



May 2nd, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

In a Post-*Roe*, Post-*Dobbs* America, a door will be opened to move past previous tactics for challenging the legally flawed foundation of abortion built by seven men in 1973, who looked at the Constitution and claimed to find “abortion” written in invisible ink. The hubris of wiping out the abortion-related laws in all 50 states, allegedly based on our founding documents written to embrace rights establishing *life*, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness has created legal chaos. In response, pro-life Americans began a 50-year endeavor to restore legal protections to the preborn and to protect their mothers, also victims to a predatory, now-billion-dollar industry.

But at this pivotal moment in which almost anything is possible, it’s crucial to establish the difference between a previous tactic (such as limiting abortion at 15 weeks) and our goals or current strategies. We the undersigned want to make it clear that our goal is to pursue legislative strategies that address the full reality of abortion in America as we no longer need to focus on the fringes of Corporate Abortion’s worldwide enterprise to earn our day in court.

According to the CDC, [more than 9 out of 10 abortions take place by 12 weeks \(92.7%\)](#), which means that if we are not focusing on limiting early abortions, we are not really addressing the violence of abortion at all. And after 50 years, it’s time for a real conversation in legislatures, communities, churches, and courts on how to protect life in law and in service.

Later term approaches, such as limiting abortion at almost 4 months of pregnancy were an excellent strategic decision considering *Roe*’s legal constraints. The state of Mississippi was brilliant in charting a way to the Supreme Court. But we have plenty of reasons to believe that [the legal landscape will shortly look very different](#). Our new strategies must match that reality with the resolve to address abortion in full – not in the margins.

In 1973, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* invented a “right to abortion” [through all 9 months, for any reason at all, and sometimes with taxpayer funding](#), which forced legislators and pro-life advocates to pursue many strategies to chip away at the corrupt foundation of *Roe*.

For decades, legislative efforts in states helped to educate Americans on what takes place behind the closed doors of abortion vendors, [untracked by any National Abortion Reporting law](#). Addressing conditions in horrific abortion vendor operations along with suffering of the infant in partial-birth abortion abortions, dismemberment abortions, or actual infanticide showed citizens the negligence and cruelty of Corporate Abortion, which prioritized their profits over people.

Mississippi’s 15-week law in particular provided an opportunity for conversation about the medical fact that pain can be felt by the child [as early as 12 weeks](#). Mississippi’s limit also illustrated the radical nature of U.S. policy, out of step with the rest of the world where [a majority of European nations limit abortion at 12 weeks](#).

Those tools served their purpose in leading us to where we are today. Yet, the pro-life movement has not worked tirelessly for almost 50 years to set up a weak European standard of limiting abortion late in pregnancy. If following European models were the goal, a limit at 12 weeks would make the most sense and reflects the reality of pain. But the issue is not simply whether the infant feels pain – though that matters profoundly – but whether the infant is a human being.

Our greatest mistakes as a nation have come from looking at fellow human beings, ignoring their humanity, and acting against them and their interests with brutal force.

At one time in our collective history, Black Americans were held as slaves, and even free Blacks were routinely denied basic freedoms. One man, Dred Scott, was labeled “property” by our Supreme Court, and our nation was torn apart by a devastating Civil War, which paved the way for the [13th and 14th Amendments](#) to the U.S. Constitution. Yet, even then, more work remained.

And do you remember [Buck v. Bell](#) (1927) that allowed forced sterilizations of the mentally disabled? Or [Korematsu v. United States](#) (1944) that gave the big thumbs up to the forced imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II? And don't forget [Plessy v. Ferguson](#) (1896) that allowed a separate but equal “arrangement” for Black Americans that had to be changed through the Civil Rights movement.

The Pro-Life Movement is engaged in fighting the human rights issue of our day – abortion. After having been legally denied their status under the law, the preborn should not now be relegated to object status until they feel enough pain or can breathe on their own. Our worth is not dictated by our location, our perceptions, our abilities, or the circumstance of conception, but by the nature of our humanity.

The Pro-Life Movement is looking for legislative strategies that deal with abortion's true nature, a billion-dollar industry based on ending lives, now [more than 63 million](#) and counting. This means addressing the heart of their business – death early in pregnancy. This requires legislation such as Heartbeat bills, Life at Conception Acts, bans on deadly No Test, Online Distribution of Chemical Abortion Pills, and the eviction of Planned Parenthood and all other abortion vendors from our taxpayer-funded programs, *at home and abroad*. This requires a steady resolve to address how abortion truly functions, and we seek to partner with people of all parties who prioritize protecting mothers and their children – born and preborn.

To [paraphrase St. Paul](#), forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize, leaving old, legal tools behind as we work to build that city on a hill where all children are safe. We ask you to join us in ensuring that the strongest measures possible are employed to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for every American, *from conception to natural death*.

Sincerely,

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life Action

James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
Founder & President
Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

Thomas Glessner, JD

President
National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Abby Johnson
CEO & Founder
And Then There Were None

Melissa Ohden
Abortion Survivors Network & The Abortion Survivors Network Education and Policy Center

Roland Warren
President & CEO
Care Net

Dean Nelson
National Chairman
Douglass Leadership Institute

Allan Parker
President
The Justice Foundation

Eric J. Scheidler
Executive Director
Pro-Life Action League

Chelsey D. Youman
Attorney
Human Coalition Action

*Note: Above are the current signers of this letter, but we will continue to accept further signatures as they come.