



204 SW 8TH AVE • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 • PHONE 785-227-9247 • FAX 785-861-7438 • WWW.KSCATHCONF.ORG

Testimony in Support of SB 142

Michael Schuttloffel

Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

March 20, 2013

1:30 PM

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Catholic Conference supports SB 142.

We appreciate the bill sponsor's efforts to strengthen respect for unborn human life and to expand upon existing civil rights protections for unborn human beings.

As has often been said, the struggle to end abortion -- the deliberate destruction of innocent human life -- is the moral heir to the American civil rights movement. Not for the first time in our nation's history, an entire group of human beings is treated as less than human with the sanction of the state.

Living beings with their own distinctive human DNA, their own human blood type, their own human brainwaves, their own heartbeats, brought into existence by the conjugal act of a human mother and a human father are, of course, human. We all know this in our hearts, especially now with the advent of sophisticated ultrasound technology. Yet the law says otherwise. This should be changed.

We are pleased that this legislation would disallow "wrongful birth" lawsuits based on the despicable proposition that a child should never have been born. That a father could look upon his daughter and seek damages for the fact that this living, breathing, born person standing before him was not killed in the womb perfectly encapsulates the moral catastrophe of the abortion mindset.

We are hesitant to call this "common sense legislation" since the entire phenomenon of abortion in this country, including the laws that govern it, defy common sense. Therefore we hope that, if nothing else, this legislation will serve as a step back towards sanity on this issue. Science tells us that unborn children are fully human beings. The law should say the same.

MOST REVEREND MICHAEL O. JACKELS, S.T.D.
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.
Chairman of Board
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY

MOST REVEREND EDWARD J. WEISENBURGER, J.C.L.
DIOCESE OF SALINA

MICHAEL M. SCHUTTLOFFEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR