

Chairman Arlen Siegfried and Committee Members
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
RE: HB 2324 – Pro-Life Heartbeat Protection Bill

Hon. Chair and Committee Members

I am Father Bernard Gorges, a Catholic priest, for the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, currently assigned to St. Patrick Catholic Church, Chanute (Neosho County) and St. Joseph Catholic Church, Humboldt, (Allen County). I am unable to appear in person before the committee today for the hearing on HB 2324 but I would like to submit my written testimony in support of the bill for consideration by the committee.

I was born and raised in southwest Sedgwick County on a “common sense” dairy farm. At 16 years old, I was trained to artificially inseminate cattle. After I bred a cow, I hoped for pregnancy and I hoped that the pregnancy would be confirmed 45-60 days later by our veterinarian. When he confirmed the pregnancy, he would say, “You all got a baby calf here!” So, growing up in rural Kansas, I never could wrap my mind around how we could support or legitimize the abortion of human babies. “You all got a baby here!” Common Sense.

From those early years I became a very strong Pro Life advocate and I am very interested in this bill. This Bill would prohibit abortion after a detectable heartbeat of the unborn child is present and would end roughly 85% of the abortions occurring in Kansas. That would save over 10 or 12 babies a year, here in Neosho County alone.

The people of Kansas are “common sense” folks. We strongly support this “heartbeat” legislation. For God’s sake, if a doctor can detect a heartbeat then the baby should be protected. I feel very strongly that when a heartbeat is detected that is clear scientific evidence of a human life and we must act to protect it. This is the right issue, the right time and it is our duty to save these children now.

Please support HB 2324 and please send the Pro Life Heartbeat Protection Bill on to the full House for action.

Sincerely,
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