



Testimony of Cal Zastrow on HB 425 "Personhood"
(H) Judiciary Committee, MT House of Representatives
February 16, 2015

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HB 425

Good morning. I'm Cal Zastrow. My family and I are Christian missionaries to China and around the United States. I first moved to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in 1982. We have lived off and on in Montana since then, but mostly off. I still retain my registration here and vote in Yellowstone County. We are volunteers with Montana Pro-Life Coalition, as are all people associated with MPLC.

Thank you, Chairman Bennett and members of the committee for making time to consider this bill. I'll be respectfully brief.

Last Friday, you heard the testimonies of people for and against the death penalty. You are thoughtfully considering your duty to protect every innocent person. Some of you cried Friday because the beating hearts and measurable brainwaves of confessed, convicted murderers were stopped. You nodded in agreement, you sympathized with families who are hurting because one of their loved ones is on death row, awaiting possible fatal punishment by the State of Montana. Even religious people came in to support proposed legislation to stop the State-sanctioned-killing of prisoners who have raped and tortured children to death, because even those prisoners are persons, human beings, made in the image of God.

We heard the quotes: **"Let's promote the culture of life."** **"More violence is not the answer."**
"An execution cannot be reversed."

Condemnation was heaped upon the State of Montana, and our violent culture, for over one hour, because fifteen murderers have been put to death by the State of Montana, over decades.

There was but one point that the liberals and conservatives, those seeking justice, those seeking mercy agreed upon: no innocent person should ever be killed.

Every year in Montana, over 2,000 persons with beating hearts, measurable brainwaves, fingers and toes, are brutally killed by surgery with the sanction of the State. Are they criminals? How guilty are they? No, they are innocent. They are preborn children, just as human as you and I. You've just heard Dr. Bukacek's testimony of how we all are fully human, fully alive, at the moment of conception. How tall you would be, your eye color, personality type, it was all there at our conception, for all of us.

If you really want to stop the violence, if you really want the blessings of the God of Peace upon us, then recognize the personhood of every human being, especially children. It's the culture's job to protect children by love. It's your job to protect them by law. While we call out for more blessings, the blood of the slaughtered children cries out for justice.

American courts have unjustly opined in history that tribal people, and then blacks were living, but not protected by law because they were not "persons." At the start, our forefathers even considered black men to only be three fifths of white men, and that not for legal protection but for the census.

Let us be the very first State in America to recognize and protect mothers and children together. Please vote yes on 425, recognizing the personhood of all innocent Montanans.



Thank You