

Mark Harrington, Executive Director of [CBR Midwest](#)

Intro:

- Mark Harrington, Executive Director of [CBR Midwest](#), CBR is based SCal with operations in several key states like Ohio
- Host The Mark Harrington Show
- I am here to support HB 228 – To Protect the Children Again – ask that you support this legislation

I will narrow my comments to share with this committee the findings of fact from on abortion from another state: South Dakota - which on July 1 will be first state in the union since Roe v. Wade to protect children and their mothers again.

Hand out report.

My comments will be in reference to the **REPORT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TASK FORCE TO STUDY ABORTION** commissioned by the SD legislature and submitted to the Governor in Dec. 2005

Background on the Task Force

- Task force had 4 full days of hearings.
- Task force heard live testimony from 55 witnesses, 32 of whom were experts.
- Task force received written reports and testimonies from 15 experts.
- The task force received and reviewed testimonies from 1,940 women who have had abortions.

Task found - 6 Incorrect assumptions from the Roe v. Wade decision

1. The Roe Court said it could not determine the answer to the question about when life begins.
2. The Roe Court assumed that there would be a normal healthy physician-patient relationship in which the doctor would impart pertinent information, and that decisions would be made through consultation between the physician and patient.
3. The Roe Court assumed that the absence of legalized abortion was a detriment imposed upon the women by the state. The Roe decision left out the positive benefits about the mother child relationship, and the detrimental effects of abortion.
4. The Roe Court assumed that the decision to have a baby would be truly voluntary and informed.
5. The Roe Court assumed that the abortion procedure was safe and that the risk to the women's health and life was far greater in carrying the child to full term than in having an abortion
6. The Roe Court assumed that the woman faced significant difficulties as a result of a cultural stigma of unwed motherhood.

In Summary the task found regarding Roe:

They concluded that: The Roe Court did not have the benefit of the current knowledge of **science and medicine** or the information obtained from the **experience of women who have undergone abortions** over the past thirty years.

They concluded that: The most essential assumptions made by the *Roe* Court are incorrect, to the detriment of the women subjected to the procedure.

On March 6, 2006 South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds signed the South Dakota Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act (HB 1215) into Law.

Embodied in the Law is the acceptance of the findings of South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion:

In the South Dakota Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act (HB 1215)

1. **Legislature accepted the finding** "that life begins at the time of conception"
2. **Legislature accepted the finding** "each human being is totally unique immediately at fertilization"
3. **Legislature accepted the finding** "to fully protect the rights, interests, and health of the pregnant mother, the rights, interest, and life of her unborn child, and the mother's fundamental natural intrinsic right to a relationship with her child, abortions in South Dakota should be prohibited"
4. **Legislature accepted the finding** "the guarantee of due process of law under the Constitution of South Dakota applies equally to born and unborn human beings"
5. **Legislature accepted the finding** "a pregnant mother and her unborn child, each possess a natural and inalienable right to life"

That's nice ... you may say to yourself ... like Dorothy of the Wizard of OZ ... "this ain't Kansas."

You may say Ohio ain't S.D. True – different geography, politics etc.

But facts are facts. The truth is the facts about when life begins and whether abortion is harmful to mothers were not known in 1973.

To some of you the truth may not matter – either way - countless thousands of unborn Ohioans hang in the balance over your decision to vote yes or no on this bill. REFER TO TASK STUDY

Please consider the comprehensive findings of South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion - and vote this bill out of committee.