

March 17, 2019

Call to Action

On February 25, the US Senate failed to pass the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 311) by a vote of 53 to 44, with 3 senators not voting. In the Senate, 60 votes are needed to overcome a filibuster and pass a bill. New Jersey Senators Booker and Menendez voted against the bill.

The Senate bill was intended 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.

Specifically, according to the bill's findings, "if an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the United States, and entitled to all the protections of such law". The bill then requires that "any health care practitioner present at the time the child is born alive shall exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age".

S. 311 in no way restricted any woman's access to abortion. The bill was proposed to ensure basic medical and humanitarian care to any child who survives an abortion, a protection not sufficiently provided in federal law.

Senators who voted against the bill did not stand up for "choice." Access to abortion was not at issue. Those senators have put themselves on public record as being indifferent to the pain, suffering and death of an infant who survives abortion.

Please take a minute to write to Senators Booker and Menendez to express your support of Born Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act, and your disappointment and disapproval of the Senate's failure to pass this bill.