

KIM HAMMER

SENATOR
16TH DISTRICT
(501) 840-3841
kim.hammer@senate.ar.gov
1201 MILITARY ROAD PMB 285
BENTON, ARKANSAS 72015



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR:
EFFICIENCY

MEMBER:
REVENUE & TAXATION
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY
JOINT BUDGET
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING
JOINT LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Cole Jester
Arkansas Secretary of State
State Capitol Building, Suite 256
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: Monument to the Unborn

Dear Secretary Jester:

Please accept this letter as my commitment for a reset for the Monument to the Unborn. My reasons for the reset are:

- The current proposal, referred to as "The Living Wall," has been copyrighted by the artist. I believe this will present some real challenges moving forward if modifications are needed once the memorial is completed. It was never my intent for the monument to be anything other than under the full control of the state once built, and, in my opinion, a copyright could severely limit future modification.
- In reality, the estimated cost to build the current proposed "Living Wall" has proven challenging, and continued delays in reaching the goal of starting the "Living Wall" will only hamper the intent to build a monument to the unborn in this calendar year.
- I believe a new proposal within an achievable financial goal could still meet the intent of the Monument to the Unborn legislation, which is to remember the approximate 237,000 babies who lost their lives during the Roe v. Wade era. The funds raised thus far will help move expeditiously toward an advanced start date.
- To my knowledge, all funds that have been given thus far were turned over to Arkansas Right to Life to build a "Monument to the Unborn," as stated in the legislation. A new design should include the pavers for which funds have been donated, honoring those who have given.

Page 2
Senator Kim Hammer
January 12, 2026

- In light of the current appropriation not being funded to the pregnancy centers, I personally believe the intent of the Monument to the Unborn legislation can be achieved for significantly less, and the greater need is to raise funding for the pregnancy centers. Protecting the future while remembering the past.

For these reasons, I believe it is best to pause, hit the reset button, and open up to new proposals that would help start construction and complete the project this year within an achievable financial goal.

I fully support Secretary of State Cole Jester and the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission in a decision to revisit opening up for new proposals. My commitment is to be aggressive in raising the money, if you can approve a new proposal that is achievable.

Respectfully,



Kim Hammer
State Senator
District 16