

First Place – Junior High Division

A Chance to Live

By Julia Moselina

In the dark recesses of the womb, a small fluttering sound is heard. Only six weeks after conception, the unborn infant develops the first semblance of the heartbeat. At ten weeks, the infant's heartbeat grows strong and consistent. It is a tragic reality that the majority of abortions occur before two and a half months of the pregnancy, before the infant has the chance for its heart to beat (Valenti, et al.). The reason why I am pro-life is that all people deserve the right to live. No matter if they are unborn, sick, or simply different from everyone else, it is still the right choice to give them a chance to live.

When speaking to a woman considering abortion, one of the justifications that often is mentioned is: "My body, my choice." This phrase is used repeatedly, and because of this, many people believe that abortion is just and they think that the woman can decide when to have children. However, the infant within its mother's body is its own person, no matter how small it is. It is therefore not the mother's choice to decide whether the child dies or not, since it is not only her body that she considers.

The Declaration of Independence states, "All men are created equal" (US 1776). It does not say, "All men are born equal." The use of "created" shows that even when the infant is just a tiny cell, it is still human. The unborn have the same rights as any person who has been born. Just because they may be less developed than us does not mean that it is just to deny them the right to live. Every man and woman upon this earth started out as a single cell in their mother's womb. Every good person, every bad person, the weak, the strong, the poor, the wealthy; all of them were the unborn once. I believe all of the unborn have the potential to prove themselves a good person. All of them, no matter where they may be born, no matter who their parents are, deserve the chance to fulfill their destiny. They all deserve the opportunity to become who they were meant to be.

How would it feel for someone else to choose whether you live or die? How would it feel to not have the chance to live, to make your own choices and decisions? Our duty living upon this earth is to care for everyone, no matter who they are, what they look like, no matter what their status is. The unborn and the sick are humans just like you or me. They may not have the same appearance as us, they may not be able to think like us, but they are still people. This is the reason why I choose to be pro-life. All people, even the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly are beautiful, and unique, with a potential only they can possess. They deserve the right to life.

Works Cited

Valenti, Oriana, et al. "Fetal Cardiac Function during the First Trimester of Pregnancy." *Journal of Prenatal Medicine*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, July 2011, [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3279166/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3279166/). Accessed 1 November 2024.

Second Place – Junior High Division

Protecting the Innocent

By Mary Cannon

I am pro-life because I believe that the innocent children in the womb have human rights, which are being denied. In the declaration of independence, it states “that [all men] are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Our country believes and is founded upon these words, but abortion violates this. According to Webster’s Dictionary, unalienable rights are those that are “impossible to take away or give up.”

Specifically, then, the unalienable right of Life cannot be taken away; Life is the right to live. The important question, then, is when does Life begin? At the moment of fertilization, every one of the new human’s genetic traits are contained in one cell, the smallest scientific form of life. Therefore, from the moment of fertilization they possess Life, the first right.

The second right is Liberty. Liberty, according to Webster’s dictionary, is “freedom from physical restraint.” I have heard some say, “my body, my choice,” and that is a valid point, however the baby’s body is different from the mother’s, because the baby is a whole separate person with a distinct personality. God has plans for every single person, whether they were born or not. Who are we to take that away from them? For this reason, abortion is damaging and destroying the unborn child’s life and future dreams. Thus, harming this child infringes upon their right to Liberty.

The final right is the Pursuit of Happiness. People cannot help but feel a surge of happiness when witnessing a new life, whether it be a baby or a puppy. I know some people whose parents planned on aborting them, and that burden still weighs them down to this day. Although the mother might be nervous when she finds out that she is expecting, I am sure she will be filled with joy when she sees how blessed she is, and feel guilt when the life of her child is ended. And if not, many parents desire children, but cannot conceive, and would be happy to take a baby that cannot be properly supported. Therefore, Abortion takes away the right to be happy from both the mother and the child.

Even in tragic cases of rape, out of the three people involved, why should the innocent child be given the death penalty when not even the rapist would? The child should get the same care and love as the mother. Even if a child is going to be born into a tough situation, who are we to decide if they get a chance at life? This child may bring their family joy and aid them in these difficult circumstances.

Ultimately, the human body should be properly respected, especially those individuals who are most vulnerable, the innocent children whose lives are ended every day. Every human being has potential, and every human being should get a chance to live it. Every single person, no matter their race, age, or gender has unalienable human rights, and violating them is against our constitution. Every single person has worth, dignity, value, and is made in the image and likeness of God. Who are we to take this away?

Third Place – Junior High Division

Everyone Deserves a Birthday

By Phoebe Schroder

I am a pro-life kid because everyone should have a chance to be born. It's hard for me to understand why someone would want to end the life of an unborn child. I have never heard a good enough reason, but I wanted to find out what the reasons were. The pro-choice Guttmacher Institute 2004 survey found out 74% of women said a baby would change her life, either preventing her from going to school, interfering with her job, or overwhelming her by having another child. Since they could give multiple responses, 73% stated they can't afford a baby now.¹ My hope is that every baby would have the same care and value no matter what, so I was glad to also learn women have other choices. In Texas, the Thriving Texas Families (formerly, Alternatives to Abortion) program addresses these and other reasons that make women feel they have no choice but abortion. Moms can find a place to live, finish school, and find a job while their children are being taken care of. Clothing, food, and supplies for children up to age 3 is available from social service, government, and non-profits who want to help them. If they still do not feel like they can take care of a baby right now they can choose parents to adopt their child.²

As Top Youth Walker for the Texas Alliance for Life (TAL), I personally fund-raised over \$3000 this year to help Moms and their babies, to teach people about the value of life, and to pass laws in Texas and the United States to protect innocent human life. TAL gives 20% of the Walk for Life money to pregnancy resource centers for pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, diapers, clothes, and referrals for other services⁴ or to maternity homes where Moms can live and their baby is cared for while the Mom goes to school or work.⁵ TAL even lobbied to increase money for the Thriving Texas Families program to give these women choices.³

I believe people should be protected at all stages of life, even before they are born. When people say, "My body, my choice," it seems to ignore the fact that there is more than one human body involved. It is the life of another human being. I have participated in many Marches for Life to save babies, including the March for Life in Washington, DC. I'm so glad my tiny voice was heard when the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade. I am thankful abortion is now illegal in Texas in most cases. I pray that people in every state will recognize the value of every human life. Only because we live in a free country can my voice be heard. Whether you agree with me or not, I am so glad I live in a place where even a kid like me is free to make her voice heard. I am pro-life because everyone deserves a birthday.

Works Cited

1. Finer, Lawrence B., et al. "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives." Guttmacher Institute, 25 Aug. 2022, www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2005/reasons-us-women-have-abortions-quantitativeand-qualitative-perspectives.
2. "Thriving Texas Families." Texas Health and Human Services, www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/women-children/thriving-texas-families. Accessed 4 Nov. 2024.
3. "Texas Alliance for Life." *Changing Hearts, Saving Lives Since 1988*, 1 Nov. 2024, www.texasallianceforlife.org/.
4. "Abortion Info Austin or Dripping Springs TX: Heart of Texas." *Abortion Info Austin or Dripping Springs TX | Heart of Texas*, 21 Sept. 2023, heartoftexasprc.org/.
5. *Annunciation Maternity Home*, wp.thematernityhome.org/. Accessed 4 Nov. 2024.