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PRESS RELEASE

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Pro-Life Mississippi celebrates an Abortion-Free Mississippi

Today, July 7, 2022, Mississippi mothers and their preborn babies will be safe from the violence of abortion for the first time in 49 years. Pro-Life Mississippi (PLM) celebrates this moment in history and looks forward to a brighter future where mothers cherish the gift of life and are surrounded by compassionate support and resources to help carry their babies to term.

“For more than 40 years, pro-life activists in Mississippi have worked diligently for this day,” said Laura Knight, president of Pro-Life Mississippi. “They have sacrificed their time and energy for a cause that will impact generations. Their legacy is now ours as we continue to work together to build a culture of life in our state. We now focus on boosting community support for women and families across the state by inspiring more Mississippians to get involved in the pro-life movement on a local level.”

“We applaud Judge Halford for denying JWHO’s injunction and allowing the Mississippi law duly enacted by our state legislature to take effect today,” continued Knight. “Mississippi’s trigger law has been on the books since 2007. The majority of Mississippi voters are pro-life. This is what the people of Mississippi want – to protect innocent life in the womb and to help families make a better choice than abortion. We are grateful to God for this positive decision in defense of the sanctity of life in our state. We also greatly appreciate Attorney General Lynn Fitch and her staff who have so boldly and effectively defended life in the courtroom.”

Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the last abortion facility in the state, must cease performing elective abortions under the law that goes into effect today. Abortions will now be allowed in Mississippi only in cases where a formal rape charge has been filed or for the preservation of the life of the mother. Both surgical and chemical (non-surgical) abortions are prohibited under Mississippi’s trigger law. The law does not specifically mention incest, but the rape exception covers instances of statutory rape – that is, when a child is sexually abused by

an adult. Any person who performs or induces an abortion, except the pregnant woman, will face imprisonment for not less than one year or more than ten years.

“Pro-Life Mississippi stands ready to expose any attempts by the abortion industry to circumvent this law or deceive the public,” concluded Knight. “*Roe v. Wade* was based on multiple lies about fetal development and about the harm abortion causes to women and society. The truth is that every life is precious, and motherhood is a special gift that should be cherished and supported by society.”