



September 29, 2022

Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Montana on the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act (LR-131)

This coming November, Montana voters will have an opportunity to stand up for some of the most defenseless and vulnerable members of the human family—infants born alive following an abortion. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to always safeguard human dignity and witness to the sacredness of every human life from the moment of conception through natural death. These foundational principles must serve as the bedrock of every just and moral society.

This recognition of the inherent dignity enjoyed by all persons informs our understanding of the basic rights and protections to which all human beings are entitled. Children born alive following an abortion are among the most vulnerable and voiceless members of the human family and they deserve legal protection of the highest degree.

The Born-Alive Infant Protection Act (LR-131) reiterates the law as stated in the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act passed by Congress in 2002—that a newborn, regardless of the circumstances of his or her birth, is to be legally recognized as a person from the moment of birth if the infant shows any sign of life. However, the 2002 law passed by Congress did not provide specific measures for enforcing protection of these helpless infants and failed to specify that a born-alive infant is entitled to medically appropriate care and treatment. If approved by the voters of Montana, LR-131 will help to rectify this omission and strengthen the protections currently afforded to those children who are born alive following an abortion.

The Born-Alive Infant Protection Act is the epitome of common-sense legislation. It is intended to safeguard those infants who, through no fault of their own, are born into some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances imaginable. These children, having somehow survived a violent attack on their life in utero, should never face a similar threat once born.

We pray for healing for those whose lives have been scarred by the scourge of abortion and join with other pro-life voices around Montana in urging voters to support the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act and vote “YES” on LR-131.

Handwritten signature of Michael W. Warfel

Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

Handwritten signature of Austin A. Vetter

Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter Bishop of Helena

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey M. Fleming

Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Fleming Coadjutor Bishop of Great Falls-Billings