# ANCTUARY CITIESTEXAS CITIES & COUNTIES WITH ORDINANCESFOR THE UNBORNADDRESSING ABORTION TRAFFICKING (01-03-24)

	CITY	POP.	DATE		CITY OR COUNTY	POP.	DATE
01.	Cisco, TX *	3,913	10-12-21	08.	Little River-Academy, TX	2,048	01-12-23
02.	Slaton, TX *	6,235	12-13-21	09.	Mitchell County, TX	9,070	7-14-23
03.	Athens, TX *	13,121	11-08-22	10.	Goliad County, TX	7,012	8-28-23
04.	Abilene, TX *	124,407	11-08-22	11.	Cochran County, TX	2,547	9-28-23
05.	San Angelo, TX *	101,612	11-08-22	12.	Lubbock County, TX	317,561	10-23-23
06.	Plainview, TX *	22,343	11-08-22	13.	Dawson County, TX	12,130	12-18-23
07.	Odessa, TX	125,413	12-13-22				

\* While all of the cities on this list prohibit abortion trafficking, cities listed with an asterisk have a limited abortion trafficking provision - only prohibiting the abortion trafficking of residents of the city.

## QUOTES ABOUT ABORTION TRAFFICKING

"These abortion trafficking ordinances really are the next stage in an abortion-free America. We don't see this as a travel ban. We see this as a prohibition on abortion trafficking." - Mark Lee Dickson, founder of the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative, *as told to The New York Times*. <u>www.nytimes.com/2023/10/24/us/texas-abortion-travel-bans.html</u>

"The abortion trafficking provision of the proposed Amarillo Ordinance tracks the current wording of the federal Mann Act of 1910 almost verbatim, with the exception that we have a broader definition of the prohibited purposes. Our prohibited purposes include abortion trafficking. Abortion trafficking would have fallen within the erstwhile 'immoral purpose' definition of the Mann Act. Since all previous iterations of the Mann Act were upheld as constitutional, the abortion trafficking provision should survive any court challenge regarding its constitutionality." - Mark Lee Dickson, founder of the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative, *as written in Texas Scorecard.* 

"Due to its location, Amarillo is an important location to pass the Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinance to help save the beating hearts of unborn Texans from Amarillo and across our state. Abortion trafficking of exploited victims from the Houston and Dallas / Fort Worth areas go through Amarillo to travel to New Mexico for abortion services. Houston and the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex areas are the two top sex trafficking hubs of Texas. I pray that the City Council of Amarillo will help to save innocent unborn babies and help stop the exploitation of trafficking victims." - Sheena Rodriguez, President of Alliance for a Safe Texas, *as told to Texas Scorecard*.

www.texasscorecard.com/commentary/its-time-to-see-amarillo-become-a-sanctuary-city-for-the-unborn/

"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." - Terence Kovar, Lubbock County Commissioner, *as told to The New York Times* <u>www.nytimes.com/2023/10/24/us/texas-abortion-travel-bans.html</u>



#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AUSTIN

### August 21, 2023

#### To: Texas City Councils, County Commissions, and Local Officials

During the 2019 Legislative Session, a bill was passed (Senate Bill 22) which prohibited tax dollars from funding abortion providers and their affiliates at the state and local level and included an amendment specifically clarifying that the bill does not prohibit cities and counties from banning abortion. Taking their cue from this amendment, on June 11, 2019, the City Council of Waskom, Texas, passed an ordinance banning all abortions within their city limits and prohibiting any abortion provider from doing business within the town's jurisdiction.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature made it even more clear that cities and counties could pass ordinances outlawing abortion when they passed Senate Bill 8 - also known as the Texas Heartbeat Act. This bill prohibited an abortion being performed on any child which is found to have a detectable heartbeat, but also included a section addressing the authority cities and counties have at prohibiting abortion in their jurisdiction. The law states in Texas Government Code § 311.036(b), "A statute may not be construed to restrict a political subdivision from regulating or prohibiting abortion in a manner that is at least as stringent as the laws of this state unless the statute explicitly states that political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating or prohibiting abortion in the manner described by the statute."

