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For Immediate Release
July 7, 2010

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Governor Jindal Signs Pro-Life Bills Into Law Ultrasound and Opt-Out Bills Headline New 2010 Pro-Life Laws

Baton Rouge- On Tuesday, Governor Bobby Jindal signed into law two pro-life bills that the Louisiana Right to Life Federation brought forward and helped navigate through the legislative process. The Ultrasound before Abortion Act, SB 528, and the Abortion Insurance Opt-Out, HB 1247, passed the legislature by significant margins.

The “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act”, authored by Senator Sharon Weston Broome (D-Baton Rouge), would require ultrasounds to be performed before all abortions in Louisiana. Among other things, the bill also requires that the woman have the opportunity to see the ultrasound.

The Abortion Insurance Opt-Out, authored by Rep. Frank Hoffman (R-West Monroe), opts Louisiana out of government-subsidized abortions made possible through the passage of health care reform. Louisiana becomes the fourth state since March 23rd to pass opt-out legislation.*

In addition to the above bills, Governor Jindal signed into law HB 1370 by Rep. Fred Mills (D-Parks) that gives more authority to the Department of Health and Hospitals to close down abortion facilities not in compliance with Louisiana law.

Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life Federation, commented, “Louisiana furthered its exemplary commitment to defending unborn human life by enacting these critical pieces of pro-life legislation. We thank Governor Jindal for signing these bills into law and for his administration working with us every step of the way to pass these measures.”

“We brought these bills forward to the legislature out of the desire to increase the positive effects of ultrasound and to prevent the government funding of abortion. We are confident these new laws will save the lives of unborn children and open the door to life-affirming choices for mothers,” Clapper finished.

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Louisiana Right to Life Federation (LARTL), established in 1970, works through education and legislation to restore the right to life in Louisiana by opposing abortion, euthanasia, and other life destroying actions.



* Opt-out legislation has been signed into law by three states, Arizona, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and is pending Governor action in Missouri.