

September 8, 2017

Dear Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of millions of pro-life individuals and families across the country, we write today to thank you for your pro-life leadership in Congress and to express our appreciation for your commitment to bring the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act” (H.R. 36) up for a vote in the House of Representatives this fall. This bill provides commonsense protections for unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization, a point at which there is significant scientific evidence that abortion inflicts tremendous pain on these vulnerable human beings.

As you know, the United States is out of step with the rest of the modern world when it comes to even the most modest abortion limitations. Currently, we are one of only seven countries that allow elective abortion after 20 weeks, putting us in the company of major human rights abusers like North Korea, Vietnam, and China. It is well past time to remove our nation from this notorious list of nations.

Polling shows that at least 60% of Americans support federal limits on abortion after 20 weeks. When demographic factors are broken down, the 20-week limit also enjoys majority support from women (60%), independents (56%), and young adults (52%).

Recent political discourse about abortion shows that the extreme nature of our current legal regime does not have the backing of the American people. The Democratic party is embroiled in an internal debate over whether there is room in the party for those who favor even the most modest protections for vulnerable unborn children. The truth is that 275 Democratic legislators, both men and women, have already voted in their state to support limits on abortion at 20 weeks. Polling shows that 46% of registered Democrats support modest protections like H.R. 36. By acting on this proposal, Congress is advancing an idea with broad, bipartisan appeal.

As of today, 20 states across the country protect unborn children at halfway through pregnancy with even more states planning to follow suit in the coming year.

H.R. 36 accords with modern science showing that children in the womb feel pain. In some cases, an unborn or premature baby’s reception of pain is even more extreme than that of an older baby. Stopping brutal and painful abortions from being carried out on more than 12,000 unborn children each year is a reasonable and urgently needed step.

When the House votes on this bill, it will begin the process of fulfilling the commitments of the Republican Party platform, many Members of Congress, and President Trump—to enact legislation protecting pain-capable unborn children.

Sincerely,

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