is not philosophy, theology, or political ideology but scientific fact. That human life begins at conception was not disputed in scientific circles then nor is it disputed now. The unborn child has its own distinctively genome, separate from the mother. At conception, the entire genome of that new human being is present that will be there at birth and beyond. Gender, hair and eye color, and other heritable traits are established at conception.

By classic dictionary definition, a human being and a person are the same. Personhood is not logically based on age, developmental stage, intelligence or capacity. In 1973 the age of viability (age an unborn child can survive out of the womb) was 26 weeks, and it is 20-21 weeks now. Logically, the 21 week baby was as much a human person in 1973 as 2011. Viability is based on medical technology available and does not determine personhood. Based on logic and science, personhood begins at conception. You are no more human now than you were in the womb.

Little was known about the life of an unborn child's life in 1973. Soon thereafter, came an explosion of technology such as hysteroscopy, electronic fetal heart monitoring, EEG for fetal brain waves, and more sensitive ultrasound that can show movement and details of facial and bodily features. We know that at early stages unborn babies can taste, see, hear, and feel pain. Current scientific knowledge makes it crystal clear that through abortion we are eliminating unborn members of our human family.

This is not about allegiance to a political party or its platform; it is about your capacity to acknowledge that killing innocent humans is wrong. It is about the acknowledgement that if any segment of our human family is considered disposable by society, it sends the message we are all disposable. As slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is imperative we acknowledge we made a mistake, face the reality of the unborn made clear from science and technology, and declare that personhood begins at conception. It is the only logical and humane stance, the only stance that promotes the dignity and value of every member of our human family.

I urge you to support House Bill 425