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RIGHT TO LIFE

CANDIDATE SURVEY

U.S. Congress

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D/C/20

The Right to Life movement supports a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, such as the one below, which would protect the right to life of all human beings from fertilization until natural death such as the one recommended below:

- Section 1.** *The right to life is the paramount and most fundamental right of a person.*
- Section 2.** *With respect to the right to life guaranteed to persons by the fifth and fourteenth articles of amendments to the Constitution, the word "person" applies to all human beings, irrespective of age, health, function, or condition of dependency, including their preborn offspring at every stage of their biological development including fertilization.*
- Section 3.** *No preborn person shall be deprived of life by any person: Provided, however, that nothing in this article shall prohibit a law allowing justification to be shown for only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of either the pregnant woman or her preborn offspring, as long as such law requires every reasonable effort be made to prevent the death of each.*
- Section 4.** *Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

1. Would you vote for this amendment?

Comment: I supported the Eagleton approach (Federalism Amendment) which was largely embodied in the Webster decision.

2. Pending the passage of a Human Life Amendment, legislation may be proposed to restrict abortions and set forth the public policy that this nation is against abortion and its promotion. Would you support such legislation?

Comment: Depends on the language of the legislation.

3. Do you support the current federal laws which prohibit funding of abortion in the Medicaid program and federal employees' insurance program, except those necessary to prevent the death of the mother?

Comment: I support the rape and incest exceptions as well.

4. Would you support legislation to establish a permanent ban on federal funding of the use of fetal tissue from induced abortion for experimental or organ transplantation through the National Institutes of Health?

Comment: The Secretary of HHS recently announced such a ban which I support.

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5. Would you support legislation that would prohibit any funding of abortion in the District of Columbia, except to prevent the death of the mother? (Prior to FY 1989, the District funded 3,600 abortions per year with so-called 'local' funds.)

Comment: I oppose the use of federal funds except as noted in paragraph 3.

6. Do you support legislation that would prohibit federal funding of any organization which performs or promotes abortion in the U.S. or overseas?

Comment: I oppose the expenditure of federal funds to perform abortions as part of any family planning program, foreign or domestic, except as noted in paragraph

7. In order to expedite their deaths, some elderly, chronically ill and handicapped persons are being deprived of food and water without their knowledge or consent. Would you support legislation protecting the right to nutrition and hydration for these individuals?

Comment: Yes.

8. The U.S. Congress is considering another Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Legal scholars on both sides of the abortion issue see the ERA as mandating the funding of abortion. Many even see the ERA as mandating a total 'right to abortion' within its broad language.

To ensure that the ERA be neutral on abortion, an amendment has been offered which states: 'Provided that nothing in this Article (ERA) shall be construed to grant or secure any right to abortion or the funding thereof.' Would you oppose the ERA unless an 'abortion neutral amendment' is included?

Comment: I disagree with your conclusion about the impact of ERA on abortion, but I will consider the legal arguments you raise before making a final decision.

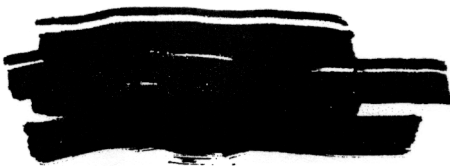
Signed: *Rich Durbin* Date: 1/25/90

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Please return to:



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