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Mimms applauds new law to protect pregnant mothers from abortion by fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life, applauded Arkansas lawmakers Rep. Jimmy Gazaway and Senator Ben Gilmore for sponsoring and Governor Sarah Sanders for signing HB1551 April 8 into law as Act 485 to create the offense of coerced criminal abortion by means of fraud.

HB1551 passed with overwhelming bipartisan support with votes of 99-0 in the House and 34-0 in the Senate. The new law will take effect approximately 90 days after the official end of the 95th session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

“This bill is critical to protect those pregnant mothers who are excited to welcome the blessing of new life from those who choose to view that new life as a curse instead and use criminal tactics to end the life of the child without the mother's knowledge or consent. A crime that deserves harsh punishment,” said Mimms. “I'm proud that Arkansas has taken another giant step to protect pregnant mothers and their unborn children by passing this important legislation.”

Mimms thanked Catherine Herring of Houston, Texas, for her testimony in favor of the new law. Herring was very early in her pregnancy when she began to suspect her husband was trying to secretly end her pregnancy by spiking her water with abortion pills, an act that put her in the hospital that nearly cost her life and the life of her child.

“I’m so proud to have been a part of Act 485,” said Herring. “Abortion can be such a polarizing topic, but Arkansas has demonstrated how we can all come together to find common ground. I’ve come to the realization that I can’t fix everything that happened to us, but if our testimony can illustrate the horror of a father using abortion pills, we may just open new hearts to the horror of it all.”

Arkansas Right to Life, the state’s oldest and largest pro-life organization, is an affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the leading voice of the voiceless dedicated to protecting all human beings threatened by abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. For more information visit artl.org.