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To: Representative Scott Suder
Acting Chair of Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee

From: Matthew Lee, MD
Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Re: Support of Assembly Bill 710

Date: February, 2 2008

Representative Suder,

I am writing in support of AB 710. I believe the time is right for Wisconsin to have our own Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. We have a clear direction from the Supreme Court as to the constitutionality of this legislation. I also believe that we have a clear direction from the citizens of Wisconsin. The legislature passed a ban on this unneeded procedure in 1998 that was held to unenforceable by the Supreme Court ruling in 2000.

This bill would prevent a physician from “deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living fetus until, in the case of a headfirst presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother, or, in the case of breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother, for the purpose of **performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus.**” Some have called this anti-choice legislation. However, in our civilized society we should not have a choice to deliberately kill a partially delivered baby.

As a practicing Ob-Gyn for over 8 years, I have never witnessed or heard of a situation that called for this procedure. I have never wished for one moment that if we just were able to perform a D&X we could have helped this mother. **Never.** You have heard testimony from many physicians about the “need” for this procedure. Please be aware that there is much disagreement about this. Even though the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology supports this procedure, they do not speak for all of their membership. Please hear from the American Association of Prolife Obstetricians and Gynecologists. I am in complete agreement and support of Dr. Elizabeth Shadigian’s testimony as well as the amicus brief in the *Gonzales* case filed by AAPLOG.

In summary, you have a clear direction from the people of the state of Wisconsin. You have a clear direction from the Federal courts. You have heard from many Ob-Gyns that banning this radical procedure will not harm women. I urge you and your committee to pass AB 710.

Thank you,

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