

2025 Florida Family Voice Legislative Agenda

All bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective House and Senate webpages for those interested in even more information and detail.

Protecting Life

SUPPORT

1. The Unborn Child Parent's Survivor Act (Rep. Greco / Sen. Grall)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1517 / SB 1284</u>

Description: This bill allows parents to file civil lawsuits for the wrongful death of an unborn child. It recognizes an unborn child as a separate legal entity and extends legal protections to ensure accountability in cases of negligent or intentional harm. The legislation creates new avenues for parents to seek damages for emotional and financial loss resulting from the wrongful death of their unborn child, further humanizing the unborn in state statute.

Status: On Wednesday, the House version its final committee, Judiciary, 14-6 and now is heading to the House floor for a final vote shortly. Meanwhile, the Senate bill passed its first of three committees, 6-4.

2. Surrendered Infants Procedures and Baby Box Act (Rep. Cobb / Sen. McClain)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 791</u> / <u>SB 1690</u>

Description: This bill expands safe haven laws by extending the timeframe during which a newborn may be legally surrendered at designated locations, including innovative safe

drop-off options like baby boxes. It provides additional legal protections for parents who choose to safely surrender their infant, ensuring that the child receives prompt and appropriate medical care. The bill also streamlines and improves procedures for the placement and adoption of surrendered newborns.

Status: On Thursday, the House version was presented for the first time on the full House floor by Rep. Nan Cobb and passed unanimously. On Tuesday, the Senate version passed its second committee, 8-3 and is now scheduled for its final committee hearing in Rules next Tuesday.

3. Fetal Development Educational Awareness Act (Rep. Trabulsy / Sen. Calatayud)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1255</u> / (<u>SB 1618</u> pending amendment)

Description: This bill revises several education policies—including scholarship programs, teacher qualifications, and curriculum standards—to safeguard students and promote a positive learning environment. Most importantly, the House version, which we fully support, mandates that public schools provide comprehensive fetal development training (pending parental consent) through age-appropriate educational videos designed to show students how the unborn baby grows in the womb. We will be advocating for the Senate bill to be amended accordingly to match the House version. This proposal is another step in building respect for the sanctity of human life in the next generation.

Status: On Tuesday, the House version passed its second committee, PreK-12 Budget, 12-1 and is awaiting its final stop. The Senate version, which does not currently contain the Fetal Development Education language, is scheduled for its final committee hearing next Tuesday. We are working behind the scenes to advocate for the House language which does include the Fetal Development Education language.

4. Stem Cell Therapy Regulations Act (Rep. Buchanan / Sen. Trumbull)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1617</u> / <u>SB 1768</u>

Description: This bill establishes strict, ethical guidelines for stem cell therapies in Florida that align with pro-life principles by ensuring that all treatments respect the sanctity of human life. It prohibits the use of unregulated or non–FDA-approved treatments— particularly those involving embryonic stem cells—in favor of legitimate research into adult stem cell therapies. The legislation includes robust oversight measures to prevent fraudulent practices in regenerative medicine, ensuring that scientific advancements do not come at the expense of human life. Overall, it aims to promote ethical, science-based innovations in stem cell therapy while steadfastly protecting patients and upholding pro-life values.

Status: On Tuesday, the Senate version passed its first of three committees, Health Policy, unanimously, while on Thursday, the House version passed its first of three committees, also unanimously.

Culture and Government Reforms

SUPPORT

1. The Government Flag Reform Act (Rep. Borrero / Sen. Fine)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 75 / SB 100</u>

Description: This bill establishes guidelines on which flags may be displayed by governmental entities in Florida. It ensures that only official national, state, and municipal flags may be flown at government buildings, preventing the display of politically divisive or ideological flags, including pride flags.

Status: The Senate version is slated for its final committee hearing next Tuesday, while the House version has yet to be heard.

2. The Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments Reform Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka / Sen. Gaetz)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1205 / SB 7016</u>

Description: This bill increases regulations on the process of amending the state constitution via citizen-led ballot initiatives. It establishes stricter signature verification procedures, limits petition circulator activities, and enhances transparency requirements. The legislation aims to prevent out-of-state influence and ensure that constitutional amendments reflect the will of Florida residents. The bill strengthens the integrity of the amendment process by reducing potential fraud and outside manipulation.

Status: On Thursday, the House version was heard from the first time on the House floor. Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka, the bill's sponsor, did a fantastic job to defend the legislation through hours of questions, amendments, and debate from opponents. The bill passed 76-31 and has been sent to the Senate. We are in strong support of the House proposal!

As for the Senate version, it has been scheduled for its final hearing next Tuesday in its final committee. We remain concerned about the adopted amendment that would prohibit the governor or any state agencies from spending state resources to regarding

ballot initiatives. While on the surface this sounds innocent, the wording of the language potentially prohibits any current or future governor and state agencies from providing public service announcements educating the public against falsehoods or misinformation being perpetrated by out of state funded PACs in a ballot campaign, such as Gov. DeSantis did against the lies and deceptive ads in the battles over Amendment 3 on recreational marijuana and Amendment 4 on abortion on demand. We are very in strong support of the House language which strikes a proper balance by prohibiting tax dollars from being used in campaigns, while still allowing elected officials and state agencies from correcting misinformation and promoting state laws and services, regardless of whether they indirectly relate to the ballot initiative.

Faith Initiatives

SUPPORT

1. Office of Faith and Community Act (Rep. Bankson / Sen. Yarborough)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 293</u> / <u>SB 820</u>

Description: This bill will codify the Gov. DeSantis-created Office of Faith and Community within the Executive Office of the Governor. This office exists to foster collaboration between faith-based organizations and state agencies. Recognizing the role of faith-based groups in addressing needs and providing essential services, the office has worked tirelessly to remove bureaucratic obstacles that often prevent religious organizations from serving the most vulnerable in our state. Additionally, it assigns a dedicated liaison to assist these organizations in accessing available state resources. This legislation will make this office a permanent division within the Governor's office.

