

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 12, 1975
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed resolution of the Cambridge City Council in support of a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution.

I have noted the points raised and want you to know how much I appreciate your letting me know the particular concerns of the Cambridge City Council with regard to this very serious issue.

I respect the right of those who petition Congress for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision. I have not supported any of the number of Amendments filed for this purpose but will keep an open mind as each is studied and examined in committee, in public hearings and, eventually, in debate by the full Senate. However, I question whether any Constitutional Amendment will obtain sufficient support because of the many legal, moral, social and medical questions which have sharply divided the views of most of the recognized experts in these areas.

Enclosed is a copy of my position paper on abortion, which I hope will be of interest to you. And, again, thank you for taking the time to share with me the views of the Cambridge City Council.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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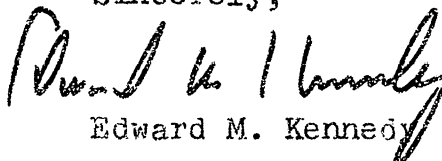
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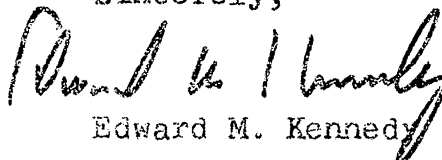
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RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

Nov 14 10 45 AM '75

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Abortion

The serious issue of abortion is one which has created deep and even bitter divisions among many Americans. The Supreme Court ruling which upheld the legality of early stage abortions, has intensified, rather than diminished, the concerns of many of those who question the moral, medical and theological aspects of this issue.

My own personal feeling is that once life has begun, no matter at what stage of growth, termination should not be decided merely by desire. I share the confidence of those who feel that America is willing to care for its unwanted as well as wanted children, protecting particularly those who cannot protect themselves. I share too the opinions of those who do not accept abortions as a response to our society's problems.

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Rather, it is my intention to continue to work for measures to insure that the Court's decision does not interfere with an individual's absolute right to follow the dictates of conscience in deciding whether to participate in an abortion. I also will support every effort to insure proper regulation of the abortion procedure. It is my firm belief that the Supreme Court should amend its ruling on the time limits of abortions to prevent complicated legal and moral questions similar to those arising from the case of the Boston physician charged with manslaughter after performing an abortion.

Much more factual information should be assembled and made available to the general public on the alternatives to abortion, by family counselling groups, hospitals, universities, health clinics and medical organizations. The option of adoption, for example, should be presented to a pregnant woman. There are thousands of women unable to bear children yet few children are available for adoption. Help is needed for the young girls, unmarried and pregnant, to keep her job, stay in school, and reconcile her religious and ethical concerns.

I will support legislation to equalize the rights and benefits of pregnant women. One example is insurance practices which now favor abortion and discriminate against life. These must be outlawed. At one university both married and unmarried students are covered for termination of pregnancy under their medical insurance. But what about the woman who wants to keep her child? Only if she is married and only if she pays an extra \$100 premium can she get basic maternity benefits.

I will support family counselling and life support services for those who want to save life, to establish some form of life support centers for every abortion clinic supported by public funds. The need for such services is evident by the fact that one in every three pregnant single women in our nation today is under the age of 17. I do not believe that abortion is the answer for these young mothers.

In the past Congresses I have supported amendments to insure that religious or moral beliefs of individuals and medical personnel be respected regarding the provision of abortion or sterilization.

United States Senate
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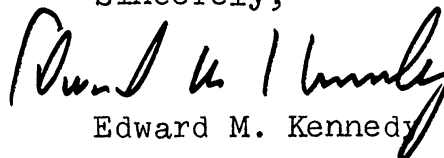
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Edward M. Kennedy

Comm. from Edward M. Kennedy, United States
Senator, relative to the Human Life
Amendment to the Constitution.

In City Council,
Nov. 17, 1975

10/17/75

Placed on File -