

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

Tomorrow, hundreds of thousands of Americans from across the country will gather in Washington to take part in the 45th Annual March for Life. To coincide with the march, we write to respectfully request that you publicly announce your plans for a Senate vote on S. 2311, the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*.

As you know, the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* would prohibit abortion after 20 weeks—the point at which scientific evidence shows that unborn children can feel pain. The United States is currently one of only seven countries in the world that permit elective abortion after 20 weeks. Polling numbers consistently show that the majority of Americans support a ban on abortion at this stage of pregnancy; these Americans no longer want to keep the company of countries like China and North Korea.

Twenty states have already passed legislation protecting unborn children beginning at 20 weeks of pregnancy. As pro-life marchers from every corner of our nation come to Washington this week, it is important that we announce a vote on the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*. A vote would make our constituents immediately aware of the members of Congress who support elective late-term abortions and oppose extending legal protection to pain-capable unborn children nationwide.

Enclosed please find a letter from the leaders of pro-life organizations who represent millions of individuals and families across the country, voicing their support for a vote on this bill. We are all grateful for your pro-life leadership, and we look forward to seeing the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* receive consideration on the Senate floor soon.

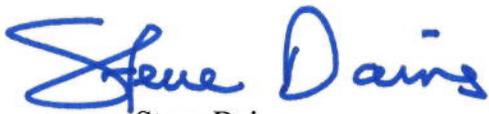
Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
S-208, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We, the undersigned representing millions of Americans write to voice our support for a vote in the United States Senate on the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act." This bill prohibits abortion after 20 weeks, since there is overwhelming scientific evidence that at this age unborn children feel pain.

Science continues to reveal more about fetal development and the fact unborn babies, at 20 weeks after fertilization (or 22 weeks gestational age), can feel severe pain. Several studies reveal that babies in their mid-second trimester respond to invasive procedures performed at 18-20 weeks with an elevated heart rate and secretion of stress hormones.

The child is not the only one who suffers in this barbaric procedure. Additionally, studies have shown that abortion poses significant risks to maternal health by 20 weeks gestation. A study in *Obstetrics and Gynecology* (L.A. Bartlett et al., Risk factors for legal induced abortion-related mortality in the United States, *Obstetrics Gynecology* 103(4):729-37 (2004)) noted that "The risk of death associated with abortion increases with the length of pregnancy, from one death for every one million abortions at or before eight weeks gestation to one per 29,000 abortions at sixteen to twenty weeks and one per 11,000 abortions at twenty-one or more weeks." In all those cases, the result for the child is the same – death.

Currently, 20 states have passed similar legislation protecting unborn children beginning at the fifth month of pregnancy. These protections must be afforded to the unborn nationwide. A study by the [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#) found that the United States is one of only seven countries in the world that permit elective abortion past 20 weeks. It is high time that U.S. Federal law catches up with the rest of the world.

Again, we urge you to immediately schedule a vote for Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," to protect unborn children at 20 weeks and later from painful late abortions.

Sincerely,

Tom McClusky
President
March for Life Action

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America LAC

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life of America

David Christensen
Vice President for Public Policy
Family Research Council

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious
Liberty Commission

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life

Maureen Ferguson
Senior Policy Advisor
The Catholic Association

David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)
CEO
Christian Medical Association

Jonathan Imbody
Director
Freedom2Care