



**CWA of California**  
**Action Alert**  
**April 5, 2005**

Dear Friend:

We don't mean to inundate you with requests for action, but April is a critical month for the committee process in Sacramento. Please do what you can and remember to visit the legislation section of our [California Web site](#) for the [current status](#) of pending measures.

Today our focus is on **SB 147** (Sen. George Runner, R-Lancaster), which requires physicians to offer women seeking third-trimester abortions information and counseling about the pain their unborn child may experience during the abortion procedure. The physician must also offer anesthesia for the unborn child and arrange for the anesthesia if a woman chooses this option.

**A hearing on SB 147 (Runner) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13. If you can, please fax your letter to the Senate Health committee before Friday to ensure that it is tabulated in the published analysis!**

*Pray that God will give the committee members wisdom as they meet next week.*

A sample letter to cut and paste is below. More complete talking points are also included.

Please fax the committee at (916) 324-0384. You may also fax or e-mail the individual members. That contact information is also below. Please be sure to send a copy of your letter to Senator Runner's office at (916) 445-4662 (fax) or [Senator.Runner@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Runner@sen.ca.gov). You'll note below that he is vice chair of the Health Committee.

*Thank you for making a difference!*

**Sample Letter Supporting SB 147**

The Honorable Deborah Ortiz, Chair  
Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairwoman Ortiz:

Your committee will hear SB 147 (Runner) on April 13. This bill offers women important information and counseling on fetal pain during the abortion procedure, as well as the option to have anesthesia for the unborn child. I ask that your committee support this legislation.

In order to make an informed choice, a woman deserves complete disclosure of the medical and scientific facts about the child in her womb and the pain the child experiences during the abortion process. The ability of the child to experience significant pain after 20 weeks gestation has been supported by expert medical testimony and is so widely accepted that surgeons routinely administer anesthesia to unborn children of that gestational age before they undergo prenatal surgery.

Women deserve accurate information. Please support SB 147.  
Respectfully,

## SB 147 Fetal Pain Prevention Talking Points

1. SB 147 requires physicians to offer women seeking third-trimester abortions information and counseling about the pain their unborn child may experience during the abortion. The physician must also offer anesthesia for the unborn child and arrange for the anesthesia if the woman chooses this option.
2. In order to make an informed choice, a woman deserves complete disclosure of the medical and scientific facts about the child in her womb and the excruciating pain the child experiences during the abortion process.
3. Scientific evidence points to the unborn child's ability to perceive pain:  
*"Aspects of pain architecture begin as early as six to seven weeks, mature and are identified by their anatomy, their physiology, and the coordination of responses so that by 20-22 weeks of gestation, the evidence reveals a developed system of pain perception and response. ... The ability to modulate or blunt the pain response does not develop until the last weeks of pregnancy and the first few weeks of infancy, leading us to believe that the pain perceived in the fetus is greater than that in the full-term infant." (Jean Wright, M.D., of Emory University School of Medicine, testified before a committee of the Virginia State Senate.)*
4. This evidence is so widely accepted that surgeons routinely administer anesthesia to unborn children of 20 weeks or more gestation when they undergo prenatal surgery.
5. Regardless of one's views on capital punishment, convicted murderers are given sedation prior to receiving a lethal injection. It follows that innocent unborn children should be afforded at least the same consideration by being anesthetized from the pain of abortion.
6. In a recent Zogby poll, 77 percent of respondents agreed that a woman should know the scientific facts about fetal pain before undergoing an abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

### Committee members

### Fax

### E-mail

<u>Senator Deborah Ortiz (Chair)</u>	(916) 323-2263	<a href="mailto:Senator.Ortiz@sen.ca.gov">Senator.Ortiz@sen.ca.gov</a>
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***Thank you for making a difference!***

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