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PATRICK TO INTRODUCE PRO-LIFE TRIGGER LAW UPON ELECTION TO TEXAS SENATE

Republican Senate nominee says "changing legal climate necessitates action"

HOUSTON – Dan Patrick, Republican State Senate District 7 nominee, announced this afternoon he will introduce legislation to outlaw abortions in Texas upon the reversal of the 1973 US Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade. Known as a "trigger law," states have begun the process of enacting statutes in advance of any Supreme Court revision.

A trigger law would serve to prevent costly litigation and delays in implementation of a pro-life environment in Texas. Upon reversal of the 1973 Supreme Court decision, abortions would immediately be banned with a trigger law. "When the Supreme Court puts a stop to the madness, I want Texas to be a state that protects life. With a Texas trigger law, we can save lives immediately," Patrick said.

"I believe the changing legal and political climate nationally necessitates action to protect the most vulnerable among us," Patrick said. "Protecting our children crosses all political, religious, racial and economic classes. I believe a majority of Texans will want us to pass this legislation," Patrick added.

Seven other states including Louisiana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois have passed trigger laws. In the coming months, I will work with various pro-life groups to make certain that the Texas trigger law is the strongest in the nation and a model for other states.

"The passage of a trigger law in Louisiana gives us an expectation of success in Texas," Mr. Patrick remarked. Republicans and Democrats in the Louisiana Legislature worked together to ensure passage (approved unanimously in the Louisiana Senate), and the law was signed by Democrat Governor Kathleen Blanco on June 17, 2006. "If the Louisiana Legislature can pass a trigger law, surely Texas can," Patrick said.

According to the Texas Department of Health, there were 75,053 *reported* abortions in Texas in 2004 (the most current data available). Harris County accounted for 17,247 of those abortions which was more than twice the number of children who graduated high school from the Houston Independent School District (HISD) in the same year.

Prior to the start of the 2007 Regular Legislative Session, the Patrick Campaign plans to hold a rally with various pro life groups and religious leaders from all denominations to begin a statewide movement and gather support for the trigger law. "I have talked to various pro life groups in Texas and I expect to have support from all of them," said Patrick. "I also plan to ask the four gubernatorial candidates to announce if they will support this bill," Patrick observed.

In September, Patrick will also announce his full legislative agenda. His plan will include issues he campaigned on; including border security, lower appraisal caps, an end to the Senate's so called "blocker bill" and new issues Patrick believes Texans want action on.

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