



Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt
President, Unitarian Universalist Association
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Rev. Betancourt:

The Alabama Supreme Court on February 16, 2024, determined that cells awaiting implantation for in vitro fertilization are children and that the accidental destruction of such an embryo falls under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. In an opinion concurring with the ruling, Chief Justice Tom Parker declared that the people of Alabama have adopted the "theologically based view of the sanctity of life" and said that "human life cannot be wrongfully destroyed without incurring the wrath of a holy God". See: <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2024/02/abortion-bans-alabama-ivf-explained.html>

As the Reproductive Justice team of Unitarian Universalist Justice PA, www.uujusticepa.org, we ask you to make a public statement on behalf of the UUA outlining our opposition to the determination made by Chief Justice Parker. To our minds, this is an outrageous supposition on his part that all Americans subscribe to his definition of God and his view of the "theologically based sanctity of life".

The National Council of Jewish Women has already issued their objection to Judge Parker's statement: <https://www.ncjw.org/news/alabama-ivf/?emci=c14c97b9-60d0-ee11-85f9-002248223794&emdi=bb4f5593-64d0-ee11-85f9-002248223794&ceid=8916292>

An alarming rise of Christian Nationalism is appearing across our nation, and is blurring significantly the separation of church and state. We implore you, Rev. Betancourt, to speak out loudly that Unitarian Universalists disagree with and will not stand for this attempted domination by one faith over all others.

Thank you.

Signed:

Elizabeth Perkins, UU Church of the North Hills - Pittsburgh
Devery Howerton, Unitarian Society of Germantown
Judy Wilson, Main Line Unitarian Church
Vivienne Sebelle, UU Church of the South Hills - Pittsburgh
Carol Slomski, UU Church of the South Hills - Pittsburgh
Tina Bak, First Unitarian Church - Philadelphia
Lilly Gioia, UU Congregation of Wyoming Valley
Dr. Daniel D. Wert, UU Church of Lancaster
Donna Alcorn, UU Congregation of York
Susan Rubinstein, UU Church of Delaware County
Susan Batchelor, Unitarian Church of West Chester
Rev. Joan Sabatino, Director, UUJusticePA

February 27, 2024

c/o Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113-1001
Rev. Joan Sabatino, Director -- email: director@uujusticepa.org -- www.UUJusticePA.org