



# PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE  
2017 SESSIONS OF THE 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

**JOHN ZERWAS, MD**  
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 28  
(R-RICHMOND)

✓ Voted Pro-Life    ✗ Voted Anti-Life

Total Pro-Life  
Score:

**82%**

■ Anti-Life  
■ Pro-Life



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

Zerwas served as chair of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations, the committee that writes the budget for the whole state. Zerwas refused all Pro-Life amendments and policies in the budget and rejected increasing funds to Pro-Life programs. Additionally, Zerwas registered his opposition to two separate Pro-Life budget amendments that were left pending during House floor debate. Zerwas was one of the few Republicans to join the more than 40 Democrats who publicly opposed these Pro-Life amendments to the budget. Also, when Representative Schaefer offered an amendment to protect preborn children with disabilities from painful abortions after 20 weeks, Zerwas missed the vote and did not make a statement in the House Journal clarifying how he would have voted. Zerwas is one of Texas Right to Life's 2017 Disappointments.

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

Points Earned    Potential Points

Motion	Description of motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ 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.	0	-3

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	Representatives who registered their opposition earned a 3-point penalty. (Amendment Supported by Texas Right to Life.)		
✓ 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
✗ Amendment 295 by Rinaldi	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.	-3	-3
✗ Amendment 297 by Schaefer	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.	-3	-3
✓ Amendment 366 by Leach	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.	0	-3

✓ Motion to Instruct by Leach	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.)	1	1
✓ Motion to Instruct by Lang	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.)	3	3
✓ Motion to Instruct by Shaheen	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.)	3	3

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

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of motion		
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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
Amendment 4 by Farrar	Weakens the dismemberment abortion ban if the abortionist claims that dismemberment was safer. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
Amendments 9-13 & 21	A series of six weakening amendments to SB 8 offered by anti-Life Democrats. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life.)	EA	EA

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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
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.)	EA	EA
Third Reading Vote	House floor vote on the final passage of Senate Bill 8. (Supported by Texas Right to Life.)	EA	EA

### 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: 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
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**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	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ 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

Points Earned | Potential Points

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## Additional votes

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.)	0	-10

Total Points Earned	27
Potential Points	33
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>82%</b>