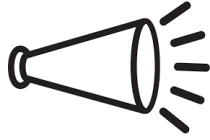


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

Florida Voice for the Unborn Expresses Outrage Over Pro-Life Florida Senators' Ash Wednesday Vote in Favor of Bill that Violates the Dignity of Human Life in its Embryonic Stage

February 26, 2020

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 Senate Rules Committee's vote in favor of Senate Bill 698 (Reproductive Health):

“Florida Voice for the Unborn is absolutely outraged that all pro-life senators in the Florida Senate Rules Committee voted today – on Ash Wednesday, no less – to pass Senate Bill 698 out of its final committee. This bill, sponsored by pro-abortion state Senator Lauren Book (D – Plantation), seeks to address the issue of unscrupulous fertility doctors using their own sperm to impregnate female patients. While that is a noble aim, the bill also contains language and provisions that fundamentally violate the dignity of human life in its most vulnerable state, i.e. as a tiny embryo.”

Shirvell continued, “Florida Voice for the Unborn objects to Senate Bill 698, as currently written, for two reasons. First, the bill defines ‘reproductive material’ as ‘any human egg, preembryo, or sperm.’ This definition has never been included in Florida law before. Moreover, calling an ‘embryo’ a ‘preembryo’ is a distinction without a difference.¹ This bill seeks to place into statute that embryos/‘preembryos’ are the equivalent of sperm and eggs, which is absolutely wrong! Embryos/preembryos are unique human beings from the moment of fertilization and completely different from the male and female human reproductive cells.”

Shirvell further remarked, “The second reason that Florida Voice for the Unborn objects to Senate Bill 698 is because, unlike the companion bill in the Florida House of Representatives, Senator Book’s bill contains a requirement that parties must enter into a contract – a contract with certain provisions – with a fertility clinic/donor bank before utilizing the services of said fertility

¹ See: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/stem-cell-research/what-is-an-embryo.cfm>

clinic/donor bank. The provisions of the required contract are highly problematic since they facilitate the destruction of ‘preembryos,’ which are human beings. The bill explicitly says that the contract must include what will happen to any unused reproductive material, ‘including whether it may be disposed of, offered to a different recipient, or donated to science.’”

Shirvell continued, “Florida Voice for the Unborn has been sounding the alarm about Senate Bill 698, which is deeply-flawed and agenda-driven. It is a trojan-horse that seeks to sneak anti-human life provisions through the backdoor into Florida law. As executive director of Florida Voice for the Unborn, I testified today about the problematic provisions of Senate Bill 698. My testimony apparently fell on deaf ears, as none of the members of the Rules Committee even asked a question of the bill sponsor, Senator Book, or engaged in debate. This was pitiful considering that unborn lives are at stake as a result of this proposed legislation.”

Shirvell concluded, “The following senators – all of whom identify as ‘pro-life’ and are Republicans – should have never voted today for this bill:

- Lizbeth Benacquisto
- Rob Bradley
- Jeff Brandes
- Anitere Flores
- Travis Hutson
- Tom Lee
- Kathleen Passidomo
- David Simmons
- Wilton Simpson
- Kelli Stargel

Florida Voice for the Unborn remains hopeful that the problematic provisions of this bill will be excised, if and when the full Florida Senate votes on the bill.”

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, and Pinterest @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website at FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com.
