

FINAL Heartbeat ACTION ALERT!

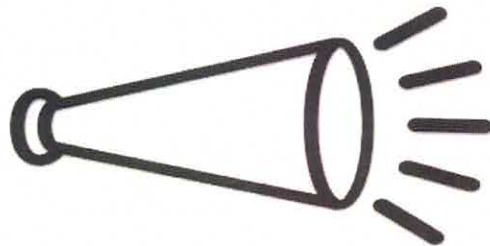
Florida Voice for the Unborn <Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com>

Sat 4/1/2023 7:28 PM

To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Florida Voice



For The Unborn

FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com

Dear Friend of the Unborn:

The "Heartbeat Bill" is on track for final passage in the Florida Senate (and quite possibly in the House) during Holy Week – and, if it does pass in the next few days, Governor Ron DeSantis may even sign it into law by Easter/Resurrection Sunday, April 9th, or shortly thereafter! **Consequently, we now have one last opportunity to get this legislation improved so that ALL unborn children will be legally protected in Florida!** Let's continue to work and pray to accomplish this goal.

Below is a quick summary of the legislative happenings since Florida Voice for the Unborn's last e-update on March 29th, which, if you missed it, you may read [HERE](#). **After that, please find what is likely to be our final Grassroots Action Alert on the Heartbeat legislation.** Florida Voice for the Unborn is asking our supporters to contact several key pro-life House members, requesting that they file a favorable floor amendment to the bill. And, separately, Florida Voice for the Unborn is asking you to contact the Governor's

office through an online petition, in the hope that the Governor will use the weight of his office to get a last-minute amendment enacted!

Finally, due to time considerations, I will again defer the long-awaited full progress report on the revived “Baby Box” legislation until a later date. But I did want to let you know that the House unanimously passed the “Baby Box Bill,” 111-to-0, yesterday, March 31st!

The Heartbeat Bill was amended on the Senate floor on Thursday, March 30th

After Senate Bill (SB) 300 passed its final committee of reference on March 28th, the Senate leadership placed it on a fast track so that it could be considered on the Senate floor in near record time. On Wednesday, March 29th, Senators filed twenty (20) floor amendments to the bill. On the afternoon of March 30th, the Senate took up SB 300 to consider all of the amendments and to allow Senators the opportunity to question the bill sponsor, Senator Erin Grall (R–Vero Beach), about SB 300.

I was in the Senate gallery, live-tweeting the multi-hour proceedings. All pro-abortion amendments filed by Democrats (18 of the 20) were soundly defeated or ultimately withdrawn. Senator Grall's Amendment #317486 was adopted, 28-to-12, along strict party line. This amendment inserted a line into the bill stating, “This act may be cited as the ‘Heartbeat Protection Act.’” The amendment was in response to Florida Voice for the Unborn's previous criticism that the word “heartbeat” had not been originally included in the text of this legislation.

Unfortunately, a pro-abortion floor amendment introduced by Senator Alexis Calatayud (R–Miami Dade County) was also unanimously adopted. Amendment #718612 added another exception to the protection of unborn children after 6-weeks' gestation so that an abortion is permitted in Florida up until 15-weeks' gestation, if the child is conceived as a result of the human trafficking of the mother, with documentation.

This amendment was similar to the one that pro-abortion Democrat Minority Leader Lauren Book (from Broward County) had previously brought before the Senate Health Policy Committee on March 20th. At that committee meeting, I testified against Book's amendment. But before a committee vote could be taken on it, Book withdrew it from consideration.

I believe that the “human trafficking exception” floor amendment brought by Republican Senator Calatayud was done at the instruction of Republican Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, who is the primary person responsible for all of the “exceptions” included in the legislation. Senator Calatayud has already voted twice in committee against the main bill and has said she will vote on the floor against it as well. By bringing this pro-abortion amendment, President Passidomo forced Senator Grall to state on the floor that it was a “friendly amendment.” From the gallery, I videotaped the voice vote on the amendment, which you may find on Twitter [HERE](#). Sadly, there was not a single “nay” on including yet another exception in the bill.

[This is the problem with so-called “exceptions.” Once the law allows for abortions in certain types of situations,** the law becomes arbitrary and

capricious, mandating certain children be legally protected while others are deemed unworthy of such protection.

