Resolution to Stop Illegal Abortion Pills

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 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 fully enforcing our Pro-Life laws is an essential way to ensure both of these noble goals are met simultaneously; and

Whereas, elective abortion is outlawed in Texas from the moment of fertilization, including abortion pills, yet reports indicate that thousands of orders for illegal abortion pills continue to be mailed into our Pro-Life state; and

Whereas, chemical abortions are the primary procedure for abortion nationally; and

Whereas, the abortion industry and abortion activists have become more innovative than ever at illegally distributing abortion pills into Texas from across state lines, across the southern border, and around the globe; and

Whereas, district attorneys across the country, including some in Texas, have publicly refused to enforce Pro-Life laws; and

Whereas, the abortion industry is attempting to rebrand these dangerous drugs as "missed period pills" and illegal websites have now turned every cell phone into an abortion clinic, shipping abortion-inducing drugs directly to women's doorsteps; and

Whereas, every abortion ends the life of the innocent preborn child, and chemical abortion is additionally dangerous for the pregnant mother, with 1 in 5 women experiencing an adverse event following a chemical abortion, the rate of complications being four times higher than surgical abortion, and women requiring follow-up surgical abortion in 3-8% of cases:

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Background for Stop Illegal Abortion Pills

Background: In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed both the Texas Heartbeat Act and strengthening provisions regarding the use of chemical abortions. Then, in June 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973), allowing states to determine abortion policy. Almost immediately, abortion clinics in Texas stopped performing abortions altogether in compliance with Texas' pre-*Roe* laws, and later the Texas Trigger Law.

The abortion pill regimen consists of two drugs - mifepristone and misoprostol. This was initially approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000 in a limited capacity, with use only through seven weeks of pregnancy and required in-person provision of the pills to women. In 2016, these rules were loosened to permit use of chemical abortions through ten weeks of pregnancy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA permitted the pills to be distributed without the in-person requirement. This is extremely dangerous to the mother's health, as it does not allow important checks for Rh factor or ectopic pregnancy and gives more room to human traffickers or abusive partners to force abortions. Chemical abortion is now the primary procedure for abortion nationally.

Problem: While elective abortion is outlawed in Texas, including chemical abortions, reports show that these drugs continue to be ordered and transported into Texas at an alarming rate. Many websites promote the illegal distribution and purchase of these drugs. Pills can be ordered online via these illegal websites, shipped from around the country and around the world or trafficked across the southern border. The abortion industry is actively attempting to rebrand these pills as "missed period pills" and targeting them to college campuses, with QR codes instructing women on how to become "un-pregnant." Every cell phone has become an abortion clinic, mailing these dangerous drugs directly to women's doorsteps without physician oversight.

While every abortion ends the life of the innocent preborn child, chemical abortion is additionally dangerous for the pregnant mother:

- 1 in 5 women experiences an adverse event following a chemical abortion
- The rate of complications is four times higher than surgical abortion
- Women require follow-up surgical abortion in 3-8% of cases.

Solution: The Texas Legislature must act to stop illegal abortion pills, and hold illegal websites and distributors accountable for sending and trafficking these lethal drugs into our state. This cannot become the status quo, with our Pro-Life laws being rendered ineffective. Abortion pills put Texas women and the youngest preborn Texans at risk, and we must take innovative steps to stop these dangerous drugs.