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INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE VOICE OF THE PALMETTO STATE

Action Needed: SC Personhood Act

In 2016, Senator Rankin voted for the S.719 SC Personhood Amendment on April 12, 2016 (Minutes p.5) in the full SC Senate Judiciary Committee which he now Chairs, after the June 2016 defeat of Personhood legislation opponent, former SC Senator and former Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, Larry Martin; AND Senator Rankin also voted on May 11, 2016 for Special Order for the S.719 SC Personhood Amendment on the floor of the full SC Senate. At the time 23-year incumbent Senator Rankin was facing Republican opposition from a Myrtle Beach Republican in the June 2016 Primary.

Now that his seat is secure, Chairman Senator Luke Rankin has not demonstrated support for the bill reintroduced as S.217 Personhood Act of South Carolina.

Many South Carolinians are not aware of the near plenary power which SC Senate

Committee Chairmen have to assign or to not assign any bill to a Subcommittee within their Committee; and to determine who will sit on any Subcommittee, also choosing the chairman. These are not Standing Subcommittees, but tailor-made (Committee Chairman made) individually-designed Subcommittees for each bill. Therefore, the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, Senator Luke Rankin (R-Horry), has a great deal of personal power to determine the success or failure of S.217 Personhood Act of SC.

At this point in the 2017 Session of the SC Legislature, Senator Rankin has not assigned S.217 to a Judiciary Subcommittee over two months after its introduction January 10, 2017 by then-Senator (now SC LT Governor) Kevin Bryant.

Senator Rankin is using his privilege to prevent important legislation from passing into committee, using the move from

the playbooks of previous Personhood legislation opponents and former Senate Judiciary Committee Chairmen SC Senators, 31-year incumbent Glenn McConnell (2012) and 23-year incumbent Larry Martin (2016) to prevent its ever reaching the senate floor for discussion and a vote.

Those who support this legislation protecting the lives of the unborn may contact Senator Luke Rankin at 803.212.6610 or go online at www.scstatehouse.gov, go to "senate," go to "members," select "Sen Rankin" and use "send message to Senator Rankin" for email requests asking him to again, sponsor the bill and assign S.217 to a Favorable Judiciary Subcommittee.

The Personhood battle began in 1998 stipulating the right to life for the born and preborn beginning at fertilization, to not be denied life and to be afforded protection for that life.