national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

August 2021

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

"This Court should overturn Roe because... Roe is egregiously wrong; once this Court overturns Roe...States [will regain] their proper constitutional role in protecting the health and welfare of their citizens, empowering democratically-elected state legislators ... to make considered policy decisions carefully crafted to protect the life and health of both the mother and child."

From an *amicus* brief filed on behalf of 321 state legislators.

national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Six Ways to Defeat a Pro-Life Candidate

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Elections matter tremendously for the pro-life cause. This could not be clearer as we watched the slim pro-abortion Democratic House majority advance an appropriations bill without the Hyde Amendment, a longstanding rider that prevents our federal tax dollars from being used to pay for abortions.

All who have a heart for the unborn and their mothers must give their all in the coming year, including in the next few months in the Commonwealth of Virginia which is having a gubernatorial election.

However, we must be careful that in our passion we don't actually help defeat pro-life candidates.

How, you may ask, can we do this? There are six ways this can happen:

1. Fall in love with your candidate. Too often pro-lifers get so excited

See "Defeat," page 21

Roe v. Wade should be tossed into the ash heap of history

By Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

When I saw the television report, I was mesmerized.

A Pennsylvania news outlet, *Fox 43*, carried the inspiring story of a newborn twin who had to be taken by helicopter to receive much-needed specialized treatment.

The flight nurses acted heroically to provide care and comfort to this precious baby who was undergoing respiratory distress. The story had a triumphant ending—the baby left the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and was reunited with family.

It is comforting to know what lengths medical personnel will go to in order to save the life

See "Ash Heap," page 13

Editorials

The universal pro-abortion answer to everything: More and more and more abortions

When it comes to the Abortion Industry and its innumerable media enablers, it is always a highly contested race to the bottom. Who can be the most outrageous, the most bizarrely tone-deaf, and who can be counted on to scrape the bottom of the ethical barrel most bare?

Rewire.News almost always wins. It modestly describes its "slant" thusly: "We eschew false equivalences, believe in the separation of church and state, are unafraid to call out flaws in conventional wisdom, and do not pledge allegiance to any political party." (The latter point is, of course, absurd, but no matter.)

The "conventional wisdom" they find flaws in is what? Anything that gives evidence of a shred of humanity, any sense that there are some places even the most blindly pro-abortion partisan ought not to go.

I grant you a tiny part of their cheerful descent into barbarism is to get a rise out of people like you and me. But, obviously, they couldn't really care less.

For any publication that can run a piece titled "What It's Like to Be a Pregnant Abortion Provider" has turned a corner from which it is highly unlikely they will ever return.

See "Pro-abortion," page 27

Many amicus briefs defend Mississippi's pro-life law, strongly supported the conclusion *Roe* should be overturned

On July 22 , *NRL News Today* began reviewing a flurry of *amicus* briefs, including National Right to Life's, filed with the Supreme Court in support of Mississippi's pro-life Gestational Age Act. With a few exceptions, this 2018 law, a defense of which the justices will hear this fall, forbids abortions performed after the 15th week.

In its role as pro-life leader, National Right to Life supports a wide variety of *amicus* briefs in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Collectively, these briefs not only defend Mississippi's protective HB 10 law against pro-abortion attacks, they also patiently detail why *Roe* v. *Wade* was bad law at its origins and is now absurdly outdated and ought to be overturned.

If you go to the Supreme Court docket, you find a huge number of briefs from public policy organizations, faith groups, legislators, pro-life state organizations, and individuals (to name just a few). Starting with the joint National Right to Life/ Louisiana Right to Life *amicus*, James Bopp, Jr., NRLC General Counsel, explained that it "supports the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and provides a legal framework that will lead directly to achieving that goal."

The arguments that culminate in the call for the reversal of *Roe* are as many as they are ingenious. For example, as Bopp observed, "Since *Roe v. Wade***,** the Supreme Court has twisted the normal rules of law to protect an absolute abortion right and not given full effect to powerful state interests such as protecting preborn life and maternal health."

Specifically, with respect to Mississippi's Gestational Age Act, the trial court did not allow evidence documenting the state's real interests—interests that include protecting preborn human life (including from pain), protecting maternal health, guarding against harm to the integrity of the medical profession, protecting civil society, protecting against sex-, race-, and disability-discrimination, and other vital interests. As the joint NRLC-Louisiana brief explained, requiring normal rules and giving full effect to these important state interests will not only the reverse the course *Roe* set in abandoning normal law but also reverse Roe itself.

As we noted at the beginning, *NRL News Today* has examined a number of briefs and reposted the announcement of other briefs filed by defenders of Mississippi's HB 10. The following is just a sample. Please go to www.nationalrighttolifenews.org where we analyze at least one *amicus* brief virtually every day.

See "Amicus briefs," page 33

From the President
Carol Tobias

The tenacity of the Pro-Life Movement will carry the day for unborn babies and their mothers

I have the pleasure, and the honor, of speaking to various groups around the country. I love having the chance to visit with our grassroots base and to hear their stories. While some are sad, even heart-breaking, others are tremendously uplifting and encouraging almost beyond words.

One young man in a wheelchair thanked me for NRLC's position against rationing of medical treatment. One mother shared the joy a disabled daughter has brought to her family. Counselors at pregnancy help centers shared stories about some of the many women considering abortion that they were able to help.

And I get to meet young people who are continuing the battle for life. One college group was looking for more ideas on how they could influence their college campus for life. One youth group, active in a pro-life ministry, has discovered that "anger can only take you so far; God can take you farther."

I can say conclusively that all of the people mentioned above, along with the many other pro-lifers I have met, seem to lead what the world would consider to be mostly ordinary lives--taking care of a family, working a job, helping out with church or civic organizations.

But, trust me, they are not "ordinary" in all the ways that really matter.

