

**Your Turn**

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Guest columnist

Bevin, Ky. legislators should be lauded for anti-abortion efforts

Hundreds of thousands of hardworking Kentuckians who still uphold the sanctity of life and dream of the day when our government returns to protecting the preborn commend Gov. Matt Bevin and the Kentucky General Assembly for doing all they can to save the lives of unborn children and spare women from a lifetime of psychological and emotional pain, not to mention serious health risks, that do result from abortion.

Kim Greene, a board member at Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky Inc., and other abortion supporters refuse to acknowledge the undeniable fact that every abortion tears apart or poisons a preborn child and is, therefore, inhumane and unjust.

Moreover, years of research show an unborn child aborted in the last half of pregnancy experiences pain during the barbarous act due to the development of fetal pain receptors, nerve tracts, spinal cord, thalamus and cortex.

As Thomas Jefferson so aptly stated, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."

Our elected officials are acting rightly and in a responsible fashion to intervene to protect the most vulnerable in society. Unfortunately, unelected officials like U.S. District Judge David Hale thwart the will of the people by blocking such life-affirming measures as House Bill 5, whose sole aim is to end the killing of unborn children based on their race, gender and disability.

Successful passage of the Human Rights of the Unborn Child and Anti-Discrimination Act is indeed one of many steps to rectify the injustice of *Roe v. Wade*, the deeply flawed 1973 ruling that swept away all state laws protecting babies in their mother's wombs and grossly lacked the knowledge of ultrasound technology, which underscores the irrefutable humanity of the preborn child.

As the lawyer representing the Kentucky General Assembly and Bevin so poignantly pointed out, "EMW and its abortionists have responded (to their favorable one-judge restraining order against HB 5) with a novel claim ... that somewhere in the Fourteenth Amendment's penumbra lies a secret protection of eugenics. That is a perverse distortion of *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny...."

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One of two dissenting judges in the *Roe* ruling, Justice Byron White, declared the 7-2 decision an act of "raw judicial power" absent in either the language or history of the Constitution.

Roe, by the way, is not supported by a majority of Americans, as Greene falsely states. A Marist poll this past January showed nearly two-thirds of Americans would like the Supreme Court to reinterpret *Roe* in a way that would allow the states to ban abortion, something they are prohibited from doing because of the draconian decision.

To allow the strong within a society to dominate the weak, to advocate that might makes right, or that abortion advances women's "autonomy," are all morally bankrupt notions unacceptable in a sound and civilized society. Women faced with an unplanned pregnancy deserve more than the violence of abortion!

One such pro-woman proposal, passed by the General Assembly, yet dismissed by Greene as "medically unverifiable," is the abortion pill reversal procedure. SB 50 mandates that the abortionist inform women of this legitimate option once they change their minds midway through a chemically induced abortion. The relatively new protocol floods women's bodies with extra amounts of progesterone to try to block the effects of the drug mifepristone — and, thus, the abortion.

Proof the Kentucky General Assembly is more than just anti-abortion is its approval of the pro-woman Pregnant Workers' Rights Bill, which requires employers to provide pregnant workers with more frequent or longer breaks, time off to recover from childbirth, and temporary transfer to less strenuous duties.

Lawmakers accomplished other pro-life, pro-family initiatives including SB 54, removing time delays and barriers in the treatment of some chronic health conditions. No longer will prior-authorization guidelines from health insurers frustrate patients and handcuff physicians.

For Greene to equate abortion or, as she likes to put it "reproductive health care," to moving Kentucky forward on legitimate health and welfare issues, is simply disingenuous and destructive.

Schu Montgomery is a member of the board of directors for Right to Life of Louisville.