

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Stands for Dignity of Human Life Senate Republicans Defend Basic Rights of the Unborn

From the beginning of my time in public office, I have worked to advance policies to defend innocent human life. Recently I joined with Senate colleagues to continue that effort. We considered two bills that would establish basic protections for children, born and unborn. Unfortunately Senate Democrats blocked both bills.

Senate Republicans Support Basic Life Protections

One of the bills we considered was the Pain Capable Unborn Child Act, which would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. This bill is based on scientific evidence that unborn babies at this stage can feel pain – meaning abortion is excruciating for them before it ends their life.

The second bill, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, would require doctors to provide care to babies who have survived an abortion attempt. In other words, it would prohibit these babies from being killed outside the womb or left to die. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 143 babies survived abortion attempts between 2003 and 2014 – and many more such cases may have gone unreported.

The need for this bill became clear last year when Ralph Northam, the governor of Virginia, suggested that an unwanted newborn

baby should be “kept comfortable” while the mother and doctor determine its fate. I am disappointed these measures were unable to advance. But I remain committed to standing with all Americans and Mississippians who believe we have a duty to protect the most innocent and vulnerable among us.

Despite the partisan divide in Washington, Americans support these measures by wide margins. A survey taken last year by the Susan B. Anthony List revealed that 77 percent of American voters support protecting babies who survive an abortion attempt – including 70 percent of Democrats. Likewise, 71 percent of Americans oppose late-term abortion, according to a Marist poll taken last year. Bills like these should be a source of common ground, not division.

No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion

Since 1976, Congress has passed the Hyde Amendment each year, a measure to ensure that taxpayer dollars will not go toward abortion. This protects pro-life taxpayers from paying for something they consider to be morally wrong. No American should be forced to pay for a service that violates their conscience or beliefs.

To make this provision permanent, Congress needs to pass the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, a

bill I have introduced numerous times. This would give certainty to pro-life Americans who do not wish to fund abortion. I will continue to work with my colleagues to advance this bill and other proposals that would protect American taxpayers and recognize the inherent dignity of every unborn child.

The Pro-Life Cause Is Gaining Ground

In spite of the gridlock in Congress, the pro-life cause is making progress. Last year nearly a dozen states, including Mississippi, passed legislation to protect life at earlier stages of development. Our friends in Louisiana passed a similar law that will soon be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling later this year will include the input of President Donald Trump’s two appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

USDA is now accepting applications for easement program (ACEP)

Press Release

The United States Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The deadline to be considered for the fiscal year 2020 funding has been

extended until March 23, 2020. This program consists of two components: The Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) option and the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) option. The ALE assists conservation organizations in preventing the conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses and maximizes the protection of land devoted to food production. The WRE option restores, protects, and enhances enrolled wetlands and improves wildlife habitat. Eligible WRE lands include farmed or prior-converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored.

“It is imperative we educate and promote ACEP to

the landowners of Mississippi. We are proud to provide this service throughout the state,” said State Conservationist, Kurt Readus. “We invite any interested applicant to visit with us to learn more about the easement programs that we at USDA-NRCS can offer.” Landowners interested in an ALE should contact local land trusts to develop partnerships for land easements. Applications will be accepted from eligible entities for potential ALE projects. Landowners interested in WRE should apply at their local field office. Applications are accepted year-round and can be obtained anytime at your local field office or available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted. The current application deadline for consideration in fiscal year 2020 is March 23, 2020.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Ancient people of Scotland
- 6 Coup
- 11 Spanish Mrs.
- 14 Luftwaffe foes
- 17 Waxy
- 18 Thalia’s sister
- 19 “The Jungle Book” python
- 20 Pasta suffix?
- 21 Eighth Greek letter
- 22 Flavor inspired by a sovereign state
- 25 Backslide
- 27 Paddles
- 28 Pyle’s branch: abbr.
- 29 Walter Raleigh’s title
- 31 Deux halved
- 32 Prime meridian hour: abbr.
- 33 “I Cried ___” (LaVern Baker hit)
- 34 Remuneration
- 37 Nicolas Coppola’s stage name
- 39 Sour, as milk
- 40 Broadway’s “City of ___”
- 41 ‘80s animated hero
- 42 Batter’s stat
- 43 Saddler’s tool
- 44 Host Barry of “Hard Copy”
- 45 Orange liqueur
- 49 Timetable abbrs.
- 51 Subdued
- 52 “Some ___ Running” (1958 Sinatra film)
- 53 Chop down
- 54 Finishing ingredient
- 55 Vanilla malt swirled with fudge and peanut butter
- 57 Action: suffix
- 58 Tire stat
- 59 Chaney and son
- 60 Enjoys a hammock
- 61 ___ about (approximately)
- 62 Cosmetic counter offerings
- 64 Clearing in the woods
- 65 Pump, in a way
- 66 Simple sugar

DOWN

- 1 Phillies slugger
- 2 Resembling: suffix
- 3 Flavor named for a musician
- 4 Beret bearer
- 5 Angler’s annoyance
- 6 Like a good egg
- 7 Notched, as leaves
- 8 New Mexico art colony
- 9 Water that borders Eur.
- 10 Long sled
- 11 Part of some suits
- 12 Double-crossers
- 13 Drivers’ gp.
- 14 Washed lightly
- 15 Brute
- 16 Horse-drawn carriage
- 23 Starving student’s soup
- 24 Coypu
- 26 Hose woes

- 97 New Ford in ‘58
- 98 Trifled

- 29 Workout place
- 30 Australian swim champ Thorpe
- 33 Illustrator
- 35 Small gulls
- 36 Building extension
- 37 Movie star, for short
- 38 Daffodil’s family
- 39 Bits of bread
- 41 City of New Mexico
- 44 Parts of speech
- 45 Author George Washington
- 46 Banana flavor with fudge and walnuts
- 47 Of flying: prefix
- 48 Debtor
- 49 Dolomites and Pennines
- 50 Measles symptom
- 51 Bath alternative
- 52 ___-sac
- 55 Place for moth-balls
- 56 Author of “Nine Troubled Years”
- 61 Frogner Park locale

- 63 University lecturer
- 64 Downspout decoration
- 65 NRC’s predecessor
- 67 Wild
- 68 Rupture
- 69 Poet’s preposition
- 70 Intelligence org.
- 71 ___ Joe’s (grocery chain)
- 72 Secondhand transaction
- 73 “Big Miracle” locale
- 75 Four pecks
- 77 Downy bird
- 78 Skier’s trail
- 81 Hudson Bay tribe
- 82 Recording studio media: abbr.
- 83 Provide a hideout, e.g.
- 84 Malevolent “Othello” character
- 86 Nabokov heroine
- 87 Carnaby Street dandy of the ‘60s
- 89 Compass dir.
- 90 Normal: abbr.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

INITIAL HEARING / CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The Town of Pickens, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Development Authority for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$ 450,000.00. The State of Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$24 million that will be made available to cities and counties on a competitive basis to undertake eligible community development activities. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

- 1. To benefit low- and moderate-income persons and households;
- 2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- 3. To meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the area of economic development and public facilities. The Town of Pickens proposed project consists of water/sewer improvements that will benefit the Town of Pickens. The public hearing will be held at Pickens Town Hall on March 27, 2020, at 4:00 p. m. and will provide more specific details regarding the activities, program requirements, and rating system. The purpose of the hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.