

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation offered by colleague, Mr. Chabot, to ban the procedure known as partial-birth abortion. Over the past 30 years, abortion has placed 42 million separate scars on America's soul. Each time, a mother was never quite the same. Each time, a nameless baby died a tragic and lonely death and all the gifts the child might have brought to humanity were lost forever. Mothers were impoverished while doctors were enriched.

I recently read the story about Samuel Armas, a three and a half year old from Villa Rica, Georgia. Samuel underwent experimental surgery at 21 weeks of gestational age to close a hole at the bottom of his spinal cord. An astonishing photo from this surgery shows Samuel's innocent and curious little hand emerging from his mother's womb during the surgery--an irrefutable example of just how precious and fragile a human life can be. The grasp of Samuel's five tiny fingers stunningly illustrates the miracle of life within the womb. The unspeakable and far-reaching cost of diminished respect for human life, born and unborn, is beginning to dawn in the hearts of us all. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation to ban this horrific procedure, and oppose any amendment that would allow for exceptions. I commend my colleague Mr. Chabot for this gallant legislation made in the interest of children and humanity everywhere.