

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley, Chairman
And Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Re: SB 357 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. – Ella Ennis - SUPPORT

I strongly support SB 357 – Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. My sincere thanks to Senators Serafini, Edwards and Salling for sponsoring this bill. SB 357 has protections for a pregnant woman whose life or physical health is in serious danger and requires or requests to end her pregnancy after 20 weeks of pregnancy. This legislation will provide long-overdue protection for unborn children who can feel pain. It will allow them to be born alive, receive appropriate medical care and have the same chance to survive as would than any other premature baby of the same gestational age.

SB 357 is important and necessary because it provides an opportunity to preserve the lives of viable and near-viable babies – those able to live outside the mother’s womb--without denying the pregnant woman the ability to end her pregnancy if she needs to do so at 20 or more weeks.

The unborn or pre-born baby is a human being. We cannot deny the baby’s humanity because the woman carrying that baby has decided to end her pregnancy. Her right to privacy as provided by the Supreme Court, to control her body, does not automatically negate the right to live of the pre-born child she is carrying. That child is not her body. The baby is always a separate being. As a baby develops and reaches the capacity to feel pain, and is at or near-viability its right to live needs to be accommodated. The woman can end her pregnancy with a method that gives the living pre-born child a reasonable chance for survival. Her right to end her pregnancy is not an automatic right to demand a dead child.

If a pregnant woman has a medical emergency and desires to keep the child, every medical procedure/assistance available will be used to help that child survive. The same medical help should be available for the unwanted child. A pre-born child’s humanity is not determined by whether it is wanted by its biological mother. The child’s humanity is God-given. When Government decides that a woman has a right to end her pregnancy, then government has an obligation to provide for the pain-capable and viable pre-born child that can survive an abortion. Such children can be adopted. Many Americans go overseas to adopt a baby at great expense. There is no legitimate reason for the deliberate killing of a living, viable pre-born child. They can be adopted here.

Medical science recognizes that unborn children feel pain. As stated in the bill, surgeons performing life-saving surgery on a baby in the womb use anesthesia because the baby will feel pain. Why then would anyone think that a baby being poisoned with salt or other chemicals or dissected with surgical instruments or suctioned apart would not feel pain? These procedures are barbaric and unnecessary.

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We often hear that children cannot survive outside the womb at 20+ weeks of life. Here are three actual examples of living children that prove otherwise as reported in news articles.

- Millia Taylor born at 21 weeks and 6 days in October 2006 – source Article Washington Times 2-21-2007.
- Twins Rumaisa and Hiba, daughters of Mahajabeen Shaik and Mohammed Abdul Rabman born at 26 weeks in 2004 one of whom weighed 8.6 ounces – Source: Article in Washington Times 12-11-2004.
- Sara Peters born at 25 weeks in 1993 – Source: “Miracle Baby,” Life at 11 is Happily Ordinary” in Washington Post.

Medical science has advanced a great deal since these children were born. There are many more examples. All children who reach 20 weeks should have the same chance to live, whether it is for a few hours, or days or a long lifetime.

Please for all of the above reasons, vote a FAVORABLE Report for SB 357.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
P.O. Box 437
Port Republic, MD 20676
E-mail: eee437@comcast.net