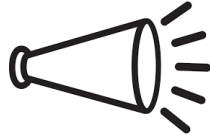


Florida Voice



For The Unborn

P.O. Box 12152 | Tallahassee, FL 32317

January 14, 2026

Prepared Remarks for Capitol Press Conference

Thank you members of the media, fellow grassroots pro-life leaders, and all supporters of Florida Voice for the Unborn gathered here this afternoon for this very, very important Press Conference to highlight an ongoing crisis here in the State of Florida, which is the shameful number of abortions that have continued to occur in our Sunshine State since the Heartbeat Protection Act went into effect on May 1, 2024. As I will go into further details today, that crisis is due largely to the lax oversight of the close to 50 abortion facilities in our state – a situation that is totally unacceptable where we have a pro-life Governor and a pro-life, Republican supermajority in both chambers of the Legislature.

My name is Andrew Shirvell, and I'm the founder and executive director of Florida Voice for the Unborn. Headquartered here in Tallahassee with thousands of grassroots pro-life supporters throughout the state, Florida Voice for the Unborn is a nonprofit corporation in existence since January 2020, which works to positively influence laws and regulations that affect, directly and indirectly, the lives of all preborn human beings, from the moment of conception onward. For the last six years, Florida Voice for the Unborn has been on the frontlines of many legislative battles, fighting to ensure that the Legislature and our Governor do everything possible to protect our unborn brothers and sisters.

I'm honored to be joined today by the leadership of Family for LIFE, one of our closest allies. Based in Jacksonville and heavily engaged in sidewalk counseling outside the city's abortion centers, Family for LIFE is a movement of Christians, united as one voice in the defense of the Unborn, acting *only* in a peaceful, prayerful, legal and loving manner.

This past fall, Florida Voice for the Unborn and Family for LIFE teamed up together once again – this time, to make the Legislature, the Governor’s office, and the state Attorney General’s office aware, or more aware, of the ineptness of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration when it comes to investigating violations of Florida’s abortion laws. This Agency is commonly known by its acronym “AHCA,” and it is the state agency charged under Florida statutes with regulating abortion centers, which includes licensing and inspecting facilities; collecting required data about abortions performed; and submitting an annual report to the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding all of the above.

In a November 17, 2025, joint memo addressed to Senate President Ben Albritton and House Speaker Daniel Perez, the head of Family for LIFE and I outlined our concerns about AHCA in detail, and requested that the Legislature take action to remedy the situation. This joint memo was cited in our January 7th press release, officially inviting the media to be present today. I also have hard copies with me for any reporters who would like one at the conclusion of this Press Conference.

As described in our joint memo, the crux of the problem is that, based on an independent analysis of the abortion numbers reported to AHCA from May through December, 2024, vis-à-vis the abortion numbers reported from May through December, 2023, it appears that most of our state's abortion facilities are continuing to perform abortions at a very high level, despite Florida's prohibition on most abortions after six-weeks' gestation. As we posit in the memo at page 3, "One likely explanation for the exceptional variance...is that the abortion providers are purposely underestimating or ignoring the actual gestation of the baby in-utero beyond the six-week limit as prescribed by law. Such purposeful acts would constitute clear violations of Florida's post-six-week abortion prohibition."

AHCA should be urgently and thoroughly investigating why the number of abortions in our state continue to be sky-high. That is why, in our joint memo, we requested that the Legislature shine a light on AHCA and recommended that the Legislature conduct one or more public hearings on this matter, at which AHCA officials could be questioned and other public testimony taken. We further advised that

such public hearings could be conducted separately or jointly by each legislative chamber through its regular committees or via a specially-created committee. That was on November 17th.

Now I'm going to detail the interactions and reactions we have received to our joint request.

First, starting with the Senate. Family for LIFE's leadership and I met with Senate President Albritton's Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Katie Betta, on November 17th. The meeting was very pleasant, and the Senate President's office seems to understand that there is a major problem going on. However, Ms. Betta indicated that the Senate President was interested in seeing the final 2025 abortion numbers before committing to any actions. Of course, we still don't have those numbers, and they will most likely not be released until February or later. Ms. Betta also seemed to think that investigating this matter was more suited to other governmental entities, such as the Attorney General's office. (Florida Voice for the Unborn disagrees). In an e-mail to me last evening, Ms. Betta reiterated those points, and to

date the Senate, sadly, has taken no action whatsoever to hold AHCA accountable.

Now, with respect to the House. On November 19, 2025, I met with Rep. Adam Anderson, the chairman of the House Health Care Facilities and Systems Subcommittee, which is the very subcommittee charged with oversight of AHCA. Prior to our meeting, Rep. Anderson had read our memo and was thoroughly prepared. He also agreed that there was clearly a problem with AHCA's oversight of the state's abortion facilities. He said that all options were on the table, including an oversight hearing and he promised me that he would discuss the memo with Speaker Perez. To date, however, and despite repeated inquiries, I have yet to hear back from Rep. Anderson as to what he and his subcommittee plan to do. Per the House's official schedule, I would note that Rep. Anderson's subcommittee was pre-allotted time to meet this very afternoon, but the subcommittee meeting was canceled. Rep. Anderson did want "breathing room," which we afforded him. But it's been nearly two months since we first met, and the time for an AHCA oversight hearing in the House is NOW!

As to Attorney General Uthmeier's office, it was presented with an electronic copy of our November 17th joint memo. Since that time, I have had numerous lengthy conversations with a senior member of the office, with the most recent conversation occurring yesterday. However, it seems that the main sticking point is that the Attorney General's office currently has limited jurisdiction with respect to what it can do with regard to criminal violations of Florida's abortion law. That is something that could easily be rectified by the Legislature with appropriate legislation, which is something that Florida Voice for the Unborn is working on.

Finally, regarding AHCA's reaction. Family for LIFE's leadership met with AHCA Secretary Shevaun Harris and several AHCA employees on the afternoon of November 17, 2025. During this meeting, they were given copies of our joint memo. Since that time, AHCA has been more responsive to Family for LIFE's requests for information and recommendations. In fact, after our grassroots Lobby Day event, which immediately follows this Press Conference, another meeting between Family for LIFE's leadership and AHCA officials will

occur late this afternoon. While we are encouraged by this limited progress, systemic problems of incompetence and/or malfeasance remain at AHCA. Grassroots pro-life advocates, from Fort Pierce to Lee County to just about every other corner of the state, have been frustrated with AHCA's general unresponsiveness to almost every matter brought to its attention regarding the Florida abortion industry. We want – and Florida's unborn children deserve – Florida's hard fought protections for life to be thoroughly enforced. The time for excuses for inaction – from all of our government officials – is over!

In particular, we have been greatly disappointed that Governor DeSantis, who controls AHCA, has been completely silent about this matter, which has also been brought to his attention via our November 17th joint memo. That is precisely why we are here today, renewing our call for the Legislature – both chambers – to step up and hold one or more oversight hearings. Our message to all parties is crystal clear, if you claim to be pro-life, that means acting pro-life all the time – not just at election time. We intend to be persistent until the main problem identified in our November 17th joint memo is satisfactorily resolved.