

BILL ANDERSON

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The Senate

State of Iowa

Eighty-fifth General Assembly

STATEHOUSE

Des Moines, IA 50319

COMMITTEES

Commerce, Ranking Member

Labor and Business Relations

State Government

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals

Appropriations Subcommittee

The Anderson Report

First, thank you for the honor of representing you in the Iowa Senate. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments and ideas. You can reach me at **712-898-2505** or email to **bill.anderson@legis.iowa.gov**.

This session I introduced SF13 which seeks to prohibit gender selection abortions. This topic is not new as the U.S. House and a number of states have passed legislation regarding this very topic. North Dakota has passed legislation strengthening abortion laws to make the right to life more prevalent in their state.

SF13 – A bill to prohibit gender selection abortions

This bill seeks to prohibit the use of abortions as a gender selection method. It would hold a physician that performs this type of abortion accountable by making this a class “C” felony. If this type of abortion is performed the woman receiving the abortion or her spouse would have the possibility of legal remedy against the physician.

The importance of this bill is simple, human life must be protected regardless of gender. This type of abortion has the possibility of opening the flood gates for any other characteristic that is deemed undesirable. Genetic engineering is not something that should be played with or applauded. If a child’s ability to be born is based on whether they were to be swaddled in a blue or pink blanket it seems as if we, as a society, have lost our way.

Gender selection abortions solidify that wanting a child as long as they meet the gender prerequisite is acceptable and if not the child can be easily disposed of through this form of abortion. Granted, there are some that may argue that scientific advancements have made it possible to identify gender and end pregnancies, so it should be the choice of the mother to determine whether the pregnancy should be terminated or not. I do not believe that gender selection abortions are the standard that Iowa wishes to set. I believe in and value the role of family. This includes all of its members, male and female. Legislation banning gender selection abortions has passed in North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Oklahoma.

North Dakota

In March, Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple signed three pro-life measures which go into effect on August 1. One measure bans abortions as early as six weeks based on heartbeat detection. This legislation will attempt to push the Supreme Court to develop the depth of Roe v. Wade and offer states guidance as to actual boundaries. After all, the court’s ruling in Roe v. Wade legalized abortion up to and until a fetus is considered viable which was thought to usually be defined as 22 to 24 weeks, but never really determined when life began. The 6 week ban goes further than the recent Arkansas law that affords a ban after 12 weeks since a fetal heartbeat can be detected using an abdominal ultrasound at that point.

In North Dakota, a fourth pro-life bill was endorsed by lawmakers to ban abortions altogether after 20 weeks of pregnancy since the fetuses feels pain at that point. North Dakota has set requirements for doctors that perform abortions to ensure they are physicians with hospital admitting privileges and they are banning abortions based on genetic defects like Down Syndrome. In November 2014, lawmakers would like voters to decide on a resolution defining life as starting at conception which would ban abortions in the state.

It is important that life is valued at all stages. It is vital our society not progress to a point where life is discarded or deemed undesirable based on gender or birth defects.

Abraham Lincoln told Congress on December 1, 1862, “In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and eternity.” Although this could be used to discuss foreign affairs or budgets I find it more suited as a reminder to look at the pulse of society. Can we be proud of what we are aiding in or allowing? It is necessary to take a step back and determine if we are promoting what aligns with our belief system and to ensure we are using our voice to create a societal norm that encourages traditional values and protects life.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 5 - **10:00AM - 11:00AM** – Kingsley – Community Center, 207 E 1st St, **11:30AM - 12:30PM** – Lawton – City Hall, 101 E Maple, **1:00PM-2:00PM** – Climbing Hill – Emergency Services Office, 121 Deer Run Trl.

Saturday, April 6 – **8:30AM – 9:30AM** – Remsen – Library, 211 Fulton Street, **10:00AM – 11:00AM** – Le Mars – Habitue, 108 Central Ave NE, **11:30AM – 12:30PM** – Akron – Library, 350 Reed Street.

Have a great week!