

The Kansas Coalition for Life

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News Release

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KCFL Launches Heartbeat Legislation Initiative

By Debbie Young Baker

After years of seemingly fruitless efforts, the proLife movement in Kansas has finally made some newsworthy progress!

The 2011 Kansas Legislature passed four bills that contained more actual proLife legislation than was passed in all previous years of Kansas history ...combined!

Even though implementation of one of the four new laws, the Clinic Licensure Bill, is held up in court right now, KCFL members are still more motivated than ever before to bring an end to most abortions in the state.

Mark Gietzen, Chairman of KCFL, describes the proLife struggle using Civil War terms. He said: *"We must forge ahead with the momentum gained and continue to attack! The next logical step is Heartbeat Legislation. Now is the time!"*

KCFL intends to continue doing what works... that means gearing up the petition process again. It is no secret that the KCFL petitions played a major role in the successful 2011 Kansas Legislature; dozens of lawmakers have publically acknowledged this. For

example, **Senator Dick Kelsey** had this to say at the end of the 2011 legislative session:

"...The petitions have helped to change public opinion which helped us to accomplish what we did today [success in the 2011 Legislative Session]. You and I remember back in 1988 when we barely had 30 pro life state Representatives. It has taken consistent labor such as you have done to change that. ...

Kansas State Senator Dick Kelsey, District 26"

And **Representative Jim Howell** said:

"...These petitions rightly point out that tax dollars should never be used to fund abortions and abortion procedures are not healthcare. When lawmakers see many in their constituency supporting these petitions, it clearly encourages them to make great decisions that support prolife legislation..."

Kansas State Representative Jim Howell, District 82"

Since the petition process was so successful in the 2011 Legislature, Gietzen envisions the possibility of asking Governor Brownback to call a special session of the Legislature, just to consider Heartbeat Legislation, ONCE ENOUGH PEOPLE SIGN the Heartbeat petition!

And what exactly is, “*enough to ask the Governor to call for a special session of the Legislature?*”

Gietzen points out that it is not only the raw number of signers, but more importantly, a wide distribution and a significant number of signers across the state that will convince Kansas Lawmakers that a special session is warranted.

“I would not consider even asking the Governor to call a special session without at least 15,000 signers on the Heartbeat Petition, preferably twice or three times that number. The signers must be spread out across all counties so that every Senator and Representative will have voters asking for passage of Heartbeat Legislation!” Gietzen said.

So what does the KCFL petition say? The statement reads: **To all lawmakers;**

Every human life is valuable beyond measure, and every abortion is an act of violence against an innocent unborn child. Abortions that occur after the baby’s heart is already beating are so uncivilized and so revolting that a civilized society cannot, and should not, tolerate these brutal acts of violence against our fellow human beings.

Therefore, we the undersigned urge all lawmakers, and everyone in a position of power and influence, to support and promote Heartbeat Legislation that would prohibit abortions after an unborn baby’s heart is beating. ###

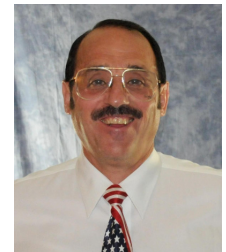
So far Ohio is the only other state to seriously consider Heartbeat Legislation, HB-125, (*which was quickly nick-named Heart Beat 125, instead of House Bill 125*). Nevertheless, Kansas could be the first state to actually pass such historic legislation.

According to Gietzen, who has been watching Heartbeat Legislation progress in Ohio, such a law would prevent about 85% of current abortions in Kansas by outlawing them after the baby’s heart begins to beat (*between 7 and 10 weeks gestation*).

In much the same way that the “*Pain Capable Legislation*” was passed in Kansas this year, Heartbeat Legislation can take effect without having to first reverse Roe v. Wade.

“Kansas has never had an opportunity like this before!

We have a ProLife House, a ProLife Senate and a ProLife Governor! As soon as the people of Kansas show our lawmakers that we want



Heartbeat Legislation passed, there is no doubt in my mind that the current legislature will do it... especially since 2012 is an election year for BOTH the House and the Senate!” Gietzen says with a big grin. ***“We just love elections!”***

View the actual Heartbeat Petition at:

<http://www.kcfl.net/kcfl/doc/sigad/2012/sigad.pdf>

or at:

<http://www.kcfl.net/kcfl/doc/sigad/2012/sigad.doc>

View signers of past KCFL Petitions at:

<http://www.kcfl.net/kcfl/index.php?page=2>

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