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Third Congressional District GOP Leaders Reiterate Call for Rep. Kind to explain his Flip-flop on Partial Birth Abortion Vote

Shaw and Arneson say Enough Surrogates, It's Time Voters Heard from Kind

(Menomonie, WI, August 5, 2002) - The Third District Republican Party leaders today demanded to know why Rep. Ron Kind is letting surrogates address his "flip-flop" vote against the Partial Birth Abortion ban instead of explaining it himself. On July 26, Bill Arndt, candidate for Congress, called on Kind to explain his vote in light of the fact that he voted for a ban to the procedure in 2000.

Since that time Kind has been silent on the issue.

On July 29 as guests on the Wisconsin Public Radio Show "The West Side with Mary Jo Wagner", Karen Dahl, Third District Democrat Party Chair, responded to Dennis Shaw, Third District Republican Party Chairman, who mentioned that Kind will need to explain his vote against the partial birth abortion ban. Dahl responded that "Ron Kind has always been against that." This does not square with the fact, as pointed out by Bill Arndt, that Kind voted for a ban in April 2000.

Ron Kind has not publicly addressed Dahl's mistake.

Now, on July 31, Planned Parenthood tries to defend Kind and the other Democrat Representatives in a carefully worded press release that never once mentions they are talking about partial birth abortions and never once explains what a gruesome procedure partial birth abortion is. In addition, Planned Parenthood immediately resorted to name calling, applying anti-choice and extremist labels to those who simply want to put an end to this barbaric act. And for the record, many "Pro-choice" advocates agree that this procedure should be banned.

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The excuse Planned Parenthood gives for Kind's vote against the ban states, "Baldwin, Barrett, and Kind voted against H.R. 4965 because it disregards Stenberg v. Carhart, ignores the health needs of women, and puts politics in the doctor's office." Surely this cannot be the excuse Kind will use as the bill addressed the Justices' concerns, extensive congressional hearings found that "partial-birth abortion is never medically indicated to preserve the health of the mother," and banning this procedure removes any politics from the Doctor's office.

But still Kind has not spoken up for himself.

"Enough ignoring the issue and hoping it will go away," stated Shaw. "It is time the voters hear from Kind. It is time for him to explain why he changed his vote. It is time for him to defend this procedure which the majority in Western Wisconsin feel should be made illegal!"

"Kind needs to explain himself to the people of Wisconsin. Why is he not taking Wisconsin values to Washington and instead chooses to bring Washington special interest philosophies back to Wisconsin?" added Gary Arneson, 3rd District GOP Vice Chairman. "It's time for a change in our representation to Washington. We are confident that Bill Arndt will vote to protect the sanctity of human life and represent our values in the nation's Capitol!"

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