



## As they beat me, one said, “Your baby is dying tonight.”

My name is Shiwona Pace.

On August 26, 1999, I was a 23-year-old college student in Little Rock. I was the mother of two — my five-year-old son, and an unborn baby girl named Heaven Lashay. I had named my baby “Heaven” two months earlier, after an ultrasound test revealed that she was a girl. August 26 was one day before my predicted full-term delivery date.

But that night, three men brutally murdered my unborn baby daughter.

I curled up face down on the floor, crying, begging for them to stop beating me. But they did not stop. One shouted, “F\*\*\* you! Your baby is dying tonight.”

They choked me, punched me, hit me in the face with a gun. They kicked me again and again in the abdomen. After about thirty minutes, they left me sobbing there on the floor.

At the hospital, they found Heaven had died in my womb. She was a perfect baby, almost seven pounds. She almost looked as if she were sleeping.

The assailants were arrested. They had been hired by Erik Bullock, my former boyfriend. He paid them \$400 to kill little Heaven Lashay.

Only a month before, a new state law took effect that recognized unborn children as crime victims. If that law had not been enacted,

Erik Bullock would have been prosecuted only for the assault on me, but not for the death of my baby.

But thanks to the state law, Bullock was also convicted for his role in killing my baby. The men who attacked me are also being prosecuted for what they did to Heaven.

I tell my story now for one reason: If this same attack occurred today within a federal jurisdiction, the men who killed my baby could be prosecuted only for assault.

That is why I urge members of Congress to support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (H.R. 503, S. 480), which would recognize unborn children as victims under 68 federal laws dealing with crimes of violence.

I was dismayed to learn that some members of Congress oppose this bill, and insist on adoption of a radically different bill (the Lofgren Amendment) that says that such crimes only have one victim – the pregnant woman.

They are wrong. On the night of August 26, 1999, there were *two* victims. I lived – but my daughter died. I lost a child, and my son lost the baby sister he had always wanted – but little Heaven lost her *life*.

It seems to me that any congressman who votes for the “one-victim” amendment is really saying that nobody died that night.

And that is a lie.

## A Vote for the Lofgren “One-Victim” Substitute Is a Vote Against Protection for Unborn Victims of Violence



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