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**Resolution No. 07-14-22/111-09**

**A Resolution Declaring Otero County as a Sanctuary for Life**

**WHEREAS**, the BOCC of Otero County stands in agreement with the Supreme Court of the United States' recent decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and appreciate the Court's decision to provide respect to state and local governments by allowing them to decide if the lives of our unborn will be protected. The functioning of the American Republic is truly respected and restored by the Court's decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence affirms that all men are created equal and have been endowed by the Creator with unalienable rights, chief among them the right to life, and that the protection of these rights is an affirmative duty of federal, state, and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution provide for the protection of all human life and liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States in *Poelker v. Doe*, 432 U.S. 519 (1977), concluded that the Constitution does not forbid a state or county or city, pursuant to democratic processes, from expressing a preference for normal childbirth instead of abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, state police power derives from the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gives states the power not delegated to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the power to establish and enforce laws protecting the welfare, safety, and health of the public is a core function of the state's Tenth Amendment police power, which includes the local government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, consider life to begin at conception. This is proven by the multiplication of cells which is proven evidence that life is forming and a living human being is beginning to develop; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, desires to express its deep concern that all human life, beginning from life inside the womb, through every stage of development, up and until a natural death, in Otero County should be afforded protection by their government, including local government, from acts of cruelty, and should be treated humanely and with dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, there are instances where medical intervention is necessary and difficult decisions are required. The Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, believe the following: 1) emergency medical interventions performed to protect the life of the mother and/or unborn are decisions only to be made and decided on by the doctor and mother without government intervention. Otero County takes a neutral position out of respect for those involved, and 2) instances of rape/incest are criminal matters and those decisions are to be decided on by doctor/victim without government intervention. In such cases a full criminal investigation shall be conducted

by the Otero County Sheriffs Dept. Otero County takes a neutral position out of respect for those involved; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, stands firmly against the presence in the County of Planned Parenthood clinics or any other clinics where abortion is practiced at will and on demand. Any procedures that need to be performed in regards to protecting the health of a mother will take place in a local hospital under the care of a physician; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, stands firmly against any medications which cause a miscarriage. We do so, not only to protect the developing child but also to protect the mother of any adverse reactions that these drugs may cause; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, condemns voluntary abortion practices used for any reason and believe that the intentional killing of an innocent human life is never acceptable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, hereby recognizes and declares the full humanity of the preborn child through all states of life up and until a natural death and declares Otero County, New Mexico, to be a sanctuary for life where the dignity of every human being will be defended and promoted from life inside the womb through all stages of development in life up and until a natural death.

2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, hereby resolves to enforce this resolution by all means within its power and authority, in accordance with its responsibility as the people's elected local representatives.

3. That the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, New Mexico, hereby stand on this resolution to not only protect life, but also to honor God, who gives life. We believe that life is God ordained and God is the author and finisher of every life. No matter if at the beginning or at the end. We stand in full agreement that, as a body of commissioners, we will protect and sustain life at every stage. As we ask God to bless America, we first have to honor and respect God. By protecting life and passing this resolution we feel that we do both.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 14th day of July, 2022.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vickie Marquardt, Chairman

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Gerald R. Matherly, Vice-chairman

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Coy D. Griffin, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robyn Holmes, County Clerk