



PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2021)

DADE PHELAN

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

✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

**Total Pro-Life
Score:**

N/A

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

The 87th Texas Legislature can aptly be described as a great victory for preborn children and a devastating loss for vulnerable patients. The Texas Heartbeat Act (Senate Bill 8) has saved thousands of lives and is the strongest Pro-Life bill to go into effect since *Roe v. Wade*. Other states are now replicating SB 8 in their own efforts to protect preborn children with heartbeats. Furthermore, the increased funding allocated to the life-affirming Alternatives to Abortion program is another victory meriting celebration, especially given the monumental success of the Texas Heartbeat Act.

Vulnerable patients reaped no such favorable treatment. Efforts to eliminate the anti-Life 10-Day Rule and stop hospitals from removing life-sustaining care against a patient's expressed medical decision died in both chambers (House Bill 2609 and Senate Bill 917). In the House, the House Committee on Calendars set HB 2609 too late for debate on the floor. In the Senate, Republicans killed SB 917 behind the scenes. Throughout the 87th Legislature, efforts to repeal the 10-Day Rule were met with apathy and even hostility from members. Likewise, bills to protect the consciences of medical professionals died in both chambers (House Bill 1424 and Senate Bill 1674). Many members showed no interest in this crucial policy area, even though the Biden Administration is growing more militant in their opposition to conscience rights.

The scorecards depict this mixed review of the 87th Legislature. Of particular note is the co-author requirement for certain bills: HB 2609, HB 1424, and SB 917. Texas Right to Life relentlessly lobbied members to support these particular bills by co-authoring or voting for them in committee. Failure to do this resulted in a lower score.

Traditionally, the Speaker of the Texas House does not vote on most bills, nor does he or she author legislation. These votes and actions compose the scorecards, which are an objective analysis of how a legislator served the Pro-Life movement in a given Legislature. Thus, as with previous speakers, Speaker Dade Phelan does not receive a score for the Sessions of the 87th Legislature.