Abortion — perspectives
Pro-life group awaits Senate action on bill

By KENT DAVIDSON
Staff Writer

Louisiana’s pro-life groups are hoping to see last week’s action in the House carry over to the Senate as the upper chamber takes action on what could become the country’s strictest abortion legislation.

“Last week in the House of Representatives in Baton Rouge, with 101 members present and voting, Louisiana made a historic decision when a resounding 74 members voted to pass the strongest pro-life bill in the country and send it on its way to become law,” Brenda Desormeaux, president of the Louisiana Right to Life Federation, said at a press conference Friday.

The Senate is set to take action Tuesday on a bill which would outlaw all abortions in the state. The only exception would be in cases in which the mother’s life is endangered.

In an attempt to urge the state’s Senators to back the legislation, the Louisiana Right to Life Federation, and other pro-life groups, will rally at the State Capitol at 5 p.m. Monday. Desormeaux said, “The eyes of the nation are upon Louisiana,” she said. “Now is the time for you to take one small step for mankind and be on the capitol steps in Baton Rouge to support our lawmakers in making this historic decision.”

“They need your support,” she added. “We need to show them we are with them.”

Gov. Buddy Roemer, however, has vowed to veto any legislation which does not include exceptions for cases involving pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Desormeaux, though, hopes he will rethink his position. “We are hoping that the governor was premature in making that statement,” she said. “Hopefully, he will come around.”

As far as recent threats that passage of the legislation would result in groups cancelling their conventions in Louisiana, Desormeaux says the pro-life groups are not worried about that. “We’re not going to concern ourselves with that,” she said. “We won’t let that affect us.”

In addition, she said, figures show that rape cases rarely result in pregnancy.

“I think the bottom line is that there is a human being there,” said Sandy Hindelang, with Acadiana Right to Life. “It is growing. The only choice a person would have would be either to let it live or kill it.”

The Daily Advertiser
Saturday, June 23, 1990
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