

Help RESCUE Pro-Life Bills 476 and 651!

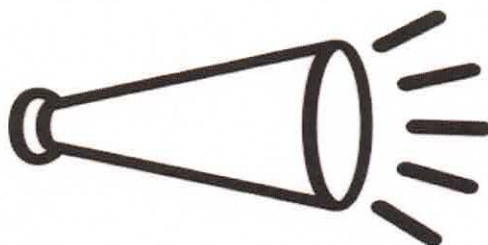
Florida Voice for the Unborn <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

Sat 2/24/2024 8:09 PM

To:Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Florida Voice



For The Unborn

FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com

Dear Friend of the Unborn:

We are now less than two weeks away from the conclusion of the annual Legislative Session on March 8th. In the meantime, following Florida Voice for the Unborn's successful February 7th Pro-Life Rally and Press Conference at the Florida Supreme Court, we continue to await two huge abortion-related decisions from that Court. And everything is interrelated!

This e-mail provides 1) a **short recap** of the February 7th event; 2) an urgent **Grassroots Action Alert** pertaining to the hot topic in Tallahassee: legislation extending civil liability for the wrongful death of an unborn child; and 3) an invitation to join our **monthly online prayer gathering** this Tuesday, February 27th at 8:00 p.m.

[Recap of the February 7th Rally and Press Conference at the Florida Supreme Court](#)

Florida Voice for the Unborn estimates that there were over one-hundred (100) pro-life advocates present at the peak of our event. Thank you to all who were able to join us – and thank you to all those who prayed from afar during the very hour that the Florida Supreme Court was hearing the oral arguments on whether to disqualify the abortion industry’s misleading pro-abortion constitutional amendment from appearing on the November 2024 General Election ballot. **Under the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Court must hand-down a written decision by April 1st.**

Pro-abortion counter-demonstrators showed-up and initially tried to block us from holding the Pro-Life Rally on the steps of the Court. However, I did not back down an inch – and they relented and retreated to “their side” of the steps. We were then able to hold a fantastic Rally in support of our pro-life Attorney General Ashley Moody’s legal team and our conservative justices.

As the emcee, I opened the Rally in prayer and we prayed for all seven (7) justices by name. (Photo credit: Mitch Perry).



Students for Life Action’s Kristen Wayne, who brought a large contingent of pro-life students with her, was our first enthusiastic speaker! She was then followed by pro-life champion Rep. Webster Barnaby (R–District 29, Volusia County), who gave a rousing speech! You may view an excerpt of Rep. Barnaby’s speech via Florida’s Voice News by [CLICKING HERE!](#) (Photo credit: Mitch Perry).

