



# PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE

87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2021)

**GARY VANDEAVER**  
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 1  
(R-NEW BOSTON)

✓ Voted Pro-Life    ✗ Voted Anti-Life

**Total Pro-Life  
Score:**

**68%**

■ 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 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.

Despite unprecedented support from grassroots and the Republican Party of Texas, and astonishing media coverage highlighting the heinous reality of the law, hospitals may still remove life-sustaining care against a patient's expressed medical decision because the Texas Legislature did not pass HB 2609 to repeal the 10-Day Rule. Even with constant pressure from Texas Right to Life, activists, and voters to co-author this bill, Representative VanDeaver did not. His final score reflects this failure.

HB 1424, which would have protected the consciences of all Texas healthcare professionals, was a Pro-Life priority this session. Under the Biden Administration, the ability of a healthcare professional to opt out of a procedure to which they conscientiously object is under attack, especially for those with Pro-Life values. While Representative VanDeaver did ultimately co-author this bill, he did so incredibly late in the legislative session, eleven days after the bill could even be voted on by the House of Representatives (May 24, 2021). The point of co-authorship is to signal support for legislation and help expedite its movement through the legislative process. Representative VanDeaver's late co-authorship did not serve this purpose, and so his final score reflects this.

## Regular Session

### Senate Bill 1 by Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)

The state's budget for Fiscal Years 2022-2023.

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

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Amendment 46 by Rep. Ann Johnson	Decreases the Alternatives to Abortion program budget by \$20 million over the 2022-23 biennium. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
✓ Amendment 47 by Rep. Matt Krause	Increases the Alternatives to Abortion program budget by \$20 million over the 2022-23 biennium. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

### Senate Bill 8 by Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): The Texas Heartbeat Act

Bans elective abortions on preborn children with a detectable heartbeat.

*Senate Bill 8 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.*

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Amendment 1 by Rep. Shelby Slawson	Prohibits perpetrators of sexual assault from bringing a civil lawsuit under Senate Bill 8 if the sexual assault survivor seeks or obtains a prohibited abortion. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1

✓ Amendment 2 by Rep. Shelby Slawson	Limits civil enforcement to only violations of the Texas Heartbeat Act. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 8 to the next step of passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 8. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

**Senate Bill 1280 by Representative Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake):  
The Human Life Protection Act**

Bans elective abortions when the Supreme Court reverses *Roe v. Wade*.

*House Bill 1280 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 1280 to the next step of passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 1280. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1

**Additional Points**

Points Earned | Potential Points

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
X Co-authored top Pro-Life priority House Bill 2609 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

<b>X</b>	Co-authored Pro-Life priority House Bill 1424, the Texas Health Care Conscience Protection Act	While the bill to protect the consciences of medical professionals 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
<b>✓</b>	Anti-Life speech	Penalties for anti-Life speeches on the House floor. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	-6
<b>✓</b>	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	-6

## Second Called Session

### Senate Bill 4 by Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville)

Creates and strengthens protections against chemical abortion.

*Senate Bill 4 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.*

Points Earned	Potential Points
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Motion	Description of Motion		
Senate Bill 4 Committee Vote	Public Health Committee vote for Senate Bill 4. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	N/A	1
<b>✓</b> Amendments 1-17	A series of 17 anti-Life amendments attacking Pro-Life Senate Bill 4. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
<b>✓</b> Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 4 to the next step of passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
<b>✓</b> Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 4. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1

Total Points Earned	26
Potential Points	38

**Total Score**

**68%**