

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

As you know, we have just marked the one-year anniversary of the conviction of late-term abortionist Kermit Gosnell. The case of Kermit Gosnell shocked the sensibilities of millions of Americans. Gosnell's illegal, unsafe, and gruesome abortion practices resulted in his conviction for the deaths of his patient Mrs. Karnamaya Mongar and three innocent babies who were killed after they were born alive following failed abortions. Abortion hurts women and kills their children, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Gosnell case.

While Kermit Gosnell was convicted of murder for his crimes against the newly born babies, the crushing fact is that abortions on babies just like the ones killed by Gosnell have been happening in America every single day, for the past 40 years. Let us not forget that, had Gosnell decapitated these babies while still in utero, only moments earlier, he would have, in many places nationwide, been performing an entirely legal procedure. The difference between murder and a completely legal action is mere inches. If America truly understands that horrifying reality, hearts and laws will change.

The fact is, there is now incontrovertible scientific evidence that babies feel pain at 20 weeks fetal age.¹ And this fact is reflected in standard medical practice when treating the youngest of patients. Surgeons routinely administer anesthesia to unborn children in the womb before performing in utero surgeries.² In testimony given before the House Judiciary Subcommittee in 2012, it was noted that when speaking of infants at 20 weeks post fertilization "we no longer have to rely solely on inferences or ultrasound imagery, because such premature patients are kicking, moving, reacting, developing right before our eyes in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit."³

A new study by the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that the United States is one of just seven countries worldwide that permits elective abortion more than halfway through pregnancy (beyond 20 weeks).⁴ It is an indescribable shame that America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, is leading the world in callous disregard for the most vulnerable among us.

¹ Effect of direct fetal opioid analgesia on fetal hormonal and hemodynamic stress response to intrauterine needling. Fisk NM, Gitau R, Teixeira JM, Giannakouloupoulos X, Cameron AD, Glover VA. *Anesthesiology*. 2001;95:828-35. Ibid at 22.

² Van de Velde M, Van Schoubroeck DV, Lewi LE, Marcus MAE, Jani JC, Missant C, Teunkens A, Deprest J. Remifentanyl for Fetal Immobilization and Maternal Sedation During Fetoscopic Surgery: A Randomized, Double-Blind Comparison with Diazepam. *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. 101 (2005) 251-258.

³ Colleen A. Malloy, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Neonatology at Northwestern University, testimony before Subcommittee on the Constitution, May 17, 2012

http://judiciary.house.gov/_files/hearings/Hearings%202012/Malloy%2005172012.pdf

⁴ Gestational Limits on Abortion in the United States Compared to International Norms. Baglini, A. J.D. Charlotte Lozier Institute, 2014. <http://www.lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/American-Report-Series-INTERNATIONAL-ABORTION-NORMS4.pdf>

American public opinion supports protecting these babies from the excruciating pain of dismemberment in the womb. Recent national polling by Quinnipiac, Huffington Post, and Washington Post/ABC News all found that a clear majority of Americans support protecting unborn children after 20 weeks gestation.⁵ Knowingly subjecting our innocent unborn children to these brutal procedures in the womb, particularly when they have developed to the point that they can feel excruciating pain, belies everything America is or was ever called to be.

On May 13, Senator Lindsey Graham's request for floor consideration of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, S. 1670 was blocked. We appeal for your reconsideration.

As you know, the House of Representatives passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, H.R. 1797, with bipartisan support on June 18, 2013. We implore you in the name of humanity to permit our colleagues in the Senate to have the opportunity to vote on this important measure as well.

Most sincerely,



Trent Franks
United States Congress



Diane Black
United States Congress



Michele Bachmann
United States Congress



Marsha Blackburn
United States Congress

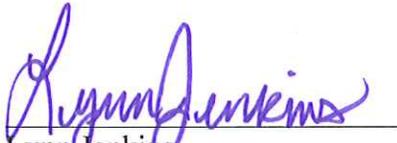


Vicky Hartzler
United States Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
United States Congress

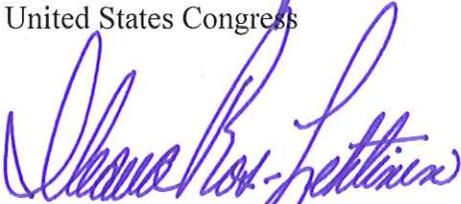
⁵ Quinnipiac University Poll, <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/images/polling/us/us08022013.pdf>, August 2, 2013; Huffington Post Poll, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/11/abortion-poll_n_3575551.html, July 11, 2013; Washington Post/ABC News Poll, http://www.washingtonpost.com/page/2010-2019/WashingtonPost/2013/07/25/National-Politics/Polling/question_11465.xml?uuid=bN9EXvUZEeKB-06Ds4ZMNg, July 26, 2013.