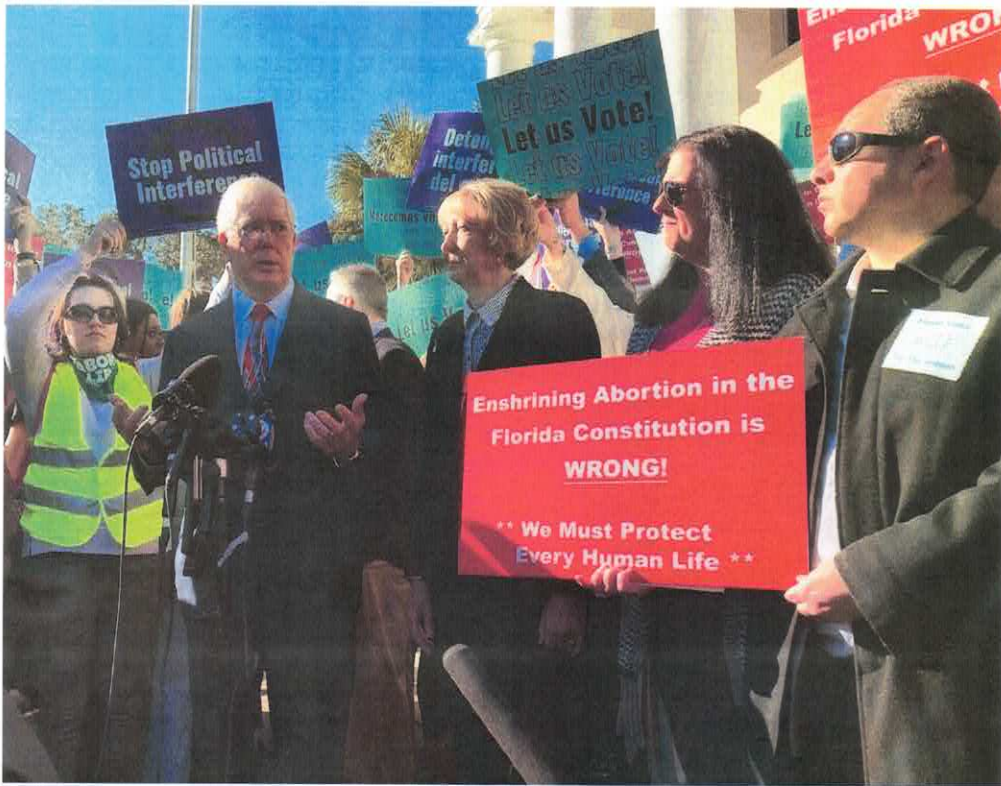


Our keynote speaker, nationally-known Frank Pavone, the founder and long-time leader of Priests for Life, did not disappoint in his outstanding motivational talk! Again, you may view an excerpt of Father's speech via Florida's Voice News by [CLICKING HERE!](#) (Photo credit: Florida's Voice News).



We then closed out this portion of the event with a communal prayer read by Trudy, the head of Family for LIFE, and prayer from Frank Pavone.

Then things started to get a little heated! The pro-abortion media outlets insisted on holding the Press Conference on the pro-abort side of the Court instead of using the middle area where they were first set-up. Despite the pro-abortion mob's antics (and they had not previously interrupted our Rally – since we, unlike them, had speakers and a powerful microphone), I was able to shepherd Liberty Counsel's Mat Staver before the cameras as well as Fr. Pavone. Mr. Staver had assisted Florida's Solicitor General in arguing the case before the Florida Supreme Court that very morning. (Photo credit: Mitch Perry).



By the time, Florida Voice for the Unborn's good friend, Anthony Verdugo, the head of the Christian Family Coalition Florida, spoke at the Press Conference, most of the pro-aborts had thankfully departed! (Photo credit: Christian Family Coalition Florida).



Before the Press Conference ended, I announced to the assembled media that **Florida Voice for the Unborn would be establishing its very own political committee to help take-on the proposed pro-abortion constitutional amendment** should the Florida Supreme Court permit it on the 2024 General Election ballot. I also stated that our anticipated political committee would allow **Florida Voice for the Unborn to make endorsements of political candidates** for the very first time in our organization's history! Florida Voice for the Unborn has not yet filed the paperwork for this committee, and more information about it will be provided to you all – our wonderful grassroots

supporters – later in March!

Following the Press Conference, we returned to the “pro-life side” of the Florida Supreme Court building and held part two of our Rally. This time, we were joined by pro-life stalwart Rep. Mike Beltran (R–District 70, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties), who had been inside the Court viewing the oral arguments that morning. Rep. Beltran gave us his keen legal insights and further encouraged us to continue our relentless advocacy efforts at the Capitol and beyond, for the sake of our unborn brothers and sisters. (Photo credit: Students for Life Action).



Fr. Pavone then once again closed us out in prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit's guidance! [Please note that Rep. Randy Fine (R–District 33, Brevard County) was unable to join us due to an unexpected conflict in his schedule].

At the Florida Supreme Court event, Florida Voice for the Unborn's volunteers handed out our Lobby Day sheets, which encouraged all in attendance to go

across the street to the Capitol to advocate for our priority legislation:

House Bill 1519 (Complete Protections for Unborn Children from Abortion)
House Bill 651 & Senate Bill 476 (Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child)

While **House Bill 1519** is technically still alive until it's officially declared dead on the last day of the Legislative Session, for all practical purposes it will not be passed this year. **Thank you to all who so actively engaged on this bill via our last Grassroots Action Alert on February 3rd and at our subsequent Lobby Day at the Capitol. Your faithful engagement will bear good fruit in the future.** I will have a thorough post-mortem on this legislation later in March.

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All in all, our February 7th Pro-Life Rally and Press Conference at the Florida Supreme Court was a resounding success!

Thank you to all ten (10) of the pro-life organizations that co-sponsored the February 7th event! The unity of purpose was very strong!

Attorney General Ashley Moody's Chief Deputy, John Guard, sent me an e-mail on the morning of February 7th, thanking Florida Voice for the Unborn, our grassroots supporters, and our coalition partners for all of our efforts that day! You may read Chief Deputy Attorney General Guard's e-mail via our website by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

You may also check-out all of the applicable media coverage of the event (as well as other articles, radio shows, and television appearances featuring Florida Voice for the Unborn's work since the start of 2024) by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

Please note that, as we await the Florida Supreme Court's decision on the proposed pro-abortion constitutional amendment, the relevant clearinghouse page on our website is now being referred to as "CodeRED Alert." This page, among other things, contains an archive of our Decline to Sign materials, further pictures from our February 7th event, and more! You may access it [HERE!](#)

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Finally, as referenced at the beginning of this e-mail message, the Florida Supreme Court also needs to issue its decision on the legality of the 15-Week Abortion Ban vis-à-vis the Florida Constitution's long-ago enacted privacy amendment. There is no timetable for the Court to issue this decision, which, if favorable, will trigger 2023's Heartbeat Protection Act and allow it to finally go into effect. However, I suspect that the Court may hand down this decision on the same day that it rules on the abortion industry's pending constitutional amendment ballot proposal. I further believe that both decisions are likely to be issued sometime after the Legislative Session concludes but before April 1st. We shall see soon!

