

18 U.S.C.A. § 1531



Effective: November 05, 2003

United States Code Annotated [Currentness](#)
Title 18. Crimes and Criminal Procedure ([Refs & Annos](#))
 [Part I. Crimes](#) ([Refs & Annos](#))
 [Chapter 74. Partial-Birth Abortions](#)

→§ 1531. Partial-birth abortions prohibited

(a) Any physician who, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion and thereby kills a human fetus shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both. This subsection does not apply to a partial-birth abortion that is necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself. This subsection takes effect 1 day after the enactment.

(b) As used in this section--

(1) the term "partial-birth abortion" means an abortion in which the person performing the abortion--

(A) deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living fetus until, in the case of a head-first presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother, or, in the case of breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother, for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus; and

(B) performs the overt act, other than completion of delivery, that kills the partially delivered living fetus; and

(2) the term "physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery by the State in which the doctor performs such activity, or any other individual legally authorized by the State to perform abortions: *Provided, however,* That any individual who is not a physician or not otherwise legally authorized by the State to perform abortions, but who nevertheless directly performs a partial-birth abortion, shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

(c)(1) The father, if married to the mother at the time she receives a partial-birth abortion procedure, and if the mother has not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the abortion, the maternal grandparents of the fetus, may in a civil action obtain appropriate relief, unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented to the abortion.

(2) Such relief shall include--

(A) money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this section; and

(B) statutory damages equal to three times the cost of the partial-birth abortion.

(d)(1) A defendant accused of an offense under this section may seek a hearing before the State Medical Board on whether the physician's conduct was necessary to save the life of the mother whose life was endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

(2) The findings on that issue are admissible on that issue at the trial of the defendant. Upon a motion of the

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defendant, the court shall delay the beginning of the trial for not more than 30 days to permit such a hearing to take place.

(e) A woman upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed may not be prosecuted under this section, for a conspiracy to violate this section, or for an offense under [section 2](#), [3](#), or [4](#) of this title based on a violation of this section.

CREDIT(S)

(Added [Pub.L. 108-105, § 3\(a\)](#), Nov. 5, 2003, 117 Stat. 1206.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

References in Text

1 day after the enactment, referred to in subsec. (a), probably means 1 day after the enactment of [Pub.L. 108-105, 117 Stat. 1201](#), which was approved Nov. 5, 2003.

Short Title

2003 Acts. [Pub.L. 108-105, § 1](#), Nov. 5, 2003, 117 Stat. 1201, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the 'Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003'."

Congressional Findings

[Pub.L. 108-105, § 2](#), Nov. 5, 2003, 117 Stat. 1201, provided that:

"The Congress finds and declares the following:

"(1) A moral, medical, and ethical consensus exists that the practice of performing a partial-birth abortion--an abortion in which a physician deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living, unborn child's body until either the entire baby's head is outside the body of the mother, or any part of the baby's trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother and only the head remains inside the womb, for the purpose of performing an overt act (usually the puncturing of the back of the child's skull and removing the baby's brains) that the person knows will kill the partially delivered infant, performs this act, and then completes delivery of the dead infant--is a gruesome and inhumane procedure that is never medically necessary and should be prohibited.

"(2) Rather than being an abortion procedure that is embraced by the medical community, particularly among physicians who routinely perform other abortion procedures, partial-birth abortion remains a disfavored procedure that is not only unnecessary to preserve the health of the mother, but in fact poses serious risks to the long-term health of women and in some circumstances, their lives. As a result, at least 27 States banned the procedure as did the United States Congress which voted to ban the procedure during the 104th, 105th, and 106th Congresses.

"(3) In [Stenberg v. Carhart, 530 U.S. 914, 932 \(2000\)](#), the United States Supreme Court opined 'that significant medical authority supports the proposition that in some circumstances, [partial birth abortion] would be the safest procedure' for pregnant women who wish to undergo an abortion. Thus, the Court struck down the State of Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortion procedures, concluding that it placed an 'undue burden' on women seeking abortions because it failed to include an exception for partial-birth abortions deemed necessary to preserve the 'health' of the mother.

