

“(J) Partial-birth abortion also confuses the medical, legal, and ethical duties of physicians to preserve and promote life, as the physician acts directly against the physical life of a child, whom he or she had just delivered, all but the head, out of the womb, in order to end that life. Partial-birth abortion thus appropriates the terminology and techniques used by obstetricians in the delivery of living children—obstetricians who preserve and protect the life of the mother and the child—and instead uses those techniques to end the life of the partially-born child.

“(K) Thus, by aborting a child in the manner that purposefully seeks to kill the child after he or she has begun the process of birth, partial-birth abortion undermines the public’s perception of the appropriate role of a physician during the delivery process, and perverts a process during which life is brought into the world, in order to destroy a partially-born child.

“(L) The gruesome and inhumane nature of the partial-birth abortion procedure and its disturbing similarity to the killing of a newborn infant promotes a complete disregard for infant human life that can only be countered by a prohibition of the procedure.

“(M) The vast majority of babies killed during partial-birth abortions are alive until the end of the procedure. It is a medical fact, however, that unborn infants at this stage can feel pain when subjected to painful stimuli and that their perception of this pain is even more intense than that of newborn infants and older children when subjected to the same stimuli. Thus, during a partial-birth abortion procedure, the child will fully experience the pain associated with piercing his or her skull and sucking out his or her brain.

“(N) Implicitly approving such a brutal and inhumane procedure by choosing not to prohibit it will further coarsen society to the humanity of not only newborns, but all vulnerable and innocent human life, making it increasingly difficult to protect such life. Thus, Congress has a compelling interest in acting—indeed it must act—to prohibit this inhumane procedure.

“(O) For these reasons, Congress finds that partial-birth abortion is never medically indicated to preserve the health of the mother; is in fact unrecognized as a valid abortion procedure by the mainstream medical community; poses additional health risks to the mother; blurs the line between abortion and infanticide in the killing of a partially-born child just inches from birth; and confuses the role of the physician in childbirth and should, therefore, be banned.”

CHAPTER 75—PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Sec.	
1541.	Issuance without authority.
1542.	False statement in application and use of passport.
1543.	Forgery or false use of passport.
1544.	Misuse of passport.
1545.	Safe conduct violation.
1546.	Fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other documents.
1547.	Alternative imprisonment maximum for certain offenses.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, title XIII, §130009(b), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2030, added item 1547.

1986—Pub. L. 99-603, title I, §103(b), Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3380, amended item 1546 generally, striking out “entry” before “documents”.

§ 1541. Issuance without authority

Whoever, acting or claiming to act in any office or capacity under the United States, or a

State, without lawful authority grants, issues, or verifies any passport or other instrument in the nature of a passport to or for any person whomsoever; or

Whoever, being a consular officer authorized to grant, issue, or verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or verifies any such passport to or for any person not owing allegiance, to the United States, whether a citizen or not—

Shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 25 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of this title)), 20 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 929(a) of this title)), 10 years (in the case of the first or second such offense, if the offense was not committed to facilitate such an act of international terrorism or a drug trafficking crime), or 15 years (in the case of any other offense), or both.

For purposes of this section, the term “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 771; Pub. L. 103-322, title XIII, §130009(a)(1), title XXXIII, §330016(1)(G), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2030, 2147; Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title II, §211(a)(2), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-569; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §607(n), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3512; Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title IV, §4002(a)(3), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1806.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on section 219 of title 22, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Foreign Relations and Intercourse (R.S. 4078; June 14, 1902, ch. 1088, §3, 32 Stat. 386).

The venue provision, which followed the punishment provisions, was omitted as covered by section 3238 of this title.

Changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-273 substituted “to facilitate” for “to facility” in third par.

1996—Pub. L. 104-294, §607(n)(1), struck out “or possession” after “or a State” in first par.

Pub. L. 104-294, §607(n)(2), added last par. defining “State” for purposes of this section.

Pub. L. 104-208 substituted “imprisoned not more than 25 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of this title)), 20 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 929(a) of this title)), 10 years (in the case of the first or second such offense, if the offense was not committed to facility such an act of international terrorism or a drug trafficking crime), or 15 years (in the case of any other offense)” for “imprisoned not more than 10 years” in third par.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(G), which directed the amendment of this section by substituting “under this title” for “not more than \$500”, could not be executed because the words “not more than \$500” did not appear in text subsequent to amendment by Pub. L. 103-322, §130009(a)(1). See below.

Pub. L. 103-322, §130009(a)(1), substituted “under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years” for “not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than one year” in last par.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-208 applicable with respect to offenses occurring on or after Sept. 30, 1996, see