

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could." Mark 14:8a

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Let's Get An Ultrasound Bill Passed This Session!

H.B. 147 & S.B. 66: Two Bills, Same Subject, Two Code Sections

Background: Technology has improved so much that a special camera can photograph internal organs of the human body. Ultrasound cameras can now scan the contents of the womb to reveal in 3D or 4D living color the tiny human that's growing and moving inside.

To understand the term better, divide the word "ultrasound". The first part, ultra, is defined as "situated beyond or on the other side" and the second part of the word is sound. Combining those two definitions of the word explains that an ultrasound is looking on the other side to see and hear what's situated beyond normal vision. That informs the novice that, while getting an inside look at the contents of the womb, the heartbeat and other sounds will be audible, too.

The degree of development shown on the ultrasound depends on the gestational age of the baby, but if conception occurred 18 days before the ultrasound exam, the sound part of the exam includes the heartbeat. If conception was three weeks prior to the exam, not only would the heartbeat be heard, little arms would be budding from shoulders. Footprints are formed by the eighth week and the limbs seen moving in all that fluid are arms and legs. The images and sounds are so compelling that by the early '80s, professionals had already learned that mothers bonded with their unborn infants while viewing early ultrasounds of their pregnancies.

Such critical facts have prompted H.B. 147 and S.B. 66 to be introduced. One of these bills needs to pass, because it's a proven fact that 65 percent to 75 percent of women decide not to abort after seeing those phenomenal ultrasound images and hearing that distinctive heartbeat. You've heard people say, "You're the image of your mother or you're the image of your father." Well, now, it seems ultrasounds show such vividly distinct images that a child's resemblance to its relatives is evident . . . even before birth.

Since you were a little thing, you probably heard, "There's more than one way to skin a cat," and that's true. In fact, legislators play all the angles so they'll win, at least, some of the time. It's not unusual for the same or similar bills to be, simultaneously, introduced in both House and Senate. In fact, that's the strategy used to get last year's bill passed to inform parents of school clubs and extracurricular activities their children might join. If that bill had not been introduced in both House and Senate, it would not have passed. But, even then, it required untold maneuvering from several directions.

So, the same scenario might work for these two bills, either of which would accomplish the desired effect. Representative James Mills introduced H.B. 147 in the House on January 25th. Senator Nancy Schaefer introduced S.B. 66 on January 29th as a follow-up to her 2006 bill that failed to pass. Both H.B. 147 and S.B. 66 require ultrasound or sonogram exams for women seeking abortions.

If either of these bills passes, patients would "see" their baby long before it emerges at the end of nine months. They would know its approximate size, development and, probably, its sex.

Almost-Mama and Almost-Papa Can Display Baby's Picture Before Birth

H.B. 147 and S.B. 66 require physicians that perform abortions to provide ultrasound or sonogram equipment or refer patients to facilities where such exams are given free-of-charge. These moving pictures of the unborn are extremely valuable so physicians will know the baby's condition and whether it requires corrective surgery before it's born.

You might remember the phenomenal picture of a baby's hand reaching outside the mother's womb to grip the finger of the doctor as he performed corrective surgery on it before it was born. The surgery was completed and the baby continued in the womb until the day of its birth. In addition to being helpful to doctors, ultrasounds and sonograms are often the deciding factor when prospective parents are contemplating abortion.

Free-will decisions: One interesting part of these bills is the free-will factor. Women may *not* refuse to *have* the ultrasound or sonogram, but they have every right to refuse to *view or hear* the results. These are good bills that, if statistics correctly indicate the most common effect, would save at least 65 percent of babies whose parents are contemplating abortion.

Fact: Lies were used to legalize abortion through the ninth month. When abortion was legalized two Supreme Court decisions did the dirty deed. On January 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion through the *sixth* month of pregnancy. Then, that same day, January 22, 1973, the *Doe v. Bolton* decision extended the right to abortion through the *ninth* month.

Sandra Cano was the *Doe* in that case, but she never wanted an abortion and never had an abortion. She, simply, was seeking a divorce from her husband who was in and out of prison for molesting children. Margie Pitts Hames, now deceased but then an Atlanta attorney, lied about Sandra's case to get abortion legalized through the ninth month.

