



THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORD ON LIFE

President Joseph R. Biden 2021-present

"I believe Roe v. Wade was the correct decision as a matter of constitutional law, an application of the fundamental right to privacy and liberty in matters of family and personal autonomy... The only way we can secure a woman's right to choose and the balance that existed is for Congress to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade as federal law."

-President Joseph R. Biden

- **Mexico City Policy:** In one of his first acts in office, President Biden repealed the Trump-Era "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance" or "Mexico City Policy," which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries.
- **Promoting Abortion-on-Demand Until Birth:** President Biden strongly supports the radical so-called "Women's Health Protection Act." This legislation would essentially remove all legal protections for unborn children on the federal and state level and prevent future protections for unborn children.
- **Chemical Abortion:** President Biden's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended protections established for women undergoing chemical abortions, such as seeing the abortionist in person. The in-person requirement ensured that complications, such as an ectopic pregnancy, are ruled out in advance of a woman undergoing a chemical abortion. Mifepristone, the "abortion pill," has no effect on an ectopic pregnancy and leaves the woman with this life-threatening medical condition. The FDA will also permit pharmacists to dispense chemical abortion drugs, and will permit these dangerous drugs to be sent through the mail. The Supreme Court will hear a case this term regarding the loosening of safeguards surrounding chemical abortions, which now make up over half of all abortions.
- **Funding Abortion Providers:** In April 2021, President Biden's Health and Human Services Department overturned the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule" on Title X family planning funding. The new Biden Rule means that millions in Title X funding will flow to facilities that perform or refer for abortions.
- **Fetal Tissue Research:** Under President Biden, the National Institutes of Health reversed Trump Administration regulations and announced that it will again fund intramural research and will no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board for extramural research.
- **Abortion Funding:** Though he long supported the Hyde Amendment in the past, as a presidential candidate, President Biden changed his position in 2019. President Biden is now on record in support of eliminating the Hyde Amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. By Executive Order, President Biden directed his administration to consider actions to advance access to abortion, including an effort to encourage states to apply for Medicaid waivers to pay for abortion travel.
- **Abortion Funding in the Military:** Biden's Department of Veterans Affairs has announced they will pay for and provide abortions for "health reasons," defined broadly as to be for any reason. This has been statutorily prohibited since 1992. In addition, the Biden Administration's Department of Defense announced it will pay the travel and transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to obtain elective abortions.
- **Appointments:** President Biden has surrounded himself with stalwart pro-abortion public officials, including Vice President Kamala Harris. His cabinet appointments include pro-abortion former congressman and former California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to head Health & Human Services, pro-abortion activist Samantha Power to head the U.S. Agency for International Development and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, who consulted for Planned Parenthood during the 2020 elections, to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- **Supreme Court:** President Biden promised to only appoint justices who support a right to abortion, nominating Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court. Her nomination was strongly backed by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and other abortion groups.



THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORD ON LIFE

President Donald J. Trump 2017-2021

"America, when it is at its best, follows a set of rules that have worked since our Founding. One of those rules is that we, as Americans, revere life and have done so since our Founders made it the first, and most important, of our 'unalienable' rights."

-President Donald J. Trump

- **Supreme Court:** President Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. All three of these justices voted with the majority in the 2022 *Dobbs* case which returned the ability to regulate abortion to elected officials. These appointments are consistent with the belief that federal courts should enforce the rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution, and otherwise leave policy questions in the hands of elected legislators.
- **Mexico City Policy:** President Trump restored the "Mexico City Policy," which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries. He later expanded the policy as "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance" to prevent foreign aid from being used to fund the global abortion industry.
- **Abortion Funding:** In 2017, President Trump issued a statement affirming his strong support for the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, saying he "would sign the bill." The bill would permanently prohibit any federal program from funding elective abortion.
- **Funding Abortion Providers:** In 2018, President Trump's Health and Human Services Department issued regulations to ensure Title X funding did not go to facilities that perform or refer for abortions. In 2017, President Trump signed a resolution into law that overturned an eleventh-hour regulation by the Obama administration that prohibited states from defunding certain abortion facilities in their federally-funded family planning programs.
- **Protecting Pro-Life Policies:** President Trump had pledged "to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any stage."
- **Appointments:** President Trump appointed numerous pro-life advocates in his administration and cabinet including Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, and Chief of Staff Reince Priebus.
- **Defunding Planned Parenthood:** President Trump supported directing funding away from Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. In a September 2016 letter to pro-life leaders, he noted that "I am committed to...defunding Planned Parenthood as long as they continue to perform abortions, and re-allocating their funding to community health centers that provide comprehensive health care for women."
- **International Abortion Advocacy:** The Trump Administration cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund due to that agency's involvement in China's forced abortion program. Additionally, President Trump instructed the Secretary of State to apply pro-life conditions to a broad range of health-related U.S. foreign aid.
- **Protecting the Unborn:** President Trump supported the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation extends protection to unborn children who are at least 20 weeks because by this point in development (and probably earlier), the unborn have the capacity to experience excruciating pain during typical abortion procedures.