

Calendar No. 4

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 6

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2025

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. LEE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

JANUARY 16, 2025

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

1 **“§ 1532. Requirements pertaining to born-alive abor-**
 2 **tion survivors**

3 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTI-
 4 TIONERS.—In the case of an abortion or attempted abor-
 5 tion that results in a child born alive:

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

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

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

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

1 “(b) PENALTIES.—

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

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

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

17 “(d) CIVIL REMEDIES.—

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

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

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

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

9 “(C) punitive damages.

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

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

20 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following
21 definitions apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(3) BORN ALIVE.—The term ‘born alive’ has
16 the meaning given that term in section 8 of title 1,
17 United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Born-
18 Alive Infants Protection Act’).”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) The table of sections for chapter 74 of title
21 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at
22 the end the following:

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

23 (2) The chapter heading for chapter 74 of title
24 18, United States Code, is amended by striking

1 **“PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS”** and insert-
 2 ing **“ABORTIONS”**.

3 (3) The table of chapters for part I of title 18,
 4 United States Code, is amended by striking the item
 5 relating to chapter 74 and inserting the following:

“74. Abortion 1531”.

6 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 This Act shall take effect one day after the date of
 8 enactment.

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