

BERNARD SANDERS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
VERMONT, AT LARGE

213 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4501
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4115
FAX: (202) 225-0780

COMMITTEE:
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

1 CHURCH STREET, SECOND FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401-4417
TELEPHONE: (802) 682-0097
TOLL FREE: (800) 338-0834
FAX: (802) 680-8370

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

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**SANDERS VOTES TO PREVENT CHIPPING AWAY OF
A WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

Sanders said, "I understand and can appreciate the strongly held beliefs on both sides of the abortion debate, but I have always believed that it is inappropriate for the federal government to interfere in the very personal decision that a woman must make regarding whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

Sanders said, "The decision to have an abortion is not an easy one for any woman. Each woman's situation is unique; each woman's decision is comprised of different and complex factors that she must consider. Women confronted with late term abortions often face the worst tragedy of their lives: the loss of a wanted and planned pregnancy. The government cannot decide for her, nor can the government deprive her of a procedure that a doctor has advised will best protect her health, possibly save her life, and reduce the chances of problems in her next pregnancy."

Sanders continued, "The federal government does not regulate medical procedures. The medical profession is responsible for developing medical standards, and the medical profession is regulated at the state level with board certification standards. It is completely inappropriate for the federal government to be deciding, on a case-by-case basis, which medical procedure is appropriate -- that decision must remain with the medical societies and between a patient and her doctor."

Sanders said, "The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot ban abortions that are necessary to preserve the life or the health of the mother. Yet the bill H.R. 1833 would relinquish the obligation of every physician to ensure that any surgical procedure performed best promotes the health and safety of their patient."

"We should not establish, as this bill does, a precedent in which doctors have their experience and knowledge overridden by politicians" Sanders said.

Late term abortions protect women from putting their health and safety at risk. Maternal health problems like severe heart disease, kidney failure or rapidly advancing cancer could kill or disable the mother if the pregnancy continued. Furthermore, many fetuses with severe abnormalities have a high chance of dying in utero and putting the woman's health at risk by releasing broken down tissue into her circulation, thus severely complicating labor or surgical delivery. Many fetal defects are discovered only very late in pregnancy when a fetus is large enough to detect the abnormalities.

This bill is opposed by the American Medical Women's Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, National Organization of Women, Planned Parenthood, the American Association of University Women, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, and the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

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Contact: Tina Wisell - (802) 862-0697

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