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Week 2 – 2024 Florida Legislative Session

Bills that we are advocating for or against.

Protecting Life

SUPPORT

1. The Unborn Child Parent's Survivor Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka/Sen. Grall) [HB 651/SB 476](#)

Description: This legislation adds an unborn's child's parents to the definition of survivor in wrongful death civil lawsuits, further humanizing the unborn baby in state statute.

Status: The Senate version has not moved yet. On Thursday, the House version passed the first of two committees, the Civil Justice Subcommittee, 12-5, and heads to its final committee.

2. Adoptive Parent Registry Act (Rep. Abbott/Sen. Harrell) [HB 327/SB 306](#)

Description: This bill seeks to create a potential adoption registry of prospective parents who have been vetted properly and are awaiting adoption opportunities for newborn babies surrendered for adoption. The goal of the legislation is to create a streamlined process for the adoption process, in addition to reducing the cost of the adoption process.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

3. Surrendered Infants Protection Act (Rep. Canady/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 775/SB 790](#)

Description: This expands the window that allows for new mothers to give up their newborn babies and to surrender parental rights to enable the child to be adopted, as well as the list of individuals and locations that the babies can be left with.

Status: The House version has passed its first committee stop unanimously with one committee stop remaining. The Senate version passed its first hearing in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 7-1, and now heads to the second of three stops.

4. Pregnancy and Parenting Online Resources Act (Rep. Jacques/Sen. Grall) [HB 415/SB 436](#)

Description: This bill mandates several state agencies create an online portal listing links to numerous public and private pregnancy and parenting resources for new parents, including mothers with unplanned pregnancy. Resources linked will include adoption services, maternal health services, social support and other pregnancy-related resources to help provide support for new parents including mothers in unplanned pregnancies.

Status: The House version passed its first committee unanimously previously, while the Senate version has been scheduled for its first hearing in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, January 23rd at 1:00 pm in Room 412 in the Knott Building!

5. Financial Support for Pregnant Survivors of Rape or Assault Act (Rep. J. Lopez/Sen. Stewart) [HB 717/SB 1268](#)

Description: This proposal provides women who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest – who choose life for their babies – will be exempt from select college tuition and education fees and will qualify for state grants to cover childcare while pursuing their education.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

6. Lewd or Lascivious Grooming Act (Rep. Yarkosky/Sen. Martin) [HB 1135/SB 1238](#)

Description: This proposal states that a person who engages in the process of preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity through overtly sexually themed communication with the child or in conduct with or observed by the child for the purpose of encouraging the children to participate in unlawful sexual behavior commits lewd or lascivious grooming and will subject to criminal charges.

Status: On Friday, **HB 1135**, passed the Criminal Justice Subcommittee, 15-2, and is now heading to its second stop. The Senate version has yet to move.

OPPOSE

1. End of Life Act (Rep. Campbell/Sen. Torres) [HB 561/SB 1642](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to legalize physician assisted suicide in the state of Florida.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

2. Pregnancy Care Center Targeting Act (Rep. Skidmore/Sen. Book) [HB 343/SB 256](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to target Florida's pregnancy care centers with additional regulations. This type of legislation has been used in other states to force prolife pregnancy resource centers out of operation, placing speech restrictions and other onerous examination regulations and restriction on them, based on false and slanderous allegations against prolife pregnancy centers.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

3. Pregnancy Care Center Targeting Act (Rep. Driskell/Sen. Berman) [HB 1457/SB 1450](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to legalize abortion up until the second trimester. In addition, it allows women seeking an abortion to sue for financial damages anyone that they perceive to be inhibiting their access to abortion.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

Gender and Sexuality

SUPPORT

1. Workplace Biological Sex Freedom Act (Rep. Chamberlin/Sen. Martin) [HB 599/SB 1382](#)

Description: This bill protects employees & contractors from being penalized or punished for not participating in preferred pronoun designation on the basis of deeply held religious or biology-based beliefs. Additionally, nonprofit and corporations receiving government funding are prohibited from mandating LGBT diversity training to their employees, as a condition of employment.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

2. Single Sex Student Club Protection Act (Rep. Pittman/Sen. Brodeur) [HB 1027/SB 1728](#)

Description: This legislation protects college school clubs that are exclusively male or female from being punished or discriminated against by school administrations and ensures that their rights are respected and that they are treated equally as all other school clubs at their respective colleges and universities.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

3. Anti-Human Trafficking Minimum Age for Adult Entertainment Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 1379/SB 1690](#)

Description: This provision seeks to curb the sexual exploitation of young women by restricting adult entertainment strip clubs, entities that are often used to groom young women into sex trafficking, from hiring any employees under 21.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

4. Defending Biological Sex in Healthcare Act (Rep. Bankson) [HB 1639](#)

Description: The bill requires that any healthcare insurance providers that cover gender-reassignment chemical and surgical procedures must also cover procedures to detransition back to one's biological sex. It also mandates that insurance providers must offer insurance plans that do not cover transgender chemical and surgical procedures and are forbidden from denying counseling and mental healthcare services meant to help individuals struggling with gender identity reaffirm and embrace their biological sex.

Status: The House bill has been scheduled for its first hearing in the House Select Committee on Health Innovation on Monday, January 22nd at 3:00 pm in Room 17 in the House Office Building!

