



Dear Presidential Candidates & All Running for Federal Office,

As the political season becomes fully engaged, Students for Life Action (SFLAction) and the Pro-Life Generation challenges all running for federal office to state clearly where they stand on Life. Rather than this being limited to a recent call for a 15-week line in the legislative sand, SFLAction supports a different approach.

For the GOP in particular, this should be a continuation of support for mothers and their preborn children. For decades a partnership between the GOP and with what President Ronald Reagan called the three-legged stool of the Conservative movement created a winning formula for electing office holders and for leading the nation. Economic conservatives, national defense conservatives, and social conservatives formed a loyal base for Republicans as well as a vibrant agenda. But it has been social conservatives who have served as the foot soldiers for the movement.

Opposing elective/direct abortion, the human rights issue our day leading to the deliberate deaths of more than 64 million human beings, has been a crucial position for office holders. At the grassroots, we've observed that a politician wrong on the matter of Life gets very little else right, as callous political calculations replace more principled stands regarding the weaker among us.

But for almost 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* functioned as legislative roadblocks allowing abortion for any reason at all, through all nine months, and sometimes with taxpayer funding. In that environment, many politicians rested on their pro-life pledges, knowing almost nothing was really required of them.

But that has changed. The Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* resulted the end of *Roe*'s reign, with a challenge to a Mississippi law that limited abortion at 15-weeks (almost four months of pregnancy). As the *New York Times* noted, the 15-week line was drawn in a state where abortions were reportedly not taking place past 16 weeks. It was a legal strategy to challenge the false construct of *Roe*, with its lines drawn by weeks and viability, rather than addressing the humanity of the preborn.

To continue such a line as a goal allows for more than 9 in 10 abortions, an untenable position for those grassroots activists working with many pro-life organizations.



Limiting abortion at 15 weeks is not a litmus test for the Pro-Life Generation that looks for pro-life advancements to take place as early as possible, as soon as possible, and wherever possible. We are challenging candidates not to offer a bare minimum, but to express their vision of what a Post-Roe America should look like. We want to hear their concrete federal plans and see them address the abortion extremism of their opponents and the Biden Administration.

At this moment in time, general consensus is not around a gestational line but centers on an absolute need to articulate a federal vision and specific commitments, in policy, in personnel, in legislation, and in use of the bully pulpit. **No vision, no vote.**

Some will point to political realities as a reason for such a line, and those are important calculations. But from those running for office, people ask for inspiration, not explanation on how nothing can be accomplished.

Over the past three years, our pro-abortion adversaries have not been complacent.

The Biden Administration has illustrated a point that unites the pro-life movement – **abortion is a federal issue as well as a state and local concern.** The massive amount of taxpayer resources wasted by abortion vendors and integrated in all kinds of federal programs is case in point. Even our military has been hijacked by abortion extremists who would derail an enduringly bipartisan effort to support our troops to force new abortion facilitation.

At minimum, any federal elected official arguing that abortion is not federal should be leading the charge for Planned Parenthood's debarment and full defunding, as well as supporting the return of the *Protect Life Rule*, and the *No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act*, to name only a few places to begin.

Consider that before Congress now are many bills that SFLAction and Pro-Life Organizations have vigorously supported, including the *Protecting Life on College Campus Act* ([H.R. 435](#) & [S. 16](#)), *Life at Conception Act* ([H.R. 431](#)), *Heartbeat Protection Act* ([H.R. 175](#)), *Teleabortion Prevention Act* ([H.R. 421](#)), *Protecting Life from Chemical Abortion Act* ([H.R. 384](#)), *Defund Planned Parenthood Act* ([H.R. 128](#) & [H.R. 371](#)), *Providing for Life Act* ([S. 74](#)), *Ensuring Accurate & Complete*



Abortion Data Reporting Act (S. 15), Stopping Traffickers & Their Accomplices Act (S. 959), Save Moms & Babies Act (S. 95), and Standing with Moms Act (S. 76).

This is only the beginning of what can be done, along with increasing support for mothers and their children, born and preborn. SFLAction has a *Post-Roe Blueprint* that can be of assistance and endorsed by candidates who intend to use their office to protect all citizens.

Students for Life Action challenges each and every candidate for President as well as those running for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to articulate how they will use their position to end abortion as we know it and to help mothers and their children, whether in the womb or already born.

Any politician running for federal office who does not have a federal plan for addressing abortion is disqualified to serve. Any politician whose statements on the abortion issue begin with reasons that they can do nothing and end with why they will do nothing may expect nothing from pro-life voters.

Despite media claims to the contrary, the pro-life movement as a whole is united in our goal to make abortion unthinkable and unavailable, as quickly as possible. Like human rights movements in our nation's past, the pro-life movement is not monolithic and should not be as organizations in our movement have varying priorities and expertise. That is the strength of the movement.

The ultimate challenge of the Post-Roe Generation is this – Can you articulate a plan and promise on how to address the human rights issue of our day by protecting life in law and in service and will you challenge your opponents on where they draw their line?

The current position of the Democratic Party -- seen in support for the *Women's Health Protection Act* and rejection of the *Born Alive Infants Protection Act* – calls for taxpayer funded abortion through all nine months, infanticide for infants born during a botched abortion, and the end of the conscience rights of medical professionals.



The Pro-Life Movement, with our support of limits and loving services, has more in common with most Americans than the abortion radicalism preached by the Biden Administration and their Congressional allies. What abortion, if any, would the Democrats limit? Where is their line?

In this election, have you demanded that your Democratic opponents name one exception to abortion that they would support? You should.

In the coming debate and the days ahead, we challenge all those running for office to be unapologetically pro-life and specific about plans.

Respectfully,

Kristan Hawkins
President, Students for Life Action
To be Joined by Signers Nationwide.