

Explanation of Pro-Life HB 3290

HB 3290 began as a bill regulating RU-486 chemical abortions. (The bill was identical to SB 1902, which became law on April 2, 2010.) After the federal health-care law was enacted on March 23, 2010, the Oklahoma Senate amended HB 3290, removing the language regulating RU-486 chemical abortions and inserting language prohibiting health insurance plans in Oklahoma established under the new federal health-care law from covering elective abortions. The new federal health-care law allows states to opt out of abortion coverage in the state-based insurance "exchanges" the law creates. The Oklahoma House and Senate both passed the language prohibiting insurance coverage of elective abortions, but Governor Brad Henry vetoed this pro-life bill less than 48 hours before the legislature's mandatory adjournment time. The House and Senate had numerous budget bills that had to be enacted before adjournment in order to fund essential government services for the coming fiscal year, and time ran out without there being a vote to override the veto. We regret being unable to override yet another pro-abortion veto by Governor Henry, but we applaud the Oklahoma House and Senate for their magnificent accomplishments this year in defending unborn children, expectant mothers, and pro-life health-care professionals. We look forward to working with our legislators to enact the bill restricting insurance coverage for elective abortions next year.