

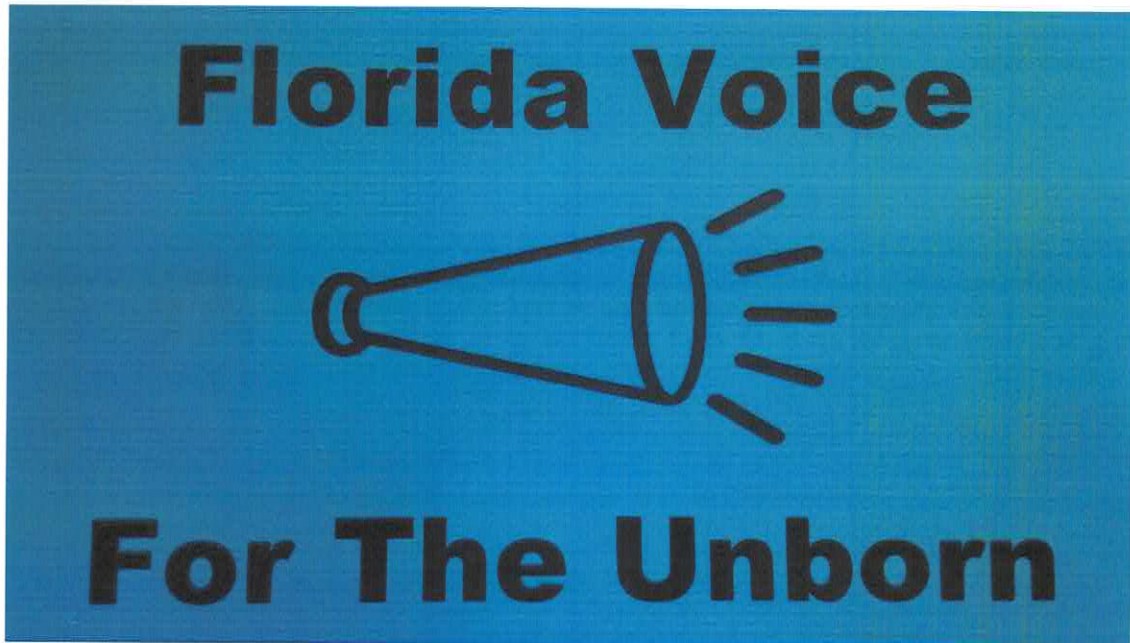
Embryo Defense ACTION ALERT!

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

Tue 2/25/2020 9:52 AM

To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Dear Friend of the Unborn,

This is an URGENT grassroots action alert concerning a BAD bill that we need to stop because it violates the dignity of human life in its embryonic stage.

Brief Background

Senate Bill 698 is sponsored by pro-abortion Democratic state Senator Lauren Book (District 32 – Broward County). It seeks to address the issue of unscrupulous fertility doctors using their own sperm to impregnate female patients.

This bill has already passed two Senate committees with no opposition from any pro-life Republicans. Its companion legislation in the Florida House of Representatives also sailed through its two committees of reference.

So, what are the problems with Senate Bill 698?

Florida Voice for the Unborn opposes this bill, as currently written, for two main

reasons.

Number 1. The bill contains a definition of "reproductive material" that has never been included in Florida law before. The bill defines "reproductive material" as "any human egg, **preembryo**, or sperm." The bill had been amended to replace the word "embryo" with "preembryo," a term defined by FL Statute 742.13(12) as "the product of fertilization of an egg by a sperm until the appearance of the embryonic axis."

However, calling an "embryo" a "preembryo" is a distinction without a difference. As adequately explained by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the term preembryo is political – not scientific:

"Some proponents of destructive embryo research try to deny moral status to all early human embryos. They have coined the term 'pre-embryo' to describe human embryos in the first two weeks of development, seeking to justify destructive experimentation during this early stage. However, the term and concept of 'pre-embryo' has never been accepted by Congress, the National Institutes of Health's Human Embryo Research Panel, or the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, and is rejected by contemporary textbooks on embryology."

Click [HERE](#) for the document, "What is an embryo?"

