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To the City of Amarillo:

In the January 10th, 2024, edition of the Amarillo Globe-News, Amarillo City Councilman Tom Scherlen insulted the majority of the Lubbock County Commissioners who voted to pass a Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance outlawing abortion trafficking in Lubbock County. Councilman Tom Scherlen wrote, "Under no circumstances will the city council go around the community and pass an ordinance without due diligence like the Lubbock County representative did."

We find Councilman Tom Scherlen's statement that we passed our ordinance "without due diligence" is little more than proof of his own ignorance on the subject. Let us take a moment to educate him.

First, part of doing our due diligence is listening to our constituents. As elected officials, we were elected to represent our constituents and the majority of our constituents in Lubbock County are undeniably and unapologetically pro-life. During our Republican Party Primary in 2022, voters in Lubbock County voted 84.97 % in favor of the propositional statement: "Texas should enact a state constitutional amendment to defend the sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, from fertilization until natural death." Their voices, and the collective voices of the conservative and pro-life organizations and churches that they represent, matter to us.

Second, part of doing our due diligence is listening to our elected officials at the state level. Our senator and state representatives have repeatedly been willing to sign their name to letters in support of cities and counties passing ordinances prohibiting abortion and abortion trafficking within their jurisdiction. While on occasion we disagree with our State elected

representatives on some issues, when it comes to protecting the rights of the unborn who are made in the image of God, we consider it an honor to stand with them and to do our part to protect life at the local level.

Third, part of doing our due diligence is recognizing and respecting what our cities have gone through and the role our cities are playing in the bigger picture. We saw the end of abortion in our county's largest city on June 1, 2021 - when the Lubbock Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinance went into effect. Due to the private enforcement mechanism, the same one found in the Texas Heartbeat Act, the Planned Parenthood performing abortions within the City of Lubbock stopped performing abortions. This was a great victory for our constituents, born and unborn.

We, the commissioners who voted in favor of the Lubbock County Sanctuary County for the Unborn Ordinance, were involved in this fight for the lives of the smallest and most vulnerable among us. We witnessed the Lubbock victory, followed by the state victory with the Texas Heartbeat Act, followed by the national victory with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

We had been wanting to do something at the county level for quite some time. On July 14, 2023, Mitchell County became the first county in Texas to pass a Sanctuary County for the Unborn ordinance, followed by Goliad County on August 28, 2023, and Cochran County on September 28, 2023. We were the fourth Texas County to pass an ordinance outlawing abortion trafficking on October 23, 2023.

Outside of our county and the counties that went before us, many other cities had passed provisions in their ordinances outlawing the abortion trafficking of their residents, including cities like: Cisco on October 12, 2021; Slaton on December 13, 2021; Abilene, Athens, Plainview, and San Angelo on November 8, 2022; and Odessa on December 13, 2022.

Lastly, part of doing our due diligence is counting the cost. We counted the cost. As

County Commissioner Terence Kovar told the New York Times, "This may be a way that mothers think about it. Instead of driving all the way to New Mexico, they come and find one of the local places here to help them get through a troubling time and end up having the kid." Hearing about the canceled appointments across New Mexico, because of the ordinance that we have passed, makes our vote more than worth it.

Councilman Tom Scherlen, we did our due diligence, you need to do yours.

If you have any questions Commissioner Corley's personal cell phone numbers. 806-577-9778

We have no regrets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Corley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1/11/24

Jason Corley Lubbock County Commissioner PCT2

P.S. I'm a proud graduate of West Texas A&M University Go BUFFS!