



*Serving the counties of District 2: Fannin, Delta, Hunt, Hopkins, Rains,  
Rockwall, Kaufman, Van Zandt, and part of Dallas County*

## **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**

For a 100% pro-life person, like me, life begins at conception and innocent life ends by God's hand at His appointed time. Each one of us was knitted together by God's hands as He formed us in His image. "In His image" means that He made each of us exactly the way He wanted us to be and gave us a predetermined life span.

Jeremiah 1:5 records the Lord's hand in the development of the unborn: "Before I formed you in your mother's womb I knew you." In Psalm 139 the psalmist declares, "For you formed me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Gen. 1:27 tells us "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female."

The protection of life (all life) and liberty is a core function of government. Forty-five years ago the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) undermined the state's ability to fulfill that function by ruling in *Roe vs Wade* that a woman had a right to abort a pregnancy, pre-viability of the baby, without undue interference from the state.

Since that time, the states have systematically clawed back the ability to regulate the barbaric practice of ripping an unborn child out of a mother's womb. Texas has fought back by instituting the Woman's Right to Know Act for informed consent, licensing abortion facilities and outlawing partial-birth abortion. Most recently the Texas Legislature passed legislation forbidding the dismemberment of a live unborn child. Unfortunately it continues to be legal to first kill the baby in the womb and then dismember it.

So far Texas has made no attempt to prohibit "suction abortions" where, in the process of the abortion, the suction itself dismembers the baby's body. Texas law applies only to those even more grotesque situations where a physician actually cuts a live baby into parts before it is removed from the womb. Some of that limitation has to do with the concern about where in the period of gestation a fetus can feel pain. Another part of the limitation has to do with concerns about how far the state can regulate before the SCOTUS cries foul.

There was an amendment proposed to the bill that passed last session (SB 8) that, unfortunately, failed to pass in the Texas House. That amendment would have prevented an abortion of a baby with a diagnosis of a fetal abnormality (including a severe abnormality) after a baby has reached 20 weeks post-fertilization age. It is important to note that a doctor's diagnosis is sometimes wrong. Sadly many mothers have learned after their baby was aborted that the doctor mis-diagnosed and the baby was actually healthy. Also, this loop hole can be used by Planned Parenthood abortion doctors to circumvent the law and continue to perform late term abortions at will.

Abortions up to 20 weeks would not have been affected. At 20 weeks of age most experts have concluded that the unborn child is probably able to feel pain. The baby is beginning to develop eyebrows and lashes and can suck its thumb. Its sex has been evident for several weeks. The baby is able to turn its entire body from side to side and front to back. Yet we abdicate our governmental responsibility to protect this child during the most vulnerable phase of its life.

There are some people in the state who are decrying the attempts of the Texas Legislature to protect the unborn by demanding they devote their time and attention to more important things like improving public education outcomes, reducing property taxes and providing for our infrastructure. I heartily agree that these issues are important. However, If we get everything else right and fail on the protection of life and liberty, all other legislative work will be for naught.

