



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD

SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 7, 2017
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Abbott Signs Schwertner's Pre-Born Protection & Dignity Act

Governor Abbott signs sweeping pro-life legislation that outlaws partial-birth and dismemberment abortions while also protecting the dignity of aborted fetal remains.

AUSTIN, TX -- Yesterday afternoon, Governor Greg Abbott officially signed Senate Bill 8, also known as the Pre-Born Protection and Dignity Act, into state law. The sweeping legislation, authored by Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) and sponsored by Representative Cindy Burkett (R-Sunnyvale), enacts a prohibition on two controversial abortion procedures that involve dismembering an unborn child in the womb or by partially delivering an unborn child in order to terminate its life.

"As a physician and as a strong, pro-life conservative, I am proud to be able to deliver one of the most sweeping pro-life victories in the history of Texas," said Senator Schwertner.

"Senate Bill 8 will protect the unborn children of Texas against these particularly inhumane and barbaric abortion procedures and will further support a culture of dignity and respect for innocent human life."

Senate Bill 8 also enhances reporting requirements for abortions conducted in the state, makes several key clarifications about the definition of an elective abortion, and establishes a ban on the sale or exchange of fetal tissue from elective abortion.

"Abortion is a human tragedy at every imaginable level, and it's unconscionable to think that anyone would seek to profit from that pain," continued Schwertner. "The people of Texas simply will not stand for unborn children being torn apart, monetized, and traded like some sort of perverse commodity."

Establishing a statewide ban on the sale of fetal tissue was a key priority of Governor Greg Abbott's LIFE Initiative, which he announced in August 2015. Senate Bill 8 also carries the active support of the state's various pro-life organizations, including Texas Right to Life, the Texas Alliance for Life, the Texans for Life Coalition, and the Texas Catholic Conference.

A medical doctor by training, Dr. Schwertner serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Schwertner is currently serving his third term as the senator for Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas.

Key Provisions of the Pre-Born Protection and Dignity Act (Senate Bill 8)

1. Prohibits "partial-birth abortions" that terminate a partially-delivered unborn child
2. Prohibits "dismemberment abortions" that tear apart an unborn child in the womb
3. Prohibits the sale or exchange of human fetal tissue derived from an elective abortion
4. Requires aborted fetal remains to be buried or cremated with appropriate dignity
5. Redefines abortion to exclude procedures related to miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy
6. Enhances reporting requirements for medical complications resulting from abortion

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