

Heartbeat Bill UPDATE and ACTION ALERT!

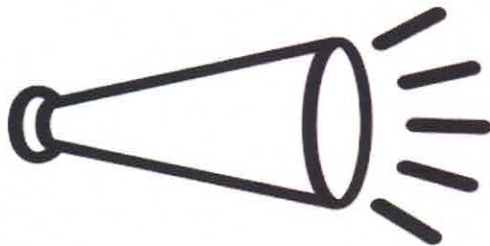
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Fri 3/24/2023 9:16 AM

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# Florida Voice



# For The Unborn

[FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com](http://FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com)

Dear Friend of the Unborn:

The first two-and-a-half weeks of the regular Legislative Session in Tallahassee have been extraordinarily busy for Florida Voice for the Unborn!

Thank you to all who contacted the pro-life Republican Senate Health Policy Committee members prior to the hearing on **Senate Bill 300** (Protection of Unborn Children in Florida After 6-Weeks' Gestation) this past Monday, March 20th. The bill advanced to its **second and final** committee stop in the Senate, unamended. Further below, I have a mini-recap of the March 20th hearing, which details – among other things – an unpleasant surprise.

The House companion legislation (**House Bill 7**) has not been scheduled yet for its **second and final** committee stop after passing the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee (unamended) on March 16th.

However, **Senate Bill (SB) 300** is now on the move, again. It has been

scheduled for its final committee hearing before the **Senate Fiscal Policy Committee this upcoming Tuesday, March 28, 2023** in the Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building, in the Capitol complex in Tallahassee. This hearing begins at 8:30 a.m. and is scheduled to conclude by 5:30 p.m. There are also six other bills on the committee agenda, and so SB 300 could be heard anytime on Tuesday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. I will be there from the very beginning until the final vote on SB 300.

The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee contains half of the entire Senate (twenty members). Florida Voice for the Unborn's Grassroots Action Alert, which is near the bottom of this message, focuses as usual on contacting all of the pro-life Republican committee members. As will be discussed below, sadly, some "pro-life" Republican Senators are revealing themselves as only pro-life at ELECTION time – instead of ALL the time!

### **This Past Monday's Senate Health Policy Committee Hearing, re: SB 300**

The Senate version of what has been informally referred to as the "Heartbeat Bill" (SB 300) went before its first committee of reference this past Monday, March 20th. Pro-abortion Democrats on the Health Policy Committee filed six (6) pro-abortion amendments, all of which were either voted down or withdrawn. As executive director of Florida Voice for the Unborn, I testified separately against two of the amendments and waived in opposition against the others.

One of the amendments filed by Senator Lauren Book (D–Broward County) would have added yet another exception to the proposed six-week abortion ban; this time for babies who were allegedly conceived as a result of human trafficking. In my testimony against this bad amendment, I used the opportunity to discuss why all of the "exceptions" contained within SB 300 needed to be removed. Senator Book ultimately withdrew this amendment, but I fully expect her to propose it again at this upcoming Tuesday's Senate Fiscal Policy Committee hearing.

Another amendment proposed by Senator Tracie Davis (D–Duval County) would have diverted the \$25 million set-aside for the pro-life Florida Pregnancy Care Network's annual budget and given it to the Florida Department of Health to fund contraception and other programs. Later in the hearing, Senator Davis publicly revealed that, very sadly, she had undergone an abortion herself as a married woman with an adult child. She did not elaborate as to why she chose abortion.

In testifying against Senator Davis' ill-advised amendment, I reiterated that no taxpayer dollars should be going toward funding contraception (and possible abortifacients), and that SB 300's current \$5 million appropriation to do so was wrong-headed to begin with. As I stated at the hearing, "if contraception [which has been publicly funded and widely available since the late 1960s] truly was going to end the abortion crisis in this country, it would have done so a long time ago. Contraception leads to the abortion mentality."

Although Senator Davis' amendment was voted down, my testimony against it earned Planned Parenthood's ire. Their social media gurus promptly issued an unflattering social media "meme," referring to my testimony as "extreme" and "bizarre." Of course, the truth is always seen as "extreme" and "bizarre" to



those who peddle lies (for profit), like Planned Parenthood routinely does!

Unfortunately, no amendments improving the bill were filed by either SB 300's legislative sponsor or any of the pro-life Republican committee members.

Although the committee room was packed with pro-abortion activists, I was the first individual to testify on the main bill itself. Several grassroots supporters, including a student from Florida State University's Students for Life group, testified in support of Florida Voice for the Unborn's campaign to see the bill amended and improved! Other pro-lifers gave excellent testimony about the humanity of the unborn and the long-term negative effects that abortion has on women, men, families, and society in general.

