

From: <nathankimford@gci.net>
Date: February 18, 2018 at 10:27:28 PM AKST
To: <sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 124

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thank you for pursuing protection for the fetus aborted alive through Senate Bill 124. This is absolutely the humane and decent act in response to a physician or health care provider determining that a fetus has “spontaneous respiratory or cardiac function or pulsation of the umbilical cord.” The call to act in favor of aiding the life of this innocent, pre-mature baby needs to be written into law so that the medical provider is supported by law in such an action. The situation of an abortion resulting in a live birth can be disconcerting for all involved, as it is an unexpected outcome. The act of abortion is meant to end the life of the fetus, and when it doesn’t, it can create an emotional and conflicted response from the medical staff. Having a plan in place—basically the opposite of a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)—gives everyone confidence in what action to take. This makes complete, logical sense, and is helpful in creating a standard for the abortion medical community of supporting life in a live fetus as the result of an intended abortion.

Additionally, provision has been made in SB 124 for the care coordination aspects of the situation in order to cover the responsibility of providing for the child in need of aid. I am so grateful to see that this element of care has been thought through and included in the bill.

In my job I get to see many ultrasounds with young fetuses moving their tiny arms and legs, their little hearts beating, and their developing nervous system forming very early on in a pregnancy. It is always a thrilling moment to be able to see life in the womb, and to see how intricate and active the fetus is...as early as 7 or 8 weeks. Even though some mothers feel they are not able to have the child at a particular time in their lives, there are others who would welcome the chance to adopt and to care for that child. Provision for the care of the child in need of aid is an important part of SB 124, and it is written well.

Please fight for this bill and challenge each voting member of the senate to watch an ultrasound for themselves (online...see video links below) to see what is going on inside the womb prior to an abortion at 22 weeks, which is the age of viability outside the womb. I attached a few photos of ultrasounds from a 22-week pregnancy. These show what a baby in the womb looks like at the age of viability when women are still going through with abortions and the baby is old enough to survive outside the womb with appropriate medical assistance. The pictures and videos speak for themselves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhImN3xv5Zg> (51 second video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajoR1c88Mqk> (approx. 5 minute video)

Thank you so much for your important work. I hope all our Alaska legislators and senators will give time and careful thought to this matter, as they hold the power of life and death in their vote.

Sincerely,

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Senator Cathy Giessel,

February 18, 2018

This morning I heard about the bill you are supporting and I want you to know I am fully standing behind you in support of Senate Bill 124. In this day and age I believe every chance should be given to a child to survive. Senate Bill 124 requires that a physician use the method of terminating a pregnancy that gives the baby the best possibility of survival outside the mother's womb. The physician will exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as would be rendered to a child born alive in the course of a natural birth.

I lead a Women's Ministry at Church on the Rock and I have seen first hand the devastation that abortion can have on the heart and life of the mother, even though she chose it. To have a second option, to surrender the child, would greatly ease the mental anguish some of these women live with.

I also want to speak to issue of the children and the question, "Will they grow to be happy, adjusted adults and are they worth saving?" My husband and I have been able to walk down this road a ways and answer some of these questions ourselves. We became foster parents 8 years ago and were blessed to receive 3 baby girls in 2 short years, one at a time. Each one came from a hard place and had physical and emotional challenges. But as we have loved on these girls, adopted them and fought for their wholeness we have seen them progressively heal and become beautiful pictures of what nurture and love and can do. They are sensitive and caring girls, now 7, 6 and 5 years old who are daily growing and healing. I believe these children are highly valuable and worth fighting for and giving a chance at life and love.

If you would like to speak to me more I am available to meet. Thank you again for submitting this bill, my heart and prayers are with you!

Sincerely,
Kitri Walker

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