

Help STOP Florida SB 698!

Florida Voice for the Unborn <Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com>

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To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Dear Friend of the Unborn,

This e-mail message provides an update regarding Florida Senate Bill 698 (Reproductive Health), which Florida Voice for the Unborn is opposing because it violates the dignity of human life in its embryonic stage. If you missed our 2-25-2020 "Embryo Defense Action Alert," which outlined the problems with this bill, you can read that e-mail on our website [HERE](#).

On Ash Wednesday, February 26th, Senate Bill 698 unanimously passed out of the Rules Committee – its final committee of reference. Once again, I testified against the bill during the committee hearing. This time, however, I was joined by a representative of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops who also expressed concerns about the treatment of embryos.

Following the Rules Committee's vote, the Senate leadership fast-tracked Senate Bill 698 by placing it on the Special Order Calendar for today. However, Florida Voice for the Unborn has been working behind the scenes.

As you may recall, this problematic bill is sponsored by pro-abortion state

Senator Lauren Book (D – Broward County). Senator Book was forced to file a floor amendment to the bill, which **eliminated** the requirement that patients enter into contracts with fertility clinics/donor banks before utilizing the services of said fertility clinics/donor banks. The contract requirements were highly problematic because they facilitated the destruction of embryos. Thus, the elimination of such requirements is a victory.

The other thing that Senator Book's floor amendment did was to change the definition of "reproductive material" by re-defining it as "any human 'egg' or 'sperm' as those terms are defined in s.742.13, or human zygote." The next line of the amendment then defines "zygote" as a "fertilized ovum."

Thus, Senator Book's floor amendment simply replaced the term "preembryo" with "zygote." Florida Voice for the Unborn's position is that a unique human being comes into existence at the moment of fertilization. Consequently, whether the bill calls that human being a "zygote" or a "preembryo" or an "embryo," it is, again, a distinction without a difference. 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." For further information about the term "zygote," [CLICK HERE](#).

As a result of Florida Voice for the Unborn's behind-the-scenes lobbying, pro-life stalwart Senator Dennis Baxley (R-Marion County) asked a series of questions of Senator Book this morning on the Senate floor regarding the bill's treatment of embryos. Senator Baxley was the only senator to ask any questions at all! Moreover, Senator Baxley's questions put Senator Book on the defense!

The floor amendment was adopted this morning, and Senate Bill 698 is now on its "third reading," which means that the full Senate can vote on it within the next day or two (which includes an opportunity for further debate).

Because Senate Bill 698 still violates the dignity of human life in its embryonic stage by incorporating "zygote" in the definition of "reproductive material," Florida Voice for the Unborn is asking you to contact key pro-life senators and ask them to oppose Senate Bill 698:

**Flagler, St. Johns, and northern Volusia County residents** contact YOUR senator, Travis Hutson (District 7): [Hutson.Travis@flsenate.gov](mailto:Hutson.Travis@flsenate.gov) or 850-487-5007.

**Sumter, Marion, and Lake County residents** contact YOUR senator, Dennis Baxley (District 12): [Baxley.Dennis@flsenate.gov](mailto:Baxley.Dennis@flsenate.gov) or 850-487-5012.

**Nassau and Duval County residents** contact YOUR senator, Aaron Bean (District 4): [Bean.Aaron@flsenate.gov](mailto:Bean.Aaron@flsenate.gov) or 850-487-5004.

**Lake and Polk County residents** contact YOUR senator, Kelli Stargel (District 22): [Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov](mailto:Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov) or 850-487-5022.

**\*\*Every Florida resident or non-resident** needs to contact Senate President Bill Galvano and request that he pull this deeply-flawed bill from further consideration on the Senate floor: [Galvano.Bill@flsenate.gov](mailto:Galvano.Bill@flsenate.gov) or 850-487-5021.

Please also feel free to contact all four pro-life senators whether or not you are a constituent of theirs. The more people they hear from, the better. And, feel free to forward this email around to all your pro-life contacts. If you were forwarded this e-mail by a friend, please sign-up for Florida Voice for the Unborn's "Grassroots Action Alerts" [HERE](#).

Your phone calls and e-mails make a huge difference! Florida Voice for the Unborn packs a punch way above its weight. Not only are other well-established pro-life groups following our lead on this issue, but we are the ones who have been moving the needle on Senate Bill 698!

**Please, if you like what we are doing here in Tallahassee, we need your financial support.** Could you make a sacrificial gift of \$10, \$20, or more this Lent? To donate online, please [CLICK HERE](#). To donate by mail, please send a check (made out to Florida Voice for the Unborn) to:

Florida Voice for the Unborn  
P.O. Box 12152  
Tallahassee, FL 32317

Together, let's continue to be a LOUD voice for the tiniest of our unborn brothers and sisters! Contact the senators above and register your opposition to Senate Bill 698 today!

For Their Lives,



Andrew Shirvell  
Founder & Executive Director  
Florida Voice for the Unborn



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