



2019 Faith & Family Scorecard Bills Considered

The following is a brief summary of the bills from the 86th Texas Legislative Session that were used to compile our 2019 Faith & Family Scorecard.

HOUSE

HB 1 Amendment No. 48 Government Reporting Overreach on Immunizations by Rep. Beckley

Amendment 48 funds a study for vaccination coverage levels and vaccination compliance with new and existing vaccination requirements of children enrolled at and attending a licensed child care facility or registered family home. The amendment allows government overreach into private childcare facilities and may violate parental rights.

HB 1 Amendment 48 was adopted by the House in the House version of HB 1.

HB 1 Amendment No. 54, Reduce Alternatives to Abortion Program by 54 Rep. Turner, C.

Amendment 54 would reduce the Health and Human Services Commission's Alternatives to Abortion program by the amount of \$10,000,000.

Amendment 54 failed.

HB 1 Amendment No. 270 Reduce Alternatives to Abortion Program & Abstinence Education by Rep. Howard

Amendment 270 would defund the Alternatives to Abortion program and defund Abstinence Education funding.

Amendment 270 was passed to Article XI, but was then voted down and failed.

HB 16 Born Alive Protection Act by Rep. Leach

HB 16 protects the life of babies who are born alive after surviving an abortion attempt. Under this bill, doctors must preform the same level of care to babies who survive an abortion as they would to any other baby being born.

HB 16 has been signed into law.

HB 16 - House Concurs in the Senate Amendments, Born Alive Protection Act

Senate amendments establish a doctor/patient relationship between the doctor and the child who is born alive after an attempted abortion. The doctor must perform the same degree of professional care as the doctor would perform to any other child of the same gestational age. A woman on whom an abortion is performed is not held liable.

The House adopted the Senate amendments.

HB 2271 *Choose Life License Plate Advertisement Funds* by Rep. Lang

HB 2271 allows for the Attorney General to use limited funds to advertise for Choose Life account grants. Choose Life account grants provide resources for women choosing adoption. The grants are funded through the purchase of pro-life license plates.

HB 2271 was signed into law.

HB 2100 *Free Speech on Campus* by Rep. Cain

HB 2100 sought to ensure that the right to free expression is protected while on campus. The bill would ensure that universities adhere to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions and that common outdoor areas may be used as public forums. Universities would be required to ensure all student groups have equal opportunities. Universities would also be required to make reasonable efforts to protect the safety of the speakers.

HB 2100 passed on the House floor. HB 2100 was not brought up in the Senate.

SB 18 Amendment No. 1, *Protections for Invited Campus Speakers* by Rep. Cain

Amendment would prohibit any institution from disinviting speakers who has been approved to speak on campus and invited to speak on campus by a student organization.

Amendment 1 was adopted.

SB 18 *Free Speech on Campus* by Sen. Huffman

SB 18 will protect the free speech rights of students on college campuses. Colleges and universities will be prohibited from disinviting certain speakers and revoking student organization status based on viewpoints shared among the group's members. The bill ensures colleges comply with reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions as supported by the First Amendment.

The bill was signed into law.

SB 22 House Floor Motion to Table Government Loophole Amendment No. 5, Rep. Anchia

Amendment 5 would have created a loophole to allow taxpayer lobbying by government officials for the interest of abortion providers and their affiliates.

The motion to table passed and the amendment failed.

SB 22 - House Floor Motion to Table Exemption of Large Counties Amendment No. 9, Rep. Beckley

Amendment 9 would have exempted counties from the law that had more than 650,000 residents and adjacent to other counties with more than 1.8 million residents.

The motion to table passed and the amendment failed.

SB 22 - House Floor Motion to Table Sex Education Exemption Amendment No. 12, Rep. Talarico

Amendment 12 would have excluded certain facilities that provide scientifically based sex education, including information intended to prevent unwanted pregnancies, regardless of facility's affiliation with abortion provider.

The motion to table passed and the amendment failed.

SB 22 House Floor Motion to Table Weakening Amendment No. 14, Rep. Zweiner

Amendment 14 would strike “affiliate of an abortion provider,” which would create a loophole for abortion affiliated provider services, like Planned Parenthood’s sex-education, to be exempt. The loophole essentially inoculates the bill.

The motion prevailed; therefore, the amendment failed.

SB 22 House Floor Motion to Table Exemption Amendment 18, Rep. Ramos

Amendment 18 would make law not apply to cities where 10 percent or more of the population is uninsured.

The motion prevailed; therefore, the amendment failed.

SB 22 No. 23 Protect Local Government Right to Ban Abortion, Rep. Stickland

Amendment 23 states the bill does not restrict a municipality or county from prohibiting abortion.

The amendment was adopted.

