



# THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORD ON LIFE

## President George W. Bush 2001-2009

*"The promises of our Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone -- including unborn children. We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children, to see the promise and potential in every human life."*

*-President George W. Bush*

- President Bush appointed two justices to the U.S. Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. In 2007, both justices voted to uphold the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.
- In 2003, President Bush signed into law the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. When legal challenges to the law were filed, his Administration successfully defended the law and it was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- President Bush also signed into law several other crucial pro-life measures, including the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which recognizes unborn children as victims of violent federal crimes; the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which affords babies who survive abortions the same legal protections as babies who are spontaneously born prematurely; and legislation to prevent health care providers from being penalized by the federal, state, or local governments for not providing abortions.
- In 2007, President Bush sent congressional Democratic leaders letters in which he said that he would veto any bill that weakened any existing pro-life policy. This strong stance prevented successful attacks on the Hyde Amendment and many other pro-life laws during 2007 and 2008.
- The Administration issued a regulation recognizing an unborn child as a "child" eligible for health services under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- In 2001, President Bush declared that federal funds could not be used for the type of stem cell research that requires the destruction of human embryos. He used his veto twice to prevent enactment of bills that would have overturned this pro-life policy. The types of adult stem cell research that the President promoted, which do not require the killing of human embryos, realized major breakthroughs during his administration.
- The Bush Administration played a key role in the United Nations, in adoption by the UN General Assembly of the historic UN declaration calling on member nations to ban all forms of human cloning (2005), and including language in the Convention (Treaty) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which protects persons with disabilities from being denied food, water, and medical care (2006).
- President Bush strongly advocated a complete ban on human cloning, and helped defeat "clone and kill" legislation.
- President Bush restored and enforced the "Mexico City Policy," which prevented tax funds from being given to organizations that perform or promote abortion overseas. The President's veto threats blocked congressional attempts to overturn this policy. The Administration also cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund, due to that agency's involvement in China's compulsory-abortion program.