

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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National Association of Christian Lawmakers reasserts its support of Heartbeat Bills, calls on President Trump to retract his statement, and challenges all Presidential candidates to protect life from conception.

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) Stands Firm in Support of Pro-Life Legislation Including Many Heartbeat Bills in Multiple States, Urges Former President Trump to Retract His Condemnation of Such Heartbeat Bills, and Urges All Presidential Candidates to Declare Their Commitment to Protecting Life from Conception

Conway, AR, September 18, 2023. - The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL), with members and supporters in all 50 states uniting federal, state, and local elected officials, is dedicated to upholding Christian values and promoting legislation aligned with the sanctity of life, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to pro-life legislation. NACL stands united in defense of the unborn and calls upon all presidential candidates to declare their unequivocal support for protecting life from conception and is willing to hold accountable those who do not.

The NACL National Legislative Council which has 7 standing committees addressing major issues at all levels of government, has adopted fifteen model bills dealing with many important national issues. Two of the NACL model laws address the pro-life issue. The very first model law passed by the organization in 2021 was an endorsement of the Heartbeat Bill concept that embodies the Association's steadfast position on this issue. The second pro-life model law passed by the members was the Life at Conception Act. These bills, meticulously crafted to protect the sanctity of life and advocate for the most vulnerable, have been championed by dedicated lawmakers within the NACL in states all across the country.

Representative Mary Bentley of Arkansas, Chair of the NACL National Legislative Council, emphasized the importance of preserving the sanctity of life, stating, "The NACL is very clear on abortion policy - our Member Pledge states that we all will protect life from conception. The NACL adopted the Heartbeat Bill

as their very first model act and just passed a Life at Conception model act in June 2023. I have personally sponsored many pro-life bills in my own state and was a co-sponsor of the Arkansas Abortion Ban trigger bill that went into effect the day the Dobbs decision was announced in 2022. Anyone who publicly says that heartbeat bills are 'a terrible mistake and a terrible thing' must be corrected - especially when they claim to be a conservative Republican who has sought support from pro-life voters and organizations."

Representative John McCravy of South Carolina, 2nd Vice Chair of the NACL National Legislative Council and the sponsor of the Heartbeat Bill in South Carolina, echoed this sentiment, saying, "It is an honor to stand with the NACL in championing pro-life legislation. The Heartbeat Bill we filed in South Carolina demonstrates our dedication to protecting innocent lives and standing firm in our beliefs. President Trump's comments sounded completely out of step with his previous staunch support for life while he was president. We have appreciated his nomination of three Supreme Court Justices who helped overturn Roe v. Wade and his personal attendance at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., so we hope he will clarify his position concerning life and Heartbeat Bills after the political fallout which is sure to come."

Former Arkansas State Senator Jason Rapert, Founder and President of NACL and sponsor of the first heartbeat bill to become law in the nation, reiterated the organization's commitment to advocating for the right moral position, stating, "I sponsored the very first heartbeat bill to become law on March 6, 2013. A few years after the law went into force requiring ultrasounds to detect a fetal heartbeat, I was introduced to a little boy by his adopted mother who told me he is alive because of our Arkansas heartbeat law. The little boy's biological mother was raped and she had tried to abort him with an abortion pill at home - it failed. She then went to a surgical abortion clinic to abort him and decided against the abortion after being informed of the baby's heartbeat. She made the right choice and saved the little boy's life and then gave him up for adoption. Yes, President Trump - heartbeat bills save lives, they are not a terrible mistake. Abortion is a crime against humanity."

Senator Dennis Baxley of Florida, 1st Vice Chair of the NACL National Legislative Council, voiced his support for Florida's recently signed Heartbeat Bill, stating, "Florida's Heartbeat Bill exemplifies our dedication to protecting the sanctity of life at its earliest stages. I personally sponsored the NACL Life at Conception Act and we stand firm in our mission to defend life from conception."

While upholding their commitment to the sanctity of life, NACL does not denounce any individual candidate, however, the Association does call upon former President Donald Trump to reconsider his recent statement disparaging Heartbeat Bills and those who advocate for strong pro-life legislation.

Further, the NACL urges all presidential candidates to declare their support for protecting life from conception, demonstrating a commitment to upholding the sanctity of life and advocating for pro-life legislation.

## **About the National Association of Christian Lawmakers:**

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) is dedicated to uniting federal, state, and local lawmakers in support of clear biblical principles. Through regular meetings, NACL members discuss important policy issues and propose model statutes, ordinances, and resolutions that address major policy concerns from a biblical worldview. Since its inception in 2020, the NACL has members and supporters across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. As the first formal national association of Christian lawmakers in American history, NACL remains committed to its mission.

For more information, please visit: <a href="https://christianlawmakers.com">https://christianlawmakers.com</a>