

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Constituent to President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	04/03/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20017

FOLDER TITLE:

Abortion - Partial Birth [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1464

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

Women's Domestic Issues

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Memo

FROM: Jim Castelli

TO: Alexis Herman, Melanne Verveer, John Hart, Marilyn DiGiacobbe

RE: More thoughts on the veto

April 15, 1996

After reading more reaction, having a conversation or two, and thinking about all of this, I have a few additional thoughts that I hope will be helpful.

1. I read over the President's statement and the women's comments and I found them very persuasive. Instead of being on the defensive, the President and his supporters should ask right-to-lifers, bishops, etc., "What would YOU tell these women to do?"

2 I don't think the veto will change many votes one way or the other, but it has changed the climate of the President's relationship with the Catholic community. The one-issue people, pro-life or pro-choice, really don't have anywhere else to go in 1996, and that includes Ross Perot.

3 Part of that change involves the propaganda victory that right-to-lifers scored by making "partial birth" abortion an issue. Many people, obviously including bishops, see this as "infanticide." The response goes like this: "Is there no abortion procedure that the President will oppose?" I think the President's statement answers this question, but it will continue to come up.

4. Many people, particularly the "Commonweal Catholics" cited by Mary McGrory, see the veto as the President's caving in to pro-choice groups. Even press reports highlight the President's consistent pro-choice stand.

5. For the pro-lifers, "partial-birth abortion" represents almost a last gasp, the magic "gotcha" they believe will turn public opinion their way, the reason they will claim that abortion will work for them in 1996 when it worked against them in 1992.

6. I think there's an added issue for bishops and Commonweal Catholics. It reminds me very much of the Carter campaign in 1976. Carter was so close to the bishops on every issue that they really couldn't understand why he disagreed with them on abortion. Their logic saw a connection between abortion and the rest of the issues and they thought his would, too. They took Carter's position personally. I think they're doing the same thing with the President. They agree with him on less than they agreed with Carter, but still far more than they agree with the congressional Republicans. They can't

understand the President's position because of their own blinders, so they attribute it to bad faith and outside influence.

This leads me to several recommendations:

- "Dance with the one that brung ya." The Catholic strategy that helped elect the President will help re-elect him. It would be a disaster to try to make a radical change.
- "Safe, legal, and RARE." How many times do people have to throw that back at the White House before we see a comprehensive strategy/program to make abortion rare? It's long past time. This is an initiative that fits into both the first and second-term agendas and it's time to move it to the front burner, and not just in a cosmetic way.
- "Nobody tells me what to do." The President should confront the view that he's in the pro-choice pocket head on. He should say that he resents having his sincerity challenged on this and say that nobody, including pro-choice groups, tells him what to do.
- "We just disagree." The President should spell out areas where he disagrees with pro-choice groups. He should probably look for a visible issue on which to disagree with them.
- "In Your Face." In 1992, Gov. Clinton impressed people by talking to hostile audiences. He should defend his veto to a Catholic audience and critique the pro-choice movement before a pro-choice group.

IMPORTANT

FAX

Date: Monday, April 15, 1996

Time: 4:13:00 PM

Pages: 1

To: Melanne Verveer

From: Jim Castelli

Castelli Enterprises Inc.

Subject:

Comments:

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, denounced President Clinton's veto of a bill banning the so-called partial-birth abortion procedure.

"I do so not only from the resources of our faith, but also as a citizen, who like millions of others, fears that this veto further imperils the human rights principles that have guided our nation for over 200 years," said the cardinal in a statement released shortly after the president's action April 10.

Cardinal Law urged lawmakers to override the veto.

The measure reached the president's desk April 5, after a bipartisan House vote approved the Senate version of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The president had threatened the veto since February when he wrote to lawmakers asking for an amendment that would include an exception for the procedure in cases where the mother's health was in danger.

Lawmakers did not add this broader exception, but the bill explicitly allowed the procedure to be performed to save the life of the mother.

The president struck down the bill in an emotional ceremony that included the testimony of five women who had undergone the procedure in the late stages of pregnancies they said involved fetal disorders.

In vetoing the bill, Clinton called the procedure a "potentially lifesaving, certainly health-saving" measure for "a small but extremely vulnerable group of women and families in this country, just a few hundred a year."

The procedure involves inducing labor to partially deliver a fetus, then using surgical scissors into the base of the infant's head. Scissors are then used to remove the brains, allowing for easier removal of the rest of the fetus.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony also condemned the president's action, comparing it to other "extraordinary attacks upon human life" such as the beginning of world wars and terrorist attacks.

"That he would make himself the herald of the 'culture of death' as we Christians celebrate the triumph of life in the resurrection of Jesus saddens me even more," he said.

in a world so filled with violence against children, it is

incomprehensible that anyone could knowingly support such violence, particularly a president who has so often expressed concern for the welfare of our nation's children," said Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua.

Bishop James T. McHugh of Camden, N.J., called the president's action "horrendous and said it is "further evidence of his pro-abortion commitment."

Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey urged Catholics and all Americans who respect life to "sit up and take notice."

"Thoughtful Americans should keep this in mind as they ponder their choices on election day," he said.

Other leaders and groups also condemned the veto.

"In order to pay a political debt to pro-abortion activists, President Clinton will allow thousands of living, late-term babies to be mostly delivered and then painfully killed," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee.

"Although 71 percent of voters nationwide support a ban on partial-birth abortion ... today the president has shown himself to be uncompromising in his advocacy of abortion," said Rep. Charles T. Canady, R-Fla., who introduced the bill in the House. He was citing results of a national poll conducted by the Tarrance Group that was released Jan. 18.

"I believe the American public will find this unacceptable," Canady said, adding that he intended to discuss with House leaders the possibility of taking up the bill again to override the veto.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said Clinton's argument that he could not sign the bill without a health exception was "phony."

"If Bill Clinton's 'health' exception were incorporated into the bill, not one abortion would be prohibited," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kan., who will undoubtedly be the Republican presidential candidate opposing Clinton later this year, said he was "profoundly disappointed" by the veto.

"A partial-birth abortion blurs the line between abortion and infanticide, and crosses an ethical and legal line we must never cross," he said. "President Clinton now stands on the wrong side of this line."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said

the bill outlawed ``a uniquely barbaric method of abortion," adding that he feared ``a coarsening of our national conscience if we tolerate this form of torture."

Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin said he was ``deeply offended and bewildered by President Clinton's veto."

``For over 10 years, I have preached the importance of a `consistent ethic of life,'" he said. This ethic serves as an intellectual framework and a motivation for action, but ``also serves as an instrument for evaluating the service of our elected officials with regard to life issues, including abortion."

.. ``It is not enough to say that one is opposed to abortion or to say that abortion should be `safe, legal and rare,'" he said, quoting the president. ``I regret to say that while I and my brother bishops are consistent, the president is not."

Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant, head of the 1.5 million-member Knights of Columbus, said it appears the president is ``simply too beholden to his most extreme pro-abortion supporters to take even this very limited action of behalf of unborn children. We are all the losers."

By this veto, the president did a great disservice to Catholic Americans ``who will provide the pivotal vote in this year's elections," said Michael A. Ferguson, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for America in Washington.

``Catholic Americans will not forget in November that we need a president who will promote a respect for all human life," he said.

John E. Curley Jr., president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, said the president's veto ``represents flawed moral leadership that runs fundamentally contrary to the beliefs of an overwhelming majority of Americans."

He said it ``positions the president on the extreme end of the abortion debate, and ... represents a serious political miscalculation."

In the wake of the veto, Benedictine Father Matthew Habiger, president of Human Life International, asked, ``Has (the president) no conscience?"

``Clinton is nothing less than an accessory to murder," said the head of the worldwide pro-life group based in Gaithersburg, Md. ``The president who promised to make abortion `safe, legal and rare' is every bit as guilty as the abortionist."

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, a pro-life network of more than 40,000 Catholic priests and deacons based in Staten Island, N.Y., said the procedure "is one of many proofs of how extreme the so called 'pro-choice' movement is."

"Anyone who intends to speak or vote in favor of this president should be informed of what partial-birth abortion is," he said, "and about what Mr. Clinton has done to see that it remains part of American life."

"Unlike most Americans, Clinton supports abortion-on-demand for all nine months of pregnancy," said Beverly LaHaye, president and founder of Concerned Women for America, a nationwide public policy organization based in Washington.

"This veto will isolate him from mainstream America and prove just how far left his policies are," she said.

Clarke D. Forsythe, president of Americans United for Life, a public interest law firm based in Chicago, said the veto "is likely to lead to the proliferation of this horrendous procedure for late-term abortions."

"Editorials in Catholic newspapers also denounced the veto.

"There will be no quivering lower lip, trembling voice or tear from President Clinton over these innocent babies," said an editorial scheduled for the April 12 issue of The Pilot, newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese. "What a continuing disappointment he remains to the pro-life movement."

An editorial for the April 12 issue of The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said the veto was "a great disappointment to pro-lifers."

"What makes this setback different from others the pro-life movement has suffered during the past four years is that this time there are others who share pro-lifers' frustration and anger at the president's action," the editorial stated.

Not all reaction to the veto was negative, however.

"We applaud and commend President Clinton's veto of the abortion-ban bill and his strong commitment to women, families and the freedom to choose," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League in Washington.

"President Clinton's action demonstrates the importance of a pro-choice

presidency in safeguarding reproductive rights against a Congress intent on returning women, step by step, to the back alleys," she added in a statement.

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APRIL 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO LEON PANETTA

Alexis Herman
George Stephanopoulos
Melanne Verveer ✓

FROM: Betsy Myers
Judy Gold

SUBJECT: Support for H.R.1833 Veto

The women's community's support for the President's veto of H.R.1833 has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Attached is an index together with copies of the support letters/statements we have received to date applauding the President's veto of H.R.1833. The index reflects, where appropriate, additional amplification efforts of the groups.

These letters have been forwarded to Presidential Correspondence for appropriate reply.

**Letters of Support and other organized support for the
President's Veto of H.R. 1833**

American Association of University Women

(In addition to a press statement they are applauding the Veto in their alert that is sent to 150,000 members)

American Civil Liberties Union

(Supportive press statement as well)

American Medical Women's Association

(distributing press release to 13,000 women physicians and medical students)

American Public Health Association

Catholics for a Free Choice

Center for Reproductive Law and Policy

(press release distributed and TV and radio interview scheduled all week)

Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL)

(distributed press release to over 100 outlets and 36 affiliates for distribution to local reporters)

NAF(National Abortion Federation)

(Press release, sample op-eds arranged television, radio and print amplification as well financing travel for the patients/spokeswomen to take their stories on the road)

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

New Mexico Medical Group

NOW/Legal Defense and Education Fund

NOW-National Organization for Women

(NOW has 270,000 members who will hear of NOW's commendation of the President. In addition NOW is holding a march against the right in San Francisco for thousands of Women and one of their key note speakers will be Claudia Ades who met yesterday with the President)

People For the American Way Action Fund

(distributed press release as well to 300,000 member organization)

Religious Coalition For Reproductive Choice

Marcy Love (founder of Personal Pac, Lead women in Republican Women for Durbin and Leading Republican Women for Clinton/Gore in 1992)

Republicans for Choice

Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma

Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Planned parenthood of Chicago Area

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

Planned Parenthood of Central of Central & Southern Indiana, Inc.

Planned Parenthood of Louisiana, Inc.

Boulder Clinic, Inc.

Planned Parenthood of Stark County

Planned Parenthood of Central Texas

Planned Parenthood of Austin

Planned Parenthood Center of Syracuse

Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa

Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso

Planned Parenthood of Central NewJersey

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington

The Society of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health

Planned Parenthood of North Central Indiana, Inc.

Illinois Planned Parenthood Council

Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock

Planned Parenthood Association of the Greater Peoria Area

Planned Parenthood of East central Illinois

Planned Parenthhod of Summit, Portage and Medina Counties

Planned Parenthood of Low Country

Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa

The Religious Community in Support of an Individual's Freedom to Choose

Planned Parenthood of Northern Nevada

Sharon Bowers-one of the leading advocates for women in Charleston

Planned Parenthood of the Susquehanna Valley

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio

Marquette-Alger Planned Parenthood, Inc

Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania

Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida

Planned Parenthood of Central South Carolina

Planned Parenthood of Oklahoma and Western Arkansas, Inc.

Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas

Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida

C. Thomas Steiner-One of the leading Reproductive Rights Advocates in Kentucky

Minnesota Religious Coalition For Reproductive Choice

Women's Legal Defense Fund
(press release in addition)

Voters for Choice, signed by Gloria Steinem

Gilbert Schroerlucke- a **United Methodist** clergyperson

Kentucky Religious Community in Support of an Individual's Freedom to Choose

New Mexico Medical Group

Several Constituent letters were received as well. All of these letters have been forwarded to correspondence for a reply as well.

NATIONAL
ABORTION
FEDERATION

April 11, 1996

William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

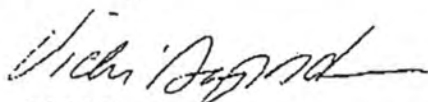
It was an honor for me to join you at the White House yesterday for the veto of H.R. 1833. On behalf of the members of the National Abortion Federation, and on behalf of the courageous families who came forward to join you at the veto yesterday, I would like to thank you for your tremendous compassion and leadership on this issue.

For months, we have worked closely with the families you met yesterday. They have told their stories to Senators, Representatives, legislators in their home states, and the media. Each time the pain is relived as they describe their losses, but they are willing to share their worst tragedies over and over again in order to help others understand. I am constantly inspired by each of them -- their determination, their commitment, their willingness to put aside their own privacy, fears and grief to share their experiences in order to preserve safe medical options for others. These families have taught us all a tremendous lesson in love, in courage and in truth.

As you so eloquently said, this is a bill that would put women's health in danger and attack the most vulnerable of families at the most tragic and difficult times in their lives. Your willingness to look beyond the political propaganda and the misleading drawings and sound bites, and hear the truth from these families demonstrated the true leadership that this country needs.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to educate the American people about the truth behind this legislation, the families it would have hurt, and the women whose health it would have jeopardized. You are a hero to these families and you are a hero to the hundreds of providers who put their lives on the line every day to make choice a reality for women. Once again, thank you for listening, understanding, and acting so courageously to protect women's health.

Sincerely,



Vicki Saporta
Executive Director

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William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

April 10, 1996

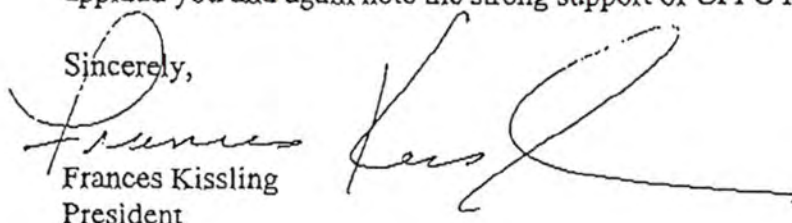
Dear Mr. President,

I have just been informed that you are vetoing HR .1833/S.939 today and I wanted you to know how strongly Catholics for a Free Choice and I personally support your decision . I read carefully your letter to the Congress outlining your views and appreciate the delicate balance between moral concern and respect for the law it demonstrated.

While Catholics for a Free Choice has not been active in lobbying against this bill, nor in the public debate, choosing instead to concentrate on the more significant question of the way in which laws which permit abortion respect the capacity of women to make good moral decisions about when and whether to end a pregnancy, we share your view that this bill is unconstitutional and want to express our respect for the couples who are faced with this rare and heart wrenching decision as well as for physicians who need the freedom to practice medicine without the Congress second guessing what is in the best interest of the patient.

Abortion is both a legal issue and a moral one. In vetoing this bill on legal grounds while continuing to express your view that abortion should be safe, legal and rare you are providing great moral leadership. This view is consistent with that of the majority of United States Catholics . I applaud you and again note the strong support of CFFC for your decision.

