

A CALL TO DEFEND THE UNBORN February 17, 2019



Last weekend 241 members of our Parish signed a petition out of concern and outrage over the disrespect for life shown by several of our State Representatives in sponsoring bills #H5127 and H5125 and in the senate #S152 which would 1) eliminate any constitutional restrictions on late-term abortions and methods of providing abortions 2) Undermine the authority of the State and Dept. of Health from enacting and adopting constitutional restrictions on the performance of abortions at facilities where abortions are being performed, and 3) Require the State to pay for all abortions sought by Medicaid-eligible pregnant women. This “extreme” abortion bill, similar to the one recently passed in the State of New York is, for human life, a wolf in sheep’s clothing (also called “reproductive rights”). It is a reminder to all of us of our responsibility as a church to defend the dignity and the gift of life for all people, and especially for the unborn. St. John Paul has warned us that we are living in a “culture of death” and that we, who are the church, must promote a culture of life.

In our culture, the human cost of abortion has been extremely high. The deaths by abortion of more than 37 million children have had a corrosive effect on our attitude toward life itself. Instead of families, neighbors and communities helping women welcome and care for their children, they have been left to the mercy of an industry which makes its profits from killing unborn children. And, after an abortion, a woman is left alone to bear the grief of her baby’s death. She may also have no one to turn to for comfort, often because she concealed her pregnancy from family and friends, or because they encouraged her to have the abortion.

Everyone is affected by the hardening of the heart which comes when a culture tolerates killing. In its declining years ancient Rome permitted abortion and infanticide as well. In denying that unborn human life is sacred, abortion undermines the very concept of human rights. Human life can be violated in many ways: when we tolerate euthanasia, treat others unjustly, or neglect those who are alone, in need or despair. And, while it is indeed the reproductive right of every women to choose when and if to have a child, she does not have the right to take the child’s life once that child is growing within her. I was loved and cherished by my parents when I was born, but they had already loved me for nine months before that. Before birth I was already a human, dependent on my mother, and yet a unique and singular being separate from her.

The Catholic Church is often criticized by those who are promoting this bill (sadly, some of them Catholics as well). We are told that the Church has no right to impose it’s teachings on society, that in this country we enjoy a separation of Church and State. What they fail to acknowledge is that the founding fathers of our nation encouraged “Freedom **of** Religion”, not “Freedom **from** Religion”, because they believed that the practice of Religion would strengthen the moral values of the nation and would help people form a good moral conscience, which in turn would be good for the nation. In other words, as citizens of this State we too have a place at the table and a voice in the town square. Furthermore, this is not only a “religious issue”, it is a “human issue”.

I encourage you to make an effort this week to contact your local and State representatives and let them know that this bill is unacceptable for a large number of citizens and voters who happen to also be Catholics. For information on how to contact your state representatives and senator go to www.northkingstown.org and click on “Representatives”.

Fr. Jack