

**Sent:** Wed, 05 Nov 2003 16:37:10 -0500  
**From:** "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
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**Subject:** TALKING POINTS: President Signs Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act  
[PBA Ban Talking Points.pdf](#)

## **TALKING POINTS: PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN INTO LAW**

### **Today's Presidential Action**

- President Bush today signed into law the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 to end the abhorrent practice of partial birth abortion. The legislation signed by the President helps continue to build a culture of life in America and will reaffirm a basic standard of humanity – the responsibility to defend the vulnerable and weak.
- Partial birth abortion is a late-term abortion procedure that offends human dignity and is not accepted by the medical community. The legislation has been narrowly tailored and exempts procedures necessary to save the life of the mother. In passing this legislation, Congress relied on overwhelming evidence from medical experts that this practice is not medically necessary.
- The Administration and a bipartisan majority in Congress believe that the legislation is fully constitutional, and the Department of Justice will vigorously defend it in Court.

### **Excerpts from President Bush's Remarks**

- “For years, a terrible form of violence has been directed against children who are inches from birth, while the law looked the other way. Today, at last, the American people and our government have confronted the violence and come to the defense of the innocent child.”
- “As Doctor C. Everett Koop, the pediatrician and former Surgeon General has pointed out, the majority of partial birth abortions are not required by medical emergency. As Congress has found, the practice is widely regarded within the medical profession as unnecessary, not only cruel to the child, but harmful to the mother, and a violation of medical ethics.”
- “The facts about partial birth abortion are troubling and tragic, and no lawyer's brief can make them seem otherwise. By acting to prevent this practice, the elected branches of our government have affirmed a basic standard of humanity, the duty of the strong to protect the



weak. The wide agreement amongst men and women on this issue, regardless of political party, shows that bitterness in political debate can be overcome by compassion and the power of conscience. And the executive branch will vigorously defend this law against any who would try to overturn it in the courts.”

- “In the debate about the rights of the unborn, we are asked to broaden the circle of our moral concern. We’re asked to live out our calling as Americans. We’re asked to honor our own standards, announced on the day of our founding in the Declaration of Independence. We’re asked by our convictions and tradition and compassion to build a culture of life, and make this a more just and welcoming society. And today, we welcome vulnerable children into the care and protection of Americans.”

**White House Office of Communications**

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