

On Abortion

Life begins at conception. Life starts as a single cell and contains the full potential of a human being. The zygote and blastocyst are alive. The embryo and the fetus are alive. Again, life begins at conception.

A woman has an inalienable right to liberty. She is at liberty to control her own body. No person and certainly no government should restrict her liberty. She has the right to choose her future and make her own decisions. We shouldn't have to say, but we will say it again. A woman has an inalienable right to liberty.

The right to life is not absolute. Some families legally place the painfully and terminally ill on morphine drips "to ease the passing." Some states have passed "stand your ground laws" that allow individuals to protect their property with deadly force. All states accept the notion of "justified homicide." Again, the right to life is not absolute.

The right to liberty is not absolute. Examples are innumerable. We cannot shout "fire" in a crowded theater or drink and drive. In times of war, the United States drafted young men against their will to risk their lives. We need not continue. Again, the right to liberty is not absolute.

Why aren't rights absolute? Simple. Circumstances matter. If circumstances didn't matter, we wouldn't need jury trials. Juries weigh the facts, not the law, to determine guilt in criminal cases and liability in civil trials. Facts matter.¹

Our Position

The COL support the following.

- All women have an unrestricted right to abort a pregnancy in the first 27 weeks (as certified by an obstetrician) since fetal viability outside of the womb is less than 50% and fetal morbidity is greater than 50%.² As science improves, the number of weeks should be lowered.
- After 27 weeks, a woman may abort if either the woman's or fetus' viability is less than 50% or morbidity remains greater than 50% (as certified by an obstetrician).
- The government should expand funding for adoption and child care for all babies and children.

We do not hope to propose a law acceptable to the extremes of either side. Government must, however, balance both rights. A national law that defines viability and requires a medical doctor's input would prevent states from unduly restricting a woman's right to choose or a fetus' right to life.

The COL believe that abortion is never "the right" choice. We deeply empathize with parties on both sides. The COL support women, partners, families, friends, and doctors faced with the most difficult of choices. We fervently hope that they choose wisely and well.

¹ Consider the following. What if the woman is a ten year old victim of incest? What if she is a rape victim? Is it ok the day after or even eight months in? What if she wants to use abortion to select for hair color? What if the pregnancy threatens her life? Is she liable if the pregnancy ends because of drinking or poor health decisions? What if the fetus is already dead? Should she use abortion as birth control?

² The COL simply believe that the myriad of pregnancy circumstances exceed a government's ability to fairly regulate or adjudicate and would force a woman to defend what she need not. We base the number of weeks and percentages on medical advice and science.