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## **Abortion misnomer**

The Sun-Times article on the U.S. Senate's passage of a so-called partial-birth abortion ban [Oct. 22] mistakenly suggests that the Congress is attempting to place limits on a particular procedure performed in the "late term." In fact, the legislation does not prohibit a single procedure or only those late in pregnancy.

Courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court of the United States, have held bans on "partial-birth abortion" unconstitutional because they endanger women's health and intrude inappropriately in a doctor's decision making. These laws make it a crime for doctors to perform some of the safest abortion procedures used between 12 and 24 weeks of pregnancy -- before the fetus is viable. Such procedures often are necessary to preserve the health of the pregnant woman and to address serious fetal anomalies.

There simply is no medical procedure known as "partial birth abortion." The phrase is a political construct, created by anti-choice activists.

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