As to how exactly the Florida Supreme Court will rule, and what the rationale will be for its decision(s) – at this point, I'm going to refrain from further speculation. We must continue to PRAY for the most favorable outcomes possible in both cases! It is truly in the LORD's hands!

URGENT Grassroots Action Alert: Senate Bill 476 & House Bill 651 (Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child)

These two life-affirming bills have yet to get over the finish line – and they might not make it due to fierce pro-abortion opposition, which has already resulted in this legislation being watered-down. And now there is another proposed amendment to the Senate bill, which would outrageously further weaken the legislation!

Senate Bill (SB) 476 and House Bill (HB) 651 would grant parents – both mothers and fathers – the right to recover civil damages for the wrongful death of their unborn child. Currently, Florida is only one of six (6) states that does not recognize a cause of action for the wrongful death of an unborn child. This legislation is a good step in the right direction in acknowledging that an unborn child, at all stages of development, should be treated no differently than any other person under Florida law.

When these bills were initially filed, they did not contain a precise definition of “unborn child.” That was the correct approach. However, under pressure from pro-abortion Democrat legislators and their RINO (Republican In Name Only) collaborators, the Senate version was amended to engraft into the bill the following definition of unborn child:

“The term ‘unborn child’ means a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.”

On February 16th, the day after SB 476 was amended, the Alabama Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling (which you likely may have heard of) interpreting that state’s Wrongful Death of a Minor Act to allow parents to recover civil damages for all unborn children, without limitation, including those unborn children frozen as embryos. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that way, in part, because there was no limitation in the text of Alabama’s Wrongful Death of a Minor Act that narrowly defined either “minor child” or “unborn child.”

In light of the Alabama court ruling, I testified before the House Judiciary Committee this past Wednesday, February 21st, against amending HB 651 to include the definition of “unborn child” now found in its Senate companion. Although the amendment, brought by the bill sponsor, Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R–Fort Myers), passed, my testimony caused a stir in light of the national conversation over the Alabama court ruling. Planned Parenthood has even sent out messages trying to fundraise off of my testimony!

But here’s the bottom line.

Just like non-abortifacient birth control, pro-lifers have different religious and moral views when it comes to practices like In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF). However, regardless of your views on IVF, I believe that the one thing all pro-lifers are – or should be – in agreement with is that once an embryo is created, it is indeed a human being and should be treated as such, with all the corresponding rights afforded to any other human being.

As I stated in my testimony this past Wednesday, and as reported by several media outlets, “There are hundreds of thousands of unborn children that are

frozen as embryos in this country including tens of thousands in Florida. We need to expand the definition [of unborn child]. This definition in the amendment is too narrow.”

Definitions in the law matter greatly. Recall the fight Florida Voice for the Unborn led in 2020 to amend SB 698 so that “human zygotes” (i.e. fertilized eggs) would not be unfairly lumped-in with “sperm” and “eggs” in that bill’s definition of “reproductive material.” For a refresher on that fight, check out an article I wrote about it, which can be found [HERE](#).

HB 651, containing the narrow definition of “unborn child,” is now headed to the House floor for debate and a possible vote before the end of the Legislative Session. Meanwhile, its Senate companion, SB 476, will go before its final committee of reference, the Senate Rules Committee, this Monday, February 26th.

Just yesterday, February 23rd, SB 476’s sponsor, pro-life champion Senator Erin Grall (R–Vero Beach), was forced to file an amendment to the bill that “clarifies” that parents cannot collect civil damages for the death of their unborn child if the death came about due to a legal abortion done “with the applicable standards of care.” This amendment was filed because the RINO Senate President, Kathleen Passidomo, will not currently permit the bill to proceed if such a “clarification” fails to be included. (Senator Grall had previously publicly stated, as did I in public testimony, that such a special carve-out for the abortion industry was unwarranted).

So, this is what we need to do. Since the bill sponsors are (sadly) not in control of their own legislation, we need to **relentlessly contact** the powers that be, i.e. **Senate President Passidomo (R–Naples) and House Speaker Paul Renner (R–Palm Coast)**, to ensure that appropriate changes are made.