As stated above, the proposed definition of "reproductive material" – found in Senate Bill 698 – has never before been used in Florida law. This bill therefore seeks to place into statute that embryos/"preembryos" are the equivalent of sperm and eggs, which is absolutely wrong!

Embryos/preembryos are unique human beings from the moment of fertilization and completely different from the male and female human reproductive cells.

Number 2. Unlike the House companion bill, Senate Bill 698 contains a requirement that parties must enter into a contract – a contract with certain provisions – with a fertility clinic/donor bank before utilizing the services of said fertility clinic/donor bank. The provisions of the required contract are highly problematic because they facilitate the destruction of "preembryos," which are human beings. The bill explicitly says that the contract must include what will happen to any unused reproductive material, "including whether it may be disposed of, offered to a different recipient, or donated to science."

Why has Senate Bill 698 not been stopped?

I don't have the definitive answer. But here is what I do know. The father of Senator Lauren Book (the bill's sponsor) is Ron Book, who has been called Tallahassee's "most powerful lobbyist" and whose firm earned over \$10 MILLION last year alone in lobbying fees (yes, you read that right: [CLICK HERE](#) for further details).

I also know that Senate President Galvano made Senator Book the chairperson of a Senate committee even though she's a very liberal Democrat and Republicans have a strong majority in the Senate. Even more outrageously, as chair of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Senator Book has actively held-up at least one good pro-life bill this session, and consequently it now looks like that pro-life bill won't get passed by the full Senate chamber! Yet, Senator Book's trojan-horse-type bill, which negatively impacts embryos, somehow gets placed on the fast-track? Something is just not right!

Other pro-life/pro-family groups have been trying to work behind the scenes to get this bill changed for the better (as has Florida Voice for the Unborn), but so far pro-life legislators lack the courage to do the right thing!

Last week, I testified against the problematic provisions of Senate Bill 698 when it was before the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Sadly, I was the only one to speak out in opposition. I did get asked a number of questions, though, from two senators! So, we need to strike while the iron is hot!

Contact the Senate Rules Committee TODAY!

Senate Bill 698 will be heard in its last committee of reference on Ash Wednesday, February 26th (tomorrow). The Senate Rules Committee could take-up the bill anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day. If you are in Tallahassee, and want to speak out against the problematic provisions, please join me at the Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building.

But everyone on this list (and beyond) needs to contact the senators listed below who sit on this committee and tell them that they must vote against the bill because it disrespects the dignity of human life in its embryonic stage. Using the talking points above, we must reiterate that the definition of "reproductive material" is unjust and that the contract requirement facilitates the destruction of human life.

Here is the contact info for the pro-life senators on the Rules Committee:

Chair Lizbeth Benacquisto (R): (850) 487-5027 &
Benacquisto.Lizbeth@flsenate.gov

Rob Bradley (R): (850) 487-5005 & Bradley.Rob@flsenate.gov

Jeff Brandes (R): (850) 487-5024 & Brandes.Jeff@flsenate.gov

Anitere Flores (R): (850) 487-5039 & Flores.Anitere@flsenate.gov

Travis Hutson (R): (850) 487-5007 & Hutson.Travis@flsenate.gov

Tom Lee (R): (850) 487-5020 & Lee.Tom@flsenate.gov

Kathleen Passidomo (R): (850) 487-5028 &
Passidomo.Kathleen@flsenate.gov

David Simmons (R): (850) 487-5009 & Simmons.David@flsenate.gov

Wilton Simpson (R): (850) 487-5010 & Simpson.Wilton@flsenate.gov

Kelli Stargel (R): (850) 487-5022 & Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov

Alternatively, when you contact Rules Committee Chair Lizbeth Benacquisto (850-487-5027 & Benacquisto.Lizbeth@flsenate.gov) you can urge her to exercise her power as chair to remove Senate Bill 698 from the meeting agenda, which will effectively kill the bill since the Rules Committee will not be meeting again after Wednesday.

Together, let's be a LOUD voice for the tiniest of our unborn brothers and sisters. We can stop this bad bill from getting any further. Please make the phone calls, and send those e-mails, right NOW!

For Their Lives,



Andrew Shirvell
Founder & Executive Director
Florida Voice for the Unborn



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