

Poland Parliament Set to Vote on Abortion Exceptions

Polish citizens are fighting back against abortion.

A bill that removes exceptions from the nation's abortion laws and provides total protection for preborn children from the moment of conception is set for a parliamentary vote this week.

A citizen-led initiative drive worked to get the issue on the ballot. Sponsors were required to collect 100,000 signatures over the course of three months. The grassroots effort reportedly collected 600,000 signatures in just two weeks.

"Across the globe, God is moving in the hearts of so many to protect the preborn. America could stand to learn something from Poland, Hungary, Mexico and so many more nations protecting all human life," said Keith Mason, co-founder of Personhood USA. "The people of Poland are right—every person should enjoy the full protections of the law."

Currently, the Polish law allows for abortion in cases related to maternal health, if the pregnancy is the result of "illegal activity," or if the preborn child is disabled. Polish abortionists have manipulated the exceptions to kill children with minor defects including cleft palates. Reports of fraud concerning fetal age are prevalent, and "illegal activity" is often misrepresented to include a wider range of criminal activity.

Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, a former assistant to Pope John Paul II, told Poland's largest opinion weekly, *Gosc Niedzielny*, "The Church clearly teaches that it is the obligation of Catholics not to protect the current 'compromise' but to aim at complete protection of life. This is a solution, which the Church calls for."

The Nazi invasion first brought decriminalized abortion to the predominately Catholic nation. Under Soviet rule, Communism accounted for a continuation of the anti-life policies. In 1993, finally free from their oppressors, Poland tightened abortion restrictions but did not institute a complete ban.

A survey conducted earlier this month demonstrates a shift in the population's attitudes about abortion. The numbers could be attributed to differences in age demographics as the former regimes' influence has faded and younger generations have been raised without the prejudices.

Sixty-five percent of Poles agree that the law "should unconditionally protect the life of all children since conception," and 76 percent of those aged 15 to 24 favor total protection. While still a majority, the numbers are lower for those aged 55 to 70 at 57 percent.