

Good morning, I commend your stamina.

My name is Richard Floyd Collins III, I am a resident of Portland, and I am here to testify in opposition to the three bills before you.

Listening to some of the testimony in support of these bills, it strikes me that the impasse we find ourselves at is in the determination of when life begins.

I believe proponents on both sides of this issue could agree that a "baby" is worth something, worthy of life, worthy of protection. I personally would argue that life begins at conception. We spend billions and billions each year scouring the galaxy trying to find life, whether a mission to Mars, or drilling towards the center of our own planet. I see the headlines regularly. We found life... Life in the form of a new bacteria, or strain of virus. Surely what we are here talking about qualifies...But... Even if you don't believe conception marks life, certainly a bill allowing the destruction of a fully formed baby on the technicality that they are not yet born Ought Not Pass.