



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Texas Seeks for Fetal Remains to be Respected



Education: In 2016, Texas health officials proposed and adopted new rules that required that abortion clinics and hospitals treat fetal remains with the same respect due to other human remains: they must be cremated or buried, rather than treated like medical waste. Indiana and Louisiana have passed laws to that effect, but both laws and the Texas rule have been blocked by federal judges. In spite of the ruling, Texas has introduced a bill to give the health department rule the force of law. The rule applies to both miscarriages and abortion, but allows exception for fetal remains which are expelled from the

womb at home rather than in a hospital or clinic.(1) The bill, SB8, was approved by the Health and Human Services Committee on March 7, 2017, and placed on the intent calendar to be considered by the Senate. (2)

Abortion advocates, of course, object to any such requirement, arguing that it is purely political to place an additional barrier to abortion. While it is the hospital or abortion clinic who must pay the additional cost, that cost would in effect raise the price of abortion. The rule allows multiple fetuses to be cremated or buried together, however, which significantly reduces the cost.(1) The states of course argue that fetal remains are human remains and should be treated with respect, just as much as the worst criminal who is still given a burial by the state.(3)

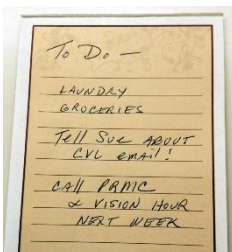
If this rule were to come into effect, a woman planning an abortion might never be aware of any difference in how the remains are treated. But the abortion workers would know. They will be reminded that the tissue they handle must be treated with respect, as the remains of a human person.

1. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/01/27/federal-judge-again-blocks-texas-fetal-remains-rules.html>
2. <https://www.texasrighttolife.com/bills/85th-session-sb8/>
3. <http://woai.iheart.com/articles/local-news-119078/the-proposal-to-mandate-fetal-remains-15629714/>



Prayer: Dear Lord, please help the debate about how to properly dispose of fetal remains to contribute to a greater understanding and acceptance of the humanity of each preborn child. If it is your will, let these measures become law. If the measure does become law, may it help abortion workers to come to accept the truth about the humanity of the preborn child. Please bless all abortion workers with the grace to get past their denial and resistance, to see the truth that abortion kills a child. Give them the courage to cease their involvement and seek other employment. Help them to become aware of the support and healing offered by And Then There Were None

(www.abortionworker.com).



Action: Keep aware of proposed state laws, and encourage your representative to support any legislation that promotes the cause of respect for life. Texas Right to Life (www.texasrighttolife.com) and Texas Alliance for Life (www.texasallianceforlife.org) and are two organizations which monitor and support pro-life legislation in Texas.