

Leader Kevin McCarthy

Born Alive Hearing

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Federal law recognizes a child “born alive at any stage of development” as “persons.” So when, as a society, we agree that it is morally wrong, not to mention illegal, to leave another person to die, it should be unanimously understood that those same protections apply to infants born alive after failed abortions.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. As of February 8, 2019, just 33 states have laws that specifically protect babies born alive during attempted abortions. As of 2016, only six states require abortion providers to even report instances of babies being born alive during the procedure. This disturbing statistic makes it nearly impossible to determine how many times babies who survived botched abortions have been denied proper medical care.

But no matter how rare, as everyone in this room undoubtedly understands, just one instance amounts to the selective killing of a newborn child.

That is why House Republicans have asked 80 times for the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to be brought to the floor for a vote. That is why 55 senators voted for their respective version of this bill in February. That is why this bill passed in the House last Congress with 241 votes. That is why this hearing was called today.

Unfortunately, our public discourse has made it so that when a topic of this nature is raised, Democrats and abortion advocates denounce our efforts as a gilded way to strip women of their rights. This narrow-minded attempt to demonize those whom they disagree with politically is not only shameful, but it’s at the cost of innocent lives.

House Republicans, specifically House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.), and Pro-Life Caucus Chair Chris Smith (R-N.J.), aren’t calling for the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to be brought up out of nowhere.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has argued that if a botched abortion leads to a live birth, the infant would be cared for so long as that was “desired.” Northam, a former doctor, said “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.”

Simply put, this is infanticide.

All around the country, we aren’t just hearing similarly abhorrent rhetoric; lawmakers have worked to put this into law. In states like Virginia, Illinois, and New York, lawmakers are going beyond just loosening restrictions on abortions for purposes of safeguarding a mother and a baby’s health.

We cannot let this callousness toward life go unanswered or unchallenged.

The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would simply require doctors to provide the same level of diligent medical care to a baby born after surviving an abortion as they would any other baby. It is my deepest hope that the forthcoming testimonies not only achieve the goal of educating the public on this simple fact, but that they persuade the public of the desperate need for legal and medical protections for the most vulnerable members of our society.

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