Years ago, NRLC published a book titled, "Call to Conscience." Then as now, **you** are the conscience of America. You are the voice for the voiceless, reminding this great nation that what is happening to our unborn children is wrong.

And every time I tell an audience that the pro-life movement will succeed because they (the audience) will not give up, they applaud! You might think they would applaud if they were told they can retire, or give up, or take a break, but no. They've already been working hard for many years, yet when I tell them they are going to continue to work hard, they applaud.

That is the determination and tenacity of pro-lifers. They know we're in a battle for the hearts and minds of Americans, for the soul of the country. Giving up is not an option.

They agree with Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who wrote, prophetically, "Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

Giving up for grassroots pro-lifers is impossible. They are dedicated to the proposition that human life is precious and must be protected, in season and out.

At the federal level, the pro-abortion Biden-Harris administration and pro-abortion Congressional leadership seek to remove any and all pro-life protections for unborn children and, instead, force tax funding of abortion, at home and abroad, on the American people. We are battling them as I write this column.

Activity at the state level is completely different. We've had some tremendous successes this year.

Two states succeeded in getting a measure on the 2022 ballot which would clarify that their state constitution does not secure a right to abortion or require tax funding of abortion.

Some states have passed laws to protect babies born alive following a botched abortion and babies who have been diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

Other states have passed laws to provide information to women seeking an abortion, including the opportunity to view an ultrasound of her preborn child. We've also seen tighter restrictions on chemical abortions, as well as the promotion of abortion pill reversal.

These are incremental steps forward, but do not underestimate their significance. They are like waystations on the journey that will end with the day the law protects all babies.

Beyond legislation, more and more Right to Life chapters are educating their communities with fair booths. Many of them have stories about young children pointing to the fetal models and saying, "baby," recognizing intuitively what many in society would try to deny.

Our chapters and volunteers are making their presence known on social media. These platforms reach those who may not hear the truth in more conventional ways.

Our affiliates are reaching young people--through oratory and video contests, youth camps, Teens for Life groups, college groups, and sponsoring students to the NRL summer academy.

Because of the stalwart people active in the right-to-life movement, and the newcomers who join each day, the future is exciting and promising.

The right-to-life movement is stronger because our members are diverse. Media stereotypes about age, race, gender, political or religious philosophy, income, or education break down the moment anyone gets to know pro- life grassroots Americans.

I wish I could get a message to everyone working to keep abortion legal. I would tell them to give up. They sometimes have legislative successes (but not many!), they sometimes have election victories, and they can certainly be vocal, but all they are doing is delaying the inevitable.

They will not win because our cause is just and because pro-lifers are resolute, persistent, and willing to fight as long as it takes.

We will never give up until all the little ones are welcomed in life and protected in law.

Post-Abortion Syndrome: a TikTok Case Study

By Kylie Gallegos

Editor's note. The following is research presented by 2021 NRL Academy student Kylie Gallegos.

A very unfortunate video--for deniers of Post-Abortion Syndrome (PAS)--is circulating through the social media platform TikTok. TikTok is a popular app whose userbase is largely between 16-24 and whose content is short videos ranging from a few seconds long to three minutes.

The video featured a young girl lamenting her own abortion one year before who is creating a safe space where young women could tell their stories of the "forbidden grief" of abortion. This video had 1.2 million views, 245,000 likes, and nearly 11,000 comments; needless to say it went viral.

Those 11,000 comments were women using this one opportunity to express the grief they've held in for years, and it was heartbreaking. I stumbled upon this video as I searched for a research topic during my time at the NRL Academy. As I read comment after comment, I realized that was I was reading was PAS. What was even more unique about these comments and this platform was that it wasn't from a group of pro-lifers, it was women my age who had grown up in an abortion-minded culture who by all of societies standards shouldn't have had any second thoughts about their abortions, but still here it was: Post-Abortion Syndrome.

What I then set out to do was document these comments and attempt to categorize them in light of classic PAS symptoms. The symptoms were guilt, anxiety, avoiding kids or pregnant women, feeling numb, suicidal thoughts, anniversary reminders, wanting to be pregnant again, drug or alcohol abuse, and bonding with other children.

What I found was striking, yet unsurprising. I found every single one of these symptoms and much more. Even more compelling is the fact that this wasn't a survey. These were young women offering up their stories and mentioning each symptom in passing. No one was drawing anything out of them, it was from the heart.

I'll share with you now a representative comment for each symptom.

Guilt. "I went through this 26 years ago and I've never forgiven myself." Anxiety. "Everyone told me it was my only option. I chose to believe them. I lost my job, went through a temporary psychosis, and my life still feels like it's falling apart." Avoiding kids or pregnant women. "I also felt an overwhelming sense of guilt being around babies at that time; not too much now, but dang would've been like 3 years old now." Numbness. Talking about a friend she wrote, "Her biggest struggle was that after she didn't feel the relief she thought she would. She didn't feel anything, just numb." Suicidal thoughts. "I attempted suicide twice after having an abortion. It was one of the worst years of my life." Anniversary reminders. "The worst part is mother's day or moving… even just looking around at empty rooms where I would've put my babies stuff"... "I feel like I didn't fight hard enough." Wanting to be pregnant again. "I won't get better until I have a baby." Drug/Alcohol abuse. "For years I turned to alcohol because of the pain… it hurts." Bonding with other children. "I'm sad, I feel guilty, and I can't be around kids without feeling empty."

Heartbreaking, absolutely heartbreaking. Clearly each of these young women was experiencing a mixture of PAS symptoms despite the other side's attempts to quash any suggestions that there may be regret after an abortion. These women sought to be understood and listened to, not guilted or silenced.

Their pain doesn't simply cease to exist after reading a Healthline article https://www.healthline.com/health/post-abortion-syndrome#real-or-fake saying their continued pain isn't as legitimate as other mental health problems.

The pro-life movement is one of love and care for women stuck in situations that seems impossible. Our work includes helping heal the deep wounds of abortion.

