



## Support HB 1274, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Dear Delegate:

February 7, 2022

On behalf of Pro-Family Women, we urge you to vote for HB 1274, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, introduced by Del. Nick Freitas (R-30).

HB 1274 will provide protection from an abortion for unborn children who are at least 20 weeks beyond fertilization (with certain exceptions). This point in time is about the start of the sixth month. There is substantial medical evidence that an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain at 20 weeks post-fertilization, if not earlier.

Science provides evidence of the pain experienced by unborn children. For instance, unborn children have been shown to have an elevation in stress hormones in response to painful stimuli.

Medical practice provides further evidence. Neonatologist Dr. Colleen A. Malloy from Northwestern University testified before Congress that premature born infants at 20 weeks post-fertilization are “kicking, moving, reacting, and developing right before our eyes in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.” She said: “In today’s medical arena, we resuscitate patients at this age and are able to witness their ex-utero growth and development. . . . There is no reason to believe that a born infant would feel pain any differently than that same infant were he or she still in utero.” For further evidence of fetal pain, see <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/fetalpain/Fetal-Pain-The-Evidence.pdf>

In light of the evidence of fetal pain, is there any question but that an unborn child would have the capacity to feel agonizing pain during the most common method of abortion at this late stage in development -- *the brutal dismemberment abortion procedure*?

Please vote to have Virginia join the other 18 states that have similar laws in effect. Please vote to protect these unborn children, that are capable of feeling pain, from being subjected to these brutal abortion procedures. Please vote for HB 1274.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Muskett, J.D., President