

Franks to Expand D.C. Abortion Bill Nationwide

Washington, DC — Congressman Trent Franks (AZ-08), who recently reintroduced the *D.C. Pain Capable Unborn Protection Act*, which would outlaw abortions in the District of Columbia after 20 weeks (or 22 weeks in the "LMP" system), when studies have indicated babies have developed the ability to feel pain, today announced he would soon be amending the bill to apply nationwide in a bid to prevent more cases like that of Kermit Gosnell. As Chair of the House Judiciary's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, Franks will hold a hearing on the legislation next Thursday, May 23, 2013, at 10 AM.

"I know when the subject is related in any way to abortion, the doors of reason and human compassion in our minds and hearts often close, and the humanity of the unborn can no longer be seen. But I pray we can at least come together to agree that we can and should draw the line at the point that these innocent babies can feel the excruciating pain of these brutal procedures.

"The case of Kermit Gosnell shocked the sensibilities of millions of Americans. However, the crushing fact is that abortions on babies just like the ones killed by Kermit Gosnell have been happening hundreds of times per day, every single day, for the past 40 years. Indeed, let us not forget that, had Kermit Gosnell dismembered these babies before they had traveled down the birth canal only moments earlier, he would have, in many places nationwide, been performing an entirely legal procedure. If America truly understands that horrifying reality, hearts and laws will change.

"To this end, I have re-introduced the *D.C. Pain Capable Unborn Protection Act*, which will now be amended to broaden its coverage so that its provisions will apply nationwide.

"Knowingly subjecting our innocent unborn children to dismemberment in the womb, particularly when they have developed to the point that they can feel excruciating pain every terrible moment leading up to their undeserved deaths, belies everything America was called to be. This is not who we are."

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Congressman Franks is serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives and is a member of the Judiciary Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and a member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. He is also a member of the Armed Services Committee, where he serves on the Strategic Forces Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats, and Capabilities.