



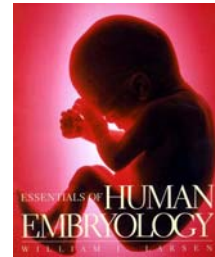
Life

Principle

Human life, from fertilization to natural death, is sacred, and the right to life is fundamental to all other rights. Thus, it is a responsibility of government to protect human life.

When does life begin?

Research clearly indicates that a live human being in the form of a zygote (embryo) exists from the fusion of the sperm and the oocyte (egg). This is evidenced by the presence of a full, unique set of DNA, by the production of specifically human proteins and enzymes, and by the ability for the embryo to direct its own nourishment.



Public Opinion

- Most Americans believe that life begins at conception, and that abortion should be legal only in extreme cases—incest, rape, or when the life of the mother is in danger.
- Polling done in 2003 found that more Americans had become pro-life during the previous 10 years than had become “pro-choice”.¹
- A recent poll by the liberal “Center for the Advancement of Women” found that keeping abortion legal ranked nearly last among the top priorities for women, well below stopping domestic violence and behind offering more science and math in schools.

Policy Issues in Virginia

Fetal Pain Relief—Science shows that unborn children feel pain as early on as 20 weeks. The Family Foundation supports legislation would require women be informed that anesthesia can be administered to unborn children during a 2nd or 3rd trimester abortion.

Abortion Clinic Safety—Abortion clinics in Virginia are relatively unregulated and rarely, if ever, inspected. This legislation would improve the safety standards in clinics and require that they be inspected on a regular basis.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Cloning—The destruction of a human embryo is necessary for embryonic stem cell research. Taxpayers should not be asked to fund this research, and efforts should be made to promote adult stem cell research, which has proven far more promising.

De-funding Planned Parenthood—Virginia taxpayers are currently helping to fund this extreme pro-abortion group. The budget needs to be amended to eliminate this funding.

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¹Available at: <http://www.nrlc.org/news/2003/NRL02/osteen.html>