



NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Walter B. Jones

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CONGRESS PASSES TERI SCHIAVO PROTECTION BILL

“For an incapacitated person to have fewer rights than a criminal is just wrong.”

Washington, D.C.- Early this morning by a 203-58 vote, Third District Congressman Walter Jones joined the U.S. House of Representatives in passing S. 686, a bill that allows the parents of Theresa Schiavo to appeal to a federal court to have her feeding tube reinserted. S. 686 passed the Senate by a voice vote on Saturday and was signed into law early this morning after the House vote.

Ms. Schiavo has been on a feeding tube since she went into heart failure fifteen years ago, but on Friday, per previous State court decisions, Ms. Schiavo’s feeding tube was removed. This law now allows Ms. Schiavo’s parents to ask a federal judge to keep her alive by reinserting her feeding tube.

“I am very happy that we were able to come together and get this legislation passed to help save this woman’s life,” Congressman Jones said. “It is incomprehensible to me that an incapacitated person such as Ms. Schiavo is not afforded the same right to habeas corpus that is given to an inmate on death row. For an incapacitated person to have fewer rights than a criminal is just wrong. Thankfully, this law has now given her family the right to appeal the state court’s decision to a federal judge. As lawmakers, it is our duty to err on the side of life. We have at least given her the chance at life, and I only hope the court acts to reinsert her feeding tube and returns her constitutionally granted right to life.”

A federal judge is currently reviewing the case and is expected to make a decision at a hearing later this afternoon.

For additional information or to schedule an interview with Congressman Walter B. Jones please contact Kristen Quigley at (202) 225-3415.