



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPEAKER TOBIN SADDENED COURT WON'T REVIEW ABORTION CASE

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Jan. 13, 2014) – I am very much saddened and grief-stricken that the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear the lawsuit over Arizona's law limiting abortions after 20 weeks. Consequently, late term abortions will continue to be performed in Arizona.

The evidence in the *Isaacson v. Horne* case is compelling, and warranted a review by the Court. My colleagues and I are convinced that abortions performed after 20 weeks are dangerous to women.

More than 13,000 abortions were performed in Arizona in 2012. Over a thousand of these procedures occurred after 20 weeks, a time at which a growing number in the scientific community believe that a fetus can feel pain. Moreover, the "viability standard" relied on in *Roe vs. Wade* is becoming more and more arbitrary and irrelevant as scientific research reveals ways to sustain the fetus during the second trimester of a pregnancy outside the womb. I hope the Supreme Court will one day soon take up the serious issues presented by this case.

I want to thank all my colleagues who work with dedication and perseverance to protect unborn children. Justice often comes tragically slow, but nevertheless, the House of Representatives will remain committed to making progress on this issue. I am confident that one day our country will again recognize the rights of the unborn and welcome every child into the world.

Background:

Arizona's limitation on abortions performed after 20 weeks was enacted by the Legislature in 2012. It was initially upheld by U.S. District Judge James Teilborg who said that the Arizona Legislature had cited "substantial and well-documented evidence that an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain during an abortion by at least twenty weeks gestational age."

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit stayed the law from going into effect and then reversed Judge Teilborg's decision May 21, 2013. The recent Supreme Court decision leaves the Ninth Circuit Court's decision in place.

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