

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4712

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20, 2018

Received

AN ACT

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Born-Alive Abortion
3 Survivors Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) If an abortion results in the live birth of an
7 infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes
8 under the laws of the United States, and entitled to
9 all the protections of such laws.

10 (2) Any infant born alive after an abortion or
11 within a hospital, clinic, or other facility has the
12 same claim to the protection of the law that would
13 arise for any newborn, or for any person who comes
14 to a hospital, clinic, or other facility for screening
15 and treatment or otherwise becomes a patient within
16 its care.

17 **SEC. 3. BORN-ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION.**

18 (a) REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO BORN-ALIVE
19 ABORTION SURVIVORS.—Chapter 74 of title 18, United
20 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1531
21 the following:

22 **“§ 1532. Requirements pertaining to born-alive abor-**
23 **tion survivors**

24 **“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTI-**
25 **TIONERS.**—In the case of an abortion or attempted abor-
26 tion that results in a child born alive (as defined in section

1 8 of title 1, United States Code (commonly known as the
2 ‘Born-Alive Infants Protection Act’)):

3 “(1) DEGREE OF CARE REQUIRED; IMMEDIATE
4 ADMISSION TO A HOSPITAL.—Any health care practi-
5 tioner present at the time the child is born alive
6 shall—

7 “(A) exercise the same degree of profes-
8 sional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the
9 life and health of the child as a reasonably dili-
10 gent and conscientious health care practitioner
11 would render to any other child born alive at
12 the same gestational age; and

13 “(B) following the exercise of skill, care,
14 and diligence required under subparagraph (A),
15 ensure that the child born alive is immediately
16 transported and admitted to a hospital.

17 “(2) MANDATORY REPORTING OF VIOLA-
18 TIONS.—A health care practitioner or any employee
19 of a hospital, a physician’s office, or an abortion
20 clinic who has knowledge of a failure to comply with
21 the requirements of paragraph (1) shall immediately
22 report the failure to an appropriate State or Federal
23 law enforcement agency, or to both.

24 “(b) PENALTIES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates subsection
2 (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for
3 not more than 5 years, or both.

4 “(2) INTENTIONAL KILLING OF CHILD BORN
5 ALIVE.—Whoever intentionally performs or attempts
6 to perform an overt act that kills a child born alive
7 described under subsection (a), shall be punished as
8 under section 1111 of this title for intentionally kill-
9 ing or attempting to kill a human being.

10 “(c) BAR TO PROSECUTION.—The mother of a child
11 born alive described under subsection (a) may not be pros-
12 ecuted under this section, for conspiracy to violate this
13 section, or for an offense under section 3 or 4 of this title
14 based on such a violation.

15 “(d) CIVIL REMEDIES.—

16 “(1) CIVIL ACTION BY A WOMAN ON WHOM AN
17 ABORTION IS PERFORMED.—If a child is born alive
18 and there is a violation of subsection (a), the woman
19 upon whom the abortion was performed or at-
20 tempted may, in a civil action against any person
21 who committed the violation, obtain appropriate re-
22 lief.

23 “(2) APPROPRIATE RELIEF.—Appropriate relief
24 in a civil action under this subsection includes—

1 “(A) objectively verifiable money damage
2 for all injuries, psychological and physical, occa-
3 sioned by the violation of subsection (a);

4 “(B) statutory damages equal to 3 times
5 the cost of the abortion or attempted abortion;
6 and

7 “(C) punitive damages.

8 “(3) ATTORNEY’S FEE FOR PLAINTIFF.—The
9 court shall award a reasonable attorney’s fee to a
10 prevailing plaintiff in a civil action under this sub-
11 section.

12 “(4) ATTORNEY’S FEE FOR DEFENDANT.—If a
13 defendant in a civil action under this subsection pre-
14 vails and the court finds that the plaintiff’s suit was
15 frivolous, the court shall award a reasonable attor-
16 ney’s fee in favor of the defendant against the plain-
17 tiff.

18 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following
19 definitions apply:

20 “(1) ABORTION.—The term ‘abortion’ means
21 the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine,
22 drug, or any other substance or device—

23 “(A) to intentionally kill the unborn child
24 of a woman known to be pregnant; or

1 “(B) to intentionally terminate the preg-
 2 nancy of a woman known to be pregnant, with
 3 an intention other than—

4 “(i) after viability, to produce a live
 5 birth and preserve the life and health of
 6 the child born alive; or

7 “(ii) to remove a dead unborn child.

8 “(2) ATTEMPT.—The term ‘attempt’, with re-
 9 spect to an abortion, means conduct that, under the
 10 circumstances as the actor believes them to be, con-
 11 stitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct
 12 planned to culminate in performing an abortion.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 14 for chapter 74 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
 15 by inserting after the item pertaining to section 1531 the
 16 following:

“1532. Requirements pertaining to born-alive abortion survivors.”.

17 (c) CHAPTER HEADING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) CHAPTER HEADING IN CHAPTER.—The
 19 chapter heading for chapter 74 of title 18, United
 20 States Code, is amended by striking “**Partial-**
 21 **Birth Abortions**” and inserting “**Abortions**”.

22 (2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS FOR PART I.—The
 23 item relating to chapter 74 in the table of chapters
 24 at the beginning of part I of title 18, United States

- 1 Code, is amended by striking “Partial-Birth Abor-
- 2 tions” and inserting “Abortions”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 19,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.