It bears repeating that medical procedures to save the life of a mother are **not considered abortions, because the *intent* is not to kill the unborn child but rather to preserve the lives of the mother *and* her preborn child, although the result of the procedure is often that the child is unable to survive (e.g. ectopic pregnancies).]

After consideration of the floor amendments to SB 300 concluded, there was a lengthy question and answer period on the main bill itself. Senator Grall did a masterful job even though she had laryngitis and was obviously feeling unwell. In response to several questions, Senator Grall made it clear that it would not have been her preference to include any exceptions in the bill, nor would it have been her preference to exclude children under six-weeks' gestation from full legal protection.

Following the question and answer period, SB 300 was rolled over to the Senate's "Third Reading Calendar." It will be subject to a final debate and voted on this Monday, April 3, 2023. The Senate will open its floor session at 10:00 a.m., and I expect the bill to be taken up right away. I will again be in the Senate gallery, live-tweeting the events. In addition to Senator Calatayud's defection, I anticipate that there might be other GOP Senators who will vote against the bill, although it will pass. SB 300 will then be immediately certified and sent over to the House.

The Heartbeat Bill was amended, and it then passed its last House committee on Thursday, March 30th

On the morning of March 30th, the House Health and Human Services Committee took up House Bill (HB) 7, the House version of the Heartbeat Bill. The primary co-sponsor of HB 7, Rep. Jennifer Canady (R-Polk County), brought an amendment to include a \$25 million appropriation for the pro-life Florida Pregnancy Care Network and a \$5 million appropriation for the Florida Department of Health's "family planning" programming, which includes contraceptives and possible abortifacients. Those appropriations had been included in the Senate version but not in the House version. The committee adopted Canady's amendment in a voice vote, along party lines. A pro-abortion amendment, offered by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Palm Beach County) and which Florida Voice for the Unborn waived against in opposition, was soundly defeated.

As I have done at all the other previous committee stops in both the House and Senate, I testified on the Heartbeat legislation, supporting most of it but opposing the \$5 million appropriation and respectfully requesting a modification to section 3 of the bill so that all unborn children would be ensured legal protection. And just as at all other committee proceedings, several of Florida Voice for the Unborn's grassroots supporters joined me at the March 30th hearing.

The House Health and Human Services Committee passed HB 7, as amended, 13-to-7, with all Republican committee members, except for one, in favor and all Democrat committee members opposed. The lone GOP vote against HB 7 came from Rep. Traci Koster (R-Hillsborough County), who did not speak at

the hearing or subsequently offer an explanation for her “no” vote.

HB 7 has now been placed on the House’s Second Reading Calendar for this Monday, April 3rd, after which it will be available for all House members to file floor amendments.

However, because SB 300 is expected to be sent over to the House that same day (and because it is now materially different than HB 7 due to the addition of the “human trafficking exception” and the title change), the House could subsequently substitute SB 300 for HB 7 when HB 7 comes to the floor for consideration of the floor amendments.

So, in our Grassroots Action Alert below, the talking points include both bill numbers and refer to the legislation as simply the “Heartbeat Bill.”

Right now, due to Holy Week and Passover, the House is scheduled only to be in session on Monday (April 3rd) and Tuesday (April 4th), but that could change at a moment’s notice. Additionally, the House could use a special maneuver to consider floor amendments and have a final debate and vote on HB 7/SB 300 all on the same day. I would not be surprised if all of that occurred this Tuesday. That’s why I am urging you to take action NOW!!

NEW URGENT GRASSROOTS ACTION ALERT: HB 7/SB 300 (Heartbeat Bill)

Please contact the sponsor and prime co-sponsor of HB 7, as well as the four additional pro-life Republican members of the House listed further below, and express the following simple points:

Dear Pro-life Representatives,

I am a grassroots supporter of Florida Voice for the Unborn. I back most of HB 7/SB 300. However, I would like you to file a floor amendment so that all unborn children, regardless of circumstance and gestational age, will be legally protected from the moment of conception here in Florida. Heartbeat laws were designed to challenge *Roe v. Wade* – not to serve as a substitute for full protection. *Roe* is gone, and many states – like Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, etc. – have already enacted full legal protection for the preborn. Florida must do the same. Otherwise, tens of thousands of unborn children will continue to die in Florida abortions every year. Thank you for your consideration.

