



# DISMEMBERMENT ABORTION

## Dilation and Evacuation Abortion (D&E) of a 23 Week Old Fetus

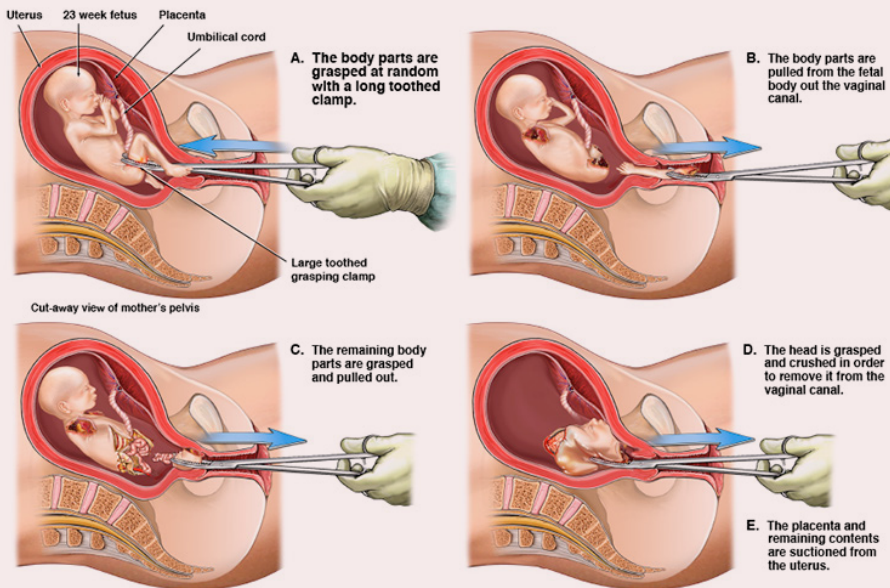


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*The violent and dehumanizing nature of dismemberment undermines the public's perception of doctors and their ethical duty to preserve and promote life. This procedure goes entirely against Michigan's values.*

### References

- 1 - Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services, *Characteristics of Induced Abortions Reported in Michigan*, June 2019.
- 2 - D.G. Foster & K. Kimport, "Who Seeks Abortions at or After 20 Weeks?" *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 45, no. 4 (2013): 210-218.

### 1 "Dismemberment Abortion" is an accurate description.

Also known as a D&E (dilation and evacuation) abortion, it's a highly barbaric second trimester abortion procedure. "Dismemberment" is the simplest way to describe it. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy used the term to describe it in a case involving partial-birth abortion, *Stenberg v. Carhart*: "The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn from limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off."

### 2 Dismemberment abortions are not rare.

There were 1,908 dismemberment abortions performed in Michigan in 2018.<sup>1</sup> For example, that number is greater than the deaths due to breast cancer and gun homicides combined in Michigan.

### 3 A ban has a legal pathway to survive a court challenge.

This law is simply asking the U.S. Supreme Court to apply the standards used in the *Gonzales v. Carhart* partial birth abortion decision to the similar and equally brutal dismemberment abortion procedure. In the majority opinion of *Gonzales*, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, "No one would dispute that, for many, D&E is a procedure itself laden with the power to devalue human life."

### 4 Dismembering a human being is not an acceptable medical practice.

It's a fact that most abortions (even late-term abortions after 20 weeks) are for social or economic reasons, not because of a health problem with the woman or child.<sup>2</sup> However, it is a sad truth that some unborn babies have serious medical conditions, just like many adults. Our society would never condone killing a disabled infant right after birth by tearing her arms and legs off, and it shouldn't condone it before her birth.

Some of these disabilities include correctable conditions like club feet or cleft palates. Prenatal diagnoses can often be incorrect, leading to pressure on a woman to have an abortion. What's needed most is accurate medical information and resources, as well as information about perinatal hospice or other services available to help the mother and her child.

Surely Michigan can do better than this.

Even though this law has an exception if the mother's life is at risk, dismemberment abortions are almost never medically necessary in an acute medical emergency. It can take up to 36 hours to dilate the cervix before the procedure can even begin.