

## Concerned Women for America of Texas June 12, 2013 Alert

[SB 5](#), a bill by Sen. Glenn Hegar (R-District 18)

“Relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing penalties.”

SB 5 includes:

- The Preborn Pain section to accomplish two goals: first, the legislative findings on pain that establish the state’s compelling interest in preborn children who can feel pain and secondly, then bans abortion at that 20-week threshold.
  - The bill includes the only exception for an abortion after 20 weeks is a medical emergency, narrowly defined with the same definition used in the 2011 Sonogram Law—if the pregnancy is threatening the mother’s physical life or causing substantial, irreversible impairment to a major bodily function.
- Abortion facilities would be required to become licensed as ambulatory surgical centers subject to raised standards:
  - Qualified medical personnel are available for emergency treatment;
  - The facility meets operating room requirements;
  - The facility meets pre-op room requirements; and
  - Other standards of medical centers like wider hallways, emergency generators, defibrillation equipment and air filtration systems.
- Abortion doctors would be required to secure admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of each clinic at which he performs abortions.
  - If a complication during or following an abortion arises, the abortionist needs to be able to transfer the woman to an urgent care center or be able to give her the necessary medical treatment, therefore, this bill includes secular hospitals; thus, if access is denied by religiously-affiliated hospitals, secular hospitals are still within range of each abortion provider.

- RU 486, an abortion inducing drug must be administered in a manner that satisfies the protocol tested and authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
  - The prescribing physician must examine the patient and her record; determine gestational age of the fetus; provide patient with information about the drug, and give her contact information for the health care personnel and facility.
  - The prescribing physician must be present when both parts of the drug are administered and must schedule a follow-up visit to determine the pregnancy was completely terminated.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst said, “Texas is already one of America’s strongest pro-life states, but we can do more to protect the preborn. Until Americans are willing to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, Texas should at least outlaw abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, regulate abortion clinics to the safety standards governing ambulatory and out-patient surgical centers and ensure that abortion doctors have admitting privilege at a hospital within 30 miles. In the interest of saving innumerable lives, I will not leave any option off the table to achieve the will of the people during the Special Session.”

### **What can you do?**

**Pray for the state senators and state representatives as they consider these important issues.**

**Contact your state senator and ask for the support of SB 5.**

**Go to: [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) to find contact information for your state senator and state representative as well as track progress on the movement of the bill.**