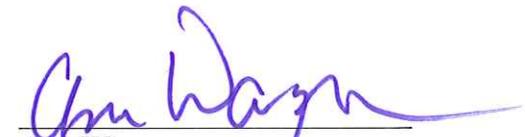

Lynn Jenkins
United States Congress


Candice Miller
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Kristi Noem
United States Congress

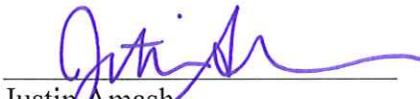

Martha Roby
United States Congress

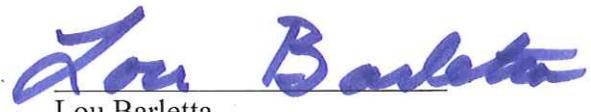

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
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United States Congress

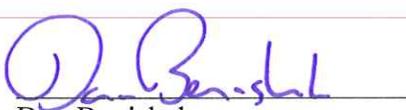

Robert Aderholt
United States Congress

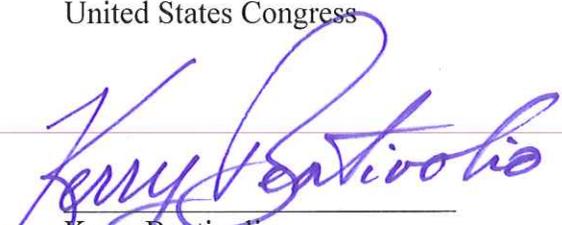

Justin Amash
United States Congress

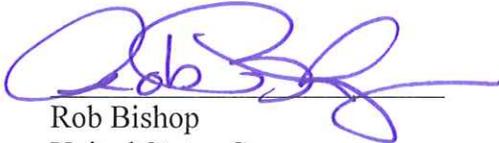

Lou Barletta
United States Congress


Andy Barr
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Dan Benishek
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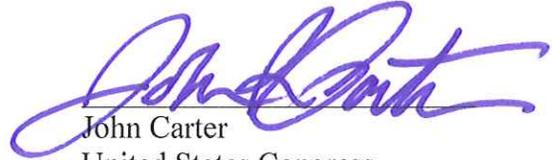
Rob Bishop
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Charles Boustany
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Jim Bridenstine
United States Congress



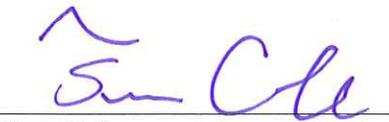
John Carter
United States Congress



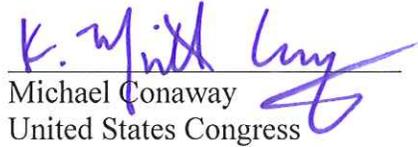
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Steve Chabot
United States Congress



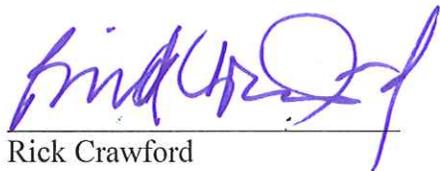
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Michael Conaway
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Kevin Cramer
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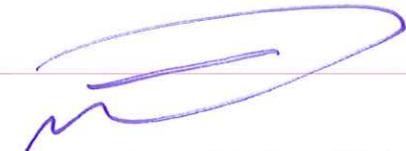
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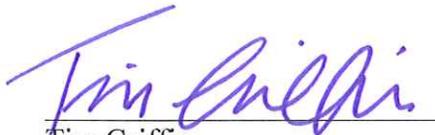
Louie Gohmert
United States Congress

