



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

A Message from the Governor:

As Governor of Texas, it is my honor to welcome everyone attending the 2021 Texas Rally for Life. I offer my sincere thanks for your attendance today. Because of your steadfast devotion, our state remains on the front lines of this fight to preserve the sanctity of human life. The image of Texans gathered together at their State Capitol, demanding protection for the most vulnerable among us — the unborn — will strengthen and renew our dedication to this cause. I also want to thank the sponsors of today's Life Caravan and livestream, as well as leaders at the local, state, and federal levels who are working every day to put an end to abortion. Together, we must seek to change hearts and minds, advocate for loving alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, and continue to defend the unborn against unjust laws and an industry that continues to perpetrate this tragedy.

I am proud of the work that has already been accomplished in Texas to promote a culture that champions life. As attorney general, I defended Texas laws that preserve the rights of the unborn; as governor, I have continued the fight for innocent lives as well as for the health and safety of mothers across our state. Here at the Capitol, we remain busy working on your behalf to ensure that the Lone Star State is doing everything possible, hearing every cry for help, and meeting every need to promote life above all, while also helping those who face difficult decisions. During the 2019 legislative session, I signed Senate Bill 22, which prohibits governmental entities from using taxpayer dollars to subsidize abortion providers and their affiliates, and House Bill 16, which protects babies born alive following an attempted abortion, ensuring that they receive life-saving care. HB 16 also creates both civil and criminal penalties for physicians who fail to provide this care.

In 2019, I was also proud to sign a budget that included \$21 million for the Alternatives to Abortion program, which brings the program's total appropriation to \$59.8 million, with the option to transfer an additional \$20 million if utilization indicates more funds are required to meet the need for these important services. This new funding will allow Texas to support even more pregnant women as they choose life for their babies.

Reinforcing our desire to protect the unborn, and our insistence that all life is sacred, continue to be particularly important to me on a personal level. As adoptive parents ourselves, Cecilia and I know firsthand the weight placed on mothers facing these difficult decisions. We were present when Audrey's birth mother decided to have her baby, went to every doctor's appointment with her, and were there at the hospital the day Audrey was born. Protecting innocent life remains important to us because we have seen this life-changing decision in action, and we know how this decision turns vulnerability and fear into beauty and love. If Audrey's courageous birth mother had not chosen life, we never would have known our daughter, whom we cherish more than words can express. Across Texas, adoption saves lives and blesses families with a wealth of beautiful experiences, new opportunities to share their love, and cherished memories they will treasure forever.

Once again, I want to thank you all for being here and the support you show to this vital cause. When we stand together, our presence sends a strong message that Texans value life, and it offers a renewal of courage for the future. Only together and by the grace of God can we give every child the chance to live a happy and fulfilling life.

God bless you all, and may God bless Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor