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Protecting children from torture is not controversial

MADISON, Wis. – The time is now.

As members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, we have a small window of opportunity to pass important, prolife legislation known as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Bill, which would prevent the torture of babies through abortions after 20 weeks.

Sen. Mary Lazich, Rep. Jesse Kremer, Rep. Joan Ballweg and I are working together to ensure everyone's on board with protecting these unborn children who do not yet have a voice, but time is of the essence. The legislation is available to be scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor at any time and the spring session is almost over.

These are unborn children we are trying to help, not fetuses. We've heard from many medical professionals that these small human beings are capable of feeling pain after 20 weeks, as they are being ripped apart, limb by limb.

The following description from former abortionist Dr. Anthony Levatino is not for the faint of heart, but it accurately illustrates what happens to babies during late-term abortions and the pain they must endure.

“A second trimester D&E abortion is a blind procedure. The baby can be in any orientation or position inside the uterus. Picture yourself reaching in with the Sopher clamp and grasping anything you can. At twenty weeks gestation, the uterus is thin and soft so be careful not to perforate or puncture the walls. Once you have grasped something inside, squeeze on the clamp to set the jaws and pull hard – really hard. You feel something let go and out pops a fully formed leg about 4 to 5 inches long. Reach in again and grasp whatever you can. Set the jaw and pull really hard once again and out pops an arm about the same length. Reach in again and again with that clamp and tear out the spine, intestines, heart and lungs.



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The toughest part of a D&E abortion is extracting the baby's head. The head of a baby that age is about the size of a plum and is now free floating inside the uterine cavity. You can be pretty sure you have hold of it if the Sopher clamp is spread about as far as your fingers will allow. You will know you have it right when you crush down on the clamp and see a pure white gelatinous material issue from the cervix. That was the baby's brains. You can then extract the skull pieces. If you have a really bad day like I often did, a little face may come out and stare back at you."

In 2013, 89 children were killed in Wisconsin in abortions performed after 20 weeks, according to the state Department of Health Services.

We owe it to those 89 babies and all future unborn children to stop this torture from continuing. It's time these children are finally given a voice in these cruel and agonizing situations because they are capable of feeling pain, too.

The West Virginia Legislature passed similar legislation earlier this year. The House version of the bill passed by a vote of 88-12, which included the support of two-thirds of the House Democrats.

This is not a partisan or controversial issue by any means. Everyone should be concerned with protecting children from being tortured, whether they are born or unborn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Sanfelippo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Joe Sanfelippo