"(4) In reaching this conclusion, the Court deferred to the Federal district court's factual findings that the partial-birth abortion procedure was statistically and medically as safe as, and in many circumstances safer than, alternative abortion procedures.

"(5) However, substantial evidence presented at the Stenberg trial and overwhelming evidence presented and

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compiled at extensive congressional hearings, much of which was compiled after the district court hearing in Stenberg, and thus not included in the Stenberg trial record, demonstrates that a partial-birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman, poses significant health risks to a woman upon whom the procedure is performed and is outside the standard of medical care.

"(6) Despite the dearth of evidence in the Stenberg trial court record supporting the district court's findings, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Supreme Court refused to set aside the district court's factual findings because, under the applicable standard of appellate review, they were not 'clearly erroneous'. A finding of fact is clearly erroneous 'when although there is evidence to support it, the reviewing court on the entire evidence is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed'. [Anderson v. City of Bessemer City, North Carolina, 470 U.S. 564, 573 \(1985\)](#). Under this standard, 'if the district court's account of the evidence is plausible in light of the record viewed in its entirety, the court of appeals may not reverse it even though convinced that had it been sitting as the trier of fact, it would have weighed the evidence differently'. Id. at 574.

"(7) Thus, in Stenberg, the United States Supreme Court was required to accept the very questionable findings issued by the district court judge--the effect of which was to render null and void the reasoned factual findings and policy determinations of the United States Congress and at least 27 State legislatures.

"(8) However, under well-settled Supreme Court jurisprudence, the United States Congress is not bound to accept the same factual findings that the Supreme Court was bound to accept in Stenberg under the 'clearly erroneous' standard. Rather, the United States Congress is entitled to reach its own factual findings--findings that the Supreme Court accords great deference--and to enact legislation based upon these findings so long as it seeks to pursue a legitimate interest that is within the scope of the Constitution, and draws reasonable inferences based upon substantial evidence.

"(9) In [Katzenbach v. Morgan, 384 U.S. 641 \(1966\)](#), the Supreme Court articulated its highly deferential review of congressional factual findings when it addressed the constitutionality of section 4(e) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 [[42 U.S.C.A. § 1973b\(e\)](#)]. Regarding Congress' factual determination that section 4(e) [[42 U.S.C.A. § 1973b\(e\)](#)] would assist the Puerto Rican community in 'gaining nondiscriminatory treatment in public services,' the Court stated that '[i]t was for Congress, as the branch that made this judgment, to assess and weigh the various conflicting considerations * * *. It is not for us to review the congressional resolution of these factors. It is enough that we be able to perceive a basis upon which the Congress might resolve the conflict as it did. There plainly was such a basis to support section 4(e) [[42 U.S.C.A. § 1973b\(e\)](#)] in the application in question in this case.'. Id. at 653.

"(10) Katzenbach's highly deferential review of Congress' factual conclusions was relied upon by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia when it upheld the 'bail-out' provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ([42 U.S.C. 1973c](#)), stating that 'congressional fact finding, to which we are inclined to pay great deference, strengthens the inference that, in those jurisdictions covered by the Act, state actions discriminatory in effect are discriminatory in purpose'. [City of Rome, Georgia v. U.S., 472 F. Supp. 221 \(D.D.C. 1979\)](#) aff'd [City of Rome, Georgia v. U.S., 446 U.S. 156 \(1980\)](#).

