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January 9, 2015

RE: Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 36)

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the nationwide federation of state right-to-life organizations, urges you to cosponsor the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, introduced on January 6 as H.R. 36 by Reps. Trent Franks and Marsha Blackburn.

This vital legislation contains legislative findings and operative language very similar to bills already enacted in ten states, beginning in 2010. Like those state laws, H.R. 36 contains findings of fact regarding the medical evidence that unborn children experience pain at least by 20 weeks after fertilization (which is about the start of the sixth month), and prohibits abortion after that point, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother, or in cases of rape and incest reported prior to the abortion to appropriate authorities.

Some of the extensive evidence that unborn children have the capacity to experience pain, at least by 20 weeks, is available on the NRLC website at <https://www.nrlc.org/abortion/fetalspain/>

Late abortions are not “rare.” At least 275 facilities offer abortions past the point that this legislation would permit. These late abortions are performed using a variety of techniques, including a method in which the unborn child’s arms and legs are twisted off by brute manual force, using a long stainless steel clamping tool. A medical illustration of this common method (“D&E”) is posted here: <https://www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/deabortiongraphic/>

In a nationwide poll of 1,623 registered voters in November 2014, The Quinnipiac University Poll found that 60% would support a law such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks, while only 33% opposed such legislation. Women voters split 59-35% in support of such a law, while independent voters supported it by 56-36%.

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The National Right to Life Committee urges you to join the campaign to protect pain-capable unborn children by co-sponsoring the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, and by working for its expeditious enactment. To accomplish this, please contact Bobby Cornett in Congressman Franks' office, bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susan T. Muskett, NRLC's Senior Legislative Counsel, at 202-626-8820, or via e-mail at federallegislation@nrlc.org. Thank you for your consideration of NRLC's requests on this vital legislation.

Respectfully,



Douglas Johnson
Legislative Director



Susan T. Muskett, J.D.
Senior Legislative Counsel