



February 25, 2004

The Conservative Viewpoint

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

Two Victims, Two Crimes.

- Pregnant women are an increasing target of violence.
- Very often, the perpetrator's *primary* target is the baby in utero.
- A number of states have chosen to combat this tragic problem by providing for the prosecution of two crimes against a person who commits violence against a pregnant woman.
- However, under current federal law, an individual who commits a federal crime of violence against a pregnant woman receives no additional punishment for killing or injuring the woman's unborn child during the commission of the crime.
- This is nonsensical and morally wrong.
- The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (H.R. 1997) would provide that an individual who injures or kills an unborn child during the commission of one of nearly seventy specified federal crimes against the mother would be guilty of a separate offense against the unborn child.
- This legislation would help deter such heinous acts of violence against women and unborn children.
- If an illegal act has two victims, shouldn't it count as two crimes?

For more information on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, contact Ashlie Van Meter in Rep. Melissa Hart's office at (202) 225-2565 or John Cusey with the Pro-Life Caucus (Rep. Chris Smith) at (202) 225-3765.