Sincerely,


Frances Kissling
President



KENTUCKY RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE*

The Religious Community in Support of an Individual's Freedom to Choose

April 10, 1996

American Humanist Association

American Jewish Committee
Louisville ChapterBoard of Church and Society
Louisville Conference
United Methodist ChurchThe Cabinet of
the Kentuckiana Disciples Area
(Christian Church)

Catholics For A Free Choice

Coordinating Center for Women
United Church of ChristCouncil on Ministries
Louisville District
United Methodist ChurchCouncil on the Status & Role of Women
Louisville Conference
United Methodist Church

Episcopal Women's Caucus

First Unitarian Church - Louisville

Justice for Women Committee

Louisville Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Kentucky Methodists For Choice

Louisville Friends Meeting - Religious Society of Friends

The New Jewish Agenda

Ohio Valley Unitarian Universalist District

Outreach Work Area,
Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
Louisville

Presbytery of Louisville

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Unitarian Universalist Church Lexington

Women of Reform Judaism, Federation
of Temple Sisterhoods

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the 20 faith based organizations which comprise the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, I thank you for vetoing HR 1833, the late term abortion bill. This ugly bill was simply another attempt by the anti-abortion faction to make abortion unobtainable for most American women and it needed to be disposed of.

As people of faith, we stand with women who must make difficult decisions about unintended or problem pregnancies and we thank you for standing with them, too.

Sincerely,

Virginia Copenhefer
Coordinator of Board Activities
Ky Religious Coalition

*Serving Kentucky
and Southern Indiana*

Post-it™ Fax Note		7671	Date	3/10/96	# of pages	1
To	Judy Gold		From	Ky BCAC		
Co./Dept.			Co.			
Phone #			Phone #			
Fax #			Fax #			

* Formerly Kentucky Religious Coalition For Abortion Rights

P.O. Box 452 • LaGrange, Kentucky 40031 • (502) 222-7940

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

TO: President Bill Clinton
c/o Judy Gold

FROM: Jon Dunn, Executive Director

FAX: (202) 456-7311

PAGES: 1

DATE: April 10, 1996

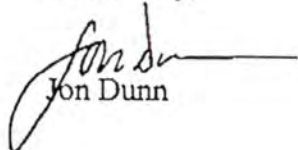
Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of our clients, staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank and commend you for having the wisdom and courage to veto the Late Abortion Bill. The tragedy of having to end a pregnancy, so near to delivery, should not be exacerbated by a politically constructed barrier to the one procedure that could preserve the life, health and fertility of that woman.

Our elected officials in Congress have been misguided in their efforts to curtail access to this critical medical procedure. You have demonstrated your compassion for the women who find themselves forced to terminate a late-term pregnancy. You have prevented a disastrous and unprecedented intrusion into the patient-doctor relationship.

I congratulate you on your efforts to safeguard women's health with this veto.

Yours truly,



Jon Dunn

Mrs. Norris Love
1175 Pelham Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

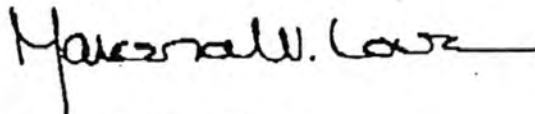
Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations and thank you for vetoing that horrible anti-choice dilation-and-evacuation bill!

As I said when I met with you at The White House in December, Republican Women must hear loudly that you are the pro-choice candidate in 1996, that you are the one who will protect their fundamental rights. I hope that your message which accompanies your veto will strongly emphasize those points.

I'm a life-long, fourth generation Republican. I worked and voted for your election in 1992 and, because of your continued commitment to choice, plan to work and vote for you again this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marcena W. Love". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marcena W. Love

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CHRISTIAN...
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
WOMEN'S DIVISION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
NATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BOARD FOR HOMELAND MINISTRIES
COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN
OFFICE FOR CHURCH IN SOCIETY

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WOMEN IN MISSION AND MINISTRY
WOMEN FOR SOCIAL WITNESS

MORAVIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NORTHERN PROVINCE
COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

CAUCUSES/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
AMERICAN BAPTIST WITNESS FOR CHOICE
CATHOLICS FOR A FREE CHOICE
CHURCH OF THE BRITISH WOMEN'S CAUCUS
DISCIPLES FOR CHOICE
EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS
EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S CAUCUS
METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION
PRESBYTERIANS AFFIRMING
REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

JEWISH...
CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT
FEDERATION OF RECONSTRUCTIONIST
CONGREGATIONS AND HAVUROT

REFORM MOVEMENT
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
THE FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE YOUTH
WOMEN'S RABBINIC NETWORK

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
HADASSAH, WZLH
JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL
NA'AMAT USA
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT

AND...

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

YWCA OF THE USA

AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

ETHICAL CULTURE MOVEMENT
AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION
NATIONAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF
THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION



Religious
Coalition
for Reproductive
Choice

1025 VERMONT AVE NW
SUITE 1134
WASHINGTON
DC 20003
202 628 7700
FAX 202 628 7716

April 10, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of 38 national religious organizations, I thank you for vetoing HR 1833, the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban."

Obviously, supporters of this bill suffer from *partial compassion* when it comes to tragic, untenable pregnancies. As you know, late-term abortions are rare and are most often used in the case of a severely deformed fetus. In many cases, Intact D&E is the safest procedure, reducing risk to the woman's health and leaving her able to get pregnant and give birth later.

Religious people oppose bans on late-term abortion because such bans interfere in women's freedom to make morally and ethically responsible decisions. Who should decide what to do when faced with a tragic situation if not the pregnant woman, in consultation with her loved ones, her doctors, and her own religious faith? We salute you for taking a strong stand in solidarity with women and their families.

Sincerely,

Ann Thompson Cook
Executive Director

C · R · L · P

THE CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE LAW AND POLICY

130 WALL STREET
NEW YORK
NEW YORK 10005 USA
212/514-5534

212/514-5534 fax

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President

KATHRYN KOLBERT
Vice President

EMILIA RAYNER
Director, Administration
and Finance

ELLEN K. GORTZ
Director, Development

ANDREA MILLER
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and Communications

KACHAEL N. FINE
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R. Scott Greenhead,
General Counsel

April 10, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, a public interest law firm dedicated to protecting and advancing women's reproductive freedoms, I am writing to applaud your decision to veto HR 1833/S 939 because it is patently unconstitutional and severely threatens women's lives and health. The purpose of this statute was to eviscerate the constitutional right to choose abortion and to deprive women of the ability to exercise their reproductive freedoms. Because the legislation subjects physicians to criminal penalties without fair warning of the prohibited conduct, it is unconstitutionally vague and would force health care providers to ignore their best medical judgment and the needs of their patients.

Attorneys at the Center have been involved in nearly every abortion case decided by the Supreme Court since *Roe v. Wade*. I have personally had the honor of arguing two abortion cases before the High Court: *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the 1992 case that reaffirmed the central principles of *Roe*: that our Constitution protects a woman's right to decide whether and when to have a child. That case established the new "undue burden standard" as the test by which to measure the constitutionality of government restrictions on the right to choose abortion. I am also co-counsel for plaintiffs in *Women's Medical Professional Corp. v. Voinovich*, a case in which a federal court recently ruled that an Ohio law similar to HR 1833/S 939 is unconstitutional and a danger to the public health.

Had you allowed H.R.1833/S.939 to become law, it would have provided anti-choice forces with an opportunity to directly challenge the constitutional liberties guaranteed by *Roe* and affirmed in *Casey*. The statute was introduced as a legal vehicle to further erode the reproductive freedoms American women have relied upon for the last two decades.

We thank you, Mr. President, for vetoing this extreme and onerous legislation — you have upheld the Constitution and preserved the lives and health of the women of this nation.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn Kolbert

*Member Penn. bar only
†Member Alaska and Idaho
bars only
‡Member Calif. bar only



April 11, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

I write to applaud you for your veto of H.R. 1833, the so-called "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act." This bill is a dangerous piece of propaganda that runs roughshod over the Constitution. If it had become law, it would have significantly interfered with the ability of women and their doctors to make medically appropriate decisions regarding their care.

In the two decades since Roe v. Wade was handed down, those opposed to the right to choose have pointed to the potential for late-term abortions as a way to negatively influence public opinion against all abortions and move a political agenda restricting access to all abortion services. By focusing public attention on late abortions, anti-choice activists have attempted to exploit what is a rare and tragic occurrence to further their political and public relations agendas. H.R. 1833 is the most recent example of this type of propaganda.

As you so wisely recognized, late-term abortions are rare; they occur only for the most compelling reasons, such as situations where the fetus is seriously deformed or when the woman develops critical medical conditions late in pregnancy. For these women, terminating a pregnancy at a later stage may be the only solution. These women need our compassion and understanding. They do not need additional obstacles put in their way that make it more difficult, if not impossible, to carry out this intensely personal and agonizing decision. They do not need their doctors prevented from using the medical procedure their doctors have concluded is best to preserve their life, health or ability to bear healthy children in the future.

The heartbreaking stories and the courage of the women who stood with you yesterday make it clear why you were right to veto this legislation. You did what was necessary to preserve the lives and the health of America's women, and we applaud you.

Very truly yours,

Judy
Judith L. Lichtman
President

*Mr President -
I watched your
veto message on C-span.
I can only begin to
imagine what a difficult
day you had. We are so
proud of you are our
President - W. J. Sanders*

04/11/96

10:24

419 255 5216

PPNW0

001

Post-it Fax Note 7672

The Post-it Note



No. of Pages

1

Today's Date 4/11

Time

10:30 A

To Judy Gold for President Clinton

From

Marni Pahl

Company

Company

Planned Parenthood of NW Ohio

Location

Location

Dept. Charge

Fax # (202) 456-7311 Telephone #

Fax # 419-255-5216 Telephone #

Comments

Original Disposition:

☐ Destroy☐ Return☐ Call for pickup**Planned Parenthood
Of Northwest Ohio**1301 Jefferson Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43624
(419) 255-1123
Fax: (419) 255-5216Marni L. Pahl
Executive Director

April 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20000

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio, thank you for vetoing the late term abortion bill. Your compassion for families in tragic circumstances and for women facing conditions that threaten life and health is greatly appreciated by those who understand the true meaning of "family values".

Thank you for supporting families in difficult times.

Sincerely,

Marni L. Pahl





WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROJECT
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM PROJECT
Janet Gallagher
Joint Director

National Headquarters 132 West 43rd Street New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 944-9800 Ext. 764 Fax (212) 869-4302

April 10, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project, I am writing to thank you for your courage in vetoing H.R. 1833, the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act." As you know, this legislation is an unconstitutional and dangerous intrusion into the private health care decisions of women and families facing crisis pregnancies. The American people are fortunate to have a president willing to stand up for women's health and the freedom to choose in the face of intense political pressure and propaganda.

Sincerely,

Janet Gallagher
Director, ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project

**Planned Parenthood**

Association of Lubbock, Inc.

April 10, 1996
3821 22nd Street Lubbock, Texas 79410 (806) 795-7123

The White House
Att'n Judy Gold
Washington D.C.

Dear President Clinton,

Planned Parenthood of Lubbock wishes to thank you for your courageous stand for women's reproductive rights. We know the dilemmas and hard choices women have to make when their pregnancies take a tragic turn. These decisions are medical ones that physicians and their patients must make. Politicians who have little medical knowledge should not have the power of passing legislation that would make drastic and tragic changes in families' lives.

Thank you for your support.

Yours,

Joe Love Nelson, CEO
Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock



Planned Parenthood® of Western Washington

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April 11, 1996

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The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your veto yesterday of the D & X abortion ban.

Earlier this year, Tammy Watts came to Washington State to testify in opposition to a similar bill. Fortunately, the legislators who heard her realized how tragic these situations are, and that these pregnancies are very much wanted. The bill never came out of committee.

We are pleased that you listened and understood. You have the gratitude of many women in this country and their families.

Sincerely,

Christine Charbonneau
President

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Christine Charbonneau
President
Lu Arendt
Mary Grinnell
Judith McKoy, Ph.D.
Marilyn Knight
Carole Williams

MEDICAL DIRECTORS

Deborah Oyer, M.D.
Sheldon Bibeck, M.D.
Katie Burt, M.D.
Lawrence Crossen, M.D.



April 10, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the 152,000 members of the American Association of University Women, we applaud your veto of HR 1833, legislation that would have banned a late-term abortion procedure without regard to a woman's health or future fertility. Your veto demonstrates a compassion for women in these tragic circumstances.

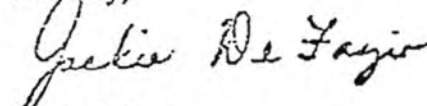
In Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized a woman's constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion. **HR 1833 presented a direct constitutional challenge to Roe v. Wade** by selectively denying some women the safest medical procedure for legal abortion, regardless of the health consequences to the woman. In Roe, the U.S. Supreme Court established that, after viability, abortion may be banned as long as an exception is provided for cases in which the woman's life or health is at risk. This provision was explicitly reaffirmed by the Court in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. However, HR 1833 provided no exception for cases in which the banned procedure is necessary to safeguard a woman's health.

Although very few abortions occur late in pregnancy, when the need arises women should have access to the safest procedure for their particular medical circumstances. Women facing later term abortions because of health risks or fetal abnormality often wish to have children in the future. **HR 1833 would have endangered women's health and seriously limited a women's future reproductive choices.**

The Senate passed a narrow life endangerment amendment, yet the bill was still fundamentally flawed. This legislation subjected physicians to criminal penalties, including jail. HR 1833 was the first time that Congress criminalized an abortion procedure. Further, HR 1833 was an unprecedented intrusion by Congress into medical decision-making that ignored the physician's judgement as to what is in the best interests of his or her patient. It was unwise and potentially harmful for Congress to interfere with professional medical judgements and outlaw treatment options that may best preserve a patient's health.

Again, thank you for protecting women's reproductive rights with your veto of this legislation aimed at eliminating a woman's right to choose. If you staff needs further information on this issue, please call Nancy Zirkin, Director of Government Relations, at 202/785-7720.

Sincerely,



Jackie DeFazio
President



A M E R I C A N M E D I C A L W O M E N ' S A S S O C I A T I O N

For Immediate Release
April 10, 1996

Contact: Anne Pritchett, Director
of Public Affairs and Government
Relations 703/838-0500

**AMWA ENDORSES PRESIDENT CLINTON'S LEADERSHIP
IN VETO OF H.R. 1833**

Alexandria, VA -- The American Medical Women's Association supports President Clinton's veto of H.R. 1833, which would have prohibited physicians from performing a specific surgical procedure to terminate pregnancy. "Throughout the debate on the issue of abortion, AMWA has sought to protect the reproductive rights of American women and has opposed any legal requirements for medical or surgical care decisions," said AMWA President Dr. Jean Fourcroy. "We strongly support the principle that all medical care decisions should be left to the judgment of a woman and her physician without governmental restrictions placed on her physician's judgment and without fear of civil action or criminal prosecution."

H.R. 1833 would have dictated available procedures to be used by physicians rather than allowing physicians to use medical judgment to determine the most appropriate treatment for patients. "We hope that the President and members of Congress will ensure that there is no further erosion of the constitutionally protected rights guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*," says Dr. Fourcroy.

"We cannot support any measures that seek to undermine the ability of physicians to make medical decisions. It is medical professionals, not the President or Congress, who should determine appropriate medical options," concludes Dr. Fourcroy.

Founded in 1915, the American Medical Women's Association represents over 13,000 women physicians and medical students and is dedicated to promoting women's health. AMWA President Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, is a clinical urologist and holds clinical appointments at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine. Dr. Fourcroy's accomplishments include serving as president of the National Council on Women in Medicine and National Council on Women's Health as well as co-authoring a chapter for *The Women's Complete Healthbook*.

Representing Women in Medicine Since 1915

801 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET • SUITE 400 • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314 • TELEPHONE (703) 838-0500

April 10, 1996



American Public Health Association

President Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for expressing opposition to H.R. 1833, legislation banning certain late term abortion procedures, and for urging Congress to include legislative protections for the life and the health of the woman. The American Public Health Association urges you to veto this bill because of the potential deleterious effects it could have on the health of American women.

APHA opposes this legislation because it prevents women from receiving medical care which ensures their safety and well-being. APHA recognizes that in certain cases when a wanted pregnancy results in a tragic outcome for the fetus or places the woman in harms way the procedure banned by H.R. 1833 may be appropriate. This procedure is used rarely but should remain legal and available to ensure that women who face life and health threatening conditions due to their pregnancies are protected and that their health is preserved.

