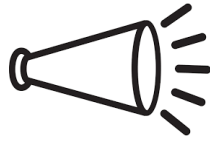


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Expresses Support for Newly-Filed Legislation Prohibiting Abortions in Florida After 15-Weeks Gestation, But Laments the Governor’s and Legislature’s Lack of Urgency to End the Daily Murder of Florida’s Unborn Children

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Shirvell, Founder and Executive Director, at (850) 404-3414 or Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com.

Executive Director Andrew Shirvell today issued the following statement regarding the filing of House Bill 5/Senate Bill 146 on the first day of the 2022 Florida Legislative Session:

“As expected, this morning, Rep. Erin Grall (R–Indian River and St. Lucie Counties) and Senator Kelli Stargel (R–Lake and Polk Counties) have filed proposed bills that will ban abortions in Florida after 15-weeks gestation. Florida Voice for the Unborn welcomes and supports this legislation. However, this legislation will not curb the vast majority of abortions here in the Sunshine State.”

Shirvell continued, “On September 22, 2021, Rep. Webster Barnaby (R–Volusia County) filed House Bill 167, a.k.a. the 2022 Florida Heartbeat Act. This bill is modeled after the novel Texas Heartbeat Law, which went into effect on September 1, 2021. The Texas Heartbeat Law has continued to stop thousands of Texas abortions ever since, despite multiple court battles. Like the new Texas law, the 2022 Florida Heartbeat Act would prohibit abortions after an unborn child’s heartbeat is detectable (around six weeks gestation). Rather than criminalizing abortions per se, the Florida legislation would empower private citizens to bring lawsuits against abortionists (and their collaborators) who violate the six-week abortion ban.”

Shirvell further remarked, “While other organizations have remained shamefully quiet, Florida Voice for the Unborn has been the leader in lobbying for the Florida Heartbeat Act during the last six months. It is truly sad that not a single ‘pro-life’ senator in Florida’s ‘pro-life’-majority Senate had the courage to sponsor House Bill 167’s companion legislation. Although House Bill 167/the Florida Heartbeat Act would clearly save more children’s lives than the legislation filed today, getting it enacted into law without a Senate companion bill is a herculean task. And the blame

clearly rests with Senate President Wilton Simpson, House Speaker Chris Sprowls, and Governor Ron DeSantis – all of whom, thus far, lack the conviction to put an end to the horrendous daily murder of preborn children in our state.”

Shirvell concluded, “In a year when the United States Supreme Court is widely expected to finally overturn its disastrous 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* and return the power to prohibit abortions to the individual states, Governor DeSantis and our state’s legislative ‘leaders’ have chosen to do the least possible for Florida’s unborn children. This is completely unacceptable. Equally deplorable is the fact that some other pro-life organizations will continue to be more concerned with electing officials who claim to be against abortion than with actually supporting legislation that truly saves as many lives as possible. Florida Voice for the Unborn prides itself on not being a part of what has sadly become the pro-life, pro-family industry! Accordingly, while Florida Voice for the Unborn supports the passage of today’s newly-filed pro-life bills, we will work to strengthen them as much as possible during the committee process and floor debates – because, with the Lord as our guide, Florida Voice for the Unborn works for Florida’s preborn children and no one else!”

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 at FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com.