"(11) The Court continued its practice of deferring to congressional factual findings in reviewing the constitutionality of the must-carry provisions of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 [[Pub.L. 102-385](#), Oct. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 1460; see Tables for complete classification]. See [Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission, 512 U.S. 622 \(1994\)](#) (Turner I) and [Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission, 520 U.S. 180 \(1997\)](#) (Turner II). At issue in the Turner cases was Congress' legislative finding that, absent mandatory carriage rules, the continued viability of local broadcast television would be 'seriously jeopardized'. The Turner I Court recognized that as an institution, 'Congress is far better equipped than the judiciary to 'amass and evaluate the vast amounts of data' bearing upon an issue as complex and dynamic as that presented here', [512 U.S. at 665-66](#). Although the Court recognized that 'the deference afforded to legislative findings does 'not foreclose our independent judgment of the facts bearing on an issue of constitutional law,' ' its 'obligation to exercise independent judgment when First Amendment rights are implicated is not a license to reweigh the evidence de novo, or to replace Congress' factual predictions with our own. Rather, it is to assure that, in formulating its judgments, Congress has drawn reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence.'. Id. at 666.

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"(12) Three years later in *Turner II*, the Court upheld the 'must-carry' provisions based upon Congress' findings, stating the Court's 'sole obligation is 'to assure that, in formulating its judgments, Congress has drawn reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence.' ' [520 U.S. at 195](#). Citing its ruling in *Turner I*, the Court reiterated that '[w]e owe Congress' findings deference in part because the institution 'is far better equipped than the judiciary to 'amass and evaluate the vast amounts of data' bearing upon' legislative questions,' *id.* at 195, and added that it 'owe[d] Congress' findings an additional measure of deference out of respect for its authority to exercise the legislative power.'. *Id.* at 196.

"(13) There exists substantial record evidence upon which Congress has reached its conclusion that a ban on partial-birth abortion is not required to contain a 'health' exception, because the facts indicate that a partial-birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman, poses serious risks to a woman's health, and lies outside the standard of medical care. Congress was informed by extensive hearings held during the 104th, 105th, 107th, and 108th Congresses and passed a ban on partial-birth abortion in the 104th, 105th, and 106th Congresses. These findings reflect the very informed judgment of the Congress that a partial- birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman, poses serious risks to a woman's health, and lies outside the standard of medical care, and should, therefore, be banned.

"(14) Pursuant to the testimony received during extensive legislative hearings during the 104th, 105th, 107th, and 108th Congresses, Congress finds and declares that:

"(A) Partial-birth abortion poses serious risks to the health of a woman undergoing the procedure. Those risks include, among other things: An increase in a woman's risk of suffering from cervical incompetence, a result of cervical dilation making it difficult or impossible for a woman to successfully carry a subsequent pregnancy to term; an increased risk of uterine rupture, abruption, amniotic fluid embolus, and trauma to the uterus as a result of converting the child to a footling breech position, a procedure which, according to a leading obstetrics textbook, 'there are very few, if any, indications for * * * other than for delivery of a second twin'; and a risk of lacerations and secondary hemorrhaging due to the doctor blindly forcing a sharp instrument into the base of the unborn child's skull while he or she is lodged in the birth canal, an act which could result in severe bleeding, brings with it the threat of shock, and could ultimately result in maternal death.

"(B) There is no credible medical evidence that partial-birth abortions are safe or are safer than other abortion procedures. No controlled studies of partial-birth abortions have been conducted nor have any comparative studies been conducted to demonstrate its safety and efficacy compared to other abortion methods. Furthermore, there have been no articles published in peer-reviewed journals that establish that partial-birth abortions are superior in any way to established abortion procedures. Indeed, unlike other more commonly used abortion procedures, there are currently no medical schools that provide instruction on abortions that include the instruction in partial-birth abortions in their curriculum.

"(C) A prominent medical association has concluded that partial-birth abortion is 'not an accepted medical practice', that it has 'never been subject to even a minimal amount of the normal medical practice development,' that 'the relative advantages and disadvantages of the procedure in specific circumstances remain unknown,' and that 'there is no consensus among obstetricians about its use'. The association has further noted that partial-birth abortion is broadly disfavored by both medical experts and the public, is 'ethically wrong,' and 'is never the only appropriate procedure'.

"(D) Neither the plaintiff in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, nor the experts who testified on his behalf, have identified a single circumstance during which a partial-birth abortion was necessary to preserve the health of a woman.

