By a lopsided margin of 64-33, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to ban the practice of partial-birth abortion nationwide. The ban, twice vetoed by President Bill Clinton, is strongly supported by President George W. Bush. It now goes to the House of Representatives, which last year approved the ban by a nearly two-to-one margin.

"President Bush, 70 percent of the public, 64 senators, and four Supreme Court justices say there is no constitutional right to deliver most of a living baby and then puncture her head with a scissors," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). "But five Supreme Court justices said that partial-birth abortion is protected by Roe v. Wade, and 33 senators agreed. We hope that by the time this ban reaches the Supreme Court, at least five justices will be willing to reject such extremism in defense of abortion."

The bill (S. 3) legally defines a partial-birth abortion as any abortion in which "the baby is delivered "past the navel . . . outside the body of the mother" before being killed. It is well documented that partial-birth abortions are performed by the thousands, mostly on (Continued on page 10)