



new york state **RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE, INC.**

COMMITTEE

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Memo in Support of the Born Alive Abortion Survivors' Protection Act

New York State Right to Life strongly supports the Born Alive Abortion Survivors' Protection Act (S2569 Helming/A4429 Manktelow). This bill offers needed protections to a baby who survives an attempted abortion. It gives a baby who has survived an abortion full equality under the law by requiring that any medical practitioner take the same steps to save his/her life as s/he would take to save the life of any other baby in similar circumstances.

- The Born Alive Abortion Survivors' Protection Act mandates that a baby who is born alive after surviving an attempted abortion must be given the same degree of medical care as a baby of similar gestational age who is born alive and is not the survivor of an attempted abortion. It also specifies that a baby who is the survivor of an attempted abortion must be transferred to a hospital and that, if the abortionist kills the baby, the abortionist will be legally guilty of killing a human person. These are very common-sense provisions that anyone should agree with. It is high time that the New York State Legislature implemented these provisions into New York State law by passing the Born Alive Abortion Survivors' Protection Act.
- While the rightness of these provisions seems morally obvious, they are unfortunately more controversial than they ought to be. While speaking about a bill that would legalize third trimester abortion in 2019, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, who has a background as a pediatric neurosurgeon, stated the following: “[Third trimester abortions are] done in cases where there may be severe deformities. There may be a fetus that is nonviable. So in this particular example, if a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired. And then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.” Clearly, Gov. Northam believes that the infant should only be resuscitated and given standard care if the mother desires that. Sadly, there are too many who agree with him. In a U.S. Senate vote last year on the federal version, titled the “Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act”, 41 U.S. Senators voted against the measure. These provisions clearly are not universally agreed upon and therefore need to be enacted into New York State law to protect any baby who is the survivor of an abortion from being denied proper medical care.
- It is also worth noting that this bill, if passed would not in any way restrict abortion. It actually has nothing to do with abortion at all. It only mandates that survivors of an attempted abortion be properly cared for after they are already born. This is a bill that any person should support, regardless of his/her perspective on abortion.

There have been attempts at passing a federal bill specifically protecting a baby who survives an attempted abortion and ensuring that s/he receives proper medical care. However, those attempts have been blocked by radical anti-life forces. It is the hope of New York State Right to Life that the New York State Legislature will be more honorable and pass this clearly needed bill.