



November 6, 2014

Louisville Metro Council
601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Re: Oppose Resolution R-193-14 Supporting Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) initiative.

Dear Council Member,

The Right to Life of Louisville and the Kentucky Right to Life Association on behalf of our members, donors, state-wide affiliates, and unborn children in the Commonwealth urge you to oppose the resolution supporting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

There are excellent reasons why the CEDAW has never been ratified since it was submitted to the Senate 34 years ago, and why it should not be supported by the Louisville Metro Council.

Though the word "abortion" does not appear in the text of the CEDAW itself, that hasn't stopped the official U.N. CEDAW compliance committee, as well as other official bodies including the European Parliament, from interpreting article 12 of CEDAW to include promotion of abortion.

Article 12 reads *"State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health-care services, including those related to family planning."*

The official U.N. CEDAW committee has consistently exceeded its mandate by using article 12 as the basis for pressuring at least 83 different U.N. member nations to weaken or repeal laws protecting unborn children. Among the targets of such criticisms by the CEDAW Committee have been Ireland ("The Committee is concerned that, with very limited exceptions, abortion remains illegal in Ireland"); Poland (in January 2007); Mexico ("The Committee recommends that all states of Mexico should review their legislation so that, where necessary, women are granted access to rapid and easy abortion"); and Portugal ("The Committee is concerned about the restrictive abortion laws in place in Portugal").

The CEDAW Committee has explicitly held that nations should provide public funding of abortion, and has criticized nations that have laws in place to allow medical professionals to opt out of providing abortions.

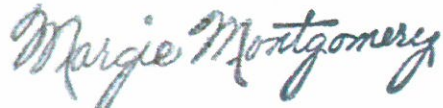
It is not only the wide network of state, national and international pro-life organizations, including the Holy See, that acknowledge that the CEDAW Committee has used article 12 to expand abortion around the world. Here is how the Center for Reproductive Rights (previously known as the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy) distilled it in its 2002 report "Bringing Rights to Bear" (pages 146-147):

"The CEDAW Committee has consistently criticized restrictive abortion laws, often framing such laws as a violation of the rights to life and health. It has asked states parties to review legislation making abortion illegal and has praised states parties for amending their restrictive legislation. . .The CEDAW Committee has expressed concern over the lack of availability to abortion services due to laws allowing for conscientious objection on the part of hospital personnel. The committee has made it clear that it considers it an infringement of women's reproductive rights when a government fails to ensure access to another provider willing to perform the procedure."

Moreover, the CEDAW is now regularly cited as requiring abortion on demand by groups in pro-abortion lobbying efforts in various nations, and in legal arguments advanced by organizations such as the Center for Reproductive Rights.

For these reasons, a vote in favor of this resolution is a vote in favor of all of these sweeping pro-abortion policies, and will be accurately so characterized in our Right to Life of Louisville scorecard of key roll call votes for the 2014 Louisville Metro Council. We urge you to oppose any support of CEDAW.

Sincerely,



Margie Montgomery
Executive Director
Right to Life of Louisville



Michael Janocik, BSME, MBA
Legislative Agent
Kentucky Right to Life Association