

# RESIST THE THROWAWAY CULTURE & OPPOSE THE "PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS ACT"



**The "Protect Reproductive Options Act" (H.F. 259 - Morrison / S.F. 731 - McEwen) is a direct attack on the humanity of prenatal life**

It promotes the throwaway culture which says people are property that can be used and discarded at will. We must instead promote policies that support the life, dignity, and health of all prenatal children and their mothers.

## Pitting mother's rights against her prenatal child's rights fuels the throwaway culture

**The bill denies individual rights to children in their most vulnerable state as a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus while further enshrining into Minnesota law the "individual" "right" of pregnant mothers to end the life of their prenatal child by obtaining an abortion.**



### **What the Church teaches**

"From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life" (CCC 2270).



Therefore, we must promote instead policies that uphold the dignity of all prenatal children AND their mothers instead of attempting to destroy the naturally existing and inseparable bond between mother and child.

## Denying the rights of prenatal children in law creates further injustices for the unborn and their parents

**This bill would undermine Minnesota's double homicide law and the hard-fought justice sought for mothers and fathers whose prenatal child is killed.**



### **What the Church teaches**

"The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law" (CCC 2273).



We must reinforce laws that recognize the human rights of the preborn child and his/her parents' right to seek justice for harm to the unborn child.

## Prenatal children are people, not property

**This bill creates conditions for eugenic abortions based on DNA testing, other selective health criteria, or sex, and it enables further experimentation done on "leftover" embryonic children created through in vitro fertilization.**



### **What the Church teaches:**

"Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being" (CCC 2274).



We can advocate for embryonic children whose lives are currently being held in a frozen limbo to be given a proper burial instead of being experimented on or disposed of as medical waste.

When we consider that women are property it is degrading that we consider our children as property to destroy as we see fit.<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
Early Suffragist

Most embryos donated to research are ... used to help the infertility clinic maintain quality control. They might be used to train a young embryologist, or ensure that a new equipment is up to par.<sup>2</sup>

Elissa Strauss  
Mother of two embryonic children whose lives are being held in limbo in IVF storage

## Denying the rights of a prenatal child denies science

**Based in a refusal to accept the science of prenatal development, this bill would further cement abortion "rights" in state law even if Roe were overturned.**

The law is a teacher. By denying the rights of the prenatal child, the law denies they are persons. But as the U.S. Supreme Court stated in Roe v. Wade: "If this suggestion of personhood is established . . . the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the (14th) Amendment."

- ✔ Abortion providers should be required to offer mothers the chance to see their ultrasound, because women who see the child in their womb as a human being are less likely to choose abortion.

A Guttmacher Institute survey of women seeking an abortion at one U.S. clinic showed the majority of them did not believe abortion was "killing," yet embryonic science is clear that the child in the womb is a living human life.

**ONLY 4% 13%**

Responded "true" to the statement that abortion at their stage of pregnancy was the same as killing a baby already born.

Responded "kind of" to the statement that abortion at their stage of pregnancy was the same as killing a baby already born.

The proportion of cases in which women held the view that abortion is the same as or similar to "killing" differed significantly by gestational age (15% of first-trimester pregnancies vs. 26% of second-trimester pregnancies, not shown) and by age-group (28% of abortions among women younger than 20 vs. 14% of those among women 20 or older).<sup>3</sup>

## The health of women and children suffers when abortion is a "right," but life is not.

**This bill ignores the impacts of abortion on the mother's health and on children of subsequent pregnancies.**



First births were at an increased risk of very preterm birth after more than one aspiration abortion compared with women with no abortions<sup>4</sup>



If untreated, an abortion-related infection may increase the risk of subsequent ectopic pregnancy<sup>4</sup>



The study found that prior aspiration abortion was associated with a higher risk of antepartum hemorrhage<sup>4</sup>



The risk of postpartum hemorrhage during a vaginal delivery was higher among women who had had a medication abortion<sup>4</sup>

**Why it is a problem.** By its nature, abortion opposes prenatal care, the stated aim of which is "to preserve the health of the fetus and mother. It screens for indications of illness or pregnancy-related complications and tries to prevent them from becoming emergencies. Often prenatal care is the first time women receive any medical care."<sup>5</sup>

- ✔ We should instead advocate for policies that promote maternal and child health, especially during the first 1,000 days of life starting at conception until age two.

Resist the throwaway culture and **OPPOSE H.F. 259 / S.F. 731 the "Protect Reproductive Options Act"** which denies the humanity of prenatal life. **SUPPORT** legislation that acknowledges the humanity of prenatal children and works to support **mothers and their unborn children from conception through the first 1,000 days of life.**

1. <http://www.susanbanthonybirthplace.com/suffrage-opposition-to-abortion.html>.  
2. <https://www.elle.com/culture/a12445676/the-leftover-embryo-crisis/2>.  
3. <https://www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2012/05/attitudes-and-decision-making-among-women-seeking-abortions-one-us-clinic>.  
4. <https://www.nap.edu/read/24950/chapter/6>.  
5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12286437/>

For further information or answers to any questions, please contact Ryan Hamilton at [RHamilton@MNCatholic.org](mailto:RHamilton@MNCatholic.org) or (651) 256-7586.