

Vitter Announces Intention to Block Abortion Bill

FOCA would roll back years of pro-life achievements and federally fund abortions

(Washington, D.C.) U.S. Sen. David Vitter today announced that he plans to use every procedural tool under his senatorial rights to filibuster, hold or block the Freedom of Choice Act from moving forward in the Senate. FOCA has not yet been introduced in the 111th Congress, but U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer authored a version of FOCA in the 110th Congress.

The new make-up of this Democratic Congress and the Obama administration are much friendlier to abortion advocates, said Vitter. I plan on making sure that the views of the many Americans who find this practice to be abhorrent are represented and to raise awareness about all the facts related to this expansive abortion legislation before it is quickly passed into law.

The Freedom of Choice Act would nullify all state and federal laws that interfere with access to abortion. It would also overturn partial birth abortion bans, eliminate parental notification statutes and force taxpayers to fund abortion. FOCA also invalidates federal and state laws regarding full disclosure to the patient including ultrasound of the baby, information about pain inflicted on the baby or possible complications to the mother. In addition, parental notification or consent for minors seeking abortion, waiting periods for mothers considering abortions, restrictions based on fetal viability allowing for abortions to occur at any point during the nine months of pregnancy protections for doctors and nurses who decline to participate in an abortions due to moral and religious beliefs, protections for religiously-affiliated hospitals and public hospitals that do not perform abortions and exclusions for abortion coverage from health care plans of federal employees would be at risk.

The bill s description begins by outlining its intent as to protect, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, a woman s freedom to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy, and for other purposes.

This bill is one of the largest attacks against the culture of life we ve seen in government, ever, added Vitter. I m going to fight to ensure that those who support life have their voices and concerns heard about this divisive bill.

Vitter has authored multiple bills this Congress that protect the unborn, including his Title X Amendment that would prohibit taxpayer funding for abortion practice. He also introduced the Abortion Nondiscrimination Act that would prevent federal, state and local governments from discriminating against all health care providers including hospitals, provider sponsored organizations, HMOs and health insurance plans on the basis that they refuse to perform, provide coverage of or pay for abortions. Vitter s Pregnant Women Health and Safety Act would require that any physician that performs an abortion have admitting privileges at a local hospital and that they further provide their patient with the location of the nearest hospital where the patient can receive follow-up care in case complications do occur.

Vitter has also been a harsh critic of reversing the Mexico City policy that prevented funding of abortions by U.S. tax dollars abroad and recently joined a letter to President Obama asking that he not reverse the policy. Unfortunately, President Obama issued an executive order last Friday that overturned this longstanding policy.