"(E) The physician credited with developing the partial-birth abortion procedure has testified that he has never encountered a situation where a partial-birth abortion was medically necessary to achieve the desired outcome and, thus, is never medically necessary to preserve the health of a woman.

"(F) A ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure will therefore advance the health interests of pregnant women seeking to terminate a pregnancy.

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"(G) In light of this overwhelming evidence, Congress and the States have a compelling interest in prohibiting partial-birth abortions. In addition to promoting maternal health, such a prohibition will draw a bright line that clearly distinguishes abortion and infanticide, that preserves the integrity of the medical profession, and promotes respect for human life.

"(H) Based upon [Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 \(1973\)](#) and [Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833 \(1992\)](#), a governmental interest in protecting the life of a child during the delivery process arises by virtue of the fact that during a partial-birth abortion, labor is induced and the birth process has begun. This distinction was recognized in Roe when the Court noted, without comment, that the Texas parturition statute, which prohibited one from killing a child 'in a state of being born and before actual birth,' was not under attack. This interest becomes compelling as the child emerges from the maternal body. A child that is completely born is a full, legal person entitled to constitutional protections afforded a 'person' under the United States Constitution. Partial-birth abortions involve the killing of a child that is in the process, in fact mere inches away from, becoming a 'person'. Thus, the government has a heightened interest in protecting the life of the partially-born child.

"(I) This, too, has not gone unnoticed in the medical community, where a prominent medical association has recognized that partial-birth abortions are 'ethically different from other destructive abortion techniques because the fetus, normally twenty weeks or longer in gestation, is killed outside of the womb'. According to this medical association, the 'partial birth' gives the fetus an autonomy which separates it from the right of the woman to choose treatments for her own body'.

"(J) Partial-birth abortion also confuses the medical, legal, and ethical duties of physicians to preserve and promote life, as the physician acts directly against the physical life of a child, whom he or she had just delivered, all but the head, out of the womb, in order to end that life. Partial-birth abortion thus appropriates the terminology and techniques used by obstetricians in the delivery of living children--obstetricians who preserve and protect the life of the mother and the child--and instead uses those techniques to end the life of the partially-born child.

"(K) Thus, by aborting a child in the manner that purposefully seeks to kill the child after he or she has begun the process of birth, partial-birth abortion undermines the public's perception of the appropriate role of a physician during the delivery process, and perverts a process during which life is brought into the world, in order to destroy a partially-born child.

"(L) The gruesome and inhumane nature of the partial-birth abortion procedure and its disturbing similarity to the killing of a newborn infant promotes a complete disregard for infant human life that can only be countered by a prohibition of the procedure.

"(M) The vast majority of babies killed during partial-birth abortions are alive until the end of the procedure. It is a medical fact, however, that unborn infants at this stage can feel pain when subjected to painful stimuli and that their perception of this pain is even more intense than that of newborn infants and older children when subjected to the same stimuli. Thus, during a partial-birth abortion procedure, the child will fully experience the pain associated with piercing his or her skull and sucking out his or her brain.

"(N) Implicitly approving such a brutal and inhumane procedure by choosing not to prohibit it will further coarsen society to the humanity of not only newborns, but all vulnerable and innocent human life, making it increasingly difficult to protect such life. Thus, Congress has a compelling interest in acting--indeed it must act--to prohibit this inhumane procedure.

"(O) For these reasons, Congress finds that partial-birth abortion is never medically indicated to preserve the health of the mother; is in fact unrecognized as a valid abortion procedure by the mainstream medical community; poses additional health risks to the mother; blurs the line between abortion and infanticide in the killing of a partially-born child just inches from birth; and confuses the role of the physician in childbirth and should, therefore, be banned."

LAW REVIEW COMMENTARIES

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How much protection do injunctions against enforcement of allegedly unconstitutional statutes provide?
Vikram David Amar, [31 Fordham Urb. L.J. 657 \(2004\)](#).

[It's my body, it's my choice: The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. Comment, 35 Loy. U. Chi. L.J. 1117 \(2004\)](#).