Currently there are over 50 political subdivisions in Texas which have passed local ordinances prohibiting abortion within their jurisdictions. As elected officials who voted for state legislation allowing these local actions, we are thrilled to see this wave of pro-life action at the local level and hope to see these ordinances continue to spread across our state - even in a post-Roe Texas. While it is true that abortion is outlawed in the entire State of Texas, from the point of conception, our work is far from over. Right now, throughout the State of Texas, women are being trafficked across our borders by abortion traffickers funded by abortion trafficking organizations still operating in our state. As a result, these women are being abused and traumatized by abortion across our Texas-New Mexico border and sent back to Texas for our cities and counties to deal with the aftermath taking place in our homes, our schools, our churches, and our hospitals. The Sanctuary for the Unborn ordinances seek to protect these institutions by putting safeguards in place to protect men, women, and their children for years to come. These ordinances, which seek to close as many loopholes as possible, do not penalize women who seek or undergo abortions, but places the penalty on the party who most deserves it -- the abortionist and the industry profiting from the unjust procedure, including abortion traffickers.

While we intend to do our part to keep our strong pro-life protections for mothers and their unborn children, we believe it will help for cities and counties to do their part as well. As state elected officials who are trusted by Pro-Life Texans to stand for life at every available opportunity, we believe this is a viable and crucial opportunity for local governments to protect their most vulnerable members. We look forward to partnering with you as we seek to defend innocent human life at every level of government.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, respectfully encourage local government officials to do their part in the passage of ordinances outlawing abortion and abortion trafficking and declaring their cities and counties Sanctuaries for the Unborn.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed

Dustin Burrows State Representative, House District 83

Charles Perry State Senator, Senate District 28

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Briscoe Cain State Representative, House District 128

Areg Bonnen, MD

Greg Bonnen, M.D. State Representative, House District 24

State Representative, House District 84

Jeff Leach State Representative, House District 67

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Jared Patterson State Representative, House District 106

Stephanie Klick State Representative, House District 91

New Mexico State Legislature

October 18, 2023

To City Councils, County Commissions, and Local Officials throughout the State of Texas:

Since November 2022, several cities and counties throughout the State of New Mexico have passed "sanctuary for the unbom" ordinances in an attempt to do what is best for their communities. These cities and counties passed these measures in spite of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's demented desire to make New Mexico the abortion capital of America.

Since September 2021, when the Texas Heartbeat Act went into effect, we have seen over 1,000 abortions per month come into the State of New Mexico from the State of Texas. Not only has this influx of per monit come mot us state of reway weaked nom me state of rests. Not only has units minut out abortions caused the deaths of many innocent Texans, but it is putting an extreme burden on our limited healthcare system in New Mexico. This may lead to a significant health crisis in the State of New Mexico if reasonable measures are not passed on abortion trafficking within the State of Texas, as our health system cannot handle the significant number of emergencies that are the result of the influx of approximately 11,000 Texas abortions per year. As state legislators we stand concerned about the impact this has on the health, safety, and enjoyment of life of the residents of New Mexico and those who are withing form the other of Texas. visiting from the state of Texas

While the ordinances passed in our cities and counties in New Mexico are different from the ordinances which have been passed in cities and counties throughout Texas, our communities are seeking to do as much as they possibly can to protect our communities under the leadership and the laws of the State of back of the state of New Mexico. We are doing this despite facing overwhelming opposition from state leaders who are in lock-step with the most pro-abortion administration in the history of America.

Of course, we cannot fight the Biden Administration's radical abortion agenda alone. This is why it is a great encouragement to us that allies across the New Mexico-Texas border are considering proposals which would prohibit abortion trafficking into New Mexico. While we will never stop fighting for unborn life on our turf in New Mexico, the victory is made more achievable when cities and counties in Texas are doing their part to defend innocent human life as well.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, respectfully encourage city and county officials across the State of Texas to further the passage of ordinances outlawing abortion and abortion trafficking within their jurisdictions.

0 DAVID M. GALLEGOS

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GREGG SCHMEDES, M.D. JAMES G. TOWNSEND State Representative

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