The committee hearing went long past its scheduled conclusion time of 6:00 p.m. to accommodate public testimony. One of the final individuals to testify was the sister of Senator Book, who shockingly told the committee that she had undergone a late-term abortion here in Florida several years ago because she was depressed after having given birth to her son.

Disappointingly, the pro-life committee members sat through the hearing acting like potted-plants, leaving SB 300's sponsor, Senator Erin Grall (R–Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, & St. Lucie Counties), to fend off the lies, misinformation, and Planned Parenthood talking points espoused by the pro-abortion committee members.

The only Republican committee member to speak-up in debate was Senator Alexis Calatayud (R–Miami-Dade County), who outrageously stated that she would be voting against SB 300 because she felt last year's 15-Week Abortion Ban was sufficient. With Senator Calatayud's defection, the final committee vote was 7-to-4 in favor of the bill.

### **NEW URGENT GRASSROOTS ACTION ALERT: SB 300 (Protection of Unborn Children After 6-Weeks' Gestation)**

Please contact the sponsor of SB 300 as well as all of the pro-life Republican members of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee and express all – or some – of the following points:

I am a grassroots supporter of Florida Voice for the Unborn. I back most of Senate Bill 300. 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.

Additionally, the unwarranted \$5 million appropriation for the Department of



Health's family planning program must be removed from section 7 of the bill. This provision is not included in the House companion legislation. Taxpayer money should not go towards funding contraception and possible abortifacients.

Finally, I respectfully request that you vote against all proposed pro-abortion amendments to the bill, and that you strongly defend the humanity of the unborn as well as the good work of crisis pregnancy centers, during the debate portions of the upcoming hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Here are the **key phone numbers** for the bill sponsor and for the pro-life Republican members of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee:

Bill Sponsor Senator Erin Grall: **850-487-5029**  
Chair Travis Hutson: **850-487-5007**  
Senator Ben Albritton: **850-487-5027**  
Senator Jim Boyd: **850-487-5020**  
Senator Colleen Burton: **850-487-5012**  
\*Senator Alexis Calatayud: **850-487-5038**  
Senator Jay Collins: **850-487-5014**  
Senator Nick DiCeglie: **850-487-5018**  
Senator Ileana Garcia: **850-487-5036**  
Senator Debbie Mayfield: **850-487-5019**  
Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez: **850-487-5040**  
Senator Corey Simon: **850-487-5086**  
Senator Jay Trumbull: **850-487-5002**  
Senator Tom Wright: **850-487-5008**  
Senator Clay Yarborough: **850-487-5004**

\*Senator Calatayud voted against SB 300 when it went before the Senate Health Policy Committee on March 20th.

\*\*The Vice Chair of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee is a pro-abortion Democrat.

Here are the **key e-mail addresses (with semicolons separating them)** for the bill sponsor, the pro-life Republican members of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, and their main legislative aides:

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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 SB 300 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](mailto:andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com) I always love hearing from Florida Voice for the Unborn's grassroots supporters!

Please note that I've double-checked all e-addresses and phone numbers. Occasionally, I may still make a mistake and an e-address or two might bounce back. If that happens (for whatever reason), do not worry – rather, be assured that you're still reaching the vast majority of the intended recipients.

Amendments to SB 300 can be filed up until the beginning of the committee hearing on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Back in late April 2021, when the "Baby Box



Bill” imploded in the Senate, the then-sponsor filed the bad amendment just hours before the start of the final committee hearing. With regard to SB 300, we’re advocating for a GREAT amendment, even if it does come just before the start of the hearing! So continue e-mailing and leaving voicemail messages (if you cannot reach a live person) up until 8:30 a.m. this Tuesday, including throughout this weekend.

Speaking of the “Baby Box Bill,” which has been revived this year, I will have a full update about the legislation’s progress in my next e-update. But suffice it to say for now, the “Baby Box Bill” is headed to a floor vote in the House and has only one remaining committee stop in the Senate! I’ve testified at each House and Senate subcommittee/committee hearing thus far, and Florida Voice for the Unborn remains firmly committed to seeing this lifesaving legislation finally become law! Keep the faith!

If you’re able to attend the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee hearing on SB 300 this Tuesday, please reply to this e-mail as soon as possible. I will be there around 8:15 a.m. and will stay until the final committee vote on SB 300!

Together, let’s continue to be a LOUD voice for our unborn brothers and sisters here in the Sunshine State!

P.S. To help financially support Florida Voice for the Unborn’s ongoing work at this very crucial time, please go to our website by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

P.P.S. Don’t forget to scroll back-up and contact SB 300’s bill sponsor and all of the Senate committee members (and their staff) listed above! We must re-double our efforts! With God, all things are possible! Matthew 19:26.

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](#).



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