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THE UNBORN: MORE THAN JUST A CLUSTER OF CELLS

By Steve Bakke  August 23, 2018



Here's what provoked me:

When interpreting the Constitution, if vague language leads to confusion, one should look to oral and written comments by the Founders to provide clarity and explanation. Nowhere is that more valuable than when dealing with issues surrounding the abortion controversy.

Here's my response:

The Unborn: More than Just a Cluster of Cells

The Constitution's Preamble informs us about the Founders' goals when establishing our Constitution. It refers to "justice," "domestic tranquility," "defense," and "the general welfare." That's followed by a less familiar passage: "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." To some, the mere reference to "posterity" implies that the unborn secure Constitutional rights. But we don't have to rely on that mere presumption. We can look instead to actual statements by our Founders.

James Wilson signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He was an original Supreme Court Justice, and began America's first organized legal training. His statements are commonly considered representative of the Founders' collective feelings and intentions. Lecturing about the "Natural Rights of Individuals" Wilson explained: "In the contemplation of law, life begins when the infant is first able to stir in the womb." It appears fairly certain the Founders felt natural rights attach to the unborn.

Even if you don't consider the unborn baby a person, I think we can agree that it deserves more status than just a cluster of cells. If we can agree on that, perhaps we are one step closer to a solution of the abortion issue.