

VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN LIFE

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General Assembly Final Vote on SB 733 Protects Abortionists

Today, the final vote was taken in the General Assembly to protect duplicitous abortionists and abortion industry profiteers at the expense of the safety of Virginia's women and their unborn children.

The last step in stripping out the rational and much-needed Women's Right to Know law that protects women seeking an abortion happened this afternoon when the House of Delegates voted to pass SB 733. The next step is the Governor's desk for his signature, which he will doubtless give.

The Women's Right to Know law guarantees that women are offered factual information about their pregnancies, allowed to see an ultrasound if they wish and to learn about other options, to know their legal rights, and given 24-hours to wait and think through the information.

Delegate Kathy Byron, one of those who helped pass the original Virginia informed consent law in 2001 and who carried the ultrasound law in 2012, spoke with passion about the dreadful consequences of denying women the full range of information that they must have before they make this life and death decision. She spoke with compassion for the mothers who live their lives in misery now because they did not get full and factual information from abortionists before paying that person to kill their baby.

Democrat pro-abortion supporters lied about why the bill was supposedly needed and what it will do. They made claims that it doesn't remove informed consent, but it does. It removes the requirement that the Virginia Department of Health provide printed materials regarding abortion risks and prenatal development information as well as information about a woman's rights and options. These materials must be offered or given to her 24-hrs before the abortion, or by phone or email if the mother lives at a distance, but she can refuse them. All these reasonable regulations have been tossed out.

Women who have had abortions testified then and now before the General Assembly that abortionists do not give women these facts. VSHL's own President, Olivia Gans Turner recounted her own abortion experience with multiple abortionists who told her repeatedly that she was foolish and immature not to have an abortion while in college. A Planned Parenthood counselor even told her that she, "probably wasn't able to think clearly due to her pregnancy."

"The effect of this action today is to provide more cover to unscrupulous abortionists who profit from keeping women in the dark about their bodies and their babies," said Gans Turner. **"The abortion industry and its allies in Virginia will be the only ones to benefit from this vote."**

Virginia Society for Human Life is the oldest state-wide pro-life organization in the nation with chapters throughout the Commonwealth supporting life issues and the Virginia affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.

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