



# South Dakota Catholic Conference

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## Statement of the Bishops of South Dakota on Defeat of Amendment G

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We are grateful that a majority of South Dakota voters chose to reject the extreme abortion policy proposed by Amendment G. This measure's defeat has spared South Dakotans from experiencing the bitter fruits resulting from similar measures enacted in other states. We give thanks to God that South Dakota can continue to uphold parental rights, protect women from coerced abortions, and safeguard the health and safety of preborn children and their mothers.

At the same time, the reality that a significant number of our fellow citizens voted in support of this measure reveals how much work remains to be done to build an enduring culture that truly cherishes all human life. Sadly, abortion continues to divide our nation and our state. We are mindful of the fact that, while we rightfully celebrate the rejection of Amendment G, many of our South Dakota neighbors feel differently. To borrow the words of Abraham Lincoln, moving forward from this election we must conduct ourselves "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

The defeat of Amendment G is certainly not the end of our state's conversation on abortion. There is reason to hope it may steer that conversation in a more productive direction. We urge policymakers in the legislative and executive branches to develop creative and compassionate solutions to help women and families facing difficult pregnancies. We challenge ourselves and others to build a society where no woman believes that abortion is the right answer for the problems she faces. We pledge our Church's resources to help with authentic efforts to build a civilization of life and love.

We are profoundly thankful for the many individuals, families, businesses, churches, and organizations that worked tirelessly, some for more than two years, to bring about the life-affirming results of this election. Because of their efforts, South Dakota has become a beacon of hope for millions of Americans who yearn for a culture where every preborn child is welcomed in life and protected by law. South Dakotans have chosen a different path from many other states—a path that is noble, humane, and rooted in love.

In the scriptures God says to us, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19). May God richly bless South Dakota for choosing life in the 2024 election.

*+ Donald E. DeGrood*

The Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood  
Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls

*+ Scott E. Bullock*

The Most Reverend Scott E. Bullock  
Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City