

LifeTree Mecklenburg County, NC Emergency Legislative Alert

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

July 16, 2003

Dear Christian Friends,

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

Please call your NC State Representative, Jim Black, and ask him 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 (though it is rumored that adjournment might be delayed a few days). So can you **please** take a few minutes **ASAP** to make this call?

There are three key members of the NC House leadership who need to be persuaded: Co-speakers Jim Black and Richard Morgan, and Rules Committee Chairman Bill Culpepper. But residents of Mecklenburg County are especially well positioned to influence Mr. Black, so we recommend that you concentrate most of your attention on him.

Do not just email him. A single phone call is worth about 10 emails. If you call when he is not there, you can leave a voice mail message expressing your concern and asking him to call you back.

These are the Raleigh phone numbers for Reps. Black, Morgan & Culpepper:

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

On the weekend, Mr. Black can probably be reached at his home in Matthews at 704-847-9938. You watch the news or call us at 919-481-4190 to find out whether or not they've adjourned for the year by this weekend (if so, then it is too late).

After calling any of them, please email LifeTree to tell us how the conversation went, and what they (or their assistants) told you: <lifetree@lifetree.org>.

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 Black, Morgan and Culpepper). **It will pass easily if it is permitted a vote.** But if the House leadership does not permit a vote, 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.

(Representative 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 Mr. Culpepper says that he is neutral/undecided on the bill and will do whatever the speakers ask him to do.)

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 **Rep. Black's County (Mecklenburg)**, be sure to mention that fact when you call him, since that adds to your "clout." His district (House District 100) **is part of Mecklenburg County** (most of Matthews and part of Charlotte). You can view map of NC House District 100 on the internet, here: <http://www.lifetree.org/hd100map.htm>

(Bill Culpepper's district is in Chowan, Dare, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Gates Counties. Richard Morgan's district is most of Moore County.)

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.

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"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 impact of a phone call! So if you can visit Mr. Black in person, that would be even better. In case you've never lobbied before, here're some tips: <http://lifetree.org/HowToLobby4b.html>