



DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA
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Democratsforlife.org

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Members of the Platform Committee,

As Executive Director of Democrats for Life of America, representing 21 million pro-life Democrats, I am writing to ask for an opportunity to testify to the Platform Committee hearing and offer a suggestion on how we might make the Democratic Party more inclusive and diverse.

We need to defeat Donald Trump in November. We can only do that without repeating the mistakes of 2016, and we hold grave concerns about how the 2016 platform language affected the voting preferences of Democrats who oppose abortion but agree with the Party on 90% of other issues.

The 2016 party platform:

- Included a disproportionate focus on abortion
- Endorsed taxpayer-funded abortion, opposed by 60% of Americans
- Endorsed taxpayer funding of abortion overseas, opposed by 76% of Americans
- Erased the beliefs of millions of registered Democrats and hundreds of elected Democratic officials who do not support abortion on demand
- Excluded prior language committing to make abortion "rare"
- Excluded prior language respecting the diversity of opinion on abortion

This approach has encouraged a dangerous trend. It allowed DNC Chair Tom Perez to state that support for abortion is "non-negotiable" in 2017. It allowed the Democratic Association of Attorney Generals (DAGA) to put an abortion litmus test policy in place to prohibit pro-life Democrats from running. It also allowed Bernie Sanders in 2020 to state that "being pro-choice is an absolutely essential part of being a Democrat." It allows state Democratic parties to remove pro-life legislators from the ballot simply because they oppose abortion.

At a time like this, the Democrat leadership should be unifying, not divisive. Like you, we support labor, we believe in protecting minorities, we want to defend the environment, and we believe that health care is a human right. We are not conservatives. A majority of us (52%) are women or non-binary. 10% of us are LGBT. 43% of us identify as progressive or liberal, and 54% as moderate. Around half of us are Roman Catholic. The rest represents a full range of philosophical viewpoints: agnostic, Anglican, atheist, Buddhist, the Black Church, Evangelical, Jewish, Mormon, non-religious, and Presbyterian.

We are loyal Democrats and have been there for our party in the face of Donald Trump's sinister agenda. We expect our party, that touts diversity as a source of strength, to show a real sign of openness.

Our recommendations

We respectfully submit that the 2020 platform does the following:

1. **Reduce the focus on abortion in the Democratic Party platform.** The 2016 platform has an excessive focus on abortion.
2. **Remove the language opposing the Hyde Amendment and Helms Amendment.** Taxpayer-funded abortion is an extreme position supported by only a minority of voters.
3. **Insert the following language committing to making abortion rare.** "As Democrats, we support efforts to make abortions rare, including increased funding for adoption, reducing the stigma around unplanned pregnancy, improving access to childcare, lowering the cost of childbirth, and lowering the unplanned pregnancy rate."
4. **Insert the following language on the diversity of opinion on abortion.** "We respect the conscience of each American and recognize that members of our party have deeply held and sometimes differing positions on issues of personal conscience, such as abortion. We recognize the diversity of views as a source of strength and we welcome all our members to participate at every level of our party."

We strongly support 2016 platform language on supporting women with children. We also support the 2016 language on opposing the death penalty. We consider this important whole life issues and believe our Party does a better job at promoting the whole life ethic.

I would appreciate the opportunity to testify before the committee to have a dialogue and interaction to outline the reasons why our Party will be stronger with an inclusive approach.

We can only fight Trump's agenda in a spirit of unity and inclusion.

Open the Big Tent.

Sincerely,



Kristen Day
Executive Director
Democrats for Life of America

CC: Tom Perez, Chairman, Democratic National Committee
The Honorable Joe Biden
The Honorable Donna Brazile
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Bob Casey
The Honorable Joe Manchin
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Dan Lipinski
The Honorable Colin Peterson
The Honorable Ben McAdams
The Honorable Henry Cuellar
The Honorable Connor Lamb