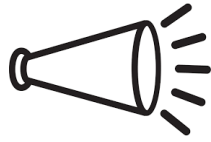


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

P.O. Box 12152 | Tallahassee, FL 32317

Florida Voice for the Unborn Thanks the Florida House Health and Human Services Committee for Advancing Today a Ban on Disability Abortions

April 6, 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 House Bill 1221 (Prohibition of Disability Abortions):

“Florida Voice for the Unborn applauds the House Health and Human Services Committee for passing this afternoon House Bill 1221, which will stop Florida abortions based on a diagnosis of genetic disability. The vote was 12-to-8 in favor of the bill, with one Republican shamefully joining all Democrats in opposition. This is the bill’s second and final stop before consideration by the full House.”

Shirvell continued, “Thank you to pro-life champion **Rep. Erin Grall (R—Indian River & St. Lucie Counties)** for sponsoring this much needed piece of pro-life legislation, which – when enacted into law – will contribute to building an authentic Culture of Life here in the Sunshine State. Thanks also goes to Health and Human Services Committee members **Rep. Clay Yarborough (R—Duval County)**, **Rep. Will Robinson (R—Manatee & Sarasota Counties)**, and **Rep. Tyler Sirois (R—Brevard County)** for co-sponsoring the legislation.”

Shirvell further remarked, “Children who are diagnosed with Down syndrome or another genetic disability prior to their birth should not be targeted for extermination. They are God’s children and have the same right to life as all other persons. I was proud to testify today in favor of House Bill 1221 and I am proud of all of Florida Voice for the Unborn’s grassroots supporters throughout the state who contacted the committee members on short notice to ensure victory today. Florida Voice for the Unborn has been the leader on this life-saving legislation from the very beginning.”

Shirvell continued, “While Democratic opposition to this pro-life legislation was expected during the committee hearing today, I am utterly outraged that a ‘Republican’ joined with all Democratic

Health and Human Service Committee members to vote against House Bill 1221. Committee member **Rep. Mike Caruso (R—Palm Beach County)** claims to be a ‘moderate,’ but his ‘no’ vote today showed him to be nothing less than a pro-abortion extremist, who believes that lethal discrimination against disabled unborn children is justified. I would advise Rep. Caruso to read the pro-life plank in his political party’s platform and if he cannot abide by it, then he should find a new party to join.”

Shirvell concluded, “Sadly, pro-life victories this Legislative Session have thus far been few and far between. Florida Voice for the Unborn calls upon **House Speaker Chris Sprowls (R—Pinellas County)** to schedule a floor vote on House Bill 1221 as soon as possible. Time is of the essence because the companion bill in the Senate (Senate Bill 1664) has been blocked by the pro-abortion chair of the Senate’s Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, **Senator Lauren Book (D—Broward County)**, who has refused to place the bill on her committee’s agenda. Since **Senate President Wilton Simpson (R—Citrus, Hernando, & Pasco Counties)** unwisely (and quite frankly bizarrely) re-appointed Book as chair last December, he will need to employ a special procedural maneuver once the full House passes House Bill 1221 in order for the Senate to vote on the legislation. Florida Voice for the Unborn fully expects the House and Senate leadership to get this ban on disability abortions to the desk of pro-life **Governor Ron DeSantis** by the end of the Legislative Session, which concludes April 30th. Anything less is completely unacceptable.”

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.