

HEALTH; ABORTION; PROHIBIT PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS

June 13, 2008

I disapprove of Enrolled Senate Bill 776 and return the bill without signature. I do so for the same reason that I vetoed similar legislation during my first year as governor. I will not support a late term abortion ban that fails to protect both the life and the health of mothers. Medical professionals oppose this legislation because it does not contain a valid exception for the health of the mother. They believe that medical decisions of this nature should be made by women and their doctors, not politicians. I agree.

Since my previous veto, my administration has worked to implement a Blueprint to Prevent Unintended Pregnancies. This effort includes the Plan First program that provides access to critical family planning services for low-income women, the Talk Early, Talk Often program that helps middle school parents talk with their children about abstinence and sexuality, and a provider task force that develops tools to help counsel women and men on how to avoid unplanned pregnancies.

Efforts like these have had a positive impact, as evidenced by data showing a reduction in the number of abortions in Michigan in 2007.

Although public opinion on abortion continues to be sharply divided, I hope we can agree on the importance of working together to avoid unwanted pregnancies. I will continue to lead in these efforts and urge proponents from both sides of the debate to join me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm

Governor

This bill was returned from the Governor on June 13, 2008, at 3:02 p.m.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding,

Senator Cropsey moved that further consideration of the bill be postponed for today.

The motion prevailed.