The bill passed by both chambers of Congress fails to include acceptable life exception language. As it reads, if any other procedure is available, regardless of the risks or injurious long-term effects it could have on the woman, a physician is required by law to utilize the other option. This precludes a physician from employing the dilation and extraction procedure when it would prove less harmful and be more likely to preserve a woman's life and health.

We urge you to veto this version of the legislation and return it to Congress with a request for the inclusion of broader life exception language which truly protects the lives and health of American women.

Sincerely,

Fernando M. Treviño, PhD, MPH
Executive Director

FMT/lmh



PLANNED PARENTHOOD®
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

April 11, 1996

Health Centers

Freehold

800 West Main Street
Freehold NJ 07728
(908) 431-1717
(908) 431-4846 (fax)

Hazlet

Bethany Commons
1 Bethany Road
Bldg. # 6, Suite # 91
Hazlet, NJ 07730
(908) 888-4900

New Brunswick

211 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(908) 246-2411
(908) 246-0173 (fax)

Perth Amboy

215 Market St
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(908) 442-4499
(908) 442-7150 (fax)

Shrewsbury

69 E. Newman Springs Rd
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
(908) 842-9300
(908) 842-9338 (fax)

Spotswood

407 Main Street
Spotswood, NJ 08884



The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for your courageous veto of H.R. 1833.

As you stated so eloquently in your veto message, families facing personal tragedies should not be used as pawns in a political debate. It is unfortunate that so many legislators lack the understanding and compassion to separate political rhetoric from private medical decisions.

On behalf of the most vulnerable American women, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Kinsler
Executive Director

PK/pm



1120 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, New York 13210-1994
Administration (315) 475-5540
Patient Services (315) 475-5525
FAX (315) 475-0685

April 11, 1996

THE HON. WILLIAM CLINTON

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON,

On behalf of the entire staff of the Planned Parenthood Center of Syracuse, I want to commend you for maintaining your courage and conviction to veto the Dilation and Extraction (D & X) bill yesterday. Your clear-sighted understanding of the threat posed by this attempted legislation to women struggling with tragic circumstances in their third trimester of pregnancy, was vital. When will our Congress stop using a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion, based on careful consideration and/or the advice of her physician, as a political football? The moralizing, sensational rhetoric is demeaning and dangerous.

We thank you for believing that a woman's right to choose must be protected from the intrusion by government into medical decisions. The repeated attempts to place restrictions on abortion decisions seriously threaten a woman's access to a broad range of safe, affordable reproductive health services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan P. Browne'.

SUSAN P. BROWNE,
Public Affairs Coordinator



Planned Parenthood*

Center of El Paso

April 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso, I would like to thank you for your veto yesterday of the late term abortion bill. Your commitment to the health and well being of the women who have faced the difficult and painful decision to terminate a wanted pregnancy is cause for commendation. As you so carefully pointed out in your discussion of the bill and the associated issues, this bill was vaguely worded in non-medical language and had no language that would have protected the health of the mother. Further, I feel it was an unprecedented political intrusion into the medical profession and the operating room.

Again, thank you for safeguarding women's health with this veto!

Sincerely,

Betty Hoover, LMSW
Executive Director

WE ARE A COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN/UNITED WAY AGENCY

2817 E Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79903 915/566-1613 (Administration)
2817 E Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79903 915/566-6707 (Central Clinic)
10761 Pebble Hills, Suite F, El Paso, Texas 79935 915/595-1564 (East Side Clinic)
5021 Crossroads Rd., El Paso, Texas 79932 915/585-8881 (West Side Clinic)

Planned Parenthood

of Austin



Administration Center

2002 Reservoir Avenue
Austin, Texas 78702
512/472-4808
Fax 512-472-8824

April 11, 1996

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Barbara White

Executive Director
Glenda Parks

Medical Director
Anna Maria Lozano, MD

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I want to thank you for trusting in the integrity of women and for having the confidence in women and physicians to make the staggeringly difficult decisions about whether a pregnancy should continue. Your veto of the late-term abortion bill explicitly demonstrates your trust and I can assure you it is well placed.

The outrageous claim that women make a whimsical choice to end a pregnancy denigrates the moral authority of women's decisions. It relegates health concerns and life and death issues to the dustbin of vanity.

Your respect and action are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Glenda Parks
Executive Director

Fax Cover Sheet

Planned Parenthood Association of the Greater Peoria Area
705 N.E. Jefferson Street
Peoria, IL 61603

Telephone # (309) 673-0907 Ext. #225

Fax# (309) 673-6914

Sent by: Joyce Harant, Executive Director **Date:** April 10, 1996

PLEASE CALL IF ANY PAGES WERE NOT RECEIVED OR UNREADABLE

To: President Bill Clinton

Number of pages sent - including cover sheet 1

THANK YOU FOR VETOING THE LATE ABORTION BILL! !

We appreciate your understanding of the importance of allowing women to be able to make the difficult decision to have a third-trimester abortion with her doctor and without the interference of government.

Thank you.

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Planned Parenthood[®]

of East Central Illinois

Administrative Offices:

302 East Stoughton • Champaign, IL 61820
Phone 217/359-4768 • Fax 217/359-2683

April 10, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your courageous veto of the *Late Abortion Bill*.

Today you have once again reaffirmed your compassion for the women who are confronted with these heartbreaking dilemmas. Today you have sent a message to Congress that they must not intrude on the integrity of the physician-patient relationship. And, today you have shown the leadership that defines your commitment to protecting women and their families.

Thank you!

Very respectfully yours,

Karen Cody Carlson, President/CEO
Pat Donze Shae, Director of Public Affairs

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Vermilion County • 515 South Market • Hoopeston, IL 60942 • 217/283-7869



April 10, 1966

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for standing up for the lives and health of women by vetoing the so-called partial birth abortion ban.

This proposed ban was a vivious attempt to politically exploit the tragic choices women face when severe medical problems develop in wanted pregnancies. The ban would have been an outright violation of the constitutional protections articulated in Roe vs. Wade. ;

American women and their families owe you a debt of gratitude.

Sincerely,

Roberta E. Aber
Executive Director

34 S. High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308-1805
Clinic: (216) 535-2671
Administration: (216) 535-2674

P.O. Box 1336
Norton, Ohio 44203-9336
(216) 825-4543

152 E. Main Street
Kent, Ohio 44240
(216) 678-8011

209 S. Chestnut Street
Suite 203
Ravenna, Ohio 44206
(216) 295-7525

246 Northland Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256
(216) 723-1300

• Affiliated with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
• Affiliated with United Way of Summit County and United Way of Medina County



Planned Parenthood®

of Central Texas

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PAST PRESIDENT
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Sue Havens-Drake

April 11, 1996

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your veto of the late abortion bill.

We appreciate your stand on reproductive freedom for the women
of America.

Sincerely,

Trudy Kizer
Public Affairs Coordinator
Planned Parenthood of Central Texas

/tk

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	4-10-96	# of pages	2
To	Elizabeth Jensen	From	Susan Mitchell		
Co/Dept	J. A. M.	Co.	R. C. R. C. M.		
Phone #		Phone #	612-870-0774		
Fax #	612-667-3890	Fax #	612-870-4885		

Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 122 W. FRANKLIN AVE.
 SUITE 303
 MINNEAPOLIS
 MN 55404
 612 870 0974
 FAX 612 870 4885
 formerly RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

April 10, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

On behalf of twelve Minnesota religious organizations and denominations, I thank you for vetoing H.R. 1855, the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban."
 Religious people oppose bans on late-term abortions because such bans interfere in a woman's freedom to make morally and ethically responsible decisions. In a tragic situation such as this, a pregnant

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CATHOLIC FAITH & ETHICS COUNCIL, MN

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND

ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW),

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NEARWEST FEDERATION

OF COMPLEX SISTERHOODS

MINNESOTA YWCA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS INSTITUTE

TEMPLE ISRAEL - ST. PAUL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST FEDERATION

AND SOCIAL ACTION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

MINNESOTA COMMITTEE

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

ST. PAUL DISTRICT

UNIVERSITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

... must make her own decision, and
... in her own hands, Doctor, and
... None of us should force our
religious beliefs on others. The
separation of church and state is an
integral basis of our country. We should
go for taking a strong stand for the
values of America.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Mitchell
Executive Director

Obstetrics and Gynecology

I am an Obstetrician/Gynecologist here in Minneapolis and have been an advocate for a woman's right to choose since high school, and I perform abortions as a portion of my practice. I hold you in high esteem as a champion of choice and will continue to support your efforts in Washington along with my colleagues, patients, and friends, all of whom also share in the preservation of that precious right. We remain solid along side you!



National Organization for Women, Inc.

1000 15th Street NW Suite 700 Washington DC 20036-5705 (202) 331-0066 FAX (202) 785-8576

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO:

Judy Gold

FAX NO.

426-7311

FROM:

Jan Rickson

FAX NO. 202-785-8576

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

2

CALL

at (202) 331-0066 if there are problems in transmission

COMMENTS



National Organization for Women, Inc.

1000 16th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036-5705 (202) 331-0066 FAX (202) 785-8576

April 10, 1996

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the 270,000 members of the National Organization for Women, I want to thank you for vetoing legislation that would deny women their legal and constitutional right to obtain an abortion in the final trimester of pregnancy when preservation of life or health may dictate medical intervention. Your efforts to help protect the reproductive rights of American women are greatly appreciated and will be recognized by all our members. By this veto, thousands of women who face this life- or health-threatening circumstance will be assured that they can receive vital medical care. Many lives will be saved as a result of your actions today.

These are difficult times for women and your continued support of choice in reproductive matters is critically important. In reviewing your action, members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives would be well served to remember the lives of women that are at stake. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ireland, Exec. V. P.

for Patricia Ireland
President

GILBERT SCHROERLUCKE
1817 RICHMOND DRIVE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40205

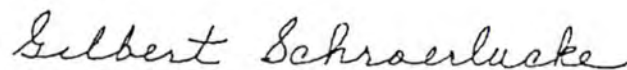
April 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton
White House
Washington D.C.
% Judy Gold

Dear Mr. President:

As a United Methodist clergyperson, I applaud your veto of the so called Partial-Birth Abortion Bill. Not only is the bill an intrusion into the doctor-patient relationship, it is a brutal affront to a woman and her family who are in a terribly depressing situation.

Thank you! Keep up the good work!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gilbert Schroerlucke".

Gilbert Schroerlucke

The
American
College of
Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

April 9, 1996

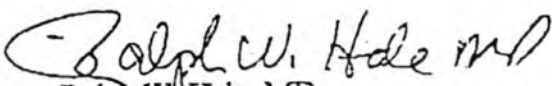
William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20100

Dear Mr. President:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), an organization representing more than 37,000 physicians dedicated to improving women's health care, does not support HR 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995. The College finds very disturbing that Congress would take any action that would supersede the medical judgment of trained physicians and criminalize medical procedures that may be necessary to save the life of a woman. Moreover, in defining what medical procedures doctors may or may not perform, HR 1833 employs terminology that is not even recognized in the medical community -- demonstrating why Congressional opinion should never be substituted for professional medical judgment. Accordingly, ACOG supports your decision to veto this legislation.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Ralph W. Hale, MD
Executive Director

Boulder Abortion Clinic P.C.

1130 Alpine Avenue
Boulder, Colorado 80304
(303) 447-1361

10 April 1996

Hon. Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for vetoing the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Act of 1996" which has arrived at your desk from Congress.

This is a most pernicious piece of legislation that would severely limit options for women and families stricken with tragically complicated pregnancies, and it would subject conscientious physicians to criminal penalties for serving their patients in the best tradition of medical practice.

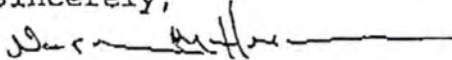
I commend you on your courage and leadership over the past several years on this issue, and I particularly applaud your courageous stand in deciding to veto this most despicable bill, which strikes at families experiencing the most tragic circumstances.

As someone who met you first at a National Abortion Rights Action League event in Denver in February, 1992, and who has supported your leadership ever since, I continue to admire your commitment to reproductive freedom.

Please feel free to call upon me for assistance or support in this matter at any time in the coming months and years ahead.

Also, I wish to extend my personal greetings to Ms. Clinton, whom I have also met at events sponsored in Denver by the Democratic Party.

Sincerely,



Warren M. Hern, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Warren M. Hern, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Diplomate, American Board of Preventive Medicine
Fellow, American College of Preventive Medicine



Planned Parenthood of Mahoning Valley, Inc.

C. Alan Stephan
Chairperson

April 11, 1996

Colleen Hall Dailey
Executive
Vice Chairperson

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Cathy Travers
Secretary

Jacqui Scott Rogers
Treasurer

Lizette Olsen
Vice Chairperson

Dear President Clinton:

Maxine Houck
Vice Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of Planned Parenthood of Mahoning Valley, Inc. thank you for following through on your promise to veto S.939, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. Your action will assist hundreds of women each year who face severe medical crises during late-term pregnancies.

Marc Dunn
Joy DeSalvo
Nancy Hospodar
Tina Kaatz
Mark Kessler
Connie Knecht
Sue Lytle
Lena Morillo
Carmel O'Hara
Donald Patterson
Ruth Smail
Judith Stanger

While the loss of a child is always a traumatic situation, it is important that women are given the opportunity to experience future healthy pregnancies and deliveries. Without this choice, they face the possibility of permanent damage to their reproductive systems.

Your understanding and compassion echoes our mission to assure that every child is a healthy child.

Samuel Pipes, D.O.
Medical Director

Roberta G. Antoniotti
CEO/President

Sincerely,

Roberta G. Antoniotti
Ms. Roberta G. Antoniotti
President/CEO

Administration/Education
77 E. Midlothian Blvd.
Youngstown, OH 44507
(216) 788-6506
Fax: (216) 788-7805

Health Center Locations
Columbiana County
Clyde Square East
15549 State Route 170
Calcutta, OH 43920
(716) 385-2508

Mahoning County
77 E. Midlothian Blvd.
Youngstown, OH 44507
(216) 788-2487

Trumbull County
418 S. Main Avenue
Warren, OH 44481
(216) 399-5104



PRESIDENT
Josephine McElrath, ARNP

April 11, 1996

PRESIDENT-ELECT
William Treloar

SECRETARY
Jane Holland

TREASURER
Howard Rosenblatt

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20000

DIRECTORS
Barbara Bennett, M.D.
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Rob Denson
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Wayne David Griffin, Ph.D.
Susan Hall
Charles W. Johnson
Irene Kellner
Gail Monahan
Myrna Neims, Ph.D.
Susan Thrall, Ph.D.

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the staff, board, patients, and supporters of Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida, I offer my thanks for yesterday's veto of the "Partial Birth" Abortion Ban bill.

Your act of courage in standing against this bill will help safeguard the health of women in the most vulnerable and tragic of situations – a pregnancy gone horribly wrong. Decisions on medical procedure in such cases can now be based on what is the best and the safest for the patient, not on what has the approval of Congress.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR⁺
Laura Head Knudson

Thank you again for the courage and compassion you have shown in your defense of women's health.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Michael B. Cotter, M.D.

In appreciation,

Laura Knudson
Executive Director



Planned Parenthood

of Eastern Oklahoma and Western Arkansas, Inc.

1007 South Peoria, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

April 11, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing today to thank you for having the courage to veto the bill designed to ban the D&X abortion procedure.

Your veto demonstrates your understanding and tolerance about an issue that has been fraught with misunderstanding and intolerance. The difficult decision-making process that takes place between a pregnant woman and her doctor during a severe medical crisis, has been protected by this veto. The bill would have not only criminalized the efforts of physicians who were trying to protect the health of their patients, but it would have also allowed unprecedented intrusion in the lives of American women and families.

Finally, I realize that this veto was cause for considerable deliberation on your part and I want you to know that your thoughtfulness and your sensitivity to a woman's right to control her body are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kachel
President/CEO

President Emeritus
Manly C. Hutchinson, Sr., M.D.