Here are the **key phone numbers** for the Sponsor and Prime Co-Sponsor of HB 7 as well as four additional stalwart pro-life Representatives:

*Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka: **850-717-5078**

Rep. Jennifer Canady: **850-717-5050

Rep. Webster Barnaby: **850-717-5029**

Rep. Mike Beltran: **850-717-5070**

Rep. David Borrero: **850-717-5111**

Rep. Berny Jacques: **850-717-5059**

*Legislative Sponsor of HB 7

**Legislative Prime Co-Sponsor of HB 7

Here are the **key e-mail addresses (with semicolons separating them)** for the Sponsor and Prime Co-Sponsor of HB 7 as well as four additional stalwart pro-life Representatives – and their legislative aides:

Jenna.Persons@myfloridahouse.gov; Jennifer.Canady@myfloridahouse.gov;
Webster.Barnaby@myfloridahouse.gov; Mike.Beltran@myfloridahouse.gov;
David.Borrero@myfloridahouse.gov; Berny.Jacques@myfloridahouse.gov;
Brandon.Edmonston@myfloridahouse.gov;
Rachel.Barnes@myfloridahouse.gov; Darryl.Boyer@myfloridahouse.gov;
Chris.Licata@myfloridahouse.gov; Miguel.Granda@myfloridahouse.gov;
Luke.Midura@myfloridahouse.gov

Here are the **key e-mail addresses (with commas separating them)** for the Sponsor and Prime Co-Sponsor of HB 7 as well as four additional stalwart pro-life Representatives – and their legislative aides:

Jenna.Persons@myfloridahouse.gov, Jennifer.Canady@myfloridahouse.gov,
Webster.Barnaby@myfloridahouse.gov, Mike.Beltran@myfloridahouse.gov,
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Rachel.Barnes@myfloridahouse.gov, Darryl.Boyer@myfloridahouse.gov,
Chris.Licata@myfloridahouse.gov, Miguel.Granda@myfloridahouse.gov,
Luke.Midura@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 the Heartbeat Bill 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

When I spoke with the legislative aide to HB 7 sponsor Rep. Persons-Mulicka this past Wednesday, he told me that there have been very serious conversations “behind closed doors” at the highest levels concerning an amendment to the Heartbeat Bill that would protect unborn children from the moment of conception. I have also heard the same from other trusted sources. That's exactly why Florida Voice for the Unborn is continuing on with our campaign to improve this legislation.

In addition to contacting the legislative sponsor and prime co-sponsor of HB 7, we're also lobbying the other four Representatives because they are stalwart pro-lifers.

In particular, Rep. Barnaby spoke at our May 24, 2022, DAY OF ACTION at the Capitol and explicitly promised that he would fight for a comprehensive measure protecting all unborn children in Florida.

And earlier in March, Rep. Beltran bucked the House leadership and filed a floor amendment to the permit-less concealed carry bill to make the legislation what grassroots Second Amendment supporters really wanted, which was open carry of a firearm. Although Beltran ended up withdrawing the amendment and the legislation passed without open carry, Governor DeSantis has subsequently

stated publicly that he would be willing to call a Special Legislative Session to enact open carry.

Sign the Online Petition to Governor DeSantis!

Florida Voice for the Unborn has placed an online petition to Governor DeSantis on our website. The petition asks the Governor to use the weight of his office to get a floor amendment to HB 7/SB 300 (Heartbeat Bill) filed and passed so that all unborn children in Florida are protected from the moment of conception. To sign the petition, please click on the following link:

<https://floridavoicefortheunborn.com/petition-to-gov-desantis>

Thank you to everyone for your faithful support of Florida Voice for the Unborn's campaign to improve the Heartbeat Bill during these last few incredibly fast-paced weeks! Whatever the ultimate outcome, we know that at the end of the day we left nothing on the table and that God is in-charge!

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

P.P.S. Don't forget to scroll back-up and contact all of the key legislators (and their staff) listed above and sign the online petition to Governor DeSantis ASAP! "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." Revelation 21:4.

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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