I'll end with a quote that brings tears to my eyes yet motivates me to keep fighting, keep moving forward, "I had an abortion 20 years ago and all I can say is that someone should've told me all the negative side effects, I still struggle."

From Darkness to Light: East Liberty Women's Care Center Illuminates a Brighter Path for Women

By Bonnie Finnerty, Education Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Tiffany and Jay Gilbert are busy. Along with pastoring a fast-growing church in the Mount Washington area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, they are also growing two adorable young sons. Despite a full schedule of faith and family, the couple remains open to doing more to serve others. Most recently "that more" was to help stem the rate of abortion by providing life-affirming alternatives to women in a Pittsburgh neighborhood.

Although only having started to explore possibilities late last year, the East Liberty Women's Care Center opened in record time this past April and has already offered a safe haven and welcoming arms to several women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Instructional area where clients are empowered with information

The founding of this Pregnancy Resource Center comes at a critical time: Pittsburgh has the second highest abortion rate in Pennsylvania, second only to Philadelphia. And we are learning more and more about the disturbing allegations against the University of Pittsburgh with regard to procurement of organs from aborted babies. For certain, the addition of another life-affirming resource center in Pittsburgh is welcome news.

The location of this Pregnancy Resource Center is also significant. It is one block from Allegheny Reproductive, where the greatest number of abortions are performed in the county. According to the Department of Health Abortion Statistics Report, in 2019 there were 6474 induced abortions performed in Allegheny County, comprising 20% of the annual abortions in the state.

Being in such close proximity to the abortion center provides an opportunity to reach vulnerable women with other life-affirming options before making a permanent, life-ending decision.

Only after opening Women's Care Center did Tiffany learn an ironic fact: the very building in which they are located once housed Allegheny Reproductive. The space where babies' lives were once sacrificed for profit is now the sanctuary where mothers and their babies are offered free and unconditional protection, where they are loved into life.

The center's services go far beyond pregnancy tests and abortion alternatives. They offer resources to the entire family, including grandparents who may need assistance in raising their children's children. In addition to providing immediate material support of clothes, diapers, and the like, East Liberty has an Economic Self-Reliance program that empowers clients for the long term.

This is a partnership with other community organizations to provide technology training that can lead to jobs with higher paying salaries. In this way, they hope to break the generational cycle of poverty that can grip families.

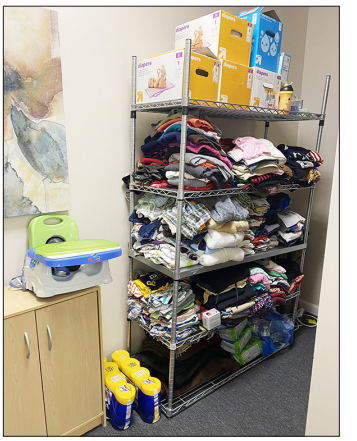
Among other services offered are post-abortion counseling, earn-while-you-learn classes for new and prospective parents, and a woman's group that focuses on emotional healing. And they are just getting started as they train more volunteers and look to increase open hours.

Tiffany is in awe at how everything has come together in such a short time. The Center was even blessed with the donation of an ultrasound machine. Until they can secure their own nurse sonographer, the Center is partnering with a mobile van unit that provides ultrasounds.

And that is key.

A recent study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that abortion-minded women who visit pregnancy centers are at least 30% more likely to change their minds and give birth to their babies. And we know from other studies that a majority of women who see their baby via ultrasound choose life.

Inside the center, the Gilberts, their team of volunteers, and their donors have created a calm and beautiful space for clients. Soft blue walls frame a tastefully decorated and cozy sitting area with a nearby coffee station. A confidential counseling room is right down the hall.



Small sampling of the material goods available to clients in need

This is a place where women are welcomed, affirmed, helped, and healed, where relationships are built and life is chosen, a vast improvement over what used to happen: the exchange of money for a life.

The building has undergone a rebirth.

Outside is a city streetlight, a rather quaint lamppost seemingly standing guard over this new beacon of hope. It serves as a fitting symbol of a place that is bringing light and life to the darkened corners of East Liberty, illuminating a new path forward for women, their children, and an entire community in a city that so desperately needs it.

Pregnancy Care Centers Effective, Change Abortion Outcomes, Opposition Study Admits

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. NRL Director of Education & Research

For years, pro-lifers have asserted that given realistic alternatives to abortion, many women will choose life for themselves and their unborn babies. Now there's a study, done by abortion advocates, that proves this is true.

A woman who visits a Pregnancy Care Center (called crisis pregnancy centers in the study) is considerably more likely to forego an abortion and decide to give birth to her child than a woman who does not. Women choose life when there is a real choice to do so.

Naturally, the researchers raised the usual pro-abortion charges of "false information" or "inaccurate information," but that is par for the course. And these slurs don't change the outcome: Pregnancy Help Centers are very effective.

Study and results

The study, "Pregnancy outcomes after exposure to crisis pregnancy centers among an abortion seeking sample recruited online," was published July 28 in the online journal *PloS ONE.* The pro-abortion researchers come from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and the University of California - San Francisco.

They described themselves as being " interested in the association between exposure to a CPC and pregnancy or abortion outcome."

Between August 2017 and May 2018, researchers recruited, identified, and surveyed nearly 1,500 pregnant women from all fifty states who were searching the internet considering or seeking an abortion. Of those, over a thousand participated in a follow up study. Four weeks after their initial contact, once those who miscarried, gave birth, turned out not to have been pregnant, or didn't fully respond to survey questions were eliminated, 857 remained for analysis.

Four weeks after the initial survey, nearly a third (30.3%) reported having visited a "crisis pregnancy center" (CPC). However some of these weren't sure and some even gave the name of the abortionist as the place where they got their pregnancy assistance.

