

# **VIRGINIA DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE**

**PROTECTING LIFE. STRENGTHENING & RE-BUILDING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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## **Plan to Reduce the Number of Abortions Unveiled**

### *States Challenged to Follow Federal Lead in 95-10 Initiative*

**FALLS CHURCH, VA**– Democrats For Life of America (DFLA) joined Congressmen Tim Ryan, Bart Stupak, Lincoln Davis and other pro-life Democrats at a national press conference at the Democratic National Committee today to unveil an innovative abortion-reduction proposal. The proposal they call the “95-10 Initiative” was released after months of research, political outreach and planning.

**The 95-10 Initiative is a comprehensive proposal of 15 different policy programs that, when fully funded and implemented in coordination with each other, will hopefully reduce the number of abortions in America by 95 percent over the next 10 years.**

**Former Congressman and 9-11 Commissioner, Tim Roemer** said, “95-10 is meant to put words into action. Our party has made more progress on this issue in the last three months than we have in the last 10 years. Ours can be the party that reduces the number of abortions in this country.”

Among the elected official already in support of the 95-10 Initiative is **Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE)**. “Democrats for Life of America share the same goal as most Americans – to reduce the instance of abortion in America. The plan outlined today is a good first step to successfully reduce the rate of abortion by offering alternatives that promote family, promote adoption, and provide education and support for new mothers. I commend Democrats for Life of America for their efforts to bring this issue to the forefront of the agenda and for putting the care and support for newborns and new mothers above all else.”

The 17 different policy programs outlined in the 95-10 Initiative are broken into three categories: empowering women, defending women and protecting unborn children. Several components of the initiative have already been implemented in states across the country. **Daniel McConchie with Americans United for Life** stated, “AUL has already seen success with these types of initiatives in states around the country. We look forward to working with state chapters of DFLA to see that 95-10 is implemented at the state level.” According to AUL’s “2004 State Report Cards,” Virginia is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation for measures that reduce the number of abortions.

Currently, Virginia law provides for “safe havens” where mothers may leave their infants at designated places if they choose not to care for the child. Legislators have also passed a law requiring parental consent for minors who seek to have an abortion. **Cayce Utley, President of Virginia Democrats for Life** said, “We are encouraged that Virginia legislators have displayed such foresight in their efforts to reduce abortion in our state. It is our hope that lawmakers will quickly adopt the remaining components of the 95-10 initiative.”

**MEDIA NOTE: You can read the complete 95-10 Initiative at the Virginia Democrats for Life website: <http://virginia.democratsforlife.org>**