

# Pro-Life Accomplishments of the Texas Legislature in 2019

In 2019, the Texas Legislature had a successful session on the life issue. This follows a sensational regular session and a terrific special session in 2017. Under the leadership of **Gov. Greg Abbott**, **Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**, and **Speaker Dennis Bonnen**, the Legislature passed four significant pro-life bills, doubled funding for the State's Alternatives to Abortion program, and continued numerous other pro-life provisions in the General Appropriations Act, the State's two-year budget.



## 1. Defunded Planned Parenthood at the Local Level (SB 22 by Sen. Donna Campbell/Rep. Candy Noble).

- Bans contracts between political subdivisions (cities, counties, hospitals, school districts, etc.) and abortion providers or their affiliates.
- Protects taxpayers from funding the abortion industry.



## 2. The Texas Alternatives to Abortion Information Act (SB 24 by Sen. Eddie Lucio/Rep. Chris Paddie).

- Requires doctors or agents to “hand” the State’s “A Woman's Right to Know” informational materials and resource directories to women before consenting to an abortion.
- Requires that any phone consultation between the patient and physician be in private, not a conference call with multiple clients.
- Strengthens and clarifies HB 15 passed in 2011.



## 3. The Texas Born-Alive Infant Protection Act (HB 16 by Rep. Jeff Leach/Sen. Lois Kolkhorst).

Protects all babies who survive an abortion by creating criminal and civil penalties for a physician who fails to attempt to save the life of the baby.



## 4. Increased penalties for assaulting a pregnant woman (HB 902 by Rep. Brooks Landgraf/Sen. Joan Huffman).

- Enhances the criminal penalty for assault of a pregnant woman to a third-degree felony if the actor had knowledge or should have had knowledge of the victim's pregnancy.



**5. Numerous Pro-Life Provisions in the Two-Year State Budget (HB1 by Rep. John Zerwas/Sen. Jane Nelson).**

- **Doubled funding for the state's Alternatives to Abortion program:**
  - \$60 million for the biennium for the Alternatives to Abortion Program (HHSC D.1.2).
  - Additional \$20 million if the agency determines there is a demand based on program utilization (HHSC Rider 80).
- **Continued defunding of Planned Parenthood from the state budget:**
  - No direct or indirect funding of abortion and no funding to entities that provide abortions using funds appropriated to Medicaid Family Planning, Healthy Texas Women Program, and the Family Planning Program (HHSC Rider 72).
  - Family Planning Program funds are prioritized to entities that provide “comprehensive primary and preventative care” (which Planned Parenthood does not offer) (HHSC Rider 79).
  - Funding for family planning instruction may not be used for materials from any entity that performs elective abortions and their affiliates (HHSC Rider 73).
  - State money may not be distributed to abortion providers and affiliates (Article IX, Sec. 6.25).
- **Numerous other pro-life provisions on HB 1:**
  - Health and Human Services agencies must comply with all child abuse reporting guidelines (HHSC Section 31).
  - No funds for prescription drugs to minors without parental consent (HHSC Rider 79).
  - \$1.6 million/yr for Texas Heart Institute Adult Stem Cell Program (Article III, Strategy C.1.1).
  - \$1 million/yr for umbilical cord blood banks (HHSC Rider 93).