



Testimony of James Quarles, Southern Regional Coordinator  
Heritage Action for America  
August 17, 2022

**Position:** Expanding protections of life

Submitted to the South Carolina Senate Medical Affairs Committee

Chairman Verdin and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of protecting life. My name is James Quarles and I represent Heritage Action for America, a national grassroots organization with two million conservative activists nationwide, including thousands of South Carolinians.

The General Assembly is right to focus on protecting the lives of unborn children and women's health and safety. The *Dobbs* decision finally allows the elected representatives of the American people to end decades of injustice and save millions of babies with beating hearts from the abortion industry. Every life is precious and Heritage Action urges South Carolina to protect unborn life at all stages without prohibiting medical procedures necessary to save the life of the mother.

Heritage Action supports the following non-exhaustive list of policies to accomplish those goals:

- Enabling the Attorney General to enforce abortion law by prosecuting individuals who violate it;
- Criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the law with the exception of the mother, including licensing penalties for doctors;
- Banning the distribution of abortion-inducing drugs;
- Making it unlawful to aid, abet, or conspire to obtain an abortion;
- Making it unlawful to coerce, recruit, harbor, or traffic pregnant minors for the purpose of obtaining an abortion.

The need for effective and overlapping enforcement mechanisms is significant in an environment in which abortion providers are seeking ways around pro-life laws and in which pro-abortion prosecutors are openly threatening not to enforce the law.

Life-saving procedures to treat ectopic pregnancies or the aftermath of an unintentional miscarriage are not abortion, and therefore would not be within the scope of a prohibition of abortion.

We urge this committee and the General Assembly to defend life by passing a strong pro-life bill including these policies during its special legislative session.