

Moriah Dunham

Right to Life Scholarship Speech

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act was established in 1940. Originally, if someone destroyed or disturbed a bald eagle egg the maximum punishment was a \$5,000 fine and up to a year in prison. Today, the first criminal offense is a misdemeanor which includes a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine per an individual (Service). This act was laid on the basis of the egg “potentially” becoming an eagle. Science backs that human life begins before birth. Therefore, the question circulating my mind is, why does a “potential animal” have more right to life than a human being in their mother’s womb? This ideology is transpiring due to an increasingly ignorant, dehumanizing world. These babies have no one other than their mother, and if their mother ‘chooses’ to kill them; they cannot raise their voice. Digging deeper into how a child develops in each trimester, I implore us to analyze, reflect, and encourage.

When looking into the first trimester, by week three, conception transpires and a zygote, which is a fertilized egg, is produced. Henceforth, life begins. According to George and Meriem Kaluger in *Human Development: The Span of Life*, “In that fraction of a second when the chromosomes form pairs, the sex of the new child will be determined, hereditary characteristics received from each parent will be set, and a new life will have begun.” Keith L. Moore puts it more simply in *Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology* (7th edition, Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2008, p. 2), “[The zygote], formed by the union of an oocyte and a sperm, is the

beginning of a new human being.” Meaning, from conception, the baby is alive, human, and distinct from the mother.

At twenty-two days, the unborn baby’s heart is formed and begins to palpitate. From week three to seven, he or she develops a brain, spinal cord, arms and legs, fingers and toes, lungs, and a digestive system. Every organ they will need in their body is established. By the end of the first trimester, which is from week one to week thirteen, the baby is visible with a full face and small-yet-functioning body. This unborn baby is alive with a beating heart and can legally be killed.

The second trimester is from week fourteen to twenty-six. The baby is growing into its identity as they discover their own strength and develop fingerprints. Their appearance is also changing as they form hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes. At twenty weeks, the child can potentially respond to sounds and feel pain. Their nerves develop, lungs begin to inflate, and the brain is actively making connections that contribute to the baby’s thought-process. At this time of week 24, depending on the state, it is legal to abort. Continuing on, the third trimester is from week twenty-seven to forty. Throughout this final stretch, the baby is maturing. The bones are hardening and the immune system is amping up. The mother is definitely feeling the repercussions as her unborn child continues to test their reflexes and prepares for life outside the womb.

Knowing all this, how can it be legal for a baby to be terminated when they have a heartbeat? Or feel pain? A child in the womb is at its most vulnerable and innocent state. He or she has not been touched by the outside world. They have committed no crime. Contain no hate. The unborn child is a human being in their purest form on earth. God, whether you recognize Him or not, has blessed women with this wonderful gift. He has created us with the unique ability to form life inside us. He sent his one and only Son into the world to die for us because he loved us, his children. Psalms 139:13-14 beautifully says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." This verse is talking about our creative God and how he designed us in the womb. God is intentional and what gives us, human beings, the authority to destroy God's design? Therefore, with this in mind, I have a message for the father's, mother's, and children.

To the father, I implore you to stand up for your unborn children. In this society, your rights are being overshadowed by the loud voices of choice. Men have just as much say about their children as mother's do. To the mothers and future mothers who could battle with this, do not allow fear of the circumstances to take over your integrity for life. Imagine the trauma of taking your child's life carried with the guilt of your partner's devastation. To the unwanted

unborn children of this world, you are seen. You are valued. You are wanted. And we will not stop fighting until you are saved.

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