

# ***Legislature Adopts New Bill to Get Government Out of the Abortion Business***

In a major victory for the unborn child, pro-life legislators the week of May 14, 2007, successfully revived the provisions of pro-life Senate Bill 714 and inserted them into a different bill – Senate Bill 139. The bill was approved on May 14 by the House of Representatives and on May 16 by the state Senate. It became law a week later when Governor Brad Henry refused to either veto it or sign it into law. The Governor had vetoed a similar bill the previous month, and the Senate twice fell one vote short of overriding his veto.

For a summary of the content of SB 139, please see “Description of Pro-Life SB 714” (in green) at the bottom of the listing of key votes on this VOTES page of our website.

The effort to resurrect the provisions of pro-life SB 714 and insert them into SB 139 was led by Senator James Williamson, Tulsa Republican, and Representative Rebecca Hamilton, Oklahoma City Democrat. Both deserve the heartfelt thanks of all pro-life Oklahomans for the superhuman effort they made to get this pro-life legislation passed. They can be reached by email at [williamson@oksenate.gov](mailto:williamson@oksenate.gov) and [rebeccahamilton@okhouse.gov](mailto:rebeccahamilton@okhouse.gov).

Others who were instrumental in the passage of this important pro-life legislation were Republican House Speaker Lance Cargill and Democratic Senator Jay Paul Gumm.

After the previous pro-life bill, SB 714, was vetoed by Governor Henry on April 18, 2007, and efforts to override his veto in the Senate twice fell one vote short, pro-life legislators looked for another bill into which the pro-life provisions of SB 714 could be inserted. To address some of the concerns that the Governor had expressed about SB 714, modifications were made in two of the thirteen sections of SB 139. Otherwise, the two bills were the same.

In the House, the key vote in making passage of the bill possible was on a motion to suspend the rules. A two-thirds majority is required to suspend the rules – 68 votes in the 101-member House. The 68 votes were provided by 56 Republicans and 12 Democrats. Opposing the motion were one Republican (Doug Cox) and 19 Democrats. Another 13 Democrats were outside the House chamber when the vote was taken. (Those who were present but left the House chamber to avoid the vote were, in effect, voting “NAY” [pro-abortion] since the pro-life motion to suspend the rules to insert the pro-life language needed the affirmative votes of 68 members of the House.)

House members who were particularly helpful in passing the bill were Republicans John Wright (the House author of the original bill) and Lisa Billy, and Democrats Purcy Walker and R.C. Pruett.

In the Senate, the bill was supported by 34 senators. All of the Senate’s 24 Republicans supported the pro-life legislation throughout the session. Seven Democratic senators supported the pro-life legislation throughout the session. They are: Sean Burrage, Kenneth Corn, Mary Easley, Earl Garrison, Jay Paul Gumm, Tom Ivester, and Susan Paddack. Three other Democratic senators who had opposed overriding Governor Henry’s pro-abortion veto of pro-life SB 714 voted for SB 139. They are Nancy Riley, Debbe Leftwich, and Charlie Laster. Voting against the pro-life bill were 14 Senate Democrats.

To link to the key House vote in the passage of SB 139, [click here](#). (The heading says “Public umbilical cord blood bank.” That was the previous subject of the bill into which the pro-life language was inserted. This key vote was on the motion to suspend the rules to insert the pro-life provisions.) The “YEAS” are the pro-life votes.

To link to the Senate vote on final passage of SB 139, [click here](#). The “YEAS” are the pro-life votes.