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Members of Congress Propagate the "Anesthesia Myth"

Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) said during U.S. Senate floor debate on the bill (Nov. 8), "The fetus dies during the first dose of anesthesia."

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Tx.) said during U.S. House floor debate on the bill (Nov. 1), "This debate has injected an ugly picture of incorrect representation about this medical procedure simply to inflame your emotions. The fetus is already deceased based on an excessive amount of anesthesia."

Congressman Sam Giedjenson (D-Ct.) said in letters to constituents, "Particularly in cases of severe fetal abnormality, it is misleading to imply that the fetus is alive or experiencing sensation during the abortion, because neurological fetal demise (brain death) is confirmed before the procedure begins."