

Poll: Majority of likely voters support limits on abortion after 15 weeks

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A nationwide poll of 1,200 likely voters in a general election found that a majority oppose unrestricted abortion on demand throughout pregnancy and support limits on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life group, commissioned OnMessage Inc. to conduct the survey shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court's May 17 order announcing it will hear oral arguments during its next term on a 2018 Mississippi abortion law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The case is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Just after then-Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law March 19, 2018, a federal judge blocked it temporarily from taking effect after the state's only abortion clinic filed suit, saying it is unconstitutional. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the block on the law and it has never been enforced.

OnMessage asked respondents if they would support a Republican candidate who backs limiting abortion after 15 weeks – with exceptions for the life and physical health of the mother or severe abnormality of the unborn baby – or would support a Democratic candidate who backs abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Fifty-three percent said they would support the GOP candidate's abortion position, while 28% said they would support the Democratic candidate. Nineteen percent said, "Don't know."

Among respondents who identified themselves as Republicans, 90% said they would support the GOP candidate, while 17% of those who said they were Democrats would support that candidate. Among Independents, 54% said they'd support that candidate.

Of those who identified as Democrats, 58% said they would support the Democratic candidate, and 3% of the Republican respondents and 18% of Independents said the same.

Another finding showed that a total of 55% of likely voters said they would be more likely to support a 15-week limit on abortion when they learned an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain. A total of 26% said they would be less likely to support such a limit knowing that.

Asked about their support of such a limit if they knew "abortion carries significant physical and psychological risks to the mother, and these risks increase with late abortion," a total of 52% of the respondents would be more likely to support a 15-week limit, while a total of 29% said they would be less likely.

On the importance of the abortion issue in relation to how they would vote for an elected official, 43% of likely pro-life voters identified the issue as being very important, giving it "10" on an importance scale of one to 10. Only 29% of those who said they support keeping abortion legal said the same.

OnMessage conducted telephone interviews of 1,200 respondents May 25-27. The margin of error is plus or minus 2.82 percentage points.

"The majority of voters reject late-term abortion and the Democratic candidates who shamefully advocate for it," Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, said in a statement.

“At 15 weeks, unborn children can feel pain, and most European countries limit abortions at this point,” she said. “There is strong support among the American people for our nation’s laws to finally catch up with science and international norms.”