



PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE
2017 SESSIONS OF THE 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

BYRON COOK
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 8
(R-CORSICANA)

✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

*Total Pro-Life
Score:*

65%

■ Anti-Life
■ Pro-Life



Key: EA = Excused Absence; UA = Unexcused Absence; PNV = Present, Not Voting;
and Chair = Presiding at the Chair during the vote

Cook continued his six-year stranglehold on Life-saving measures in the House of Representatives through his chairmanship of the House Committee on State Affairs. Cook stalled and singlehandedly killed the ban on dismemberment abortions (House Bill 844); he stalled and killed Pro-Life Health Insurance Reform (House Bill 1113); he stalled and killed the bills to protect patients from hospital death panels (House Bill 4090); he stalled and killed a bill to stop discriminatory abortions (House Bill 1971); and he stalled a bill to stop governmental entities from contracting with abortion providers and their affiliates (House Bill 1936).

Ironically, when the House considered the ban on dismemberment abortion as an amendment to Senate Bill 8, Cook voted for the amendment. However, he was absent (unexcused) for a vote on a weakening amendment, which was a key Pro-Life vote.

Most egregious, when Representative Schaefer offered an amendment to protect preborn children with disabilities from painful abortions after 20 weeks, Cook not only opposed the life-saving amendment, but he also made an impassioned plea in favor of this inhumane practice and moved to table the life-saving Schaefer amendment.

During the special session, Cook again used his chairmanship to block and stall Pro-Life legislation. He demanded that the bill requiring stricter reporting of abortions be split into two separate bills, which jeopardized both bills' chances of passage. After the hearing on House Bill 14, the bill to prohibit state and local funding to the abortion industry, Cook killed the bill with procedural delays. Cook demanded rewritten, weaker versions of House Bill 214 and Senate Bill 11 before voting them out of State Affairs. He then joined Senate Bill 11 as a joint author after his failed attempts to kill the bill.

Cook is at the top of Texas Right to Life's 2017 Disappointments.

Pro-Life Scorecard continues on next page.

Senate Bill 1: The State's Budget for FY 2018-2019 (regular session)

Points
Earned

Potential
Points

Motion	Description of motion		
✓ Amendment 30 by Leach	Redirects funds to the Healthy Texas Women program. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 29 by Shaheen	Redirects funds to Healthy Texas Women program. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 76 by Krause	Increases funding for the Alternatives to Abortion program by \$20,000,000. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 75 by Schofield	Increases funding for the Alternatives to Abortion program by \$20,000,000. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✓ Amendment 197 by Springer & Rinaldi	Prohibits state funds to abortion providers and their affiliates. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✓ Amendment 284 by Cain	Prohibits state funding of research that destroys human embryos. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty. (Amendment Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	0	-3
✓ Amendment 285 by Cain	Strengthens prohibition on state funding of research that destroys human embryos. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.	0	-3
✓ Amendment 287 by Cain	Prohibits the use of state funds to buy or conduct research on the bodies of aborted children. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.	0	-3
✓ Amendment 288 by Cain	Strengthens the prohibition on the use of state funds to buy or conduct research on the bodies of aborted children. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.	0	-3



Senate Bill 1: The State's Budget for FY 2018-2019 (regular session) Continued

Points Earned Potential Points

<p>✓ Amendment 295 by Rinaldi</p>	<p>Prohibits state funding for abortion providers and their affiliates. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>-3</p>
<p>✓ Amendment 297 by Schaefer</p>	<p>Prohibits state funding for abortion providers and their affiliates. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>-3</p>
<p>✓ Amendment 366 by Leach</p>	<p>Redirects \$5,000,000 to the Healthy Texas Women program. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their position known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>-3</p>
<p>✓ Motion to Instruct by Leach</p>	<p>Motion to instruct the members of the Texas House who served on the conference committee for the final version of SB 1 to maintain the funding level for the Healthy Texas Women program voted on by the Texas House. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>✗ Motion to Instruct by Lang</p>	<p>Motion to instruct the members of the Texas House who served on the conference committee for the final version of SB 1 to maintain the funding level for the Alternatives to Abortion program voted on by the Texas House. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>✓ Motion to Instruct by Shaheen</p>	<p>Motion to instruct the members of the Texas House who served on the conference committee for the final version of SB 1 to maintain the prohibition on abortion providers and their affiliates from state funds passed by the Texas House. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3</p>

