



SC House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee Public Hearing
Blatt Building, Room 110, State House Complex, Columbia, South Carolina
May 9, 2023

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, I'm Steve Lefemine with Christians for Personhood. Our purpose is to glorify God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is God the Son, in the power of God the Holy Spirit, by seeking to Establish Justice for pre-birth human beings, in law, at fertilization, and that without exception, because God's Word says: "Thou shalt not kill (murder)." Exodus 20:13, KJV.

In keeping with that purpose, now 319 days after *Dobbs*, I would ask Committee Bill S474 be taken up, then strike all after the words "A BILL", and insert thereafter the language of the Personhood Act of South Carolina S1335 from the 2022 Session. The Personhood Act of SC recognizes the Creator God-given, inherent, unalienable right to life of every human being as a natural person, beginning at fertilization, in SC Law. If passed, it would Establish Justice, and ultimately END and ABOLISH ALL Child-Murder-by-"Abortion" in SC, *without exception*.

However I am aware of the refusal of the SC Senate to even pass H3774, the falsely-named "Human Life Protection Act", that does not protect the sanctity of human life from conception, and has multiple other "exceptions", which has brought the legislative process now to where the SC House is considering passing this revised six-week bill S474.

While I do not support S474 because it unjustly and therefore unscripturally incrementally regulates the murder of children in the womb, I do want to point out an internal inconsistency in the language of the bill in Section 44-41-610, which has ramifications even beyond the Bill itself.

Section 44-41-610(1) defines "Conception" as the "fertilization of an ovum by sperm". However, the very next line in Section 44-41-610(2) defines "Contraceptive" as "a drug, device, or chemical that prevents ovulation, conception, or the implantation of a fertilized ovum in a woman's uterine wall after conception." [See below from text of S474]

SECTION 1. Article 6, Chapter 41, Title 44 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Article 6

Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act

Section 44-41-610. As used in this article:

(1) "Conception" means fertilization of an ovum by sperm.

(2) "Contraceptive" means a drug, device, or chemical that prevents ~~conception~~ovulation, conception, or the implantation of a fertilized ovum in a woman's uterine wall after conception.

The phrase "or the implantation of a fertilized ovum in a woman's uterine wall after conception." for the definition of a "contraceptive" is false, and runs contrary to true biology, true science, and plain English. It is Orwellian to call something a "contraceptive" that works AFTER conception ! Fertilization occurs inside the fallopian tube normally near the end closest to the ovary, however implantation occurs 6 to 12 days later, after the tiny human embryo, first called a zygote, then a morula, and then a blastocyst, travels the length of the fallopian tube, enters the uterus, and attaches to the uterine wall. So a device or drug which prevents implantation is NOT a contraceptive, but is an abortifacient, causing an early "abortion" at 6 to 12 days AFTER fertilization. Human life begins at conception/fertilization, NOT implantation.

Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, Second College Edition, published by Prentice Hall Press, a Division of Simon & Shuster, Inc., 1986.

"contraception" – n. "the intentional prevention of fertilization of the human ovum, as by special devices, drugs, etc."

"contraceptive" – adj. "of or used for contraception; n. "any contraceptive device or agent."

So, in conclusion, I respectfully request that Section 44-41-610(2) of S474 be amended to simply read:

(2) "Contraceptive" means a drug, device, or chemical that prevents ~~conception~~ovulation, or conception.

This language lines up with true biology, true science, and the definition of "contraception" and "contraceptive" in plain English. Thank you.