NEW ACTION ALERT: 15-Week Abortion Ban in FL!

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

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To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Dear Friend of the Unborn:

I am glad to report that we finally have movement in the state Senate on Senate Bill 146 (the 15-Week Abortion Ban). The bill is scheduled to be heard in its first Senate committee this Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 11 a.m.

The House companion legislation (House Bill 5) successfully passed through its second subcommittee on the evening of last Thursday, January 27th – but not before pro-abortion activists tried to obstruct the bill's advancement. Pro-abortion extremist Rep. Carlos Smith (D–Orange County) filed a very last-minute, lengthy proposed amendment to the bill entitled, "The [Abortion] Clinic Protection Act." The pretext for this amendment was an event earlier in the day, in which pro-life activists engaged in an act of peaceful civil disobedience at a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Lee County (southwest Florida). Although it was defeated along party-lines 10-to-5, debate over the amendment took-up a substantial portion of the hearing, which resulted in less time for public testimony. Nonetheless, the subcommittee chair, in an apparent effort to placate abortion activists in the hearing room, permitted them to dominate

public testimony, resulting in only one pro-life advocate being called upon to give her perspective.

When the subcommittee chair cut-off public testimony due to time constraints, abortion activists erupted in anger by screaming and chanting – so much so that the subcommittee chair was forced to clear the entire room, which delayed the hearing by at least fifteen minutes. After the hearing resumed, it was extended past its scheduled conclusion at 6:00 p.m. EST so that debate among subcommittee members could take place in full. Thankfully, the subcommittee voted 10-to-5 in favor of House Bill 5, with all pro-life Republicans in favor and all pro-abortion Democrats opposed. House Bill 5 now heads to its third and final hearing before the House Health and Human Services Committee (that hearing has yet to be scheduled).

Per Florida Voice for the Unborn's January 26th Grassroots Action Alert, I asked all of our supporters throughout Florida to contact the pro-life members of the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee prior to last Thursday's hearing on House Bill 5, requesting three needed changes to the bill. Although our requested amendments did not get introduced before Thursday's subcommittee hearing, I have pressed – and will continue to press – House Bill 5's sponsor and other key pro-life lawmakers in the House. I remain hopeful that one or more of Florida Voice for the Unborn's proposed amendments will eventually make it into the final law, if enough pressure continues to be applied! If nothing else, I believe that last week's subcommittee hearing debacle showed several pro-life lawmakers that they must stop playing defense – and go on offense. Our pro-life lawmakers need to stop acting like potted-plants at these committee hearings. A good way for them to seize control of the narrative and overall debate is to introduce changes that will strengthen the legislation.

To that end, we now turn our attention to Senate Bill 146, which goes before the Senate Health Policy Committee this Wednesday, February 2nd. Once again, today's Grassroots Action Alert will be concentrating on contacting only the pro-life members of the committee (as well as Senate Bill 146's sponsor) because Florida Voice for the Unborn would like to see the bill amended. For complete background information on our three proposed amendments, you can view last week's Grassroots Action Act by CLICKING HERE.

Below I have simplified (even further than last week) the short talking points to stress when communicating about Senate Bill 146 to the bill's sponsor as well as the pro-life Health Policy Committee members – all of whom are empowered to bring forth amendments to the bill, per Senate rules:

- In order to pass lifesaving enforceable local sanctuary-for-the-unborn ordinances here in Florida, Senate Bill 146 needs to be amended so that local jurisdictions are authorized to prohibit abortions.
- Senate Bill 146 needs to be amended so that the terms "fetus/fetal" are replaced in Florida law with the terms "unborn child/unborn child's."
 Doing so will properly acknowledge the humanity of children in the womb,

similarly to recently proposed Congressional legislation that would make such changes to federal law.

 Senate Bill 146 incorrectly defines a chemical abortion as a "medical abortion." Abortion is not medicine or healthcare. It is homicide. Thus, Senate Bill 146 needs to be amended by striking the term "medical abortion" and replacing it with the commonly-accepted term "chemical abortion."

Please utilize the above talking points and contact Senate Bill 146's sponsor and all pro-life members of the Senate's Health Policy Committee (listed below) by e-mailing them as a group or individually. To e-mail an individual senator, 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 "Amend & Pass Senate Bill 146 (Prohibition of Abortions After 15 Weeks)", as well as write your own unique message and then hit send! Based on feedback, I have now grouped the e-mail addresses together separated by a semicolon (;) AND separated by a comma (,). Use whatever works best with your own particular e-mail system (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, etc.).

We also need to call these committee members. I have listed the phone number for each pro-life senator'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 phone numbers for the pro-life senators on the Health Policy Committee as well as for Senate Bill 146's sponsor:

Bill Sponsor: Kelli Stargel (R): (850) 487-5022

Chair Manny Diaz (R): (850) 487-5036

Vice Chair Jason Brodeur (R): (850) 487-5009

Ben Albritton (R): (850) 487-5026

Dennis Baxley (R): (850) 487-5012

Aaron Bean (R): (850) 487-5004

Ileana Garcia (R): (850) 487-5037

Here are the e-mail addresses for the pro-life senators on the Health Policy Committee as well as for Senate Bill 146's sponsor:

A) With semicolons in between addresses:

<u>Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov</u>; <u>Diaz.Manny@flsenate.gov</u>; <u>Brodeur.Jason@flsenate.gov</u>; <u>Albritton.Ben@flsenate.gov</u>; <u>Baxley.Dennis@flsenate.gov</u>; <u>Bean.Aaron@flsenate.gov</u>; Garcia.lleana@flsenate.gov

B) With commas in between addresses:

<u>Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Diaz.Manny@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Brodeur.Jason@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Albritton.Ben@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Baxley.Dennis@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Bean.Aaron@flsenate.gov</u>, <u>Garcia.lleana@flsenate.gov</u>

I will be at this Wednesday's committee hearing and hopefully will be given a chance to testify in favor of Senate Bill 146 (and our proposed amendments!). If you are in the Tallahassee-area and free that day, please consider joining me at the hearing. You can fill out an appearance card when you arrive at the committee hearing. Your presence will make a difference. Whether or not you get to testify, you can always "waive in support" of the bill, which will be read into the official record. The more pro-life advocates we have at the hearing, the better! This Wednesday's committee hearing will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pat Thomas Committee Room (412 of the Knott Building) at the state Capitol complex.

Thank you for taking the time to read and act upon Florida Voice for the Unborn's latest Grassroots Action Alert. Every e-mail and every phone call from grassroots supporters – like YOU! – helps us advance not only the 15-Week Abortion Ban, but shows our elected officials that there is wide-ranging support for pro-life legislative efforts. Pro-life laws save lives, as Texas' novel Heartbeat Law has indisputably shown the entire nation.

So please contact the pro-life senators on the Health Policy Committee (as well as Senate Bill 146's sponsor) concerning Florida Voice for the Unborn's proposed amendments. We're going to keep attempting to make this (imperfect) bill as strong as it possibly can be – because that's what we're called to do on behalf of our voiceless 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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