

# Top Line Messaging Points & Rebuttals for Conservatives in Post-Roe America

## Top Rebuttals for Candidates, Officials, Leaders, etc

### Put Pro-Aborts on the Defense IMMEDIATELY:

Like most people, I believe we need limits on abortion and more protections for women.

A Harvard Harris poll in June of this year found that not only did voters have tremendous concerns about the economy, Biden's overall performance and mental health, along with runaway inflation, **only 10% supported allowing abortion through all 9 months**, which mirrors other findings. An NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist poll in May found that almost 7 in 10 Americans support limits on abortion.

Democrats in Congress have voted for and pledged to enact the so-called "Women's Health Protection Act," which is more radical than the abortion policy we had in the U.S. with *Roe*. If passed, it will not only mandate taxpayer funded abortions for any reason, in all nine months, but it would also strip away Constitutional conscience rights protections for people and faith-based hospitals that don't want to end innocent life.

That radical act would also wipe out state laws – health and safety standards to protect women from abortion vendors – and adult engagement laws that involve parents, a guardian, or a judge in a minor girl's life, so that she is not isolated with those trying to sell her an abortion and someone trying to cover up a crime.

My opponent's abortion support is **Too Extreme** for this state — abortion through all 9 months, for any reason at all, with taxpayer funding, AND abortion forced on those who don't want to end baby's lives in the womb ... that's what pro-abortion candidates and politicians have pledged to vote for.

**Where do you draw YOUR line, when would you protect innocent life? Are there any abortions you DON'T support?**

### Pro-Lifers Universally Support "Life of the Mother" Exceptions:

Protecting the lives of mothers in a pregnancy is a policy universally supported. **Intent matters.** With abortion, the intent is to end life. Sometimes life-saving efforts to save both mother and child will only save one, but we all understand what we were hoping for, what the doctor and medical team was working for.

**If they say:** "Your abortion position is a death sentence for women in dangerous pregnancies, do you want women to die so that there is no abortion?"

*Never answer Yes or No to loaded questions.*

**Your response could be:** You really need to talk to more physicians. Abortion is not how life and death situations are handled. My mother might have liked me to go to medical school ... didn't make it there (*smile*) ... but my friends at AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PRO-LIFE OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS can better explain this, and frankly we need more conversations about how lives can be saved ... rather than assuming that it's better to throw people away.

### **On Rape & Incest:**

Friends of mine, conceived in rape, don't deserve to be told that they should be dead.

I reject discrimination and prejudice against children based on perceptions of their race, sex, abilities, or parents. I reject shaming children for things beyond their control.

Our society does not issue birth certificates in the United States with a ratings system based on how someone was conceived. A birth certificate is a sign of a single fact – that a unique life has entered the world.

What has been missing in conversations on the so-called exceptions is how children conceived because of sexual assault value and see their own lives. I see them as valuable, worthy of love, and welcome.

Rape is a violent, evil act and must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The current crime wave shocking the nation under the Biden Administration is horrifying many of us. We need to prosecute the guilty, fund the police, etc.

When a rape occurs our first priority must be ensuring that a woman is safe... that law enforcement is going after the criminal...and that social support is in place.

But don't fall into the trap of making too many assumptions though -- assuming that the violence of rape will somehow be cured by the violence of abortion.

Women who have been raped report that abortion added to their trauma, and we need to hear also from people conceived in rape, who value their lives.

***Now, flip the script...***

**But if you want to talk about children conceived in rape, let me ask my opponent – are you willing to limit abortion to cases of Rape, Incest, or when the mother's life is on the line?**

**WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR LINE?**

# Key Talking Points to Consider in Post-Roe America:

## *We Are Standing with Her, So* **No Woman Stands Alone in a Post-Roe America**

*Roe v. Wade* has been a cancer growing in our nation resulting in 63 million+ deaths of children. Now that it is gone and real conversation can begin in America, we must get back to building up a healthy society, affirming life for women and their children, *born and preborn*.

We live in a country with **about 3,000 pregnancy resource centers** and **approximately 400 maternity homes**, offering free services and tangible support to women and their families during pregnancy and motherhood. We have all kinds of organizations, churches, and agencies ready to help.

Still, the sad reality is that we know through Students for Life's *Campaign for Abortion Free Cities* nationwide door-knocking efforts in 2021-2022 nearly **75% of Americans cannot name their local pregnancy resource center**. In a Post-Roe America, this must change.

### **Our Legislative Priorities:** ***Protection at Conception***

The Pro-Life Generation wants to see real pro-life protections and historic limits on abortion. We didn't struggle almost 50 years against *Roe* to replace it with only a European-like, late-term limit that could halt the momentum of our movement.

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.

Life is not measured on a sliding scale, with more value depending on whether someone can breathe on their own or feel enough pain to suit a third party. A unique life enters the world when egg and sperm unite – but you don't have to take our word for it..just take a biology course.

### **Chemical Abortion is Corporate Abortion's Post-Roe plan**

Already, 54% of abortions are committed with Chemical Abortion Pills, which carry a risk of injury, infertility, and death. The **pills cause four times the complications as surgical abortion, with a risk of death that is ten times higher**, according to a National Institute of Health Study.

Without proper treatment, **women also face an extreme risk of infertility after using chemical-abortion pills if they have an Rh-negative blood type**, which includes 15% of the population. When a pregnant, Rh-negative woman experiences blood contact, such as in birth or abortion, she must urgently receive a shot of Rh immunoglobulin to neutralize deadly antibodies. Without that, miscarriages can bring future heartache as a mother's body attacks future pregnancies.

As a bare-minimum standard, the FDA should require that women be screened for blood type and administered ultrasounds before and after taking the pills. In-person screening addresses another known risk of the drugs: abusers and sex-traffickers using them on women without their knowledge or consent to cover up crimes.

Even IF you are pro-abortion – *and we are not* – it makes no sense to expose women to dangerous, life-ending chemicals in ways known to empower abusers and harm women. The only winners from No Test, Online Distribution of Chemical Abortion are the billionaire corporations that have cut care, cut costs, and cut women off from safety precautions.

## **A Heartbeat is a Universal Sign of Life**

A heartbeat is a universal sign of life. Whether on a battlefield or in an emergency room, people rush to help the person with a heartbeat, not to end their existence.

This January 2022, Students for Life of America's *Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement* found that **52%** of Millennials and Gen Z indicated that after a baby's heartbeat is detected, they want either no abortion at all or abortion only with exceptions made for rape, incest, or when the mother's life is in danger. That is up from 47% in 2021. **MORE THAN HALF of Millennials and Gen Z would support a ban on abortion when a heartbeat is detected (52% to 48%).**

## **We don't support Shaming Children Conceived in Rape and Incest or Focusing on the Innocent Victim Rather than the Guilty**

We reject discrimination and prejudice against children based on perceptions of their race, sex, abilities, or parents. We reject shaming children for things beyond their control.

Our society does not issue birth certificates in the United States with a ratings system based on how someone was conceived. A birth certificate is a sign of a single fact – that a unique life has entered the world.

What has been missing in conversations on the so-called exceptions is how children conceived in rape value and see their own lives. We see them as valuable, worthy of love, and welcome. We must show respect for people no matter how they are conceived. Clearly crimes must be fully prosecuted, and women helped. But we mourn as well for the preborn who also suffer through abortion or later when born and told constantly that they should not be allowed a life.

## **Women don't need abortion, even if their life is at risk during a pregnancy. Intention matters. Stop using extreme circumstances to justify 100% of all abortions.**

Following the *Dobbs* decision, many harmful myths have circulated amongst pro-abortion advocates, activists, legislators, and pundits. These falsehoods are clearly unscientific, scare tactics meant to garner support for radical abortion policies. The position of the pro-life movement has always been to protect and preserve innocent human life. This means we advocate for saving both mother and child, even if treatment may inadvertently cause a child to die because he or she must be delivered too early to survive outside of the womb. Although

this loss is tragic, it is the reality of a medical system that has not yet uncovered the cure for various pregnancy conditions.

## Miscarriage

The term “spontaneous abortion” is sometimes used in medical settings to refer to a miscarriage. When a miscarriage occurs, a preborn child has died unintentionally in the womb. In some cases, the deceased child does not naturally pass through the mother’s body, requiring medical intervention, such as a dilation and curettage (aka D&C) procedure using instruments to remove the deceased baby’s body, or drugs administered to induce labor. If these treatments are not performed, the mother could experience infection and even death.

