

Roger Thoney for State Representative

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February 16, 2010

Mr. Fred H. Summe
1850 Mount Vernon Drive
Fort Wright, KY 41011

Subject: Position on Right-to-Life Issues

Dear Mr. Summe:

The number of abortions in Kentucky has increased by 25% to about 4,400 annually since 2002 after having declined significantly and steadily since 1991. This is unacceptable and calls for a change in strategy. I believe that we should adopt a goal of reducing the number of abortions in Kentucky to below 100 per year and develop a strategy to achieve this. I believe that we can achieve this goal by ratifying a Right-to-Life Amendment that grants the right to life with due process of law to the unborn from the moment of conception and by increasing education efforts. A Right-to-Life Amendment itself may reduce the number of abortions by 90% or more.

I will sponsor and introduce a bill to amend Kentucky's Constitution that will grant the right to life with due process of law to the unborn from the moment of conception. I will testify before committees and speak on the House floor on its behalf and urge passage, but I will rely upon pro-life individuals and groups such as Northern Kentucky Right to Life to find co-sponsors and get the votes. This will be a team effort.

I believe that if we (1) frame the debate in terms of a human rights issue rather than an issue of abortion and (2) try to shift focus to the true "choice point" then we can win the support of enough "swing voters" (those who personally believe that abortion is wrong but also recognize a woman's "right to choose") to pass the amendment. Both a man and a woman make their choice, or exercise their "right to choose," when they decide to engage in sexual relations. This "responsible pro-choice" position should weaken the effectiveness of the traditional "pro-choice" argument that focuses upon the point at which a woman knows she is pregnant.

I will vote the pro-life position on the issues in your questionnaire, but I cannot commit to "actively supporting, sponsoring, or working for or against measures (as appropriate)" because I will have a full plate of other measures that I will be trying to implement. Each of us has a role to play in life. My role is in the area of economics. My contribution to the effort to end the killing of the innocent will be to provide leadership in ratifying a Right-to-Life amendment.

Also, we will be more likely to succeed in passing a Right-to-Life amendment if Republicans control the House, so I suggest that your group support all Republicans running for State Representative. For many issues the vote for Speaker of the House is the most important vote a representative will cast. I invite the members of Northern Kentucky Right to Life to join me in working to pass a Right-to-Life Amendment in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Roger Thoney