When all that happened in 1973, people could get away with claiming the pregnant woman was not carrying a baby, but a "blob of tissue". That's no longer the case. In the mid-'80s DNA proved that three-day-old embryos with four or eight cells were living beings conceived when sperm fertilized a human egg. A single cell could be extracted, analyzed and, when a special enzyme was applied, it reproduced millions of copies of the same molecule in just 24 hours. As early as 1990, scientists could determine whether those tiny embryos were male or female.

The invention and improvement of ultrasounds or sonograms, now used extensively in medical facilities, provide added confirmation of pregnancy, along with the condition and sex of the unborn child. That technology has, also, become a deterrent to abortion. The old ultrasound showed couples their unborn babies in *two*-dimensional black and white moving pictures, but that's old stuff. General Electric's new *four*-dimensional ultrasound system shows babies in living color, up close, as they move around, suck their thumbs, hiccup, kick, open their eyes and develop in the womb. There's no doubt. Technology has proven it *is* a human being. It *is* a developing baby. It *is* a boy or girl. It *is* a son a daughter from the moment of conception.

ACTION – Support. H.B. 147. Call House Non-Civil Judiciary Representatives Ralston, 404 656-5943; Mumford, 656-0254; Bearden, 656-0287; Byrd and Mangham, 656-0126; Cole, 651-7737; Collins and Everson, 656-0188; Cooper, 463-8142; Franklin, 656-5087; Knox, 656-7855; Lunsford, 656-7146; Setzler, 656-0177; Abdul-Salaam, 656-0325; Abrams, 656-0220; Benfield, 656-7859; Levitas, 656-0116; Randall, 656-0109.

ACTION – Support. S.B. 66. Call Health & Human Services Senators Thomas, 404 656-6436; Unterman, 463-1368; Goggans, 463-5263; Adelman, 463-1376; Balfour, 656-0095; Carter, 651-7738; Grant, 656-0082; Hawkins, 656-6578; Henson, 656-0085; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Orrock, 463-8054; Shafer, 656-0048; Preston Smith, 656-0034; Tate, 463-8053; Wiles, 657-0406.

H.B. 6, Firearm Protection for Citizens

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

The Constitution of the United States, Amendment II

Militias are groups of private citizens. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines militia as follows:

“The militia of a country are the able bodied men organized into companies, regiments and brigades, with officers of all grades, and required by law to attend military exercises on certain days only, but at other times left to pursue their usual occupations.”

H.B. 6 Passes House Judiciary Committee, Now in Rules

The *Constitution of the United States* protects the citizen’s right to own and use firearms, whether for hunting or protecting oneself, family and home. The U.S. grew from 13 colonies to 50 states under a unique government, the philosophical foundation of which was and is rooted in the natural God-given rights of each individual.

The key to success for this country was to give government enough power to govern effectively but not enough power to become dictatorial and corrupt. The five-man congressional committee of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston drafted the Declaration of Independence that was adopted July 4, 1776.

The Articles of Confederation held the nation together until 1787 when the Constitutional Convention convened with 55 delegates from 12 of the 13 states. Rhode Island didn’t send delegates, but the 12 agreed on the basic values and principles that comprise the document they passed. All 13 states, including Rhode Island, had ratified it by May 29, 1790. Article Five of the Constitution gave Congress the power to make amendments whenever two-thirds of both Houses found it necessary. For it to pass, three-fourths of the states were required to ratify each proposal. The last one adopted was the 27th Amendment in 1992.

The Second Amendment passed in 1791 to preserve the citizen’s right to keep and bear arms. At that time, George Washington made this astounding statement: “To secure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and the pistol are equally indispensable. The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference. They deserve a place of honor with all that is good.” Samuel Adams said, “The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the U.S. who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.”

Noah Webster said, “Before a standing army or a tyrannical government can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe.” The disarmament threat today requires updated laws to protect law-abiding citizens’ rights to own, carry and use guns.

