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## Sanfelippo lauds passage of bill protecting children from torture

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin, issued the following statement after the state Assembly passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which prevents the torture of unborn children through abortions after 20 weeks:

“I applaud my legislative colleagues for adopting this noncontroversial legislation that protects living human beings – not fetuses – from being ripped apart and forcefully subjected to an excruciating amount of pain.

In the more than 12 months we worked on this bill, we heard from many reputable medical professionals who made it clear that at 20 weeks post-fertilization, unborn children are more than capable of feeling pain. Their voices and research cannot be ignored.

This legislation also supports the mental health of the mother by providing written materials on the availability of perinatal hospice, a service for families who wish to carry their unborn child to term, despite an unfortunate diagnosis indicating the baby may pass away shortly after delivery due to severe abnormalities or other complications. This vital service helps families cope by supplying a support system from the time of the initial diagnosis to the natural death of the child.

Statistics supplied by the state Department of Health Services show 89 children were killed by post-20-week abortions in 2013. In addition to those children, this bill will also protect people like Bryce Hafner, whose mother, Anne, testified before lawmakers in June that she was encouraged to terminate her pregnancy when doctors claimed her unborn son had water on the brain and would not survive. Because Anne chose life, Bryce is now 11 years old and loves playing sports and being a big brother to his younger sisters.

The procedures used in these types of elective, late-term abortions are nothing less than torture. I’m proud that my fellow Assembly members stepped up and did what is right by protecting these unborn children from cruel and traumatic pain.”

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