

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. RICKETTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dignity for Aborted  
5 Children Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.**

7 Congress enacts the following pursuant to Congress’  
8 power under—

9 (1) the Interstate Commerce Clause of section  
10 8 of article I of the Constitution;

1           (2) section 5 of the 14th Amendment to the  
2           Constitution of the United States, including the  
3           power to enforce the prohibition on government ac-  
4           tion denying equal protection of the laws; and

5           (3) section 8 of article I of the Constitution of  
6           the United States to make all laws necessary and  
7           proper for the carrying into execution of powers  
8           vested by the Constitution in the Government of the  
9           United States.

10 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF FETAL REMAINS.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—Part H of title IV of the Public  
12           Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289 et seq.) is amended  
13           by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 498F. PROTECTION OF FETAL REMAINS.**

15           “(a) CONSENT REQUIREMENT.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any abortion provider,  
17           after performing an abortion, shall provide the pa-  
18           tient with an informed consent form, offering the  
19           patient the following options for disposal of the  
20           human fetal tissue from the abortion:

21           “(A) The patient may take possession of  
22           the human fetal tissue and may choose to  
23           transfer the tissue to an entity providing inter-  
24           ment or cremation services.

1                   “(B) The patient may elect to release the  
2                   human fetal tissue to the abortion provider,  
3                   who shall be subject to the requirements of sub-  
4                   section (b).

5                   “(2) CONSENT REQUIREMENTS.—An abortion  
6                   provider described in paragraph (1) shall—

7                   “(A) obtain a patient signature on each  
8                   consent form required under paragraph (1);  
9                   and

10                   “(B) retain each such form in the patient’s  
11                   file.

12                   “(b) PROVIDER DISPOSAL REQUIREMENT.—It shall  
13 be unlawful for any abortion provider who, after per-  
14 forming an abortion in which the woman on whom the  
15 abortion was performed elects, pursuant to subsection  
16 (a)(1)(B), to release the human fetal tissue to the abortion  
17 provider, to fail to provide for the final disposition of the  
18 human fetal tissue through interment or cremation, con-  
19 sistent with State law regarding the disposal of human  
20 remains, not later than 7 days after the date on which  
21 the abortion procedure was performed. Such final disposi-  
22 tion of human fetal tissue may be carried out through in-  
23 terment or cremation of tissue from more than one abor-  
24 tion procedure collectively.

25                   “(c) PENALTIES.—

1           “(1) INFORMED CONSENT VIOLATIONS.—An  
2           abortion provider who fails to maintain the docu-  
3           mentation required under subsection (a)(2)(B) shall  
4           be subject to civil monetary penalties in an amount  
5           not to exceed \$50,000.

6           “(2) DISPOSAL VIOLATIONS.—Any abortion  
7           provider who violates subsection (b) shall be fined in  
8           accordance with title 18, United States Code, im-  
9           prisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

10           “(3) BAR TO PROSECUTION.—A patient upon  
11           whom an abortion in violation of subsection (b) is  
12           performed or attempted may not be prosecuted  
13           under, or for a conspiracy to violate, paragraph (1),  
14           or for an offense under section 2, 3, or 4 of title 18,  
15           United States Code, based on such a violation.

16           “(d) REPORTING.—Each abortion provider described  
17           in subsection (a)(1) shall submit annual reports to the  
18           Secretary indicating, with respect to the reporting pe-  
19           riod—

20           “(1) the aggregate number of abortion proce-  
21           dures performed by such abortion provider;

22           “(2) the gestational age at the time of each  
23           such procedure; and

24           “(3) for abortions carried out using an abortion  
25           method other than chemical abortion, the aggregate



1           “(2) the term ‘abortion provider’ means an in-  
2           dividual or entity that performs abortions; and

3           “(3) the term ‘human fetal tissue’ has the  
4           meaning given the term in section 498A(g).”.