

Floor Statement
Representative Henry A. Waxman
December 6, 2006

Opposition to H.R. 6099
“Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act of 2006”

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes this bill. This professional society of those physicians who know the most about the care of pregnant women has stated that it “knows of no legitimate scientific information that supports the statement that a fetus experiences pain.”

I repeat: They know of **no legitimate scientific information that supports the statement that a fetus experiences pain.**

I find it incomprehensible that we, as members of Congress, are trying to require doctors to tell women the opposite.

It’s bad enough to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship. But to tell doctors that they have to give their patients inaccurate medical information wouldn’t just be meddlesome. It would set a dangerous precedent where politics trump science in the most personal decisions of people’s lives.

If we really care about women’s informed consent, we won’t force their doctors to misinform them.