

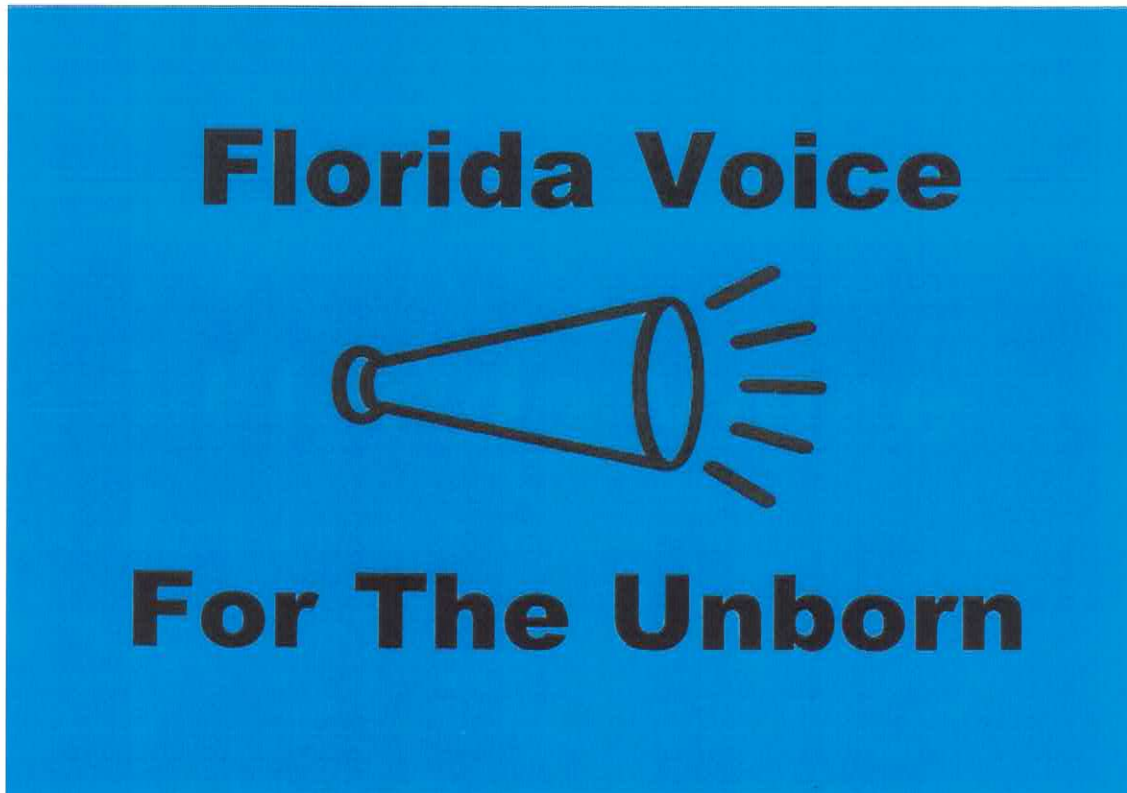
FL 15-Week Abortion Ban ACTION ALERT!

Florida Voice for the Unborn <Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com>

Tue 1/18/2022 11:47 AM

To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Dear Friend of the Unborn:

This is Florida Voice for the Unborn's first GRASSROOTS ACTION ALERT of 2022! The annual 60-day Legislative Session began in Tallahassee last Tuesday, January 11th, and things are heating-up quickly.

Two hours before the final deadline last week, state Rep. Erin Grall (R–Indian River & St. Lucie Counties) and state Senator Kelli Stargel (R–Lake & Polk Counties) simultaneously filed bills that will effectively outlaw the vast majority of abortions that take place here in Florida after 15 weeks gestation. These bills are House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 146. The bills are modeled after the Mississippi statute that is at issue in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* – the case currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court that we all pray will result in the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 146 have the (tepid) support of the House and Senate leadership as well as Governor DeSantis. However, getting a 15-week abortion ban enacted into law here in Florida is far from a “slam-dunk.” The fate of recent pro-life legislation is instructive.

