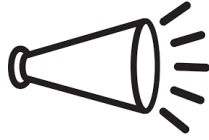


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Executive Director Expresses Outrage Over Florida Senate Democratic Minority Leader Gary Farmer's Reprehensible Demand for the Unwarranted Silencing of a Pro-Life Christian Leader

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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 Democratic Minority Leader Gary Farmer's outlandish demand to prohibit Mr. Shirvell from testifying before all legislative committees:

“Today, I testified in favor of Senate Bill 122 (Surrendered Newborn Infants) at the meeting of the Florida Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. Senate Bill 122, informally referred to as the ‘Baby Box Bill,’ is sponsored by pro-life champion Senator Dennis Baxley (R—Sumter, Lake, & Marion Counties). This life-affirming bill will amend Florida's existing Safe Haven Law to explicitly permit the use of baby boxes for the safe surrendering of newborn infants at hospitals, fire stations, and emergency medical service stations that are staffed twenty-four hours a day.”

Shirvell continued, “During my testimony earlier today, I expressed my opinion that it was incomprehensible to me why anyone who claims to care about children, and believes in ‘choices,’ would oppose Senate Bill 122. I concluded my testimony by expressing my opinion that supporting Senate Bill 122 was a ‘no-brainer’ and that opposition to it was manufactured and based on political theater or based on disinformation.”

Shirvell further remarked, “Apparently, Florida Senate Democratic Minority Leader Gary Farmer (D—Broward County), who is also a subcommittee member, did not like that I was one of two public speakers to support Senate Bill 122 and decided to ask me an irrelevant question that Senator Baxley had already addressed under questioning previously. In response to Senator Farmer's question, I simply pointed out that my basis for believing that the opposition to the bill was illegitimate was the fact that the Florida House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a

nearly-identical bill to Senate Bill 122 during the 2020 Legislative Session and that only two pro-abortion Democrats had opposed it then. In fact, this very similar bill passed the House chamber by a vote of 117-to-2.”

Shirvell continued, “Senator Farmer then lost it. He hyperbolically claimed that my testimony was ‘offensive’ and, even more childishly, demanded that I be prohibited from testifying ever again before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and all other legislative committees.¹ At first I was simply stunned, but thereafter I was relieved that Farmer’s ridiculous theatrics were simply that and proved my overall point. The subcommittee chair did not give-in to Senator Farmer’s nonsense.”

Shirvell concluded, “I know the rules. I did not criticize any particular senator, member of the public, or organization – nor did I use any foul language whatsoever. I just stated my opinion. Whether Senator Farmer finds my opinion offensive is immaterial. Unfortunately, I believe that Senator Farmer may have singled me out to be ‘cancelled’ because I am an outspoken pro-life Christian. It is sad and shameful that the Florida Senate Democratic Minority Leader is so hostile to the pro-life viewpoint that he wants pro-lifers like me censored. In the final analysis, however, Senator Farmer’s tantrum failed to delay the Baby Box Bill’s continued advancement. The subcommittee voted 7-to-4 to pass Senate Bill 122, with all pro-life Republicans in support and all pro-abortion Democrats in opposition.”

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.

¹ To see Mr. Shirvell’s full testimony and his exchange with Senator Farmer, please go to [Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services \(flsenate.gov\)](https://flsenate.gov) and view the video of today’s proceedings, from 1:02:30 to 1:06:45.