



**CHARLES PERRY**  
TEXAS STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 28

March 17, 2022

Mayor Charles Starnes  
City of Plainview  
Plainview, TX

Honorable Mayor Starnes,

It has come to our attention that the vote to send the Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinance has not yet been finalized for the November ballot. The battlefield to protect the unborn has shifted from the state to the local arena in recent years. For that reason, passing an ordinance designating Plainview as a Sanctuary City for the Unborn will help to continue the Texas belief that life begins at conception, while also protecting the safety of mothers. I would like to strongly encourage the City Council of Plainview to pass the proposed ordinance instead of scheduling an election of the ordinance for the November ballot.

The State of Texas has led the nation in protecting innocent life, all within the confines of Roe v. Wade. The State has also provided a number of resources to help expectant mothers with alternative options. The Legislature recently doubled the amount it spends on the Alternatives to Abortion program to almost \$80 million and increased funding to over \$346 million for women's health programs providing essential medical services specific to women. It should also be noted that this does not include the generosity of non-profits, churches, and healthcare professionals providing free or discounted services to women in the area. In addition to Medicaid and other federal programs that provide even more resources for women's health.

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Since the passing of a similar ordinance in Lubbock and many other cities across the country, the ordinance has been challenged at multiple judicial levels and prevailed as legal and enforceable. The heartbeat bill passed by the 87th Texas Legislature that contains similar provisions regarding enforcement has been tested at the Supreme Court of the United States and at the Texas Supreme Court and has prevailed intact. It is true that lawsuits will continue and challenge pro life initiatives, but on the ordinance, the courts have left the ordinance intact.

Any potential cost of defense of this ordinance should not be used as a barrier to implementation. Therefore, Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mitchell Law PLLC has provided an engagement letter to the City, pledging to provide legal defense at no cost to the city or taxpayers should it be needed.

Since the passage of the ordinance in Lubbock as well as the Heartbeat bill, thousands of babies are approaching their first steps, coming up on the one-year mark. Had the City Council of Lubbock passed the ordinance when it was first presented to them in November 2020, no children would have been killed by abortion in Lubbock, Texas. Unfortunately, because of their inaction, Planned Parenthood started performing abortions in April 2021 before the ordinance was voted on in May and went into effect in June. I encourage you to not make the same mistake that the City Council of Lubbock initially made. I encourage you to follow in the footsteps of 43 cities across the United States which have passed ordinances outlawing abortion through their Mayor and City Council. Such an action is not an "authoritarian" act, but an act which truly is in the best interest of the people of Plainview. The leadership of the 43 cities which chose to pass the ordinance by a vote of their council were not out of step with their constituents, but giving what their constituents truly wanted.

COMMITTEES: WATER & RURAL AFFAIRS, CHAIR • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHAIR  
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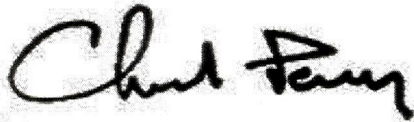
If you examine the proposition which was voted on in the Republican Primary in Hale County, regarding the right to life you would easily see that 93% of the county's Republican constituents want to see life protected from the moment of conception. Knowing there are many Democrat constituents which are supportive of life, you are standing on solid ground with the majority of your constituency in passing an ordinance which keeps unborn children from losing their lives by abortion in your city. Cities pass ordinances protecting dogs all the time, the people of Plainview are asking you to pass this ordinance protecting the lives of children.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ".

The secular arguments will always be there. The Constitution of the United States that acknowledges the granting of our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness by a sovereign and singular creator cannot be ignored nor interpreted to be in conflict with the same creator, unless men in elected and appointed office allow it to happen by action or inaction.

While the ordinance being sent to the ballot in November would be better than nothing, the better choice would be for the conservative leadership of Plainview to stand - just as those of us in the Senate and the House stood in the passage of the Texas Heartbeat Act. Please do not pass the buck and put your city at risk of having abortions allowed in your city for the next eight months.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Charles Perry  
Senate District 28

cc:

Susan Blackerby  
Norma Juarez  
Teressa King  
Lorie Rodriguez  
Nelda VanHoose  
Evan Weiss  
Larry A. Williams