

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Wednesday, February 28, 1996*

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## **PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION**

**DOLE "VERY DISAPPOINTED" WITH PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE;**  
**URGES CLINTON TO RETHINK POSITION - SIGN LEGISLATION TO STOP**  
**BRUTUAL & INDEFENSIBLE PROCEDURE**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today sent the following letter to President Clinton regarding the President's position on the Partial-Birth Abortion Act:

Dear Mr. President:

Senator Hatch today shared with me your letter regarding your position on H.R. 1833, the "Partial-Birth Abortion Act." I must say I am very disappointed in your response, and urge you to rethink your position so that we can stop this brutal and indefensible procedure.

Although your letter indicates that you view partial birth abortions as "very disturbing," you then indicate that you would only support the bill if it was amended to provide for an exception in the case of "serious adverse health consequences." As I wrote to you in my letter of January 17, 1996, this argument has already lost on the Senate floor and for good reason: this type of abortion procedure takes place over several days and there was testimony before Congress, as a result, that "health" is simply not an issue. Clearly, "health" continues to be defined by those with the most extreme abortion agenda in ways that would ensure that this exception swallows the rule.

Moreover, Senator Bob Smith and I offered an amendment, which was accepted, that provides for an exception in the case of "a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury." A broader exception would simply defeat the purpose of the bill, which is to stop this grisly procedure.

You also suggest that you do not support this procedure on "an elective basis." But just a cursory glance at the record shows that this is exactly what is being done, and what your suggested change would protect. One doctor has admitted publicly that of the cases where he uses this procedure -- more than 1,000 apparently -- "80% are purely elective." Many of these are done for "health" reasons that turn out to be no such thing.

Mr. President, I call attention to these facts, all a matter of the public record, in the hopes that you will reconsider your position. Please sign this legislation when it reaches your desk.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE