

Resolution for Pro-Life Texas Abolition Strategy Legislation

Whereas, the 2018 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that “All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death” (Plank 324); and

Whereas, the 2018 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that the Party supports the “Prohibition of abortions after the time an unborn child’s heartbeat is detected” (Plank 320); and

Whereas, the 2018 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that the Party supports “legislation such as the ‘Preborn Non-Discrimination Act’ (PreNDA) to close existing discriminatory loopholes that fail to protect unborn children suspected of having a ‘fetal anomaly’ or disability and to enact anti-discriminatory language to apply additional protections to unborn children at risk of being aborted because of their sex, race, or disability, in addition to providing families with information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas, such as perinatal palliative care” (Plank 261); and

Whereas, legislation has previously been filed in the Texas Legislature to prohibit elective abortions for each of these three Pro-Life policies individually; and

Whereas, the past year has seen unprecedented developments in the United States on discriminatory abortion bans, Heartbeat bills, and Abolition legislation, while Texas simultaneously continues to fall in the rankings of Pro-Life states, dropping from #13 to #17 currently; and

Whereas, the time has come for Texas to boldly retake the lead of the Pro-Life movement by combining these three major Pro-Life policies into one carefully-drafted omnibus bill to pass at the same time when the Texas Legislature next meets to finally end elective abortion in Texas--the Texas Abolition Strategy (TAS); and

Whereas, the Texas Abolition Strategy is comprised of PreNDA, Heartbeat Bill, and Abolition Bill, and as a new, comprehensive policy goal for the Republican Party of Texas, should be explicitly stated as a new independent plank; and

Whereas, one of the 2018 Legislative Priorities of the Republican Party of Texas was “Pro-Life”, including passing these three pieces of life-saving legislation, but little progress was made on this priority;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of _____ County recommends the Platform and the Legislative Priorities Committees of the State Convention adopt as both a Platform Plank and Legislative Priority for the 87th Legislative Session a call for the Texas Legislature to pass the Texas Abolition Strategy (TAS) to comprehensively abolish discriminatory and the remaining late-term abortions, elective abortions after the preborn child’s heartbeat is detectable, and every remaining elective abortion in Texas.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020, at the Precinct Convention of Precinct # ____ of the _____ County Republican Party of Texas.

Background information for Pro-Life Resolution to pass Pro-Life Texas Abolition Strategy (TAS) Legislation

Since *Roe v. Wade*, the Texas Pro-Life movement has strategically and patiently passed incremental bills banning abortions, saving preborn lives, and cracking the legal foundation of *Roe*. We are closer than ever to achieving the ultimate victory of ending elective abortion in Texas, and now is the time to take bold and clear legislative action to make abortion illegal and unthinkable.

What is the Texas Abolition Strategy (TAS)?

The Texas Abolition Strategy combines three major Pro-Life policies into one comprehensive plan to end elective abortion in our State:

- 1. The Preborn NonDiscrimination Act (PreNDA):** abolish discriminatory and the remaining late-term abortions.
- 2. Heartbeat Bill:** abolish elective abortion after the preborn child's heartbeat is detectable.
- 3. Abolition Bill:** abolish every remaining elective abortion in Texas.

How will TAS work? Each of these policies plays a crucial role in achieving the ultimate goal. While it is important that each of the policies be passed in the sequential and logical order outlined above, **these three policies can be combined into one carefully-drafted omnibus bill and passed at the same time when the Texas State Legislature next convenes.** In the fight to protect innocent human Life, there are unfortunately no shortcuts, and so this omnibus bill must be drafted carefully so as not to invite premature legal defeat while also leading the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to dismantle and finally reverse *Roe*.

Why now? According to Americans United for Life's annual Life List, **Texas has dropped four spots in just one year, now ranking as the 17th most Pro-Life state.** This, along with passionate grassroots and unprecedented recent developments in the U.S. on Heartbeat and Abolition Bills, means the time is now for Texas to re-establish our role in the Pro-Life movement. The Texas Abolition Strategy will enable our State to join other states in passing bold and clear legislation protecting preborn children and retake leadership in advancing the culture of Life and reversing *Roe*.

Solution: The Republican Party of Texas should add the Texas Abolition Strategy to our Platform and Legislative Priorities for the 87th Legislative Session. While these three policies are currently separately mentioned within the Republican Party Platform, the Platform needs to include the Texas Abolition Strategy as its own independent plank to emphasize and explicitly outline this new, comprehensive Pro-Life policy goal for the State Legislature.

- Twelve states have passed bans on abortions due to the gender of the preborn child.
- Four states have passed bans on abortions due to the race of the preborn child.
- Eleven states have enacted restrictions on abortions due to disability of the preborn child and/or assist families access life-affirming social and perinatal palliative care services.
- Six states have passed bans on abortions after the child's heartbeat is detectable.
- Three states have passed full bans on elective abortion.