



Testimony of
Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

SB 95

House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Steve Brunk, Chairman

Chairman Brunk and members of the Committee,

It is not common for the Governor or the Lt. Governor to testify before the Legislature. As many critical issues as there are before us this and every session, none are more important than the sanctity of human life. That is why I appear before you today on behalf of the Brownback Administration to stand in strong support of Senate Bill 95, the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.

As Lt. Governor and a former legislator, I could argue the policy reasons we should pass this legislation.

As a medical doctor, I could tell you all about the health related concerns of the procedure we are trying to prohibit.

As a man of faith, I could even present a strong moral case why we should protect the innocent unborn.

Today, however, I speak to you as a Kansan and father of three daughters.

My wife Ruth and I have attempted to instill in our children the importance of service and protecting “the least of these.” My daughter Serena recently accompanied me on a medical mission trip to a dangerous part of the world in an effort to help maimed and disfigured children, who were innocent victims in horrific terrorist attacks. As I have recounted some of the atrocities we witnessed in a literal war zone, people of all faiths and political philosophies have lamented the horrible treatment of these poor little lives.

It is remarkable to think anyone could oppose prohibiting a tortuous act that literally dismembers an unborn child limb-by-limb.

Kansans have made it clear that this is a pro-life state. We have pro-life legislators in both political parties, and Governor Brownback signed 13 pro-life bills in his first term.

However, just as in the case of partial birth abortion, even many of those who may consider themselves “pro-choice” cannot allow a gruesome procedure like dismemberment abortions to occur in our state.

My daughters are like most Kansans, who are compassionate and fight against injustice. We have a strong legacy in this state of doing the right thing.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the committee to build upon the Kansas tradition of protecting the innocent and overwhelmingly pass the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.