

FLORIDA DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE

OPEN LETTER TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS

**DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, CHAIR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
ROD SMITH, CHAIR FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

The Democratic Party is stronger when the platform includes a COMMON SENSE balance between both sides of the abortion debate. As the new leader of the Democratic National Committee AND Florida Democratic Party, you represent the entire Democratic Party so when establishing the platform team it is imperative to remember we are as politically diverse as ethnically and racially.

Historically, the Democratic Party has been known as the party of inclusion-THE BIG TENT. We have party activists on both sides of every political debate known to man: from gay rights, prolife v. prochoice, ultraliberals, fiscal conservatives, you name it the Democratic Party has it, from one end of the spectrum to the other.

Therefore, it is essential that, while many of our donors are prochoice advocates including Planned Parenthood, the Democratic Party takes the lead in keeping with its mission to protect the rights of people, by including the unborn or at the very least remain neutral on the issue of abortion. It is a fact that we were all unborn at one time. Stating the obvious, if either of us had been successfully aborted then we would not be here to have this debate. Therefore, it is no question that an abortion results in the murder of a human being.

Whether we are pro-choice or pro-life, we as a Party can all agree that we should do more to support pregnant women. We can and should take the lead on preventing unwanted pregnancies through education including abstinence, which unanimously is the best solution to prevent unintended pregnancies especially among our young people. Pro-choice and pro-life Democrats also agree the Democratic Party should take the lead in supporting and financing community health centers that provide counseling as well as gynecological exams.

The Democratic Party should take the lead in supporting adult stem cell research which has proven to be the most effective in preventing and curing diseases. The Democratic Party should take the lead in building family relations where children and parents can have open dialogue about reproduction.

We as a Party should stop thinking of abortion as a political tool and start advocating as protectors of our children. Think for a moment if one of your beautiful daughters was rushed to the hospital for an appendectomy and no one notified you before or after the procedure. As a parent you would be mortified that no one contacted you before operating on your minor child. So it is with an abortion procedure performed on a minor. Whether a procedure is elective or a medical emergency, the risks to emotional and physical health are prevalent. This is why legislation such as the Parental Notification Act is so important.

Philosophically we may disagree on this point but no one has the right to kill an unborn child. The pulse of the American people is changing to understand that there is life in the

FLORIDA DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE

womb and it is worth protecting. If our Party continues to advance the agenda for the abortion rights activists instead of listening to the American people, we will stay in the minority and lose important opportunities to advance our Democrats agenda that provides quality of life for all Americans. We may not all agree that abortions are bad, but we can agree that they should be prevented.

A Democratic Party that is neutral on abortion, advocates for reducing abortion and includes its pro-life Members as active participants will be an unstoppable force against the Republican agenda aimed at providing tax relief for rich at the expense of the middle class.

Therefore, on behalf of the Florida Democrats for Life, I ask you to embrace our views as active prolife members of the Democratic Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda

Freda Stevens, President