After eliminating these erroneous or ambiguous responses, researchers were left with 13.1% of respondents confirming that they had indeed visited a pregnancy care center--112 women of their original sample.

At the four-week point, 50.5% of those who did not visit a CPC reported having had the abortion they were seeking. An additional 31% said that they were "still seeking" abortions. Just 18.5% in that group were planning to continue their pregnancies.

However, for those abortion seeking women who **did** visit the pregnancy care centers, the outcomes were much different. Less than a third (29.5%) of those had abortions at the four-week point.

Over a quarter (26.8%) were then planning to bear their child. While 43.8% indicated they were still seeking abortions, this means there was still a possibility that the mother would accept the center's help and the child would survive.

What made a tangible, measurable difference for a significant percentage of these moms and their babies? Visiting the pregnancy care center, receiving support and encouragement, obtaining information about their baby, being offered practical help and assistance, perhaps receiving parenting or financial training, or just finding people who cared.

Even the researchers, long-time abortion advocates who made clear that they were no fans of pregnancy care centers, had to admit that these findings were significant. After all, those pregnant women who visited pregnancy care centers were twice as likely to still be pregnant and still be planning to continue the pregnancy as those women who had not.

Pregnancy care centers work. They save lives.

Indiana Attorney General asks for stay of pro-abortion ruling, also asks 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the case

By Dave Andrusko

On Tuesday, Judge Sarah Evans Barker of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, issued a permanent injunction barring state employees from enforcing or administering six abortion-related provisions.

On Wednesday, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita appealed the federal judge's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

While Judge Barker did uphold some pro-life provisions—"laws requiring an ultrasound before an abortion, and that medication abortions meet FDA standards," the *Indianapolis Star* reported--she permanently enjoined others. According to Indiana Right to Life

> **Under the injunction, Indiana is blocked from enforcing physician-only limitations on chemical abortions, Indiana's ban on chemical abortions via telemedicine, Indiana's requirement that second trimester abortions can only be done in hospitals, Indiana's requirement that women be informed about an unborn baby's ability to feel pain at 20 weeks, Indiana's requirement that women be informed that human physical life begins at fertilization, and multiple physical requirements for facilities that do abortions.**

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita

Attorney General Todd Rokita said Judge Barkers decision "only strengthens our resolve to keep fighting for the lives of unborn children and the health of mothers," adding, "We will continue to fight to defend Indiana's commonsense abortion laws and to build a culture of life in Indiana."

Rokita asked the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the case. He also filed an appeal for a stay of the decision, maintaining that "The State has a strong likelihood of prevailing against the permanent injunction on appeal."

> **The Court's decision to strike down the State's physician-only requirement for medication abortions contravenes Supreme Court and Seventh Circuit precedent approving the restriction of abortion to licensed physicians and relies on no data that would justify a departure from those decisions.**
>
> **Likewise, the Court's decision to overturn the second trimester hospitalization/ASC requirement runs afoul of binding Supreme Court precedent and is reversible on that basis. Further, in holding that the in-person counseling requirement, the telemedicine ban, and the physical examination requirement each impose an undue burden, the Court effectively found a constitutional mandate to adopt modern telemedicine. But the Seventh Circuit has already upheld the in-person disclosure requirement, and none of the statutes limiting use of telemedicine can be said to impose substantial constitutional burdens merely because they forego previously unavail-able technological conveniences.**
>
> **And if all that were not enough, plaintiffs disavowed any attempt to show that any of the enjoined regulations actually depresses Indiana abortion rates.**
>
> **Absent evidence that any of these regulations imposes a substantial obstacle, the Court's determination that each constitutes an undue burden is likely to be overturned on appeal.**

Writing for the *Indianapolis Star* [www.indystar.com/story/news/2021/08/12/indiana-abortion-laws-whats-next-after-federal-judge-decision/8097293002], Johnny Magdaleno noted not only that Indiana had passed a number of pro-life laws, the state had also joined 18 other states in one pro-life case and 19 other states in another pro-life case.

The "Fake News" Machine and Its Influence on Voters

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

According to the U.S. News Desert, a joint project of the University of North Carolina's Hussman School of Journalism and Media and the Knight Foundation, over 70 daily newspapers have been lost since 2004 and over 2,000 weekly or non-daily newspapers have been lost. In fact, there are over 200 counties in the U.S. that no longer have a local newspaper.

Some might think that the loss of these newspapers indicates that the readers may have cancelled because of news bias in the newsrooms. No doubt that is true in some cases, but the larger issue has more to do with the traditional business format of newspapers and the printing costs involved. The report notes:

> **The vast majority of the dailies that closed in recent years served impoverished communities that never regained their economic footing in the years after the 2008 recession. Many of these dailies lost not only their local advertisers, who went out of business in the wake of the recession, but also their readers, who could no longer afford to pay for a subscription. When they closed their doors, most of the shuttered dailies had less than 15,000 print subscribers, even though they served communities with tens of thousands of residents.**

As the U.S. News Desert report also notes, as a result, about 1,800 communities that lost local papers now have no local news source.

But now there is a new breed of online "news reporting" in town and the lines are blurring. As legacy media newspapers fold, PR firms and organizations are seeing an information gap that they can quickly fill.

Here's one egregious example. Tara McGowan, a former *CBS News* staffer and

founder of Acronym (a liberal get-out-the-vote organization), raised over $25 million to create a for-profit newsroom venture called Courier Newsroom to persuade voters to put Democrats in office.

