



July 3, 2024

Mr. Jaime Harrison
Chairman
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Chairman Harrison,

For millions of Southern Baptists, one issue remains an essential priority for our nation's policy: the sanctity of preborn life.

As Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, you have the important responsibility to develop and build an updated party platform. This document will be an informative tool for Americans as it conveys the Democratic Party's commitments on the most pressing issues of our moment. Parties should not be shy about displaying what will guide their policymaking. In light of that, I write to you today to urge you to recognize the dignity of preborn children and the need to advance protections for their lives.

The right to life is a pre-political, self-evident right bestowed by our Creator on every individual from the moment of conception. Government is given the unique responsibility from God for protecting that most fundamental right. Citizens deserve to know where the parties stand on this matter. The Democratic Party touts its efforts to serve vulnerable individuals across our society, yet has failed to apply that to the most vulnerable among us, the preborn. Now, in this post-*Roe* moment, the opportunity exists to change course.

Continuing to champion abortion sends a signal that the promises of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are, in fact, not for everyone. What is needed is a robust vision for life where preborn lives are saved, vulnerable mothers targeted by the abortion industry are shielded from being preyed upon, and the formation of families is supported in policy and practice. This is what should be reflected in the vision document of the Democratic Party.

Why is this so important to us? The Southern Baptist Convention is comprised of 46,000 churches and 13 million individuals, making it the nation's largest Protestant denomination.



Each of these churches holds fast to the truths revealed in Scripture, including that God knit each of us together before birth (Psalm 139:13-16), that we are all uniquely made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), and that innocent life—whether born or preborn—deserves protection from harm. Scripture also teaches us that children are a blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5) and are uniquely special to the Lord Jesus (Matthew 18:6, 19:14).

Mr. Chairman, you have important work ahead of you. In this moment, establishing a true culture of life that values the most vulnerable among us—the preborn—is what is required.

Respectfully,

Frederick Brent Leatherwood
President, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention