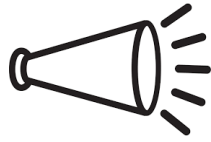


# Florida Voice



## For The Unborn

P.O. Box 12152 | Tallahassee, FL 32317

### Florida Voice for the Unborn Commends the Florida House of Representatives for Passing Today its First Pro-Life Bill of the 2021 Legislative Session

March 18, 2021

\*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 the passage of House Bill 133 (Surrendered Newborn Infants):

“Florida Voice for the Unborn is greatly pleased that the state House of Representatives passed this afternoon House Bill 133, which is informally known as the ‘Baby Box Bill.’ The bill passed by an overwhelming bipartisan margin of 108-to-11. This lifesaving measure 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 24 hours a day. This legislation will also expand the age at which an infant may be legally surrendered in Florida, from 7 days to 30 days old.”

Shirvell continued, “Baby boxes have a proven track record of deterring illegal newborn abandonments and saving lives. Since Indiana installed the nation’s first Safe Haven Baby Box several years ago, there have been no reported illegal newborn abandonments in that state. And in 2019, Indiana had 9 newborn infants surrendered via baby boxes.”

Shirvell further remarked, “I want to thank **Rep. Joe Harding (R—Levy & Marion Counties)** for his sponsorship of House Bill 133. Following the floor vote, **House Speaker Chris Sprowls (R—Pinellas County)** stated that House Bill 133 was the very first bill passed by a ‘freshman’ representative this year. Florida Voice for the Unborn is very proud of that fact – and so, too, should Rep. Harding and all of his pro-life colleagues.”

Shirvell concluded, “Florida Voice for the Unborn has led the charge here in Florida to get this life-saving legislation passed and finally enacted into law. We now call on the state Senate leadership to quickly shepherd House Bill 133’s companion bill through its final committee of

reference so that the full Senate can have an opportunity to follow the House in passing this much needed legislation.”

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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).