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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 pro-life laws in the hands of Judge Baker again

Pro-life laws passed by the Arkansas Legislature in 2017 that include measures regulating dismemberment abortion (D&E) and abortions based on sex selection are in danger of being struck down by a federal judge today.

Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life, said the 2017 laws now require forensic evidence to be collected on minors having abortions and for mothers to decide how they wish the disposition of the bodies of their babies to be handled after an abortion.

“However, this victory may be short-lived, as an emergency hearing will take place today (Dec. 22) before U.S. District Court Judge Kristine G. Baker who may place another temporary injunction to stop the laws. But today, at least for a few hours no dismemberment abortions,” said Mimms.

Judge Baker has ruled for pro-abortion activists in the past. Today’s hearing is being held after the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cleared the way for those laws to take effect, dissolving a Baker ruling that had blocked their implementation.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Arkansas officials indicated last week that the organization would again petition Baker to prevent the laws from taking effect or take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The set of abortion laws passed by the Arkansas Legislature in 2017 include Acts 45, 1018, 733 and 603, the Arkansas *Democrat-Gazette* reported. Act 45 bans dilation and evacuation, a common procedure for second-trimester abortions, while Act 1018 requires doctors to inform police if anyone 16 or younger gets an abortion. Act 733 prohibits sex-selective abortions and requires doctors to seek the medical records of any woman seeking an abortion who knows the sex of her fetus. Act 603 regulates the disposal of fetal remains.

In all, 13 states have passed similar laws over the years, said Mimms. Like Arkansas, the measures remain in effect in Nebraska, Mississippi and West Virginia, and partially in effect in Ohio.

“We will take the victory of saving living unborn babies from being torn apart in their mother’s womb while we can and pray that this brutal abortion procedure will never be used as a method to kill a living unborn child in a civil society. It is inhumane,” Mimms said.

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Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information visit <https://artl.org/>.