5. Prostitution and Human Trafficking Enforcement Act (Rep. Silvers/Sen. Grall) [HB 1385/SB 1590](#)

Description: This proposal strengthens anti-human trafficking laws by prohibiting adults from offering to commit, committing, or engaging in prostitution and related acts; prohibiting the owning, establishing, maintaining, operating, using, letting, or renting of any building, or structure of any kind, with knowledge or reckless disregard that it will be used for the purpose of commercial sex; and prohibiting the receiving, or offering or agreeing to receive or allow a person to remain into a location for the purpose of commercial sexual activity. The house and senate versions do differ; we strongly support and prefer the Senate language.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

6. Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Stewart) [HB 607/SB 764](#)

Description: This bill establishes, that in cases where a victim is unwilling or scared to press charges, that minimum timeframes must be set for keeping that specified sexual offense evidence to be used in future cases when victims are willing to call out criminals. It also requires specified protocols for storing that sexual offense evidence for security and consistency.

Status: The House version is awaiting a hearing in the final of three committees, while the Senate version also previously passed its first of three committees unanimously.

OPPOSE

1. Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses Act (Rep. Harris/Sen. Book) [HB 137/SB 156](#)

Description: This act would seek to add sexual orientation and gender identity as recognized categories in criminal defense law. The categories of sexual orientation and gender identity are subjective, undefinable, and legally fluid and have been repeatedly rejected by the Florida legislature in other areas of law. This bill could also be precedent for future attempts to criminalize any opposition to the LGBT movement in the future.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

2. Marriages Between Persons of the Same Sex Act (Rep. Basabe/Sen. Polsky) [HB 169/SB 160](#)

Description: This provision aims to repeal the language in state statute recognizing marriage as between one man and one woman.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Safety

SUPPORT

1. Porn Age Verification Act (Rep. Tramont/Sen. Grall) [HB 3/SB 1792](#)

Description: This legislation seeks to protect minors from blatant pornographic and sexually explicit content online, by requiring comprehensive age verification for access to adult sex and pornographic websites and apps, with significant penalties for the corporations pushing this dangerous content on minors.

Status: The House version passed its final committee unanimously and heads to the full House floor for a final vote next week, while the Senate version awaits its first hearing.

2. Smartphone Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Salzman/Sen. Ingoglia) [HB 1129/SB 1196](#)

Description: This act requires manufacturers of tablets or smartphones to manufacture such devices so that pornographic and sexually explicit content filters are installed on all devices, with encrypted passwords provided only to adult users. Penalties will be served against manufacturers who violate this provision and for any individual, other than the child's parent, who deactivates and removes the filter from the minor's phone.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

3. Social Media Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Rayner/Sen. Book) [HB 207/SB 1430](#)

Description: This legislation mandates that social media platforms post extensive disclaimers outlining the dangers of social media. In addition, it forbids Florida school districts from requiring students to have and use social media to participate in school educational activities.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

4. School Chaplain Act (Rep. McClain/Sen. Grall) [HB 931/SB 1044](#)

Description: This provision authorizes school districts & charter schools to adopt policies to allow volunteer school chaplains and requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to assign specified duties and roles within the school district to those volunteer school chaplains.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

5. Offenses Involving Children Act (Rep. Baker/Sen. Collins) [HB 305/SB 312](#)

Description: This proposal closes a loophole in state law to ensure proper protections for minors from dangerous criminals, and that those criminals are properly charged and designated as sexual predators.

Status: The House version passed the full House floor 115-0 on Thursday and now heads to the Senate! The Senate version also previously passed its first of three committees..

6. Lewd or Lascivious Grooming Act (Rep. Yarkosky/Sen. Martin) [HB 1135/SB 1238](#)

Description: This proposal states that a person who engages in the process of preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity through overtly sexually themed communication with the child or in conduct with or observed by the child commits lewd or lascivious grooming and will be subject to criminal charges. This would include the sexualization of minors in public schools through sexually explicit teaching and discussions in the schools by school personnel.

Status: On Friday, **HB 1135**, passed the Criminal Justice Subcommittee, 13-5, and is now heading to its second stop. The Senate version has yet to move.

7. Child Maintenance Restitution Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Burgess) [HB 79/SB 116](#)

Description: This act authorizes courts to order defendants to pay child maintenance restitution to the surviving parent or guardian of a minor under certain conditions where the defendant caused the death of a parent of the child. In addition to serving any other criminal penalties, this proposal provides justice and financial restitution to support children who have experienced the horrible loss of one or more parents because of the wrongful actions of others.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

8. Child Protection Investigation Reform Act (Rep. Fabricio/Sen. Grall) [HB 1663/SB 1722](#)

Description: This legislation prohibits the initiation of a child protective investigation or removal of a child from his or her residence solely based on a parent's religious beliefs or ideology. It also adds transparency and accountability for such investigations, so the accused parents know clearly what charges are being leveled against them. Additionally, parents choosing not to pursue gender reassignment procedures and instead choose to reaffirm their child's biological sex cannot be considered abusive parents by the state.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

Medical Freedom

SUPPORT

1. Public Health Emergency Actions Act (Rep. Rudman/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 459/SB 402](#)

Description: These ordinances seek to restrict the power of the executive branch to declare public health emergencies and add checks and balances by requiring the legislature to approve extended public health emergency declarations. The proposals aim to avoid the massive shutdowns on churches, businesses, and other establishments, and to protect individuals from being forced to violate their moral, religious, or health convictions regarding government treatment plans in a public health emergency.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.

2. Protection of Medical Freedom Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Gruters) [HB 1535/SB 680](#)

Description: These bills prohibit (1) the Department of Health from requiring enrollment in the state's immunization registry or otherwise requiring persons to submit to immunization tracking; (2) business entities from requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination to do business with them; (3) employers from demanding an employee's vaccination status as a condition of employment; and (4) the Department of Health from requiring, as a school-entry requirement, that children receive immunizations approved only for emergency use.

Status: Neither bill has moved yet.