



TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE PRO-LIFE SCORECARD

FOR THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE (2025)

WES VIRDELL
TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 53
(R-BRADY)

✓ Voted Pro-Life ✗ Voted Anti-Life

**Total Pro-Life
Score:**

100%

■ Anti-Life
■ Pro-Life



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

From the outset of the Regular Session of the 89th Texas Legislature, Texas Right to Life identified two key legislative priorities necessary to combat ongoing threats to Life in the post-Roe era. The first priority, the Woman and Child Protection Act (Senate Bill 2880 and House Bill 5510), addressed the growing problem of abortion pills being shipped into Texas. The second priority, the Stop Tax-Funded Abortion Travel Act (Senate Bill 33 and House Bill 1806), prohibited Texas cities from paying for out-of-state abortion travel. The Legislature successfully passed the Stop Tax-Funded Abortion Travel Act during the Regular Session. Unfortunately, the Woman and Child Protection Act, intended to combat the distribution of abortion pills, died in the House of Representatives, putting more than 19,000 preborn lives at risk each year.

Texas Right to Life formed and led a broad coalition to send a letter to Governor Greg Abbott, urging him to add this issue to the special session agenda. Because of the leadership of the Texas Senate and Governor Abbott, the Woman and Child Protection Act ultimately passed both chambers during the Second Special Session.

In addition, the Legislature passed several meaningful measures championed by Texas Right to Life that further strengthen our culture of Life. These victories include ensuring that families of preborn children diagnosed with life-threatening conditions receive life-affirming information and referrals, promoting education about adoption, and reaffirming protections for pregnant mothers facing medical emergencies. The Legislature also appropriated a record \$200 million to support qualifying pregnancy centers and adoption agencies, while clarifying that these funds must go exclusively to Pro-Life providers.

On April 17, Representative Virdell gave a Pro-Life speech on the House floor opposing House Resolution 236, which would have honored former Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards. On April 28, he also gave a Pro-Life speech on the House floor in favor of the passage of Pro-Life priority House Bill 7, which combats lethal abortion pills being illegally shipped into Texas. Representative Virdell coauthored Pro-Life priority House Bill 5510, which aimed to combat lethal abortion pills. Coauthorship is important because it can help a bill move more quickly through the legislative process and indicates an elected official's support when that bill ultimately does not pass.

Though Pro-Life priority House Bill 5510 never received a vote on the House floor, Representative Virdell signaled his support by coauthoring the bill.

REGULAR SESSION

Senate Bill 1 by Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston):

The state's budget for Fiscal Years 2026–2027. The funding goal to meet increasing demands for Pro-Life resources was \$210 million dollars. The House achieved this goal, but the Senate reduced the amount to \$200 million when finalizing the budget.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 1 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Amendment 17 by Rep. Oliverson, M.D.	Increases the Senate allotment of \$140 million for the Thriving Texas Families program by \$40 million for the 2026–2027 biennium. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3
✓ Amendment 18 by Rep. Harris Davila	Amends Rep. Oliverson's Amendment 17 to increase Thriving Texas Families program funding by \$70 million to achieve the \$210 million need over the 2026–2027 biennium. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3

House Bill 220 by Representative Claudia Ordaz (D-El Paso):

Mandates abortifacient emergency contraception to be offered to sexual assault survivors regardless of conscientious objections.

		Points Earned	Potential Points
<i>House Bill 220 passed the House but died in the Senate.</i>			
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass House Bill 220 to the next step in passage. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	3	3
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 220. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	3	3

Senate Bill 1388 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham):

Ensures that Thriving Texas Families Program funding only goes to Pro-Life providers.

Senate Bill 1388 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Points
Earned

Potential
Points

Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 1388 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 1388. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3

Senate Bill 33 by Senator Donna Campbell, M.D. (R-New Braunfels):

Prohibits cities from paying for abortion travel using taxpayer dollars.

Senate Bill 33 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Points
Earned

Potential
Points

Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 33 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 33. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

Senate Bill 1233 by Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills):

Guarantees that perinatal palliative care referrals and information are given to families after their preborn child is diagnosed with a life-threatening condition.

House Bill 1233 passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Abbott.

Points
Earned

Potential
Points

Motion	Description of Motion		
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✓ Amendment 1 by Rep. Howard	Weakening amendment to remove signed certification that the woman received the perinatal palliative care information. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	2	2
✗ Amendment 2 by Rep. Rose	Weakening amendment to remove penalties for health care professionals who violate this Pro-Life law. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	UA	2
✓ Amendment 3 by Rep. Flores	Weakening amendment ordering a study that takes focus away from promoting life-affirming options. (Opposed by Texas Right to Life)	2	2
✓ Second Reading Vote	Vote to pass Senate Bill 1233 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of Senate Bill 1233. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	3	3

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

House Bill 7 by Representative Jeff Leach (R-Allen):

Authorizes citizens to sue those who illegally distribute, manufacture, or traffic abortion pills into Texas.

<i>House Bill 7 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 7 to the next step in passage. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6
✓ Third Reading Vote	Vote for final passage of House Bill 7. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	6	6

ADDITIONAL POINTS

		Points Earned	Potential Points
Motion	Description of Motion		
✓ Coauthored Pro-Life priority House Bill 5510 to stop abortion pills from being illegally distributed in Texas.	While the Pro-Life priority to combat abortion pills did not receive a vote on the House floor during the regular session, members were asked by activists, their voters, and Texas Right to Life to show their public support by coauthoring the bill to help move it forward. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	2	2
Pro-Life priority legislation	Additional points for authoring one or more Pro-Life Priority Bills or amendments. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	+ 6
Pro-Life recommended legislation and amendments	Additional points for authoring one or more recommended Pro-Life bills or amendments. (Supported by Texas Right to Life)	0	+ 3
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 or note	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)	6	+ 3
Anti-Life speech or note	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	- 3

Total Points Earned	60
Potential Points	56
Total Score	100%