



Members of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:

On behalf of our nearly 1,300 active groups and more than 127,000 student activists we've trained across the nation, **Students for Life Action urges you to OPPOSE the nomination of Dr. Atul Gawande as assistant administrator of Global Public Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).**

Dr. Gawande is a notorious abortion *extremist*, even supporting partial-birth abortions. In 1998, Dr. Gawande penned an article in defense of the barbaric abortion method, [saying](#), "Grossness is not a good objection. Lots of operations are gross—leg amputations, burn surgery, removal of facial tumors, etc. But that does not make them wrong.... **Whether the fetus is in the womb or out, big or small, does not matter, either.**" Dr. Gawande also acknowledged that partial-birth abortions are "disturbing" even to abortion supporters because the baby looks "like a fully formed child."

To be clear, **partial-birth abortion is a [cruel and inhumane procedure](#) designed to guarantee that a baby will not accidentally survive an abortion.** To do this, an abortionist forces a breech delivery, pulling the baby's legs through the mother's cervix until the child's shoulders are exposed. The child's head is too large to be delivered through the partially dilated cervix, so the abortionist uses a scissor-like instrument to *puncture* the base of the child's skull and *suction* his or her brains out. The skull is then *crushed* and extracted using clamps.

Senators, I cannot apologize for describing this in graphic detail because it is the *reality* of what 20-26 week old preborn babies endured prior to the 2003 [federal ban](#). It should churn your stomach that, in the land of the free, babies have been violently robbed of their right to Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness through this gruesome and unjust procedure. **This is infanticide and it is shamelessly supported by Dr. Atul Gawande.**

Dr. Gawande's defense of partial-birth abortion reveals a disturbing callousness and disregard for the views of the American people, a majority of whom do not support abortion extremism. In fact, [more than 75% of Americans](#), including many who call themselves pro-choice, support significant restrictions on abortion.

Dr. Gawande's demented ideology is unacceptable considering he would have significant influence over our international reproductive health and family programs should he be elevated as a senior leader at USAID. **American tax dollars intended to promote global health and protect human life should not be entangled with life-ending abortion.** It's imperative that, as our elected representatives on Capitol Hill, you disqualify any individual who supports the barbarism of partial-birth abortion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristan Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristan Hawkins
President, Students for Life Action