

Congressman Ron Wright (TX 06)
Statement for the Record
Minority Hearing on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

The sanctity of life is something that I strongly believe in and have devoted my life to protecting. For millions, including myself, protecting the voiceless unborn is one of the most significant contributions we can make in our lives.

In the last four years, 47 babies have been born alive during abortions. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which I am proud to be cosponsor of, simply affords these nearly aborted newborns the same human rights, degree of medical care, and chance at life as any other newborn. Sadly, even though this bill in no way limits access to or methods of abortion, Democrats refuse to bring it to the House Floor for a vote. Any baby who survives an abortion should be treated just as another newborn would be. I don't understand how my colleagues across the aisle fail to see this. Being unwanted is hardly a reason to toss aside a survivor of abortion as a medical waste.

Earlier this year, lawmakers in New York and many Democrats in Congress cheered the passage of legislation that would allow abortions into the ninth month of pregnancy when most babies are viable. In Virginia, similar legislation was introduced, and the Governor endorsed the bill's underlying idea of infanticide. In his own words the Governor detailed how parents and doctors would play God, saying, "The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother." It is comments like this which make it critical to hold hearings on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and get it signed into law.

Republicans have requested to bring this bill up for a vote 80 times. On each of these occasions, Democrats have blocked a vote, implicitly endorsing infanticide. Unfortunately, Washington isn't the only place we're seeing this extreme attitude and blatant disregard for life. Legislatures in New Mexico, Vermont, and numerous other states are now promoting radical abortion legislation and rhetoric that just last year would have been unthinkable.

Life is sacred and we, as a nation, need to get back to protecting it. Passage of this bill is the first step. Thank you.