



Message of the Week

June 4-10, 2003

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

“Partial-birth abortion will soon be illegal.”

- The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (H.R. 760), which is scheduled for consideration on the House floor on June 4th, would make it illegal in the United States for a physician to perform a partial-birth abortion.
- Partial-birth abortion is a procedure in which a pregnant woman’s cervix is forcibly dilated over a three-day time period. On the third day, the child is pulled feet first through the birth canal until his or her entire body, except for the head, is outside the womb. While the fetus is stuck in this position, dangling partly out of the mother’s body, and just a few inches from a completed birth, the physician inserts and opens scissors into the base of the baby’s skull, creating a hole in the baby’s head. The physician then either crushes the baby’s skull with instruments or suctions out the baby’s brain. Since the head then becomes small enough to slip through the mother’s cervix, the physician pulls the now-lifeless body the rest of the way out of its mother, and discards the baby’s corpse as medical waste. <http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/PartialBirthPB03.pdf>
- Some proponents of partial-birth abortion claim that the bill needs an exception for the “health” of the mother. But since the procedure takes three days, as maintained by Ohio abortionist Martin Haskell, M.D., who is credited with inventing the procedure, how can partial-birth abortion ever be done as an emergency procedure to protect the health of the mother? In other words, if a woman’s health is in imminent danger because of her baby in utero, why use a procedure that takes three days? <http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/PartialBirthPB03.pdf>
- Plus, what is a threat to the “health” of the mother varies from doctor to doctor. For example, abortionists have cited things like depression, agoraphobia (fear of open spaces), and even just being a teenager as justifications for partial-birth abortions. Furthermore, Dr. Haskell has admitted that most of the thousands of partial-birth abortions that he has performed have been for purely elective reasons. <http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/PBAex03.pdf>
- After the House and Senate meet to remove extraneous provisions added on the Senate floor, the President will sign this historic legislation that was twice vetoed by President Bill Clinton. That means that the repugnant procedure of partial-birth abortion will become illegal nationwide this year.