The **phone numbers** for the Legislature’s leaders are as follows:

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo: **850-487-5028**

House Speaker Paul Renner: **850-717-5019**

The **e-mail addresses** (with *semicolons* separating them) for the Legislature’s leaders and their key aides, including their chiefs of staff, are as follows:

passidomo.kathleen@flsenate.gov; mackintosh.andrew@flsenate.gov;
betta.katherine@flsenate.gov; paul.renner@myfloridahouse.gov;
allison.carter@myfloridahouse.gov

The **e-mail addresses** (with *commas* separating them) for the Legislature’s leaders and their key aides, including their chiefs of staff, are as follows:

passidomo.kathleen@flsenate.gov, mackintosh.andrew@flsenate.gov,
betta.katherine@flsenate.gov, paul.renner@myfloridahouse.gov,
allison.carter@myfloridahouse.gov

Based on whatever works best with your own e-mail account, please cut and paste the addresses above into your “to” header in a separate message.

Don’t forget to include a subject matter, such as “Changes Needed to Unborn

Wrongful Death Legislation,” and include these simple talking points in the **body of the message** (and/or anything else you feel will be persuasive and appropriate):

Dear Senate President Passidomo and Speaker Renner:

I am a supporter of Florida Voice for the Unborn. I respectfully request that you ensure that the following changes to SB 476/HB 651 (Civil Liability for the Death of an Unborn Child) are made prior to final passage. First, please expand the definition of “unborn child” so that all parents can recover civil damages for the wrongful death of all unborn children, without limitation. Secondly, I ask that the final legislation not include any special carve-outs for the abortion industry. Such special treatment for abortionists is immoral, and makes it harder for the abortion industry to be held civilly accountable for wrongdoing.

Alternatively, you may click on each individual e-address above to send separate messages! If you'd like to, please feel free to Cc or Bcc my e-mail address when you send your message: andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com

Please note that I've double-checked all e-addresses and phone numbers. Occasionally, I may still make a mistake and an e-address or two might bounce back. If that happens (for whatever reason), do not worry – rather, be assured that you're still reaching the vast majority of the intended recipients.

You're Invited to Our Monthly Virtual Prayer Gathering This Tuesday, Feb. 27th at 8:00 p.m.

On Tuesday evening, Florida Voice for the Unborn will be hosting our monthly virtual prayer gathering via Zoom and telephone, **starting at 8:00 p.m. and ending no later than 8:30 p.m.** Since August 2023, we have held these crucial non-denominational Christian monthly online gatherings to ask for the LORD's favor and direction pertaining to our efforts to combat the proposed abortion-until-birth constitutional amendment. Each month, we have a different prayer theme.

Given the imminent Florida Supreme Court rulings, this month we are again inviting all of our supporters – whether you're on our separate prayer e-list or not – to participate. Here are the details:

Topic: Florida Voice for the Unborn's February 2024 "Virtual" Prayer Gathering

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Join this Tuesday's Zoom meeting by clicking the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6085734672?pwd=Z01MeHdYaFpVcFhCdXJQZnA1Y2paUT09&omn=84844893759>

Meeting ID: 608 573 4672
Passcode: cS0D2s

Alternatively, you may join Tuesday's meeting by dialing either 1-305-224-1968 or 1-386-347-5053.

Meeting ID: 608 573 4672
Passcode: 779650

Please note that if you have signed-up for Florida Voice for the Unborn's separate monthly prayer e-list, you will receive an e-mail reminder about the online prayer event on Monday. If you are not on our separate monthly prayer e-list and would like to join, please sign-up via our "CodeRED Alert" webpage by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

Thank you to all for your tremendous engagement, prayers, financial contributions and everything you do day-in and day-out for our unborn brothers and sisters!

To make a donation (either online or via the U.S. mail) in support of Florida Voice for the Unborn's ongoing efforts, please visit our website by [CLICKING HERE!](#)

P.S. Don't forget to leave those voicemails for, and send those e-mails to, Senate President Passidomo and Speaker Renner! They need to know we will NOT be silent – and that we expect them NOT to cower before the abortion industry.

P.P.S. If you're in the Tallahassee-area this Monday, February 26th, and would like to join me in testifying at the Senate Rules Committee hearing on SB 476, which starts at 2:00 p.m., please reply to this e-mail. We need pro-lifers there to testify to the truth!

Onward and upward, my fellow pro-life warriors!

For Their Lives,



Andrew Shirvell, J.D.
Founder & Executive Director
Florida Voice for the Unborn

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 X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Truth Social, and YouTube @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website [HERE](#).



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