

S1404 IDAHO UNBORN INFANTS DIGNITY ACT
Senate State Affairs Committee
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S 1404
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Attachment 6 (9pages)

Good Morning. Thank you. My name is Julie Lynde. I am the Executive Director of Cornerstone Family Council. We join the pro-life community in Idaho in strong support of S1404, the Idaho Unborn Infants Dignity Act. We are deeply grateful for the work of Idaho Chooses Life, the sponsors and many co-sponsors of S1404.

S1404 directly addresses the heart wrenching issue of harvesting and trafficking the body parts of unborn babies. It allows for organ and tissue donation in cases other than abortion with proper consent of the mother, thus allowing her dignity and respect. SB1404 also clarifies that mothers have the right to respectful disposition of her baby's remains.

In the summer of 2015, America's eyes were opened to the trafficking of aborted baby parts. Undercover videos were released that shocked the nation as Planned Parenthood

executives were shown discussing harvesting aborted babies.

While the public policy of Idaho is to promote live childbirth over abortion; because of a loophole in federal law, it is currently legal to carry out those practices within Idaho. We can ensure that these horrific practices cannot occur here. SB 1404 prohibits using aborted babies or their body parts for research or experimentation.

SB 1404 also prohibits the transfer or sale of aborted babies or their body parts for research or experimentation. This would close the door on the market for these remains and shut down this profit incentive that runs contrary to Idaho's policy as well as who we are as a community.

- What is that loophole?

1993: U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy sponsored the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, which imposed criminal penalties for "acquiring, receiving, or otherwise

transferring human fetal tissue for valuable consideration.”

However, “valuable consideration” was defined as not including “reasonable payments associated with the transportation, implantation, processing, preservation, quality control, or storage of human fetal tissue.”[ii] This exception created a federal loophole because it allows for the transfer and trafficking of human fetal tissue, including aborted fetal tissue, so long as payments are categorized under this exception.

- The Center for Medical Progress Videos

Last summer, the Center for Medical Progress and citizen journalist David Daleiden released a series of undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood and the horrific practices that go on within their clinics. High level Planned Parenthood officials were filmed admitting to routinely peddling and trafficking the bodies and parts of babies aborted within their clinics.

Immediately after the incontrovertible videos were first introduced to the public consciousness, Planned Parenthood released a statement on July 14, 2015, stating that, in selling aborted baby parts, “[t]here is no financial benefit for tissue

donation for either the patient or for Planned Parenthood.”

In contrast, StemExpress, one of PP’s buyers, asserts there is, in fact, a financial benefit for Planned Parenthood. Their marketing brochure proudly states that they “reward[] clinics for contributing,” and they “contribut[e] to the fiscal growth of [the] clinic.” Moreover, and most importantly, the brochure explicitly

states that StemExpress “provid[es] a *financial benefit* to [the] clinic.” Dr. Dorothy Furgerson, who works for Planned Parenthood, is quoted in the brochure extolling the *beneficial* relationship between StemExpress and Planned Parenthood.

Although Planned Parenthood has claimed they do not engage in these practices within Idaho, PP in Idaho is a part of PP NW which includes AK, HI, ID , and WA...numerous PP facilities that do business in different states...all functioning under the same corporate umbrella.

SB 1404 ensures that no experimentation or research may be done on aborted babies or their body parts, and also that no peddling or trafficking of aborted fetal remains will find its genesis

in Idaho.

The bill includes an exception for pathological study and for diagnostic or remedial procedures seeking to determine the life or health of the unborn infant, or the mother.

- Does this Impact Research and Study?

Supporters of harvesting and experimenting on aborted baby body parts claim that prohibiting those actions will cut off much-needed research and that previous research has produced “life-saving results.”

However, the track record of fetal tissue research hardly backs up those claims. As Dr. Michelle Cretella, President of the American College of Pediatricians, has noted: “Fetal tissue research, like embryonic stem cell research, has failed to produce a single successful treatment for human disease, and both have been associated with significant side-effects including overgrowth of cells and the need for immunosuppressive chemotherapy.”[iv]

In addition to the lack of results of fetal tissue research, there are

also ethical concerns with using aborted fetal tissue for experimental studies.

In 2001 for example, a controlled study to treat Parkinson's disease went terribly wrong. As reported by the New York Times, "implanting cells from aborted fetuses into patients' brains not only failed to show an overall benefit but also revealed a disastrous side effect. In about 15 percent of patients, the cells apparently grew too well, churning out so much of a chemical that controls movement that the patients writhed and jerked uncontrollably." [v] This horrible result caused researchers to advise additional patients to forgo implantation.

The reality is that fetal tissue presents no advantage to medical research, and raises grave ethical concerns. America has been exposed to the horrendous practices of trafficking in aborted baby body parts, and SB 1404 ensures Idaho will have no part of it.

- **Aborted babies should never be harvested and sold as commodities.** The Planned Parenthood videos pulled back the curtain for the entire country to see the trafficking of aborted baby body parts, and SB 1404 ensures Idaho has no part of it.

- **If Planned Parenthood claims they don't traffic in aborted baby body parts, then they should have no issues with this bill.**

The Center for Medical Progress undercover videos showed the entire country the previously unseen underbelly of America's largest abortion provider. The videos also highlighted a huge

need for legislation to cut off these practices. SB 1404 ensures no trafficking, harvesting, or experimenting in aborted baby body parts can occur within Idaho.

I know these are difficult conversations and sometimes, it just feels like too much. It is good that this is so uncomfortable. I think that tells us something about the reality we are confronting. We want to turn away from the injustice and pain.

Eventually, we just want to stop feeling it. But these conversations are important. THIS conversation is important. We are discussing vulnerable human beings...preborn babies and their moms and the commodification of both of them. Body parts of babies for sale and pregnant moms who are a source... THE source of this incredible process of profiting from this destruction of life.

We go to numb to the shock and the horror and the helpless realization that in America....where we are guaranteed life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...this "procedure" occurs on the altar of corporate profiteering. And we weep for our sisters. And we weep for the babies. And we weep for our country about which we sing God Bless America one day and worry the next about the state of our country.

We are no longer unable to brush aside these accusations that aborted baby body parts are being sold and trafficked because we now have proof...the words of the abortion provider, PP, and in the words of corporations who order from a menu and purchase specific body parts.

I urge your Yes vote on S1404 so that Idaho goes on record to say, "Not in My House"

Thank you,

Julie Lynde

[ii] National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, PL-103-43, June 10, 1993, 107 Stat 122.

[iv] Susan Berry, *Doctors Refute Planned Parenthood's Defense it Uses Aborted Fetal Tissue for Scientific Progress*, Breitbart, July 21, 2015, www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/07/21/doctors-refute-planned-parenthoods-defense-it-uses-aborted-fetal-tissue-for-scientific-progress/.

[v] Gina Kolata, *Parkinson's Research is Set Back by Failure of Fetal Cell Implants*, NYTimes.com, March 8, 2001, available at www.nytimes.com/2001/03/08/health/08PARK.html.

<http://www.adflegal.org/detailspages/blog-details/allianceedge/2015/07/28/how-planned-parenthood-makes-money-selling-aborted-baby-parts>