

Celebrity Doctor-Turned Republican Politician Does 'Shameless Flip-Flop' on Abortion

Dr. Mehmet Oz, host of *The Dr. Oz Show* and a U.S. Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, is being accused of refusing to clearly state when he believes life begins and of "shamelessly flip-flopping" on the abortion issue.

"I'm pro-life," Oz, who would be the first Muslim elected to the Senate, repeatedly said during an appearance Wednesday on Fox News *Primetime*. He also offered the caveat that his stance comes with three exceptions: rape, incest and the life of the mother.

Host Will Cain pressed the popular TV doctor on the issue, asking what he believes, "as both a doctor and a senatorial candidate," about "when life begins" and when the legal line should be drawn on abortion.

"As a doctor, I appreciate the sanctity of life. And, for that reason, I'm strongly pro-life, with the three exceptions I've mentioned," Dr. Oz said. "That's how I would vote."

Cain, though, pressed again, asking, "When does that life begin?"

In that moment, an ardent pro-lifer would generally deliver a response indicating belief that life begins at conception, but Oz took a more wordy and indistinct approach.

"You know, I get it. If I'm pro-life, then it's a decision that comes back to the sanctity of when you think life does begin," he said. "And I believe it begins when you're in the

mother's womb."

When Cain noted a baby is in the womb for the entirety of nine months—a fairly long time frame—Oz vaguely added, "Life's already started when you're in your mother's womb."

Again, he avoided stating a specific point. Watch the exchange unfold:

Oz's avoidance of saying "at conception" captured quite a bit of attention and reaction.

Fellow GOP senatorial candidate Jeff Bartos offered a pointed response on Twitter, taking aim at his opponent by calling his values into question.

"Life begins at conception," Bartos said. "This is what happens when your so-called 'values' end at the teleprompter."

Life begins at conception. This is what happens when your so-called "values" end at the teleprompter.

— Jeff Bartos (@jeff_bartos) December 16, 2021

Numerous critics also took to social media to call Oz a "RINO" (a "Republican in Name Only"), while others questioned his sincerity. Despite the sudden reaction, this isn't the first time questions have emerged.

Earlier this month, The Daily Beast pointed out past statements that purportedly show what the outlet calls a "shameless flip-flop on abortion" at the hands of Oz.

At the center of the dispute are comments Oz made during a 2019 appearance on the *Breakfast Club*.

The now-candidate then specifically spoke out about his concern over an Alabama law that would have made abortion practically illegal, saying he was "worried" about it. Oz also pushed back against the belief that the heart of an unborn

baby beats at 6 weeks, likening it, instead, to electrical impulses.

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