[Recent developments in reproductive health law and the constitutional rights of women: The role of the judiciary in regulating maternal health and safety. Comment, 41 Cal. W. L. Rev. 507 \(2005\)](#).

LIBRARY REFERENCES

American Digest System

Abortion and Birth Control  1, 15, 16.

Key Number System Topic No. 4.

Corpus Juris Secundum

[CJS Abortion and Birth Control; Family Planning § 28](#), Partial Birth Abortion.

[CJS Abortion and Birth Control; Family Planning § 36](#), Under Partial Birth Abortion Statutes.

RESEARCH REFERENCES

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[76 ALR 5th 637](#), Validity, Construction, and Application of Statutory Restrictions on Partial Birth Abortions.

Encyclopedias

[Am. Jur. 2d Abortion and Birth Control § 61](#), Banning of Certain Methods of Abortion -- Partial-Birth Abortions.

[Am. Jur. 2d Abortion and Birth Control § 106](#), Civil Liability Under Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

[Am. Jur. 2d Abortion and Birth Control § 121](#), Liability for Partial-Birth Abortion.

NOTES OF DECISIONS

Constitutionality

Constitutionality - Generally [1](#)

Constitutionality - Due process [2](#)

Constitutionality - Health of mother [4](#)

Constitutionality - Woman's right to choose [3](#)

Due process, constitutionality [2](#)



Health of mother, constitutionality [4](#)


Woman's right to choose, constitutionality [3](#)

[1](#). Constitutionality--Generally


Unless Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was limited to situations in which a physician begins a particular abortion with a pre-meditated and specific intent to perform the abortion in the manner the Act forbids, Act was


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unconstitutionally vague regarding the medical procedures to which it applied. [Carhart v. Ashcroft, D.Neb.2004, 331 F.Supp.2d 805](#), affirmed [413 F.3d 791](#), certiorari granted [126 S.Ct. 1314, 164 L.Ed.2d 46](#), miscellaneous rulings [126 S.Ct. 1607, 164 L.Ed.2d 296](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30; Constitutional Law  274(5)




Abortion rights group and physicians, on behalf of themselves and their patients, were entitled to temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining Attorney General of United States from enforcing Partial-Birth Abortion Act; plaintiffs made adequate showing of risk of irreparable harm if TRO were not granted, and it was substantially likely they would succeed on merits of their constitutional challenge to law insofar as Nebraska statute which similarly did not contain exception to protect women's health had been declared unconstitutional. [National Abortion Federation v. Ashcroft, S.D.N.Y.2003, 287 F.Supp.2d 525](#). Injunction  150

2. ---- Due process, constitutionality


Congress violated due process rights of physicians and patients when it passed statute barring partial birth abortions, without providing exception when needed to protect health of mother, where there was substantial medical authority supporting proposition that prohibiting procedure could endanger women's health; judicial deference was not owed to Congressional findings that there was moral, medical, and ethical consensus that procedure was never medically necessary and should be prohibited, that there was no evidence that procedure was safer than alternatives, that medical schools did not teach procedure, and that procedure was disfavored by medical profession. [National Abortion Federation v. Gonzales, C.A.2 \(N.Y.\) 2006, 437 F.3d 278](#). Constitutional Law  274(5)

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was unconstitutional in all of its applications when the fetus was not viable or when there was a doubt about the viability of the fetus in appropriate medical judgment of the doctor performing the abortion; Act's constitutionality when the fetus was indisputably viable remained an open question. [Carhart v. Ashcroft, D.Neb.2004, 331 F.Supp.2d 805](#), affirmed [413 F.3d 791](#), certiorari granted [126 S.Ct. 1314, 164 L.Ed.2d 46](#), miscellaneous rulings [126 S.Ct. 1607, 164 L.Ed.2d 296](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30


