

## Resolution V Family Health

**WHEREAS**, Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey have been overturned by the Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, Arkansas Act 180 from 2019 bans all abortions except to save the life of the mother as soon as Roe / Casey are overturned and certification by the Arkansas Attorney General is completed ; and

**WHEREAS**, Pregnancy Centers are local, nonprofit (no state or federal money) organizations that provide emotional and material support to families faced with difficult pregnancy decisions by way of free parenting classes customized for both dad and mom, counseling, ultrasounds, food, clothing, diapers and essentials such as car seats; and

**WHEREAS**, Arkansas Pregnancy Centers are already under tremendous amounts of strain due to increased client volume, financial hardship due to inflation / COVID, and an inflated property market, making finding and keeping a facility open harder than ever before; and

**WHEREAS**, now that abortions are illegal in Arkansas, Arkansas Pregnancy Centers will become an even more vital part of the Arkansas medical system; and

**WHEREAS**, states such as Missouri have adopted legislation to enable pregnancy centers to receive more funding directly from donors in their community, by enabling donations of up to \$50,000 to be eligible for a 70% tax credit on their donation. (A donation of \$10,000 would allow the donor to claim \$7,000 in tax credit); and

**WHEREAS**, alternative methods for assisting families with unplanned pregnancies include building community awareness of the Arkansas Safe Haven Law and increasing the availability of Safe Haven Baby Boxes; and

**WHEREAS**, The Arkansas Safe Haven law allows a parent to bring a child, 30 days old or younger to an employee at any hospital emergency room, law enforcement agency, fire department that is staffed 24 hours a day. Parents can also use a Safe Haven Baby Box, which are located at facilities listed above; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and implementation of Safe Haven Baby Box costs \$15,000 (privately funded) per location, including the cost of construction and training personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 4500+ kids in the Arkansas Foster Care System, and the average social worker is only employed for 30 Months before they resign, due to a number of factors including low pay and inadequate training, and thus a foster child's standard of living decreases dramatically due to lack of stability; and

**WHEREAS**, Grants exist to help pay for foster kids college, but that money is typically not used effectively, with less than 25% attending college, and less than 10% of those graduating, and 60% of male foster kids who age out of the system are convicted of a crime; and

**WHEREAS**, allowing these kids to become skilled workers, by way of increased educational / vocational opportunities simultaneously helps them become successful adults while also reducing the number that are incarcerated in adulthood; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans supports allocating state funds to communities to further increase the number of Baby Boxes that can be found in our state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans supports improvements being made to Social Worker pay scales, as well as the training that they receive to better prepare them for their job; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans supports increasing vocational opportunities for foster kids during high school and into higher education, thus creating more skilled workers while simultaneously reducing the number of future inmates in our jails; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans supports implementing a Missouri style tax credit for Non-Profit Pregnancy Centers, which will allow these centers to better serve the people of our state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans support and will work to increase awareness of the Arkansas Safe Haven Law; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Arkansas Federation of Teenage Republicans will always support life, and that the measures listed above are just a small percentage of the issues facing our states unborn and youth, and that the organization will always strive to affect positive change in our state and beyond that supports an individual's equal right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.