

Chairperson and esteemed members of the committee,

As a woman, a wife, a mother, and a nurse, I'm compelled to share my perspective on this critical issue. I personally believe life begins at conception. After experiencing a sexual assault, I was offered Plan B, but I declined, choosing to allow life to exist if it did. Professionally, my pro-life values led me to leave a job I loved due to the practice of Medical Aid in Dying. I've also opted out of hormonal birth control.

While I'm unapologetically pro-life, I strongly advocate for a nuanced approach that respects diverse perspectives and prioritizes individual freedom.

I want to emphasize that my moral beliefs are not more valid or important than anyone else's. Every individual has the right to their own moral compass, and it's essential that we respect and protect that right.

Establishing personhood from conception would not only jeopardize healthcare providers' ability to provide compassionate and evidence-based care in complex maternal-fetal situations, but also threaten the availability of IVF treatments for families struggling with infertility.

Moreover, it would impose a specific moral viewpoint on all individuals, disregarding the diversity of moral beliefs in our society. This legislation would also have a devastating impact on our state's healthcare system.

By potentially criminalizing healthcare workers who provide necessary care, we risk driving highly trained, morally diverse professionals out of our state. This would exacerbate existing healthcare shortages, compromise patient care, and undermine the very fabric of our healthcare system.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this legislation. As you weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks, I encourage you to prioritize the economic and social implications of driving highly trained healthcare professionals out of our state. Losing these skilled workers would not only compromise patient care but also have a ripple effect on our state's economy and reputation.

Furthermore, criminalizing healthcare providers or those who are pregnant in this context only serves to create hurt, drama, and further polarization. This approach exacerbates an already complex issue, rather than allowing for nuanced solutions.

Thank you.

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