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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Majority of South Carolinians Believe Abortion Should be Legal; Oppose Measures to Criminalize Abortion

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a large majority (67%) of South Carolina voters in state Senate Districts 31, 33, and 41 believe that abortion should be legal, and that the government should not prevent a woman from making that decision for herself, while only 31% of voters think that abortion should be illegal. This includes 85% of Democrats, 77% of independent voters, and 50% of Republicans, and a majority of voters in each of the state Senate districts polled: 73% of voters in District 41, 68% of voters in District 33, and 60% of voters in District 31.

A majority (62%) oppose legislation in South Carolina that would criminalize abortion before a woman even knows she is pregnant, including large majorities of Democrats (78%) and independents (74%) and a plurality of Republicans (45%). A majority of voters in each state Senate District polled also oppose this: 69% in District 41, 63% in District 33, and 53% in District 31.

A majority of voters (59%) are also less likely to support an elected official who voted to criminalize abortion and jail doctors, especially among likely voters in the November election. A majority who say they are certain to vote (59%) or will probably vote (62%) are less likely to support such elected officials. In state Senate Districts 41 and 33 the



margin is even higher, with 67% of District 41 voters and 62% of District 33 voters less likely to vote for an elected official who supports criminalizing abortion, as well as a plurality (47%) of voters in District 31. This also includes 78% of Democrats and 68% of independents.

South Carolinians of faith also think abortion should be legal, and oppose the criminalization of abortion.

- 72% of Catholics, 56% of Protestants, and 69% who identify as another religion believe that abortion should be legal, and that the government should not prevent a woman from making the decision for herself.
- Just 21% of Catholics support legislation to criminalize abortion before a woman even knows she's pregnant, while 63% outright oppose it.
- 67% of voters identifying as another religion oppose legislation to criminalize abortion, while just 17% support it.
- 69% of Protestants either outright oppose legislation to criminalize abortion or are unsure, with a majority opposing it (51%) and only 32% supporting it.

PPP surveyed 1,164 South Carolina in state Senate Districts 31, 33, and 41 voters from February 4-5. The margin of error is +/- 2.9%. The survey was conducted by telephone. 71% of interviews were conducted by telephone and 29% by text message.