

 **News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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Senator Patrick and Representative Miller Defend Right of Women and Unborn Children

Bill Authors File Amicus Brief in Lawsuit Against HB 15

**AUSTIN, Texas, November 4, 2011** – Today, on behalf of Texas Senator Dan Patrick and Texas Representative Sid Miller, Liberty Institute filed an amicus brief the in appeal of the preliminary injunction that put on hold key portions of Texas’ new sonogram law (HB 15). Senator Patrick and Representative Miller were the authors of HB 15 in the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, respectively. Liberty Institute argues that HB 15 is consistent with Supreme Court precedents and only requires the disclosure of truthful and accurate information to allow women to make informed decisions regarding their pregnancies.

"Liberty Institute has been an important partner in passing this legislation since I first filed it in 2007," said Senator Dan Patrick (R-Houston). "I hope our work will finally be allowed to help the women and unborn children of Texas. I am disappointed that we have to wait even one more day for the protections we passed this last legislative session. I hope the Fifth Circuit moves quickly to allow women to be fully informed before making this life altering decision."

HB 15, which requires doctors or certified sonographers to perform a sonogram on women seeking an abortion at least 24 hours before the procedure, was signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry on May 24, however, key portions of the law were struck down by U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks.

“Just as doctor gives medically-relevant explanation of his or her patient’s condition before even a minor procedure, an abortion provider should offer such information to women seeking abortions,” said Rep. Miller (R-Stephenville). “I’m hopeful that all of the sonogram bill will be upheld, so women can be fully informed.”

Read the legislators’ amicus brief in [Texas Medical Professionals Performing Abortion Services v. Lakey](http://texaslegislativeupdate.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/sonogram-brief.pdf).

Liberty Institute is a nonprofit legal and policy group dedicated to protecting freedoms and strengthening families. Visit [www.libertyinstitute.org](http://www.libertyinstitute.org) for more information.

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