



2HEARTBEATS

NEWS RELEASE

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AUSTIN, Texas, February 10, 2011 – Today, a coalition of elected officials and key pro-life groups held a news conference discussing Pro-Life Advocacy Day and the women's health efforts advanced by the sonogram bill, which Gov. Perry fast-tracked last month. Senate Bill 16, by Senator Dan Patrick, was passed yesterday by the Texas Senate State Affairs committee. In regards to the importance of sonogram legislation, the following officials offered these remarks:

"I'm proud of the historic steps that Texas has taken in recent years to advance a pro-family agenda and promote a culture that respects the sanctity of life," said Lt. Governor David Dewhurst. "This session, we will take another important step by passing sonogram legislation. By offering expectant mothers an opportunity to see their unborn child and explore the alternatives before making an irreversible decision they may deeply regret, Texans will not only be spreading hope; we will be saving lives."

"Outdated informed consent laws in Texas should be changed to reflect current technological advances in sonograms and related fields," said Sen. Dan Patrick (R-Houston). "Women should be given complete information about their pregnancies before making a life-changing choice regarding abortion."

"We must ensure that women in Texas receive all the medically relevant information available before choosing to abort their pregnancies," said Rep. Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria), who is carrying the companion bill to Senate Bill 16, in the Texas House. "Shielding them from having a sonogram before abortion is nothing short of blind-folding women and young girls by giving them inadequate information."

The sonogram bill ensures that medical professionals will perform a sonogram before an abortion is performed, which is the current standard of care, and ensure the woman is able to view a sonogram image, if she so chooses.

Pro-Life Advocacy Day is sponsored by Liberty Institute, Texas Alliance for Life, Trinity Legal, Texas Physicians Resource Council, Heidi Group, Concerned Women for America of Texas, Texas Eagle Forum, Heritage Alliance, and Life Advocates.

For more information, go to www.2heartbeats.net