

FEB 10 1998  
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2199  
BY KREIMAN

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act amending the definition of child abuse to include an  
2 intentionally caused serious injury to a human pregnancy.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2199

1 Section 1. Section 232.68, subsection 2, Code Supplement  
2 1997, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. g. A serious injury to a human pregnancy  
4 intentionally caused by the commission of an act likely to  
5 cause the termination of or serious injury to a human  
6 pregnancy. For purposes of this paragraph, "serious injury to  
7 a human pregnancy" means the same as defined in section 707.8  
8 and the exceptions to an action which causes a serious injury  
9 to a human pregnancy in section 707.8, subsection 12, apply to  
10 this paragraph. The perpetrator of the serious injury shall  
11 be deemed to have committed the child abuse.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill amends the definition of child abuse to include  
14 an intentionally caused serious injury to a human pregnancy.  
15 The definition is used for reporting, assessment, and registry  
16 of child abuse under the juvenile justice code and in other  
17 law.

18 The new definition of child abuse in the bill employs by  
19 reference a definition of the term "serious injury to a human  
20 pregnancy" and various exceptions in Code section 707.8,  
21 relating to nonconsensual termination or serious injury to a  
22 human pregnancy. The definition used by reference means,  
23 relative to the human pregnancy, a disabling mental illness,  
24 or bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or  
25 which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted  
26 loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or  
27 organ, and includes but is not limited to skull fractures, rib  
28 fractures, and metaphyseal fractures of the long bones. The  
29 exceptions include an act by the pregnant person, an approved  
30 medical procedure performed by a licensed physician, an act of  
31 self-defense, or any other legal act.

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