

# CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE

IN GOOD CONSCIENCE

May 3, 2017

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
US House of Representatives  
Office of the Minority Leader  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Leader:

It is perfectly understandable after the crushing and humiliating defeat that the Democratic Party suffered in the 2016 elections, that a leader such as yourself would have ambition to put your party back in a position of power. Also, it is perfectly understandable to strive for unity and come together to find a way back from that defeat. After all, unity in diversity of thought is an important value in America and what any political party should seek to nurture. Yet, it is imperative that you not seek diversity that dismantles the very ideals you hold dear.

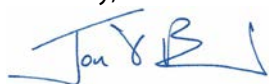
I was dismayed by your recent remarks that fall below any standard for a statement from a leader of your stature. It seems to us that your actions would throw under the bus the very rights of women in this country to follow their own consciences when it comes to reproductive health decisions when we are facing a very real threat from within your party and from outside to take away the right of women to choose an abortion. As one who represents a party that has claimed the mantle on social justice and civil liberties, it is unacceptable that you would suggest that you can turn your back on women's moral autonomy and the right to make conscience-based decisions in order to win back a position of power.

Moreover, your comments are out of touch and misunderstand the facts about the Catholic vote. Your irresponsible and untrue claim that Catholics are responsible for the election of Donald J. Trump misrepresents facts when polling shows a very different story. You should acquaint yourself with the facts before you speak on such matters. I offer the recent article, [Inside the Catholic Vote](#), as just one source.

The time has come for you to consider whether your ambition to lead your party back to power has overtaken your obligation to represent the ideals on which that party has stood for more than nearly eight decades—civil rights, social justice and a commitment to human dignity no matter your station. As a leader of your party, we would hope you would not undermine these ideals for the sake of that ambition.

I believe the millions of prochoice Catholic voters across the United States, like me, will be sorely disappointed to see that a leading voice such as yours has abandoned us. What we need now, more than ever, is leaders who are willing to stand strongly and who will not capitulate for political expediency. As Catholics, it is imperative for us to speak truth to power about our beliefs and commitment to those ideals, regardless of party.

Sincerely,



Jon O'Brien

CC: Chairman Tom Perez

**PRESIDENT**

Jon O'Brien

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