



TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2023)

DONNA HOWARD
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 48
(D-AUSTIN)

✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

*Total Pro-Life
Score:*

0%

■ 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.

Representative Howard authored several pieces of anti-Life legislation, including: House Bill 979, to add exceptions for rape and incest and to repeal Texas' pre-*Roe* Pro-Life laws; House Bill 1880, to repeal Texas' pre-*Roe* Pro-Life laws and exempt financial donations to abortion logistical organizations from penalty; House Bill 1941, to prohibit state and local entities from restricting purchases, use, and information on emergency contraception; and, House Bill 2215, to create dangerous loopholes in Texas Pro-Life laws for a woman's mental health and a potential disability of a preborn child. On April 6, 2023, she made anti-Life comments on the House floor against funding Pro-Life resources through the newly-named Thriving Texas Families Program (previously the Alternatives to Abortion program). Despite several requests from Texas Right to Life, Representative Howard 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		
X 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)	0	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		
X 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)	0	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.

<i>Senate Bill 459 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>		Points Earned	Potential Points
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.

<i>House Bill 3162 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>		Points Earned	Potential Points
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.

<i>House Bill 12 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>		Points Earned	Potential Points
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
X Anti-Life legislation and amendments	Penalties for authoring one or more anti-Life bills or amendments. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	-24	-6 (per bill)
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
X 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)	-6	-6

Total Points Earned	-12
Potential Points	41
Total Score	0%