



Dear North Carolina Lawmakers,

Every person – born and preborn alike – possesses infinite value and worth in the eyes of our Creator. This simple truth has profound implications for policymakers and that is the reason we are writing you this brief message today.

As the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), we write with a heart for the good and flourishing of all the people of North Carolina.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina encompasses 4,300 cooperating churches with over one million members, making it the largest Protestant group in the Tar Heel state. The ERLC is the public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention; it exists in part to serve elected officials to help them understand the perspective of our churches.

North Carolina Baptists care deeply about life from the womb to the tomb, and we want to protect human dignity from the moment of conception. Our churches have continually proven as much with the time they have devoted to caring for preborn children and their vulnerable mothers, the support they have given to pregnancy support clinics throughout the state, and the numerous ministries that offer vital wrap-around care to help families flourish. These faithful North Carolina Baptists are now inviting the state to join them in this important way.

As an elected member of the Legislature, you now have an incredible opportunity before you to save countless preborn lives by overriding the governor's impending veto of the "Care for Women, Children, and Families Act," (Senate Bill 20) which restricts abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy.

We thank the North Carolina General Assembly for passing Senate Bill 20, and now your continuing action is desperately needed. Statistics reveal abortion has jumped 37% in North Carolina since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision. Expert analysts expect this number will only increase. As such, North Carolina is now known as an abortion destination. An override of the veto on Senate Bill 20 would go a long way to arresting this horrifying trajectory, helping renew a culture of life in the state.

We do understand political variables are part of what must be factored into your equation as you make your determinations. Though we believe a right to life from conception is self-evident both from a theological perspective (see Psalm 139:13-16), a scientific perspective and a political perspective (see the *Declaration of Independence*), we implore you to override this veto in an effort to save as many preborn lives as you can. Advance the cause of life as far as possible so that North Carolina will not be viewed as a last remaining haven for a predatory abortion industry that deserves to join the pantheon of defeated regimes of the past like slavery and eugenics that oppress individuals and oppose human flourishing.

Back in January, I (Todd Unzicker) authored [a piece](#) explaining how individuals can be an advocate for the vulnerable and voiceless. While that audience was pastors and North Carolinians in the pews, we

believe you as a state leader have a similar opportunity. You are serving at a critical time in history. You have the chance to usher in a new era of liberty where the state values every life equally and will exercise its God-ordained authority to protect the most vulnerable among us from the abortionist's knife and the toxins of hazardous drugs.

"To be, rather than to seem" is a noble motto befitting the lofty expectations of your citizens. At this unique moment in time, your leadership is needed to make North Carolina be what it should be: a land where life is cherished, protected, and given the opportunity to thrive. Overriding the Governor's veto would be a step in that direction.

Respectfully,



Todd Unzicker  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
N.C. Baptists



F. Brent Leatherwood  
President  
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