According to a November 2019 article in *Bloomberg's Businessweek*:

> **While the articles she publishes are based on facts, nothing alerts readers that Courier publications aren't actually traditional hometown newspapers but political instruments designed to get them to vote for Democrats. And although the articles are made to resemble ordinary news, their purpose isn't primarily to build a readership for the website: It's for the pieces to travel individually through social media, amplifying their influence with persuadable voters.**
>
> **To make this happen, McGowan is doing something else small newspapers don't: she's using her sizable war chest and digital advertising savvy to pay to have her articles placed into the Facebook feeds of swing-state users she's identified as most likely to respond to them, then using that feedback to find more people like them. In digital advertising, this is known as "building a custom audience." Applied to politics, it's more like finding and activating the 80,000 swing-state voters Clinton was missing [in 2016] , who could potentially put Democrats over the top in next year's election. "This is the most interesting, and potentially important, thing happening on our side right now," says one unaffiliated Democratic organizer. "If it works, it will change the whole ballgame of how we reach and motivate our people."**

These "news" sites are just a few examples of the trend we are seeing in the push for "news" to reach voters and influence their decision making—and to fill a growing gap in news and information left by the demise of many local newspapers.

The pro-life movement has always had a legitimate concern that mainstream news organizations often present the pro-abortion side without

See "Fake News," page 11

Camaraderie, mutual love and connection found at the first-of-its-kind abortion survivors retreat

By Melissa Ohden, as told to Dave Andrusko

Imagine it taking multiple decades and a steady accumulation of credible evidence for your story to be acknowledged, believed, cared about, and fought for.

Imagine existing in a world where the very thing that nearly ended your life is normalized.

Imagine an opportunity to finally come to grips with being someone who was born alive despite an abortion attempt(s). Welcome to the world of—the journey of–the abortion survivor.

Add to that the first of what we hope will be an annual abortion survivors retreat which took place recently in Schulenburg, Texas.

Melissa Ohden, founder of the Abortion Survivors Network, is armed with the story of abortion survival at 31 weeks gestation, substantiated by her own birth mother's testimony. Nonetheless, she lives in a world where what happened to her in 1977 is dismissed as a fairytale or diminished as "a thing of the past" designed just to threaten the existence of legalized abortion rather than unlock secrets and heal hurts.

Melissa recognized her own desire to break the isolation of a world seeking to silence abortion survivors. How? By meeting others with shared experience who would understand her story. Melissa began a personal journey, but that is only one thread of a larger narrative. Recognizing a need greater than that of one individual , she launching a global reaching non-profit network designed to unite abortion survivors with information, education, healing support for parent and child, and advocacy.

To that end, she dreamed of a retreat, a space, in which survivors could recognize the community built over years. That space was Schulenburg, a small city in Fayette County, Texas.

Abortion survivors from across the U.S. capture history being made with this first annual retreat. Such courage in stepping forward in a photo for the first time!

"You Belong" was the opening dialogue Melissa shared with 17 abortion survivors, ranging in age from 41-76 whose lives were nearly ended by abortion both before abortion was legalized in 1973 and after.

Some have birth certificates, others have only an acknowledgement of a live birth with a year. There were survivors of saline abortions, surgical abortions (dilation & curettage), vacuum aspiration abortions, pre-term induction and more. Survivors of at-home abortion attempts mingled with those whose lives were almost ended in medical facilities. Singleton births met twin survivors.

"You Belong" seems quite simple, but those are the words left unsaid when you've experienced trauma in the womb, trauma within your childhood, made choices out of the feeling of inescapable generational trauma including abortion, sought to be loved, and experienced abortion in other ways before even knowing your own survival story.

"You Belong" are the words missing in every state and country that fails to require reporting guidelines that ensure accurate statistics on abortion survivors.

"You Belong" are the words sought in every whisper of reaction to an abortion survivor's story.

Beginning with and reinforcing belonging, the first annual and first-of-its-kind abortion survivors retreat explored further healing with topics on forgiveness, identity, and coping with trauma skills. A history of abortion survivors, incidence of failed abortions, and a profile of the known abortion surviving community was presented alongside information on generational trauma and the generational cycle of abortion.

See "Retreat," page 12

Study of nearly 5 million women shows abortion is 'uncommon, if not rare' for moms with other children

Out of nearly five million Medicaid-enrolled women with at least one pregnancy, less than 6% had both births and abortions

By Bettina di Fiore

The abortion industry and pro-abortion publications have long promoted the idea that abortion is a "normal" experience for moms. "Who Gets Legal Abortions in America? Mothers," states the headline of an article in the ironically pro-abortion online journal, *Fatherly*. "This Mother's Day, it's time to recognize and celebrate moms who have had abortions," claims another article on the website UltraViolet.

Both sites back up their claims with 2014 data from the Guttmacher Institute which indicated that 59% of women obtaining abortions were already mothers.

But while this number indicates a majority of those who have abortions are already mothers, it doesn't indicate whether it is *common* for mothers with living children to abort subsequent children. One study with a large sample size has shown that it is not at all common.

The study, authored by James Studnicki and several others, analyzed a population approximately 583 times larger than the sample used by Guttmacher and found that abortion among mothers, at least those with low incomes, is "exceedingly uncommon, if not rare."

The study analyzed pregnancy outcomes from the Medicaid records of the 17 U.S. states which provide Medicaid coverage for abortion. The reproductive histories of 4,884,101 women were analyzed.

According to the study, 74.2% of the women whose records were analyzed had experienced live births but no abortions (or undetermined pregnancy losses), accounting for 87.6% of total births.

Of the total study population, 6.6% had a history of abortion *without* any history of live births — however, they accounted for 53.5% of the women who had obtained abortions, and 51.5% of total abortions.

Women with both births *and* abortions constituted a mere 5.7% of the study population, and accounted for only 7.2% of total births.

In other words, women who experienced abortion and no births were responsible for the majority of the total abortions which transpired over the study period. And the vast majority of children born during the study period were born to women who had never experienced abortion.

Women who had both live births and abortions were a very small fraction of the study population, and had very few of the total children born over the study period.

This would seem to indicate that mothers *do not* comprise the majority of the abortion industry's customer base — at least, not low-income mothers using taxpayer funds to finance their abortions. In a political climate in which pro-abortion organizations and interests insist that low-income families need taxpayer-funded abortion, this data strongly counters those arguments.

