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The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
Democratic National Convention
Monday, August 19, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Hadley Duvall is one of the bravest people I've ever met.

I'm amazed at the courage it takes for her to share her pain—to share her truth. Yet Donald Trump brags about tearing a constitutional right away from Hadley and every other woman and girl in our country. That is why we must tear away any chance he can ever be president again.

In 21 states, Trump's actions have resulted in extreme bans on abortion—in my state even in cases of rape, incest, and nonviable pregnancies. Bans that leave 12-year-old girls like Hadley with no options. That fails any test of humanity, any test of basic decency—any test of whether you have any underlying empathy. Thankfully, this extremism is being soundly rejected all over the country.

In Kentucky, we put reproductive freedom on the ballot last November, and I beat Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell's handpicked candidate by more than five percentage points. This November, we're going to beat them again—elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz—and protect reproductive freedom.

Folks, Donald Trump appointed the Supreme Court justices who got us into this mess. His Project 2025 goes even further. Here's the thing: Trump and Vance simply don't believe in your freedom.

Trump says people are “absolutely thrilled” that women have had their basic rights eliminated. JD Vance says women should stay in violent marriages—and that pregnancies resulting from rape are simply “inconvenient.” Their policies give rapists more rights than their victims. That's not inconvenient, it's wrong.

A woman who is grieving a nonviable pregnancy shouldn't be required to carry it to term just to listen to her child die—or to hear no sound at all. All women should have the freedom to make their own decisions. Freedom over their own bodies, freedom about whether to pursue IVF, freedom about whether to have children at all.

How we treat people transcends party lines. It goes right to the heart of who we are. My faith teaches me the golden rule—to love my neighbor as myself. And the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that we are all each other's neighbors.

So I want anyone watching tonight—Republican, Independent, Democrat—to know that you are welcome here. We believe in an America where we live out our values, end anger politics once and for all, and move beyond the us-versus-them by remembering we are all Americans.

That's how Joe Biden and Kamala Harris lead.

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They both called to ask how they could help Kentucky in recovering from historic natural disasters. And they helped us improve our roads and bridges and invest in our people. They didn't ask me who Kentuckians had voted for—they asked me what Kentuckians needed. And they delivered.

Kamala Harris gets it. She knows we must move beyond anger, extremism, and division. That everyone has dignity and deserves respect.

America, we're going to win by staying true to our values—of compassion, empathy, and doing right by our neighbors.

I'm so proud to be all in for the next president of the United States, Kamala Harris.

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