In 2019, the parental-consent-prior-to-an-abortion legislation got “stuck” in two Senate committees before eventually passing in 2020. And in 2021, the “Baby Box Bill,” which would have amended Florida’s Safe Haven Law to encourage municipalities to install state-of-the-art devices where newborn infants could be safely and legally surrendered, was sabotaged at the last moment by Senate leadership. As a result, the “Baby Box Bill” failed to become law. In fact, because no state senator was willing to sponsor this bill again for the 2022 Legislative Session, it was not refiled in the House either. So, sadly, there is no “Baby Box” legislation for us to advocate for this year.

Even more tragic is the fact that no state senator had the courage to file a companion bill to House Bill 167, a.k.a. the 2022 Florida Heartbeat Act, which would prohibit abortions after an unborn child’s heartbeat is detectable (around 6-weeks gestation). The Florida Heartbeat Act was filed by state Rep. Webster Barnaby (R–Volusia County) back on September 22, 2021. It is modeled after the highly-successful Texas law that has crippled the abortion industry in the Lone Star State since last September. Since no Senate companion bill was filed, House Bill 167/the Florida Heartbeat Act is very unlikely to get heard by any House committees.

Accordingly, Florida Voice for the Unborn is now chiefly focused on lobbying for the passage of the 15-Week Abortion Ban (House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 146). House Bill 5 has been assigned to three House subcommittees/committees, while Senate Bill 146 has been assigned to two Senate committees. I anticipate that pro-abortion legislators will do everything they can to stall and obstruct these bills – and try to convince the Republican, pro-life leadership that the bills should ultimately be “watered-down.” Our job is to encourage pro-life legislators to stand-up for the unborn by passing the 15-Week Abortion Bill – and to advocate for the inclusion of as many pro-life protections in the bill as possible. To that end, Florida Voice for the Unborn will be proposing some amendments in the future as the committee process plays out. But for now, we need to spring into immediate action!

This past Friday afternoon (just before the long holiday weekend), House Bill 5 was scheduled for its first hearing, which will take place before the House’s Professions & Public Health Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Now that the subcommittee members have returned to their offices, they need to hear from pro-lifers (like YOU!) right away. This Grassroots Action Alert is focused on getting House Bill 5 passed through its first subcommittee (as previously stated, we will be advocating for amendments later on). Here is the relevant info about House Bill 5 that you need to know when communicating with the subcommittee members:

- The bill states: “A physician may not perform a termination of pregnancy if the physician determines the gestational age of the fetus is more than 15 weeks...” (lines 220-222).
- The bill states: “‘Gestation’ means the development of a human embryo or fetus as calculated from the first day of the pregnant woman’s last menstrual period.” (lines 211-213).

- The bill allows for an exception when “necessary to save the pregnant woman’s life or avert a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman other than a psychological condition.” (lines 226-230; 233-237).
- The bill also permits an abortion when “the fetus has not achieved viability under s. 390.01112 and two physicians certify in writing that, in reasonable medical judgment, the fetus has a fatal fetal abnormality.” (lines 239-242).
- The bill defines a “fatal fetal abnormality” as “a terminal condition that, in reasonable medical judgment, regardless of the provision of life-saving medical treatment, is incompatible with life outside the womb and will result in death upon birth or imminently thereafter.” (lines 206-210).

At this stage of the legislative process, our talking points are simple:

- Pass House Bill 5 because it will prevent thousands of late-term abortions that currently result in the deaths of unborn children who are capable of feeling pain and have beating hearts.
- House Bill 5 rightly does not contain exceptions for rape and incest. The manner in which unborn children are conceived is irrelevant. A child conceived by rape or incest is no less deserving of protection under the law than any other child and should not receive the death penalty for the crimes of his or her father.

