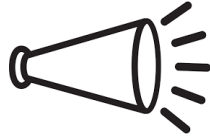


# Florida Voice



## For The Unborn

### **Florida Voice for the Unborn Condemns Governor Ron DeSantis' Last-Minute Approval of Pro-Abortion Senator Lauren Book's Senate Bill 698**

June 19, 2020

\*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 pro-abortion Senator Lauren Book's Senate Bill 698 (Reproductive Health):

“Florida Voice for the Unborn is deeply disappointed that pro-life Governor Ron DeSantis chose to betray the unborn by signing Senate Bill 698 into law late on the night of Thursday, June 18, 2020, which was the deadline for him to take action on this deeply-flawed legislation. Since Senate Bill 698's final passage in the Florida Legislature in mid-March, Florida Voice for the Unborn had been calling upon Governor DeSantis to veto it.”

Shirvell continued, “Senate Bill 698, sponsored by pro-abortion state Senator Lauren Book (D – Plantation), sought to address the issue of unscrupulous fertility doctors using their own genetic material to impregnate female patients. While that is a noble aim, the bill also contained language that fundamentally violated the dignity of human life in its most vulnerable state, i.e. as a tiny zygote.”

Shirvell further remarked, “Florida Voice for the Unborn vehemently objected to Senate Bill 698 because it contained a novel definition of ‘reproductive material.’ As defined in the final version of the bill, ‘reproductive material’ is ‘any human ‘egg’ or ‘sperm’ as those terms are defined in s. 742.13, or human zygote.’ The next line of the bill then defined ‘zygote’ as ‘a fertilized ovum.’”

Shirvell continued, “Florida Voice for the Unborn's position is that a unique human being comes into existence at the moment of fertilization. As unique human beings, zygotes can never be considered the equivalent of ‘sperm’ and ‘eggs’ — and cannot be termed under the law as ‘reproductive material.’ Moreover, Senate Bill 698 contained additional troubling provisions, which were added in at the very last minute and implied that human embryos are not unique human beings but rather are ‘things’ that are in the possession of others.”

Shirvell further commented, “For the past few months, Florida Voice for the Unborn had been sounding the alarm about Senate Bill 698, which was deeply flawed and agenda-driven from its inception. It was a trojan horse that sought to sneak anti-human life provisions into Florida law through the backdoor. As executive director of Florida Voice for the Unborn, I wrote a formal letter to Governor DeSantis outlining the problems with Senate Bill 698 and requesting that he veto it. Additionally, over ninety (90) pro-life activists throughout Florida contacted Governor DeSantis about Senate Bill 698 via Florida Voice for the Unborn’s website petition. Governor DeSantis’ office shamefully ignored our pleas by failing to give us the courtesy of a response.”

Shirvell concluded, “Governor DeSantis and Florida’s Legislative leaders failed to live-up to their pro-life campaign commitments. On June 2, 2020, I authored an article about Senate Bill 698, which was published on the website of the Society of St. Sebastian, a national pro-life public policy organization. In my article, entitled, ‘[Florida Senate Bill 698: A Trojan Horse](#),’ I exposed the dirty legislative tricks that were utilized to pass this flawed bill in Florida’s pro-life majority Legislature. Governor DeSantis’ last-minute, late-night approval of Senate Bill 698 is, sadly, more of the same shenanigans. It is simply not enough for elected officials to call themselves “pro-life.” They must govern in a pro-life fashion, even when it is hard to do so. By signing Senate Bill 698 into law, Governor DeSantis betrayed the unborn. Florida Voice for the Unborn will not turn a blind eye to this betrayal and will be sure to inform as many Florida pro-life activists as possible about it – so that nothing like this happens again.”

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](http://FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com).

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