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People in Crisis Access
Amanda & Josh Zurawski, Kaitlyn Joshua, Hadley Duvall
Democratic National Convention
Monday, August 19, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Josh Zurawski: When you're expecting a baby, packing for the hospital should be a joyful moment. For us, it was different. We were told with 100 percent certainty we would lose our baby girl, Willow, and sent home. For three days we waited until Amanda was "sick enough" to receive standard abortion care. Eventually, Amanda's temperature spiked. She was shaking. Disoriented. And crashing.

I don't remember what I threw into our bag that day. Only that instead of welcoming Willow, I was hoping Amanda's life could be saved. I'm here tonight because the fight for reproductive rights isn't just a woman's fight. This is about fighting for our families. And as Kamala Harris says, our future.

Amanda Zurawski: Every time I share our story, my heart breaks. For the baby girl we wanted desperately. For the doctors and nurses who couldn't help me deliver her safely. For Josh, who feared he would lose me, too. But I was lucky: I lived. So I'll continue sharing our story, standing with women and families across the country.

Today, because of Donald Trump, more than one in three women of reproductive age in America live under an abortion ban. A second Trump term would rip away even more of our rights: passing a national abortion ban. Letting states monitor pregnancies and prosecute doctors. Restricting birth control and fertility treatments. We cannot let that happen. We need to vote as if lives depend on it, because they do.

Kaitlyn Joshua: Two years ago, my husband and I were expecting our second child. Our daughter, Lauryn, couldn't wait to be a big sister. I was getting ready for her fourth birthday party when something didn't feel right. Two emergency rooms sent me away. Because of Louisiana's abortion ban, no one would confirm that I was miscarrying. I was in pain, bleeding so much my husband feared for my life.

No woman should experience what I endured. But too many have. They write to me saying, "What happened to you happened to me." Sometimes they're miscarrying, scared to tell anyone. Even their doctors. Our daughters deserve better. America deserves better. Kamala Harris and Tim Walz will fight for reproductive rights—and our shared future.

Hadley Duvall: Growing up, I was the All-American Girl. Varsity soccer captain. Cheerleading captain. Homecoming queen. And survivor. I was raped by my stepfather after years of sexual abuse. At age 12, I took my first pregnancy test. It was positive. That was the first time I was ever told: you have options.

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I can't imagine not having a choice. But today, that's reality because of Donald Trump's abortion bans. He calls it "a beautiful thing." What is beautiful about a child having to carry her parent's child?

There are other survivors out there who have no options. I want you to know: We see you. We hear you. Kamala Harris will sign a national law to restore the right to an abortion. She'll fight for every woman and every girl. And now, I'm honored to introduce another champion for women. A leader who's fought for me and so many others—Governor Andy Beshear.

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