



The Honorable Michele Bachmann
U.S. House of Representatives
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Heartbeat Informed Consent Act

Dear Representative Bachmann:

The Ohio Right to Life Society and its statewide membership is pleased to support your Heartbeat Informed Consent Act, which will ensure that a pregnant mother seeking an abortion will have the opportunity to see firsthand the heartbeat of her unborn child before completing the process of consent to an abortion. This legislation will have a positive and significant impact on protecting mothers and saving babies. Increasing evidentiary support indicates that mothers must be given all the facts about abortion's impact when they consider the procedure. A strong federal informed consent law is desperately needed. Your legislation Congresswoman Bachmann will do just that!

We have learned of stories of women who were told that they were aborting a "blob of tissue," only to learn later that the unborn child already had a beating heart and was very much alive. Discovering this truth subsequent to an abortion can have lasting adverse psychological consequences for the mother.

The Heartbeat Informed Consent Act requires that prior to an abortion, an ultrasound must be performed, the ultrasound image displayed for the mother, and the unborn child's heartbeat (if visible) described to the mother. Displaying the unborn child's heartbeat so that the mother can see it is an important part of informed consent. This is a powerful demonstration for the mother of the life that has already begun to form inside her womb, and also one very positive result of improved medical technology that can be used to further educate women.

On behalf of the Ohio Right to Life Society, mothers and their unborn children, thank you for your leadership in the pro-life movement, and thank you for taking action to save lives now.

Sincerely,

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Marshal Pitchford
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Gonidakis", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Gonidakis
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Krider", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephanie Krider
Director of Legislative Affairs