Status: The House version is awaiting its second committee, while on Tuesday, the Senate version passed its first of three committees, Governmental Oversight, 6-1.

2. The Hope Florida Program Act (Rep. Gerwig / Sen. Burgess)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1327</u> / <u>SB 1144</u>

Description: The Hope Florida Program Act is codifying into law yet another initiative that First Lady Casey DeSantis has been pursuing, designed to expand the state's initiative by connecting families in need with community-based support rather than relying solely on government intervention. The act establishes "Hope Navigators" who offer personalized assistance, linking individuals to a network of nonprofits, churches, and ministries that can help meet their needs. It emphasizes the importance of public–private partnerships by streamlining access to resources like employment opportunities and essential services. By leveraging the expertise and reach of community organizations, the bill aims to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and create a more responsive, grassroots support system. Ultimately, the legislation seeks to empower local groups to address community challenges directly while minimizing the role of government in the service delivery.

Status: On Tuesday, the House version passed its first of three committees, Human Services, unanimously, while later that day, the Senate version also passed its first of three committees, Governmental Oversight, 6-1.

3. Protecting Faith-based Content in BIP Counseling Programs Act (Rep. Blanco / Sen. Rodriguez)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 391</u> / <u>SB 894</u>

Description: This bill allows for the inclusion of faith-based content in state-approved batterers' intervention programs. Recently, due to the actions of certain career bureaucrats with the Department of Children and Families, these BIP intervention programs were limited to secular organizations and content, limiting the resources available for individuals seeking rehabilitation to choose from. This action ultimately barred several longtime faithbased providers, even though many of those faith-based programs had shown tremendous success with record low recidivism rates. This legislation amends existing statutes to ensure that faith-based counseling is a recognized and permitted component of these programs.

Status: On Tuesday, the House version passed its first committee unanimously, while the Senate version has passed one committee thus far.

Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Safety

SUPPORT

1. Protecting Minors from Obscenity in Education Act (Rep. Bankson / Sen. McClain)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1539</u> / <u>SB 1692</u>

Description: This proposal strengthens restrictions on sexually explicit materials in Florida educational settings by replacing the Miller test, which historically dealt with adult obscenity laws and was not originally intended for content meant for children, with a more rigorous, child-focused standard of obscenity. This will ensure that sexually graphic and even pornographic are now subject to stricter scrutiny. The bill establishes harsher penalties for individuals and businesses that provide minors with access to such harmful content and also enhances parental rights by requiring increased transparency in school

libraries and public venues regarding age-appropriate material. By shifting the focus away from the Miller test, this legislation aims to better safeguard children from exposure to explicit material that could be detrimental to their well-being.

Status: On Wednesday, the House version passed its first committee, Education Administration, 13-4, while the Senate version has passed one committee.

2. Parental Rights in Education and Healthcare Act (Rep. Plakon / Sen. Grall)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1505</u> / <u>SB 1288</u>

Description: This bill reinforces and expands parental rights in education, healthcare, and decision-making for minor children by addressing current restrictions that prevent parents from accessing records for children over the age of 13. It mandates that schools notify parents of any changes in their child's medical records and prohibits the use of bio machine systems on minors without parent consent. Additionally, the legislation strengthens parental consent requirements for medical treatments and school surveys, ensuring that parents remain fully informed and involved in decisions affecting their children.

Status: On Monday, the House bill passed its first committee, Health and Human Services Committee, 19-7. Meanwhile, the Senate version passed its second of three committees, the Judiciary Committee, on Tuesday, 8-3.

3. Private Messaging Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Salzman / Sen. Ingoglia)

Bill Numbers: HB 743 / SB 868

Description: This bill places stricter regulations on minors' access to social media platforms to protect children from harmful content and online exploitation. It requires social media companies to implement stronger age-verification processes and parental controls. The legislation also imposes penalties on platforms that fail to enforce these protections, ensuring accountability in safeguarding minors.

Status: The House version is awaiting its final committee stop, while on Tuesday, the Senate bill passed its second committee, 9-2 with one last committee remaining.

Education Reform

SUPPORT

1. The Religious Freedom Education and Classroom Act (Rep. Daniels / Sen. Rodriguez)

Bill Numbers: <u>HB 1009</u> / <u>SB 1504</u>

Description: This bill protects the right of students and faculty in K-12 schools to express their religious beliefs without facing discrimination. It requires school districts to allow religious discussions, the inclusion of faith-based perspectives in assignments, and equal access to school resources for religious clubs. Students and staff are allowed to participate in prayer and religious activities, provided they do not conflict with instructional time or responsibilities. Additionally, the bill mandates that the phrase 'In God We Trust' be prominently displayed in public schools and that students and staff be made aware of their religious expression rights and related school policies.

Status: On Wednesday, the House version passed its first committee 17-1, while the Senate bill is still pending.

2. Video Camera Public School Security Act (Rep. Chambliss / Sen. Calatayud)

Bill Numbers: HB 257 / SB 1006

Description: This bill mandates the installation, with certain exceptions, of video cameras in self contained public school classrooms to enhance safety and accountability. It allows for recorded footage to be reviewed in cases of alleged abuse, misconduct, or disciplinary disputes involving students and staff. The legislation ensures that privacy protections are in place while providing parents and school administrators with greater oversight. The goal is to improve student protection and maintain a transparent educational environment.

Status: On Tuesday, the House version passed its second committee unanimously, while the Senate version is still pending.