



Dear Judiciary Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to speak today about a matter that is of great importance to our society: the sanctity of life. Specifically, I want to focus on the biological and medical evidence that supports the fact that a fetus is, in every sense, a real, live human being.

From the very moment of conception, a new, unique human life begins. The sperm and the egg unite to form a single cell known as a zygote. This is the starting point of the journey called life that everyone here has gone through. The zygote is genetically distinct from both the mother and the father. It carries its own DNA, which includes the full human genome, a blueprint for all the traits and characteristics of a human being. This distinct DNA proves it is not a part of the mother.

At 35 days after conception, the heart of this new life begins to beat. Yes, you heard that correctly. At this early stage, this little human already has its own circulatory system, and its heart pumps blood through its tiny body. This is a clear biological marker of life. The heartbeat is not a simple reflex or a mechanical process—it is the rhythm of life itself.

By eight weeks, all the major organs are present. The brain, lungs, liver, and kidneys are beginning to function in their developing forms. This is not just a mass of cells; it is already exhibiting the characteristics of a human being. It moves, it reacts to stimuli, and it is beginning to sense its environment. Scientists have shown that by this point, the baby responds to touch, demonstrating a level of neurological development that further confirms its status as a living human being.

Ultrasound technology, which allows us to see inside the womb, shows us that the baby can move its arms, legs, and even suck its thumb. These movements are not random; they are purposeful. They demonstrate that this little human is not just a passive organism, but an active, living being developing its ability to interact with its surroundings.

Moreover, we must consider that the unborn child is biologically human from the start. This is not a question of religious or philosophical opinion—this is the truth grounded in the hard science of biology. From fertilization, the fetus is genetically human and alive. No scientific argument can deny that the fetus is distinct from the mother, growing and developing in ways that are unique to human beings. Over thousands of years, 100% of the “fetuses” that go through this process, come out as little humans. This is because they are humans before they come out.

While science tells us how life begins, it doesn’t have the moral authority to decide whether that life is worthy of our protection. It is up to us, as a society, to acknowledge this scientific evidence and take responsibility for this decision. A fetus is not a "potential" human being—it is a real human being with intrinsic value, deserving our respect, our love AND our protection.

In conclusion, the scientific evidence is clear. From the moment of conception, the unborn child is a unique, living human being. Its heart beats, its brain develops, and it moves with purpose. These are not the actions of a mass of tissue—they are the actions of a human being. LD975 acts upon these truths and asks the Maine Legislature to use logic and call these babies what they are, humans. Once we are able to acknowledge that they are humans, we have the responsibility to treat them as such. We can’t intentionally harm or murder a fellow human, no matter how old they are.

Please vote “ought to pass” on LD 975 to repeal Maine’s current abortion laws.

Respectfully,

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