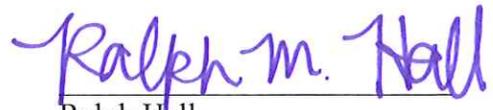
Bob Goodlatte
United States Congress

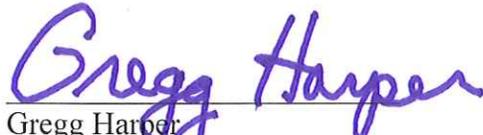
Paul Gosar
United States Congress

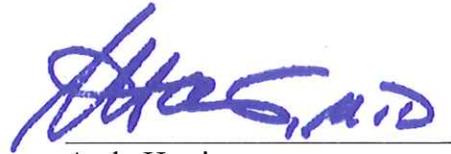
Trey Gowdy
United States Congress

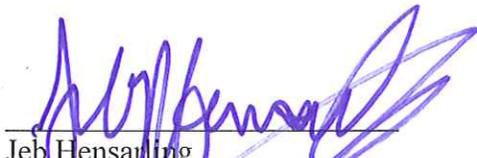
Sam Graves
United States Congress

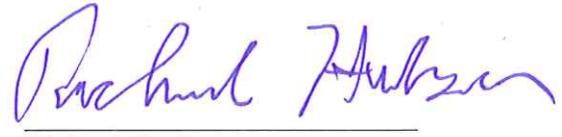

Tim Griffin
United States Congress

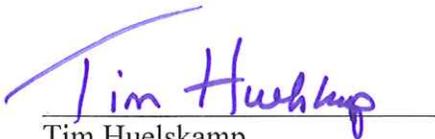

Ralph Hall
United States Congress

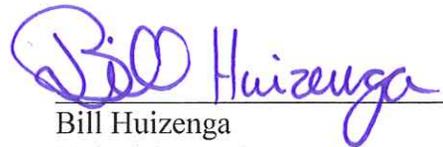

Gregg Harper
United States Congress

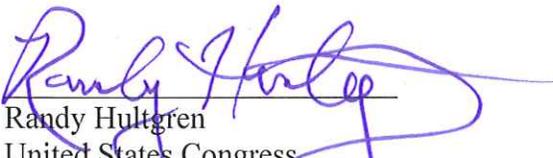

Andy Harris
United States Congress

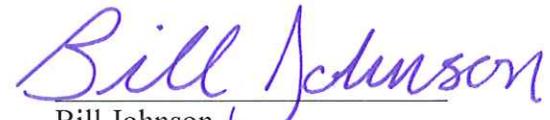

Jeb Hensarling
United States Congress

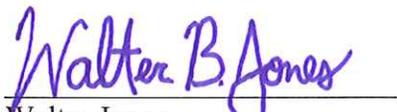

Richard Hudson
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Tim Huelskamp
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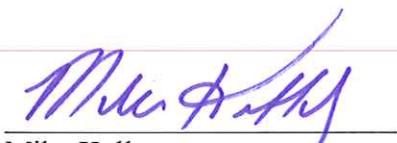

Bill Huizenga
United States Congress

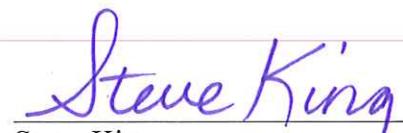

Randy Hultgren
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Bill Johnson
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Walter Jones
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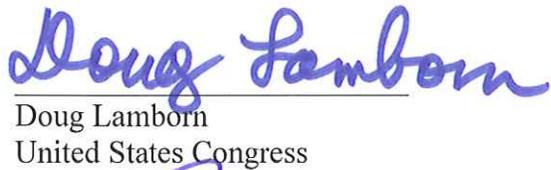

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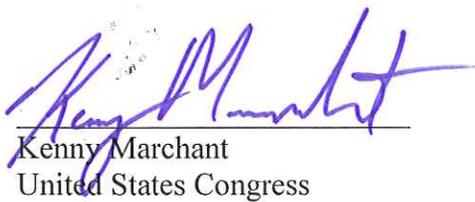

