

2017 FL House Bills (as of 3.17.17)

Abortion and Medical Bills

OPPOSE HB 19 - Liability for Termination of Pregnancies Grall

A physician who performs abortion is liable for any damages suffered by the woman for physical injuries or emotional distress caused by the physician's negligence or failure to obtain the informed consent required.

The signing of the consent form by the woman does not negate the cause of action. An action for damages shall be commenced within 4 years of abortion, in the case of a minor having abortion, 10 years is the limit to submit damages.

Damages that are recoverable: negligence, survival, wrongful death.

*FLNOW is **against** this bill as it opens the door to the threat to doctors practicing medicine and patients claiming they have been injured from an abortion years after the termination.*

OPPOSE HB 101 - Certificates of Nonviable Birth Cortes, B (SB 672 Similar)

HB 103 - Public Records / Nonviable Birth Records Cortes, B (SB 674 Similar)

"Nonviable Birth" is defined as a spontaneous birth of a dead fetus aged between 9 weeks to 20 weeks. This is usually known as a miscarriage. HB 101 creates an electronic certification of the "non viable birth" which becomes public record if the "parents" request it from the doctor after a miscarriage.. The certificate asks for parents' name, fetus name and gender.

HB 103 provides the creation of this certificate that is filed with FL Department of Health and is a public record, if HB 103 passes, the public record becomes confidential.

The persons who can ask for the certificate are defined as "parents".

FLNOW feels that the only person able to get this certificate or request it is the woman who had the miscarriage. We are concerned about a pregnant woman's privacy, especially if there is an abuse situation .

How does the man prove he is the "parent"? Using the word "parent" is distasteful, there was no "parenting" for a bad pregnancy. The bill also assumes that the "parents" have the same last name.

***FLNOW still opposes this bill**, it provides for a woman to still have her miscarriage public record. Why does the state of FL need medical information in public records. The companion bill HB 103 claims that these records are confidential and can only be picked up by the "parents". How can you prove parental rights for a miscarriage?*

OPPOSE HB 203 - Termination of Pregnancy Gruters, Hahnfeldt, Fischer, Massullo, Ponder (HB 215, SB 348, SB 342)

Florida Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Prohibits abortion of an fetus capable of feeling pain. Requires the physician to use an abortion method which produces a live birth.

A special revenue account known as the Florida Pain-Capable Unborn Child Act Litigation Account, consisting of appropriations made by the Legislature and private donations, gifts or grants.

*FLNOW is **opposed** to this bill, as it prohibits abortion when the bill determines that fetus" feels pain or reacts to touch. In the bill, the reaction to touch is 8 weeks, feeling pain is 16 weeks and nerves link by 20 weeks. The language is scary, an abortion can only be performed if "fetus" survives. There is no scientific evidence of pain "felt" by fetus.*

SUPPORT HB 669 – Parking Spaces for Expectant Mothers Moskowitz (SB 650)

Parking lots with at least 100 spaces should have at least 1 spot for expectant mothers near the disability spaces.

*FLNOW **supports** this bill.*

OPPOSE HB 841 – Humanity of the Unborn Child Gonzalez, Julio (SB 1006)

This legislation outlines specific requirements of the Department of Health to create materials that would promote anti-abortion propaganda. It also requires that the following statement be posted in various health facilities and post-secondary public schools: "Only you can give your unborn child a chance to live a beautiful and productive life. That state of Florida urges you to help promote your child's right to live. There are public and private agencies willing and able to help you carry your child to term and assist you and your child after your child is born, whether you choose to keep your child or to place him or her for adoption. The state of Florida strongly urges you to contact them if you are pregnant and in need of assistance."

The legislation also requires the Department of Education to create an instructional program for public school students regarding the "humanity of the unborn child". It also allows for school districts to incorporate this instruction in their curriculum, prohibiting such program from including any component of human sexuality education.

