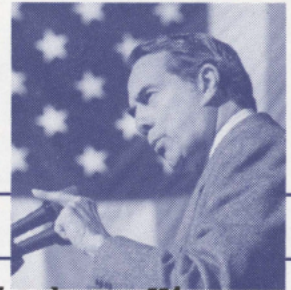


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

BAL HARBOUR, FL -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement upon the U.S. Congress sending President Clinton the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act:

"President Clinton, on the issue of partial-birth abortion, has a defining decision to make. I hope he will search his heart and reconsider the veto he has threatened.

"The prevention of partial-birth abortions has united elements in both parties on both sides of the abortion debate. Supporters of the measure to ban partial-birth abortions include Congressman Richard Gephardt and Senator Joe Biden.

"Some laws raise questions of lasting moral importance. The issue here is stark and simple: Does a living child in the process of birth deserve our care and protection? A partial birth abortion blurs the line between abortion and infanticide, and crosses an ethical and legal line we must never cross.

"The bill already contains an exception to permit use of the partial-birth abortion procedure if it is ever necessary to save the mother's life. But the language that the President demanded--an exception for 'health' -- would permit partial-birth abortions to continue to be performed for depression, youth of the mother, or nearly any other reason. As President Clinton knows very well, the Supreme Court has held that 'health' abortions include those requested based on 'all factors--physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age--relevant to the well-being of the patient.'

"If President Clinton cannot accept this restriction on abortion, it is clear there is no restriction, under any circumstance, for any reason, he would accept. This is the definition of abortion-on-demand and the definition of extremism on this issue. A presidential veto would dismiss and insult the deep moral concerns with the partial-birth abortion procedure felt by Americans who view themselves as pro-life and many Americans who view themselves as pro-choice. It would prove that the President has become captive to narrow special interests.

"But I sincerely hope this will not happen. I hope the President will show moral seriousness and sign this measure."

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