

[Columbia Christians for Life \(CCL \)](#)
aka Christians for Life and Liberty (CLL)
Columbia, South Carolina
March 22, 2019 / Revised March 25, 2019

([Audio](#) / [Transcript](#) / [Report](#))

'Heartbeat Bill does not establish justice for all human beings at fertilization':

Christian pro-life missionary testifies *against* incremental 'Heartbeat' Bill at SC House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing - March 21, 2019

The SC [House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee](#) heard from several speakers in the Hearing conducted Thursday, March 21, scheduled for 9am. However, since not all those who signed up were given an opportunity to speak before the Subcommittee's time expired, no vote was taken on the [H3020](#) Fetal Heartbeat Bill, and a future Subcommittee Hearing is planned for additional speakers to be heard.

Public Hearing [H3020](#) Fetal Heartbeat Bill Constitutional Laws Subcommittee

SC House Judiciary Committee
Blatt House Office Building, Rm 516, 9 AM
March 21, 2019



Photo: Testifying: Dr. David Sealy, MD, Greenwood, SC

[Constitutional Laws Subcommittee](#) Members:

Rep Weston Newton (R) - Chairman of ConLaws Subcomm
Rep Peter McCoy (R) - Member of ConLaws Subcomm; Chairman of full Judiciary Comm
Rep Russell Fry (R)
Rep Mandy Norrell (D)
Rep William Wheeler (D)

The State (Columbia, SC)

South Carolina lawmakers mull fetal heartbeat abortion bill

<https://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article228223324.html>

MARCH 21, 2019 [CCL: Emphasis added]

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Members of a South Carolina House subcommittee considered legislation on Thursday that would ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, about six weeks into pregnancy.

The subcommittee heard testimony about a proposal to require medical professionals to test for a detectable heartbeat before any abortion is performed. The bill provides for exceptions, such as allowing abortions after a heartbeat is detected if the woman's life is at risk.

Republican Rep. John McCravy of Greenwood said he thinks House lawmakers have the votes to pass the bill, which has more than 50 co-sponsors. **Lawmakers took no action on the proposal Thursday and are planning another hearing in coming weeks.**

continued...

[Audio](#) / Transcript

**Public Hearing [H3020](#) Fetal Heartbeat Bill
Constitutional Laws Subcommittee
SC House Judiciary Committee
Blatt House Office Building, Rm 516, 9 AM
March 21, 2019**

[Audio](#) (Time 16:10):

00:00 - 1:25: Chairman Weston Newton opens Hearing of Constitutional Laws Subcommittee

1:25 - 4:30: Rep. John McCravy (primary sponsor [H3020](#)) Fetal Heartbeat Bill overview and explanation

4:30 - 5:15: Chairman Newton gives instructions for Hearing, calls first speaker

5:15 - 6:55: Tony Foster, pastor speaks in support of Heartbeat Bill

6:55 - 12:20: Steve Lefemine, Christian pro-life missionary speaks **against Heartbeat Bill**

12:20 - 12:45: Next speaker called initially, then Steve Lefemine recalled to podium for question

12:45 - 16:10: Rep. Mandy Norrell [**pro-"abortion"] asking Steve Lefemine questions**

[The purpose of the March 25 letter below is to correct two errors Steve Lefemine made in his testimony before the Constitutional Laws Subcommittee in opposition to passage of the Heartbeat Bill on March 21.]

[Letter to Chairman/Members Constitutional Laws Subcommittee, SC House Judiciary Committee:](#)

Corrections to Testimony before ConLaws Subcommittee on March 21 Re: H3020 Heartbeat Bill

March 25, 2019

**Transcript [edited] of Christian pro-life missionary testimony
at SC House Subcommittee Hearing - March 21, 2019:**

[Note: Steve Lefemine mistakenly used the wrong Bill number for the Heartbeat Bill throughout his testimony. He used Bill number H3202; whereas the correct Bill number is actually H3020. This is corrected in the transcript below by showing [H3020] in brackets each time the incorrect Bill number was used.]

Steve Lefemine [Initial prepared testimony]:

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. My name is Steve Lefemine. I'm director of Columbia Christians for Life. With the Lord's help, I have been a Christian pro-life missionary since 1991.

I am here to testify against passage of [H3020] the Fetal Heartbeat Bill for two reasons today:

- 1) [H3020] is fundamentally flawed and is a Corruption of the Nature of Laws in General, and;
- 2) To vote for [H3020] the Heartbeat Bill would, I believe, be a violation of the Oath of Office taken by SC Representatives.

Point #1

The Heartbeat Bill does not establish justice for all human beings at fertilization, but chooses a biological benchmark which may occur and be detected a month and a half, or later, after fertilization, and allows all human beings in the womb prior to that point to be exterminated.

To make my case [H3020] is a Corruption of the Nature of Laws in General, I look to an early textbook used at the University of South Carolina Law School; and I understand three members of the Subcommittee are alumni of USC Law School. That textbook is namely, William Blackstone's *Commentaries*. It is my understanding Blackstone has been cited in numerous U.S. Supreme Court Opinions.

If you will look at the first two pages of the handout, two excerpts of the USC Law School History are circled with pink highlighter. This history of the USC Law School was prepared by the former Associate Director for Administration of the USC Law Library. You can see there documentation of the use of Blackstone's *Commentaries* as part of the USC Law School Curriculum at certain times.

