

## Texas Gov. Rick Perry Backs Abortion-Ultrasound Bill in State Address

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**Austin, TX (LifeNews.com)** -- Texas Gov. Rick Perry urged lawmakers in the state legislature to adopt a bill that would allow women to see an ultrasound of their unborn child prior to having an abortion. The bill made traction before in the legislature and pro-life advocates hope to get it to Perry's desk this time for him to sign.

Perry called the bill "another layer of protection for the most vulnerable Texans."

"Issues of this complexity and moral weight are the sort of thing that we are sent here to address," he said.

Sen. Dan Patrick, a Houston Republican, and Rep. Frank Corte Jr., a San Antonio Republican, are the main legislators sponsoring the bill. In 2007, the state Senate approved the bill and it stalled in the House.

Patrick told reporters after Perry's address that his support is "music to these conservative ears."

Lesley Ramsey, director of the Texas Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, told the media that her group opposes the bill and claimed that letting women see an ultrasound of their baby jeopardizes their health.

She also claimed Perry is only supporting the bill to help him in an expected Republican primary against Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, even though he has been a longtime pro-life advocate.

Ramsey said the proposal "does not have the woman's health or best interests in mind."

"This legislation is a political tactic aimed at appeasing the governor's primary base," Ramsey said.

The governor also talked about promoting adult stem cell research as a more ethical and effective alternative to the use of embryonic stem cells, which are obtained by destroying human life.

"Expertise in this emerging and increasingly promising field will not only bring healing to the suffering and create jobs for Texans, it will also establish an appropriate firewall protecting the unborn from exploitation," Perry said.

Joe Pojman, executive director of Texas Alliance for Life, was in attendance for the speech and his group has been working with Perry and supporting Choose Life" specialty license plates.

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