Indeed, it would seem to reinforce arguments in favor of the Hyde Amendment, which blocks the use of federal taxpayer funds for most abortions, and which has been in effect for over 40 years. The U.S. House recently passed a budget without Hyde Amendment provisions, which would force all U.S. taxpayers to fund abortion.

Editor's note. This appeared at Live Action News and is reposted with permission.

"Is there any better way to fully immerse yourself in the pro-life movement?"

By Kylie Gallegos

Editor's note. Last Friday marked the end of the five-week-long National Right to Life Academy. We asked Kylie Gallegos and Grace Lake to share their experiences with NRL News readers.

Showing up in Washington DC the first day I had no idea what to expect. I had heard bits and pieces about subjects I'd be learning about and I had the vague idea of what a practicum was, but for the most part I was stepping in blindly.

What I found very quickly was a group of people united by their love of life and the unborn; they had decades of experience working to defend life all across the country and they were eager to share it with us.

The National Right to Life convention in June flew by and we began life in Alexandria, Virginia learning, reading, studying, and of course practicing. Our teachers laid before us knowledge that they'd collected over their many years of experience.

We covered biology, ethics, philosophy, rhetoric, history, strategy, debate, and law. Is there any better way to fully immerse yourself in the pro-life movement? It was every pro-life talking point and more, but in incredible depth that could only be achieved through 5-weeks of living and breathing pro-life.

(Left to Right) Laura Echevarria, Press Secretary and Communications Director; Academy student Kylie Gallegos; Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, NRL Academy Director; Academy student Grace Lake; and Olivia Gans Turner, Director, American Victims of Abortion

Besides the classes, NRL didn't leave it up to us to figure out real-life applications on our own: they prepared us for lobbying, public speaking, press conference, press release, social media, ad campaigns, short film, interview, column writing, debate, and tv panel. All of our bases are covered for life as an advocate for the unborn in a world totally opposed to what we stand for.

The National Right to Life has given me confidence to confront the nation's toughest issue, and I am eternally grateful that they were willing to invest in me the way that they did.

The "Fake News" Machine and Its Influence on Voters

From page 8

criticism while addressing pro-life concerns or issues with extreme bias. But this new breed of "news" outlets will be a particular challenge.

The NRLC Communications Department response to unbalanced or blatantly inaccurate news stories is to contact the reporters and editors responsible and hold them accountable. However, for an outlet *designed* to influence readers to believe certain "facts," the challenge will be even harder.

As a *Washington Examiner* noted, the most disturbing part of *Bloomberg's* interview with Tara McGowan was her admission about how she sees the Courier Newsroom as a "continuation" of her work with *CBS News*.

McGowan argues that a "firewall" between the staff at Acronym and the staff at the Courier News will prevent undue influence on the news reporting. While this is a laughably thin argument, her follow up statement to *Bloomberg* is as alarming as it is accurate:

> **A lot of people I respect will see this media company as an affront to journalistic integrity because it won't, in their eyes, be balanced," she told Bloomberg. "What I say to them is, Balance does not exist anymore, unfortunately."**

Yes, very unfortunate if journalism is becoming just another form of political activism.

"A new sense of determination and purpose to help drive the pro-life movement forward in any way I can"

By Grace Lake

Editor's note. Today marks the end of the five-week-long National Right to Life Academy. We asked Grace Lake and Kylie Gallegos to share their experiences with NRL News readers.

The National Right to Life Academy: one of the most comprehensive pro-life educational experiences I could ever imagine receiving.

Before attending the Academy, I had no idea what to expect. The extent of my pro-life experience and knowledge came from my college's Students for Life group and attending the March for Life in 2019.

Throughout the past five weeks, starting at the National Right to Life Convention in June , I've been taught by some of the best in the movement on topics ranging from the biology of life, abortion arguments and tactics, law, and ethics. My knowledge has been put to the test in practicums, where we are put in real-life scenarios that the pro-life activist may face such as interviews, lobbying, public speaking, and press conferences.

(Left to Right) Academy student Grace Lake; NRL President Carol Tobias; and Academy student Kylie Gallegos

Although this month has been challenging, I can truly say that I've not only grown in my knowledge about the pro-life movement, but I have the confidence and drive that it takes to confront head-on a world that disagrees with me on such a divisive issue.

Being able to converse with pro-lifers with so much experience and wisdom has been the most inspiring aspect of all. Being at the heart of political and social change has given me a new sense of determination and purpose to help drive the pro-life movement forward in any way that I can.

I will be forever grateful for this experience, the connections and friendships I've made, and the understanding of how important this movement is for my generation.

Camaraderie, mutual love and connection found at the first-of-its-kind abortion survivors retreat

From page 9

Karen, a 76 year old survivor, reflected that "it was a safe place to share our stories for healing to take place." She expressed her gratitude for the "camaraderie, mutual love and connection" that she felt.

Abortion survivors live in a world that celebrates and normalizes the act that was meant to end their lives: abortion. The hardships they have survived are met with rejection, like their life began.

The Abortion Survivors Network recognizes and affirms that each individual deserves to be equipped with the community, skills and education. The Abortion Survivors Network is uniquely equipped to provide specialized peer-to-peer support, healing groups, retreats, and advocacy.

To learn more, visit The Abortion Survivors Network online, via Facebook or on Instagram.

17 abortion survivors from across the U.S. praying for an end to abortion and their population of survivors worldwide.

It's Time for a Thorough Investigation of the University of Pittsburgh

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The University of Pittsburgh should be thoroughly investigated amid allegations of researchers there harvesting body parts from babies whose hearts are still beating.

"The Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act makes it clear—you cannot take the life of a precious baby to harvest organs. For the sake of babies, mothers, and taxpayers throughout the Commonwealth, it's time to investigate the University of Pittsburgh," said Maria Gallagher, legislative director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, an affiliate of National Right to Life.

