



May 20, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Americans United for Life Action (AUL Action), the legislative arm of Americans United for Life, the legal architects of the prolife movement, I urge you to cosponsor and support the “Every Child is a Blessing Act of 2014.” This Act will prohibit “wrongful birth” lawsuits by recognizing that the birth of a child should not establish a civil cause of action. In other words, this legislation will prevent a person from recovering damages based on a claim that if a medical professional had told them about a characteristic of their unborn child, they would have had an abortion.

Prenatal testing can be a valuable tool for diagnosing and treating conditions that threaten the health or life of the mother, the child, or both. However, it is sometimes used as a precursor for aborting a child of an undesired sex, with potential genetic abnormalities or defects, or with life-limiting conditions. For example, recent studies have indicated that more than 90 percent of unborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted.

Clearly, this chilling slide toward eugenics—specifically, the elimination of persons with certain hereditary characteristics—is deeply troubling. Further, some courts are permitting parents to bring “wrongful birth” lawsuits against medical professionals for failing to provide information about their unborn children that would have led them to abort.

Medical professionals should not be penalized for failing to provide information that would have led a woman to seek an abortion. Prenatal tests have documented error rates, and medical professionals should be focused on caring for pregnant women and their children, not on providing a list of an unborn child’s characteristics that might lead a mother to have an abortion.

Please join Congressman Palazzo in recognizing that the birth of a child does not constitute medical malpractice simply because the child has an inborn characteristic undesirable to his or her parents, and cosponsor this legislation. AUL Action will favorably score any votes on the “Every Child is a Blessing Act of 2014” in our scorecard for the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charmaine Yoest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charmaine Yoest, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Americans United for Life Action