Board of Directors

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*James R. Walker, Jr., Vice President
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*Ben Hutchinson, M.D.
Katherine Moore, M.D.
John W. Omsy, F.D.
Sandy Payne, R.N., C.N.P.
M. Sharr Steadman, Pharm.D.
Harry Strubbecker, III, M.D.

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Susan Fair Boyd
Earl L. Brown, Jr.
Jacelyn and Bob Burg
Malissa Kurnette, J.D.
Susan A. Busbice
Ann S. Carroll
J. Crawford Cook
J. Donald Dial
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Jennifer Decker Loring
Frances Fisher
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Hazel and Harry H. Moore
Dr. and Mrs. Robert K. Moser
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Kil and Joel Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stultgen
John B. Thompson
John and Winona Wenzel
Regan and Lynne Vail

*Jack M. Volpey, M.D.
Medical Director

John D. Emerson, M.S.W.
Executive Director

*Also numerous major supporters.



2712 Middleburg Drive, Suite 106
Columbia, South Carolina 29204
(803) 256-4908, Fax (803) 256-4900

April 11, 1996

The Honorable Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of Planned Parenthood of Central South Carolina, thank you for vetoing H.R.1833, the so-called "Partial-Birth" Abortion Ban Act. As you know, this procedure is only performed when a pregnancy has taken a tragic turn, and yet this bill did not even make an exception to save the health and future fertility of a woman.

We thank you also for your long-standing support of the pro-choice position, and we urge you to continue this support. The pro-choice community in South Carolina is behind you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Catherine S. Meriwether". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "M".

Catherine S. Meriwether
Director of Public Affairs



Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa

Serving Des Moines, Lee, Washington, Henry, Jefferson, Louisa & Van Buren Counties

305 N. 3rd Street, Suite 403
Burlington, Iowa 52601

319/753-6209
FAX 319/753-0181

April 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

We are so proud of you! It took a great deal of courage to veto the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act". We admire your compassion for the women and their families who may have to make the heartbreaking decision to terminate late-term pregnancies in the future.

We thank you for listening to the numerous stories of families who have lived through this experience and were grateful that the option was open to them. Thanks to this procedure many women have had subsequent pregnancies and have recovered emotionally and physically.

We are confident that if the truth about this type of abortion were made known to the public that most people would stand behind your decision. Let's hope the media picks up on the real facts surrounding this procedure and the far right's attempt to use it as a campaign issue.

Again, thank you for holding firm and safeguarding the health of women.

Sincerely,

Deborah C. Wag *Lisa Sears*
Michelle S. Libbrecht *Charital Van Houten NP*
Kae Little *Deana Bell, CMA*
 Staff of Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa *Julie Housewright*

Sharon Jungreis Bowers
7 Atlantic Street
Charleston, S.C. 29401
803-722-8503 Tel & Fax

4/11/96

TO: President Clinton

Many many thanks for your veto of
the late term abortion bill from
your friends/voters in Charleston.
We have over 100 people in our
organization, and still growing!

Sharon Jungreis Bowers

Friends of Planned Parenthood - Charleston



MARQUETTE-ALGER PLANNED PARENTHOOD, INC.
SUITE 1 228 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855 PHONE (906) 225-5070

April 11, 1996

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of our Board of Directors and women and families across upper Michigan, I would like to thank you for vetoing the late term abortion bill.

The sensationalizing of this rare and necessary procedure by the majority of Congress was an extreme attack against women and families. We commend you for supporting the rights of women who have experienced a pregnancy gone horribly wrong, and for protecting their health and future fertility.

Thank you for your continued support for reproductive freedom.

Sincerely,

Melissa Luttrell
Executive Director



Planned Parenthood[®]

of North East Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 813, Trexlertown, PA 18087-0813
(610) 481-0481 Fax (610) 481-0486

April 11, 1996

Centers

☐ Allentown

112 N. 13th Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 439-1033
Fax (610) 439-0502

☐ Bethlehem

440 Brodhead Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 694-0642
Fax (610) 694-0389

☐ Easton

2906 William Penn Highway
Easton, PA 18042
(610) 253-7195
Fax (610) 253-4586

☐ Hazleton

10 W. Chestnut Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
(717) 454-0876
Fax (717) 454-0878

☐ Reading

48 S. 4th Street
Reading, PA 19602
(610) 376-8061
Fax (610) 378-1698

☐ Scranton

Knowles Building
316 Penn Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
(717) 344-2626
Fax (717) 342-9178

☐ Stroudsburg

28 N. 7th Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(717) 424-8306

*Program Services Administration
(717) 424-0412
Fax (717) 476-4580

☐ Wilkes-Barre

63 N. Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(717) 824-8921
Fax (717) 825-0626

The President, The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In the name of our 20,000 clients, our volunteers, staff and donors, I applaud your determination to stand up for medical and moral principle by vetoing the late-term abortion bill. Legislators have no right to come between a patient and her physician's recommendation.

You have wisely looked beyond the emotional language of a poorly written bill until you could see the reality of women's lives.

On behalf of those women who experience a medical crisis late in pregnancy, thank you for helping to safeguard their health and future fertility.

Sincerely,

Marti King-Pringle, Ph.D.
President and CEO

F A XFax: (606) 281-6042

DATE: Thursday, April 11, 1996

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

TO: President Bill Clinton

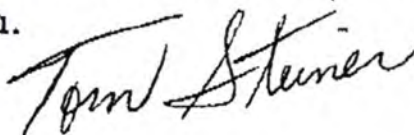
FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7311

FROM: C. Thomas Steiner (606)223-0216
4308 Penshurst Square
Lexington, KY 40514-1822

COMMENTS:

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for vetoing the late-term abortion bill. Of course, this is controversial, but I am grateful that you held out for a measure that would protect the health and life of women. This is an occasion of choosing life. Thank you.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE: 1



Planned Parenthood of the Susquehanna Valley

Serving Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster and Perry Counties

April 11, 1996

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 1
To <i>Judy Gold</i>	From <i>Nancy J. Osgood</i>	
Co. <i>PPSV</i>	Co. <i>PPSV</i>	
Dept.	Phone # <i>see below</i>	
Fax # <i>202-456-7311</i>	Fax #	

William J. Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of all those associated with Planned Parenthood of the Susquehanna Valley...staff, board, volunteers and most importantly, our patients...to thank you for your courage and good sense in vetoing the late term abortion bill.

Your action yesterday is, in our judgment, in the best tradition of family values...enabling those faced with heart-wrenching decisions to make them without the long arm of the government making it even more difficult or impossible. We are grateful that you share Planned Parenthood's confidence in the wisdom and moral authority of the families faced with these most personal and private decisions.

We are all grateful for your leadership and commitment to families.

Very respectfully yours,

Nancy J. Osgood
Nancy J. Osgood
President and CEO

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Constituent to President Clinton [partial] (1 page)	04/03/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20017

FOLDER TITLE:

Abortion - Partial Birth [1]

2013-0534-S

rc1464

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

(b)(6)

[001]

April 3, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton,

Please veto the legislation banning third trimester abortion. Many of life's most significant choices are neither painless nor pretty. This is my story:

A knife carved deeply into my chest and the doctor removed my left breast; the same breast that fed my children long ago. The incision went under my arm toward my back and forward to my center breastbone. Then it was stitched back together with metal staples. A bag hung by a tube from the incision along my left side into which blood and fluids drained for several days.

Immediately thereafter, I voluntarily signed my name to further treatment to save my life; the consent warned against such possibilities as the following: blood clots, mouth sores, kidney failure, blindness, depression, weight loss, weight gain, nausea, headaches and more. O yes, in extreme cases, death. This medical procedure is not pretty. It is called Mastectomy and is chosen to hopefully prolong or save the life of a woman; the follow-up treatment, Chemotherapy, enhances the possibility of life. Will the United States Congress now decide they know better than doctors how medicine shall be practiced in America? Will medical procedures be determined by legislation? Absurd!

The third trimester abortion procedure, known as dilation and extraction, is the treatment of last resort to protect the life of a woman or to deliver a fetus without possibility of life. Less than .04 of 1 percent of all abortions are performed beyond the 26th week of pregnancy. This is a cause for profound sorrow, not an occasion for political intrusion. We make life's most difficult and courageous decisions to save life. Nobody has the right to deny us the right to make such intensely personal decisions.

Thank you for your consistent leadership and faithful support for women. I'm proud you are my President.

Very truly yours,

(b)(6)

NARAL Promoting Reproductive Choices

April 10, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to thank and commend you for your veto of H.R. 1833, and for your strong commitment to women and their families who are faced with a terrible tragedy, the loss of a wanted pregnancy. For women a late-term abortion is not a choice, it is a necessity. We must not compound the physical and emotional trauma facing these women by denying them the safest medical procedure available to preserve their ability to have future healthy pregnancies. This bill is bad medicine, bad law, and bad policy.

Women facing late-term abortions due to risks to their health or severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life must be free to make this tragic decision in consultation with their families and their physicians. Without adequate exceptions to protect the life and health of the woman, this bill presents a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and is clearly unconstitutional. Neither the House or the Senate was willing to provide an exception to protect women's health, as is required by *Roe*.

Your veto today stems the unraveling of the fundamental constitutional rights granted American women to receive medical treatment that they and their doctors determine are safest and medically best for them. We have notified our affiliates and membership of your important action.

Sincerely,



Kate Michelman
President

National Abortion
and Reproductive Rights
Action League

1155 15th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Phone (202) 973-3000
Fax (202) 973-3096

NARAL Promoting Reproductive Choices



STATEMENT OF KATE MICHELMAN
President
National Abortion and Reproductive
Rights Action League (NARAL)

CONTACT: Darryl Lynette Figueroa
Gwen Fitzgerald
202/973-3032

April 10, 1996

**CLINTON TO VETO LATE-TERM ABORTION-BAN BILL AT 5 P.M. TODAY--
NARAL PRAISES CLINTON'S VETO OF DANGEROUS MEASURE**

We applaud and commend President Clinton's veto of the abortion-ban bill and his strong commitment to women, families and the freedom to choose. The President has chosen compassion and concern for families facing medical tragedies over the cynical, election-year ploy of the politicians advancing this legislation. When wanted pregnancies go tragically awry, women and families need their doctors' best judgment and care -- not their Congressman's political meddling -- to protect their lives, health and future fertility. It is hypocritical for politicians who vote to keep government out of our lives to vote to intrude in families' private medical crises.

Without adequate exceptions to protect a woman's life and health, which the President had requested and is required under *Roe v. Wade*, the bill clearly is unconstitutional. The so-called life exception is so narrow that it would protect only a fraction of the women whose lives are threatened by continuing their pregnancies. Neither the House nor the Senate was willing to incorporate a health exception.

President Clinton's action demonstrates the importance of a pro-choice Presidency in safeguarding reproductive rights against a Congress intent on returning women, step by step, to the back alleys. Majority Leader Bob Dole fought to advance this bill that would devastate *Roe v. Wade* and the freedom to choose.

*National Abortion
and Reproductive Rights
Action League*

*1156 15th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005*

*Phone (202) 973-3000
Fax (202) 973-3096*

NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

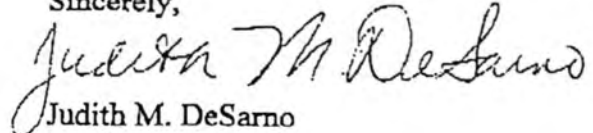
April 10, 1996

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, I am writing to convey our sincerest thanks for vetoing H.R. 1833, a bill to ban a rare late-term abortion procedure. The women and families of this country will benefit from your principled support of the right of health providers to determine which medical procedures are the safest in order to preserve the lives and health of American women. It is only with your continued support that we can withstand legislative attempts to undermine the basic principles established in *Roe v. Wade*. Thank you once again for your efforts to preserve access to abortion services, especially under the most tragic circumstances addressed by H.R. 1833.

Sincerely,


Judith M. DeSarno
President/CEO

BRUCE FERGUSON, M.D.
NEW MEXICO MEDICAL GROUP, PC
1101 Medical Arts Ave NE #3-300
Albuquerque, NM 87102
242-1700--Fax 242-1901

April 10, 1996

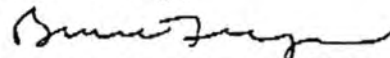
President Bill Clinton
White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Clinton:

I am thankful for your continued support of women and physicians as demonstrated once again by your veto of the "Partial Birth" Abortion Ban Act.

I only wish you would be even more vigorous in exercising your veto pen against the radical religious right and their Republican allies.

Sincerely,


Bruce Ferguson, M.D.



**NOW LEGAL DEFENSE
AND EDUCATION FUND**

120 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 (202) 544-4470 FAX (202) 546-8605

April 10, 1996

The Hon. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the millions of women who seek to keep abortion safe and legal, and who believe that reproductive health care decisions are matters of personal choice with medical consultation, the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund thanks you for your veto of H.R. 1833. Using inaccurate and non-medical terminology, this anti-choice bill seeks to eliminate a procedure known as "intact D&E," and imposes *criminal penalties* on physicians who perform it. Your veto ensures a woman's ability to choose her best option to deal with a crisis pregnancy, and safeguards her constitutional rights.

Ironically, the opposition to the use of this procedure has focused on abortions performed in the late stages of pregnancy. This is a time when women must choose to terminate wanted pregnancies under the most tragic circumstances -- a serious or life-threatening medical complication or the discovery of severe fetal abnormalities incompatible with life.

Moving statements by women who have actually experienced an intact D&E abortion describe their difficult choices made in consultation with family, friends, and medical professionals. Coreen Costello, who shared her story in the *New York Times* (11/29/95), describes the "painful reality" of learning she could not safely continue her pregnancy. Despite her "mixed feelings about abortion," she is strongly opposed to this bill.

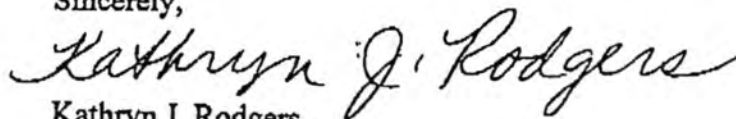
Most disturbingly, this bill presents a **direct constitutional challenge** to the Supreme Court's decisions in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* and *Roe v. Wade*. This outright ban on a specific abortion procedure is not clearly limited to the third trimester, and fails to provide an exception for the life and health of the mother. The bill's highly limited lifesaving exception is not an acceptable alternative. Reaffirming one element of "*Roe's* essential holding," the joint

opinion of the court in *Casey* by Justices Souter, Kennedy and O'Connor makes clear that no state may regulate or ban abortion, without "exceptions for pregnancies which endanger a woman's life or health." 112 S.Ct. 2804 (1992) (emphasis added). This legislation contains *additional constitutional defects*, including due process problems with its criminal enforcement provisions. U.S. District Judge Rice recently issued an injunction barring enforcement of an Ohio law that bans intact D&E abortions and restricts post-viability abortions. *Women's Medical Professional Corp. v. Voinovich*, 64 U.S.L.W. 2432 (S.D. Ohio 1995). His lengthy opinion cites a litany of potential constitutional problems with the Ohio law, from its failure to satisfy the *Casey* undue burden standard, to its unreasonably limited health exception for post-viability abortions, to the chilling effect of its vague language.

Even if the bill were amended to address some of these concerns, its *criminal sanctions* would still discourage health care providers from providing needed services. Indeed, many supporters of H.R. 1833 hope for just this outcome. We oppose any efforts to chill the good faith practice of health care for women. Imagine the outrage if Congress banned the safest, most effective procedure to treat prostate cancer, and physicians fearing jailtime gave up treating this disease.

Sadly, some of the bill's supporters have used a determined campaign of inflammatory rhetoric, medical misinformation, and unreliable witnesses to gruesomely distort the true nature of this surgical procedure. Thank you for protecting the real-life women and their families who have a real-life need for safe and professional health care options, by vetoing this assault on choice.

Sincerely,



Kathryn J. Rodgers
Executive Director



PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY ACTION FUND

Your Voice Against Intolerance

April 10, 1996

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Mary Conway,
Dorothy Lohmann, Peter Montgomery
(202) 467-4999

PRESIDENT CLINTON STANDS UP TO RELIGIOUS RIGHT, VETOES ANTI-CHOICE LEGISLATION

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY ACTION FUND ACCLAIMS MOVE

President Clinton turned back a serious threat to women's reproductive freedom today when he vetoed H.R. 1833, a bill that would have criminalized late-term abortions, the first such legislation to encroach on the right to abortion as set forth in the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*. People For the American Way Action Fund applauded the president's action. Following is People For the American Way Action Fund President Carole Shield's statement.

