Dear Faith Leader:

I am writing to you about a matter that's very urgent and close to my heart.

In June the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the *Dobbs* case, restoring the right of Americans like you and me to protect the most vulnerable and defenseless among us – unborn children – through the democratic process and uphold the dignity of women and families. After almost 50 years of court rulings that unjustly prevented the people and their elected lawmakers from enacting meaningful protections for unborn human life, this was a major victory.

We are now at the beginning of a new era. Over the next few years we will have the opportunity to save hundreds of thousands, even millions of lives by limiting the horror of abortion in many places. The overwhelming majority of our fellow Americans agree that there should be significant limits.

Our faith and science are in harmony on this issue. As a former pediatric neurosurgeon who performed the first successful brain surgery on a baby in the womb, I have had the privilege of witnessing the complexity of unborn life up close. I often marveled at the advancements in medicine that allowed me to operate on unborn babies as young as 25 weeks' gestation. Today, healing surgeries like these are possible as early as 15 weeks.

Seeing the miracle of life firsthand helped convince me that the unborn are every bit as human and deserving of life as those of us who survived the womb. They have beating hearts like us by six weeks, unique fingerprints forming by 10 weeks, and by 15 weeks we can even see them cry when something causes pain. Each child bears the image of God.

But a powerful lobby is sowing confusion and fear about what the *Dobbs* victory means. That extends into our own pews where, statistically, many of our sisters and brothers are suffering due to abortion. Politicians allied with this lobby support abortion on demand, up until the moment of birth — even brutal late-term abortions when unborn children can feel excruciating pain. More than ten thousand such abortions occur every year in our nation. Some of them even want to shut down pregnancy centers, where people of faith have been on the front lines loving and serving our neighbors by supporting women and families for decades.

This November, Americans are blessed to have a chance to use our voices and decide what kind of nation we want to be going forward. I pray it will be one that respects the God-given right to life and holds civic leaders accountable to protect it. It is especially critical that believers not sit on the sidelines. We must proclaim the good news of life within our own communities and rescue those being led away to death. We cannot be afraid to speak the truth in love about the moral and spiritual battle taking place for hearts and minds across America.

At the American Cornerstone Institute we believe every life matters and will always advocate for life and solutions to help everyone reach a place of dignity as a child of God. I hope I can count on you in this noble endeavor.

Dr. Ben Carson
Founder and Chairman
American Cornerstone Institute