Please utilize the above talking points and contact as many members of the House’s Professions & Public Health Subcommittee as possible (listed below) by e-mailing them as a group or individually. To e-mail an individual representative, just click that individual’s e-mail address in order to write and send your own unique message. To make things easier, however, further down I have listed all of their e-mail addresses together. You may “copy and paste” these addresses into the “to” header of a new e-mail message. If you choose to use this option, be sure to write a “subject line” such as “Pass House Bill 5 (Prohibition of Abortions After 15 Weeks)”, as well as write your own unique message and then hit send! We also need to call these subcommittee members. I have listed the phone number for each representative’s Capitol office. Remember, if you can’t get a hold of anyone, just leave a polite message. And, again, no matter what – mention that you’re with Florida Voice for the Unborn!

Here are the office phone numbers for the representatives on the Professions & Public Health Subcommittee:

Chair Will Robinson (R): (850) 717-5071

Vice Chair John Snyder (R): (850) 717-5082

Democratic Ranking Member Carlos Smith (D): (850) 717-5049

Alex Andrade (R): (850) 717-5002

Kristen Arrington (D): (850) 717-5043

David Borrero (R): (850) 717-5105

Anna Eskamani (D): (850) 717-5047

Juan Fernandez-Barquin (R): (850) 717-5119

Sam Garrison (R): (850) 717-5018

Mike Gottlieb (D): (850) 717-5098

Randy Maggard (R): (850) 717-5038

Stan McClain (R): (850) 717-5023

Michele Rayner (D): (850) 717-5070

Alex Rizo (R): (850) 717-5110

Bob Rommel (R): (850) 717-5106

Tyler Sirois (R): (850) 717-5051

Kelly Skidmore (D): (850) 717-5081

Kaylee Tuck (R): (850) 717-5055

Here are the e-mail addresses for the representatives on the Professions & Public Health Subcommittee:

Will.Robinson@myfloridahouse.gov; John.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov;
Carlos.Smith@myfloridahouse.gov; Alex.Andrade@myfloridahouse.gov;
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Bob.Rommel@myfloridahouse.gov; Tyler.Sirois@myfloridahouse.gov;
Kelly.Skidmore@myfloridahouse.gov; Kaylee.Tuck@myfloridahouse.gov

I will be testifying at this Wednesday's subcommittee hearing. If you are in the Tallahassee-area and free that day, please consider joining me to testify in favor of the bill. The subcommittee hearing will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Webster Hall (Room 212 of the Knott Building) at the state Capitol complex.

Pro-abortion activists will definitely show-up to the subcommittee hearing in

large numbers, as they are often paid to do so. Depending on how many people show-up, each member of the public (including me) can be afforded anywhere from 30 seconds to 5 minutes to speak about House Bill 5. Your presence will make a difference and an impact! If you'd like to testify – and have never done so before, respond to this e-mail message or call me at (850) 404-3414, and I will walk you through the process. There are no COVID restrictions in place this year (unlike in 2021), except for social distancing in the subcommittee hearing room. You can fill out an appearance card when you arrive at the subcommittee hearing (you should preferably plan to arrive approximately one half-hour before the start of the hearing, i.e. around 12:30 p.m. this Wednesday).

I know this is short notice due to the long holiday weekend but please contact as many members of the House's Professions & Public Health Subcommittee as possible between now and 1 p.m. this Wednesday (and if you cannot do so in time, keep in mind that many of the subcommittee members also sit on other key subcommittees/committees that will eventually hear House Bill 5 – and all of them will have to vote on the bill if and when it reaches the floor of the House. So every contact we can make with them about House Bill 5 is crucial!).

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our unborn brothers and sisters!

For Their Lives,



Andrew Shirvell, J.D.
Founder & Executive Director
Florida Voice for the Unborn

Florida Voice for the Unborn is a Tallahassee-based grassroots lobbying group that only focuses on pro-life issues impacting the unborn. It is strictly independent, and its work is guided by faith in God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Florida Voice for the Unborn supports all peaceful efforts by elected officials and others to end abortion and save lives. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Parler @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website [HERE](#).



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