



February 28, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Texas Legislature,

In light of the refusal of the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold reasonable safety standards to protect maternal health set by the State of Texas in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, Texas must redouble efforts to protect the most vulnerable lives, blazing a trail for the Pro-Life movement.

The next legislative step in establishing the state’s interest in “potential life” of the unborn child is to ban one barbaric type of second trimester abortions known as dismemberment abortions. This state interest has been explicitly recognized by the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* and in subsequent abortion-related cases such as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which affirmed that “the state...may express profound respect for the life of the unborn’ by regulating abortion.”

Therefore, we, the undersigned, respectfully urge the passage of the Dismemberment Abortion Ban during this 85<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature.

Senate Bill 415 and House Bill 844, the Texas Dismemberment Abortion Ban, outlaw the barbaric and inhumane procedure that ends the life of a living, conscious preborn child by ripping her from limb to limb. The goal of this violent procedure, like other abortion procedures, is to deliberately end human life. This is distinct from medical procedures to save the life of the mother in rare severe medical emergencies.

Seven states have already banned this gruesome practice (Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.), and several more are considering the legislation in their 2017 sessions. As a Pro-Life state, Texas must join these states in protecting the preborn from a torturous death.

Failure of the Texas Legislature to protect the preborn during this 85<sup>th</sup> Session will result in the untimely end of thousands of lives before the beginning of the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature. We respectfully request that you and your office become involved in the passage of this vital measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cindy Asmussen, Ethics & Religious Liberty Advisor, Southern Baptist Convention of Texas

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

**ProLifeOBIGYNS**  
AAPLOG American Association of Pro-life  
Obstetricians & Gynecologists



**PRO-LIFE ACTION LEAGUE**



Gary Bennett, Chairman, Center for the Preservation of American Ideals

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President, Susan B. Anthony List

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

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Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant Tea Party

Donna Harrison, American Association of Pro-Life Ob/Gyns

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