

FACT SHEET ON WHY TO SUPPORT THE FETUS FARMING PROHIBITION ACT (S.3504)

(Sens. Santorum & Brownback)

➤ **What does the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act do?**

The Fetus Farming Prohibition Act (S.3504) is intended to prevent the creation and gestation of human beings, for the purpose of harvesting ‘spare’ organs, body parts and tissue.

More specifically, the bill amends the Federal Fetal Tissue Research Statute (42 USC Sec. 289 g-2) to prohibit persons or entities from soliciting or accepting human fetal tissue from a pregnancy—in either a human or a non-human uterus—that was initiated to provide such tissue.

➤ **Should a human be turned into an ‘organ factory’?**

Human beings are ends in themselves. It has always been wrong to use a human as a means to an end, and it is beneath human dignity to turn humans into commodities or ‘organ factories,’ as would be the case with Fetus Farming. Just as it is wrong to harvest organs or tissue from death row inmates, so too is it wrong to harvest organs or tissue from a human being, gestating in a uterus.

➤ **How would this legislation be enforced?**

Present law prohibits the purchase of fetal tissue from an induced abortion and is enforced by either fines or up to 10 years imprisonment or both. These existing penalties would also apply to violations of the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act.

➤ **Why do we need a federal prohibition on Fetus Farming?**

Over the past few years, there have been a number of reports of Fetus Farming being explored in animals. Of note, ‘proof of principle’ studies have been conducted in which kidneys and livers have been harvested from calves and livers have been harvested from mice.

We should not subject human beings to a similar fate. This legislation would help to ensure that human beings are not subjected to organ, body part, and tissue harvesting.