SB 22 Taxpayer Protection Act, Protecting Taxpayer from Subsidizing Abortion Providers & Affiliates by Sen. Campbell

SB 22 prohibits transactions between a governmental entity and an abortion provider or affiliate of the provider such as a sale, purchase, lease, donation of money, goods, services or real property or any other transaction between a governmental entity and a private entity. For example, the bill would prohibit local governments from giving Planned Parenthood \$1 rent per year contracts in the future. Other government entities such as schools would also be prohibited from making purchases or transactions with Planned Parenthood. The bill also prohibits lobbying for abortion providers or affiliates at taxpayer expense.

The bill has been signed into law.

SB 24 Women’s Right to Know Improvements, by Sen. Lucio

SB 24 ensures women seeking an abortion receive informational materials about the risk of getting an abortion, information about adoption services, and information about agencies that provide free sonograms. The bill requires that the physician or designee hand this information to the woman personally.

The bill was signed into law.

SB 1978 Amendment No. 2 House Ban the Bible Amendment by Rep. González

Amendment 2 would create a new protected class for sexual orientation and gender identity in state law and would punish Christian business owners for not affirming sexual-orientation and gender identity lifestyles.

The amendment failed.

SB 1978 the Save-Chick-Fil-A Bill by Sen. Hughes

SB 1978 ensures the protection of a business’s or businessperson’s membership in, affiliation with, and support provided to a religious organization. The government will not be able to deny a contract, loan, scholarship, grant, license, registration or employment because of a business or an individual’s support for a religious organization. For example, a municipal government could not deny Chick-Fil-A a contract to open a store in the municipal airport just because Chick-Fil-A

gives financial support to religious organizations like the Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

The bill was signed into law.

HB 3172 *the Save-Chick-Fil-A Bill (House Version)* by Rep. Krause

HB 3172 will ensure the protection of a business's or businessperson's membership in, affiliation with, and support provided to a religious organization. The government will not be able to deny a contract, loan, scholarship, grant, license, registration or employment because of a business or individual's support for a religious organization. For example, a municipal government could not deny Chick-Fil-A a contract to open a store in the municipal airport just because Chick-Fil-A gives financial support to religious organizations like the Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

The bill failed on the House floor due to a point of order and was returned to committee after the deadline for bills to make it to the House floor.

HB 2827 *Religious Freedom for Occupational License Holders (House Version)* by Rep. King

HB 2827 sought to protect the first amendment rights of professional license holders. The bill ensures that no state agency that issues a license may adopt a policy that limits the obtainment of a license or maintaining of license because of a professional's sincerely held religious beliefs. The bill would protect counselors from losing their licenses for counseling according biblical views on marriage and sexuality. The bill also preempts the American Bar Association (ABA) model rule that would penalize lawyers who are members of churches.

The bill was only referred to the House State Affairs Committee.

HB 1035 *the Free to Believe Act* by Rep. Zedler

HB 1035 is known as the Free to Believe Act. The bill is a comprehensive religious freedom bill that protects business owners, wedding vendors, counselors, medical providers, government employees and more. Specifically, individuals and businesses will be protected from being forced to participate in ceremonies, services, or medical practices that violate their sincerely held religious beliefs on marriage and human sexuality.

The bill was heard in the House State Affairs Committee, but was left pending.

HB 2302 *Homeowners Religious Display Protections* by Rep. Bonnen

The bill ensures homeowner association would not be able to enforce or adopt a restrictive covenant that prohibits a property owner or resident from displaying or affixing certain religious items on the entry to the owner's or resident's dwelling.

The bill was placed on the General State Calendar, but was not discussed on the House floor.

HB 4357 *Religious Freedom Protections for Counselors* by Rep. Sanford

The bill sought to protect counselors from disciplinary action whenever they counsel according to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

The bill was referred to the House Public Health Committee.

HB 2109 *Religious Freedom Protections for Magistrates* by Rep. Flynn

HB 2109 allows for those authorized to perform marriage ceremonies to be protected

from being forced to perform marriage ceremonies that violate a their sincerely held religious belief or conscience.

The bill was heard in House Juvenile Justice Committee; however, the bill did not receive enough affirmative votes to make it to the next step.

HB 948 *Tax Exemption Extension for Religious Land* by Rep. Metcalf

HB 948 would extend the time period for which land owned by a church can be tax exempt, whenever the land is being used for a new religious place of worship.

The bill was placed on the General State calendar, but was not discussed on the House floor.

HB 1500 *The Heartbeat Bill* by Rep. Cain

HB 1500 would prohibit abortions after the detection of an unborn child's heartbeat.

The bill was referred to the House Public Health Committee.