"The Religious Right's attempt to put women's lives at unnecessary risk by criminalizing a life-saving medical procedure was foiled by President Clinton with today's veto. We commend the president for standing up to the Religious Right and their allies in Congress and standing up for women's right to choose appropriate medical care. Had this legislation been signed, the government would have been allowed to interfere in medical decisions, destroying physician-patient confidentiality and denying women the right to choose what is best for them under their circumstances.

"In its so-called Contract with the American Family, released a year ago, the Christian Coalition urged Congress to enact legislation that would outlaw late-term abortions. Their hope was that this would start the Congress down the road to re-criminalizing all abortions. President Clinton's veto places a substantial obstacle on that road, however, and affirms physicians' right to practice medicine as they see fit and women's right to make choices about their lives. We thank the president for his determination to uphold his principles in the face of anti-choice pressure."

People For the American Way is a 300,000-member nonpartisan organization committed to fighting the Religious Right political agenda.

-30-

People For the American Way Action Fund
2000 M Street NW Suite 400
Washington DC 20036

202 467 4999
202 293 2672 Fax



Planned Parenthood®
Federation of America, Inc.

April 10, 1996

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than five million Americans who receive medical care and educational services from Planned Parenthood each year, I am writing to thank you for your veto of H.R. 1833. By your actions, you have safeguarded women's lives as well as their legal rights.

This Congress has done more to threaten the privacy and safety of women's reproductive health care than any other in recent memory. We have looked to the executive branch for help and you have been there. You have helped to protect the rights of women and families to make their own difficult and private health care decisions without the interference of Congress.

As you have heard from the women who have chosen this procedure, these are complex medical decisions involving life, health and future fertility. We share your confidence in the wisdom and compassion of the women who have been confronted with these heartbreaking dilemmas, and we believe that physicians need to make treatment decisions on a case-by-case basis. No law can replace medical judgment and personal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Jane Johnson
Interim President



Planned Parenthood®
Federation of America, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 10, 1996

CONTACT: Susan Lamontagne
or Steve Plevier (212) 261-4660

PLANNED PARENTHOOD COMMENDS PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VETO AS A DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

**Statement by Jane Johnson, Interim President
Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

Congress should have listened to the women who testified about the D&X abortion procedure. Their testimony showed that the procedure was necessary because of severe medical crises during late-term pregnancies. For them, this procedure proved to be the best medical way out of their tragic and dangerous situations—fetal anomalies that made infant survival impossible and threatened their future fertility. These women credit the D&X procedure with enabling them to now have healthy pregnancies, rather than suffering permanent damage to their reproductive systems.

Planned Parenthood has great confidence in the wisdom and compassion of the women who are confronted with these heartbreaking dilemmas.

Congress must not stand between pregnant women and their physicians, and must not place physicians in a situation where they must worry more about criminal prosecution than about the health of their patients. This bill, broadly worded in non-medical terms, is an unprecedented political intrusion into the operating room. Planned Parenthood thanks President Clinton for safeguarding women's health with this veto.

- 30 -

Planned Parenthood® Federation of America, the world's oldest and largest voluntary reproductive health care organization, is dedicated to the principle that every individual has a fundamental right to choose when or whether to have a child.

Planned Parenthood's 152 not-for-profit affiliates operate nearly 1,000 clinics in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Planned Parenthood centers provide medical and educational services for more than five million Americans each year, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or economic circumstances. Through its international program, Family Planning International Assistance®, Planned Parenthood helps meet the family planning needs of women and men in the developing world.



Gloria Steinem

April 10, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

On behalf of Voters For Choice, the majority of women in this country, their families, and myself, I want to thank you for your wise and compassionate veto of H.R. 1833.

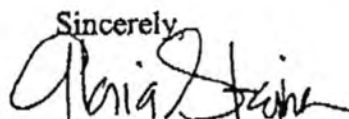
In refusing to condone this cruel, authoritarian, and medically dangerous bill, you not only stand with the five hundred or so women whose safety and health depends on this rare but crucial abortion procedure each year, but with the overwhelming majority of Americans, men and women, who believe that a woman and her physician should make such decisions, not Congress.

I know physicians' groups also applaud you, for they have made clear that this bill was not only dangerous in itself, but as a precedent for Congressional dictation of medical decisions.

As a group, Voters For Choice -- and I as an individual -- will make every effort to let the women and men of this country know that you have supported their right to self-determination.

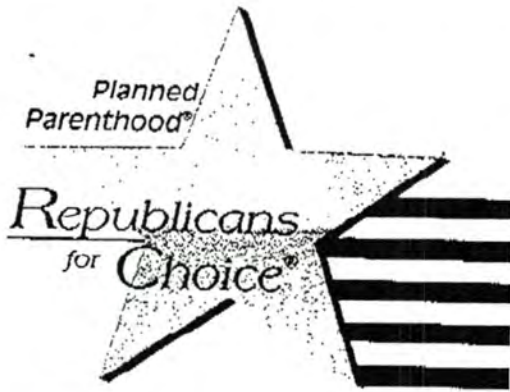
Perhaps you and I will live to see the day when reproductive freedom is a fundamental human right, a part of the larger right of bodily integrity that finally honors people as only property has been honored in the past. You will have been one of its champions.

Sincerely,



Gloria Steinem

President, Voters For Choice
2639 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008



Post-it* Fax Note 7671		Date 4-10	# of pages 1
To Judy Gold		From R. Moody	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

Co-chairs
Darlee J. Crockett
Randall J. Moody

4-10-96

Mr. President -

Thank you for your veto of the late abortion bill. You should know that we believe a solid majority of Republicans agree with your action.

Thank you for your pro-choice position. I'm sorry the Republican nominee-designate has chosen to ignore the majority voice of his party.

Randall Moody
Co-Chair

Planned Parenthood® Federation of America, Inc.
810 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019 212/541-7800 FAX 212/245-1845



April 10, 1996

President Bill Clinton
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

For your courageous veto of the late abortion bill, you have our gratitude and admiration. Your acknowledgement that this decision is best left to a woman in consultation with her physician is a relief to all of the people in America who believe that Congress has no business legislating what medical care is appropriate.

On behalf of the Board, staff, clients, and volunteers of Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, thank you!

Sincerely,


Jackie Isamay
Executive Director

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	4/10/96	# of pages	2
To	Stacy Cold	From	Susan Mitchell		
Co./Dept.	White House	Co./Dept.	Rel. Coalition		
Phone #		Phone #	612-870-0974		
Fax #	262-456-7311	Fax #	612-870-4885		

Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 122 W FRANKLIN AVE.
 SUITE 303
 MINNEAPOLIS
 MN 55404
 612 870 0974
 FAX 612 870 4885
 formerly RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

April 10, 1996

President William Jefferson Clinton
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

On behalf of twelve Minnesota religious organizations and denominations, I thank you for vetoing H.R. 1833, the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban." Religious people oppose bans on late-term abortions because we believe in a woman's freedom to make morally and ethically responsible decisions. In a tragic situation such as this, a pregnant

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CATHOLICS FOR A FREE CHOICE-MN

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND

ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S CAUCUS

METHODIST FEDERATION

OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

MINNEAPOLIS YWCA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN,

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST FEDERATION

FOR SOCIAL ACTION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST ASSOCIATION,

PHOENIX SPAN DISTRICT

UNIVERSITY EPISCOPAL CENTER

we must make her an decision, in
consultation with her loved ones, doctor, and
clergy. None of us should force our
religious beliefs on others. The
separation of church and state is an
integral basis of our country. We thank
you for taking a strong stand for the
women of America.

Sincerely,

Susan H Mitchell
Executive Director

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
 CHICAGO AREA

President Clinton
The White House
Fax: 202-456-7311

April 10, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

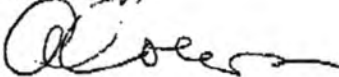
On behalf of the thousands of Chicago women and teens to whom we provide services each year, I'd like to thank you for your strong and principled support in opposing and subsequently vetoing H.R. 1833, the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban" Act. Your leadership was -- and will continue to be -- critical for the lives and health of women throughout the country.

Clearly you understand how dangerous this bill was for women who experience pregnancies which have gone terribly wrong. The tragedies faced by families who must choose an abortion at this later stage of pregnancy must not be compounded by the criminalization of a potentially life or health saving procedure. Families, in consultation with their doctors, must have all options available to them.

Finally, you are taking an important step to ensure that the government does not interfere in the relationship between patients and their health care providers. It is not the place of the government to tell doctors what is in the best interest of their patients' health. You have helped to secure the integrity of the medical profession.

You are a hero today for safeguarding women's health with your veto. We thank you for your support and leadership -- they mean more than words can ever express.

Sincerely,



Amy Coen
President & CEO



April 11, 1996

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President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of all women and families in America, I sincerely appreciate your veto of the bill banning late abortions. It's purpose was not to save babies, protect women's health or lives, but rather to chip away at the larger issue of personal privacy in reproductive matters.

Those women who testified before Congress during the hearings on this bill, along with many who did not, are thankful today too, I'm certain. I honor them for their courage to share the real issues and heartbreak of wanted pregnancies gone wrong. Unfortunately, it's too easy for ideologues to twist everything into a negative, which is just what happened in Congress.

You've done the right thing; thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jody J. MacLeod'.

Jody J. MacLeod
Executive Director

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EUNICE HAUSSERMANN



Planned Parenthood[®] of Greater Iowa

PO Box 4557 Des Moines, Iowa 50306 515/280-7000 FAX 515/280-9525

April 11, 1996

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

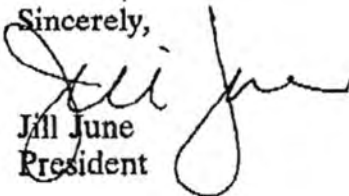
On behalf of Iowa families and families across the nation, Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa applauds your veto of the late term abortion bill.

This veto demonstrates the great confidence and trust you hold in the wisdom and compassion of the women who are confronted with the heartbreaking tragedy of terminating a deeply wanted pregnancy that has gone terribly wrong.

The veto also serves to protect the integrity of the physician-patient relationship by sending the message to Congress that such an unconscionable intrusion into medicine that would criminalize doctors for serving the best interest of their patients will not be tolerated.

Again, thank you for listening to the voices of those affected by this legislation, rather than the religious political extremists. Your action once again demonstrates your compassion and your commitment to women's health.

Sincerely,


Jill June
President

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD®
OF NORTHERN NEVADA**

455 West Fifth, Reno, NV 89503
Telephone: (702) 888-5555

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April 10, 1996

President Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

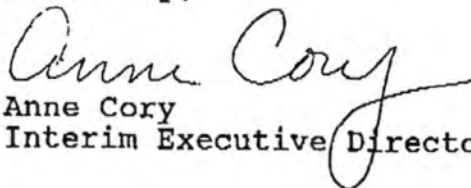
Dear President Clinton:

Planned Parenthood of Northern Nevada, our staff, volunteers and supporters, wish to thank you for your veto of the late term abortion bill. We applaud your stand for women's health, and your courage in facing unreasonable opposition on this issue.

We know that the citizens of the State of Nevada support choice and personal freedom.

Thank you for standing by these principles.

Sincerely,



Anne Cory
Interim Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY
AND REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES, WARD 6D4
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL

(415) 206-3629 phone

4-10-96

Dear President Clinton,

I am so glad we have a caring, intelligent, conscientious president! I am behind you 100% in your courageous move to veto the "Late Abortion" bill passed by Congress.

We must join forces to protect women's rights to make difficult decisions with the support of their physicians, without interference from governmental restrictions.

As a nurse practitioner working in the reproductive health field I have first-hand experience helping women through ^{the} crisis of unwanted pregnancy. Thank you for your stand on this. — Janet D. Jonte, NP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — (Letterhead for interdepartmental use)
Janet D. Jonte

Planned Parenthood *Advocates* of Michigan

P.O. Box 19104, Lansing, MI 48901 Phone (517) 482-1080

April 10, 1996

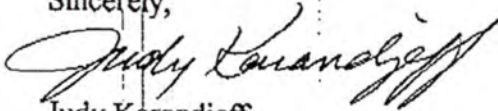
President Bill Clinton
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for vetoing the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Ban" legislation. We support your stand and think it is important that medical decisions be made by patients and their health care providers--not the U.S. Congress.

Your leadership will make the pro-choice voters aware of how important this next election is! Again, thank you.

Sincerely,



Judy Karandjeff
Public Affairs Director

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES**

of Central and Southern Indiana

3209 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-926-4662, Fax 317-927-3663

April 10, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your veto of the late term abortion bill. Your veto is the calm voice of reason on this bogus issue. Physicians must be free to practice medicine without intrusive governmental intervention.

I applaud your courage! You have done more to protect reproductive freedom and the rights of women in three and one half years than has been done in the previous twelve years. The issue of late term abortion is yet another attempt to chip away at reproductive freedom and to frighten doctors. Your veto was the appropriate action.

Sincerely,

Dinah Farrington
Director of Public Policy



April 10, 1996

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

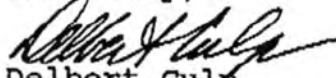
Dear Mr. President:

I just received word that you will veto the late abortion bill. Thank you! Your veto is a safeguard for women's health and a vote of confidence in the judgement of physicians. The Congress should not be interfering in the practice of medicine.

Abortion is always a difficult decision. It is even more so when something goes wrong in a wanted pregnancy that must be terminated.

Again, thank you, for your courage and determination to stand up to those who would make an unprecedented political intrusion into the lives of women and the operating rooms of respected physicians.

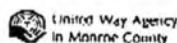
Sincerely,



Delbert Culp
President and CEO

Protecting, Providing and Promoting Reproductive Health

3209 North Meridian Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-5887
Indianapolis (317) 926-4662 • Bloomington (812) 336-7050 • FAX (317) 927-3663



P L A N N E D

PARENTHOOD
OF
LOUISIANA

TO: President Clinton

FROM: Terri Bartlett, President and CEO, Planned
Parenthood of Louisiana

RE: Veto of D&X Abortion Procedure

DATE: April 10, 1996

I want to thank you, on behalf of the women and their families in Louisiana, who have needed or may need in the future, the freedom in consultation with their physician to choose the medical procedure most likely to save their health and or lives, for your veto today.

It takes courage and conviction to veto a bill and in particular a bill which was crafted to confuse the American people! Anyone who heard the testimony of the women who stood beside you today as you vetoed this bill would have to agree with me that you have taken a major step in safeguarding the health and welfare of women.

I am grateful for your leadership today and every day. For those of us in States like Louisiana, where the need for services is so great yet the power of the religious right so strong, we depend on you to ensure that the laws of this country apply to all of us regardless of the fact that we live in Louisiana!

4018

MAGAZINE ST.
NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA

70115

504-891-8013

Boulder Abortion Clinic P.C.

1130 Alpine Avenue
Boulder, Colorado 80304
(303) 447-1361

10 April 1996

Hon. Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for vetoing the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion Act of 1996" which has arrived at your desk from Congress.

This is a most pernicious piece of legislation that would severely limit options for women and families stricken with tragically complicated pregnancies, and it would subject conscientious physicians to criminal penalties for serving their patients in the best tradition of medical practice.

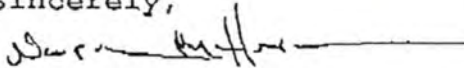
I commend you on your courage and leadership over the past several years on this issue, and I particularly applaud your courageous stand in deciding to veto this most despicable bill, which strikes at families experiencing the most tragic circumstances.

As someone who met you first at a National Abortion Rights Action League event in Denver in February, 1992, and who has supported your leadership ever since, I continue to admire your commitment to reproductive freedom.

Please feel free to call upon me for assistance or support in this matter at any time in the coming months and years ahead.

Also, I wish to extend my personal greetings to Ms. Clinton, whom I have also met at events sponsored in Denver by the Democratic Party.