Representative Bobby Franklin introduced **H.B. 6** to reverse a law passed during the Barnes administration. H.B. 6 prohibits emergency confiscation or registration of firearms owned and carried legally by citizens, except when the firearm must be held as evidence in a crime. It passed the House Judiciary Committee by a 10-7 vote January 30 and is in Rules Committee.

ACTION – Support. Call Rules Republican Representatives Ehrhart, Ch., 404 656-5141; Parrish, 656-0213; Mills, 656-5099; Barnard, 656-5138; Bridges, 656-5143; Burkhalter, 656-5072; Casas, 656-0254; Channell, 656-7856; Coan, 656-6801; Cooper, 463-8142; Fleming, 656-5024; Golick, 651-7737; Keen, 656-5052; Lane, 656-5115; Lewis, 656-9198; Lunsford, 656-7146; Millar, 656-5064; Ralston, 656-5943; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-5025; Austin Scott, 656-5132; Vance Smith, 656-7153; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Bob Smith 463-2247; Stephens, 656-5122; Len Wlaker, 656-5139; Willard, 656-5124; and **Democrat Representatives** Hugley and Porter, 656-5058; Cheokas, 656-0325; Hanner and Shaw, 656-7859; Jacobs, 656-0152; Mosby, 656-0287; Parham, 656-0202; Randall, 656-0109; Smyre, 656-0116.

S.B. 50, A Good Law in the Making

Whether a person is a citizen of this country or an interloper hoping never to be caught, each is entitled to medical care, regardless of the ability to pay. Of course, good old American tax payers have to pick up the tab. That's not fair, but that's the way it is.

Whether a child is a citizen of the United States or is here illegally, those same good old Americans pay for their education. Legal and illegal children, alike, are taught by teachers whose salaries are paid by tax payers. They all use buildings, books and equipment funded by taxes. So, everyone, whether legal or illegal, can be educated through the twelfth grade and get health care, regardless of legal status. That suggests that legal status does *not matter*. In a country founded and governed on constitutional law, there's something wrong with that.

While education and health care are free for the asking, a couple of Georgia legislators of Latino descent have tried to provide even more freebies to illegals. During the 2003 session, for example, Representative Pedro Marin of Duluth, Georgia introduced a bill authorizing temporary work permits for professional counselors. The only requirement would have been that they have licenses to practice in a foreign country and did practice professionally there. It was no oversight that the bill, conveniently, did *not* require such foreign professionals to enter this country legally. That bill died.

Also in 2003, Senator Sam Zamarippa introduced S.B. 181 to authorize driver's licenses for international visitors, students, business people and workers from 34 foreign countries, which he named in the bill, plus other foreign investors or U.S. trade-partners. Those "visitors" were not required to be here legally or to be a resident of the U.S. All such visitors and their extended families would have had access to untold freebies, compliments of big-hearted tax-payers. That bill died, too.

This session, Senator John Douglas introduced **S.B. 50** to tighten the notary public law. When the current notary public law passed, no one dreamed illegal aliens would apply for that job in this state. But, that's changed and the law must be changed. S.B. 50 simply adds a reasonable provision that any person who wants to be a notary public must, not only be at least 18 years old, but *must* be a legal resident of the United States.

Current law already requires an applicant to be a resident of Georgia and of the county where the appointment is made and must be able to read and write the English language. But, in this day and age, requiring anyone to be able to read and write English could be a problem.

Current law says anyone violating the notary public law is guilty of a misdemeanor and that's all it says. But S.B. 50 would throw the book at repeat offenders. If this bill passes, any person who violates the notary public law would be guilty of a misdemeanor for the first and second offenses. That's the equivalent of a slap on the wrist. But the third offense would be a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison or a fine up to \$5,000.00 or both.

ACTION – Support. Contact Judiciary Committee Senators Preston Smith, Ch., 404 656-0034; Harp, 463-3931; Hamrick, 656-0036; Adelman, 463-1376; Brown, 656-5035; Carter, 651-7738; Cowser, 463-1366; Fort, 656-5091; Hill, Judson, 656-0150; Meyer von Bremen, 656-0637; Reed, 463-1379; Wiles, 657-0406.

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