



## **Republican National Committee**

**Counsel's Office**

### **RESOLUTION ON PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, Republicans have championed the sanctity of human life in our National Party Platform for nearly four decades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Democratic Party has become the party of pro-abortion extremism, dropping even the wish that abortion be "rare" from their party's platform; and

**WHEREAS**, led by the state of Nebraska in April 2010, 14 states have now enacted versions of Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection laws, almost always by overwhelming margins, recognizing the reality of pain in the unborn and providing legal protection for the unborn at 20 weeks (almost 5 months) of pregnancy and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 18, 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the national Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to provide legal protection for the unborn at 20 weeks of pregnancy and beyond in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 18, 2014, at least 40 Republican members of the U.S. Senate have co-sponsored the companion bill to the House-passed legislation; however, the Democrats in control continue to callously approve of this barbaric practice; and

**WHEREAS**, substantial medical evidence confirms that the unborn child is capable of experiencing pain at least by 20 weeks, if not earlier; and

**WHEREAS**, public opinion polls on abortion after almost 5 months of pregnancy show that Americans believe this practice should be banned; 80 percent of Americans oppose abortion in the third trimester and 64 percent reject abortion after 12 weeks while 63 percent of women believe it should not be permitted after the point where substantial medical evidence says the unborn child can feel pain; and

**WHEREAS**, late-term abortion is emotionally and physically harmful to women, destructive of the ethical norms and reputation of the medical profession, and offensive to the canons of law, medicine, and society that require us to protect the weak from the strong, the powerless from the powerful; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, Republican National Committee reaffirms its core principle of the sanctity of human life in our party platform for nearly four decades, namely, that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life that cannot be infringed; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Republican National Committee strongly supports federal, state, and local pain-capable unborn child legislation that bans abortions at 20 weeks (almost 5 months) of pregnancy and beyond.

*\*As adopted by the Republican National Committee on May 9, 2014.*