*FLNOW **opposes** this bill. The promotion of anti-abortion propaganda by the Department of Health and Department of Education is inappropriate. Pregnant women should be given scientific facts and be allowed to make their decision about whether to terminate or continue their pregnancy without interference of government lies.*

OPPOSE HB 969 – Pregnancy Support Services (SB 1130)

Attempts to establish "Pregnancy Support Services" (also referred to as Crisis Pregnancy Centers or CPCs) as legitimate wellness centers and appropriate state funding to support and promote child birth. For years, CPCs have been receiving state funding with zero oversight. This legislation establishes regulation and guidelines, but does not include contraception or information about safe sex. *FLNOW **opposes** this bill as it stands now. While we support regulating entities that receive state funds, the history of CPC's has not included medically accurate information and these centers should include contraception information.*

SUPPORT HB 6025 – Reproductive Issues (HB 923, SB 1114)

A bill to repeal the unconstitutional TRAP bill that was passed last year and later ruled unconstitutional.

FLNOW supports this bill. The TRAP bills should have never have been written and passed. We are grateful when the courts step in and stop the legislators from turning lies into laws.

Tax Bills

SUPPORT HB 63 – Tax Exemption for Feminine Hygiene Products Edwards, Berman, Duran, McGhee, Plasencia **(SB 176 Similar)**

The sale of a feminine hygiene product is exempt from tax. Term “feminine hygiene product is a product used to absorb or contain menstrual flow, including, but not limited to, tampons, sanitary napkins, pant liners, and menstrual cups.

FLNOW supports this bill.

SUPPORT HB 71 – Tax Exemption Personal Hygiene Products Cruz, Berman **(SB 252 Similar)**

Sale of diapers (baby and adult) and pads for incontinence, and wipes would be tax exempt.

FLNOW supports this bill.

Alimony

OPPOSE HB 283 – Alimony Burton **(SB 412)**

This bill lays out all types of circumstances of alimony, who gets it, number of years of marriage, dictations of child custody and other restrictions.

*FLNOW is **opposed** to this bill because it dictates certain terms for all divorces. We feel that a task force should be appointed to study alimony in Florida before these type of alimony bills are introduced.*

Equal Pay and Minimum Wage

SUPPORT HB 319 – Discrimination in Labor and Employment Berman, Cruz **(SB 410)**

Creates “Helen Gordon Fair Pay Protection Act. (Equal Pay for Equal Work)

FLNOW supports this bill.

SUPPORT HCR 109 – Equal Rights for Men and Women Baez, Berman, Duran, Gellar, Jenne, Smith **(SCR 194)**

*FLNOW supports this bill but **questions** this bill as why the order is for men first. Also “gender identity” should be included.*

SUPPORT B 160 – Minimum Wage Rodriguez

Adjust and raise the minimum wage

FLNOW supports this bill

LGBTQ Issues

SUPPORT HB 623 - Prohibited Discrimination Diamond, Plasencia (SB 666)

Provides sexual orientation & gender identity to be added to non discrimination in public lodging and public food service establishments. Creating the “Florida Competitive Workforce Act”. Adding sexual orientation & gender identity to Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992.

FLNOW supports this bill.

SUPPORT HB 273 (SB 578) Banning Conversion Therapy

Conversion Therapy is fraudulent, dangerous, and inflicts immeasurable harm on its victims. Senator Jeff Clemens and Representative David Richardson for introducing a statewide ban on the practice.

OPPOSE HB 17 (SB 1158) – Local Regulation Preemption

A local government cannot impose or adopt regulations if it is not a general (state) law. Local regulations cannot be enforced if they are not state law.

FLNOW opposes this bill. Local government may protect civil rights encompassing LGBTQ, immigration, family leave, minimum wage issues whereas the state may not. If passed, HB 17 would set an expiration date for existing Human Rights Ordinances (HROs) now protect 60% of Floridians in employment, housing and public accommodations.

OPPOSE HB 303 / SB 436 Religious Expression in Schools

Allows students to wear jewelry displaying religious messages, organize prayer groups, religious clubs, using school facilities for religious purposes. Students may express religious beliefs in coursework, artwork, written and oral assignments. A school district may not prevent school personnel from participating in religious activities.

FLNOW Opposes this bill because it creates unintended consequences for students who are religious minorities, who identify as LGBTQ, or who are non-religious. Religion has no place in a public school.

SUPPORT HB 6041 Marriage Equality (SB 1638)

Repeals provisions relating to marriages between persons of the same sex. Removes legal language against same sex marriages. Removes definition of marriage as union between man and woman.

FLNOW supports this bill.

Human Trafficking

SUPPORT SB 286 – Human Trafficking Education in Schools Steube

Revising the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking, etc.

FLNOW supports this bill and also wants more information on this bill, as we are not sure what information would be given to students.