

Eagle Forum Report

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Life Matters

WILL CONGRESS FIND ITS PRO-LIFE MOJO?

by Elizabeth Graham, Executive Director, Texas Right to Life

While the Republican leadership in Washington, D.C., trips over each other to assure voters of their Pro-Life bonafides, the election of Donald J. Trump offers a reprieve from the relentless assaults on Life that have spewed from the White House since January 2009. Whether or not the President-Elect meets our vision as a conservative, or a Christian, or a Pro-Lifer, I'm confident that he will not be calculating the erosion of free speech, religious freedoms, nor the sanctity of human life during his every waking moment.

The task of activists, voters, and Pro-Life advocates now is to push our elected officials to move: to move aggressively, to move measures that protect our faith, our family, and our freedoms, and to move protections for the unborn. We must not assume that the Republican majority will prioritize the issues nearest and dearest to our own hearts. We must hold them accountable now more than ever.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Texas Right to Life's bill to protect unborn children who can feel pain from abortion at five months gestation. This type of law includes several components that cannot be severed from any worthy Pro-Life law:

- the pain law draws attention to the humanity of the unborn child;

- the pain law drives the cultural conversation in a positive direction;
- the pain law chips away at the foundation of *Roe v. Wade*; and
- most importantly, the pain law



actually stops many abortions.

This important law has actually saved lives in Texas.

As expected, the U.S. Congress is trying to keep up with Texas. They are working on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which is a ban at five months when the child does indisputably feel pain. The challenge in Congress will be to keep the language of the bill strong and without weakening provisions. The abortion proponents hate this bill. They will not launch a court challenge on this measure because the

only take-away from media stories is that the child may feel the pain of the procedure.

Abortion executives saving for that Lamborghini automobile would rather avoid a prolonged news cycle and the dreaded cultural conversation about the unborn child's capacity to feel pain. Such distasteful public relations hits the bottom line of the abortion industry hard.

Congress also is now trying to out-Pro-Life each other in defunding Planned Parenthood — a feat that Texas has mostly already accomplished. The abortion giant receives over half a billion dollars of our tax money, despite the fact

that they hold double that amount in assets, are in the midst of congressional and criminal investigations, and have been documented breaking laws by selling baby body parts.

While defunding efforts are commendable, even our strongest Pro-Life members become lost in the politics of the budget bills, the continuing resolutions, and the reconciliation process.

When "regular" appropriations

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bills fail to pass, Congress often resorts to a “continuing resolution” (known as a “CR”) to maintain operations of either all or some programs. The CR that recently cleared Congress was signed by the president on September 29th, just thirty-six hours before the end of fiscal 2016. That CR funded all government agencies through December 9, thus requiring another budget action known as the reconciliation process to secure funding of the government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

A reconciliation bill includes changes in law recommended in a budget resolution to further fund a program. In other words, to continue funding for a program, new legislative strings are attached in reconciliation bills.

The leadership in the United States Senate is now promising that this reconciliation crumb will sate us ravenous Pro-Lifers. Although the leaders of the U.S. Senate recognize the undeniable sanctity of innocent human Life, their Pro-Life mojo dissolves when addressing budget and spending rules. They will enthusiastically vote for safeguards for pregnant women and unborn children; they will vote to ban and limit abortions (and should be thanked for such actions), but they grow surprisingly befuddled about disqualifying from eligibility the very entities that commit these atrocities. After all the recent proof about the carnage inside the walls of

abortion clinics, after all the criminal indictments and law-breaking, the federal funding rules for abortion clinics still have not changed at all. AT. ALL.

Just this past September in a meeting thought to be off the record, one of the U.S. senators from Texas was asked about the funding situation. His response: “I think we’re in the sweet spot with funding for Planned Parenthood.” “Sweet spot?” “Sweet spot? With half a billion dollars of taxpayer money going to an organization that is riddled with scandal and corruption, not to mention death and destruction — that is a “sweet spot?”

If documented criminal activity of chopping up children and selling baby parts is not enough to lose eligibility for public funding once and for all, America will never heal from the scourge of abortion, the blood of our unborn brothers and sisters ever staining our hearts and souls.

President-Elect Trump’s nomination of Congressman Tom Price, M.D., (R-GA) as Secretary of Health and Human Services demonstrates Mr. Trump’s resolve to dismantle ObamaCare and to enact Pro-Life policies. Dr. Price has achieved high rankings as a Pro-Life lawmaker, a freedom-fighter, and a man whose values are manifest in his public policy positions.

Both President-Elect Trump and Dr. Price face an uphill battle in ad-

vancing Pro-Life policies, but the country is aching for such unwavering advocacy and would galvanize quickly behind true moral courage absent from Washington, D.C. Together, the two can lead effectively on defunding the abortion industry and Planned Parenthood by changing eligibility rules.

President-Elect Trump must champion protecting unborn children who feel the torturous pain of abortion at five months of development. Another winning issue is to stop the barbaric procedure of dismembering live, unborn children — a measure that would dramatically curtail, if not end, Planned Parenthood’s harvesting and trafficking of baby body parts. President-Elect Trump has indicated that he is willing and open to protect unborn children, including through his appointees to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Even if President-Elect Trump is ambivalent at worst (and I give him more credit than neutrality), we have the first window open in many years through which Pro-Life policies can be driven. This is the sweet spot for Pro-Lifers and for conservatives, and President-Elect Trump and his team have already laid the groundwork to make America great again by returning us toward a country that values and protects life — born and unborn.

Welcome to *Eagle Forum Report*, the monthly newsletter for members of Eagle Forum. For fifty years, the founder of Eagle Forum and my mother, Phyllis Schlafly, wrote *The Phyllis Schlafly Report*. She always bragged that her newsletter contained more facts in fewer words. Eagle Forum is proud to continue her great work with our new monthly newsletter that is full of facts and no fluff. My mother said many times to me that the new name of the monthly

newsletter should be *Eagle Forum Report*, the successor to *The Phyllis Schlafly Report*. Eagle Forum is the publisher of *Eagle Forum Report*.

Please consider becoming an Eagle Forum member, which includes a subscription to the monthly *Eagle Forum Report*. We welcome your comments.

God bless you,

Anne Schlafly Cori

Acting Chair, Eagle Forum

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