HB 1929 *Taxpayer Protection Act, Protecting Taxpayer from Subsidizing Abortion Providers & Affiliates (House Version)*, Rep. Noble

HB 1929 prohibits transactions between governmental entity and an abortion provider or affiliate of the provider such as a sale, purchase, lease, donation of money, goods, services or real property or any other transaction between a governmental entity and a private entity. For example, the bill would prohibit local governments from giving Planned Parenthood \$1 rent per year contracts. Other government entities such as schools would also be prohibited from making purchases or transactions with Planned Parenthood.

The bill was the House companion to SB 22, was substituted in House State Affairs committee. SB 22 was signed into law.

HB 2434 *the Pre-born Nondiscrimination Act (PrNDA) (House Version)* by Rep. Schaefer

The bill ensures that a pregnant woman who receives a diagnosis of a life-threatening disability of the woman's preborn child is informed of the availability of perinatal palliative care. Under this bill, discriminatory abortions would be illegal when based on race, ethnicity, sex, probability of having Down Syndrome, or probability of having severe disability. HB 2434 closes the fetal abnormality loophole for late term abortions and requires that mothers receive perinatal palliative care when facing a diagnosis of a severe fetal abnormality diagnosis.

The bill was heard in House State Affairs Committee but was left pending.

HB 16 *Born Alive Infant Protection Act* by Rep. Leach

HB 16 protects the life of babies who are born alive after surviving an abortion attempt. Under this bill, doctors must preform the same level of care to babies who survive an abortion as they would to any other baby being born.

The bill was signed into law.

HB 2892 *Conscience Protections for Healthcare Providers* by Rep. Oliverson

HB 2892 allows for a health care professional to be excused from performing medical procedures that violate the health care professionals' sincerely held religious belief or conscience.

The bill was only referred to a House committee, House Public Health.

HB 244 *Ban the Bible Bill Omnibus* by Rep. Farrar

HB 244 sought to amend the Civil Practices and Remedies Code, the Labor Code, and the Property Code to create “sexual orientation”, “gender identity and gender expression” protected classes. The bill would force people to act against their religious convictions by allowing men in women’s sleeping and showering quarters in women shelters.

The bill was heard in House State Affairs Committee and was left pending.

HB 517 *Ban the Bible Counseling Bill* by Sen. Israel

HB 517 would punish counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, or other mental health providers who work with people from a Christian perspective. The bill would keep children from seeking help whenever they want to receive counseling that aligns with their Christian beliefs.

The bill was heard in House Public Health Committee and left pending.

HB 254 *Ban the Bible Bill Omnibus* by Rep. Bernal

HB 254 sought to amend the Civil Practices and Remedies Code, the Labor Code, and the Property Code to create “sexual orientation”, “gender identity and gender expression” protected classes. The bill would force people to act against their religious convictions by allowing men in women’s sleeping and showering quarters in women shelters.

The bill was referred to the House State Affairs Committee.

HB 850 *Ban the Bible in Businesses* by Rep. Johnson, Eric

HB 850 amends the Labor Code to create “sexual orientation”, “gender identity and “gender expression” protected classes. The bill would force Christian businesses to pay for same-sex benefits and allow men into women’s restrooms and changing rooms.

The bill was heard in House Business and Industry Committee, but was left pending.

HB 978 *Attack on Families Ban the Bible Bill* by Rep. Beckley

HB 978 sought to eliminate the words “man” and “woman” throughout the Family Code. The bill also wanted to eliminate the words “husband” and “wife when discussing marriage, and “father” when discussing parents.

The bill was heard in House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee, but was left pending.

HB 980 *Pro-Sodomy Legalization* by Rep. Beckley

HB 980 sought to repeal the anti-sodomy laws in Texas.

The bill was heard in Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, but was left pending.

HB 1513 *Transgender Special Protections* by Rep. Coleman

HB 1513 sought to amend the Criminal Code to create a protected class for” gender identity or expression”. The bill would add a stricter sentence for violence on a characteristic that cannot be determined at the time of the crime. The bill would initiate further laws that would make “gender identity and expression” a protected class under the law.

The bill was heard in House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, but was left pending.

HJR 64 *Repeal Texas Marriage Amendment* by Rep. Beckley

The resolution would repeal the Texas Constitutional Amendment defining marriage as being

between one man and one woman.

The resolution was heard in House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee, but was left pending.

SENATE

SB 17 Religious Freedom Protections for Occupational License Holders by Sen. Perry

SB 17 sought to protect the first amendment rights of professional license holders. The bill ensures that no state agency that issues a license may adopt a policy that limits the obtainment of a license or maintaining of license because of a professional's sincerely held religious beliefs. The bill would protect counselors from losing their licenses for counseling according biblical views on marriage and sexuality. The bill also preempts the American Bar Association (ABA) model rule that would penalize lawyers who are members of churches.

The bill passed on the Senate floor; however, it was not considered in the House, when it was referred to House State Affairs.

