

Transcript from Louisiana Senate Debate Question 1

MODERATOR: Talks about the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act... Are there any provisions or any exceptions where you think that abortion should be considered? And also at what point should the government draw the line in people's personal lives?

CASSIDY: One of the clear distinctions in this race is that I am pro-life and Sen. Landrieu is pro-choice. I get 100% from Right to Life and she gets zero. She gets 100% from the pro-abortion groups and I get a zero, so this is a very kind of "my gosh, there is a clear choice" in this campaign. As for the Pain-Capable Act, I'm a doc. I know that that child, if born at week 20, can live and survive outside the womb. And there is evidence that that child, at 20 weeks, is able to feel pain. Now at that point we can all agree, whether we are pro-choice or pro-life, that is a life and it should be saved. And it should not be aborted. Now, I am pro-life.

MODERATOR: Are there any cases where it would need to be aborted?

CASSIDY: Of course. I am pro-life. So if the mother's life is at risk, I am pro-life, and that is one of the choices Sen. Landrieu gets a zero from Right to Life.

MODERATOR: Sen. Landrieu, you're part of this question. You're quoted in Politico as saying 20 weeks isn't the norm for a child to live outside of the hospital. Do you support abortion at 20 weeks?

LANDRIEU: I do not support abortion, period. I think it is tragic. I do not believe the government however should make those decisions. I think abortion in almost every case is immoral. I believe that the government should not make the choice, that is why I fall more under the label of pro-choice than pro-life — these labels are not very accurate because I think the person, the family, the doctor, in consultation with their doctor or their God should make that decision. Now, my record has been misconstrued. I am the co-chair of the adoption caucus, and I have two adopted children. We both have adopted children, and the congressman knows this very well. We both have adopted children, and I support adoption. I do not promote abortion and never have. He should also know as a doctor that 20 to 26 weeks is a very, very fragile time for a child. But the answer is I don't want Bill Cassidy in the hospital room; I don't want the governor in the hospital room. And I sure don't want Congress in the hospital room. The mother, the father, and the priest should be in the hospital room.