



For Immediate Release - November 13, 2024

**Equal Protection SC, Personhood SC, Love Life Greenville, Spartanburg Christian Action Network,
United Patriots Alliance Action, Coastline Women's Center**

A Joint Statement on House Leadership Priorities

House Republicans in South Carolina are turning their backs on babies in the womb.

On November 7, the South Carolina House Republican leadership released a list of priorities for the 2025 legislative session - we are outraged to see that protecting preborn babies from abortion was completely excluded from this list.

Despite the passage of the Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act, abortion remains legal in South Carolina and babies are still dying on a genocidal scale.

In 2023 alone, close to 15,000 South Carolina pre-born babies were legally murdered, over 4,810 of which occurred here on South Carolina soil¹, while another 8,650 occurred out of state². Another estimated 1,538 South Carolina mothers legally performed DIY at-home abortions using the abortion pill³.

Tens of thousands of South Carolina pre-born babies are dying, and House Republican leadership is refusing to address it.

House Republican leadership's refusal to take up the abortion issue as a priority is an affront to the principles of the SC Republican Party platform, which reads, "We believe that the right to life is the first inalienable right, without which there can be no other rights. We believe that all human life has intrinsic worth and therefore support vigorous legal protection at all stages of life, from the unborn child to the elderly to the infirmed and disabled."

By refusing to address the ongoing mass murder of preborn human beings in South Carolina, House Republican leadership is abdicating its responsibility before God to secure the "first inalienable right" for all people in our state.

In Republican primaries this year, State Senators Katrina Shealy, Sandy Senn and Penry Gustafson were decisively defeated precisely because they refused to support banning the barbaric act of abortion in our state. **Republican primary voters delivered a clear message: they want to abolish abortion in South Carolina, and they gave their elected representatives a resounding mandate to do it.**

The fact that South Carolina Republicans would not even consider addressing the ongoing killing of our preborn neighbors is a slap in the face to every pro-life voter and to the grassroots conservatives who are the lifeblood of the Republican Party in this state.

Contact House Speaker Murrell Smith (803-734-3125), Speaker Pro-Tem Tommy Pope (803-734-2701), and House Majority Leader David Hiott (803-734-3138) to demand that they take immediate action on abortion at the start of the legislative session. Please also contact your Republican state representative and let them know that you would like combating abortion to be a top legislative priority in 2025.

¹ SC DHEC, 2023 Abortion Statistics, <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Abortion-Report-2023-Part-2-Aug.22-Dec.31.pdf>

² Maddow-Zimet I, Philbin J, DoCampo I and Jones RK. Monthly Abortion Provision Study, updated Oct. 18, 2024, <https://osf.io/k4x7t/>.

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2797883>, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X\(22\)00017-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X(22)00017-5/fulltext)



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