PRO-LIFE SCORECARD
FOR THE
86TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2019)

PONCHO NEVAREZ
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 74
(D-EAGLE PASS)

✔ Voted Pro-Life X Voted Anti-Life

Total Pro-Life Score:

0%

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

The Regular Session of the 86th Legislature was abysmal for the Pro-Life cause. Although Texas Right to Life, grassroots leaders, and voters prioritized only four Pro-Life bills, just one bill (Senate Bill 22, which should have been significantly strengthened) passed and was signed into law. Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen, who announced his retirement under a cloud of corruption, and his leadership team actively thwarted Pro-Life issues from reaching the House floor for debate and passage—a shocking show of political malfeasance in light of the Pro-Life record achieved by Bonnen and the majority of House Republicans prior to 2019.

Two priority Pro-Life bills passed the State Senate and then died in the committee process in the State House. Because of Speaker Bonnen's blatant betrayal of the Pro-Life movement, the only way to confirm whether individual representatives supported these is to score co-authorship of these two Pro-Life bills: HB 2434, companion of SB 1033, and HB 3158, companion of SB 2089. House members were repeatedly urged by constituents and by Texas Right to Life to co-author these bills and thereby signal their support. Consequently, members who failed to co-author these bills received a six-point penalty on their final score for each Pro-Life priority bill they failed to co-author.

In addition to voting against legislation protecting vulnerable Texans, Nevárez proposed language to weaken Pro-Life priority bill SB 22. Texas Right to Life opposed this dangerous amendment that sought to remove the bill's prohibition on cities and counties lobbying on behalf of the abortion industry. He also stood against protecting vulnerable Texans by publicly speaking against a Pro-Life measure.

When Representative Steve Toth offered a Pro-Life amendment to House Bill 1504, the bill addressing the Texas Medical Board, Nevárez not only voted against the amendment, but he stood up and opposed the Pro-Life effort in front of all his colleagues. The amendment added a safeguard for patients in danger of having their life-sustaining treatment forcibly removed.

When Representative Matt Krause proposed increasing the funding for the life-affirming Alternatives to Abortion Program, Nevárez voted against the Pro-Life, Pro-Woman amendment.

A shocking 19 amendments were offered by anti-Life representatives to weaken or undermine Senate Bill 22, which prohibits state and local tax dollars from benefitting the abortion industry. Texas Right to Life summarily scored these amendments, and a vote to support any or all of these amendments was scored negatively. Nevárez voted in favor of weakening the Pro-Life priority bill. Nevárez voted against a Pro-Life amendment to Senate Bill 22 that simply clarified cities and counties could ban abortions in their jurisdictions under this bill. By voting against Senate Bill 22, he publicly supported allowing cities and counties to continue using Texans' tax dollars to benefit the abortion industry.

House Bill 1 by Representative John Zerwas (R-Richmond)

The state's budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021.

House Bill 1 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
X Amendment 52 by Rep. Matt Krause	Increases the Pro-Life Alternatives to Abortion program budget by $52 million over the 2020-21 biennium. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	3
X Amendment 53 by Reps. Krause, Klick, Patterson, Stickland, and Oliverson	Amendment to perfect and clarify the $52 million budget increase for the Pro-Life Alternatives to Abortion program. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	1
X Amendment 54 by Rep. Chris Turner	Removes the increase in funding to the Pro-Life Alternatives to Abortion program and takes an additional $20 million from the original program budget. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	1
Amendment 287 by Rep. Valoree Swanson	Prohibits state funding for hospitals that provide elective abortions. No vote was taken on this amendment, but members could make their opposition known by entering a statement in the official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition to the Swanson Amendment earned a 3-point penalty. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	-3

House Bill 16 by Representative Jeff Leach (R-Plano): The Born-Alive Infant Protection Act

Ensures medical intervention and legal protection for children born alive after an attempted abortion.

House Bill 16 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✔ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass House Bill 16 to next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
✔ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 16. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1

Senate Bill 22 by Senator Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels): The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act

Prohibits state and local tax dollars from funding or benefitting the abortion industry

This bill passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
X Amendments 1, 3, & 5-21	A series of 19 loopholes for taxpayer-funded contracts with abortion clinics or certain services. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
X Amendment 23 by Rep. Jonathan Stickland	Clarifies that Senate Bill 22 does not restrict cities or counties from prohibiting abortion. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	1
X Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 22 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	3
X Third Reading Vote	Members could record their opposition by entering a statement in the Official Journal of the House. Representatives who registered their opposition to Pro-Life SB 22 earned a 3-point penalty. (Statement opposed by Texas Right to Life)	-3	-3

Additional Votes

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
X Floor Amendment 4 to House Bill 1504 by Rep. Steve Toth	Subjects physicians to disciplinary measures and possible loss of license if the physician does not make reasonable efforts to transfer a patient. This amendment applies when the 10-Day Rule has been initiated and patients have a limited number of days to transfer to a new physician or facility before their life-sustaining treatment is withdrawn against their will. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	1
X Coauthored top Pro-Life priority House Bill 2434, the Preborn NonDiscrimination Act (PreNDA)	While the bill to prohibit the remaining late-term and discriminatory abortions in Texas did not receive a vote on the House floor, members were asked numerous times by activists, their voters, and Texas Right to Life to show their public support by coauthoring the bill at any time during the session. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
X Coauthored Pro-Life priority House Bill 3158 to repeal the anti-Life 10-Day Rule	While the pro-patient's rights Pro-Life priority did not receive a vote on the House floor, members were asked numerous times by activists, their voters, and Texas Right to Life to show their public support by coauthoring the bill at any time during the session. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
X Anti-Life legislation or amendments	Penalties for anti-Life amendments to Pro-Life bills on the House floor, or authorship of anti-Life bills. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	-5	-5
X Anti-Life speech	Penalties for anti-Life speeches on the House floor. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	-5	-5

Total Points Earned	-11
Potential Points	30
Total Score	**0%**