would ban the late-term abortion procedure in which the infant is partially delivered, the base of its head punctured with a pair of scissors, and its brain suctioned out through a tube. This is the fifth time the House has voted to ban this horrific abortion practice. The House has twice overridden President Clinton's veto of the ban, but the Senate has fallen just a few votes short.

This bill passed the Senate last year 63-34.

As you may be aware, the issue of partial-birth abortion is pending in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case involves a challenge to Nebraska's ban on this horrible crime. FRC was the only pro-life/pro-family group to file an amicus brief with the lower court in this landmark case. FRC staff members Teresa Wagner and Bill Saunders have now filed a new friend of the court brief with the Supreme Court in defense of the ban. Oral arguments are set for April 25.

2) FRC Petitions Planned Parenthood to Surrender Federal Funding

In January, I wrote you about Planned Parenthood's vicious attacks on Family Research Council and other pro-family organizations. These attacks, part of bogus fundraising tactics, were truly absurd. FRC responded by petitioning Planned Parenthood president Gloria Feldt to surrender the tens of millions of federal tax dollars her organization receives each year.

Today, FRC continues to receive signed petitions from friends and supporters like you. I plan to send these petitions to Ms. Feldt this spring after more people have had a chance to sign their petitions and return them to FRC. Millions of Americans heard our protest through media such as The 700 Club, *The Washington Times*, national columnist Mona Charen, Janet Parshall's America and other sources.

Last month, Planned Parenthood came to town to honor its friends in Congress and lobby for a huge increase in population control funding. FRC has joined ranks with other pro-family groups to oppose this latest grab for federal subsidies for their anti-life and anti-family agenda overseas.

If you have not sent your petition back to FRC, please enclose it with your survey. To date, we have received over 8,000 petitions and more are rolling in.

3) Pro-abortion Groups Lead Effort to Oust the Vatican from the United Nations

The Vatican has for decades maintained a Permanent Observer mission to the United Nations. The mission has been particularly effective in blunting the pro-abortion, anti-family agenda at the world body. Now, Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups are seeking to demote the Vatican delegation.

Lt. Col. Bob Maginnis (USA Ret'd), FRC senior director for national security and foreign affairs, and Senior Fellow for life studies Bill Saunders represented Family Research Council at the UN headquarters in New York. They took part in a March 15 press conference organized by the Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute (C-FAM).

Three FRC Witherspoon Fellows joined C-FAM's efforts to lobby UN delegates for pro-family policies, spending a week in Manhattan. Wearing distinctive sky-blue buttons with the simple words "The family" printed in white, the young students were highly effective. For too long, UN delegates told the pro-family representatives, liberals have monopolized UN conferences. They welcomed our efforts to balance the scales.

Please pray that the Vatican would hold strong against these attacks and that this delegation would continue to be effective in battling such issues as abortion and redefinition of the family at the UN. Also, continue to stay current on FRC's efforts to hold back UN anti-family propaganda.

4) Marketing Organs from Aborted Babies

On March 9, the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health and the Environment held a hearing on the recently discovered "business" of trafficking in organs and other parts of aborted babies. Reps. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), Chris Smith (R-N.J.), and Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) have led the effort to expose this practice. The Department of Justice and the FBI are investigating the charges of illegal trafficking in babies' bodies spurred by a three-month news investigation aired on ABC's "20/20" in which one participant in this grisly trade promised an undercover reporter fantastic profits.

FRC worked with Rep. Coburn on a resolution calling for these hearings. Coburn has now introduced a bill to require that anyone acquiring body material from unborn babies file a disclosure statement with the Department of Health and Human Services. The statement would include whether the body material came from an induced abortion, a description of the body material, what it will be used for, the names and addresses of those involved in the transaction, and the financial terms of the deal. Current law allows people to donate the organs and bodies of aborted babies for research, provided that reimbursement does not bring a profit. That law needs to be repealed, but until we have the legislative strength to accomplish that, mandatory disclosure is essential.

This measure, the "Human Fetal Tissue Reporting and Disclosure Act of 2000," would be a strong step against a black market that profits from the sorrow of abortion.

5) The Unborn Victims of Violence Act

This bill (S. 1673, H.R. 2436) makes harm done to an unborn child in a federal area, separate from harm done to the child's mother, a federal crime. Senator Michael DeWine (R-Ohio) is taking the lead on this bill.

There are a number of hard-core, pro-choice people on the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the bill will first be discussed, who will attempt to keep the bill in committee. FRC will make available to these senators our most recent publications dealing with the sanctity of life. We are also planning meetings with various members of the committee to urge a swift vote.

This bill has already passed the House 254-172.

6) Child Custody Protection Act

This bill (S. 661, H.R. 1218) makes it a felony for anyone to cross state lines to help a minor obtain an abortion in order to avoid a state's parental involvement laws. It was supposed to see Senate action by mid-May, but it will likely be pushed back a little later. Senator Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.) is taking the lead. This bill faces the same challenges as the Unborn Victims of Violence Act in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Again, FRC will be organizing meetings and presenting our arguments to help the committee move this bill forward.

This bill has also passed the House 270-159.

7) Pain Relief Promotion Act

This bill (S. 1272, H.R. 2260) basically prohibits doctors from using controlled substances to assist in a patient's suicide, while also encouraging hospice care and the appropriate use of drugs to relieve pain at the end of life. This bill is to be marked-up soon in the Senate Judiciary Committee, then to go to the Senate floor soon after. Senator Don Nickles (R-Okla.) is taking the lead.

This passed the House last year 271-156.