

Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life

Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee

Patrick Andre Penn

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Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Joint Committee

Unlimited abortion hurts women and children. It is not a Kansas Value. I urge you to support the Value Them Both Amendment to the Kansas Constitution. Kansans deserve a right to vote on this issue:

Does your vote on the Value Them Both Amendment exhibit Courage or Cowardice? That is the crux of our issue today.

Before she passed, my mother revealed to me that I was supposed to be aborted. By every standard promoted by the pro-death forces, I was slated for death and dismemberment. I had respiratory issues, I was one of the multiple children born to her. I was born into a financially strapped, single-income household. I was born into a household plagued with a volatile and abusive marital situation, it would've been infinitely more convenient for her to abort me, and oh yes, I was Black. She endured so much pressure to kill me, but refused to do so. And for that, I am eternally grateful to my mother. Because she gave me life when all the forces of hell and society urged her not to, I was able to be raised in foster care from age 3 through 18, serve and retire after a full career in the Army, fight in 4 different conflicts on 3 different continents, lead troops in battle against our nation's enemies, join Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., attain several college degrees, enter the middle class, work in the private sector, and serve in my community and church. Of all the blessings you and I derived as a direct result of my late mother's unyielding commitment to loving her child, no matter the difficulties she faced, I am most proud and blessed to be the loving husband of my wife Talia and be a present and loving father to our two strong Black boys and two beautiful Black girls, teaching them the value God has placed upon their lives.

A sitting member of the U.S. House recently cried, "We don't need black faces that don't want to be a black voice." It's amusing how Democrats, from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) to Gov. Ralph "Infanticide" Northam (D-VA) and his Attorney General, have a blackface fixation. They also have a fixation with relegating Black Men in general, and faithful Black Fathers in particular, to the sidelines in this discussion about the protection of life for our community's Black women and Black children.

So I will proudly step into the breach of this leadership vacuum and be the Black Face and Black Male Voice today to address why I vehemently oppose abortion in Kansas, including either late-term, taxpayer funded, or unlimited abortion.

God, in His infinite wisdom and beautiful wonder, created your forefathers and foremothers—who are now memories to the pages of time. God created your grandparents and enabled them to both be fruitful and multiply and then He graciously created your parents and blessed them to bear and bring up their own progeny, which today, having not been aborted themselves, ironically have opportunity to hear, read, and consider these words. Because we each are created by God in the image of God and after the likeness of God, we have an undeniable, inalienable, intrinsic value. Oils, paints, brushes, and a framed canvass alone are not of much worth, but the product envisioned by and springing from the mind and hand of Rembrandt or Degas is revered as a masterpiece. How much moreso when the product springs from the mind and hand of God Himself? All human life matters, no matter where we are along the spectrum of life and development. If you are offended with this concept of the Giver of Life alone dictating the terms of preserving the valued life He creates, your quarrel, dear sir or ma'am, is with God, not me.

Imagine if the fossil of a paramecium or amoeba (not even an actual living organism, just fossil evidence) was found on Mars today. What would the headlines across the world say tomorrow? "**LIFE FOUND ON MARS!**" But the same people who both champion climate science and would be proponents of that headline, look at the formation, assembly, ordering, and functioning of the various cells and systems in the gestating Black, human child's body and say it is merely a clump of cells to be brutalized and sold off in parts by Planned Parenthood or a "just some mess on a napkin" to be trivialized by Democrats like Pennsylvania State Representative Wendy Ullman (D-Bucks). The science is there. The proof is there. The courage to tell and abide by the plain truth is what's missing.

The abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass famously once said, "The truth must be told. I will not be silent." In that spirit, I rise to declare the undeniable truth that scourge of Abortion is not only murder and the shedding of innocent blood, but it is also the vehicle of choice of consummate racism and the force multiplier of sexism. In light of the disproportionate and targeted effect this heinous practice has upon females and the lower-socioeconomic (Black) communities across America and in Kansas, it has been said that the body of evidence suggests the practitioners, providers, supporters, political allies and advocates of the lucrative Abortion industry and the laws protecting it are flat-out racists, anti-female sexists, and sellouts. The vicious lie pervades in some circles that Black Lives do not matter enough to stop their chemical murders and brutal dismemberments in their own mothers' wombs. Some folks even advocate for these practices to continue without sensible regulation and safety provisions aimed at protecting our Black mothers and Black baby girls and boys. Political figures that support this destruction could reasonably be tied to fulfilling Planned Parenthood's racist aims as documented by its bigoted founder, Margaret Sanger.

The Truth sounds like Hate to those that Hate the Truth.

The facts couldn't be clearer. We know from the CDC and Guttmacher Reports in just 2014 alone, the Number One Killer in the Black Community was not the 3,591 HIV Deaths, the 4,861 drug-induced deaths, the 7,903 homicides, the 13,435 diabetes deaths, the 14,135 accidental deaths, the 69,090 cancer deaths, the 73,095 heart disease deaths, or any of the 246,122 deaths from the Top 15 leading causes, combined. It was the 259,336 deaths of Black Lives via abortion in one year. I am sure the 2019 Kansas Black abortion statistics are even more appalling.

Comparatively, sixty percent of viable black pregnancies are aborted in New York City, the home of NARAL and Planned Parenthood. As highlighted in the TooManyAborted.com initiative, more black babies are aborted in New York City than are born alive: 1,223 black babies are aborted for every 1,000 born alive. Yet the NAACP has officially endorsed Governor Cuomo's radical pro-Gosnell "Women's Equality Act" that would eliminate all restrictions on abortion in a state that already aborts over 100,000 per year through the 249 abortion facilities in the state. Now you want to unleash this same uninhibited madness on Kansas?

Our inner-cities are crumbling, two-parent married families barely exist, 72.3 percent of black children are born into homes without fathers, and Planned Parenthood and its allies want to silence opponents for pointing out their documented support of the killing of over 16 million Black Lives since Roe.

In this year of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, I stand in solid support of Women's Rights. So, I ask, is not the baby girl in the womb not entitled to those same Women's Rights? As Sojourner Truth said, "Ain't [she] a Woman?" **Give Her Life.** It is a matter of civil rights on basis of race, color, and sex discrimination that Black women and Black girls will be subjected to sub-standard facilities and practices in the abortion industry if you do not pass this Amendment. Restaurants and the roller grills at QT are subject to Health Inspections, but some propose that abortion facilities not even face that low level of scrutiny. So much for Women's Health.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream that we just spent the weekend celebrating and memorializing. It is obvious Dr. King repeatedly envisioned children, especially Black children, being partakers of his Dream. How can we achieve that if we are committed wholesale to the killing of those children? We never get to engage any other parts (be it work or successes) of MLK's Dream if you've killed us in the womb and falsely sold it to us as Justice and Mercy.

My hope is that so-called "leaders" in the civil rights movement and the elected officials in the Kansas Legislature have their consciences awakened to realize no freedom, no right is more valuable and in need of defense than the most foundational of Freedoms: the Right to Life itself.

I stand ready to work with anyone to save and promote a Culture of Life in Kansas. We can all reach common ground and support this Amendment, surely. Whether we profess Christ or just our better angels, it is only right to protect, preserve, and promote the lives of Black mothers and preborn Black babies in Kansas, in the womb and throughout their days.

Again, does your vote on the Value Them Both Amendment exhibit Courage or Cowardice? Courage is calling you. Please approve the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment. Give us and others in Kansas the right to make decisions on this contentious issue.

Thank you for this opportunity and for all your work for the people of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Patrick Andre Penn, Wichita