Senate Bill 8: Pro-Life Omnibus Bill (regular session)

Points
Earned

Potential
Points

Motion	Description of motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ Amendment 1 by Burkett	Adds severability language so that each section of SB 8 remains in effect if another section of SB 8 is challenged in court. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 3 by Turner	Weakens the dismemberment abortion ban with an exception to dismember unborn children conceived through sexual assault or incest. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✓ Amendment 4 by Farrar	Weakens the dismemberment abortion ban if the abortionist claims that dismemberment was safer. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✗ Amendment 5 by Farrar	Weakens the dismemberment abortion ban by adding vague terms to the "life of the mother" exception already in the bill. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	0 (UA)	3
✓ Amendment 2 by Klick	Bans the inhumane dismemberment abortion procedure through which a live unborn child dies from being torn limb from limb. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✓ Amendment 7 by S. Davis	Strikes half of SB 8, including the ban on the purchase and sale of baby body parts, as well as fetal burial and cremation requirements. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendments 9-13 & 21	A series of six weakening amendments to SB 8 offered by anti-Life Democrats. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 15 by Cain and Oliverson	Strengthens guidelines to prohibit donation of placenta and umbilical cord blood from being sold or donated after an elective abortion. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Amendment 19 by Schaefer	Requires abortionists to submit monthly abortion reports electronically and directs the Department of State Health Services to develop an electronic system for abortion reporting. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✗ Motion to Table Amendment 22 by Schaefer	Representative Schaefer offered an amendment supported by Texas Right to Life to close a loophole in current Pro-Life laws that allows preborn children with disabilities to be killed by abortion after 20 weeks of development. This motion to table was to kill Schaefer's amendment, demarcating loyalty to the Pro-Life cause or the anti-Life leadership of the Texas House. (Motion to Table Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	0	6
✓ Second Reading Vote	House floor vote to pass Senate Bill 8 to third reading, the final step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3
✓ Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of Senate Bill 8. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	3	3

Senate Bill 11: Reform to Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders for Hospitalized Patients (special session)

Points Earned Potential Points

Motion	Description of motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of Senate Bill 11. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1

House Bill 13: Abortion Complications Reporting (special session)

Points Earned Potential Points

Motion	Description of motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ Amendment 1 by Capriglione	Requires electronic reporting by the abortionist. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Motions to Table Amendments 2 & 4	Motions to stop two weakening, anti-Life amendments to HB 13 offered by anti-Life Democrats. (Motions to Table Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Second Reading Vote	House floor vote to pass House Bill 13 to third reading, the final step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of House Bill 13. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1

House Bill 215: Reporting for Minors Seeking Abortions and Reporting on Abortions Committed due to Fetal Abnormality (special session)

Points Earned Potential Points

Motion	Description of motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ Second Reading Vote	House floor vote to pass House Bill 215 to third reading, the final step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of House Bill 215. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1

House Bill 214: Pro-Life Health Insurance Reform (special session)

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of motion		
✓ Motion to Table Amendment 1 by Hinojosa	Motion to stop a weakening, anti-Life amendment to force taxpayers to fund insurance coverage for abortion of preborn children with disabilities. (Motion to Table Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	2	2
✓ Motion to Table Amendment 2 by Hinojosa	Motion to stop a weakening, anti-Life amendment to add a vague and undefined loophole. (Motion to Table Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	2	2
✓ Motions to Table Amendments 3-6	Motions to stop four weakening, anti-Life amendments to HB 214 offered by anti-Life Democrats. (Motions to Table Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Motion to Table Amendment 7 by Dutton	Motion to stop a weakening, anti-Life amendment to force taxpayers to fund insurance coverage for abortion of preborn children with disabilities, children conceived in rape or incest, or if the abortion was recommended by a doctor. (Motion to Table Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	2	2
✓ Second Reading Vote	House floor vote to pass House Bill 214 to third reading, the final step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✓ Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of House Bill 214. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1

Additional votes

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of motion		
✓ Amendment 2 by Krause to House Bill 2561	Protects religious liberty and sincerely held religious beliefs for pharmacists. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	1	1
✗ Publicly opposing or attempting to weaken a Pro-Life measure	Scorecard penalties for anti-Life amendments and anti-Life speeches on the House floor. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	-10	-10

Total Points Earned	40
Potential Points	62
Total Score	65%