Under Pennsylvania law, it is a felony to experiment on a living unborn baby or to refuse to offer medical care to an infant who has been born alive.

The Center for Medical Progress claims that Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania abortion providers supply the aborted babies, while the University of Pittsburgh provides sponsorship to Planned Parenthood's operations in what appears to be an illegal quid pro quo for unborn baby body parts. That would be a violation of 42 U.S. Code 289g-2 and 18 Pennsylvania Statutes 3216.

After securing hundreds of pages of public records, the non-profit group Judicial Watch has found that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has channeled at least $2.7 million into a project at the University of Pittsburgh that apparently uses a tissue bank with body parts from aborted babies.

Pitt's application for one project stated that the university planned "to develop a pipeline to the acquisition, quality control and distribution of (urinary and genital organs and functions) samples obtained throughout development (6-42 weeks gestation)." A baby born at 40 weeks is considered full-term by the National Institutes of Health, while a baby born at 42 weeks is considered overdue.

According to the Center for Medical Progress, "If the (preborn baby's) heartbeat and blood circulation continue in a labor induction abortion for harvesting organs, it means the (baby) is being delivered while still alive and the cause of death is the removal of the organs."

"The allegations read like something out of a horror movie—gruesome and disgusting," said Gallagher. "It is deeply disturbing to think that full-term babies could be treated in such an inhumane manner. We call on both federal and local authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of the University of Pittsburgh's research practices," Gallagher added.

Roe v. Wade should be tossed into the ash heap of history

From page 1

of a newborn baby. Many are willing to go the extra mile—even when that mile is logged in the skies aboard a Life Flight. They treat their tiny patients with the utmost compassion, knowing that those lives are sacred and worthy of the deepest respect.

And they realize what is at stake for the parents who nervously wait behind, wondering if their baby will pull through. As Dr. Justin Buland said in the Fox 43 report, after a mother delivers a baby, there is no worse feeling than when "you leave with an empty car seat" while the child is transported to receive the care she needs.

Medical technology has allowed doctors and nurses to save premature babies at earlier and earlier stages of development. As a result, miraculous rescues are occurring every day in cities across America.

It is time our laws caught up with the times. *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion back in 1973, should be tossed to the ash heap of history. Each state should be permitted to pass expansive protective laws which shield both mother and child from the tragedy of abortion.

How can we move heaven and earth on one hand to save a baby, when a facility up the road will take the life of a preborn child at the same level of development? A medical and legal dichotomy which pronounces a death sentence on some while preserving the lives of others simply cannot stand.

A Constitutional rescue is long overdue. *Roe* must be overturned to return sanity to our legal system as far as the lives of preborn babies are concerned.

Pro-life feminists demolish "women need abortion to thrive" argument in amicus filed with the Supreme Court

"It is grotesque to suggest that abortion is a prerequisite to equality"

By Dave Andrusko

Starting on July 22, *NRL News Today* began examining *amicus* briefs filed in the very important case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* which the Supreme Court will hear this fall. Of particular interest is the *amicus* filed by "240 Women Scholars and Professionals, and Pro-Life Feminist Organizations."

The justices will hear the state of Mississippi defend its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy with very limited exceptions. Enacted in 2018, the law was blocked by Judge Carlton W. Reeves of the Federal District Court in Jackson, Mississippi. Judge Reeves's decision was subsequently upheld by a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, although reluctantly by one of the three judges, as *NRL News Today* explained.

On May 17, in a one line notice, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that the justices agreed to hear ("grant certiorari") the appeal by the state of Mississippi.

This *amicus* is particularly significant because it rebuts one of the linchpin arguments made both in the 1973 *Roe* decision and the 1992 *Casey* decision [internal citations omitted for clarity]:

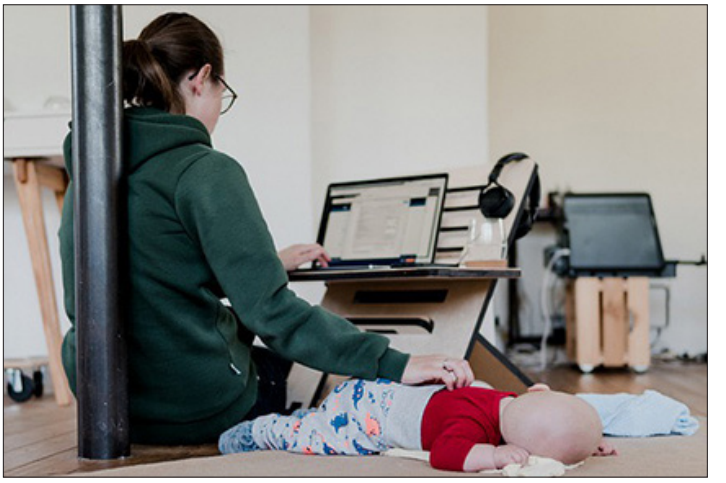
> **Amici, Women Scholars and Professionals, are a group of 240 women who have achieved academic and professional success and who reject the argument that the "ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation" requires the availability of abortion.**

Indeed, the *amicus* brief turns that assertion on its head. For example,

> **FCLNY [Feminists Choosing Life of New York] believes that there is no causal connection between women's equality and the "right to abortion" set forth in Roe vs. Wade, and that the judicially-created right to abortion has oppressed rather than empower women.**

Another feminist organization, Secular Pro-Life (SPL), describes itself as "a coalition of people of any faith or no faith who advance secular arguments against abortion." SPL "recognizes that widely available elective abortion has dramatically increased the pressure for women to abort their children in any pregnancies conceived in less-than-ideal circumstances."

