



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo

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27 June 2019

Mr. Matt Cherry
President Toledo City Council
1 Government Center, #2120
Toledo, OH 43604

Dear Mr. Cherry,

Greetings in Christ Jesus! Today I am writing concerning the resolution passed on Wednesday, June 26, by Toledo City Council that “condemns” the “Heartbeat Bill” signed into law in the State of Ohio in April. The resolution of Toledo City Council also claims that it is an “emergency” declaration.

It is my hope that you can understand and appreciate that I and my fellow faithful Catholics reject and are appalled at such a resolution. The resolution is unnecessary, will have no practical effect and can only serve to further divide our city and region on what is a highly charged emotional issue for both sides. Here, briefly, are a few more reasons as to why Toledo City Council should revoke this resolution:

1. The resolution claims that the Heartbeat Bill will have a negative effect on the health of individuals in Toledo. We can say assuredly that this is simply not true. In fact, the Heartbeat Bill will save thousands of human lives that will now be able to be born right here in our city. In a city and a region concerned about growth and retention, does it make sense to encourage elimination of our future citizenry?
2. The resolution claims that the Heartbeat Bill will hurt Toledo’s ability to retain qualified medical professionals. Does Toledo City Council consider Dr. Tom Michaelis and Dr. David Burkons, two of the last three abortion doctors at Capital Care Network (CCN) as the type of qualified medical professionals we are seeking to retain and attract? Dr. Thomas Michaelis was convicted of possession and distribution of child pornography in May 2014 and is currently serving a sentence in federal prison. (<http://www.wtol.com/story/27345083/sylvania-man-69-indicted-on-child-porn-charges?clienttype=generic;>). Dr. David Burkons’ medical license was suspended two years ago while practicing at Capital Care Network because he gave his staff blank prescriptions that he had signed (<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170713/abortion-clinic-in-akron-closes-leaving-8-in-ohio>). Are these the type of medical professionals we are seeking to retain in the City of Toledo?

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3. The resolution claims abortion "...access is a key component of comprehensive health care access." Abortion is not health care. It is rather the opposite, the intentional killing of an innocent human life. Health care implies that you are caring for human life. In the case of abortion, one life, the baby in the womb is killed, and often other lives, such as a mother and father, are deeply wounded, psychologically and emotionally, not to mention physically and spiritually. Modern research affirms the wounds that mothers in particular carry after abortions (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/abortion-and-mental-health-quantitative-synthesis-and-analysis-of-research-published-19952009/E8D556AAE1C1D2F0F8B060B28BEE6C3D#>).
4. The resolution affirms that Heartbeat Bills have been ruled unconstitutional. That may be true of lower court rulings, but not of the United States Supreme Court. There has been a tidal wave of states pushing for these bills. Nine states have already passed the Heartbeat Bill with another six introducing the legislation this year, not to mention other states such as Alabama whose laws have gone even further. In short, the United States Supreme Court has not ruled the "Heartbeat Bill" unconstitutional. Even so, a Court's opinion on a case does not determine moral truth. We need look no further than cases in our nation's history such as *Dred Scott v. Sandford* or *Plessy v. Ferguson* to appreciate this fact.
5. Lastly, this resolution is declared to be an "emergency" measure. On this point, I do agree there should be an emergency measure passed by Toledo's City Council. However, the emergency should be to end the egregious practice of abortion in our city that is ending the lives of over 1,000 of our potential citizens every year.

There is no doubt that the abortion issue elicits a passionate response from both sides of the political aisle. The Catholic Church's position in this debate is not political but fundamentally geared to upholding of the dignity of every person involved in abortion decisions, from the mother to the unborn child, to the abortion doctor and nurses. Each person is created in the image and likeness of God and each possesses the first fundamental right: the right to life. I pray Toledo City Council will only pass resolutions that recognize the right to life for all persons, and the Council will revoke its resolution regarding the "Heartbeat Bill."

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Mr. Cherry, while some erroneously believe that opposing abortion is only based on faith or religion, in fact science and reason both see and attest to the truth that human life begins at conception and deserves protection. May the Lord be with you and grant you and all the members of City Council "eyes to see and ears to hear" (Mk 8:18).

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Daniel E. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Diocese of Toledo

P.S. You should be aware that the Diocese of Toledo sponsors a ministry that helps women with after abortion care if they are in need. Visit www.hopeafterabortion.com for more information.

c: Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz
Toledo City Council Members