

silent. While Concerned Women for America (CWA) would like to see abortion ended altogether, the 20-week ban is a crucial step in the right direction. It reflects America's recognition that babies in the womb are more than just fetal tissue. They have undeniable humanity; therefore, they deserve to be treated with dignity.

## LATE-TERM ABORTION AND WOMEN

In itself, abortion during any stage of development poses both mental and physical health risks to women. However, studies show that the further along a woman is in her pregnancy, the higher chance she has of facing dangerous complications such as hemorrhaging, infection, or even death. For an abortion performed on a woman during her 12th or 13th week of pregnancy, the likelihood of a complication is between 3-6 percent. When the woman is in her second trimester, the complication rate increases to 50 percent or higher.<sup>11</sup>

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**59% OF WOMEN & 61% OF MEN SUPPORT  
THE 20-WEEK BAN ON ABORTION<sup>11</sup>**

### Endnotes

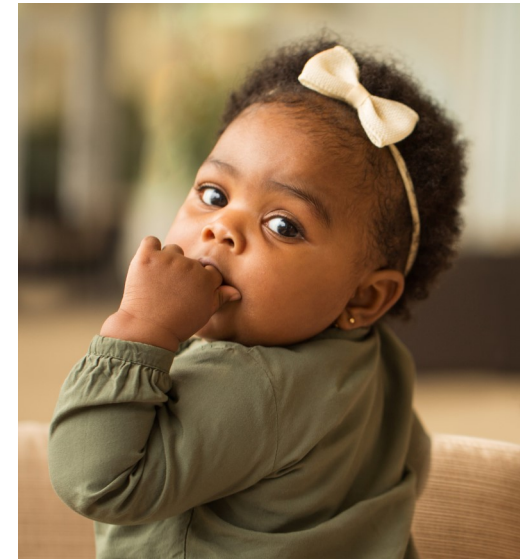
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# ABORTION

THE  
ULTIMATE DISCRIMINATION



A Resource of Concerned Women for America

# ABORTION IS THE ULTIMATE FORM OF DISCRIMINATION

It's target is the most vulnerable in society, especially babies of a certain race, sex, and those diagnosed with disabilities. The common link between sex-selective and disability-selective abortions: both sex and disabilities are typically determined around 18-20 weeks' gestation. For this reason, making abortion illegal past 20-weeks gestation would significantly decrease this horrific discrimination and benefit the health of women.

## RACE

Since 1973, abortion has reduced the black population by over 25 percent. According to the Center for Disease Control, twice as many African-Americans have died from abortion than have died from AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer, and heart disease combined. 84 percent of Planned Parenthood clinics are located in minority communities. African-Americans make up less than thirteen percent of the female population, yet they have around 35 percent of the abortions in America. <sup>1</sup>

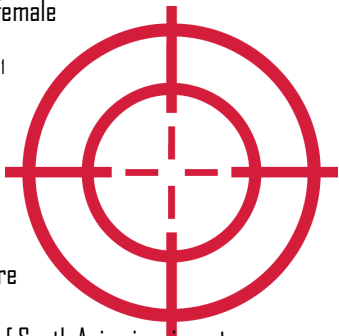
## SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION

Sex-selective abortion is not illegal in the United States and happens more often than many

Americans would believe. In a study of South Asian immigrant families in America who had pursued sex selection, they found that: "40 percent of the women interviewed had terminated prior pregnancies with female fetuses and that 89 percent of women carrying female fetuses in their current pregnancy pursued an abortion." <sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, according to research done over a 13-year span, "The observed boy-birth percentages are consistent with over 2,000 "missing" Chinese and Indian girls in the United States." <sup>3</sup>

## DISABILITY-SELECTIVE ABORTION



According to disabilities groups, the majority of abortions done on babies diagnosed with disabilities typically occur after 20 weeks, which may correlate with the fact that the most informative diagnostic procedures are done between 18 and 20 weeks' gestation. <sup>4</sup> The lives of 67% to 85 percent of babies prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome are terminated. <sup>5</sup> Yet...

- "99 percent of people with Down syndrome are happy with their lives
- 97 percent of people with Down syndrome like who they are
- 99 percent of parents said they love their child with Down syndrome
- 97 percent of brothers/sisters, ages 9-11, said they love their sibling" <sup>6</sup>

## AT 20 WEEKS

The U.S. is just one of only seven countries that allow abortion past 20-weeks. According to Doctors on Fetal Pain, there is "substantial medical and scientific evidence that unborn children can feel pain by 20 weeks after fertilization." For example:

- ◆ Pain receptors (nociceptors) are present throughout the unborn child's entire body by no later than 20 weeks after fertilization and nerves link these receptors to the brain's thalamus and subcortical plate by no later than 20 weeks.
- ◆ By eight weeks after fertilization, the unborn child reacts to touch. After 20 weeks, the unborn child reacts to stimuli that would be recognized as painful if applied to an adult human, for example by recoiling.
- ◆ For the purposes of surgery on unborn children, fetal anesthesia is routinely administered and is associated with a decrease in stress hormones compared to their level when painful stimuli are applied without such anesthesia. <sup>7</sup>

## THE 20-WEEK BAN (PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT)

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, sometimes referred to as the 20 Week Ban, protects unborn

“It is my prayer that ... America finally opens her eyes to the humanity of these little victims and the inhumanity of what is being done to them.” <sup>8</sup>

-Former Rep. Trent Franks (R-Arizona)

children nationwide after 20 weeks' gestation based on the scientific fact that an unborn child can feel pain in utero. This legislation also protects women who face a substantially higher risk of complications from a late-term abortion. The latest version of the bill passed in the House in 2017 but failed to pass the Senate in 2018. <sup>9</sup>

Below is the initially proposed bill language:

"[This bill] Prohibits the abortion from being performed if the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or greater, except: (1) where necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, excluding psychological or emotional conditions; or (2) where the pregnancy is the result of rape, or the result of incest against a minor, if the rape has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency, or if the incest has been reported at any time prior to the abortion to an appropriate law enforcement agency or to a government agency legally authorized to act on reports of child abuse or neglect." <sup>10</sup>

THE U.S. IS 1 OF ONLY 7 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THAT PERMIT ELECTIVE ABORTIONS PAST 20 WEEKS.



Americans recognize the inhumanity of abortion past 20 weeks. If the majority believes a 20-week ban is common sense legislation, why doesn't U.S. law reflect that? For the sake of the most vulnerable in society, the American people can no longer keep