SB 17 Amendment 2 Ban the Bible SOGI Amendment by Sen. Menéndez

Amendment 2 would force license holders to participate in services associated with sexual orientation and gender identity, even if the service violated their sincerely held religious beliefs.

The amendment failed.

SB 17 Amendment 3 Forced Government Reporting by Sen. Rodríguez

Amendment would require license holders who abstain from services based on their religious beliefs to be reported to a state agency and have their name and contact information available to the public, as well as the patient's contact information.

The amendment failed.

Motion to Table SB 22 Amendment 1 Exceptions to the Bill, Sen Menéndez

Amendment 1 would allow taxpayer dollars to subsidize contraceptives and sex-education from abortion providers and their affiliates.

The motion to table prevailed and the amendment failed.

SB 22 Amendment 2 Weakening Bill by Sen. Rodríguez

Amendment 2 creates a loophole to subsidize abortion providers and affiliates during a "public health emergency."

The amendment failed.

Motion to Table SB 23 Amendment 1, Weaken the Enforcement of the Bill by Sen. Rodríguez

Amendment 1 would change the punishment for killing a living child who survives an abortion from a criminal penalty to an administrative penalty with the Texas Medical Board.

The motion prevailed and the amendment failed.

SB 23 Born Alive Protection Act (Senate Version) by Sen. Kolkhorst

SB 23 protects the life of babies who are born alive after surviving an abortion attempt. Under

this bill, doctors must perform the same level of care to babies who survive an abortion as they would to any other baby being born.

The bill was substituted for HB 16. HB 16 was signed into law.

SB 784 SHAC Transparency Regarding Human Sexuality by Sen. Hughes

The bill would create transparency within the School Health Advisory Committees (SHAC). The bill would ensure members on the SHAC are appointed by the school board. The bill also requires that the SHAC meetings be recorded, and reformation of the process for selecting sex education to ensure parents are more involved in the process.

The bill passed on the Senate floor, but was not considered in the House, when it made it to House Public Education committee.

SB 1033 the Preborn Nondiscrimination Act (PrNDA) by Sen. Hancock

The bill ensures that a pregnant woman who receives a diagnosis of a life-threatening disability of the woman's preborn child is informed of the availability of perinatal palliative care. Under this bill, discriminatory abortions would be illegal when based on race, ethnicity, sex, probability of having Down Syndrome, or probability of having severe disability. SB 1033 closes the fetal abnormality loophole for late term abortions and requires that mothers receive perinatal palliative care when facing a diagnosis of a severe fetal abnormality diagnosis.

The bill passed in the Senate and was received by the House; however, the House Calendars committee failed to vote the bill on the calendar.

SB 1776 Founding Documents in Public Schools by Sen. Campbell

SB 1776 would require the founding documents of the United States to be posted in school buildings. The bill would also add an elective course in public schools focusing on the founding principles of the United States.

The bill passed the Senate and was received by the House; however, the House Calendars Committee failed to vote it on the calendar.

SB 1854 Transparency for School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC) by Sen. Paxton

SB 1854 would make School Health Advisory Councils subject to the Open Meetings Act requirements. Currently, the SHACs are not subject to the Open Meetings Act, and therefore, have been able to recommend and create dangerous sex-education for school districts to adopt.

The bill was passed in the Senate and was referred to the House Public Education committee where no action was taken.

SB 2243 Counseling Before Abortions by Sen. Paxton

SB 2243 sought to ensure an abortionist certifies that a pregnant woman seeking an abortion received free counseling prior to the abortion. The counselor would be required to inform the woman of medically accurate information, and offer the pregnant woman assistance with support services, other than abortion, including medical care, adoption services, housing, employment, and childcare.

The bill passed on the Senate floor and was referred to the House Public Health committee where no further action was taken.

SB 2485 Amendment 1 Local SOGI protection by Sen. Watson

Amendment 1 of SB 2485 created a loophole in Texas law that would have endorsed local governments to create or keep sexual orientation, gender identity ordinances, also known as Ban the Bible ordinances. The loophole opened the door for the state to allow these dangerous ordinances which have been used to punish Christian business owners for their beliefs on marriage and human sexuality.

The bill failed on the Senate floor.

SB 227 Homeowners Religious Display Protections by Sen. Bettencourt

The bill ensures homeowner association would not be able to enforce or adopt a restrictive covenant that prohibits a property owner or resident from displaying or affixing certain religious items on the entry to the owner's or resident's dwelling.

The bill was only referred to a committee, Senate Business and Commerce.

SB 1107 Conscience Protections for Healthcare Providers by Sen. Kolkhorst

SB 1107 allows for a health care professional to be excused from performing medical procedures that violate the health care professionals' sincerely held religious belief or conscience.

The bill was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
