

A “Rust-y” Record On Choice and Reproductive Rights¹

Delegate Rust supported a series of laws to slowly chip away a woman’s reproductive rights.

February, 2007, *Rust voted for [HB 2532](#), which would have included unintentionally causing the death of a fetus in the legal definition of involuntary manslaughter.* The legislation passed the House 90-7 but was killed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

February, 2007, *Rust voted for [HB 2648](#), which would have made it a felony to destroy a fetus by any means other than medically approved contraceptives.* The bill passed the House 72-25 but was killed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

February, 2007, *Rust voted for [HB 2456](#), which would have required doctors to offer anesthesia for the fetuses of women seeking abortions after the 20th week and to give patients educational materials claiming that fetuses were able to feel pain at the 20th week.* This came against the advice of most medical professionals that administering fetal anesthesia could compromise the woman’s health and with the evidence of fetuses feeling pain at the 20th week being murky at best. The bill passed the state House but died in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

February, 2004, *Rust voted for [HB 1](#), a bill that made unlawfully causing the death of a fetus a felony.* HB 1 passed the House 77-22 and the Senate 29-11 before being sent to the Governor. Governor Mark Warner attempted to add language that would have expressly stated that the bill did nothing to curb a woman’s rights under Roe v. Wade, but Rust, along with the House, voted it down. The bill passed without the language 31-69.

When similar legislation was proposed in the [2002 \(HB 149\)](#) session, Rust supported it. The bill would have defined as homicide the knowing or reckless destruction of a fetus without the consent of the woman.

February, 2007, Rust voted for [HB 894](#) *would have required first trimester abortion providers to meet onerous and medically unnecessary architectural, procedural, staffing, and equipment requirements.* It passed the House of Delegates 60-37. The bill was defeated in the Senate Education and Health Committee by a vote of 10-5.

February, 2008, Rust voted for [HB 1126](#) *would have amended the Code of Virginia to include pregnant women as possible perpetrators of illegally causing an abortion or miscarriage, and classified such an act as a Class 4 Felony.* The bill passed the House of Delegates 68-31. The bill was defeated in the Senate Committee on Education and Health by a vote of 9-5.

February, 2008, Rust voted for [HB 1556](#) *which would have required physicians to distribute medically disputed information to women seeking to obtain an abortion.* It passed the House of Delegates 68-31. The bill was defeated in the Senate Committee on Education and Health by a vote of 10-5.

¹ This listing does not include all votes Delegate Rust has taken in his time as a Delegate for the Commonwealth. This compilation includes those votes which adversely impact reproductive rights, sexual education, and reproductive healthcare.

Delegate Rust supported legislation to make birth control inaccessible and abortion services severely restricted.

February, 2007, Rust voted for *Budget Amendment **HB 1650, Item 4-5.04, which prohibited Medicaid funding of abortion in cases of rape, incest, and profound fetal abnormality.*** The amendment passed, 69-25.

January, 2007, Rust voted for ***HB 1883, which would have required abortion clinics to maintain the same equipment required at ambulatory surgery centers.*** These were unnecessary requirements that would shut down many, if not all abortion clinics in Virginia. The bill passed the House 60-35, but was killed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

February, 2006, Rust voted for ***HB 189 that required all abortion clinics to be licensed and to comply with the requirements currently in place for ambulatory surgery centers, except the requirement for a certificate of public need.*** The bill passed the House 66-33, but failed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

February, 2006, Rust voted for budget amendment ***HB 5002, Item 4-5.04 #2h prohibiting state funding of abortion services, except as otherwise required by federal statute.*** The amendment passed 59-34.

February, 2006, Rust voted against ***HB 1274, a bill that would have required physicians to report medical treatment for any complications resulting from induced abortions.*** The measure was intended to make abortion providers nervous about providing abortions and women nervous about getting abortions for fear of being prosecuted. The bill passed the House 64-34, but was killed in the Senate Education and Health committee.

February, 2002, Rust supported ***HB 563, which would have allowed health care providers to refuse to dispense birth control or perform abortions.*** The bill passed the House 79-20, but was killed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

January, 2003, Rust voted for final passage of similar legislation, ***HB 1741, which passed the House 69-29 but died in the Senate Education and Health Committee.***

In February 2002, Rust voted for ***HB 601, which would have made parental consent mandatory for any minor seeking abortion.*** The bill passed the House 73-25, but was killed in the Senate Education and Health Committee.

Rust supported legislation that makes Virginia's Family Life Education promote abstinence-only.

February, 2006, Rust voted for ***HB 164 which Required that any family life education course including a discussion of sexual intercourse emphasize that abstinence is the accepted norm.*** The bill also requires that family life courses include materials that emphasize honor and respect for heterosexual marriage.