

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

**HOYER-GREENWOOD LATE-TERM ABORTION RESTRICTION BILL BANS ALL PROCEDURES - NOT JUST PARTIAL BIRTH PROCEDURE**

MAR 16 2000 March 16, 2000

\* 3rd trimester abortions for "mental health"

Dear Colleague:

Last summer, we introduced H.R. 2149 - the Late Term Abortion Restriction Act of 1999 with 24 bipartisan cosponsors. The bill would prohibit all late-term abortions, regardless of procedure, with exceptions only to protect the life of the mother and to avert serious adverse health consequences.

Two critics of the bill, Rep. Hyde and Rep. Canady, claim that the legislation allows for exceptions if the mother's mental health is at stake. Indeed, mental health is considered a serious and adverse consequence to the mother's health. This bill resembles existing laws, that specifically prohibit abortion after viability under specified circumstances, in 41 states, including:

*Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.*

The bill prohibiting the partial-birth procedure, introduced in the House by Rep. Canady, prohibits a particular procedure used not just during a late-term pregnancy but during the earlier stages as well. To ban a specific medical procedure, rather than all late-term abortions, does not strike at the heart of the matter: termination of a viable fetus during the late states of a pregnancy.

We urge you to cosponsor the common-sense, bi-partisan "Late-term Abortion Restriction Act." If you are interested in cosponsoring or would like additional information, please contact Bruce Marsh in Rep. Hoyer's office at 5-4131 or Joel White in Rep. Greenwood's office at 5-4276.

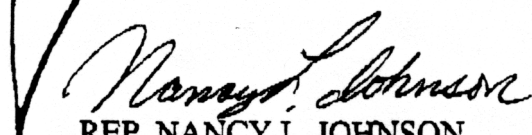
Thanking you for your attention to this important matter and with kindest regards, we are

Sincerely yours,

  
REP. STENY H. HOYER

  
REP. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

  
REP. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

  
REP. NANCY L. JOHNSON