



The Florida House of Representatives

Paul Renner
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Landmark Legislation to Protect Life Passes First House Committee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 16, 2023) — Today, Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) joined Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee Chair Chuck Clemons (R-Newberry) and bill sponsor Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R-Fort Myers) to celebrate the passage of House Bill 7 through the bill's first committee stop. HB 7 will save the lives of tens of thousands of babies each year and expand the Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program (FPSSP) to provide counseling and supportive services to Florida's mothers.

"Our ability to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness began with life. We must defend the right to life for thousands of boys and girls who deserve to experience life, find love, and enrich the lives of others," said Speaker Renner. "On behalf of the thousands of babies that will be born and thousands of mothers that will be helped each year because of this legislation, thank you, Representative Persons-Mulicka for carrying this bill."

"This bill is about protecting and valuing the life of all our unborn children, but it's also about how we can best support our mothers," said Representative Persons-Mulicka. "We've done great work to ensure that there's access to quality health care for expectant mothers and for family and children in our state. Thank you, Speaker Renner, for giving me this opportunity to save lives and provide much needed care for Florida mothers."

"In Florida, we will protect innocent life, and House Bill 7 will institute significant protections over our most vulnerable Floridians," said Chair Clemons. "The Florida Legislature will continue to protect life and provide expecting and new mothers with additional resources to support them through and after their pregnancies."

HB 7 / Pregnancy and Parenting Support legislation will save lives and help Florida mothers:

- The following provisions of the bill are subject to a triggering effect that changes Florida's jurisprudence on the privacy clause in the State Constitution:
 - The bill limits abortions after 6 weeks' gestational age, instead of the current 15-week limit.
 - It maintains the current exceptions for maternal life and health, and for cases of fatal fetal anomalies.
 - It provides an exception in cases of rape and incest, up to 15 weeks.
 - The bill requires abortion-inducing drugs to be dispensed in-person by a physician. The bill expressly prohibits the use of telehealth for abortions, including medication abortions.
 - The bill prohibits the use of state funds to pay for the travel out-of-state to obtain an abortion.
- The following provisions take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature:
 - Expands eligibility for pregnancy support services to include families who have adopted children under age three.
 - Expands the program to include more services

For more information on House Bill 7, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov

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