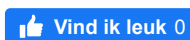


## Anti-abortion group confident House will pass ban on late-term abortion



By [Jordan Gass-Pooré - Spring 2015](#) Jan 15, 2015



**Click on photo to enlarge or download:** Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, recounted the national anti-abortion organization's hand in building the Republican Senate majority at a press conference Thursday at the National Press Club. The nonprofit spent millions of dollars in 2014 to elect anti-abortion candidates. SHFWire photo by Jordan Gass-Pooré

WASHINGTON – Marjorie Dannenfelser is a self-described reluctant convert to the anti-abortion movement.

Dannenfelser made it her life's mission to end abortion after a philosophical debate when she was a Duke University undergraduate, she said at a

Thursday news conference at the National Press Club.

The former pro-abortion rights advocate is now the president of the anti-abortion organization the [Susan B. Anthony List](#).

The group works to elect candidates and promote government policies that will ultimately prohibit abortion.

That includes the [“Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,”](#) that she said the House is expected to vote on Jan. 22, the day the annual March for Life is to take place. It would ban abortion after 20 weeks.

This anti-abortion rally will take place on the 42nd anniversary of the decision in [Roe v. Wade](#), the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion through the second trimester of a pregnancy.

Women in the United States can choose to have an abortion for any reason, until at least 24 weeks of gestation.

The bill asserts that a fetus can feel pain after 20 weeks.

The House [passed](#) a similar measure in June 2013, but it failed in the Senate. Dannenfels is more optimistic this year.

“Our Senate allies say it will move very quickly,” Dannenfels said.

If both House and Senate pass the bill, President Barack Obama is likely to veto it.

Dannenfels said it’s “perhaps insurmountable” for the House and Senate to override a veto, but she’s hopeful more anti-abortion legislation will pass at the state level.

Requirements to obtain an abortion vary by state, with most restricting late-term abortions.

“States are the best laboratory for legislation,”  
Dannenfelser said.

To make any federal change,Dannenfelser said her  
organization needs a president on its side.

Several potential 2016 Republican presidential  
candidates have signed the Susan B. Anthony List  
“Pro-Life Presidential Leadership Pledge,”  
Dannenfelser said.

This list includes Jeb Bush,R-Fla.,Mike  
Huckabee,R-Ark.; Ted Cruz,R-Texas; Rick  
Santorum,R-Pa.,and Rick Perry R-Texas,among  
others.

Dannenfelser said she expects other candidates to  
follow suit.

In 2014,the [nonprofit](#) and its super political action  
committee [Women Speak Out](#) spent more than \$3  
million on Republican campaigns.

The organizations are ready to do the same in 2016.

“It’s not just a political moment; it’s a human  
moment we’re living in,” Dannenfelser said.

The ultimate intent of the Susan B. Anthony List is  
to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Dannenfelser admitted the organization is nowhere  
close to making abortion illegal and can’t predict  
when this will happen.

But she said people are changing sides.

Developments in fetal surgery bring perspective on  
the humanity of the unborn,Dannenfelser said.

To back up her claims,she cited the neutral website  
[WebMD](#). The online health guide’s “Your  
Pregnancy Week by Week” describes the 20<sup>th</sup> week  
as the time when a fetus begins to  
twist,turn,wiggle,punch and kick.

“We’re talking about a person here, not a clump of cells; a clump of cells can’t dance,” Dannenfelser said.

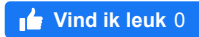
That’s why, she said, the proposed law is “so desperately needed.”

Reach reporter Jordan Gass-Pooré at [jordan.gass-pooré@scripps.com](mailto:jordan.gass-pooré@scripps.com) or 202-408-1490. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).



### About Jordan Gass-Pooré - Spring 2015

Jordan Gass-Pooré is a Spring 2015 reporter for the SHFWire from Texas State University.



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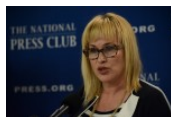
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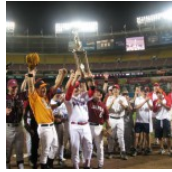
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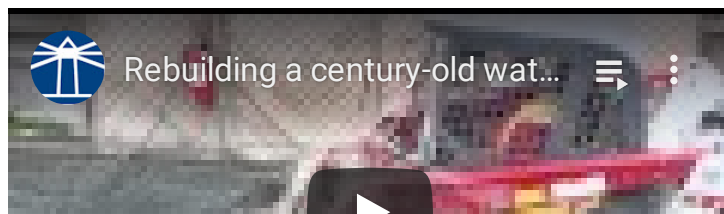


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