**Taking misoprostol to deliver a deceased child in the event of a miscarriage is not a Chemical Abortion.** Chemical Abortion (aka RU-486 or medical/medication abortion) is a two-drug regimen used to end the life of a preborn child within the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. The first drug, mifepristone, cuts off the pregnancy hormone, progesterone, to the baby – essentially starving the preborn child to death. The second drug, misoprostol, induces labor, expelling the dead baby from the woman’s body. A D&C procedure can also be used to commit an abortion on a living child; however, ending the life of a preborn child is not the function or intent of miscarriage treatment. To conflate miscarriage with abortion is not only dishonest; it’s harmful to women who suffer from miscarriages and grieve the unintentional loss of their children.

## Ectopic Pregnancy

Ectopic pregnancy occurs in 2% of pregnancies and causes 2.7% of maternal deaths. In an ectopic pregnancy, an embryo implants in the fallopian tube or other area outside of the uterus, rather than the uterine wall. An ectopic pregnancy can be deadly for both mother and child. If left untreated, the embryo will grow until the fallopian tube ruptures, causing internal bleeding and even death. This is treated by surgically removing the preborn child from the fallopian tube. Because of the early gestational age of the child, he or she likely will not survive the treatment.

Unfortunately, scientific advancements have yet to create an artificial womb or other solution for ectopic pregnancy that would allow the child to be removed from the dangerous environment and placed in a safe one where he or she could continue to develop. Unlike miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy treatment can occur while the child is still alive. **Yet, even Planned Parenthood says abortion is not an ectopic pregnancy treatment and, in these circumstances, refers women to real physicians who are committed to preserving life.** Again, conflating abortion with ectopic pregnancy treatment can be devastating to the mothers who experience this tragedy. The intent of treatment is to save as many lives as possible, while the intent of abortion is to kill a preborn human being.

## Early Delivery

When illness, infection, cervical issues, or other complications occur during pregnancy, a mother may have to undergo premature delivery to separate her from the child. **There is simply no medical situation that requires the intentional destruction of a child in the womb to save a woman’s life. Although early delivery may result in the child’s passing, the distinction between abortion and preterm delivery is that a child’s death may be an unavoidable consequence of being lovingly and respectfully delivered.** Delivery is an obvious and natural opportunity to give both mother and child the best shot at life, rather than violently killing the child, and subjecting the mother to the physical damage and emotional trauma of abortion. Attempting to save both lives should always be the medical team’s practice, even if the child’s chances of survival are slim due to his or her premature age. Once

again, these circumstances are unintentional, beyond anyone's control, and are therefore not abortion.

## Risks of Abortion to Women's Health

The irony of the ectopic pregnancy argument is that an ultrasound is required for diagnosis. Should a woman consume Chemical Abortion pills while experiencing an ectopic pregnancy, the complication will not be resolved. A woman may experience "normal" Chemical Abortion symptoms and assume she is no longer pregnant, leading to delayed detection, treatment, and potentially death of the mother.

Recently, pro-abortion Democrats effectively pressured the Food and Drug Administration to drop the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) for Chemical Abortion. This means women are no longer required to be examined by a medical professional before, during, or after a Chemical Abortion to screen for pre-existing issues like an ectopic pregnancy or ensuring the abortion was complete, which could lead to infection and death. In dropping the REMS, the Biden Administration has abandoned science and medicine, encouraging women to DIY their own abortions without professional medical oversight. This forces women with little to no medical training to self-assess how much blood and pain is potentially life-threatening before it's too late. (Do the terms "back alley" and "coat hanger" abortion come to mind?)

The scientific truth is that abortion is harmful to both women and their children. Abortion intentionally kills a preborn baby through dismemberment, chemical starvation, or lethal injection. Abortion can also leave a mother with permanent emotional and physical wounds such as heavy and persistent bleeding, internal organ damage, infection, sepsis, and even death. **Past abortions have been linked to fertility issues, breast cancer, and adverse effects on mental health such as grief and regret, substance abuse, insomnia, nightmares, isolation and relationship issues, depression, anxiety, and even suicide.**

Reversing *Roe v. Wade* doesn't not prohibit women from seeking and obtaining treatment for life-threatening pregnancy conditions because the treatment is not abortion. **The intent of an abortion is to produce a dead baby, while the intent of healthcare is to preserve human life. There is no pro-life law that would prevent women from getting the life-sustaining care they need should they face a significant pregnancy complication.** Any arguments to the contrary are not rooted in scientific, medical, or legal fact.