

We Support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

We, the undersigned, support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act for the following reasons:



1. Unborn children have pain receptors (nociceptors) present throughout their entire body and nerves link these receptors to the brain's thalamus and subcortical plate by no later than 20 weeks.
2. The unborn child reacts to touch by 8 weeks after fertilization.
3. After 20 weeks, the unborn child reacts to stimuli that would be recognized as painful if applied to an adult, for example, by recoiling.
4. In the unborn child, application of such painful stimuli is associated with significant increases in stress hormones known as the stress response.

5. For the purposes of surgery on unborn children, fetal anesthesia is routinely administered and is associated with a decrease in stress hormones compared to their level when painful stimuli are applied without such anesthesia.
6. Consequently, there is substantial medical evidence that an unborn child is capable of experiencing pain by 20 weeks after fertilization.
7. **Therefore, the State has a compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that they are capable of feeling pain.**

Signature	Print Name	Mailing Address		Phone Number / E-mail Address		18 or Older Y N	
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		City/State/ZIP:		Phone:			

Please return to: **Virginia Society for Human Life, 6767 Forest Hill Ave. Suite 270, Richmond, VA 23225**
 For more copies of this petition, please call us at 804-560-8745.
 Please also copy and distribute freely.

We Support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Virginia Society for Human Life, Virginia's largest and oldest pro-life organization, is sponsoring a Statewide Petition Campaign in support of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The results of the petition will be sent to the Virginia legislature.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!
WE MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY !!!**

1. Please collect signatures on the petition from your friends, family and neighbors. Arrange to have petitions signed at churches, fairs, shopping centers, and any other places where pro-life people may gather. For example, petitions can be circulated at church Bible studies and adult discussion meetings.
2. Feel free to photocopy the petition. Give copies to anyone who can help gather signatures. Collect signatures on only ONE SIDE of each petition form.
3. Advertise the petition by announcements at appropriate meetings, or through inserting a notice in your church bulletin. Here is a sample announcement:

PETITION TO SUPPORT THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

You are invited to sign a petition to members of the Virginia legislature asking them to support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act because of the compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that they are capable of feeling pain. The petition will be located at (place) on (day, date) at (times).

4. Choose a convenient method of gathering signatures. A long table or several card tables can be used, or a number of clipboards with petitions and pens attached. Have an ample supply of PENS, NOT PENCILS.
 5. Please mail the signed petitions AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to Virginia Society for Human Life, 6767 Forest Hill Ave. Suite 270, RICHMOND, VA 23225.
- Send the sheets in as they are completed -- we'll be happy to receive additional signatures later.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of unborn children!

VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN LIFE
6767 FOREST HILL AVE. SUITE 270
RICHMOND, VA 23225
PHONE: 804-560-8745