

Approved Motion Concerning The Sanctity of Life: HR 536 and HB1

Whereas: God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26), and so we understand that every human being, albeit marred by the Fall, bears the image of God, and

Whereas: In declaring to His people His Law, God commanded that, “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13), and so we understand that the taking of human life is among the gravest of crimes and offenses to God, and

Whereas: God reveals through David that the Lord, “formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb,” and “My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,” (Psalm 139:13, 15a), and further that “from my mother’s womb you have been my God” (Psalm 22:10b), and so we understand that God is intimately acquainted with unborn children from their inception, and

Whereas: Jesus Christ the Son of God considered human life precious enough to take upon Himself human life and die so that His elect would be redeemed into everlasting life (John 3:16, Colossians 1:15 – 23, Philippians 2:5 – 11, Hebrews 2:10 – 18, etc.), and

Whereas: Medical advancements in diagnostics and technology continue to demonstrate the personhood of the unborn child at ever earlier stages of development, cohering in this area with the revelation of the Word of God, and

Whereas: The Lord instructs those appointed to proclaim His Word, “you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person will die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand” (Ezekiel 33:7 – 8), and so we understand as elders and teachers of the revelation of God that we bear responsibility for warning the people when they engage in practices contrary to that Word,

Whereas: The widespread and prolific acceptance and resort to the practice of abortion has resulted in the deaths of approximately 40 million unborn children, and

Whereas: Various members of the Georgia State House have proposed legislation that promotes the sanctity of life beginning at conception and outlawing the practice of abortion (such as HR 536 and HB 1),

Therefore the Northwest Georgia Presbytery, assembled together for our stated Winter meeting in the year of our Lord 2008, does hereby urge and encourage the Teaching Elders of the Presbytery to:

- 1. Affirm from their pulpits the sanctity of human life from conception.**
- 2. Exhort their congregations to write, e-mail, telephone, and/or contact directly their state representatives and state senators concerning the importance of the sanctity of life and the Pro-life principles (currently expressed in the wording of HR 536 and HB 1).**
- 3. Remind their congregants to pray regularly for the adoption of these legislative initiatives this spring and to prayerfully consider how God might use them in speaking-up for those unborn children who cannot speak for themselves.**

And finally that the Northwest Georgia Presbytery endorses Pro-Life legislation which saves the lives of pre-born children (including such initiatives as HR 536 and HB 1 in their present form) such endorsement to be made public via the Presbytery website, through local church bulletins, and by communication from the Moderator.

The Primary Content of HB 1:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

To amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to provide that abortion procedures shall be unlawful in all events and to remove numerous references to such procedures; to amend Title 16, relating to crimes and offenses, so as to make certain findings of fact; to define certain terms; to provide that any abortion procedure shall be unlawful; to provide a penalty; to repeal certain exceptions to certain offenses; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

(a) The State of Georgia has the duty to protect all innocent life from the moment of conception until natural death. We know that life begins at conception. After three decades of legal human abortion, it is now abundantly clear that the practice has negatively impacted the people of this state in many ways, including economic, health, physical, psychological, emotional, and medical well-being.

**Georgia's Human
Life Amendment
(currently known as HR536)**

Paramount right to life. (a) The rights of every person shall be recognized, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life. The right to life is the paramount and most fundamental right of a person.(b) With respect to the fundamental and inalienable rights of all persons guaranteed in this Constitution, the word 'person' applies to all human beings, irrespective of age, race, sex, health, function, or condition of dependency, including unborn children at every state of their biological development, including fertilization.