

Hearing Tomorrow (Jan. 31) on Wisconsin Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

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The Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee will hold a public hearing tomorrow, January 31, on the Wisconsin Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (AB 710). The legislation is authored by Rep. Jim Ott (R-Mequon) and Rep. Tony Staskunas (D-West Allis). Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) is the State Senate leader on the issue.

Even though there is a federal ban on the gruesome late-term partial-birth abortion procedure, a state ban is necessary in order to permit local officials to become involved in violations of the ban. With only a federal ban on the procedure, prosecution of partial-birth abortion cases could only be handled by federal prosecutors. Prosecutions of partial-birth abortion cases would be best handled when state and local prosecutors also have the tools they need to ensure that the ban on partial-birth abortions is expeditiously enforced.

Assembly Bill 710 mirrors the language of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 which was ruled to be constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Among those testifying tomorrow will be Brenda Pratt-Shafer, RN. Brenda was assigned by her nursing agency to an abortion clinic. Since she considered herself to be "very pro-choice," she didn't think this assignment would be a problem. She was wrong.

Brenda will tell the committee what she saw when she assisted a doctor who performed a partial-birth abortion.

The committee will also hear expert legal and medical testimony regarding the need for a state ban on partial-birth abortion.

Wisconsin Right to Life

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