



TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2023)

GARY GATES
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 28
(R-RICHMOND)

✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

*Total Pro-Life
Score:*
73%

■ 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 88th Legislature marked the first opportunity for Texas lawmakers to pass Pro-Life bills after the historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. However, the Texas Legislature neglected preborn children, yet improved protections for vulnerable patients.

No bills passed to stop illegal abortions or fully enforce our Pro-Life laws. The Legislature underfunded pregnancy centers and adoption agencies but provided new help for pregnant and parenting college students. This session's most notable victory was a reform to protect patients facing the anti-Life 10-Day Rule in the Texas Advance Directives Act. While there is still more work to do on this critical Pro-Life issue, this legislation is the most significant improvement in over two decades for patients' rights and medical freedom in Texas.

Despite several requests from Texas Right to Life, Representative Gates failed to coauthor seven of the Pro-Life Priority Bills that did not receive a vote on the chamber's floor. Coauthorship of a bill is important because it can help legislation move through the process and indicates the elected official's support when that bill doesn't receive a formal vote.

House Bill 1 by Representative Greg Bonnen, M.D. (R-Friendswood):

The State's budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2025.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 1 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Amendment 28 by Rep. Vasut	Increases the Alternatives to Abortion program budget by \$80 million over the 2024-2025 biennium. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

Senate Bill 30 by Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston):

The State's supplemental budget for Fiscal Years 2022-2023.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>Senate Bill 30 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Amendment 3 by Rep. Leach	Increases the Alternatives to Abortion program budget by \$25 million over the remainder of the 2022-2023 biennium to meet the shortfall due to increased demand resulting from the Texas Heartbeat Act and the reversal of <i>Roe v. Wade</i> . (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

Senate Bill 412 by Senator Angela Paxton (R-McKinney):

Codify federal protections for pregnant and parenting college students into Texas law.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>Senate Bill 412 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 412. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

Senate Bill 459 by Senator Angela Paxton (R–McKinney):

Require higher education institutions that offer priority registration to provide this accommodation to pregnant and parenting college students.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>Senate Bill 459 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 459. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

House Bill 3162 by Representative Stephanie Klick (R–Fort Worth):

Reforms the Texas Advance Directives Act and the anti-Life 10-Day Rule to restore rights and protections for hospital patients at risk of having their life-sustaining treatment removed.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 3162 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 3162. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

House Bill 12 by Representative Toni Rose (D–Dallas):

Extends medical coverage for mothers from two months to one year after birth.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 12 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✗ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass House Bill 12 to the next step in passage without Pro-Life amendment language. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	2
✗ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of pass House Bill 12 without Pro-Life amendment language. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	2

Additional Points

Points Earned | Potential Points

Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
X Coauthored Pro-Life Priority Bills	Members were asked numerous times to show their public support for Pro-Life Priority Bills that did not ultimately receive a House floor vote by coauthoring the bill at any time during the session. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	7
Committee Vote	Vote in the House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence for House Bill 200. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	N/A	6
Committee Vote	Vote in the House Committee on Human Services for House Bill 4138. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	N/A	6
Pro-Life legislation and amendments	Additional points for authoring one or more Pro-Life Priority Bills or amendments. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
Anti-Life legislation and amendments	Penalties for authoring one or more anti-Life bills or amendments. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	-6
Pro-Life speech	Additional points for Pro-Life speeches on the House floor or for Pro-Life statements in the House journal. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
Anti-Life speech	Penalties for anti-Life speeches on the House floor or for anti-Life statements in the House journal. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	-6

Total Points Earned	30
Potential Points	41
Total Score	73%