Florida Voice



For The Unborn

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Florida Voice for the Unborn Hails Today's Final Passage of Substantial Reforms to the Initiative Petition Process for State Constitutional Amendments

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For Immediate Release

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Executive Director Andrew Shirvell today issued the following statement regarding the final passage of <u>House Bill 1205</u>, which makes much needed changes to Florida's citizens' initiative petition process:

"On this last day of the annual, regular two-month Legislative Session in Tallahassee, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** is in a celebratory mood! Our top priority legislation – reform of the so-called citizens' initiative petition process for state constitutional amendments – has achieved final passage in the state Senate this afternoon, and is now headed to **Governor Ron DeSantis'** desk! Praise God!"

Shirvell continued, "As a grassroots pro-life lobbying organization <u>heavily involved</u> in last November's victory over the abortion industry's proposed pro-abortion Amendment 4, **Florida Voice for the Unborn** was at the forefront of this year's lengthy legislative battle to reform the initiative petition process."

Shirvell further remarked, "It was truly disgusting, but unsurprising, to learn of the overwhelming amount of <u>fraud and deception</u> that the abortion industry perpetrated in order to collect the requisite number of signatures from Florida voters for its ghoulish abortion-until-birth state constitutional amendment. That is what motivated **Florida Voice for the Unborn** to successfully advocate for meaningful changes to the initiative petition process."

Shirvell continued, "Florida Voice for the Unborn's relentless legislative advocacy included testifying before legislative committees, as well as holding meetings and communicating with key players in the Legislature. In particular, our <u>Grassroots Action Alerts</u>, helped to create enough

pressure on lawmakers to ensure the excellence of the final product. For example, our grassroots advocacy resulted in the exclusion of a <u>bad provision</u>, authored and inserted into the original Senate companion by **Senator Jennifer Bradley** (**R** – **Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Gilchrist, and Union Counties**), that would have prohibited the Executive branch from correcting misinformation about Florida law while a constitutional amendment campaign is ongoing."

Shirvell added, "The last three days of intense floor proceedings revolving around House Bill 1205, in both the Senate and the House, showed that the legislative process is <u>not</u> broken in Tallahassee. Florida Voice for the Unborn is grateful for veteran pro-life champions Senator Erin Grall (R – Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties) and Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R – Lee County), as well as highly-respected former Senate President Senator Don Gaetz, for doing an absolutely amazing job shepherding this critical legislation. We are also extremely thankful to House Speaker Daniel Perez (R – Miami-Dade County) and Senate President Ben Albritton (R – Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Lee, and Polk Counties) for their authentic leadership and for delivering on their promise to see this legislation passed by the end of the regular Session, i.e., today!"

Shirvell concluded, "Florida Voice for the Unborn believes the final version of House Bill 1205, which was significantly strengthened by the Senate this week with an outstanding floor amendment, is truly excellent, as evident by the fact that pro-abortion legislators have called weaker versions of the legislation the death knell of the initiative petition process for state constitutional amendments in Florida. Accordingly, Florida Voice for the Unborn requests that Governor DeSantis sign the initiative petition reform legislation into law as quickly as possible!"

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 at <u>FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com</u>.