



TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2023)

SARAH ECKHARDT
TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 14
(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.

Senator Eckhardt authored several pieces of anti-Life legislation, including: Senate Bill 203, to require physicians prioritize the health of the mother regardless of treatments' risk of injury or death to the preborn child, which could be used to perform an elective abortion rather than attempting to save both mother and preborn child; Senate Bill 204, to punish Pro-Life or religiously-affiliated organizations for discrimination if they do not support any employee's reproductive decisions; Senate Bill 227, to repeal Texas' pre-*Roe* Pro-Life laws and Trigger Law; Senate Bill 1623, to mandate health insurance coverage for abortion; Senate Joint Resolution 21, a constitutional amendment establishing a right to "personal reproductive autonomy"; and, Senate Joint Resolution 23, a constitutional amendment establishing a right to elective abortions. Despite several requests from Texas Right to Life, Senator Eckhardt failed to coauthor five 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.

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

Senate Bill 1195 by Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Tyler):

Authorizing the Texas Attorney General to prosecute violations of Pro-Life laws when local prosecutors fail or refuse to do so within six months.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>Senate Bill 1195 passed the Senate but died in the House.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
Vote to introduce Senate Bill 1195 on Second Reading	Vote to open debate on Senate Bill 1195. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	EA	1
Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 1195 to next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	EA	6

Vote to introduce Senate Bill 1195 on Third Reading	Vote to open final debate on Senate Bill 1195. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	EA	1
Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 1195. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	EA	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.

House Bill 3162 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

	Points Earned	Potential Points
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Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass House Bill 3162 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6
✓ Vote to introduce House Bill 3162 on Third Reading	Vote to open final debate on House Bill 3162. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	1
✓ 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):

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

House Bill 12 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

	Points Earned	Potential Points
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Motion	Description of Motion	Points Earned	Potential Points
✗ Floor Amendment 1 by Sen. Kolkhorst	Clarify that the legislative purpose behind the bill is to carry out the state's profound respect for human Life and not include pregnancies that end through elective abortion. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	2
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass House Bill 12 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	2	2

For further information, please contact Texas Right to Life at 713.782.LIFE or ProLife@TexasRightToLife.com.

✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 12. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	2	2
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Additional Points

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of Motion		
✗ 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 Senate floor vote by coauthoring the bills at any time during the session. Each coauthorship is worth one point. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	1	6
Committee Vote	Vote in the Senate Committee on State Affairs for Senate Bill 1927. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	N/A	6
Pro-Life legislation	Additional points for authoring one or more Pro-Life Priority Bills. Each authorship is worth six points. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
✗ Anti-Life legislation	Penalties for authoring one or more anti-Life bills. Each authorship is worth a six point deduction. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	-36	-6 (per bill)
Pro-Life speech	Additional points for Pro-Life speeches on the Senate floor or for Pro-Life statements in the Senate journal. Each speech is worth six points. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	6
Anti-Life speech	Penalties for anti-Life speeches on the Senate floor or for anti-Life statements in the Senate journal. Each speech is worth a six point deduction. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	0	-6

Total Points Earned	-6
Potential Points	37
Total Score	0%