THE BAN ON PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION PASSES AGAIN!

Will activist judges let it stand, or will it fall prey to special interests again?

The Senate recently passed another ban on partial birth abortion and President Bush has indicated that he will sign the legislation. However, abortion-rights activists have said that they will immediately appeal to sympathetic courts to place an injunction on the ban until courts can once again decide on the constitutionality of the bill’s language. The President stated while on a trip to Asia, “This is very important legislation that will end an abhorrent practice and continue to build a culture of life in America. I look forward to signing it.” The Senate voted 64-34 to ban the procedure. All four senators in Kansas and Missouri voted to ban the procedure. The bill defines partial-birth abortion as delivery of a fetus “until, in the case of a head first presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother, or in the case of the breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus.” This procedure is normally carried out in the second and third trimester of a woman’s pregnancy. There is an exception for the life of the mother.

An immediate test

Talcott Camp, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union said that once the legislation is referred to the courts the case could take two to three years to work its way through the process. The ACLU will represent the National Abortion Federation in the lawsuit.

Pro-life and pro-abortion response

Senator Rick Santorum(R-PA), the bill’s sponsor stated, “Today we have reached a significant victory as we continue to build a more compassionate society and a culture that values every human life.” Senator Tom Harkin, who voted against the bill stated, “I say to the women of America that this is step one…[To the overturning of Roe v. Wade] Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood, said that the bill remained unconstitutional because it “prevents women, in consultation with their families and trusted doctors, from making decisions about their own health.” [Emphasis Added] Abortion advocates refuse to call the procedure “partial-birth abortion” and prefer to call it “intact dilation and extraction (Emphasis Added) abortion. Seventy percent of Americans polled (Gallup poll in January 2003) favor the ban on the procedure no matter what it is called.

Kansans for Life statement

Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, in a press release following the passage of the ban stated, “We are especially happy that official statistics from Kansas prove that “health” exceptions allow abortion on demand, were used in the Senate debate to ban partial birth abortion in March of 2003 and likely today. Although the Kansas statistics also show that none of the 2,6000 plus late-term abortions in Kansas over the last five years, was needed to save the mothers life, limiting exceptions to an imminent threat to the mothers life from a physical cause, is much preferable to “health” exceptions so broad that they rend bans meaningless.” “The facts are there. It’s time the abortion industry was prevented from playing games with babies; lives and voter’s head. Their version of “health” automatically includes undefined mental and emotion health. It is nothing more than cover for an abortion industry run amuck, an abortion industry with no shame at all. While we are disgusted by what the Kansas statistics show, we are proud to have played a part in making sure they got to key senators during the debate…. Kansas has one of the leading third term abortionists in the country…Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas.

What do Kansas statistics show?

Kansas statistics show that of the 2,639 abortions past 22 weeks (1,524 of them on viable babies) done since 1998, NONE were done to prevent the death of the mother. [www.kdhe.state.ks.us/hci/absdumm.html] (Click on summary for year desired and see pages 10-13.) The determination of “mental health exception” is done by the abortionist, contrary to Ms. Feldt’s analysis of “trusted doctor” and one other doctor who need not be a mental health specialist. There is no prohibition to the same doctor being used over and over for the second opinion as long as he/she is technically unaffiliated with the abortionist. The breaking down of the mental v. physical health exception is done only in the case of the partial birth abortion method.

In 2002, according to statistics, 564 late term (over 22 weeks) abortions were performed. Sixty-three percent (365) were termed “viable”…that is capable of life outside the womb.

A gruesome procedure that ends with death

A partial birth abortion takes three days to complete…dilation of the cervix for two days followed by a forceps partial delivery of the baby except for the head. At this point surgical scissors are inserted into the head to allow for a catheter to be inserted to aspirate (suck out) the baby’s brain, causing collapse of the skull. Dr. Martin Haskell, who developed this procedure, noted that the three-day process often requires additional medical treatment for effects such as severe cramping, sleep disturbances and blood loss. Obviously the baby requires no further “treatment.” For a complete analysis of the procedure: [www.cwfa.org/printerfriendly.asp?id=3399&department=cwa&categoryid=life]

Action: Pray that the “hidden things be revealed” to the American public; that the courts who will hear this case will hear the cry of the unborn who is being tortured and that justice and respect for all life be restored to this land. Thank our senators for voting for this ban and thank President Bush for signing the bill.