

Louisiana Senate



A RESOLUTION

To commend the Abortion Recovery International, Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Post Abortion Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, National Abortion Recovery Helpline, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, there are many excellent abortion recovery programs both in Louisiana and the United States and groups promoting abortion recovery awareness such as Abortion Recovery InterNational (ARIN), which is the founding organization for "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" is to encourage and promote healing opportunities and to enlighten society to the aftermath of abortion on individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, on April 18th, 2007, the United States Supreme Court stated in *Gonzalez v. Carhart* upholding the federal "Partial Birth Abortion Ban" that "... some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained... Severe depression and loss of esteem can follow"; thereby giving "hope for life" because for the first time since 1973 the Court upheld a ban on an abortion procedure; and

WHEREAS, the conclusion that there is a causal connection between abortion and negative problems and injuries is supported by three independent sources of evidence: (a) The self-attribution of women themselves of their injuries, (b) Mental health professionals who have successfully diagnosed and treated post-abortion reaction, and (c) Statistically validated medical studies controlling for a large number of confounding factors which have been published in peer reviewed journals, both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court was influenced by and referred to a brief filed on behalf of Sandra Cano, the former "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton*, who also wants to overturn her case, which brief was cited by the Court and the portion referenced was the testimony of women hurt by abortion; and

WHEREAS, the United States 8th Circuit Court of Appeals on June 27, 2008, followed the Supreme Court, specifically citing that portion of *Gonzalez v. Carhart* referencing the women's testimony, and upheld a

South Dakota law requiring women be informed before their abortion that abortion terminates the "life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being" and a "description of all known medical risks of the procedure and statistically significant risk factors to which the pregnant woman would be subjected, including: Depression and related psychological distress; and increased risk of suicide ideation and suicide"; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2008, the British Royal Academy of Psychiatrists stated: "Healthcare professionals who assess or refer women who are requesting an abortion should assess for mental disorder and for risk factors that may be associated with its subsequent development. If a mental disorder or risk factors are identified, there should be a clearly identified care pathway whereby the mental health needs of the woman and her significant others may be met. The Royal College of Psychiatrists recognizes that good practice in relation to abortion will include informed consent. Consent cannot be informed without the provision of adequate and appropriate information regarding the possible risks and benefits to physical and mental health." The statement followed the suicide of a woman after an abortion and clearly signals that the international psychiatric community is aware of the problem and seeking to address it; and

WHEREAS, Norma McCorvey, who is the former "Roe" of Roe v. Wade, now regrets her participation in that decision and greatly desires to protect women from the harm of abortion; and

WHEREAS, it is important and helpful to the women of our great state to declare April as "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month," and as the Supreme Court in Gonzalez v. Carhart also stated that the Court could find "no reliable data to measure the phenomenon" of women hurt by abortion, it is important for women hurt by abortion to come forth and receive the help they need and warn others of the risks and pain of abortion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, April is hereby declared "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month" for the State of Louisiana and the citizens of our great state and citizens everywhere are encouraged to discuss, evaluate and promote awareness of the harms and risks of abortion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such organizations as Abortion Recovery International, Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Post Abortion Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, National Abortion Recovery Helpline, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana are commended for their efforts in making April "Abortion Recovery Awareness Month."





Senator A.G. Crowe
District 1