

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 1996**

**Contact: Clarkson Hine**  
**(202) 224-5358**

## **PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN**

**WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement on President Clinton's veto of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act:**

"I am profoundly disappointed that President Clinton has vetoed the partial birth abortion ban. In doing so, President Clinton has rejected a very modest and bipartisan measure reflecting the values of the great majority of Americans; he, instead, embraced the extreme position of those who support abortion at any time, at any place, and for any reason.

"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. President Clinton now stands on the wrong side of this line.

"The bill already contained an exception, which Senator Bob Smith and I offered, 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.'

"Since President Clinton cannot accept this very modest 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."

###