



September 30, 2011

Dear Representative:

I urge you to support the Heartbeat Informed Consent Act. Introduced by Representative Michele Bachmann (R-MN), this bill would ensure that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and an opportunity to review the ultrasound before giving informed consent to receive an abortion.

Informed consent is the linchpin of “choice” and the standard for American medical practice. Without accurate information, a patient is unable to make an informed decision. Ultrasound requirements safeguard women’s health and safety, and serve an essential medical purpose in that they diagnose ectopic pregnancies, which, if left undiagnosed, can result in infertility or even fatal blood loss.

Just as importantly, ultrasound requirements ensure that women are able to make truly informed decisions because they allow a woman to see her unborn child as he or she really is, by seeing his or her form and face on a screen and also by hearing the baby’s heartbeat. As Representative Bachmann’s bill states, “Requiring providers to give a woman an opportunity to observe her unborn child’s heartbeat is constitutionally permissible, and the ultrasound image of an unborn child is truthful, non-misleading information.”

The Heartbeat Informed Consent Act promotes women’s physical and psychological health by ensuring that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound to ensure that their consent to abortion is as fully informed as possible. This bill provides concrete, positive, and effective steps for Congress to protect women’s health.

On behalf of AUL Action, I urge you to support the Heartbeat Informed Consent Act to defend women’s health and to ensure that women have an opportunity to review an ultrasound of their unborn child if they desire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charmaine Yoest". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charmaine Yoest, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Americans United for Life Action