

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PETE DEGRAAF
82nd District

Home:

1545 E. 119th Street
Mulvane, KS 67110-8039
316-613-1899 Cell Phone
PeteDeGraaf@att.net

Topeka Office:

Kansas State Capitol Building
Room 459-W
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1504
785-296-7693 (During session)

Committee Assignments:

Chairman: General Government Budget
Financial Institutions
Member: Appropriations
Insurance
Joint Committees:
Streamlining Committee
Vice Chair: Children's Issues

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013

TO: The Honorable Representative Arlen H. Siegfried, Chairman,
and other distinguished members of the House Fed & State Affairs Committee.

SUBJECT: Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2324** – Prolife Heartbeat Protection Bill

Thank you for serving and for being willing to hold a hearing on how Kansas might be able to save the lives of unborn children with a detectible heartbeat. Just the mention of a heartbeat changes the dynamics of the discussion. People instinctively know that a beating heart means life.

I'm not an expert, but national experts worked with our revisors to carefully dovetail this Bill with existing Kansas prolife law in order to clearly define what is meant by a detectible fetal heartbeat, and what is expected if a beating heart is detected.

If you are new to this issue, it is not uncommon for pro-life organizations to passionately differ on strategy. Almost all of us would like to overturn Roe v Wade, we all want to save lives, and we all believe abortion is the murder of an innocent life. Even so, there are pro-life organizations that are against Heartbeat because of possible legal challenges. Unfortunately for them, the legal battles that could lead to the Supreme Court have already begun. The state of Arkansas already has Heartbeat legislation in law. You will hear today why the legislation you have before is better and is therefore needed.

This room is full of people who wanted to testify, but out of respect for your time, we've chosen just a few to speak. You have emails and written testimony from many others in SUPPORT of HB 2324.

I would also like you to take note of 32 House Members who co-sponsored this Bill - Alcalá, Bideau, Bradford, Brunk, Campbell, Carpenter, Christmann, Crum, DeGraaf, Dove, Edwards, Garber, Goico, Gonzalez, Hedke, Hermanson, Hibbard, Houser, Howell, Huebert, Hutton, Kelley, Montgomery, O'Brien, Pauls, Peck, Read, Rhoades, Rothlisberg, Seiwert, Sutton, and Thimesch. Many others would have, but they expressed concern for the possible retribution from one of the more predominant pro-life groups that work in the Capitol.

I encourage you to not let fear of how this legislation might fare in the Courts or fear of other pro-life organizations stop you from moving this legislation forward. I also encourage you to not let personalities or politics, keep good public policy from emerging from this State. It is time for Kansas to clearly declare –

When a heartbeat is detected, the baby should be protected!

It is a pleasure serving with you.

Rep Pete DeGraaf

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