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## **West Virginia Legislature Approves Groundbreaking Dismemberment Abortion Ban**

West Virginia is the third state to pass The Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, SB 10. On Monday, it successfully passed with bipartisan support in the House of Delegates by a vote of 86-13.

SB 10 outlaws a form of abortion that "dismember[s] a living unborn child and extract[s] him or her one piece at a time from the uterus." This heinous procedure undermines the dignity of all human life. In ordinary medical care, doctors have testified that there is no emergency that requires dismembering a living unborn baby.

First, an amendment to exempt rape and incest was defeated by a bipartisan vote of 16-82. Delegate Patrick Lane explained that the proposed amendment was redundant because the bill specifically states that it "does not prevent an abortion by any other method for any reason including rape and incest."

SB 10 had previously passed in the Senate on February 17 by a 24-9 vote.

Sponsored by Senator Dave Sypolt and Delegate Lynne Arvon, The Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act had been the top state legislative priority for West Virginians for Life (WVFL). Delegate Joe Ellington, a practicing OB-GYN, gave medical testimony that supported the ban. He responded to the claims that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) had opposed the ban saying that no one from the college had polled him for his medical opinion.

WVFL Legislative Coordinator Karen Cross observed, "As I meet with West Virginia legislators, I am encouraged by their overwhelming opposition to dismemberment abortions which are performed on fully formed, living unborn children. West Virginians are pro-life and it is reflected in their representatives."

"By banning this procedure West Virginia has protected unborn children from abortionists who could use this procedure to harvest baby body parts," said West Virginians for Life President Wanda Franz. "We congratulate the members of our legislature, who have voted for this ban and hope that the Governor will sign it."

*West Virginians for Life, the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, is the state's largest pro-life group with more than 30 local pro-life chapters. West Virginians for Life works through education, legislation and political action to protect those threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.*

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