

Dear Iowa Legislators,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Students for Life Club at Iowa State University and all Iowans who value the dignity of every human life. Firstly, thank you very much for your willingness to act as a public servants and to create policy that promotes the good of Iowans. We appreciate your care for our state.

Last legislative session, to our disappointment and the disappointment of many voters, the legislature failed to pass the Protect Life Amendment. This proposal would've remedied what happened in January of 2019, when unelected judges on the Supreme Court invented a so-called "fundamental right to an abortion" in the Iowa Constitution.

Not only did the judiciary abuse their power by creating law instead of objectively interpreting it, they also failed to carry out one of the most basic duties of their office: to enforce the 14th Amendment of the United States which reads, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Protect Life Amendment gave power back to our elected officials, and by extension, to us the people. It stated, "To defend the dignity of all human life, and to protect mothers and unborn children from efforts to expand abortion even to the day of birth, we the people of the State of Iowa declare that this Constitution shall not be construed to recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or to require the public funding of abortion."

We are confused as to why the amendment failed to pass. Are our legislators unconvinced of the humanity of the unborn? Are they simply afraid of repercussions? This initiative cannot be left unfinished for any reason. Our littlest citizens are counting on us. They need you to pass the Protect Life Amendment.

Approximately 2,362 children will lose their life to abortion today. Every day we fail to pass the Protect Life Amendment is another day innocent children pay the price for our complacency. One of our club members recently had the pleasure of speaking with Sue Thayer, a former Planned Parenthood manager who now works for 40 Days for Life in an effort to end abortion. She recounted that some women would take the RU-486 abortion pill, and return to the clinic with their aborted child in a Ziploc bag and say, "You never told me there was a baby."

Were these organisms in Ziploc bags, "babies" or were they merely a "fetus?" Many pro-choice commentators would argue an unborn person is simply a "fetus" which has no rights; however, I would like to clarify that the word "fetus" denotes a stage of development. It is Latin for "young one." To argue a fetus does not have the right to life makes as much sense as asserting an adolescent does not possess the right to life.

To further illustrate that from a scientific and objective standpoint, a fetus is a human being, consider that the American College of Pediatricians, stated: "*The predominance of human biological research confirms that human life begins at conception--fertilization. At fertilization,*

the human being emerges as a whole, genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species Homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment in order to grow and develop. The difference between the individual in its adult stage and in its zygotic stage is one of form, not nature. This statement focuses on the scientific evidence of when an individual human life begins.”

Finally, pro-choice philosopher David Boonin wrote in his book *Defense of Abortion*, “[T]he most straightforward relation between you and me on the one hand and every human fetus on the other is this: All are living members of the same species, homo sapiens. A human fetus after all is simply a human being at a very early stage in his or her development.”

I am asking you not only as a legislator, but as a fellow human being, make passing the Protect Life Amendment your priority this session. Many Iowans like ourselves consider the issue of abortion to be of the heaviest weight and importance when casting our vote. However, I would ask you not to pass the Amendment because it wins votes, but pass it because it is a transcendent truth that a person’s life has value. Your life matters. You are made in the image and likeness of God, and so are the littlest members of our kind- humankind. Be bold. Be courageous. Pass the Protect Life Amendment. We thank you in advance for your dedication and leadership in advancing the cause of our littlest Iowans.

For Life and Justice,
Students For Life at Iowa State

Luke Barnes
President

Audrey Nelson
Recent Alumni