



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patrick Korten (203) 752-4474 or Andrew Walther (203) 752-4253

For Immediate Release:
February 27, 2006

South Dakota abortion law “based on solid foundation of modern medical science”
Supreme Knight praises legislature for acting to defend innocent human life

(NEW HAVEN, CT) — The South Dakota legislature, which approved a “Women’s Health and Human Life Protection Act” by wide margins last week, “has done the entire nation a tremendous service,” Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson declared today. “In carefully assembling the most current science in the field of molecular biology, they have blown a hole in the weakest and most disingenuous underpinning of *Roe v. Wade* – the notion that the question of when human life begins could not be answered.”

In March 2005 the legislature voted to establish a South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion, which received testimony from dozens of medical experts, abortion providers, women who have had abortions, crisis pregnancy counselors, government officials and legal experts. Leading scientists described in detail tremendous advances in technology over the past two decades, including new techniques that enable scientists to “observe human existence and development at a molecular level,” which were not available when *Roe* was decided in 1973.

In December 2005, the Task Force found that “abortion terminates the life of a unique, whole, living human being,” and that “the physician performing an abortion terminates the life of one of the physician’s patients to whom the physician owes a professional and legal duty.” The statute (HB 1215) approved by the State Senate (23-12) and State House (50-18) accepts the Task Force findings, and declares that “under the Constitution of South Dakota, a pregnant mother and her unborn child each possess a natural and inalienable right to life.”

Anderson praised the work of the South Dakota legislature, and said that its legislation “is based on a solid foundation of modern medical science. Thirty-three years after *Roe*, it is no longer possible for any court to assert that medical science does not know when life begins, or whether a fetus is in fact a separate and distinct human being. The abortion license now rests solely on legal precedents built on a crumbling foundation.”

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest lay Catholic organization, with 1.7 million members. It has been among the most active pro-life groups for more than three decades.