Congress violated due process rights of physicians and patients when it passed statute barring partial birth abortions, without providing exception when needed to protect health of mother, based on findings that (1) there was "moral, medical, and ethical consensus" that procedure was "never medically necessary and should be prohibited," (2) there was no evidence that procedure was safer than alternatives, (3) medical schools did not teach procedure, and (4) it was procedure disfavored by medical profession, when there was contrary evidence regarding each point in legislative history, and Congress was required to determine that there was no significant body of medical opinion believing procedure to have safety advantages for some women. [National Abortion Federation v. Ashcroft, S.D.N.Y.2004, 330 F.Supp.2d 436](#), affirmed in part [437 F.3d 278](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30; Constitutional Law  274(5)

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which imposed criminal and civil penalties on "[a]ny physician who, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion," was unconstitutionally vague, in violation of the Due Process Clause, inasmuch as it failed to clearly define the prohibited medical procedures, depriving physicians of fair notice and encouraging arbitrary enforcement; statutory terms "partial-birth abortion," "overt act," "deliberately and intentionally," and "living fetus" were ambiguous, such that providers of abortion services could not understand exactly what the Act prohibited. [Planned Parenthood Federation of America v. Ashcroft, N.D.Cal.2004, 320 F.Supp.2d 957](#), affirmed [435 F.3d 1163](#), certiorari granted [2006 WL 1167413](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30; Constitutional Law  258(3.1); Constitutional Law  303


3. ---- Woman's right to choose, constitutionality


Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was an undue burden on a woman's decision to have abortion, since it reached dilation and evacuation (D & E) abortion method; D & E abortions were the most common form of abortion in the second trimester, and were generally the safest method of abortion during the second trimester. [Carhart v. Ashcroft, D.Neb.2004, 331 F.Supp.2d 805](#), affirmed [413 F.3d 791](#), certiorari granted [126 S.Ct. 1314, 164 L.Ed.2d 46](#), miscellaneous rulings [126 S.Ct. 1607, 164 L.Ed.2d 296](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30


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Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which imposed criminal and civil penalties on "[a]ny physician who, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion," unconstitutionally posed an undue burden on a woman's right to choose an abortion prior to viability; Act encompassed not only intact D & E procedures, but other previability D & E procedures, and possibly inductions and treatment of spontaneous miscarriages, creating a risk of criminal liability during virtually all abortions performed after the first trimester, and Act did not distinguish between previability and postviability. [Planned Parenthood Federation of America v. Ashcroft, N.D.Cal.2004, 320 F.Supp.2d 957](#), affirmed [435 F.3d 1163](#), certiorari granted [2006 WL 1167413](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30

4. ---- Health of mother, constitutionality

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was unconstitutional due to its failure to contain exception for instances involving preservation of health of mother. [Carhart v. Gonzales, C.A.8 \(Neb.\) 2005, 413 F.3d 791](#), certiorari granted [126 S.Ct. 1314, 164 L.Ed.2d 46](#), miscellaneous rulings [126 S.Ct. 1607, 164 L.Ed.2d 296](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 unconstitutionally restricted a particular abortion method without providing an exception permitting use of that method when necessary to protect a woman's health; substantial evidence in record did not support congressional fact findings that the banned procedure was never necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the health of the woman. [Carhart v. Ashcroft, D.Neb.2004, 331 F.Supp.2d 805](#), affirmed [413 F.3d 791](#), certiorari granted [126 S.Ct. 1314, 164 L.Ed.2d 46](#), miscellaneous rulings [126 S.Ct. 1607, 164 L.Ed.2d 296](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which banned use of intact D & E abortion procedure, lacked required exception for the health of the mother and was therefore unconstitutional, despite inclusion of an exception to save the life of the mother, where significant medical authority supported proposition that in some circumstances intact D & E was the safest procedure, experts were divided regarding the necessity or safety of the procedure, and there was an absence of controlled medical studies providing an definitive answer regarding the safety and necessity of the procedure. [Planned Parenthood Federation of America v. Ashcroft, N.D.Cal.2004, 320 F.Supp.2d 957](#), affirmed [435 F.3d 1163](#), certiorari granted [2006 WL 1167413](#). Abortion And Birth Control  1.30

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Current through P.L. 109-431 (excluding P.L. 109-401, 109-415, 109-417, 109-426) approved Dec. 20, 2006.

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