



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
PRO-LIFE
AMERICA

September 11, 2024

Almin Karamehmedovic, President
ABC News
47 West 66th Street
New York, NY 10023

Sent via email to Almin Karamehmedovic, Linsey Davis and David Muir

Dear Mr. Karamehmedovic:

Last night's ABC News Presidential Debate featured network moderator Linsey Davis attempting to debunk former President Trump's assertion that some states allow for the killing of an infant after birth, [saying](#), "There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it's born." This is 100% inaccurate. Her statement tragically ignores the reality of babies who survive failed, late-term abortions but are denied basic medical care and left to die.

We are writing to request a swift correction from Ms. Davis and ABC News. It is undeniable that babies are born in this country after failed abortions, as the facts below demonstrate. A correction from the network and the debate moderators is an important first step in acknowledging this fact. We also encourage ABC to meet with abortion survivors who are a living testament to the need for born-alive protections.

Here are the facts:

- There are [numerous examples](#) of babies born alive after failed abortions, and there is a community of abortion survivors within the [Abortion Survivors Network](#) who have grown up and chosen to go public with their stories.
- The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) estimates that between 2003 and 2014, around 143 babies died after being born alive following failed abortions. The CDC admits that this sobering statistic likely undercuts the actual number. It also fails to account for those babies who survive an abortion and live.
- [Nine states and D.C.](#) place no gestational limit on abortion. The Atlantic [interviewed a longtime abortionist](#) who performs abortions on pregnant women until around 32 weeks and sometimes beyond, about half of which have involved healthy babies, including abortions for sex selection.
- In Minnesota alone, the state's Department of Health reported [eight babies](#) during Gov. Tim Walz's tenure who were born alive after failed abortion attempts and were left to die. In 2023, [Walz ended born-alive protections](#) in the state and eliminated data reporting requirements surrounding born-alive babies. Minnesota

currently allows abortion at any stage of pregnancy, meaning that babies aborted during the seventh, eighth, and even ninth month of gestation could be denied life-saving care and left to die if they survived an abortion attempt.

- In Florida, at least 66 babies have been [born alive during abortions](#) since the state's "Infants Born Alive Act" became law in 2013 (including [14 in 2023](#) and [16 in 2022](#)).
- Data also show that abortions later in gestation or late-term abortions are not as "rare" as Americans are often led to believe, and they occur for [many of the same reasons](#) as earlier abortions. Each year in the United States, approximately [10,000 abortions](#) occur at 21 weeks' gestation or later, around the time that babies can survive outside of the womb. A prominent pro-abortion researcher focusing on third-trimester abortions [concedes](#), "*When you're thinking about that as real people, that's a pretty big number.*"
- In Maryland there operates an "all-trimester" abortion center that [reportedly](#) carries out 10-15 abortions a week that are "nearly all" after 20 weeks' gestation.

It's also a fact that, as a U.S. senator, [Kamala Harris voted against protections for babies born alive](#) after failed abortions. And as a member of Congress, her running mate Tim Walz even [issued a public apology](#) for "accidentally" voting for said legislation after he previously voted against it.

I would like to request an in-person meeting with your team and ask that it also include Melissa Ohden and other abortion survivors. Ohden was born alive as a 31-week-old baby after burning alive in the womb for five days during a failed saline abortion attempt. She now runs the [Abortion Survivors Network](#), an organization that provides healing and advocacy for survivors like her from all across the country. Ohden is available to share her story and those of others in her organizations who survived an abortion. This meeting will allow you to hear first-hand her experience and understand the harm caused by public statements that deny the existence of individuals like her.

It is the job of the media to share the truth and expose misinformation where it exists. We ask that you correct the falsehood perpetuated by ABC News during the debate. We also hope you will make time to meet and hear from abortion survivors to get the full story about the impact abortion is having on human life and culture.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Dannenfelser
President, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America
cc: Linsey Davis, David Muir