



T E X A S
Alliance for Life

**Joe Pojman, Ph.D., Executive Director, Testimony on HJR 110
House Committee on State Affairs
April 3, 2013**

My name is Joe Pojman, I am the executive director of Texas Alliance for Life. We are a statewide organization of people committed to protecting innocent human lives from conception to natural death using peaceful, legal means.

We oppose HJR 110 in its current form.

We are concerned that a future court could construe the expansive language to find a constitutional right to abortion. This concern is not merely theoretical, but practical.

In *Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee v. Sudquest* (2000), the Supreme Court of Tennessee derived a state constitutional right to abortion from an implied right of privacy that was based in part upon that state's "right to worship" guarantee.

The upshot is that the Court struck down an informed consent for abortion statute very much like the statute Texas passed in 2003 and improved upon in 2011 with the sonogram bill.

We have a memo from our counsel who wrote a detailed analysis of the issue. That memo addresses HJR 135 from the 82nd Regular Session.

This resolution, HJR 110, is even more expansive than HJR 135 and represents to us even greater concern.

I point out that very simple abortion-neutralizing language could be added that would allay our concerns. If incorporated we would drop our opposition.