

December 5, 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

As organizations committed to protecting and advancing women's health and respect for their health needs, we urge you to oppose the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (H.R. 6099). Women have a right to make informed decisions about their reproductive health care, and should be provided with accurate information about the medical risks of any reproductive decision. However, this legislation expressly disserves this goal. By forcing physicians to provide biased information and discuss a course of medical treatment about which there is no scientific consensus, it undermines women's right to accurate and complete medical information concerning their care and intrudes on a woman's relationship with her doctor.

The compulsory communication required by this legislation undermines the relationship between women and their doctors by forcing physicians to provide biased, misleading, and emotionally-laden information that is not supported by available scientific data. H.R. 6099 would force every woman seeking an abortion twenty weeks after fertilization to read and sign a statement that contains inflammatory rhetoric and projects a level of certainty that far exceeds the scientific research, irrespective of her individual medical needs.

Women expect and deserve to determine their course of treatment with their doctors, not with Members of Congress. Women seeking abortions, like other patients, deserve the best available scientific evidence to inform their decisions, and deserve to have their physicians take their individual circumstances into account when discussing medical treatment.

We urge you to oppose the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act and respect the privacy and dignity of American women.

Sincerely,

National Women's Law Center
Advocates for Youth
American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American Public Health Association
Anti-Defamation League
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for Inquiry

Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Jewish Council For Public Affairs
Jewish Women International
Legal Momentum
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
NCA Union Retirees
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations