

URGENT Heartbeat Action Alert!

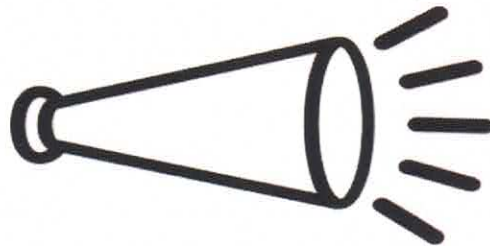
Florida Voice for the Unborn <Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com>

Tue 3/14/2023 9:01 PM

To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

[View this email in your browser](#)

Florida Voice



For The Unborn

FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com

Dear Friend of the Unborn:

An hour before the noon deadline on the opening day of the 60-day regular Legislative Session last Tuesday, March 7, 2023, House Bill (HB) 7 and Senate Bill (SB) 300 were filed. Both bills are entitled, "Pregnancy and Parenting Support Act." This legislation, among many other things, will legally prohibit most abortions in Florida from occurring after 6-weeks' gestation.

****Very late this afternoon, HB 7 was scheduled for its first of two subcommittee/committee stops in the House. The bill will go before the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee this Thursday, March 16, 2023, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and lasting until approximately 11:00 a.m. in Reed Hall (102 House Office Building) in the Capitol complex in Tallahassee. In preparation for the hearing, Florida Voice for the Unborn needs our supporters to participate in this URGENT Grassroots Action Alert by contacting the pro-life subcommittee members, and asking them to adopt much-needed improvements to the legislation. Please continue**

reading on for all the details!**

Background Information

When Florida Voice for the Unborn held our exclusive in-person and “virtual” meeting with House Speaker Paul Renner back on February 20th, he stated that it was unlikely for the bills in question to be submitted by rank-and-file legislators before the filing deadline. Rather, the Speaker indicated the legislation would need to be initiated later in the Session via what is known as a proposed committee bill. Obviously, that did not occur. I do not believe the Speaker misled us. Rather, I think that just prior to the start of the Session, the Governor’s office, the Speaker’s office, and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo’s office came to an agreement – an arrangement that had not been finalized as of February 20th. However, the Speaker was correct when he told us that the bill likely to be introduced “may not be the one you want.”

In truth, the legislation that was dropped on March 7th is a mixed bag for Florida’s unborn children and their families.

But make no mistake about it, the legislation was crafted by the legislative leadership and the Governor’s office. That is exactly why Florida Voice for the Unborn has strategically focused on lobbying Governor DeSantis, House Speaker Renner, and Senate President Passidomo via our multiple Days of Action at the Capitol; our months’ long statewide postcard campaign; our Grassroots Action Alerts; our meetings with key decision-makers; and our significant media presence.

Now that the legislation has been (finally!) introduced, our pro-life legislators must decide whether they will just act as a rubber-stamp, or if they will truly grow a backbone and do everything they possibly can to strengthen this legislation through committee and/or floor amendments.

As advocates for unborn children, it is *our duty* to speak up for **all** of them, and to continue persuading our elected officials to do the same!

Below is my brief analysis of HB 7 / SB 300, which is followed by Florida Voice for the Unborn’s “Grassroots Plan of Action” and an immediate “Grassroots Action Alert” as referenced above!”

“The 2023 Pregnancy and Parenting Support Act” (HB 7 / SB 300)

While this legislation may be informally referred to as a “Heartbeat Law,” the legislation actually contains no mention of the word “heartbeat” at all. And unlike the novel “Texas-style Heartbeat Law” that Rep. Webster Barnaby (R–Volusia County) filed in September 2021, the legislation does not provide for any civil enforcement mechanisms. Nor does the legislation address the issue of rogue prosecutors choosing not to prosecute abortionists, or others, for performing illegal abortions. Even more sadly, the legislation contains almost no language whatsoever focusing on the humanity of the unborn child.

Moreover, while HB 7 and SB 300 have many similar provisions, these bills are **not** identical! In fact SB 300 includes a very troubling section, as will be outlined further below.

The official legislative sponsor of **HB 7** is Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R–Lee County). This bill has eight (8) sections.

Section 1: In general, prohibits taxpayer funds from subsidizing anyone’s travel to another state to obtain an abortion. And it specifically prohibits local jurisdictions, such as counties and cities, from doing so.

Section 2: Expands the role and services provided by the state-created / funded Florida Pregnancy Care Network (FPCN). Client eligibility is also significantly expanded. Specifically, in addition to pregnancy-related services, the FPCN will be able to expand its parenting support services, such as by providing non-medical material assistance like clothing, car seats, diapers, etc.

Section 3: Reduces the timeframe in which to access an abortion in Florida, from the current 15-weeks’ gestation limitation to up to 6-weeks’ gestation. However, this section legally permits an abortion up until 15 weeks’ gestation if the preborn child is conceived as a result of rape or incest (with documented proof). The language in this section also clarifies that an abortion may be legally obtained in Florida up until 24-weeks’ gestation, if two physicians certify in writing that an unborn child has a so-called “fatal fetal abnormality.” This section also provides new language under Florida law that explicitly states only a physician can provide an abortion, or “disperse abortion-inducing drugs,” and that an abortionist must be physically present in the same room as the woman when performing an abortion, “or when dispensing abortion-inducing drugs.” No new criminal penalties are added. Committing an illegal abortion is still a third-degree felony (and a second-degree felony, if it results in the death of the mother).

Section 4: Repeals Florida Statute 390.01112 (Termination of Pregnancies During Viability).

Section 5: Cleans-up statutory language surrounding the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration’s role in “regulating” abortion.

Section 6: Clarifies that, under Florida law, a “telehealth provider may not use telehealth to provide an abortion,” including the prescribing of abortion-inducing drugs.

Section 7: Provides appropriate “trigger language” that specifies that all sections of the bill (except for Sections 2 and 7) will go into effect 30 days after any one of four conditions are met, including the Florida Supreme Court’s expected reversal of bad precedent wrongly misinterpreting the Florida Constitution as guaranteeing a right to obtain an abortion.

Section 8: States that Section 2 and Section 7 will immediately go into effect once the bill becomes law.

As far as **SB 300** goes, the legislative sponsor is Senator Erin Grall (R–Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties). As stated above, there is an important, material difference between this bill and its House companion. Namely, only SB 300 provides that, during Florida’s 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, there will be a \$25 million appropriation for the Florida Pregnancy Care Network as well as a \$5 million appropriation for the Florida Department

of Health's "family planning" program, which includes taxpayer funding of contraceptives and possible abortifacients. In all other respects, SB 300 is nearly identical to that of HB 7.

Florida Voice for the Unborn's "Grassroots Plan of Action"

We need to hold the line in terms of our support for the legal protection of all unborn children here in the Sunshine State. If Texas and nearly a dozen other states can enact solid laws making their states truly abortion-free, then there is no reason why Florida cannot do the same. We must make clear to the pro-life supermajorities in both chambers that the proposed legislation (HB 7 / SB 300) will NOT make Florida totally abortion-free. There will still be tens of thousands of abortions recorded here every year, and a majority of our state's abortion facilities are likely to remain open for "business." Unless amended, this legislation will be inadequate for a leading "Red" state in post-*Roe v. Wade* America.

That said, we want to encourage our pro-life legislators to support all of the good provisions of the legislation. For HB 7, Florida Voice for the Unborn fully supports all sections of the bill, **except for section 3**, which we would like to see significantly amended. For SB 300, Florida Voice for the Unborn also fully supports all sections of the bill, **except for section 3** (which is virtually identical to HB 7's section 3) and the part of SB 300's section 7 that appropriates \$5 million for "family planning." That appropriation needs to be removed from SB 300.

As the legislation progresses, Florida Voice for the Unborn intends to keep the pressure on all decision-makers. We will be publicly and privately encouraging certain pro-life legislators to bring forth amendments to the legislation at every opportunity. It is crucial that you – our grassroots supporters – engage with our "Grassroots Action Alerts" to help us in this endeavor. Another important aspect will be our presence at subcommittee/committee hearings. There will likely be less than 48 hours' notice as to when a hearing is officially scheduled, and public testimony on the day of the hearings will probably be limited to maybe as little as 30 seconds per person. When testifying, it is crucial to make brief, passionate remarks that will leave an impression on legislators. Florida Voice for the Unborn will be submitting written testimony for all subcommittee/committee proceedings so that our full position is incorporated into the legislative record.

We should expect the pro-abortion side to do everything possible to disrupt the subcommittee/committee proceedings. In fact, pro-abortion Senate Democrat Minority Leader Lauren Book declared "war" on the pro-life movement [via a press release](#), after the "Heartbeat" legislation was filed last week. As grassroots pro-life advocates, we shall remain engaged in the weeks ahead and, whatever the ultimate outcome of the legislation, stay true to our unwavering defense of all human life, from the moment of conception!

URGENT GRASSROOTS ACTION ALERT: HB 7 (Protection of Unborn Children After 6-Weeks' Gestation)

Please contact all of the pro-life Republican members of the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee and express all – or some – of the following points:

I am a grassroots supporter of Florida Voice for the Unborn. I back most of House Bill 7. However, I respectfully request that you amend section 3 of the bill so that all unborn children are legally protected in Florida. Life begins at conception – not at the moment a heartbeat is detectable, which is around 6-weeks' gestation. Moreover, it is discriminatory to exclude children conceived as a result of rape or incest from the legal protections afforded other preborn children. We must hold the perpetrators of rape and incest accountable. The babies conceived as a result of rape or incest do not deserve to be executed for the crimes of their fathers. Also, I believe that the so-called “fatal fetal abnormality” exception should be removed from the bill. It is a gigantic loophole that targets children who are, more often than not, simply handicapped. Even when preborn children are correctly diagnosed with a terminal illness, it is immoral to “euthanize” them in-utero – just like it is immoral to euthanize a born child. Thank you for your consideration.

Here are the **key phone numbers** for pro-life Republican members of the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee:

Chair Chuck Clemons: **850-717-5022**
Vice Chair David Borrero: **850-717-5111**
Rep. Shane Abbott: **850-717-5005**
Rep. Adam Anderson: **850-717-5057**
Rep. Jessica Baker: **850-717-5017**
Rep. Melony Bell: **850-717-5049**
Rep. Dean Black: **850-717-5015**
Rep. Linda Chaney: **850-717-5061**
*Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka: **850-717-5078**
Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman: **850-717-5003**
Rep. Michele Salzman: **850-717-5001**
Rep. John Snyder: **850-717-5086**
Rep. Dana Trabulsy: **850-717-5084**

*Legislative Sponsor of HB 7

Here are the **key e-mail addresses (with semicolons separating them)** for both the pro-life Republican members of the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee and their legislative aides:

Chuck.Clemons@myfloridahouse.gov; David.Borrero@myfloridahouse.gov;
Shane.Abbott@myfloridahouse.gov; Adam.Anderson@myfloridahouse.gov;
Jessica.Baker@myfloridahouse.gov; Melony.Bell@myfloridahouse.gov;
Dean.Black@myfloridahouse.gov; Linda.Chaney@myfloridahouse.gov;
Jenna.Persons@myfloridahouse.gov; Joel.Rudman@myfloridahouse.gov;
Michelle.Salzman@myfloridahouse.gov; John.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov;
Dana.Trabulsy@myfloridahouse.gov; Mike.Murtha@myfloridahouse.gov;
Raquel.Zuniga@myfloridahouse.gov; Samantha.Sullivan@myfloridahouse.gov;
Corey.Recvlohe@myfloridahouse.gov; Anna.Reagan@myfloridahouse.gov;
Nathan.Register@myfloridahouse.gov; Donovan.Bradley@myfloridahouse.gov;
Tristan.Sommer@myfloridahouse.gov;
Brandon.Edmonston@myfloridahouse.gov;
Dustin.Holloway@myfloridahouse.gov;
Weston.Funcheon@myfloridahouse.gov; Sarah.Craven@myfloridahouse.gov;
Sasha.Okane@myfloridahouse.gov

Here are the **key e-mail addresses (with commas separating them)** for both the pro-life Republican members of the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee and their legislative aides:

Chuck.Clemons@myfloridahouse.gov, David.Borrero@myfloridahouse.gov,
Shane.Abbott@myfloridahouse.gov, Adam.Anderson@myfloridahouse.gov,
Jessica.Baker@myfloridahouse.gov, Melony.Bell@myfloridahouse.gov,
Dean.Black@myfloridahouse.gov, Linda.Chaney@myfloridahouse.gov,
Jenna.Persons@myfloridahouse.gov, Joel.Rudman@myfloridahouse.gov,
Michelle.Salzman@myfloridahouse.gov, John.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov,
Dana.Trabulsy@myfloridahouse.gov, Mike.Murtha@myfloridahouse.gov,
Raquel.Zuniga@myfloridahouse.gov, Samantha.Sullivan@myfloridahouse.gov,
Corey.Recvlohe@myfloridahouse.gov, Anna.Reagan@myfloridahouse.gov,
Nathan.Register@myfloridahouse.gov, Donovan.Bradley@myfloridahouse.gov,
Tristan.Sommer@myfloridahouse.gov,
Brandon.Edmonston@myfloridahouse.gov,
Dustin.Holloway@myfloridahouse.gov,
Weston.Funcheon@myfloridahouse.gov, Sarah.Craven@myfloridahouse.gov,
Kaley.Adams@myfloridahouse.gov

Based on whatever works best with your own e-mail account, please cut and paste the addresses above into your "to" header in a separate message. Don't forget to include a subject matter, such as "Amend HB 7 to Protect ALL Unborn Children," and include the simple talking points above or any other points that you would like to communicate. Alternatively, you may click on each individual e-address above to send separate messages! If you'd like to, please feel free to Cc or Bcc my e-mail address when you send your message:
andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com I always love hearing from Florida Voice for the Unborn's grassroots supporters!

If you are in the Tallahassee-area and interested in attending Thursday's early morning hearing on HB 7, please reply to this e-mail message. As those in the area know, Florida Voice for the Unborn is sponsoring a small legislative breakfast event that begins at the very same time that the subcommittee meeting starts (what a co-incidence, right?). The morning will be busy, but we'll get the job done – again, message me if you're interested!

Let's remain a LOUD voice for the voiceless unborn – now more than ever!

P.S. Please consider donating to Florida Voice for the Unborn via our secure website by [CLICKING HERE](#), or sending a check (**made out to "Florida Voice for the Unborn"**) to the following address:

Florida Voice for the Unborn
P.O. Box 12152
Tallahassee, FL 32317

P.P.S. Don't forget to contact all of the House subcommittee members (and their staff) listed above! It is crucial! Thank you and God bless!

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, Parler, and YouTube @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website [HERE](#).



Copyright © 2020-2023. Florida Voice for the Unborn, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 12152
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).