

A Powerful Picture

By Al Riskowski

The 2009 Legislative Session has concluded. May 29th was the last scheduled day. Important legislation was passed before the session ended.

On May 14th, at 2:10 p.m., after five hours of debate, LB 675, the Ultrasound Bill, advanced to second round of debate with 37 yes votes.

The second round of debate, took place on May 20th, after three more hours of debate the bill was sent to Final Reading. I now expect the bill to pass and go before the Governor to be signed into law.

We strongly support LB675, introduced by Senator Tony Fulton of Lincoln and prioritized by Senator Beau McCoy of Omaha. This bill puts responsibility on the abortion provider to make available a view of the ultrasound being performed on a woman considering an abortion. Our information verifies that abortion clinics in Nebraska already perform ultrasounds as a standard procedure. This bill states that when an ultrasound is performed by an abortionist they must, “simultaneously display the ultrasound images so that the woman may choose to view the ultrasound images or not view the ultrasound images”. The objective is to take the burden of viewing the ultrasound image off the woman and place it on the abortion provider. With such a clear picture of the unborn child it is hoped fewer women will have an abortion and the unborn child will once again become part of the abortion debate

This ultrasound picture is one of 1000's posted on the web by proud mothers of unborn children. This ultrasound picture was taken 12 weeks into the pregnancy. For a mother to have the opportunity to see such a picture does help her make an informed and educated decision. To have an abortion is a weighty decision. A woman should have all the information available to help her make that decision.



In my over 25 years of ministering in the Midwest I have counseled a number of women years after they had an abortion. In most cases they felt deceived and pressured into having an abortion. A number were actually given misinformation at the time.

Sen. Beau McCoy stated, “I do believe LB 675 transcends the abortion debate, this bill underscores the need to instill a patient-doctor relationship in all medical affairs, by prohibiting the current practice of abortion providers who withhold information from women contemplating a life-changing decision is degrading to women.”

“This bill is not about whether abortion should be legal or not. It is about ensuring that women have full access to critical and relevant information about abortion; information that can—and has—caused women to change their minds about having an abortion,” said Senator McCoy.

We ask you to contact your State Senator and express your thanks to those who voted for this bill. For information on contacting your Senator go on our web site, www.NebFC.org or call toll free at 1-888-777-5188.

How Senators Voted:

- **Voting No:** Senators Campbell, Council, Haar, Howard, McGill, Nantkes
- **Present Not Voting:** Senators Avery, Cook, Loudon
- **Excused Absent:** Senator Dubas, McCoy (death in his family)
- **Voting Yes:** Senators Adams, Ashford, Carlson, Christensen, Coash, Cornett, Dierks, Fischer, Flood, Friend, Fulton, Gay, Giese, Gloor, Hadley, Hansen, Harms, Heidemann, Janssen, Karpisek, Langemeier, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, Mello, Nelson, Nordquist, Pahls, Pankonin, Pirsch, Price, Rogert, Schilz, Stuthman, Sullivan, Utter, Wallman, White and Wightman