



Carol E. Boyer, President

May 15, 1996.

Dear Friend

You probably read about the incredible speech Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia delivered at a prayer breakfast in early April at the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. Scalia delivered a stirring defense of the role of Christians in public life. The reaction was a prolonged standing ovation. But there was no ovation for the speech inside the Washington Beltway, where FRC fights every day on behalf of your family, or among America's cultural elite.

"Justice Scalia: Defender of the Faith," sneered the headline in the *International Herald Tribune*.⁴

The speech "clearly undermines public confidence in [Scalia's] objectivity regarding religious controversies," said Barr.

^aThis is a disturbing Norman Lear's group, Pro-

The speech should
Jules Witcover.

In a few pockets of

Humor columnist A person can feel comfortable in the "burning bush," he

Des Moines Register
reaches of the right of the

What words could
from so many elements of
about the difficulty of uph
secular society. He point
"Christian," and added:

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WASHINGTON WATCH.

A NATION MOURNS

On April 10, President Bill Clinton vetoed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (PBA). With a stroke of his pen, Clinton continued to authorize abortion on demand, leaving in the abortionist's hands the gruesome method of his choice.

And gruesome it is. In a partial-birth abortion, a child between five and nine months of gestation is delivered—all but the head—and living brain tissue is vacuumed out after the child is grabbed at the base of the skull with surgical forceps. A top physician testified before Congress that babies subjected to this process most certainly feel pain. Strangely, if a "mistake" were made and the child slipped out of the mother, he would be legally human and fully protected from being killed.

Broad Support

The brutality of this technique seemed capable of delivering a first—the first federal restriction of abortion since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. In fact, Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Calif.) fought to keep pictorials of the procedure off the House floor, but the pro-life tide carried the day, winning the votes of House and Senate members who had never cast a pro-life vote in their careers. Winning margins in the House were 288-139 and 266-129, and in the Senate, 54-41.

When the bill went to the White House on Good Friday, it included an exception allowing the procedure if necessary to save a mother whose life "is endangered by a physical disorder, illness or injury." The bill also received important symbolic support. Many national leaders called for the President to approve it, including liberal columnists and prominent clergy. Several Catholic bishops, including two cardinals, endured a soaking rain on April 1 to pray outside the White House.

When Bill Clinton vetoed the bill, beside him stood five women.

who had experienced troubled pregnancies. The setting was designed to suggest that PBA had been the only answer to their trauma.

But it was not even clear that the women beside him had undergone FBA, according to transcripts of the President's remarks and media accounts. The President said, "The emotional power of the description of the procedure—which I might add did not cover the procedure these women had—was so great." He also cited the bill's omission of an exception for the "health" of the mother—a term defined

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so broadly by the courts that, FBA supporters say, it means unrestricted abuse.

Feeling Pain

Many myths have been reported as fact in the PBA debate. Among the cruellest is that anesthesia kills the baby.

before the procedure is carried out, a falsehood that, dangerously, only scares many pregnant mothers needing legitimate surgery.

The decision on whether to attempt an override of the President's veto rests first with the House leadership. Since PBA began in the House, the vetoed bill has been returned there. If two-thirds of the House votes to override the veto (a margin previously achieved), then it would go to the Senate. The initial vote in the Senate was short of the two-thirds margin needed for adoption.

The vein comes at a time when recent polls show that more than two-thirds of Americans support either restrictions on abortion or an end to PBA altogether.

"I am among the majority of Americans who know that our nation has more to offer than abortion," Family Research Council President Gary L. Bauer said. "This is a time for us to pay for the return of a respect for life, born out of our Judeo-Christian heritage and honored by our nation's founders. Our future depends on it."

What You Can Do

Write your member of Congress and two senators and urge them to continue to press for enactment of the PNA. Write or call FEC (1-800-225-4008) and obtain a copy of our free packet (PK035) describing the truth about PNA's and the need for federal legislation. Thomas Jefferson once said that he trembled for his country when he reflected that God is just. A nation that will not protect children (and mothers) at the very threshold of birth has reason to tremble—and to mourn.

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