BORN ALIVE:
Protecting Babies Who Survive Abortion
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For an overview of the status of born-alive laws nationwide, see our map: Pro-Life Laws in the States

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PROTECTING BABIES WHO SURVIVE ABORTION

This year, New York kicked off a string of radical abortion laws across the country that not only legalized late-term abortions, but also repealed longstanding protections for infants who survive abortion—generally known as “born-alive” protections. When New York City lit up the Empire State Building in pink to celebrate the passage of unrestricted abortion, it sent a chilling message across the country applauding a culture of death. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam caused further alarm when discussing what would happen to an infant who survives an abortion in his state: “the infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired.”

Congress and state legislatures have responded to these radical positions by putting forth legislation to protect infants who survive abortion. Texas passed such a law earlier this year. However, Democrats in Congress and state legislatures have blocked efforts to pass requirements that life-saving medical care be given to babies born alive after failed abortion attempts. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has refused to bring up the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act for a vote in the House.
over 80 times, and Democrat Governors in North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Montana have all vetoed similar legislation. Earlier this year, Illinois actually repealed its protections for infants who survive abortions.

There has been much debate and false information spread about these bills and the general nature of infants born alive after an abortion attempt. In fact, babies do survive abortion, and government statistics shed some light on how many. From 2003 through 2014, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that at least 143 infants died after being born following a botched abortion. And this number is most likely an underestimate, as only a few states report on this topic. For instance, since 2013 alone, a mere three states – Arizona, Florida, and Minnesota – reported that 47 infants survived abortions.

There are also the personal accounts of adults who later in life found out they survived an abortion attempt. One of the most prominent abortion survivors is Melissa Ohden, who discovered that she was discarded after a saline abortion. If not for two nurses who intervened and rushed her to the hospital, she would not be alive today. Now Melissa is a pro-life advocate who founded the Abortion Survivors Network (ASN) to highlight the stories of others who have survived abortions.
In 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act*, which stated that all infants born alive are full persons under the law. However, it did not add any legal enforcement to ensure that infants who survive abortion receive proper medical care. States also have varying degrees of legal protection for infants who survive abortion. Thirty-four states have laws that provide some explicit protections for babies who survive abortion, however only 14 of these states offer the legal enforcement and health care requirements necessary to provide full protection for these vulnerable infants. That means in 36 states an infant who is fortunate enough to survive an abortion attempt can be denied vital medical attention to help him or her survive. That is why the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* is necessary to protect infants across America who survive abortion.

Most Americans want protections for infants who survive abortion. A February 2019 poll showed that 77% support legislation that would ensure a baby who survives a failed abortion would be given the same medical treatment as any baby born at the same gestational age. Even more encouraging is that 70% of Democrats support this legislation, showing a strong divide between Democratic voters and the radical abortion agenda of the Democratic Party. Failure by Democrats in Congress and throughout the states to acknowledge and protect the lives of infants who survive abortion is inexcusable.