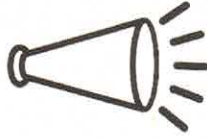


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

P.O. Box 12152 | Tallahassee, FL 32317

Florida Voice for the Unborn Calls Upon Florida Senator Jeff Brandes and His Pro-Life Republican Colleagues to Exclude Abortion Clinics from COVID-19 Liability Protections Found in Senate Bills 74 and 72

March 9, 2021

For Immediate Release

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

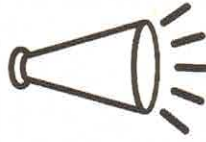
Executive Director Andrew Shirvell today issued the following statement regarding Senate Bill 74 (COVID-19-related Claims Against Health Care Providers) and Senate Bill 72 (Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19):

“This morning, I sent an urgent e-letter to Republican Senator Jeff Brandes (District 24 – Pinellas County) and his pro-life Republican colleagues on the Senate Rules Committee. In my letter, I asked Senator Brandes to exclude Florida abortion clinics from liability protections afforded by his bills, Senate Bill 74 and Senate Bill 72, which will be heard by the Rules Committee – their final committee of reference – this Thursday, March 11th.”

Shirvell concluded, “Florida abortion providers refused to cease their grisly trade in dead unborn babies last spring during the height of the COVID-19 emergency. These same abortion providers should not now be able to escape liability for any COVID-19-related injuries they may have caused to women and others who they victimized during a period of time in which they rightfully should have been closed. Florida Voice for the Unborn is calling upon Senator Brandes and his pro-life Republican colleagues to do the right thing and exclude abortion clinics from COVID-19 liability protections. My letter is attached to this release.”

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.

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March 9, 2021

Sent via e-mail to Brandes.Jeff@flsenate.gov.

The Honorable Jeff Brandes
Senator for District 24
Florida Senate
414 Senate Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Request to Remove Abortion Clinics from Liability Protections Afforded by SB 74/SB 72

Dear Senator Brandes:

I am the founder and executive director of Florida Voice for the Unborn, a statewide pro-life grassroots lobbying group based here in Tallahassee. Last Wednesday, I addressed the Senate Health Policy Committee and requested that Senate Bill 74 (COVID-19-related Claims Against Health Care Providers) be amended so that abortion clinics would be excluded from the liability protections afforded under your bill. Given that Senate Bill 74 will be heard in its final committee of reference this upcoming Thursday and that the deadline for proposed amendments is early tomorrow morning, I now formally reiterate my request in writing. Additionally, to the extent that Senate Bill 72 (Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19) would offer any further liability protections to abortion clinics, I also request that this bill (which is also before the Senate Rules Committee on Thursday) be likewise amended to exclude these facilities.

Last March 20, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-72, which was supposed to prohibit Florida health care providers from providing any non-essential medical care due to the COVID-19 emergency. Certainly, in Florida Voice for the Unborn's view, abortion is not health care as it takes the life of an innocent child. But regardless, abortion is a non-essential procedure. As such, Florida abortion providers should have ceased all operations under the Governor's executive order, just like their counterparts did under a similar order issued by the Governor of Texas right around the same time last year. Unfortunately, Florida abortion providers continued

to operate, despite the best efforts by Florida Voice for the Unborn and others to lobby Governor DeSantis' Administration and Attorney General Moody's office to enforce Executive Order 20-72's prohibition.

Because abortion providers were permitted to continue killing Florida's unborn children at a record pace during the COVID-19 emergency while other non-essential health care providers were forced to stop legitimate care, these same abortion providers should not now be able to escape liability for any COVID-19-related injuries they may have caused to women and others who they victimized during a period of time in which they rightfully should have been closed. Accordingly, I reiterate my request that you, as the sponsor of Senate Bills 74 and 72, remove Florida abortion clinics from any liability protections afforded by those bills. I am also sending this letter to your pro-life Republican colleagues on the Rules Committee in the hope that, if you are unwilling to bring forth the requested amendment(s), then one of them would be willing and able to do so.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew L. Shirvell, J.D.
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Cc (via e-mail only):

Hon. Kathleen Passidomo
Hon. Ileana Garcia
Hon. Ben. Albritton
Hon. Dennis Baxley
Hon. Aaron Bean
Hon. Manny Diaz
Hon. Joe Gruters
Hon. Travis Hutson
Hon. Debbie Mayfield
Hon. Kelli Stargel