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Abortion bill passed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inviting another veto from President Clinton, Congress sent the White House a bill Wednesday that would make it a crime for doctors to perform certain late-term abortions.

Clinton vetoed a similar bill last year. "The president's position has not changed," a spokesman for him said Wednesday.

The House passed the bill on 296-132 vote, more than two-thirds majority needed to override the anticipated veto. The Senate has passed the bill twice, but on neither occasion was there a two-thirds veto-proof majority among its 100 members.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said Wednesday he thought there was a "real opportunity" this year to overturn the veto.

But Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., the chief sponsor, sounded a less optimistic note. "We face a battle in the Senate," he said after the vote.

House members repeated emotional but familiar arguments during two hours of debate. In the end, 217 Republicans joined 79 Democrats to approve the Senate-passed bill. Voting against it were 123 Democrats, eight Republicans and one independent. Six members did not vote.

Supporters of the ban said the procedure is "heinous," comparable to infanticide, and that there is no medically justifiable reason to use it.

Democrats countered that the Republican majority was hunting for a campaign issue and was playing politics with women's health. Others

said the focus on one procedure wouldn't do anything to reduce abortions nationwide.

"Why are we voting on this piece of legislation again and again and again?" asked Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo. "The reason is clear. In the 1998 elections, the Republicans think they can saddle people with this."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., noted the ban wouldn't outlaw abortion.

"But we're stopping a loathsome, grizzly byproduct of the mindset that treats people as things and as objects," he said. "We're saying halt this cruelty now, not tomorrow."

The House passed the ban last March, but had to vote again to approve changes made by the Senate before Clinton could be presented with a bill. The vote was the fifth by the House on the issue in just over two years.

Republicans revived the bill this year after learning the procedure they call "partial-birth abortion" was more common and used earlier in pregnancy than previously believed. It would not permit such an abortion even when the pregnancy jeopardizes a woman's health.

The House passed the bill 295-136 in March with enough votes for an override. The Senate amended and passed the bill 64-36 in May but fell three votes short of the total needed for an override.

Clinton and abortion rights groups have insisted on a provision allowing the procedure when a woman's health is endangered. Republicans say that would render

the ban meaningless.

The bill bans the procedure — which involves the partial delivery of a fetus, legs first, through the birth canal followed by the drainage of its skull — except when needed to save a woman's life.

Advocates on both sides of the issue were expecting a veto.

"Once again, American women are looking to President Clinton to safeguard our health by vetoing this dangerous bill," said Kathryn Engustian of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington.

The National Right to Life Committee said it anticipated a veto because Clinton "is a political captive of the abortion-on-demand crowd."

White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Congress would include a health exception if it were "serious about passing legislation."

Abortion rights groups also were disappointed by the vote. But they noted that bans in nine states have been blocked by the courts because they were ruled unconstitutional or likely to be declared illegal.

"We urge President Clinton to veto the bill and remember that real women suffer when Congress is allowed to play politics with their lives," said Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Among the Senate amendments was a provision that would allow doctors who face fines or imprisonment under the measure to present evidence from state medical licensing boards at trial.

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AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
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ASUN addresses chalk question by unanimously passing bill No. 6

ASUN from page 1

... other ASUN news:

■ Senate Bill No. 10 unanimously passed. This bill urges the College of Arts and Sciences to consider expanding opportunities for students to take minority studies classes.

■ Senate Bill No. 11 passed with opposition from arts and sciences senator Kara Slaughter. The bill proclaims the senate's support for a parking education class for people to take instead of paying parking tickets received on campus. Slaughter was opposed to offering the class to a person once every two years, instead of once every four, which she advocated.

■ Senate Bill No. 12, which rec-

ognized the Diversity Council as an official student organization, passed unanimously.

■ Government Bill No. 15 also passed unanimously. The bill states ASUN's support for the NU Board of Regent's bylaw change that would allow student organizations to receive programming funding once every two years instead of every four. The funding will be discussed at the next board meeting Oct. 17.

■ Senators approved appointment Nos. 44-56. Speaker of the Senate Viet Hoang and his appointments committee announced their ASUN subcommittee appointments to the senate. They passed unanimously.

Dr. AirWair Martens
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Senator of the Week

Each week, the Daily Nebraskan will feature a member of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Name: Amy Rager
Age: 21
Year: Senior
Major: Political science
ASUN position: First vice president

Contact information: Call or visit the ASUN office in the Nebraska Union to speak with Rager about student concerns. The office phone number is 472-2581.

Other involvement: Student Foundation, Chi Omega Sorority, College Republicans and Mortar Board.

Why ASUN is important: "Because ASUN is the student's voice."

Responsibilities in ASUN: As first vice president, Rager works with academic issues. "I work with the Academic Senate and Academic Planning Committee," she said. Rager said she was working with post-tenure review.

Current ASUN projects: "My biggest goal is to expand ASUN so that all students feel represented and welcomed." Rager plans to extend this welcome through ASUN legislation, and the new Student Impact Team. Rager also said one of her main concerns was campus safety.

Biggest challenge facing UNL: "I believe in all areas students need to vote," Rager said. "Their vote is their voice. Students are not known to be active voting members in the U.S. My hope is if we can show them what our own student government can do, they'll maybe have more faith in the government as a whole."