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Humanities

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Our Responsibility to Save Lives

We as a society in the United States have a responsibility to advocate and protect those who are not able to do so themselves. This includes those who are disabled, of a certain age group, either minors or senior citizens, and some marginalized groups of people that aren't represented well in places where significant decisions are made that affect them. Although we strive to protect those who can't do so themselves, we seem to forget this responsibility when it comes to embryos, fetuses, and unborn babies. Why are we not fighting for something that can't advocate for itself like we do for senior citizens, people who are disabled, and everyone else that falls into this category? We all can be traced back to the same place, the same reaction, and the same moment. This shared moment is when an egg is successfully fertilized and creates a zygote that then continues to grow into a fetus and baby. During this process the fetus is not able to communicate to the outside world because they don't have that ability yet and the womb is the safest space where they can grow. During this process there is no one who is speaking for the fetus and their life. All unborn fetuses that are not able to speak for themselves should be given a chance to live. This should always be the case unless the person carrying the baby is in serious danger or the child was conceived by incest or rape.

Many might say that during this 10 week period the embryo is just a clump of cells, but we cannot deny that if the embryo keeps flourishing and getting the nutrients it needs it will grow into a fetus and from then to a fully developed baby by 34 weeks. California allows you to

have an abortion up to 24 weeks, only ten weeks before the baby can be born and live on its own and we allow people to abort them right before they get the chance to live out their lives outside the womb. Looking at abortions earlier than this, nine out of ten abortions happen before or at 12 weeks and at that time the fetus is testing out their lungs and digestive system. This fetus is now learning to use its body and preparing for when it's born. We should not be able to take them out of the environment that can help them continue to develop when they can't speak and advocate for themselves.

It was recorded in 2019 that 603 thousand unborn fetuses were aborted. 37 genocides have had lower death tolls than this. If I, a person of color and person who is able to have children, went and killed 603 thousand babies I would be locked up because that's not what our country stands for and I would have led a mass genocide of killing babies. These babies can't speak for themselves either and yet we would protect them from harm solely because they are not in the womb. 67% of the 603 thousand abortions done in the United States during 2019 were by people of color. In almost all areas of our society we protect diversity and those who can't stand up for themselves and yet as we see here in the data we aren't doing our duty to keep diversity or advocate for those who need it. We are letting POC babies who can't speak on their behalf be aborted in numbers that could be considered genocide.

We want less abortions. This means we also have to look at who are having these unplanned pregnancies that can lead to the thousands of abortions happening every year. Looking at statistics we can see that Black and Hispanic people have the most unplanned pregnancies, those numbers being 63% and 48%. You will also find that these two same groups of people largely live in areas where there isn't enough good sex education or enough access to contraceptives that can help prevent unplanned pregnancies. Planned parenthood alone gets 309

million dollars and about 7 million of that is used for abortion. This money although not hundreds of millions of dollars, can be used to create better access to contraceptives and to give better sex education. If we use the money towards this there would be less unplanned pregnancies and ultimately less reason for aborting babies.

Although tv news and articles talk of overpopulation this is not the true reality. In the US, China, Canada, and in multiple countries in Europe the birth rate is low and declining. Fewer babies are being born per 1,000 each year. In the US this has been happening since 2007. The reason we hear about overpopulation in the US is because we take in a lot of immigrants and this isn't a bad thing. Lyman Stone from Vox writes that we would still have enough food for millions more people than the US homes right now. Due to birth rates are going down in developed countries like the US, China, South Korea, and many countries in Europe we need to have less abortions. We need more people and children to help challenge our old ideas and create new ones but that can only happen if we have more children that can take this on.

My opponent may have stated that what I call a fetus and baby are just cells that are taking energy and nutrients away from the person whom the fetus is growing in. As I've mentioned in my argument, The baby does start out as cells but this "sack of cells" is still a life form completely different from all the other life forms we commonly see day to day. We all started as this clump of cells and as you all can see here we are all got the chance to be born and become the people we are today, why shouldn't every fetus get the same chance. Another common argument or rather a statement is "my body, my choice", and although this argument is understandable this all goes back to our responsibility as members of our society. We all have a obligation to protect and advocate for those who can't themselves. These unborn fetuses don't get a say in what happens with them and it is our job to stand up for them to have the chance to

live life outside of the womb.