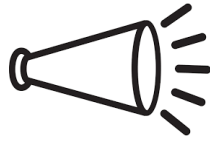


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Thanks Senate President Wilton Simpson for Heeding Our Request to Remove Pro-Abortion Democratic Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book as Chair of the Florida Senate’s Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

September 10, 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 Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson’s announcement (made late on Thursday, September 9th) that he has removed Democratic Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book as chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee:

“**Florida Voice for the Unborn** strongly applauds Senate President Simpson (R—Citrus, Hernando, & Pasco Counties) for his decision to remove Senate Democratic Minority Leader Book (D—Plantation/Broward County) as chair of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee. During the 2021 Legislative Session, Senator Book single-handedly held-up important pro-life legislation, including Senate Bill 1664 – which would have stopped Florida abortions based on a diagnosis of genetic disability. Senate President Simpson assigned Senate Bill 1664 to Book’s committee, but as chair she refused to hear the bill. The House of Representatives passed its nearly-identical version of the bill overwhelmingly 74-to-44 on April 23rd. Had it not been for Book’s obstruction, a ban on disability abortions would be a law here in the Sunshine State.”

Shirvell continued, “**Florida Voice for the Unborn** has been the only advocacy group publicly calling for the removal of Senator Book as committee chair. On December 2, 2020, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** issued a [press release](#) excoriating then-newly installed President Simpson for continuing the misguided decisions of his predecessor, former Senate President Bill Galvano (also a Republican), by reappointing Book as chair. In late May of this year, I also wrote a widely-circulated [article](#) highlighting the Florida Legislature’s abysmal failure to enact any pro-life legislation whatsoever during the 2021 Legislative Session, which was due in part to Book’s well-documented obstruction. And after Senator Book appeared on a local South Florida television

news show this past Sunday, September 5th, to attack Texas' new law protecting unborn children with detectable heartbeats, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** put out a strongly-worded [tweet](#) underscoring the need for Simpson to immediately remove Book as committee chair.”

Shirvell further remarked, “As pleased as **Florida Voice for the Unborn** is with Senate President Simpson’s decision, it is frankly long overdue. I am not aware of any other state legislature in the country in which a Republican-majority chamber has given a committee chairmanship to a member of the Democratic minority – let alone the Democratic Minority Leader! This arrangement has been bizarre from the very beginning, and I believe that it had a lot to do with the fact that Senator Book is the daughter of longtime powerful Florida lobbyist [Ron Book](#). In fact, in July (just two months ago), Simpson officially [reappointed Book](#) as committee chair for the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session, even though he made [other changes](#) to committee chairmanships.”

Shirvell concluded, “**Florida Voice for the Unborn’s** lobbying efforts to remove Senator Book have been a monumental success. Unlike some other advocacy groups with similar goals, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** is not interested in meaningless photo-ops or unjustifiably praising pro-life officials who have not performed at an acceptable level. **Florida Voice for the Unborn** reserves compliments for those who show by their actions – not mere words – that saving the lives of unborn children is important to them. In this case, Senate President Simpson deserves applause for heeding **Florida Voice for the Unborn’s** request to remove pro-abortion Senator Book as chair of the Senate’s Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee. **Florida Voice for the Unborn** now looks forward to working with the newly-named committee chair, pro-life Senator Ileana Garcia (R—Miami-Dade County), to advance a Texas-style Heartbeat Law and other important pro-life legislation in 2022.”

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.