



September 10, 2019

The Honorable Shane Martin, Chairman
S.C. Senate Medical Affairs Committee
Gressette Building, Room 110
Columbia, S.C. 29211

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston and the South Carolina Baptist Convention represent over one million faithful South Carolinians across the Palmetto state. Together, in an act of Christian unity, we sign this joint letter of support for House Bill 3020, the Heartbeat Bill, as a challenge to the current legal precedent that permits abortion on demand in South Carolina until the unborn child is capable of feeling pain. The Heartbeat bill first assures a pregnant woman that she must be informed of the baby's heartbeat and given the opportunity to hear it. Secondly, the bill prohibits the killing of the unborn child after a heartbeat is detected.

With new changes to the U.S. Supreme Court, it is our sincere hope that the legislation will withstand constitutional challenge and be implemented in order to save innocent, unborn babies' lives when a heartbeat is present. As we know, abortion stops a beating heart.

May the Lord bless you and your fellow members in the General Assembly.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Acquilano".

Michael F. Acquilano, J.D.
Director, Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Mack".

Joe Mack
Director, South Carolina Baptist Convention