

DIANE BLACK
6TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



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September 9, 2015

Dear Majority Leader McConnell,

We write to encourage you to support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, introduced by Senator Lindsay Graham and cosponsored by 45 other members of the U.S. Senate.

As a coalition of pro-life women lawmakers at the federal level, we are devoted to measures that enhance the well-being of women and respect for the intrinsic value of every human life. We await with anticipation the day when the United States parts company with the six other countries that allow this gruesome procedure and when unborn children will not feel the excruciating pain of late-term abortion.

This bipartisan piece of legislation is the most important pro-life bill to pass the U.S. House of Representatives since the partial-birth abortion ban. Now the U.S. Senate has an opportunity to show the American people where it stands on late-term abortion. Moreover, you have the opportunity to show that you are willing to protect babies after five months of pregnancy. In recent weeks, we have had another dramatic reminder of the reality behind the destruction of these babies, whose bodies Planned Parenthood harvests through special methods designed to preserve their lungs, hearts, livers and other body parts for laboratory use.

This common-sense bill seeks to protect unborn children after 20 weeks based on their ability to feel excruciating pain. So far, women and children are being protected by these just and smart laws which have been passed in 15 state capitals with bipartisan majorities, and several more states are on their way. To complement this bill's success at the state level, it is time the federal government protects women and children across the land and catches up with the growing body of scientific evidence of pain and the advancement of perinatal medicine.

Today, current law allows for abortion on-demand through the 9th month of pregnancy. This practice is unjust and brutal, especially when perinatal medicine treats unborn babies as young as 16 weeks post-fertilization, and pain medication for unborn patients is routinely administered as standard medical practice in cases of fetal surgery.

Even more appallingly, the United States is one of just seven countries worldwide that allow elective abortions past 20 weeks of pregnancy. By supporting the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act you will help the United States complete the next step by reforming the radical abortion policies that are shared only by China, North Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Canada and the Netherlands.

This is also popular legislation. Just last November, a Quinnipiac survey found that 60% of the American people support limiting abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy including 56% of independents and 46% of Democrats.

Again, as a coalition of pro-life women lawmakers at the federal level, and on behalf of the unborn who cannot speak for themselves, we request that you lend your support to this constitutional, bi-partisan, and life-saving legislation. We're looking forward to seeing this bill debated and adopted in the U.S. Senate soon.

Sincerely,



Diane Black
Member of Congress



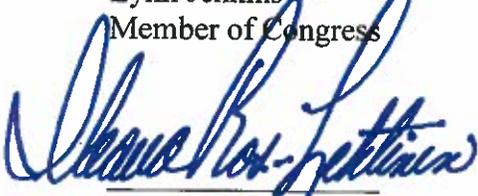
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
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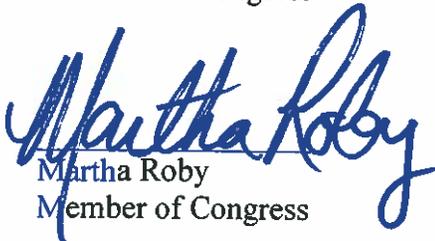
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