

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

It is an honor to write to you today in regards to SF 1. My name is Karin Miller and I am a wife, mother, and educator. Today as you contemplate this new bill, I want to invite you for a moment to step back to consider the bigger picture behind the issues by entertaining two foundational questions:

What is a human being? -- and -- ***When does human life begin?***

You see, the answers to these two questions determines your beliefs which will shape your policy.

First of all: What is a human being?

Some believe that a human being derives from a random collection of tissue that evolved from an animal to conscientious human being.

While others believe that all human beings are created by an Intelligent Designer, who gave each person equal, unalienable rights, such as the right to life. This is the belief of those who founded our country and wrote the Declaration of Independence.

In the first view, a human being is simply a form of matter with no particular assigned moral value, while the second view holds that every human life is a divine gift.

The Government has a foundational and sacred responsibility to protect human life – which brings us to our second big picture question:

At what point does a human life begin?...

Because THAT is the exact point at which the Government is obligated to protect it.

Perhaps we can find consensus around a clear-cut “Heartbeat Rule.” Certainly we all can easily recognize that if an elderly person’s heart stops beating, their body has died, and they are no longer living.

Similarly can we not all recognize that whenever a heart begins to beat, there exists a person who is alive, even in utero?

It's an American principle that one person's rights extend to the point at which they infringe upon another person's rights. This must be equally applied to the pregnant mother and the unborn child.

An appeal to a woman's reproductive rights can never supersede the unborn child's right to life.

To be sure, women have many rights and options along their reproductive journey – but the termination of a life is never one of them.

I urge a "NO" vote.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karin Miller