

## **LifeTree North Carolina EMERGENCY Legislative Alert**

### **HB-998 Abortion - Woman's Right To Know bill**

*July 14, 2003 update*

Dear Friends of LifeTree,

Please help LifeTree get NC House Bill 998 (Abortion - Woman's Right To Know) out of committee. It will take about 10 minutes of your time.

**Please call NC Representatives Morgan, Black & Culpepper, and ask them to please permit a vote on House Bill 998 ("Abortion - Woman's Right To Know").** It is stuck in the House Rules Committee, because the House leadership is refusing to allow it to be voted on.

Time is very short. The NC General Assembly is tentatively planning to adjourn for the year on Friday, July 18, 2003. So can you **please** take a few minutes **ASAP** to make these calls?

**Do not just email them. A single phone call is worth about 10 emails.** If you call when they are not there, you can leave voice mail messages expressing your concern and asking them to call you back. These are the Raleigh phone numbers:

Bill Culpepper (D): **919-715-3028** (Rules Committee Chairman) 404 LOB  
Richard Morgan (R): **919-715-3010** (Co-Speaker) 301 LOB  
Jim Black (D): **919-733-3451** (Co-Speaker) 2304 LB

**Mr. Morgan can also be reached at home** in Eagle Springs at **910-948-4238**, or at his **office in Pinehurst**: Morgan Richard T & Associates / Bankingport Morgan Ins., 570 Pinehurst South, Pinehurst, NC 28374, Tel: **910-295-4575**.

After calling them, please call or email us to tell us how the conversation went, and what they (or their assistants) told you: <lifetree@lifetree.org> or 919-481-4190 or 919-785-0855.

H998 would require that (except in medical emergencies) a woman must be given information about medical facts (such as the risks of both abortion and childbirth), her legal rights, and available alternatives and assistance, at least 24 hours before she gets an abortion. This bill would save at least 3000 lives per year in NC, simply by giving young mothers information they need to make informed choices before getting abortions.

Majorities of both the Rules Committee and whole House are co-sponsors of this bill (though not Morgan, Black and Culpepper). It will pass easily if it is permitted a vote. But if Chairman Culpepper does not permit a vote soon, H998 will not be enacted.

If 2000 people make phone calls, this bill will surely sail through. Think of that: spend the time to place one phone call as the price to save (at least!) one innocent life. 500 man-hours (one time) to save at least 3000 lives (per year). More than one life saved per phone call made.

*Note:* some House staffers have been claiming that H998 cannot be enacted

because it lacks the votes to pass in the House, or because it needed to meet the May 1 "crossover" deadline. Those claims are both false. H998 is eligible, and it does have sufficient support. These staffers are giving excuses, not reasons. (Rep. Culpepper is the committee chairman who must schedule the committee vote, but Reps. Morgan and Black are the co-speakers who appointed Culpepper and who sent the bill to his committee, and they surely have the ability to persuade him to allow a vote, if they so desire.)

Many women do not get abortions as a matter of "choice," but, rather, because they believe that they have no other choice. This bill would prevent many of those abortions by empowering women with additional information. Whatever someone thinks of abortion, surely an abortion that is purchased by a woman who doesn't really want it, or that is later regretted, is the most unambiguously tragic of all. These are the abortions which H998 would prevent.

If you live in the district of Rep. Culpepper, Morgan or Black, please mention that fact when you call him, since being a constituent adds to your "clout." Here are the districts that they represent:

Bill Culpepper - district 2 - see map: <http://www.lifetree.org/hd2map.htm>  
All of Chowan, Dare, Perquimans & Tyrrell Counties, and the western half of Gates County (Edenton, Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Manteo, etc.).

Richard Morgan - district 52 - see map: <http://www.lifetree.org/hd52map.htm>  
Most of Moore County (Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Robbins, etc. - basically all of Moore County except Vass and Cameron).

Jim Black - district 100 - see map: <http://www.lifetree.org/hd100map.htm>  
Part of Mecklenburg County (much of Charlotte & Matthews).

This web page has links to additional information about H998, including the full text of the bill, bill status, a North Carolina Right To Life "action alert," and more: <http://www.lifetree.org/h998.htm>

Thank you, and God bless you for helping.

LifeTree, Inc. A *pro-life Christian ministry*  
<http://www.lifetree.org/> <lifetree@lifetree.org>  
919-481-4190 or 919-785-0855  
PO Box 17301, Raleigh, NC, 27619

*"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" -Matthew 25:40*

**P.S.** -- A single phone call is worth about 10 emails. Email is best used for following up a phone call to say, "thank you for talking to me and thank you for promising to \_\_\_" (or similar).

**A personal visit has about ten times the weight of a phone call!** So if you can visit the legislature in person, that would be even better. In case you've never lobbied before, here're some tips: <http://lifetree.org/HowToLobby4b.html>