

Transcript of KET Broadcast - <https://tinyurl.com/2fbexp9>
Kentucky Legislature House Chambers Discussion of HB 67,
Kentucky's Yes for Life Bill, March 10, 2020.

NOTES:

- This transcript leaves out most facilitator comments by Speaker David Osborne to shorten it.
- In the 2020 Regular Session, the Constitutional Amendment bill, HB 67, became mired in the Senate State and Local Government Committee. But in 2021 it was reintroduced as HB 91.
<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/21RS/hb91/bill.pdf>
- HB 91 passed both houses to be delivered to the Secretary of State. A special ceremony to celebrate the Signing of HB 91 may be viewed here: <https://www.krla.org/blog/a-ceremonial-signing-of-hb-91/>
- Rep. Clark lost the 2020 State Representative election to a Republican, Scott Sharp. Rep. Fischer is currently in office.
- HB 148, current law, has "Life of the Mother" exception: <https://tinyurl.com/3b2uu3kr>

Rep. Terri Branham Clark, D-100, 2020 - May I ask the sponsor a question?

Speaker Osborne - Yes ma'am.

Rep. Terri Branham Clark - Can you explain to me why there is not 'exclusion for life of the mother' in this bill?

Speaker Osborne - Gentleman from Campbell

Rep. Joe Fischer, R-68, 2022 - Yes, that is a great question. This is a constitutional amendment. All it does is allow the General Assembly exclusively to regulate abortion. If the General Assembly wants in the future to put an exception for life of the mother, for rape and incest, they would be allowed to do so. All this bill does is take the courts out of the question and allows the General Assembly to regulate abortion.

Rep. Terri Branham Clark - So in this particular bill, no one set out to amend it for life of the mother?

Rep. Joe Fischer - No-- there was not, because this only affects the Constitution. The exceptions for abortion laws would be in statutory law and would not be placed in a constitutional amendment.

Rep. Terri Branham Clark - One more question-- So by setting this as a constitutional amendment then we aren't endangering the lives of mothers with this-- is what you're saying?

Rep. Joe Fischer - That's correct. All this bill does is state that our state constitution does not contain a right to an abortion. If in the future --if future legislators wanted to place protections or exceptions to abortion in statutory law, they could do that.

Rep. Terri Branham Clark - Um, this is a very difficult bill for me. I stand as a pro-life Democrat. I'm of the Free Will Baptist faith, so at my very core, I support pro-life legislation. At the same time, I'm a mother. And I'm a mother of three daughters. And right now, one of my daughters is pregnant. We are so excited about the possibility of this new life in our family. But I can tell you that I value the life of my daughter. And to stand on this floor as a legislator and pass any legislation that doesn't protect her life as well as her unborn child-- that just seems very irresponsible to me. And if I know that I fight to protect her life, that I would lay down right now and give my life for hers, how can I stand here and vote for something that could endanger her life as a pregnant woman?

Rep. Joe Fischer - Let me make it clear-- under current statutory law, under House Bill 148 that we passed last session-- that does contain an exception to protect the life of a mother. So whether or not this amendment passes, she would still be protected under those circumstances.

Rep. Terri Branham Clark - Thank you.