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Akin Votes for Unborn Victims of Violence Act

House passes measure that recognizes unborn fetuses as potential victims of murder and other violent crimes

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Akin voted for the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which passed the House today by a vote of 252 to 172. The bill recognizes an unborn child as a potential victim of already existing federal crimes. The act establishes that a criminal can be held accountable for injuring or killing an unborn child while attacking a pregnant woman.

Akin, a cosponsor of the bill, spoke in favor of the act on the House floor. After its passage, Akin issued the following statement:

“Under current law, a criminal who injures or kills a woman’s unborn child in a federal crime is only guilty of an offense against the mother. He cannot be held accountable for a separate crime against the child. In effect, the law treats the unborn child as if she were merely tissue in the mother’s body. This is unjust. A criminal who injures the unborn does not only injure the woman. He injures a separate human being.

“I hope that the Senate will speedily pass this bill, and that the President will sign it into law.”