



PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE

86TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2019)

DADE PHELAN

**TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 21
(R-BEAUMONT)**

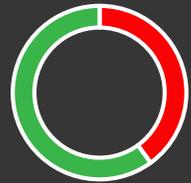
✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

**Total Pro-Life
Score:**

60%

■ Anti-Life

■ Pro-Life



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.

Representative Dade Phelan was the chair of the powerful House Committee on State Affairs that controlled the fate of three Pro-Life priority bills this Session. Texas Right to Life was hopeful that Chairman Phelan would use his position of power under new House leadership to ensure Pro-Life priorities were passed and more vulnerable Texans saved. Unfortunately, we were deeply disappointed to discover that new leadership, which included members with previous outstanding Pro-Life records, led to a purple session and the passage of NO bills to stop abortion.

After intense pressure from the grassroots and Texas Right to Life, and once the Senate was poised to pass the companion bill, Phelan scheduled House Bill 2434, the Preborn NonDiscrimination Act (PreNDA), for a hearing. The House State Affairs hearing was a phenomenal success, with testimony from experts, activists, Pro-Life Texans, and numerous personal stories from mothers of children who were given zero chance of survival but are alive and thriving today. Even after a compelling hearing and with a strong Pro-Life majority on the committee, Phelan sat on the House Bill for the rest of the session and never passed that version out of his committee. Delays by House leadership, including Phelan and his staff, contributed to the death of PreNDA, since the bill was never scheduled for a floor vote after being received in the House Calendars Committee.

For more information, please contact Texas Right to Life at 713.782.LIFE or ProLife@TexasRightToLife.com.

Similarly, another Pro-Life priority bill, SB 2089, was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on State Affairs. SB 2089 provided vulnerable patients more protection against the anti-Life 10-Day Rule; however, the delay by Phelan and his committee contributed to the death of this bill also.

Chairman Phelan could have co-authored either of these priority bills at any point of the session (HB 2434 or HB3158). Instead, he did not co-author these priority Pro-Life bills, and his final score for the Session reflects this failure.

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

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

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 1 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ 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)	3	3
✓ 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)	1	1
✓ 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)	1	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.

Points Earned | Potential Points

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.

Points Earned | Potential Points

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ 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)	6	6
✓ 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)	1	1
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 22 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3
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)	0	-3

Additional Votes

Points Earned | Potential Points

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ 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)	1	1
✗ 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
✗ 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
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)	0	-5
Anti-Life speech	Penalties for anti-Life speeches on the House floor. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	-5

Total Points Earned	18
Potential Points	30
Total Score	60%