Sincerely,



Warren M. Hern, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Warren M. Hern, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Diplomate, American Board of Preventive Medicine
Fellow, American College of Preventive Medicine



Planned Parenthood

of Stark County

2663 Cleveland Ave. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709
216-456-7191

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OFFICE ALSO IN

Massillon

Working to ensure access to reproductive health care through direct service, education and advocacy

April 10, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the residents of Stark County, thank you most sincerely for your continued support for the right of women and families to make the most personal and important medical decisions affecting family formation.

The D&X bill represented an unprecedented degree of political intrusion. Your veto signals that you are a leader who practices the politics of trust; not fear.

Thank you again for standing with women and families.

Sincerely,

Yvonne E. Bolitho
Executive Director

THE SOCIETY OF
PHYSICIANS FOR



REPRODUCTIVE
CHOICE AND HEALTH

The Honorable William Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 10, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of *The Society of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health*, we write to thank you for vetoing HR 1833, a bill that criminalizes a medical procedure that has been practiced by qualified and competent physicians, and found to be a safe and effective method for performing abortions. The abortion procedure is a method of choice in rare, tragic circumstances which require professional scientific determination to elucidate severe fetal anomalies and to avoid a life threatening delivery.

HR 1833 imposes a serious risk to the health and life of a pregnant woman and her family. It criminalizes the use of an established surgical procedure and eliminates a therapeutic choice that *physicians alone* are qualified to make. This legislation is an alarming precedent of politically inspired intrusion into the practice of clinical medicine, and one that has serious implications for the health care of all citizens.

We support your veto and thank you for carrying out your executive option.

The Society of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health is a national physician membership organization whose aim is to educate about and advocate for the highest quality standard of reproductive health care.

Sincerely yours,

Seymour L. Romney, M.D.
Chair

Jodi Magee
Executive Director

Suite 236
459 Columbus Ave.
New York, NY
10024

Tel: (212) 873-1118
Fax: (212) 724-2270

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Jodi Magee
Executive Director

Every Pregnancy A Wanted Pregnancy



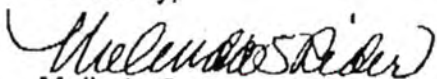
April 10, 1996

William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Your veto of the bill which sought to outlaw late term abortions using the D&X procedure is a move toward sanity and humanity. As the CEO of a Planned Parenthood affiliate, I see each and everyday the tragic results of too few health care choices available to women. Actions by Congress which seek to sacrifice the health of the women to the politics of the moment cannot be sanctioned. Thank you for standing firm for health, for women, and for the future of our families.

Sincerely,


Melinda S. Rider, MA
Executive Director and CEO

Melinda S. Rider, M.A., Executive Director & C.E.O.
Administrative Office: 201 S. Chapin Street South Bend, IN 46601 219/289-7062 FAX# 219/289-7064
Hawthorne Professional Care: 212 W. Edison Road, Suite E Mishawaka, IN 46545 219/755-9555
UrbanCare: 1708 S. High Street South Bend, IN 46611 219/287-6640
Elkhart County: 604 Oakland Avenue Elkhart, IN 46516 219/294-7561
Marshall County: 304 N. Walnut Plymouth, IN 46563 219/916-8680
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April 10, 1996

President Bill Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

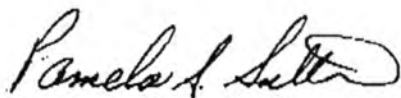
Dear President Bill Clinton,

Thank you for your veto of the late abortion bill.

As you know, this procedure is necessary to protect the lives and health of American women. In addition, your veto sends the message that the government should not put itself in the middle of the very difficult and personal decisions of families and their doctors.

Again, thank you for standing up for women and their families.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Sutherland
President & CEO

Pamela A. Sutherland, Executive Director

313 WEST COOK STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704
(217) 522-6776, (217) 522-7055 FAX



Dr + Mrs. Paul A Brown
1744 S. Ocean Blvd
Palm Beach FL 33480

Dear President Clinton,

Both my husband and I want
to thank you for your veto of the late
abortion bill. Only people who lack
imagination and heart could propose this
bill.

We support your candidacy,

Sincerely,

Cynthia R Brown



Planned Parenthood

of San Antonio and South Central Texas

April 11, 1996

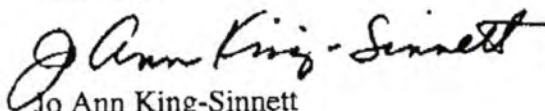
President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for showing such courage and compassion against a cold-hearted Congress by vetoing the ban on D&X abortion procedures. It is a shame that Congress spent such an inordinate amount of time spreading misinformation and fear concerning this rare procedure -- even using non-medical terminology in the bill itself. While this is a highly emotional issue, we must not further complicate a family's tragedy by banning the very procedure that is safest for women and preserves their ability to have healthy children in the future.

Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas applauds your decision to keep the government out of America's doctors' offices and operating rooms. Thank you for listening to the women who actually endured the nightmare of terminating a much-wanted pregnancy. It is truly unfortunate that a majority of Congress was unable to empathize with their plight.

Sincerely,


Jo Ann King-Sinnett
Public Affairs Director



Planned Parenthood[®]

of North Central Ohio

April 11, 1996

President Clinton
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton,

On behalf of the 9,000 women that Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio serves in our medical clinics, our staff and board of directors, we would like to thank you for vetoing the late abortion bill yesterday.

Congress should have listened to the women who recently testified about their D&X abortion procedures. Their testimony showed that the procedure was necessary because of severe medical crisis, and to save the life of the mother. We have great confidence in the wisdom and compassion of the women who are confronted with these heartbreaking dilemmas.

Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio joins our colleagues around the country in thanking you for safeguarding women's health with this veto, and not bowing down to reduce our abortion rights procedure by procedure.

Sincerely,

Cindy J. Biggs
Executive Director

File
Partial
Birth

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 10, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 1833

The Roosevelt Room

5:22 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. I have just met with five courageous women and their families, and I want to thank the Lines, the Stellas, the Watts, the Costellos, and the Ades all for meeting with me. They had to make a potentially life-saving, certainly health-saving, but still tragic decision to have the kind of abortion procedure that would be banned by HR 1833.

They represent a small, but extremely vulnerable group of women and families in this country, just a few hundred a year. Believe it or not, they represent different religious faiths, different political parties, different views on the question of abortion. They just have one thing in common: They all desperately wanted their children. They didn't want abortions. They made agonizing decisions only when it became clear that their babies would not survive, their own lives, their health, and in some cases, their capacity to have children in the future were in danger.

No one can tell the story better than them, and I want to call on one of them. But before I do, I want to say that this country is deeply indebted to them for being willing to speak out and to talk about the real facts, not the emotional arguments that, unfortunately, carried the day on this case.

So I'd like to ask Mary Dorothy Line to come up here and introduce herself and say whatever she'd like to say about why we're all here today.

MRS. LINE: My name is Mary Dorothy Line. My husband, Bill, and I are honored to be here today to speak for the many women and families who have also come forward to tell their stories in opposition to this terrible legislation.

Last April we were overjoyed to find out that I was pregnant with our first child. Nineteen weeks into my pregnancy, an ultrasound indicated that there was something wrong with our baby. The doctor diagnosed a condition called hydrocephalus. Every person's head contains fluid to protect and cushion the brain. But if there is too much fluid, the brain cannot develop.

As practicing Catholics, when we have problems and worries, we turn to prayer. As we waited to find out more from the doctors, our whole family prayed together. My husband and I were very scared, but we are strong people and believe that God would not give us a problem if we couldn't handle it. This was our baby. Everything would be fine. We never thought about abortion.

But the diagnosis was as bad as it could be. Our little boy had a very advanced textbook case of hydrocephaly. All the doctors told us there was no hope. We asked about in utero surgery, about shunts to remove the fluid, but there was absolutely nothing we could do. I cannot express the pain we still feel. This was our precious little baby, and he was being taken from us before we even had him.

This was not our choice, for not only was our son going to die, but the complications of the pregnancy put my health in danger, as well. If I carried to term, he might die in utero, and the resulting toxins could cause a hemorrhage and possibly a hysterectomy. The hydrocephaly also meant that a natural labor risked rupturing my cervix and my uterus.

Several specialists recommended that we terminate the pregnancy. I thank God every day that I had this safe medical option available to me, especially now that I am pregnant again and expecting a baby in September.

I pray every day, I really do, that this will never happen to anyone else. But it will. Those of us unfortunate enough to have to live this nightmare need a procedure that will give us hope for the future.

And I thank God for President Clinton; we all do here. the people who promoted this bill do not understand the real issues, but he does. It is about women's health, it's not about abortion, and certainly not choice. These decisions belong to families and their doctors, not the government. President Clinton listened to us and protected families like ours by vetoing legislation that would hurt so many people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

I'd like to ask Coreen Costello to come up and speak a little bit about her experience.

MRS. COSTELLO: My name is Coreen Costello, as you heard. I found out when I was seven months pregnant that my daughter was dying. She was dying inside my womb. The complications that she had posed severe health risks to me. One of the conditions she had was polyhydramnia, where the amniotic fluid puddles into the uterus.

I had over nine pounds of excess amniotic fluid. My daughter's body was rigid and it was stuck in a position that was as if she was doing a swan dive inside my womb. Her head and -- the back of her feet were touching the back of her head at the top my uterus. There was no way to deliver her.

My husband and I have always been extremely opposed to abortion. We consider ourselves very, very much pro-life, conservative Republicans. For us, terminating this pregnancy was not an option. For three weeks we attempted to turn my daughter so that I could deliver her vaginally and naturally. We had one hope, and that was that we would be able to hold our daughter alive for possibly an hour, maybe two.

Over the three weeks that we carried her we realized that that was not a possibility. She was dying and she would likely not survive any labor and there was no way I could deliver her. We had her baptized in utero. We named her Katherine Grace. We then realized that our only safe option was the procedure that is being outlawed -- is being attempted to be outlawed.

I am so grateful because today I am standing here before you pregnant again with a healthy child. I have two children. I have my health. I don't know how to tell you how important that is. This was such a tragedy, such a personal family tragedy. Our daughter will always be a part of our lives. There will always be someone missing in our family, and that's Katherine Grace. But I am so grateful for the ability to be able to go on and enjoy the two children that I do have, to be with my husband, to be with my family, and to be here today.

And that's what this is about. This is not about choice. We made a very different choice than what we ended up having to have. This is not about abortion, and it's not about choice. It's a medical issue. And I am so grateful for President Clinton and his ability to hear our stories, because we have been telling them for a long time and a lot of people haven't listened. But this is the truth, and this is what happened to us. And as painful as it is, we are all here to share that with you.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

I would also like to thank Jim and their children, and William.

Would you tell them what you told me in the office? Can you do it? This is Tammy Watts.

MRS. WATTS: Hi, my name is Tammy Watts. I live in Tempe, Arizona. I simply told our dear President that my story is not so different from everyone else's. I have the heartache, I have the same tragic story. I have the loss in my heart, as does my husband and the rest of my family and friends.

The fact is this: I would have given my life and traded placed with my daughter, Mackenzie. And in fact, with my pastor, that is exactly what I prayed for for the three days we tried desperately to find something that could cure her. You simply look for a magic wand and it's not there.

I am so thankful to our doctors, who were able to perform this very safe medical procedure, save our health, save our families. And I am particularly thankful to our President, without whom we would not be here. And he is a true blessing in all of our lives.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mitchell -- and those are the prints of your baby, right?

MS. WATTS: Yes, this is my daughter Mackenzie's handprints and footprints. This is something that is very special to us, and is something that we would not have if we did not have this very safe procedure.

THE PRESIDENT: Vikki, do you want to say anything?

MRS. STELLA: My name is Vikki Stella, and I'm from Chicago, Illinois. My story is basically the same thing. We're like a family now. And at 32 weeks I found out that my son wasn't growing properly, and when everything was all done and said and the ultrasounds were in and I had the answer, I found out my son had nine major anomalies, one including no brain. It did not show up on the amnio because it was a closed neural tube defect, so those things don't show up. That's for genetic research.

And I miss my son. But the one part I want to stress is I needed this for health reasons. I'm a diabetic. Other procedures would not have been what I needed. I don't heal as well as other people, so other procedures just were not the answer. I could have gone on and maybe tried to give birth to a child that would not live.

I didn't make the decision for my child to die; God made the decision for my child to die. I had to make the decision to take him off life support.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. And you have a baby here.

MRS. STELLA: Yes, I have a little boy here.

THE PRESIDENT: You have a three-month-old little boy here.

MRS. STELLA: Nicholas.

THE PRESIDENT: Claudia, would you like to talk?

MRS. ADES: Much like everyone else -- we've all had similar circumstances -- I was six months pregnant, 26 weeks into my pregnancy and happier than I had ever been in my entire life when, in a routine ultrasound, we found out that there was something terribly wrong with our son. He had fluid in his brain that was keeping his brain from developing. He had a hole in his heart, a hole between the chambers of his heart so that there was no normal blood flow.

He had -- I won't go on with the details, but horrible, horrible anomalies, and he stood no chance of survival. It was something -- it was a chromosomal abnormality, called Trisomy-13. It was actually the same condition that Tammy Watts's baby had.

Again, like everyone else, we begged for a cardiologist or a neurosurgeon or someone that could fix my baby's brain or the hole in his heart. And when we got the news -- I say this for the people that say that we don't care and for the people who say we don't want our children, and for the people that say we have no spirit or no soul or no religion.

My husband and I are Jewish and we got the news on Rosh Hashana. And when we finally had the procedure, the third day of this grueling procedure, it was Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. And Yom Kippur is the day that you mourn those that have passed, and it's the day that you pray that God will inscribe them in the Book of Life.

We'll forever, and for the past four years and forever we will mourn our son. We are very -- since that pregnancy, unfortunately lost five more, but we are very blessed that in July we're going to adopt a baby and we're going to be parents, and we're going to have the child we so desperately wanted.

And we are all here, my husband, myself and all of the other people standing behind me, we are all here as we have been for months, fighting in Congress. I just actually came back with Mary Dorothy from Sacramento, where we were testifying, where it is now in the State of California. And we are all here for the women that follow us, because all women deserve the finest medical care that exists. And we are the blessed ones and we want that for them.

And like everyone else, I just want to thank the President, because it's an enormous, enormous responsibility that he's taken. And we're all here to back him up -- it's so, so important what he's doing.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Thank you. Thank you, Richard. Thank you, Mitchell.

Ladies and gentlemen, I asked these families to come here today to make a point that I think every American needs to understand about this bill. This is not about the pro-choice/pro-life debate. This is not a bill that ever should have been injected into that.

This terrible problem affects a few hundred Americans every year who desperately want their children, are trying to build families, and are trying to strengthen their families. And they should not become pawns in a larger debate, even though it is a serious and legitimate debate of profound significance.

I hope that we can continue to reduce the number of abortions in America. When I was governor I signed a bill to restrict late-term abortions, consistent with the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade, only cases where the life or health of the mother is at risk. When I asked the supporters of the bill here to try to take account of this, they said, well, if we have a health exception you know you could -- the doctor and the mother could say anything -- they can't fit in their prom dress, that's a health exception -- some terrible things like that.

And I said, no, no, no, I will accept language that says serious, adverse health consequences to the mother. Those three words. Everyone in the world will know what we're talking about. We're talking about these families. I implored them. I said, if you want to pass something on this procedure, let's make an exception for life and serious adverse health consequences so that we don't put these women in a position and these families in a position where they will lose all possibility of future child-bearing, or where the doctor can't say that they might die, but they could clearly be substantially injured forever.

And my pleas fell on deaf ears. The emotional power of the description of the procedure -- which I might add did not cover the procedure these women had and did not cover all the procedures banned by the law -- but the emotional power was so great that my plea just to take a decent account of these hundreds of families every year that are in this position fell on deaf ears. And, therefore, I had no choice but to veto the bill. I vetoed it just a few minutes ago before I met with these families.

I will say again, if the Congress really wants to act out of a sincere concern that some of these things are done, which are wrong, in casual ways, then if they will meet my standards to protect these families, they could pass a bill that I would sign tomorrow. But these people have no business being made into political pawns.

