EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3.13.09
SB 46

SB46
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Proponent

The 14th Amendment to our federal constitution reads: "... nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

This amendment was ratified in 1868 which you all know was a few short years after the Civil War. Prior to its ratification, slaves were the property of their owners with no rights of their own. Their owners could do anything he wanted to them, even kill them.

The right of privacy clause in our state constitution is a parallel situation with respect to a pregnant woman and her unborn child. The child in essence is the "property" of the mother with no legal rights. Whenever there have been pro-life bills passed by the legislature and signed by the governor it was only a matter of time before the courts struck them down because of the "right of privacy" of the mother, negating any protection to the unborn child. This ought not to be. Every person should not be deprived of life and protection in our state, including the unborn. The language change in Section 10 of our state constitution is necessary so it is clear that we have a compelling interest to protect both the mother and her unborn child

Let's not treat the unborn as property anymore but as people deserving of protection.