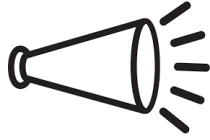


# Florida Voice



## For The Unborn

P.O. Box 12152 | Tallahassee, FL 32317

**Florida Voice for the Unborn Applauds the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee for Advancing a Ban on Abortions in Florida After 15-Weeks Gestation; A Final Senate Floor Vote is Expected Very Soon**

February 21, 2022

\*For Immediate Release\*

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

Executive Director Andrew Shirvell today issued the following statement regarding Florida House Bill 5 (the 15-Week Abortion Ban):

“**Florida Voice for the Unborn** thanks the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee for advancing House Bill 5 this afternoon. The committee’s vote followed the House of Representatives’ final approval of this legislation last week. House Bill 5 will end most Florida abortions after 15-weeks gestation, saving approximately 5,000 unborn children from being dismembered in brutal late-term abortions every year. All Republicans on the committee voted in favor of House Bill 5, while all pro-abortion Democrats voted in opposition. Committee member **Senator Lauren Book**, from Broward County (the Democratic Minority Leader in the Senate), was absent from today’s meeting because she claimed she had COVID-19. House Bill 5 now heads to speedy consideration on the Senate floor.”

Shirvell continued, “As executive director of **Florida Voice for the Unborn**, I testified three (3) times at today’s hearing, sparring twice with radical pro-abortion **Senator Jason Pizzo (D—Miami-Dade County)**. On behalf of Senator Book, another pro-abortion senator on the committee presented an 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. This pro-abortion amendment had been previously heard and soundly rejected when the Senate Health Policy Committee considered House Bill 5’s companion legislation on February 2nd. Like I did earlier this month, I testified against the proposed amendment, emphasizing 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 since they are innocent human beings. Shortly thereafter, this amendment was defeated once again along party lines.”

Shirvell further remarked, “I also testified against a late-filed amendment from Senator Pizzo, which would have injected the controversial issue of ‘Hormonal Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (HLARC)’ into the bill. In my testimony, I plainly stated that HLARCs do not reduce abortions, as Senator Pizzo falsely claimed. Rather, when HLARCs often fail, women then turn to abortion. As I correctly stated at the hearing, ‘In short, the contraceptive mentality is what fuels the blood-thirsty abortion industry in our country.’ This amendment also was soundly defeated along party lines.”

Shirvell continued, “My testimony on both Senator Book’s failed amendment and Senator Pizzo’s failed amendment apparently struck a nerve. Senator Pizzo foolishly attempted to show me up by asking me a series of irrelevant questions: one of which had to do with the use of condoms. I would not play Senator Pizzo’s game. Therefore, I publicly called him out as a complete disgrace to the Catholic faith he professes to believe in. Senator Pizzo demonstrated throughout the hearing that he is a shill for the abortion industry and an extremist. In my personal opinion, Senator Pizzo is about as Catholic as the viciously anti-Christian Roman Emperor Nero was!”

Shirvell further remarked, “When I testified the third time at today’s committee hearing, it was in favor of House Bill 5. While **Florida Voice for the Unborn** supports this lifesaving legislation, I also reminded pro-life senators that since Governor Ron DeSantis was inaugurated in January 2019, more than 226,400 unborn children (at last count) were murdered in Florida via abortion. I challenged these pro-life legislators to do a lot more for Florida’s preborn children because, as I told them, not only are the lives of Florida’s unborn children depending on them to act more boldly, but their very own eternal lives are at stake.”

Shirvell concluded, “Appropriations Committee member and (incoming Senate President) **Senator Kathleen Passidomo (R—Collier, Hendy, and Lee Counties)** dropped a bombshell during the debate prior to the final committee vote. Passidomo stated that she had been actively lobbying for Senator Book’s amendment, which would have permitted children to be killed via abortion after 15-weeks gestation if they had been conceived as a result of a result of rape, incest, or an unfortunate human trafficking situation. However, due in part to lengthy conversations with the sponsor of House Bill 5’s companion legislation, **Senator Kelli Stargel (R—Lake and Polk Counties)** who also serves as chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Passidomo stated in the debate that she had changed her mind and had voted against the proposed amendment. On Friday, February 18th, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** had issued a Grassroots Action Alert, asking our supporters throughout the state to contact Senator Stargel and tell her, in part, to stand strong against any pro-abortion amendments that would permit ‘exceptions’ for children conceived in rape, incest, or as a result of human trafficking. Undoubtedly, our supporters’ relentless e-mails and phone calls to Senator Stargel’s office over the past few days helped to save House Bill 5 from falling prey to a pro-abortion amendment that had the backing of one of the most powerful legislators in the Senate. While **Florida Voice for the Unborn** is grateful for Senator Passidomo’s change of heart, our organization remains gravely concerned about Senator Passidomo’s expected elevation as the Senate President after the November 2022 general election.”

\*\*\*

**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](https://FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com).