As I said, and as they said, they never had a choice. This affects staunchly pro-life families as well as people that are pro-choice. They never had a choice. And I cannot in good conscience see their lives damaged and their potential to build good, strong families damaged.

We need more families in America like these folks. We need more parents in America like these folks. They are what America needs more of. And just because they happen to be in a tiny minority to bear a unique burden that God imposes on just a few people every year, we can't forget our obligation to protect their lives, their children, and their families' future.

That is what this veto is all about. And let me say again how profoundly grateful I am to them for coming here today and having the courage to tell their stories to the American people.

Thank you. Thank you all very much.

END

5:40 P.M. EDT

File
Abortion,
Partial
Birth

Nation's cardinals blast 'shameful veto' of abortion measure

By Richard Szczepanowski
CATHOLIC STANDARD

Cardinal James Hickey, seven other U.S. cardinals and the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote a "virtually unprecedented" joint letter Tuesday to President Clinton expressing "deep sorrow and dismay" over his presidential veto of a bill that would have outlawed partial-birth abortions.

Last Wednesday, the day he vetoed the measure, President Clinton wrote a personal letter to Cardinal Hickey, defending his decision to keep the abortion procedure readily available to women.

"Your veto of this bill is beyond comprehension for those who hold human life sacred," the churchmen told the president. "It will ensure the continued use of the most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb."

The letter was jointly signed by Cardinal Hickey, Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, Baltimore Cardinal William Keeler, Boston Cardinal Bernard Law, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony, Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida and New York Cardinal

Cardinals' letter, page 6

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Cardinal's letter

From page 1

John O'Connor. Also signing the letter was Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla, president of the bishops' conference.

"Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children, almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions," the churchmen wrote in their letter. "Your choice was to say 'yes' and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue."

The bishops said they sought to "underscore our resolve to be unrelenting and unambiguous in our defense of human life."

Although the measure contained an exemption for cases where the life of the mother is threatened, Clinton said he vetoed the bill because it did not contain a "serious adverse health consequences" clause. The president maintained such a clause would allow the procedure in cases where there was not a direct threat to the mother's life.

In their correspondence, the churchmen examined the president's professed reason for vetoing the measure, and offered their response.

"'Health,' as the courts define it in the context of abortion, means virtually anything that has to do with a woman's overall 'well-being,'" the churchmen said. "Most people have no idea that if a woman has an abortion because she is not married, the law considers that an abortion for a 'health' reason."

They also noted that previous court decisions have found that being too old, being too young, being emotionally upset by pregnancy or having a pregnancy interfere with schooling or a career can also be defined as "health" reasons to have an abortion. "As you know and we know, an exception for 'health' means abortion on demand," they told the president.

The churchmen vowed to instruct Catholics and "other people of good will" to do all they can to urge Congress to override "this shameful veto."

"Mr. President, your action on this matter takes our nation to a critical turning point in its treatment of helpless human beings," the letter to Clinton said. "It moves our nation one step further toward acceptance of infanticide ... (and) it sounds an alarm that public officials are moving our society ever more rapidly to embrace a culture of death."

Meanwhile, Clinton sought to defend his veto of the bill by writing a personal page and one-half letter to Cardinal Hickey. Cardinal Hickey has been in the forefront in the battle to get the legislation passed and approved by the president. The cardinal earlier had written three letters to Clinton, urging him to sign the partial-birth abortion ban into law. During Holy Week, Cardinal Hickey also helped lead a prayer vigil outside the White House that drew an estimated 800 people on a rainy night.

In his letter to Cardinal Hickey, Clinton said his decision to support continued use of the procedure came after "I have studied and prayed about (it) for many months." He said that while he opposes the use of such procedures, he sought a "health" exception to any legislation seeking to curb its use.

"I am against late-term abortions and have

long opposed them except where necessary to protect the life or health of the mother," Clinton wrote to the cardinal. "In short, I do not support the use of this (partial-birth abortion) procedure on an elective basis where it is not necessary to save the life of the woman or prevent serious risks to her health."

The president also sought to explain why the "life exception" in the version he vetoed was unacceptable to him. He said it "fails to cover cases where the doctor believes not that the mother's death is probable, but rather that, without the procedure, serious physical harm, often including losing the ability to have more children, is very likely to occur."

Clinton wrote that while he recognizes Cardinal Hickey's "desire to eliminate the use of a procedure you see as inhumane," he considered it "even more inhumane" to disallow partial-birth abortions without the exceptions he sought.

They also noted that previous court decisions have found that being too old, being too young, being emotionally upset by pregnancy or having a pregnancy interfere with schooling or a career can also be defined as "health" reasons to have an abortion. "As you know and we know, an exception for 'health' means abortion on demand," they told the president.

Supporters of the ban have pointed out that the procedure is used mostly for elective reasons. The cardinals noted that abortionists have testified that the method is unnecessary and dangerous to women.

Cardinal Hickey and the other bishops are now working to muster support for a congressional override of the veto. Although the legislation was backed by both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate, it did not pass by enough votes to override Clinton's veto.

Each of Maryland's lawmakers representing parts of the state located within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Washington voted against the ban. They include Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes and Representatives Constance Morella, Steny Hoyer and Albert Wynn. The cardinal has written to all of those congressional members, asking them to override the veto.

"Clearly this mistake must be reversed, and I am depending on your moral sensibility to change your previous vote which has been in favor of this kind of carnage," the cardinal wrote the lawmakers.

Reminding each of the lawmakers that "the majority of your constituents find this abortion practice abhorrent," the cardinal told them that "moral and political prudence would dictate that you take the appropriate actions to override this veto."

In his weekly column in the *Catholic Standard*, Cardinal Hickey asked Catholics and other citizens to write to their Congress members and urge them to override the presidential veto of the partial-birth abortion ban.

'Whose humanity will be denied next?'

Pro-life leaders assail president's veto on proposed partial-birth abortion ban

By Richard Szczepanowski
CATHOLIC STANDARD

Pro-life supporters reacted with outrage and anger to President Clinton's veto last week of a bill that would ban a form of late-term abortions known as "partial-birth abortions."

Local and national religious and civic leaders assailed the action by the president, and some have contended that the veto could become a major issue in this fall's presidential campaign.

"By a stroke of a pen, President Clinton vetoed a bill that would have prevented doctors from killing completely formed children practically at the moment of birth," Cardinal Hickey said. "If we deny the humanity of a child as it is being born, whose humanity will be denied next?"

Earlier, Cardinal Hickey had written to Clinton three times, pleading with the president to "exercise moral authority" and not veto the measure. The cardi-

President's veto, page 7

President's veto

From page 1

nal called the partial-birth abortion procedure "abortion on demand of the most heinous type."

Less than two hours after the presidential veto, Cardinal Hickey issued a strongly worded statement condemning the action, saying it should be a matter considered by voters later this year.

"Not only Catholics, but all Americans who respect life should sit up and take notice," Cardinal Hickey said. "Thoughtful Americans should keep this in mind as they ponder their choices on election day."

Tom Grenchik, director of the archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, said that with his veto "President Clinton has once again proven that he is the most aggressive and dangerous promoter of abortion in the world."

"His veto pen has made lawful the brain-sucking deaths of partially born infants," Grenchik said. He added that the veto shows the president to be "the radical pro-abortion extremist ... (and) morally bankrupt."

Boston Cardinal Bernard Law, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, denounced the veto "not only from the resources of our faith, but also as a citizen."

"No rhetoric about 'safe, legal and rare' abortions can camouflage the nature of this presidential veto," Cardinal Law said. "It is a declaration of unconditional support for abortion ... under any circumstances and by any means whatsoever, even those bordering on infanticide."

A recent poll conducted by the Tarrance Group showed that 71% of all Americans and 65% of those who identify themselves as "pro-choice" supported a ban on partial-birth abortions.

"President Clinton's veto of (the) legislation ... represents flawed moral leadership that runs fundamentally contrary to the beliefs of an overwhelming majority of Americans," said John E. Curley, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, an organization of more than 1,200 Catholic-sponsored health facilities and organizations.

Curley said the presidential action represented "a further deterioration in respect for human life and a further coarsening of our self-understanding as a civilized society."

In vetoing the ban, the president said that while partial-birth abortion "appears inhumane," such a procedure is "potentially lifesaving ... (and) certainly health-saving." The bill did contain an exception allowing the procedure in cases when the mother's life was at risk, but the president had sought an exemption for other health reasons.

In performing the procedure, a doctor grabs the feet of a fetus with forceps, and pulls the body up to the head, through the birth canal. The doctor then stabs surgical scissors into the base of the baby's skull, creating an opening to insert a catheter to suction out the baby's brains. This causes the baby's skull to collapse, allowing easy removal of the head to complete the procedure.

"In order to pay a political debt to pro-abortion activists, President Clinton will allow thousands of living, late-term babies to be mostly delivered and then painfully killed," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee.

In ceremonies marking his veto of the bill,

Clinton appeared with five women, including one who identified herself as a Roman Catholic and another who called herself "pro-life." Each said they underwent the procedure because of health problems, and they were supportive of the president's action keeping the abortion method available.

"What America should understand from this veto is that President Clinton is defending the killing of live, kicking babies who feel pain and who are a mere three inches from birth," said Michael A. Ferguson, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for America.

He added that "President Clinton has done a great disservice to the American Catholic community, which is unified in its rejection of the heinous partial-birth abortion (method)."

As Congress crafted the measure, Clinton vowed he would veto any partial-birth abortion ban that did not include a "health of the mother" exemption. Supporters of the measure on both sides of the aisle said such an exemption would virtually gut the bill of any strength.

"It is also well known that a 'health' abortion, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, includes reasons having to do with a woman's marital status and age, as well as for any reason relevant to a pregnant woman's social or emotional 'well-being,'" Cardinal Law said. "In other words, the exception the president insists upon would only ensure the continued practice of partial-birth abortion for virtually any reason whatsoever."

The "health of the mother" clause, pro-lifers have insisted, could be twisted to fit just about any case in which a woman sought an abortion.

"Most partial-birth abortions are conceded to be purely elective, but the legal language demanded by President Clinton would not prevent a single partial-birth abortion," Johnson said.

Most pro-life advocates called on Congress to override the veto. "We strongly urge Congress to override this indefensible presidential veto and to begin to bring a modicum of sanity to the abortion debate in our society," Cardinal Law said.

While the measure passed both the House and the Senate with wide bipartisan support, it appears there are not enough votes for an override.

Many see abortion as major campaign issue in this election year. Apparent Republican presidential candidate Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas does not support the procedure. He has said the procedure "blurs the line between abortion and infanticide."

"Since President Clinton cannot accept this very modest restriction on abortion, it is clear there is no restriction, under any circumstance, for any reason, he would accept," Sen. Dole said. "This is the definition of abortion-on-demand and the definition of 'extremist' on this issue."

CHA president Curley said the veto "positions the president on the extreme end of the abortion debate, and in this regard represents a serious political miscalculation."

Ferguson also called on Catholics to remember the veto at election time. Calling the veto an "alienation by the White House of Catholic Americans," he said, "Catholic Americans will not forget in November that we need a president who will promote a respect for all human life."

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From the Staff

The abortion president

Silly me. Up until a week ago Wednesday, I actually thought President Clinton would not veto legislation that would ban a most gruesome and disgusting procedure known as "partial-birth abortion."

In my heart of hearts, I really thought the president would do the noble thing and sign the ban into law.

I know Clinton is a staunch promoter of abortion, and I know that from his very first day in office he has done everything he could to make abortion as easy and as available as, say, getting a tooth pulled. But, I honestly thought that even this man would be sickened enough by the procedure to distance himself from it. Like I said, silly me.



The reason why this method of abortion is called "partial-birth" is simple: using forceps, a doctor grabs the feet of the baby from the mother's womb, and pulls the body up to the head, through the birth canal. The doctor then stabs surgical scissors into the base of the baby's skull, creates an opening, and inserts a catheter to suction out the baby's brains. This causes the baby's skull to collapse, allowing easy removal of the head to complete the procedure.

And what does our president say about all of this? He concedes that the procedure "appears inhumane." *Appears* inhumane? Sorry, Mr. President, but it *is* inhumane. Forceps grab a human's legs. A catheter suctions out a human brain. We are not talking about a mere mass of cells. We are talking about human life.

In preparing my stories on reaction to the president's veto, I heard a lot of comment that this horrible and undefendable procedure borders on infanticide. I disagree. This *is* infanticide.

President Clinton, who likes to paint himself as a middle-of-the-road moderate on this issue, promised to make abortion "safe, legal and rare." What has he done to make abortion rare? Nothing. In fact, all of his actions disprove that claim. In every instance, he has promoted measures that increase access to abortion on demand.

Clinton's veto of this bipartisan bill goes beyond some sort of devotion to the idea of a "women's right to choose" or backing the esoteric ideal of one having "control over one's body." This is outright support for, indeed promotion of, a specific procedure that rips a baby — not a glob of tissue, but a baby — from his or her mother's womb.

There has been much ballyhoo about this presidential action alienating the "Catholic vote." While I am proud to be a part of a religion so identified for its indefatigable support of life, this is not merely a Catholic issue. A Tarrance Group poll found that 71% of all Americans and 65% of those who identify themselves as "pro-choice" supported a ban on partial-birth abortions. Naturally, anyone of good will would.

Clinton relished his veto of the bill. Look at the flourish with which he did his dirty work. He hustled out five women who said they underwent the abortion and now support it as a viable procedure. One of those women identified herself as a practicing Catholic. The woman may identify herself as a Catholic, but she is not following what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says. It notes that "formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life" (# 2272).

This lady can identify herself however she wants; just as our "safe, legal and rare" president does. No matter what they call themselves, they ought to hang their heads in sorrow. And those of us who see this deadly procedure for what it is ought to pray to God for them to recognize the truth.

— Richard Szczepanowski

Insight

'With deep sorrow and dismay'

Text of cardinals' letter to president on partial-birth abortion ban veto

The following is the text of a letter hand-delivered to the White House Tuesday regarding the president's recent veto of a congressional bill that would have banned partial-birth abortions except when the mother's life was at risk. The letter, addressed to President Clinton, was signed by Cardinal Hickey and seven other American cardinals, along with Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla, the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

Dear President Clinton,

It is with deep sorrow and dismay that we respond to your April 10 veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Your veto of this bill is beyond comprehension for those who hold human life sacred. It will ensure the continued use of the most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb.

At the veto ceremony, you told the American people that you "had no choice but to veto the bill." Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions. Members of both Houses of Congress made their choice. They said NO to partial-birth abortions. American women voters have made their choice. According to a February 1996 poll by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates, 78% of women voters said NO to partial-birth abortions. Your choice was to say YES and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue.

During the veto ceremony, you said you had asked Congress to change H.R. 1833 to allow partial-birth abortions to be done for "serious adverse health consequences" to the mother. You added that if Congress had included that exception, "everyone in the world will know what we're talking about."

On the contrary, Mr. President, not everyone in the world would know that "health," as the courts define it in the context of abortion, means virtually anything that has to do with a woman's overall "well-being." For example, most people have no idea that if a woman has an abortion because she is not married, the law considers that an abortion for a "health" reason.

Similarly, if a woman is "too young" or "too old," if she is emotionally upset by pregnancy, or if pregnancy interferes with schooling or career, the law considers those situations as "health" reasons for abortion. In other words, as you know and we know, an exception for "health" means abortion on demand.

You say there is a difference between a "health" exception and an exception for "serious adverse health consequences." Mr. President, what is the difference — legally — between a woman being too young and being "seriously" too young? What is the difference — legally — between being emotionally upset and being "seriously" emotionally upset? From your study of this issue, Mr. President, you must know that most partial-birth abortions are done for reasons that are purely elective.

It was instructive that the veto ceremony included no physician able to explain how a woman's physical health is protected by almost fully delivering her living child, and then killing that child in the most inhumane manner imaginable before completing the delivery. As a matter of fact, a partial-birth abortion presents a health risk to the woman. Dr. Warren Hern, who wrote

the most widely used textbook on how to perform abortions, has said of partial-birth abortions: "I would dispute any statement that this is the safest procedure to use."

Mr. President, all abortions are lethal for unborn children, and many are unsafe for their mothers. This is even more evident in the late-term, partial-birth abortion, in which children are killed cruelly, their mothers placed at risk, and the society that condones it brutalized in the process.

