

My name is Steve Cross and my wife, and I have the honor of serving as the Co-Executive Directors of Alliance Family Services and I am writing to encourage the passage of House Bill 1373. As Christians, we believe that life is sacred, created in God's image and of inestimable worth. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and every day of ours has been ordained by God before one of them came to be. Moving from the womb and into the world is not what gives that child value. Even for those that don't value life for religious reasons, we know, biologically, that life begins at the moment of conception as the sperm and egg cease to be two separate things and become something new, distinct and alive. That fetus is dependent on the mother, but is not itself the mother. Since that new person is given value by God, independent of what anyone else thinks or the circumstances surrounding it's conception, no one has the right to intentionally end the life of that child. To intentionally take the life of a person is, by law, murder. We do not need any new law to uphold the laws that already exist. Those laws should be as applicable to the child in the womb as they are to the child outside of the womb. A person's worth is not determined by their size, level of development, environment or degree of dependency. Neither is the child's worth determined by whether the parents of that child want that child or the circumstances that led to the conception of that child. The child in the womb should be protected from intentional harm, just as the child outside of the womb is. The law informs our consciences. Currently the public opinion is that abortion is fine because it's legal. This is due to decades of legislation telling women that it's acceptable to intentionally end the life of your child for any and every reason. I've heard from numerous women who have had abortions that say that they wish that abortion had been illegal when they were faced

with that decision because it would have caused them to choose life for their baby. You have been raised up into your position of leadership by God for this time. One day, in the not too distant future, you will stand before your maker and answer for how you voted on this issue. You have a decision to make and an opportunity to affect great change that would save the lives of thousands of children yet to be born and to set a precedent that could lead to the rescue of tens of thousands of children in other states. I implore you to advocate for the lives of our most vulnerable, innocent and voiceless neighbors.