

# **Represent All**

**By Laura Cole**

“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” These three ideals, promised by the US Declaration of Independence as unalienable rights, form the basis of the American government. The government, designed to represent and protect its born or legalized citizens and their rights, should do so blindly and inclusively. Never should a government be allowed to pick which American life it chooses to protect. Unfortunately, there are Americans everyday being denied their rights due to a war over whether their existence is worthy of representation, or even whether they are considered to be alive or not!

How can you define a life? Is it defined as a beating heart, the ability to breath, think or act as a fully functioning human being? People with heart issues need a pacemaker to make their heart beat and sometimes people in comas need a ventilator to keep them breathing. You would not kill a person with a pacemaker or a ventilator just because they live with assistance. The same applies to a baby in its mother’s stomach, it needs its mom’s nourishment to grow, or a toddler learning to walk or talk, it need its parent’s loving attention to becoming a fully functioning person. Does this mean people living in a state of dependence do not not count as valid lives?

When you say life starts anywhere but at conception, you have then to state an alternative time, or prove what changes from one second to the next to turn a “nonliving” fetus into a valid life, and so far, no one has done that. So I can only conclude that life starts at its simplest form - the very beginning.

When you define life as beginning at conception, then the government must agree it's ideals begin at that moment too.

Some say that some American lives are not worthy of protection by their government, such as babies resulting from unplanned or teenage pregnancies. No doubt these are a troubling issue in America, but there are superior ways to prevent and deal with such things, such as adoption, motherhood, abstinence or access to birth control. While not without problems, these options vastly outweigh the grim solution to terminate a child's life. The government should protect all life and no one should cheat futures generations of their right to life.

Word Count 385