As Catholic bishops and as citizens of the United States, we strenuously oppose and condemn your veto of H.R. 1833 which will allow partial-birth abortions to continue.

In the coming weeks and months, each of us, as well as our bishops' conference, will do all we can to educate people about partial-birth abortions. We will inform them that partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833.

We will also urge Catholics and other people of good will — including the 65% of self-described "pro-choice" voters who oppose partial-birth abortions — to do all that they can to urge Congress to override this shameful veto.

Mr. President, your action on this matter takes our nation to a critical turning point in its treatment of helpless human beings inside and outside the womb. It moves our nation one step further toward acceptance of infanticide. Combined with the two recent federal appeals court decisions seeking to legitimize assisted suicide, it sounds the alarm that public officials are moving our society ever more rapidly to embrace a culture of death.

Writing this response to you in unison is, on our part, virtually unprecedented. It will, we hope, underscore our resolve to be unrelenting and unambiguous in our defense of human life.

Sincerely yours,

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin,
Archbishop of Chicago

Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua,
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Cardinal James Hickey,
Archbishop of Washington

Cardinal William Keeler,
Archbishop of Baltimore

Cardinal Bernard Law,
Archbishop of Boston

Cardinal Roger Mahony,
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Cardinal Adam Maida,
Archbishop of Detroit

Cardinal John O'Connor,
Archbishop of New York

Bishop Anthony Pilla,
President, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

President's letter to Cardinal Hickey

The following is the text of a letter President Clinton sent to Cardinal Hickey last Wednesday, the day the president vetoed the partial-birth abortion ban.

Dear Cardinal Hickey:

I want to thank you for your letters on H.R. 1833. I appreciate and considered the strong moral convictions you expressed.

This is a difficult and disturbing issue, one which I have studied and prayed about for many months. I am against late-term abortions and have long opposed them, except where necessary to protect the life or health of the mother. As governor of Arkansas, I signed into law a bill that barred third trimester abortions, with an appropriate exception for life or health, and I would sign such a bill now if it were presented to me.

Indeed, when I first heard the procedure referred to in H.R. 1833 described, I thought I would support the bill. But as I studied the matter and learned more about it, I came to understand that this is a rarely used procedure, justifiable as a last resort when doctors judge it necessary to save a woman's life or to avert serious health consequences to her.

In the past months, I have learned of several cases of women who desperately wanted to have their babies, who were devastated to learn that their babies had fatal conditions and would not live, who wanted anything other than an abortion, but who were advised by their doctors that this procedure was their best chance to avert the risk of death or grave harm which, in some cases, would have included an inability to ever bear children again. For these women, this was not about choice. This was not about having a headache or fitting into a prom dress, as some have regrettably suggested. This was not about choosing against having a child. These babies were certain to perish before, during or shortly after birth. The only question was how much grave damage was going to be done to the woman.

In short, I do not support the use of the procedure on an elective basis where it is not necessary to save the life of the woman or prevent serious risks to her health.

That is why I implored Congress to add a limited exemption for the small number of compelling cases where use of the procedure is necessary to avoid serious health consequences. The life exception in the current bill fails to cover cases where the doctor believes not that the mother's death is probable, but rather that, without the procedure, serious physical harm, often including losing the ability to have more children, is very likely to occur. I want to say again that if Congress will amend the bill as I have suggested, remedying its constitutional and human defect, I will sign the bill.

Again, I thank you for your concern. These are painful and sobering issues. I understand your desire to eliminate the use of a procedure you see as inhumane. But to eliminate it without taking into consideration the rare and tragic circumstances in which its use may be necessary would be, in my judgment, even more inhumane.

Although I know you disagree with me on this matter, I hope we can continue our dialogue and continue to work together on the broad array of issues on which we do agree. I need your help and your insight.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Confused? Welcome to the abortion debate

The abortion debate is placing me in serious jeopardy of making me downright cynical and distrustful. And if that happens, I can blame it, in part, on the conduct of abortion advocates during the latest epic struggle over partial birth abortion.

There is a pretty simple reason why partial birth has caused abortion advocates to behave with even less veracity than usual: when faced with the facts about a particular abortion procedure, about the humanity of the victim and the brutality of the surgery, abortion advocates have nowhere in the factual universe to run. And so they resort to untruths. A whole host of them.



Dealing with these gets old fast. Not merely because boldface lies are always provoking, but also because abortion advocates seem to get away with them so repeatedly. As a British preacher once opined: "A lie will go around the whole world and back while the truth is still pulling on its boots." In other words, before a pro-life group can refute an untruth in its first incarnation, it tends to appear in 10 more publications—a Planned Parenthood fact sheet, congressional testimony, a *Boston Globe* opinion column, and so on. It's impossible to type, dial or talk fast enough to keep up with it!

What's even more frustrating is that the pro-life

arguments regarding partial birth abortion are based on the statements of abortion advocates and partial birth abortionists themselves. The other side ignores their own evidence and offers only anecdotes and the uninformed opinions of non-experts. Still, their claims receive more public exposure.

A few examples tell the story. The first wave of public education about partial birth abortion described the procedure in the words of one of its practitioners, Dr. Martin Haskell. The public was horrified to learn that late-term infants, mostly delivered outside of their mothers, could be stabbed in the head and have their heads vacuumed, then crushed, under the guise of *Roe v. Wade*. Enter the first untruth: wanting to avert disapproval of killing live infants this way, the National Abortion Federation (NAF) hastily assured the public that the children were dead before all the nasty instrumentation began! One slight problem with its public claim—a partial-birth abortionist refuted it. He said that the vast majority of the babies he aborted this way were still alive when he stabbed them.

Not to be dissuaded from their campaign to court public approval, NAF, Planned Parenthood, and the National Abortion and Reproduction Rights Action League (NARAL) then began claiming that it was the anesthesia given to the mother that killed her baby. It wasn't the stabbing or suctioning. This claim was repeated over and over in newspapers, women's magazines, and so on. Pregnant women with sched-

uled surgery were coming to their doctors with sweaty, folded magazine articles asking whether the anesthesia they would get was the kind that "could kill their babies."

Finally the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) could stand it no longer. Without taking a position on the bill to ban partial birth abortions, the ASA made a public statement, followed by two sworn statements before Congress, that there was absolutely no credible scientific evidence to support the claim that the baby was killed by anesthesia. Two anesthesiologists even said that if you gave enough anesthesia to the mother so that it killed the baby, the mother would be dead too! Having made these statements publicly, the ASA director, a self-avowed supporter of legal abortion, was then shocked to find that the same media outlets who had quoted the false claims of the abortion lobby never printed his expert denials. This doctor couldn't understand why the press wouldn't want to alert pregnant women that it was perfectly safe for them to undergo necessary surgery and receive anesthesia. Wouldn't "pro-woman" organizations want women to know this? His genuine confusion reminded me of how a child reacts when first discovering that the world is not all goodness and light.

You poor fellow, I thought. Welcome to the abortion debate.

Alvare is director of Planning and Information at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.)

From the Cardinal

by James Cardinal Hickey

Ask our senators to support life

I often try to regale my readers with stories from the past as a way of illustrating some insight into our faith. But this week, I need to sound an alarm. This week, I want to speak from my heart as your archbishop and to ask your cooperation in a very important matter.

As you probably know, last week President Clinton vetoed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. This legislation would have made it illegal for doctors to take the life of partially born children. All abortion, of course, is an unjustifiable attack on innocent human life, but partial birth abortion is particularly heinous. It is the killing of a fully-formed child about to take a first breath. Most so-called "pro-choice" physicians cannot tolerate this morally repugnant procedure. Most Americans, even so-called "pro-choice" Americans, oppose it. Congress passed a law banning it.



By the stroke of a pen, President Clinton vetoed the will of the people. But he did more than that. He moved the country deeper into what Pope John Paul II calls "the culture of death." By his decision the president made it clear that his administration will not tolerate any compromise whatsoever on abortion. In a word, the president has cast his lot with extremists in the abortion debate.

Some have called the president's action a serious political miscalculation. It is not for me to analyze the

politics of his decision. My job is to be like a prophet in the Old Testament crying aloud in protest in the streets and neighborhoods of this archdiocese. My task is to denounce the president's appalling veto allowing the continued killing of babies seconds before their birth. My responsibility is to educate those who may be deceived by efforts to disguise a morally outrageous decision in the clothes of compassion.

We should be aware of two such disguises.

First, partial birth abortion is sometimes portrayed as "good for women." Indeed, the president has said that partial birth abortion should be legal to protect both the life and health of the mother. Evidently the president chose not to believe the well qualified experts who testified before Congress that this procedure is *not* medically necessary. Even Dr. Warren Hern, author of the nation's most widely used abortion textbook, does not believe that partial birth abortion is good for women. Let me quote Dr. Hern: "I have very serious reservations about this procedure... I would dispute any statement that this is the safest procedure to use... It is bad enough that partial birth abortion places women at risk; but it is always lethal to the child!"

A second disguise offered by our president to justify his veto is that the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act is unconstitutional. Again untrue. No court, not even the Supreme Court in *Roe vs. Wade*, ever addressed the legality of killing a live, mostly delivered child in the process of being born.

The plain truth is that the vast majority of partial birth abortions are purely elective. The plain truth is that it is

well within the power of Congress and the president to stop this horrible practice. President Clinton has already made his choice. Now it is up to the Congress to override the president's disgraceful veto.

That brings the matter a little closer to home, to our Maryland Senators, Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes. If you check the record, you will find, regrettably, that both senators voted against the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. In other words, they are currently on the side of the president; they are likely to sustain his veto.

With all my heart, I urge you to write to Senator Mikulski and Senator Sarbanes. Please ask them to change course. Ask them to vote to override the president's veto. Ask them to look carefully at the barbarous practice they are supporting. Encourage them to discard the disguises of death and to support life.

Here is where to write:

Senator Barbara Mikulski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Paul Sarbanes
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

I urge you to write them this very day. Don't do it for me. Don't do it for any political motive. Do it because it is the right thing to do. Do it for the children. Do it for our nation. Do it because you love and respect human life!

The Catholic vote

Panelists debate which parties, issues Catholic voters will be drawn to on election day

By Gerard Perseghin
CATHOLIC STANDARD

The Catholic vote, traditionally Democratic and linked with the New Deal, may look to the Republican Party in 1996 or follow a third-party candidate.

That was the general consensus of a symposium on the Catholic vote held at the Catholic University of America this week. Sponsored by CUA's Department of Politics and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the symposium included the outspoken remarks of such political pundits as syndicated columnist Mark Shields, Kate O'Beirne of the *National Review*, and journalist Chris Matthews. They gave their views on the Catholic vote along with Stuart Rothenberg who publishes a political report and Chuck Donovan of the Family Research Council.

The symposium also included authorities such as Helen Alvare, the director of planning and information for the U.S.

CUA PHOTO BY MATTHEW BARROK



Helen Alvare, the U.S. bishops' spokeswoman on pro-life issues, speaks during the panel discussion on the Catholic vote.

Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities; Pat Fagan of the Heritage Foundation; Robert Royal of the Ethics and Public Policy Center; Don Devine, Washington columnist and political consultant to the likely Republican presidential nominee, Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas; and Carl Anderson, the dean of and a scholar in family law at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family and vice president for public policy of the Knights of Columbus.

The Catholic vote is an important one by any measure, the panelists said. Research done by the Hibernians show

that Catholics cast 30% of the vote in 1994. The Church census calculates the Catholic U.S. population at 23%, while Gallup and other surveyers put it even higher, at between 27 and 30%.

What is behind the Catholic vote?

Alvare, who has been very visible in the recent campaign on behalf of the partial-birth abortion ban vetoed by President Clinton last week, said, "Love of God and love of fellow man. As moral supporters fall away from the Church — newspapers, some universities, for instance — the Church must not be silent."

As pro-life issues come to the front of political discussions, Alvare said, "Abortion is always wrapped up in the question of whether mothering is a burden or a gift. Euthanasia is about the way we look at the disabled and the elderly." With such weighty issues in the political arena, Alvare said that some still greet these with the "sentiment that religion belongs in the home."

Patrick Fagan said that voting for a politician who takes an aggressive stand on behalf of an evil such as abortion can even be a mortal sin, according to some moral theologians. He also distinguished between "matters of evil and matters of good" in the political arena, pointing out that the Church must always be against matters of evil such as abortion. On the other hand, the Heritage Foundation scholar contended that when dealing with matters such as pressing for a higher minimum wage, "we have choices." The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think tank.

Addressing the direction of the Catholic vote, Kate O'Beirne of the *National Review* voiced the views of many of the speakers that Catholics do not vote as a bloc, but there is "overwhelming evidence that religion informs their views. There is no firm attachment to a political party."

O'Beirne said, "Younger Catholics don't have the affinity for the Democratic Party that their ancestors had." She pointed out that they voted noticeably for Ronald Reagan in 1980: "He made the Republican Party attractive to Catholics."

But then Catholics also voted in significant numbers for Ross Perot, the third party candidate, in 1992. According to data offered by the Hibernians, as much as 29% of the Catholic vote in one state, Arizona, went to Perot. In many other states more than 20% of the Catholic vote went to Perot.

"This showed a disaffection with either (major) party," said O'Beirne.

She also said, "The more upscale Catholics are, the more Republican they are."

And the issues for voting Catholics in 1994 when many Catholic Republicans



Syndicated columnist Mark Shields, right, and Kate O'Beirne of the *National Review* were among panelists who discussed the Catholic vote at Catholic University.

were voted into Congress, O'Beirne said, were "abortion, family values and taxes." The Hibernians' report said, "Twenty years ago there were only five Catholic Republicans in Congress. Today there are 55. Catholics who first voted for Reagan in 1980 as young voters became GOP candidates in adulthood." In Maryland for the first time, Catholic voters voted for a Republican candidate for governor by a 56% margin over a Catholic Democrat, Gov. Parris Glendening, who is a staunch advocate of abortion rights.

Catholics did not support another Catholic, Patrick Buchanan, in the presidential primary this year for another reason, O'Beirne said. "Expressing a positive agenda is crucial," she said. "That's why Buchanan's angry attitude did not go well with Catholics."

At the same time, she believes President Clinton will have a difficult time wooing the Catholic vote this year because "people recognize him as a liberal and Catholics are not liberals." She referred to the Cairo Conference on population and the appointment of Dr. Jocelyn Elders as surgeon general as two instances of Clinton liberalism that did not go well with Catholic voters. At the Cairo Conference, the Catholic Church's representatives waged an uphill battle to be heard, while Elders' comments on sexuality favored a permissiveness not in synchronization with Church teaching.

This week, O'Beirne said Clinton acted out "another defining issue" when he vetoed the partial-birth abortion ban which had won votes in Congress from those who often vote pro-abortion. Polls done before the signing showed that a majority of Americans favored banning

the method. Many contend the procedure is one step away from infanticide. "This, from a man who wanted to make abortion safe, minimal and rare," said O'Beirne. Bill Clinton has positioned himself with fanatic feminists."

On the other hand, Chris Matthews, host of "Politics" on CNBC, said he thought Bill Clinton will win re-election, not because of his positions but because of the images he paints of himself. "He's getting certain people out of the room," Matthews said. "All of a sudden the Catholic sensibility is on display. Hillary is out of the room. After the vote (on the partial-birth abortion ban) this week, it will be back to V-chips and Mother Teresa."

But Kate O'Beirne countered, "Bob Dole is an easy sell to Catholics. School uniforms (Clinton has said he favors them) don't trump keeping children from being born."

Syndicated columnist Mark Shields said, "Dole's mortality is very much on people's minds." Sen. Dole is 72, and President Clinton is 49.

But Matthews retorted that Clinton will win regardless of his vetoing the partial-birth abortion ban "because he'll say he did it to help the mothers." (As he announced the veto this past Wednesday, President Clinton was photographed with tearful women who said they had partial-birth abortions for health reasons. The president offered their cases as the reason he vetoed the ban, even though the measure contained an exception for women whose lives were at risk.)

But O'Beirne had the last word: "Bill Clinton will find himself defending the indefensible. I think it's going to be a major problem for him."