

FAMILY FACTS

Support HB 1948 End Late-Term & Dismemberment Abortions

Pennsylvania is home to life-saving pioneers in fetal advancements.

In April 2015, PBS aired “[Twice Born: Stories from the Special Delivery Unit](#),” a three-part documentary series that offered the first-ever look inside the fetal diagnosis and treatment work at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Some 30 years ago, a group of pediatric surgeons came up with the radical idea of treating birth defects while the baby is still in the womb. Now, CHOP has performed [over 1,300](#) fetal surgeries, one-fourth of all fetal surgeries worldwide; more than any other hospital. This Pennsylvania hospital is recognized as the top pediatric neonatal children’s hospital in the country and has provided over 150 years of innovation and service that has saved countless lives.

Fetal surgery takes place as early as [18 weeks](#) gestation.

Prenatal surgery to help repair spina bifida – the most common neurological birth defect - takes place between [19 and 25 weeks gestation](#). It requires the most comprehensive care provided to both the mother and unborn baby.

18 WEEKS

AN UNBORN BABY IS TREATED AS A PATIENT FOR FETAL SURGERY, AND GIVEN ANESTHESIA, AS EARLY AS 18 WEEKS INTO A PREGNANCY.

Anesthesia is routinely administered to babies during fetal surgery.

“Unlike other surgical procedures performed during pregnancy in which the fetus is an innocent bystander, fetal surgery involves two surgical patients. This requires the anesthesiologist to balance the anesthetic needs of both patients.” (Chestnut’s Obstetric Anesthesia: Principles and Practice, [Page 135](#)). It is considered routine to [administer anesthesia](#) to both the mother as well as the unborn child, through either the placenta or by direct injection.

(And after successful surgery, the anesthesia wears off and the child is back to [kicking and moving around](#) their mother’s womb).

PA law on abortion procedures hasn't changed since the 1980s.

The 24-week gestational limit was set up prior to the existence of Google and the Internet. The Abortion Control Act was passed at the same time the pioneers of fetal surgery were just getting their research underway.

Ultrasound image quality saw real improvements in [the early 1990s](#). The continued advancements in maternal/fetal ultrasound have given doctors the ability to see things we've never seen before.

For every four births in Pennsylvania, there is one abortion. Over 32,000 abortions happen in the state every year. One-percent of these abortions occur between 21 and 24 weeks gestation.

And just one mile away from CHOP is the former Women's Medical Society, the abortion center where for decades Kermit Gosnell butchered women and born-alive babies.

The United States is one of only seven nations that allow elective late-term abortion past 20 weeks.

Out of nearly 200 nations, only seven - North Korea, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Netherland, Canada and the United States - allow elective late-term abortions beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy.

1989

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LESS THAN 4%

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UNITED STATES IS ONE OF
THE SEVEN.

The majority of Americans want to end late-term abortions.

Poll after poll show most support limiting abortion to 20 weeks:

- **Quinnipiac** – **60%** support federal legislation limiting abortion to 20 weeks. *Nov. 2014*
- **Gallup** – **64%** support prohibiting 2nd trimester abortions, **80%** support prohibiting 3rd trimester abortions. *Jan. 2013*
- **Huffington Post** – **59%** support limiting abortion after 20 weeks. *July 2013*
- **ABC News** – **60%** of women back 20-week abortion limit. *July 2013*
- **Marist Poll** – **84%** agree there should be significant restrictions on abortions, including limiting only to the first three months of pregnancy. *January 2015*
- **Meeting Street Research** – **59%** of all Pennsylvania voters support federal legislation limiting abortion to 20 weeks, including the majorities of Republicans (**73%**), Independents (**58%**), Democrats (**50%**) and women (**62%**). *August 2015*

LATE-TERM FACT #1: The risk of the mother dying from a late-term abortion procedure jumps 91 times compared to the first trimester.

A woman seeking an abortion at 20 weeks is 35 times more likely to die from abortion than she was in the first trimester. At 21 weeks or more, the risk jumps to 91 times more likely to die from abortion than in the first trimester.

The largest abortion business – [Planned Parenthood](#) – even agrees that abortion becomes riskier later in pregnancy. “The risks [of surgical abortion] increase the longer you are pregnant. They also increase if you have sedation or general anesthesia [which would be necessary at or after 20 weeks gestation].”

LATE-TERM FACT #2: Babies can survive outside their mother before 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Thousands of babies are born before 24 weeks every year in the United States. Some unfortunately do not survive but many do. Just ask the family of [Micah Pickering](#). Born at 22 weeks, Micah is now a “spunky” three-year-old.



Micah Pickering, with his mother, Danielle.
Picture taken by Brenna Norman for The New York Times.

In a recent study, survival rates for preemies between 22 and 28 weeks of gestation saw [an increase to 79%](#) in 2012; up from 70% in 1993. “Advances in medicine over the past 2 decades have changed care for mothers in preterm labor and for extremely preterm infants.” ([Journal of the American Medical Association](#))

At 23 weeks, the survival rate is around one third of babies. On January 9, 2015, Kaci-Rose Cratchley was born at 23 weeks and was given a 1% chance of survival. Weighing in at [just 1b 2oz](#), she was placed on a ventilator for 11 weeks and spent six months in the hospital. But on July 1, Kaci-Rose was allowed to leave the hospital with her family.

Eighteen states agree that late-term abortion is not necessary.

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin – all have passed legislation ending late-term abortions. Nine other states have proposed this legislation (Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wyoming).

Can’t we all agree that late-term abortion is unnecessary?

Most of us have been personally touched by the stories from our families and friends of babies born very prematurely. These micro-preemies, weighing at times less than a single pound, show us all the preciousness of life which exists by the 20th week of pregnancy.

HB 1948 would end elective late-term abortions in Pennsylvania beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy.

**Continue Pennsylvania’s leadership in fetal advancement.
Pass this bill.**

Pennsylvania still allows the abortion procedure of babies bleeding to death after their limbs are torn apart.

The latest totals show over 1,500 abortions performed in Pennsylvania during 2014 were using the surgical procedure called Dismemberment, or Dilation and Evacuation (D & E). This barbaric procedure takes the unborn baby and lets it bleed to death as it is torn limb from limb until their skulls are crushed.

Of the over 32,000 abortions that happen in Pennsylvania every year, the D & E procedure accounts for 5% of the total and is the most common procedure used after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The use of this risky procedure is down 55% since 2010.

Since February 2016, over 11 million people have viewed the groundbreaking video that uses cartoon animation to show a D & E procedure, as described by Dr. Anthony Levatino – who has performed over 1,200 abortions. (*View the video at AbortionProcedures.com*)



D & E carries a significant risk to the health of the mother.

Since the baby is removed in pieces, there is an immediate risk of major complications with this procedure, including bleeding due to laceration or puncture of the woman’s uterus as well as infection from the baby not being fully removed (the abortionist will attempt to assemble the body parts back together to account for the entire baby’s body).

Pennsylvania’s abortion procedural laws have not been updated for over 25 years.

With all the medical advancements, it’s time Pennsylvania updates our laws surrounding abortion and care for mothers and aborted babies.

Can’t we all agree that tearing a body limb for limb while they are still alive is barbaric and unfit for a civilized nation?

Unborn babies are not simply puzzles to be pieced back together after an abortion. And they should not be allowed to bleed to death by having their limbs torn apart.

**Have compassion – End dismemberment abortions.
Pass HB 1948.**