



GLC WEEKLY

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Ecuador National Assembly Rejects Partial Veto of Abortion Bill, Sends to Constitutional Court

Thomas W. Jacobson & Isabel Maria Salazar, Global Life Campaign

Yesterday, 5 April 2022, a majority of the Ecuador National Assembly rejected President Guillermo Lasso's partial veto of their abortion bill. In an act to attempt to override the Presidential veto, the Assembly voted to refer the matter to the Constitutional Court. Their goal is to reinstate their original abortion bill with no changes. The vote was 75 to refer, 49 against, and 11 abstentions.

The original abortion bill, if enacted, would "guarantee the voluntary interruption of pregnancy of girls, adolescents and women in case of rape." It would recognize abortion as a so-called "right," open the door for abortion on demand because there are no formal or legal requirements to prove rape, disregard parental rights, and deny the inalienable right of conscience objection for medical professionals.

The Ecuador Constitution guarantees the inalienable right to life from conception, respect for the family, and inherent right to conscientious objection. But the Constitutional Court in its ruling last year, the authors of the abortion bill, and a majority of the National Assembly, are either ignoring the true meaning of the Constitution, or are trying to change it to be the opposite of original and historical intent. They falsely claim that abortion must be approved as a matter of non-discrimination (Article 11.2); to protect vulnerable groups (Art. 35); to protect the rights of girls and their physical and mental integrity (Art. 45); and that the rights of conscientious objection cannot be claimed to undermine other "rights" (Art. 66.12).

The original bill was presented by legislator Johanna Moreira, who is pro-abortion. She also made the motion to send the matter back to the Constitutional Court because she thinks the Executive's partial objection to the bill was unconstitutional and contrary to the court's dictate.

Let us pray that the judges of the Constitutional Court come to their right senses, and reverse the court's decision made last year. Pray that they issue a new decision affirming that the Ecuador Constitution protects human life from conception and does not authorize abortion.

For the precious gift of every child and remembrance of children unborn,

Thomas W. Jacobson,
Founder & Executive Director
Global Life Campaign

TJacobson@GLC.life