Next, please look at the few pages copied from Blackstone's *Commentaries*, specifically page 28 ... from Blackstone's Introduction, Section II. Of the Nature of Laws in General. Underlined on page 28 we see these words: "Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these." Further down, Blackstone specifically addresses the case of murder: which is what we are dealing with when considering "abortion". Blackstone wrote: "To instance in the case of murder: this is expressly forbidden by the divine, and demonstrably by the natural law; and, from these prohibitions, arises the true unlawfulness of this crime." He continued further down: "Nay, if any human law should allow or injoin us to commit it, we are bound to transgress that human law, or else we must offend both the natural and the divine."

Clearly [H3020] Heartbeat Bill allows the murder of those human beings less than 6 weeks old to continue. To apply Blackstone's analysis, [H3020] is an offense both to the natural and the divine.

Point #2

My second point is that for a SC Representative to vote for [H3020] is, I believe, a violation of his Oath of Office. The Oath of Office concludes with the words "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of this State and of the United States, So Help me God." [Note: This Oath is found in the South Carolina Constitution, Article III., Section 26.] So the Oath includes not only upholding the State Constitution, but also the U.S. Constitution. Preamble of the U.S. Constitution includes among the purposes for which the Constitution was ordained and established, that of to "establish Justice".

Therefore, because the Heartbeat Bill does not "establish Justice" for any human beings prior to approximately 6 weeks old, it violates the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, which SC Representatives are sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend."

Those are the two reasons I state today for voting "NO" for [H3020]:

- 1) The Heartbeat Bill is fundamentally flawed, is a Corruption of the Nature of Laws in General, and;
- 2) To vote for [H3020] the Heartbeat Bill would, I believe, be a violation of the Oath of Office taken by SC Representatives.

Thank you.

Additional Information:

Blackstone's *Commentaries* were used before, and for approximately 100 years after, the American Revolution (1776-1783) to train lawyers in the United States, *including at the University of South Carolina School of Law during part of the Reconstruction Era (1867-1877) after the USC Law School opened in 1867.*

University of South Carolina Law School curriculum included Blackstones *Commentaries* at times during period 1867-1877:

[USC Law School History: Reconstruction Era \(1867-1877\)](#) [excerpts, emphasis added]

The University of South Carolina School of Law was established as one of ten academic schools when South Carolina College was reorganized as the University of South Carolina in 1865 and 1866. The Board of Trustees elected twenty-seven year old South Carolina attorney Alexander Cheves Haskell as the first professor of law and the law school opened on October 7, 1867. Professor Haskell developed his own system of **leading the junior class through a course in Blackstones *Commentaries*** and the senior class through a course on Stephens *Pleading*. [continued]

From the opening of the law school in October 1867 until the death of Professor Melton on December 4, 1875, classes were held in the University Library, now the South Caroliniana Library, and DeSaussure College. The Board of Trustees chose Franklin J. Moses, Sr., **the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina**, as Meltons successor. Under **Moses** the curriculum of the law school was modified to place a **heavy emphasis on Blackstones *Commentaries*** and Kents *Lectures*.

[William Blackstone](#)

[Commentaries on the Laws of England \(1863\)](#)

Volume I, Books I & II

INTRODUCTION

Section II., OF THE NATURE OF LAWS IN GENERAL

pp. title, 25, 28, 29

[PERSONHOOD ACT OF SOUTH CAROLINA](#)

[AND SCRIPTURAL BASIS OF HUMAN LAWS](#)

<http://christiansforpersonhood.com/index.php/2019/01/01/personhood-act-of-south-carolina-and-scriptural-basis-of-human-laws/>

Christians for Personhood newsletter

Steve Lefemine, Christian pro-life missionary

exec. dir., Christians for Personhood

December 31, 2018

Please contact these four Republican SC Representatives to vote "NO" to H3020 Heartbeat Bill:

Please call these Representatives to tell them to Vote "No" to [H3020](#) Heartbeat Bill incremental legislation which "*regulates*" instead of **ENDS** the murder of children by "abortion". Remind them their Oath of Office includes upholding the US Constitution whose Preamble includes to "establish Justice". H3020 Heartbeat Bill does **NOT** establish justice, but instead, "*regulates*" child-murder.

Rep [Weston Newton](#) - Chairman of ConLaws Subcomm

Rep [Peter McCoy](#) - Member of ConLaws Subcomm; Chairman of full Judiciary Comm

Rep [Russell Fry](#) - Member of ConLaws Subcomm

Rep. [John McCravy](#) - Primary sponsor of H3020 Heartbeat Bill, Member of full Judiciary Comm.

Newton (H) 843-706-3880 (B) 843-706-6111 (O) 803-212-6810

McCoy (H) 843-452-4722 (B) 843-628-2855 (O) 803-734-3120

Fry (H) 843-650-9137 (O) 803-212-6781

McCravy (H) 864-396-3110 (B) 864-942-8501 (O) 803-212-6939

South Carolina: Heartbeat Bill [H3020](#) vs Personhood Bill [H3920](#)

This is the beginning of same old legislative process which has played out in SC for most of the last 20 plus years, where incremental bills *regulating* child-murder are given priority over principled Personhood bills to **END** child-murder.

These incremental bills are **PERPETUATING** the "Abortion" Holocaust, which after more than 46 years now, has claimed [over 392,000 unborn lives in SC](#); [over 61 million in US](#).

Steve Lefemine
dir, Columbia Christians for Life