



ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 17, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We understand the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote this week on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 3504), sponsored by Congressman Trent Franks, which would extend much-needed protections under the law to babies who survive botched abortions. Please know of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's unequivocal support for this bill.

Specifically, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would make failure to provide standard medical care to children born alive during an abortion a federal crime. It would also apply stronger penalties in cases where an overt act is taken to kill the abortion survivor. Further, the legislation includes a civil right of action for mothers of abortion survivors to hold the abortion provider accountable.

Southern Baptists overwhelmingly view every human life—no matter the age, stage, or condition—to be a sacred gift from our Creator, and worthy of protection. In June, elected church messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting overwhelmingly passed a resolution that "affirm[s] the dignity and sanctity of human life at all stages of development, from conception to natural death" and commits to "pray and work for the repeal of unjust laws and inhumane practices that degrade human life."

Allowing babies to die on an abortionist's operating table is one such inhumane practice. Yet, absent enactment of the proposed born-alive legislation, an abortion survivor—gasping for air or struggling for the next heartbeat—could be denied basic medical care legally mandated for all other babies, and left to die, with no legal recourse. To allow infants to die on the watch of trained medical care, unwilling to intervene, is barbaric and must be punished appropriately under law.

For these reasons and more, I urge all members of Congress to vote to approve the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the youngest among us who lack a voice of their own.

Sincerely,

Russell Moore, Ph.D.
President