**OPEN LETTER TO COLORADO CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

Brittany Vessely, CEO

Colorado Conference of Bishops

Denver, Colorado

We have been assured that it is up to every individual Catholic to sign and circulate a petition according to their personal faith and conscience. According to a letter from Archbishop Aquila - which we received a year ago while laying the groundwork for this initiative - the Colorado bishops stated that they would not oppose prolife efforts for a ballot initiative. This was confirmed again this year by the Archbishop in conversation with a local priest.

Mobilizing Christians to pray, educate, and vote for life will have positive effects for years to come. The initiative is guided by the Holy Spirit and Scripture including the teachings of Christ and agrees with Catholic doctrine. It is the moral duty and right of every adult US citizen to petition the government on behalf of these children. This includes collecting signatures and encouraging others to also collect signatures.

It would not be prudent to put a stumbling block before Catholics to limit the prayers, education, and mobilization of prolife Christians to vote in the 2024 election. It would not be prudent to suggest the same strategy for Colorado that recently failed in Ohio. The strategy that failed in Ohio was to dedicate resources to oppose a constitutional amendment for abortion without also supporting a prolife initiative in the state.

Large-scale educational efforts are underway across Colorado through multiple denominations. If the Catholic church thinks efforts are needed for a prolife initiative to be successful, we invite and welcome such efforts. We are asking every denomination to mobilize your people. The initiative is written to educate every Colorado voter.

The measure will protect children beginning at conception from intentional mutilation and death. As a ballot initiative, it does not need the legislature or the governor. It would close abortion clinics exploiting women for profit and stop the torture of children. Multiple attorneys, doctors, women’s advocates, political strategists, theologians, and many others have advised in the wording.

We have not had an initiative on the ballot before. With every prolife initiative that others have put forward in the state, we can see that voters have increasingly voted for life. We need less than 20% increase for a life initiative to pass in Colorado. This requires churchgoers to vote Biblically. This will be the first life initiative on the Colorado ballot since the overturn of Roe. After much prayer and study, we believe it prudent to move forward in faith and obedience to Christ. We are inviting all Catholics to collaborate and unify in support of prolife efforts.

The statewide Task Force has been meeting for more than a year. With the coalition you lead being united for life, they should be able to mobilize in support of a prolife initiative. In the meantime, we are focused on mobilizing individual Christians to circulate petitions, asking that they invite others to do the same. We are not requesting any resources from the Catholic church unless the bishops want to invest separately in educating the state.

It is mutually beneficial to collaborate, as God orchestrates many approaches to stop the current holocaust from multiple directions. More than one thousand children are painfully and needlessly killed every month in Colorado. Twenty-four thousand more children are projected to die before our next opportunity to put forward an initiative on the ballot, and forty-eight thousand more children could be saved before the next presidential election. Every one of those children deserves our best efforts to save them. With this new law, we can save them.

We are asking all Catholics to join in faith, prayer, and action to be a voice for these children.

For such as time as this,

Colorado Life Initiative Task Force representing 64 Colorado Counties