

HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENTS: MAJOR TEXTS

This document contains the text of major Human Life Amendments introduced in the U.S. Congress from 1973 to 2003. For your convenience, they are listed alphabetically using commonly accepted designations.

Designator	Initial Sponsor(s)	Date of Initial Introduction	Congress	Number	Text
Buckley	Sen. James L. Buckley (C-NY)	5/31/73	93	S. J. Res. 119	<p>“SECTION 1. With respect to the right to life, the word ‘person’, as used in this article and in the fifth and fourteenth articles of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, applies to all human beings, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development, irrespective of age, health, function, or condition of dependency.</p> <p>SECTION 2. This article shall not apply in an emergency when a reasonable medical certainty exists that continuation of the pregnancy will cause the death of the mother.</p> <p>SECTION 3. Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation within their respective jurisdictions.”</p>
Burke	Rep. James A. Burke (D-MA)	9/12/73	93	H. J. Res. 769	<p>“SECTION 1. With respect to the right to life, the word ‘person,’ as used in this article and in the fifth and fourteenth articles of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, applies to all human beings, including their</p>

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					<p>unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development, irrespective of age, health, function, or condition of dependency.</p> <p>SECTION 2. No abortion shall be performed by any person except under and in conformance with law permitting an abortion to be performed only in an emergency when a reasonable medical certainty exists that continuation of pregnancy will cause the death of the mother and requiring that person to make every reasonable effort, in keeping with good medical practice, to preserve the life of her unborn offspring.</p> <p>SECTION 3. Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation within their respective jurisdictions.”</p>
Hatch	Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT)	9/21/81	97	S. J. Res. 110	“A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution. The Congress and the several States shall have the concurrent power to restrict and prohibit abortions: Provided, That a law of a State which is more restrictive than a law of Congress shall govern.”
Hatch-Eagleton	Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) & Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-MO)	1/26/83	98	S. J. Res. 3	“A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution.”
Helms	Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC)	1/17/75	94	S. J. Res. 6	“SECTION 1. With respect to the right to life guaranteed in this Constitution, every human being, subject to the jurisdiction of the United

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					States, or of any State, shall be deemed, from the moment of fertilization, to be a person and entitled to the right to life. SECTION 2. Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”
Hogan	Rep. Lawrence Hogan (R-MD)	1/30/73	93	H. J. Res. 261	“SECTION 1. Neither the United States nor any State shall deprive any human being, from the moment of conception, of life without due process of law; nor deny to any human being, from the moment of conception, within its jurisdiction, the equal protection of the laws. SECTION 2. Neither the United States nor any State shall deprive any human being of life on account of illness, age, or incapacity. SECTION 3. Congress and the several States shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”
Noonan	Rep. Leonor K. Sullivan (D-MO)	10/1/75	94	H. J. Res. 681	“The Congress within Federal jurisdiction and the several States within their jurisdictions shall have power to protect life including the unborn at every stage of biological development irrespective of age, health, or condition of physical dependency.”
NRLC	Sen. James L. Buckley (C-NY)	1/23/75	94	S. J. Res. 11	“SECTION 1. With respect to the right to life, the word person as used in this article and in this article and in the fifth and fourteenth

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					<p>Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States applies to all human beings irrespective of age, health, function or condition of dependency, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development.</p> <p>SECTION 2. No unborn person shall be deprived of life by any person: Provided, however, That nothing in this article shall prohibit a law permitting only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of the mother.</p> <p>SECTION 3. The Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation within their respective jurisdictions.”</p>
NRLC Unity	Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC)	12/16/81	97	S. J. Res. 137	<p>"SECTION 1. The right to life is the paramount and most fundamental right of a person.</p> <p>SECTION 2. With respect to the right to life guaranteed to persons by the fifth and fourteenth articles of amendment to the Constitution, the word `person' applies to all human beings, irrespective of age, health, function, or condition of dependency, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development including fertilization.</p>

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					SECTION 3. No unborn person shall be deprived of life by any person: Provided, however, That nothing in this article shall prohibit a law allowing justification to be shown for only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of either the pregnant woman or her unborn offspring, as long as such law requires every reasonable effort be made to preserve the life of each. SECTION 4. Congress and the several States shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”
Paramount	Rep. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-KY)	4/5/79	96	H. J. Res. 294	“The paramount right to life is vested in each human being from the moment of fertilization without regard to age, health, or condition of dependency.”
Roncallo	Rep. Angelo D. Roncallo (R-NY)	5/30/74	93	H. J. Res. 1041	“SECTION 1. Abortion is hereby prohibited within the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof. As used in this article, abortion means the intentional destruction of unborn human life, which life begins at the moment of fertilization. “SECTION 2. Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”
Scott	Sen. William L. Scott (R-VA)	6/6/75	94	S. J. Res. 91	“The power to regulate the circumstances under which pregnancy may be terminated is reserved to the States.”

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Whitehurst	Rep. George W. Whitehurst (R-VA)	3/13/73	93	H. J. Res. 427	“SECTION 1. Nothing in this Constitution shall bar any State or territory or the District of Columbia, with regard to any area over which it has jurisdiction, from allowing, regulating, or prohibiting the practice of abortion.”