TO THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

We are current and former elected Democrats from many states, representing millions of Americans. We are members of Congress, state legislatures, and local officials. Like you, we are committed to the Democratic principles of equality, fairness, and democracy. We have committed our careers to advancing Democratic ideals and policies. Many of us represent purple districts, where it is difficult to earn and retain elected office as a Democrat. One of us is a Democrat in a red state. We respect the pro-life loyalties of our constituents.

We are united by three major concerns:

• We are concerned that many Democratic leaders support policies on abortion that are radically out of line with public opinion. Many Democratic leaders support abortion at any time, for any reason; this position is opposed by 79% of Americans.1 The 2016 Democratic Platform endorses taxpayer funding of abortion, opposed by a supermajority of the population.2

• We support reintroducing the conscience language from 2000 into the 2020 Democratic platform. The Democratic Party had in place a litmus test on abortion. We recognize that this position is alienating voters.

• Finally, we are concerned about the betrayal of Democratic Party values. An extreme position on abortion violates our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Polling consistently shows that one in three Democrats is pro-life.3 We must respect and include these 21 million Democrats.

Fundamentally, we believe that every single state and county in this country deserves Democratic governance. We should not cede large swaths of the United States to the Republican Party. In the U.S., pro-life Democrats have been a critical part of the coalition to expand voting rights, improve health care, and pass criminal justice reform. These accomplishments would not have been possible if the Democratic Party had in place a litmus test on abortion.

We respectfully submit that the Platform Committee considers these suggestions and opens the hearings to hear the voice of innumerable elected pro-life Democrats across the United States of America.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

1. 21% believes that abortion should be available to a woman any time during her entire pregnancy (Pew Research Center, January 2020). 2. 30% of pro-life voters will only vote for a candidate with their views, vs. only 53% of pro-choice voters (Gallup Polling; July 2020).

Note: This letter was originally addressed to the Platform Committee on August 14, 2020. We received no response.

The following organizations agree with and endorse the content of this letter:

ADVERTISEMENT