

**“TALKING POINTS” FOR HB 1382 (formerly HB 582) (Crowe), To Provide Information Regarding Fetal Pain During Abortion. (“Woman’s Right to Know”)**

- (1) There is absolutely no rational, scientific, medical or ethical reason to deny the humanity of the unborn child from the moment of fertilization, then throughout his or her entire developmental period in the womb. This is *totally confirmed* by modern *in vitro* fertilization and DNA technologies.
- (2) *At least as early as* the 20<sup>th</sup> week after fertilization, the unborn child (fetus) has all the physical structures necessary to feel pain. Even much earlier, *as seen by ultrasound*, the fetus frantically tries to avoid foreign objects placed into the womb, for instance a suction catheter tip that is about to dismember him or her in the process of abortion.
- (3) We know that pain is part of abortion by simple deduction: imagine someone tearing off one of your limbs without anesthesia, or burning off your most delicate skin with a caustic salt solution. There are laws against such cruelty to animals, but not to unborn children!
- (4) Freedom to choose, to be genuinely free, needs full information. Without full knowledge, there is no basis for a rational decision. This bill is necessary to allow the mother to make a rational decision on whether or not killing her child is really her best solution.
- (5) Thoroughly informed consent is the standard for any medical treatment or research. The unborn child is not able to give such informed consent; his or her mother has to speak for him or her, even if the child’s death is the result.
- (6) Accurately informed, the woman seeking abortion can make some degree of reasoned decision about whether or not she wants her child to die in agony.
- (7) According to official Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals statistics for 2003, 374 unborn children of 20 weeks’ gestational age or older were aborted without benefit of any anesthesia. In 2004 (latest available), there were 503 such abortions, for a 34.5% increase. (This number should be compared to *national* figures for executions of convicted murderers, etc., which were far, far lower, and were done by lethal, *anesthetizing* injection).

In summary, I urge a strong vote *in favor* of Representative Crowe’s bill, HB 1382 (formerly HB 582), and thank you for your attention!

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