

Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Select Investigative Panel of
the Committee on Energy and Commerce

April 3, 2016

To Honorable Blackburn:

In response to the question relayed to me from March 23, 2016: I believe that was a remark from Representative Jerrold Nadler. Unfortunately, the Congressman's accusation was merely an *ad hominem* fallacy: instead of trying to show where he thought the argument advanced might be mistaken, the Congressman fallaciously attempted to discredit the person making the argument, and so the accusation was beside the point, that is, irrelevant to the question at issue.

In my testimony I pointed out that the evidence shows that what is killed in abortion is a **distinct** being—for the human embryo or fetus grows in his or her own distinct direction rather than as subordinated to the functioning of the maternal organism. The embryo or fetus is also obviously **human**—for his or her cells have the genetic structure characteristic of humans. And the human embryo or fetus is a **whole** human organism—as opposed to a part of a larger organism, as for example human tissue or a human organ—for he or she has all of the internal resources needed to actively develop himself or herself to the mature stage of a human being. All he or she needs is the appropriate environment, nutrition, and absence of disease or violence, to develop to full maturity. These points indicate just some of the clear evidence that shows beyond any reasonable doubt that the human embryo or fetus is a distinct, whole—albeit immature—human being, the same fundamental kind of being as you or me.

The basis for having fundamental rights is the fundamental kind of being one is, as opposed to any inessential attributes such as color, gender, size, or degree of development. Therefore it is unjust to provide protection of the law to born human beings but deny it to unborn human beings.

To subsidize and encourage the killing of unborn human beings—which is plainly what occurs with the funding of abortion providers—is an additional injustice.

Finally, since what is killed in abortion is a distinct human being, these victims of abortion are not, and should not be treated as, mere parts of their mothers. A mother who has chosen to abort a child indicates she no longer acts with the interests of the child as foremost. So, women who have procured abortions lack the authority needed to be the appropriate decision-maker in regard to the use of that child's body after death. The point is not that she has become morally debased by that decision—as Congressman Nadler misinterpreted my argument during testimony—for, as I noted in my testimony, what she did may have been “done in confusion and with mitigated responsibility.” Rather, the point is that by her decision to have the abortion she no longer stands in relation to the child as a parent acting primarily for that child's interests.

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