

Pro-Life Legislation integral part

The General Assembly's commitment to protecting life was once again part of our agenda during the 2021 Legislative Session. The General Assembly continued to fight and defend the most vulnerable because we value and believe in the sanctity of life. As your representative, I believe it is my duty as an elected official to be a voice for the voiceless and stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Constitutional Amendment clarifying there is No Right to Abortion: One of the most important bills we passed this session was HB 91, which will allow Kentucky voters to decide next year whether to add the following words to the state constitution: "To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion." We are all aware of the court challenges to pro-life legislation taking place around the nation. These ongoing legal battles make this legislation imperative. Medical providers take an oath to do no harm, and this legislation further cements in statute this ethical and moral practice.

Empowering Kentucky's Attorney General to Enforce Abortion Laws: Passed during the beginning days of the leg-

Capitol Focus



State Rep. Brandon Reed

islative session, HB 2 expands the role of the state's chief law enforcement officer in enforcing statutory and regulatory requirements on abortions. Current law states that Kentucky's Attorney General may only take action if the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services requests it. This was a point of contention when the Governor banned elective surgeries but allowed abortion clinics to remain open. It is my hope that this legislation will ensure abortion clinics and providers follow state laws.

Quality Care for Born-Alive Infants: SB 9 requires that medically appropriate and reasonable life-saving care be provided to any born-alive infant, including cases in which an attempted abortion results in a live birth. Medical providers take an oath to do no harm, and this legislation further cements in statute this ethical and moral practice.

Newborn Safety Device: I strongly believe that being pro-life also means supporting parents and children before and after birth.

HB 155 legalizes the use of a newborn safety device commonly referred to as a safe haven baby box. These continuously monitored, temperature controlled boxes can be placed at a police station, fire station, or hospital. Once that newborn is placed inside, an alarm is triggered that alerts medical providers so they can immediately respond and provide care. This bill provides parents who may be desperate a safe option to save the life of their child. A similar law is on the books in Indiana, and has already been successful in saving the lives of surrendered newborns.

As you can see, the General Assembly remains committed to moving our state forward, while also upholding the values that make our state and communities unique. Being your voice in Frankfort is an honor, and I will always fight for the beliefs you hold most dear. I hope you will reach out to me about any concerns or issues.

Now that the 2021 Legislative Session is adjourned, I can still be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181 or by email at Brandon.Reed@lrc.ky.gov. If you would like more information about any of these bills or legislative actions, you can also visit the Leg-

islative Research Commission website at legislature.ky.gov. You can also follow me on Facebook @RepReed4KY for regular updates.

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Reed elected Co-Chair of Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee

Representative Brandon Reed, R-Hodgenville, has been elected to serve as the Co-Chair of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee. The committee is responsible for advising the Kentucky Board of Education on the implementation of the state assessment and accountability system and providing legislative oversight to the Office of Education Accountability.

"I am proud of the confidence my colleagues have placed in me to lead this important committee," Reed said. "Our students, teachers, and parents will face many challenges when school begins again in just a few short months. As we continue to learn about what educational hurdles the next school year holds, I am

committed to ensuring every school district in Kentucky has the tools they need for success. Our students are the future, and we cannot waiver in making sure they have access to an education system that prepares them for long-term success."

The subcommittee is composed of both House and Senate members. In addition to serving in this capacity, Reed is also a member of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture, Appropriations and Revenue, Local Government, and Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology. He also serves on the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee and the Budget Preparation and Submission Subcommittee.

For more information on these commit-

tees and other legislative activity, please visit legislature.ky.gov.

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