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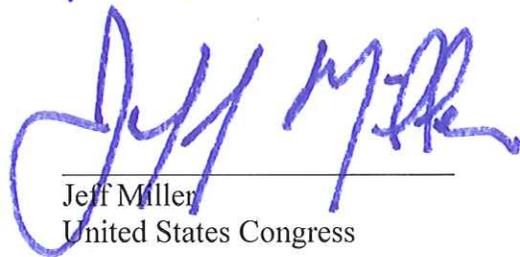

Billy Long
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Blaine Luetkemeyer
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Kenny Marchant
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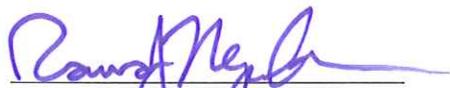

Tom McClintock
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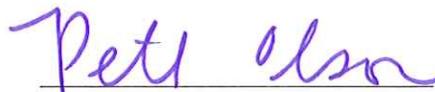

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Tim Murphy
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Alan Nunnelee
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Randy Neugebauer
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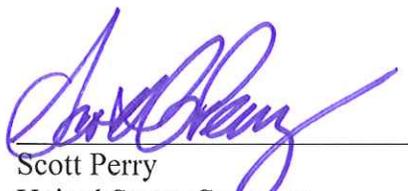
Pete Olson
United States Congress



Steven Palazzo
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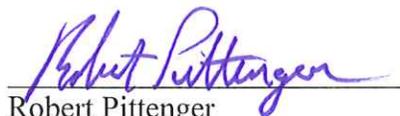
Steve Pearce
United States Congress



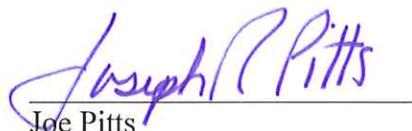
Scott Perry
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Joe Pitts
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Mike Pompeo
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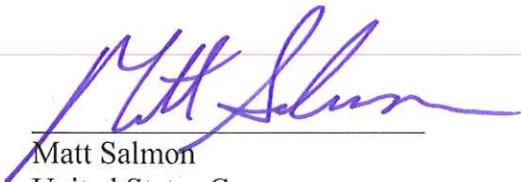
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Mike Rogers (AL)
United States Congress



Todd Rokita
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Matt Salmon
United States Congress



Steve Scalise
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David Schweikert
United States Congress

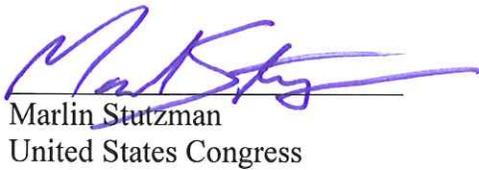

Adrian Smith
United States Congress

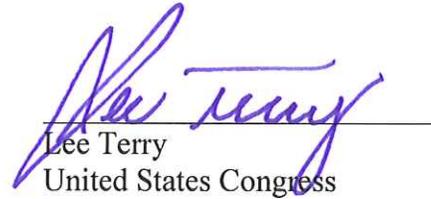

Chris Smith
United States Congress

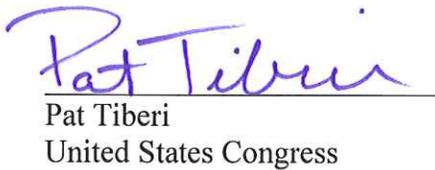

Jason Smith
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Steve Southerland
United States Congress

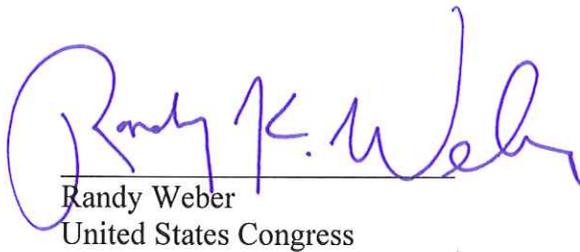

Steve Stockman
United States Congress


Marlin Stutzman
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Lee Terry
United States Congress

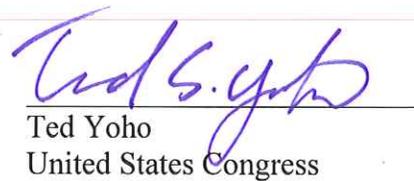

Pat Tiberi
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Tim Walberg
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Randy Weber
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Brad Wenstrup
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T. Young
Todd Young
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