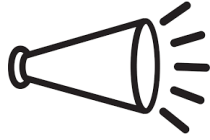


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Expresses Deep Disappointment with the Reappointment of Pro-Abortion Democratic Senator Lauren Book as Chair of the Florida Senate’s Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

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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 Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson’s announcement that he was reappointing Senator Lauren Book (D—Plantation/Broward County) as chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee:

“Florida Voice for the Unborn is deeply disappointed that newly-installed Senate President Simpson (R—Citrus, Hernando, & Pasco Counties) has decided to reappoint Senator Book, a radical pro-abortion extremist, as the chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee. Senator Book, the daughter of longtime powerful Florida lobbyist Ron Book, had been previously appointed as committee chair by former Republican Senate President Bill Galvano. At the time of her initial appointment, Senator Book was the only Democrat committee chair in the Republican-controlled Senate.”

Shirvell continued, “As chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee during the 2020 Legislative Session, Senator Book single-handedly held-up Senate Bill 864, an important pro-life bill that would have increased the places that newborn infants could be safely surrendered without penalty under Florida law. The companion bill passed overwhelmingly in the state House of Representatives. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 864 was assigned to the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, where it died because, as chair, Senator Book refused to bring it up for a vote due to her vocal opposition to this commonsense pro-life bill.”

Shirvell further remarked, “Senator Book is one of the most radical pro-abortion legislators in Tallahassee. This past summer, Book penned a misleading op-ed in the pro-abortion *Tampa Bay Times*, in which she disingenuously argued that it was cruel for a Hillsborough County Circuit Court judge to have denied a 14-year-old girl’s request to obtain an abortion without parental

consent under Florida's new parental-consent-prior-to-an-abortion law (which went into effect on July 1, 2020). In a counter op-ed published by *The Capitolist* website, I successfully showed that Book had left out crucial facts about the girl's case, including the fact that a reviewing appellate court upheld the lower court decision, in part, because the girl's testimony about the true whereabouts of her parents was not credible. Senator Book is such a radical pro-abort extremist that she was willing to distort a minor child's judicial case for her own politically-motivated ends."

Shirvell continued, "During the past Legislative Session, Senator Book pushed through Senate Bill 698, a bill ostensibly addressing fertility fraud committed by unscrupulous doctors, but which became controversial because Book was determined to include language in the bill redefining human embryos as "reproductive material," i.e. the equivalent of sperm and eggs. Florida Voice for the Unborn vigorously opposed Senate Bill 698 because of the problematic anti-human life language."

Shirvell concluded, "It is simply unconscionable that Senate President Simpson would reappoint Senator Book as chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, given her well-documented pro-abortion activism. The Republicans control the Florida Senate with an expanded 24-to-16 majority due to unexpectedly picking up a seat as a result of the 2020 General Election. Simpson's reappointment of Book, his appointment of pro-abortion Democrat Senator Jason Pizzo as chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, and his appointment of pro-abortion Democrat Senator Darryl Rouson as chair of the Agriculture Committee represent a huge slap in the face to pro-life voters, who the Republicans should be thanking for keeping them in power here in the Sunshine State. Book's reappointment, in particular, will make passing pro-life measures more difficult than they should be. If Book successfully obstructs any pro-life legislation whatsoever as chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee during the 2021 Legislative Session, the fault will lie squarely with President Simpson."

Florida Voice for the Unborn is a new grassroots Tallahassee-based 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.