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Neutral Testimony: HB 2324

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House Federal and State Affairs Committee

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Chairman Siegfried and Members of the Committee:

Human life does not begin with the detection of fetal heartbeat. It does not begin at viability, or at the point that unborn children can feel pain. Life begins at conception. This is not a religious proposition but a scientific fact.

At conception, the union of sperm and egg produces a new living being that is genetically human, and distinct from both mother and father. No genetic material is added to this unborn human being after conception, only nutrition.

The intentional destruction of an innocent, unborn human being at any point after conception is gravely evil and should be illegal. The fact of legal abortion in America is a deep, dark stain on our nation's soul. Since *Roe v. Wade*, over 50 million unborn children have been destroyed by abortion. Where there should have been the sounds of children laughing and playing and learning to love music and books and all that is good in life, instead there is only silence. But that silence is deafening.

Those who support abortion on demand pretend that opposition to abortion is a religious matter, yet it is they who hold the belief that life begins through some sort of unexplainable, seemingly supernatural process during the delivery of a child. The idea that a "fetus" is not a human being with human rights while it still has a toe inside the birth canal, but then 10 seconds later with the emergence of said toe, a human being with human rights is suddenly made manifest, is very much a faith-based proposition with absolutely no basis in science or medicine. Equally unscientific is the notion that the unborn baby is simply "part of the woman's body." Do parts of women's bodies normally have male genitals? Or their own brainwaves? Or their own DNA? Or their own blood type? Or their own heartbeat?

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Kansas has a Pro-Life majority, and recent polling suggests that the United States might now as well. However, the legal, constitutional, and moral catastrophe that is the *Roe v. Wade* decision took the abortion issue out of the hands of the democratic process forty years ago. That decision, recognized even by many abortion supporters as a case of severely defective legal reasoning, leaves states precious little room to maneuver in restricting abortion on demand. Since state legislatures are not allowed to end the evil of abortion, but only to limit it in certain circumstances, the question of what Pro-Life legislation to pass becomes in no small part a matter of legislative and legal grand strategy. Since legislators are forbidden by *Roe* from passing the law they *should* pass -- namely a ban on abortion -- the issue at hand becomes a question of what laws *can* they pass that will save lives, promote respect for life, and bring us nearer to, not farther from, a scenario where abortion can be ended once and for all. Because of the muddled, incoherent abortion jurisprudence handed down by the US Supreme Court, and the fact that this jurisprudence is applied at the often unpredictable whim of state and federal judges inclined to legislate from the bench, Americans with sincerely held Pro-Life convictions will inevitably disagree over strategy, but not over principle.

HB 2324 has inspired such disagreement over strategy, hence our neutral testimony. Nonetheless, the Catholic Church is not neutral on abortion. It is the greatest moral evil in American society today. Lest there be any doubt about the magnitude of the evil, take a moment to view online pictures of aborted children, and then multiply by 50,000,000. Or consider the capital murder trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who stands accused of severing the spinal cords of fully-born and viable babies in Pennsylvania, and then casting aside their still twitching bodies to die in agony. It seems society would prefer that such snipping of spines occur while children are still inside the womb, which is apparently the more appropriate venue for baby-dismemberment. *Roe v. Wade*, which enables this madness, should be consigned to the dustbin of history, like another shameful Supreme Court decision, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. Until that time, legislators in Kansas and elsewhere should weigh the full gamut of legal, legislative, and moral considerations when deciding upon the best strategy to limit, and ultimately end, abortion.