AMENDED

May 2, 2018

**H. 3548**

Introduced by Reps. Bennett, Delleney, Yow, Stringer, Hardee, Erickson, Long, Fry, Daning, S. Rivers, Davis, Allison, Hill, Crosby, B. Newton, McCoy, West, McCravy, Tallon, Elliott, Henderson, V.S. Moss, G.R. Smith, Pope, Toole, Huggins, Hamilton, Bedingfield, Atwater, Ballentine, Willis, Simrill and Lowe

S. Printed 5/2/18--S.

Read the first time April 4, 2017.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ENACT THE “SOUTH CAROLINA UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION FROM DISMEMBERMENT ABORTION ACT” BY ADDING ARTICLE 6 TO CHAPTER 41, TITLE 44 SO AS TO PROHIBIT DISMEMBERMENT ABORTIONS, WITH EXCEPTIONS, AND TO DEFINE RELEVANT TERMS; TO PROVIDE FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL REMEDIES TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARTICLE; TO CREATE CRIMINAL PENALTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 41, Title 44 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 6

South Carolina Unborn Child Protection from Abortion Act

Section 44‑41‑610. This article may be cited as the South Carolina Unborn Child Protection from Abortion Act.

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is unlawful for a physician to knowingly perform or attempt to perform an abortion and thereby kill an unborn child unless necessary to prevent serious health risk to the unborn child’s mother. ‘Serious health risk to the unborn child’s mother’ means that in reasonable medical judgment she has a condition that so complicates her medical condition that it necessitates the abortion of her pregnancy to avert her death or to avert serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions. No such condition may be determined to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct which she intends to result in her death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

(B) As used in this section:

(1) ‘Abortion’ means the intention of causing the death of an unborn child.

(2) The term ‘physician’ means a physician, surgeon, or osteopath authorized to practice medicine in this State and licensed pursuant to Chapter 47, Title 40. However, an individual who is not a physician, but who directly and knowingly performs an abortion is also subject to the provisions of this section.

(C) This article prohibits abortion for any reason excluding rape, and incest and the life of the mother.

Section 44‑41‑620. Nothing in this article shall be construed as creating or recognizing a right to abortion, nor a right to a particular method of abortion.”

SECTION 2. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this act is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this act, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed this act and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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