

February 17, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Majority Leader:

There are few things more essential to the identity of America than the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The most fundamental of these natural rights is listed first—the right to life. A prerequisite for all other human rights, life is a gift endowed by our Creator. But this unalienable right is not equally protected for all our citizens; the youngest, smallest, and most vulnerable among us are suffering. The unborn children of America deserve a chance at life. Their inherent right to life is no less valid than ours, and now is the time for the federal government to take action on their behalf.

As a culture we have wrestled with the question of abortion for decades. But now science confirms what many knew by instinct—that life begins at conception. Increasingly, cutting edge technology allows mothers and fathers to see the individual fingers and toes of their unborn children through 4-D ultrasounds. A recent Marist poll found that the majority of Americans, Democrats and Republicans, support meaningful restrictions on abortion. Now is the time for coordinated efforts to protect and defend the yet unborn millions.

Kansas is a Culture of Life state. We have enacted into law seventeen pro-life laws championing the dignity of life. I ask you to consider the following measures to protect life:

- **Defund Planned Parenthood:** An organization that traffics baby body parts for corporate profit is antithetical to human dignity. Substantiated by a recent report from the Select Investigative Panel of the Energy & Commerce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, Planned Parenthood is breaking the law and should not receive federal funding. A majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for abortions. In Kansas, we

passed a law rerouting funding towards the many women's health clinics that actually provide prenatal care and other key women's health services.

- **Pain Capable Act:** Scientific research shows that an unborn baby can feel pain twenty weeks after conception. Because of this fact, doctors routinely use fetal anesthesia while performing fetal surgery on children of this age. A majority of Americans believe that abortions should be illegal by this point in the child's development. We must ban abortions after this point of pain capability to protect children from this cruel and unusual punishment.
- **Dismemberment Abortion Ban:** This abortion practice is barbaric. Reminiscent of medieval torture practices, dismemberment abortions tear limbs from unborn children prior to the termination of their life. Kansas was the first state in America to ban dismemberment abortion. As a civilized society, we cannot subject our unborn children to this inhumane and indefensible practice.
- **Sex-Selective Abortion Ban:** No child should be discriminated against because of their sex. Equal protection of unborn lives is just and right. Kansas ended sex-selective abortions, promising both unborn girls and boys alike the opportunity of life.

With modern science and technology, the humanity of unborn children cannot be denied. The majority of Americans believe that abortion is morally wrong. While abortion stops one heart, it breaks another.

The complexities surrounding countless crisis pregnancies lead many women to believe abortion is their only option. It is not. Mother Theresa once spoke to our national leaders asking us not to abort our children. Instead, she offered to give them a home. My family is blessed with adopted children. We as a people can and will care for these precious children.

We cannot delay. The time to take action is now. With the new administration in Washington and both houses of Congress controlled by pro-life majorities, we must grasp the opportunity to proclaim and protect the dignity of life. Our most vulnerable citizens deserve no less. As leaders of the American Republic, defending life is our highest calling. I humbly ask for your support for these life-saving measures.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback  
Governor of Kansas