



## Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

### *Talking Points for Letters to the Editor*

- Numerous witnesses, including nurses and other health care providers, have come forward to testify that children do indeed survive abortions—and are then sometimes denied medical care, left to die, or intentionally killed.
- Current homicide laws are not enough to protect children who survive an abortion from being killed or left to die. Though infanticide is a form of homicide, evidence indicates that homicide laws are not ensuring that babies that survive abortion actually receive a fair chance at life. 29 states have already passed laws providing additional protections, and the federal government should do so as well.
- Current federal law does not ensure that a child born alive after an abortion receives the same medical care as any other newborn. Good medical practice would imply that the location of a baby's live birth—be it an abortion clinic or hospital—should have no bearing on whether or not they receive care. But unfortunately, too often, being born alive in an abortion clinic means murder or death by neglect to the born child. Giving specific requirements for the abortionist to follow will help to ensure that his/her bias against **this** baby does not prevent the baby from receiving the same care as any other newborn at the same gestational age.
- The federal Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 311/H.R. 962) would provide more protections to prevent the infanticide of children who survive an abortion attempt. The Act would require a doctor to follow concrete steps to provide the child with immediate medical attention, as one would for any other newborn child at the same gestational age and level of health. It would also require the child is transferred to a hospital.
- The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act does not require that every extraordinary treatment be given to the child if it would be futile and possibly painful for the baby. That is, the bill does not require doctors to be miracle workers, or to treat beyond what is good judgment. It does insist the baby should be treated as other premature babies are – without bias for the failed abortion that delivered the child.
- The living child outside of the mother's womb is a legally recognized person. Debates over abortion are no longer relevant. Intentionally denying any born baby the care it needs, in order to make sure that it dies, amounts to murder—infanticide.
- The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act does nothing to put a woman's life or health at risk. It has no effect whatsoever on abortion rights. Once a child is fully born and separate from the mother, he or she is now a legally recognized person and is no longer subject to abortion. Therefore, it makes no sense to say killing that child or leaving that child to die is necessary to protect a woman's life, health or reproductive rights.