



ARKANSAS RIGHT TO LIFE

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Arkansas Right to Life Applauds Bill Introduced by AR Senator Tom Cotton Expanding Family Leave, Child Tax Credit to Cover Miscarriages, Stillbirths

Arkansas Right to Life is applauding Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, for introducing the HEALING Mothers and Fathers Act as an amendment to the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which adds “spontaneous loss of an unborn child” as a qualifying medical condition and establishes a \$3,600 tax credit for any mother or couple that suffers the loss of a child in the womb.

The amendment would mean that mothers and their spouses would be permitted to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a one-year period without fear of job loss. In addition, the bill prohibits Title X funds from going to abortion providers. The National Right to Life Committee also supports the bill.

“No amount of money can heal the unexpected loss of a child, but parents must be given time to mourn. Our bill will ensure families are given the resources and support they need to recover,” said Cotton in a statement.

The HEALING Mothers and Fathers Act mirrors a similar bill in Arkansas introduced by State Rep. Les Eaves called Paisley’s Law, named in honor of his late granddaughter, Paisley, which was signed into law earlier this year.

“This bill recognizes the loss of an unborn child as a cherished member of a family and allows parents some measure of comfort during this difficult time in their lives,” said Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life.

Eaves said the loss of his granddaughter in 2018 one day before she was to be born “was the most painful thing I have ever seen.”

“What I have learned through this tragedy is that our family was not alone. There are hundreds of Arkansas families each year that go through the same trauma and heartbreak. I’ve heard so many similar stories from parents of stillborn children,” said Eaves.

For more information contact Mimms at (501) 663-4237 or email artl@artl.org.

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Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information visit <https://artl.org/>.