



Chairman Pilcher-Cook and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

As the state director of a women's organization, I am compelled to testify for S. 141, a bill that protects unborn children from being aborted based solely upon their gender.

There are over 160 million "missing girls" in the world, killed simply because they were girls. Many cultures, including immigrants to Kansas, favor boys over girls in family planning. Even the United Nations, an organization not known for its pro-life views, realizes that "pre-natal sex selection" is a violation of human rights. They admit the humanity of unborn girls in their publications by UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women): "At least 60 million girls who would otherwise be expected to be alive are 'missing' from various populations as a result of sex-selective abortions or neglect." They continue: "The range of violence against women and girls is devastating, occurring quite literally from womb to tomb. It includes: abortion of female babies ..."

We have seen the problems created in cultures that favor boys over girls; because of gendercide there are now approximately 37 million more males living in China than women. China's one-child policy has led to wholesale slaughter of female babies because families want the family name to be perpetuated. However, lest we think this only happens in far-off countries, a recent University of California Berkley study that looked at 2000 Census data showed there was a definite male bias, especially for third children, of U.S.-born children of Chinese, Korean and Indian parents.

Every child deserves the right to live, regardless of its sex. Our Constitution guarantees the right to life as one that is unalienable and endowed by our Creator. Gendercide not only violates the intent of our Founding Fathers, it violates human rights. Bill Saunders, Human Rights Counsel, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Human Life and Bioethics at the Family Research Council stated recently, "The true 'plight of the girl child' is that she is being aborted out of existence. Recent demographic studies show a growing dearth of female births around the world. This trend is increasing, as couples (and governments) try to 'engineer' families."

It is a gross abuse of technology to allow parents to be able to kill their babies on the basis of sex selection. It is also a precursor to 'designer' babies - babies selected on the basis of appearance, height, intelligence and other "preferences."

We urge you pass this legislation that makes a clear statement that Kansas stands for equal rights for all.

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