



Texas Eagle Forum

May 2019

Dear Eagles,

The year seems to be flying by, and the 86th Legislative Session is no exception to that fast pace. Many of us like to think Texas is a conservative leader in the Nation, but so far this session, we have not seen proof of that.

From the onset, this session has been different than the rest and, at the time of this writing, we are in a wait-and-see mode on the property tax-reform front. Instead of being fiscally conservative, Texas legislators are going on a spending spree and enlarging the size of government. And if that were not enough, they are encroaching into our everyday lives through numerous pieces of mental health legislation, including the creation of a consortium, a task force, a mental health institute, and mental health services and education at school-based health clinics. More on the mental health issue in our Summer scorecard issue.

As the session winds down and the 2020 election looms in front of us, it is important to know where we stand as a state and where we are as a Nation. Let's begin with a subject that is foundational to all other issues, LIFE. We have been watching a trend of those who say that "choice" now extends to extinguishing the life of a baby *after* it is born. Governing bodies, and especially hard-hearted governors, are ignoring or vetoing Born Alive acts around the country. The fact that so many are celebrating this horrendous act instead of being outraged speaks volumes about the state of our Nation.

When a people turn their backs on God and basic human principles, government becomes their god. The vacuum of unbelief, and rejection of a moral and principle-based Sovereign, does not give way to freedom, but to a cultural landslide.

But there is good news. Texas' version of the Born Alive Infant Protection Act (HB 16/SB 23) is on track to pass. The bill passed the Senate on April 17 and is now in the House. Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano) shares, "The callous disregard for human life and the refusal to stand against infanticide exhibited by many elected leaders cannot go unanswered. With the passage of the Texas Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, the Lone Star State is sending a clear message that we will not remain silent, and we will not rest in the fight for life." He adds, "As the author of House Bill 16, I am proud to join my colleagues in setting in stone the strongest protections in the nation for babies who survive abortion and, along with them, invite and encourage pro-life legislators in other states to follow Texas' lead."

Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), author of the companion bill, SB 23, says, "This is an attempt to make sure that Texas is not ambiguous. This is about protecting life. ... If a child were to be born alive, then that child should be protected and that is what this bill intends to do." We applaud these two heroic leaders for standing up for LIFE and pray this bill passes and is sent to the Governor before Sine Die on May 27th.

(over, please)

Who doesn't love Chick-fil-A? Obviously, the San Antonio City Council didn't when they banned the popular restaurant from opening at the San Antonio airport. The reason: they and their LGBT constituents are unhappy with CEO Dan Cathy's stance on traditional marriage. Chick-fil-A's stated corporate purpose is, "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A." Maybe the city officials should quit fighting this chicken sandwich giant and get on with more important issues. Chick-fil-A is a fair employer and a generous contributor in their communities. Texas officials should take note from the governor of Montana who personally invited Chick-fil-A to open restaurants in his state.

There have been times in the last few months where many of us have felt we are not making much progress in Austin, or that the fight is too big. But we serve a mighty God who decided one stone was enough for a shepherd boy to take down a giant. Through Him, we can do the same!

Pressing Onward,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trayce Bradford". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Trayce Bradford
President of Texas Eagle Forum