Lawmakers facing abortion issue

BY MARSHALL SHULZ

Abortion once again is a key issue for the 1989 Legislature. The abortion debate, a long running struggle for the lives of the unborn, will take center stage in the Legislature this year after the mounting controversy that surrounded the passage of the 1988 legislation to outlaw abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The legislation provided an exception for the development of guidelines for the treatment of infants born with fatal fetal defects that would not survive outside the uterus. The exception was considered by many to be too narrow, and it was expected that the 1989 Legislature would revisit the issue.

The 1988 abortion legislation was passed with a narrow margin and faced significant opposition. As a result, the 1989 Legislature will not only have to address the issue of abortion, but also the political climate that surrounds it. The abortion debate is often characterized by passionate and polarized opinions, and the 1989 Legislature will have to navigate this landscape carefully.

The debate will likely focus on themes of life and choice, and it is expected that the Legislature will continue to grapple with the issue of abortion for years to come. Whether the 1989 Legislature can find a way to address the issue in a manner that is both effective and fair remains to be seen.