

Resolution for Improving Adoption for Children and Families

Whereas, the 2022 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that “All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death” (Plank 219); and

Whereas, the 2022 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that “We urge the Republican Party of Texas to support programs that provide assistance to pregnant women by: Utilizing a reformed adoption process” (Plank 165); and

Whereas, the 2022 Preamble of the Platform of the Republican Party of Texas asserts that “It is our solemn duty to protect innocent life and develop responsible citizens” and promoting adoption as an alternative to women seeking out-of-state abortion or illegal abortion pills is an essential way to ensure both of these noble goals are met simultaneously; and

Whereas, Texas Pro-Life laws have already saved thousands of preborn children and created an increased demand for Pro-Life adoption and family resources; and

Whereas, now that elective abortion is outlawed in Texas, we must continue prioritizing Pro-Life policies that equip Texas women and families to choose Life and highlight how we are not just anti-abortion but truly Pro-Life; and

Whereas, cost and red tape prove to be some of the most difficult barriers preventing children from being united with their loving, forever families;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of _____ County recommends the Legislative Priorities and Platform Committees of the State Convention adopt a call to improve adoption for Texas children and families, especially by making the process more affordable, and update Plank 215 to include:

- A. Make the adoption process more affordable, streamlined, and accessible.
- B. Provide more support to adoptive children and biological and adoptive families, such as access to affordable mental health care.
- C. Work to destigmatize adoption for both birth mothers and potential adoptive families.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2024, at the Precinct Convention of Precinct # _____ of the _____ County Republican Party of Texas.

Background for Improving Adoption for Children and Families

Background:

In a world without *Roe v. Wade*, Texas must continue to intentionally build a Pro-Life state that promotes the flourishing of Texas women, children, and families. We must encourage Texas women to choose Life rather than seek out-of-state abortion or illegal abortion pills, and one way we can do so is to promote adoption. Even as we seek to ensure our Pro-Life laws are fully enforced, Texas has the opportunity to highlight how we are not just anti-abortion but truly Pro-Life.

During the 88th Legislature, only one bill was filed on the issue of adoption (House Bill 4138). This legislation sought to help families with the cost of adoption by creating a new initiative to pay up to half the adoption costs if a church or non-profit matched it, thereby helping countless children find their forever families. Unfortunately, this bill did not ultimately receive a vote on the House floor.

Solution:

As we seek to build a flourishing Pro-Life state, making adoption more affordable, accessible, and streamlined must be a priority. Promoting adoption in Texas will include several different facets, including:

- **Removing barriers and making adoption more affordable** — Adoption is presently an extremely tedious process that can take years to finalize. Some of the most difficult barriers to adoption include cost and red tape. Texas can improve this issue by seeking to lower the cost of adoption and streamlining the process so qualified, loving adoptive families can be connected with children more quickly. This can be balanced with protecting the children's safety and best interests, and will help prevent families from being burned out before the adoption is complete.
- **Providing resources for adoptive children and biological and adoptive families** — Trauma experienced by adoptive children, their biological families, and potential and adoptive families is extreme due to numerous factors. We must ensure these children and their families have access to crucial resources, including mental health services.
- **Destigmatize adoption** — Texas has outlawed elective abortion; however, there is still an intense stigma around adoption, causing mothers to not consider adoption when they face an unexpected pregnancy. This can cause them to turn to illegal abortion pills or abortion out of state rather than adoption.