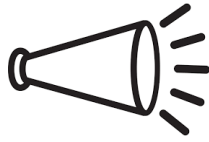


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Applauds the Florida Senate’s Health Policy Committee for Voting to Advance the 15-Week Abortion Ban Bill Without a Proposed Pro-Abortion Amendment That Would Have Permitted the Killing of Unborn Children Conceived in Rape, Incest, or Through a Human-Trafficking Situation

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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 Senate Bill 146:

“**Florida Voice for the Unborn** thanks the state Senate’s Health Policy Committee for voting today to advance Senate Bill 146 (a.k.a. the 15-Week Abortion Ban). The committee members voted 6-to-4 in favor of this bill, which will save an estimated 5,000 unborn children from being murdered here in Florida via brutal late-term abortions. All Republican committee members voted in the affirmative and all Democrat committee members voted against the bill. Significantly, a majority of the committee members voted against a late-filed amendment that would have permitted abortions past 15-weeks’ gestation, if the children targeted in such abortions were conceived as a result of rape, incest, or an unfortunate human trafficking situation.”

Shirvell continued, “As executive director of **Florida Voice for the Unborn**, I testified twice at today’s Health Policy Committee meeting. First, I testified against the proposed pro-abortion amendment, which was filed by the **Democratic Minority Leader Lauren Book (D–Broward County)**. Book, who sits on the Health Policy Committee, filed her amendment late. As such, a majority of the committee could have objected to entertaining the amendment. Unfortunately, not one pro-life Republican did so. Accordingly, the first half-hour of the meeting concerned Book’s amendment. When I testified against the amendment, I emphasized that the manner in which a child is conceived is irrelevant and I stated that, if Florida was going to ban abortions after 15-weeks’ gestation, then children conceived as a result of rape, incest, or a human trafficking situation needed to be protected. These children – like all children – are made in the image and likeness of our Creator and should not be brutally executed via abortion due to the crimes of their

fathers. Thankfully, a majority of committee members defeated Senator Book’s amendment in a voice vote.”

Shirvell further remarked, “I also testified in favor of Senate Bill 146. However, in my testimony, I emphasized that while **Florida Voice for the Unborn** supports the 15-Week Abortion Ban legislation, it needs to be strengthened through some straightforward amendments that **Florida Voice for the Unborn** would like to see incorporated into the final law. These proposed amendments are 1) adding a provision that authorizes a political subdivision, such as a county or municipality, to regulate or prohibit abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as state law; 2) replacing the terms ‘fetus’ and ‘fetal’ in the bill with the terms ‘unborn child’ and ‘unborn child’s’ in order to properly acknowledge the humanity of children in the womb; and 3) removing the term ‘medical abortion’ from the bill and replacing it with the more commonly-accepted term ‘chemical abortion,’ since chemicals – not medicines – are what are contained within abortion pills administered during the first trimester. **Florida Voice for the Unborn** will continue to press for these much needed amendments to Senate Bill 146 as the legislative process continues.”

Shirvell concluded, “It appeared to me that pro-life legislators were playing defense throughout the Senate Health Policy Committee meeting today. From allowing debate on an untimely pro-abortion amendment to permitting abortionists to testify at length simply because Minority Leader Senator Book wanted them to, the pro-life Republicans on the committee lost control of the narrative and looked weak. As I testified earlier today, if Florida’s pro-life state legislators really believe that abortion is murder, then they have to start acting like it, which means they must have a much more aggressive posture at committing hearings where significant pro-life legislation is being heard and debated.”

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.