> **This standard has greatly stigmatized women who wish to have both children and a career, and increased the stigma surrounding mothers and children struggling with poverty, disability, abusive relationships, and other challenges. It is grotesque to suggest that abortion is a prerequisite to equality. Abortion prioritizes the wombless male body over other forms of embodiment. It rejects a societal standard which says women's path to equality is violence against their own children.**



The *amicus* has many other insightful criticisms of the anti-woman culture created by abortion as a first-resort. Its "Summary of the Argument" brilliantly demolishes the flimsy foundation the justices erected in *Roe* and *Casey*:

> **In *Roe v. Wade*, this Court held that the right of privacy included a woman's right to obtain an abortion based on the following conclusory explanation: "The detriment that the State would impose upon the pregnant woman by denying this choice altogether is apparent." (1973). In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), a plurality of this Court affirmed *Roe's* holding—not because the justices thought the 1973 decision was correct as a matter of constitutional law, but rather on the faulty premise that women had "reliance interests" in the judicially-created right to abortion that ensured their capacity "to participate equally in the economic**

See "Demolish," page 20

Unearthed video: Former Planned Parenthood prez trounced in debate over when life begins

By Carole Novielli

Former Planned Parenthood president Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D once made the claim that the preboarn baby in the womb is not a human being until it is born, and yet, for decades, he had previously claimed that a human being's life began at fertilization. Guttmacher, a former VP of the American Eugenics Society, was the first medical doctor to head Planned Parenthood and was instrumental to begin committing abortions.

His unscientific remark was made in a panel discussion moderated by Richard D. Lamm in 1969. At the time of the panel, Lamm was a Democrat member of the Colorado House of Representatives and chief sponsor of Colorado's law to decriminalize abortion — the first state to do so in 1967. (News of Lamm's recent death on July 30, 2021, became public just before the publication of this article.)

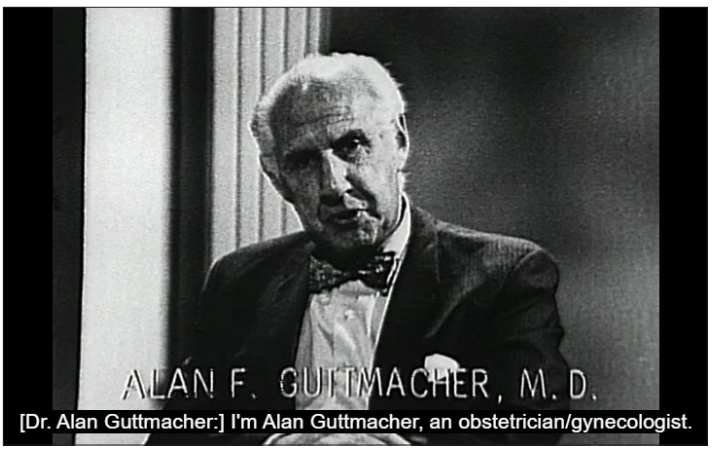
When Guttmacher made his claim about birth and humanity, he was immediately taken to task… by psychiatrist Frank Ayd Jr., who schooled him on human development.

"My first point would be, of course, that abortion means that a human life is being taken," Dr. Ayd said, adding:

> **Now to declare that any individual's life, at any time from the moment of conception, is devoid of value, in my opinion is a judgment that no man has the right to make, and to end an individual's life is murder, committed because it has been decided that he's no longer a human being in need of help and protection, but merely an object whose worth is measured according to whether or not his continued existence or his destruction is expedient for someone or the nation.**

Life begins at fertilization

And even as late as 1965, Guttmacher — along with one of Planned Parenthood's vice presidents, Frederick Jaffe — published the book, "Planning your Family," where on page 36, after Guttmacher and Jaffe explain the process of fertilization, they write, "Fertilization, then, has taken place; a baby has been conceived. After conception occurs, the egg attaches itself to the wall of the womb where it grows nine months until the baby is ready to be born."



Then, on page 219 Guttmacher and Jaffe add:

> **… the essence of the process of conception is the dramatic moment when a healthy sperm cell from the male unites with a healthy egg, or ovum, from the female. The union of sperm and egg — called fertilization, or impregnation — takes place the instant a single sperm cell enters directly into the egg by penetrating its outside covering. Once this happens, pregnancy has started.**
>
> **The union occurs in the Fallopian tube, down which the egg travels from the ovary. After fertilization, the egg completes its journey down the tube into the womb (uterus) where it grows throughout pregnancy and slowly develops into a baby.**

In Guttmacher's 1947 book, "The Story of Human Birth" he wrote, "The life of the foetus begins at the moment of fertilization, when a single cell of the male… fuses with a single cell of the female…"

In his book "Life in the Making," published in 1933, Guttmacher wrote, "To the ancient Psalmist who asked: 'Whence cometh life?' we can answer: 'From the union of two minute cells the sperm and the egg.'"

In 1968, Jaffe founded the PPFA Center for Family Planning Program Development, later renamed The Alan Guttmacher Institute, which became the research arm for Planned Parenthood. Jaffe was a Margaret Sanger Award recipient and once authored a controversial memo advocating eugenics through compulsory sterilization and abortion.

Abortion hurts women

In the panel debate, Dr. Ayd told Lamm that he opposed "any liberalization of abortion laws, especially for psychiatric, social, and economic indications."

He noted, "Technically it is true, we can empty the womb of the baby, but we cannot scrape the idea of the baby out of the mother's mind, and therefore there are going to be women who while in the early stages of pregnancy and being emotionally upset would be inclined to destroy the infant within their womb."

Ayd knew that abortion was much more than the equivalent of having a tooth pulled. "Subsequently, although the infant has been removed by whatever termination method is used, the idea of having had a baby in her womb is still in her mind," he said, "and that's not easily eradicated, and subsequent feelings of guilt and things of this sort are real. We psychiatrists see them and we have to contend with them."

At this point, Guttmacher became defensive and insisted that he was "no murderer," even though he had committed abortions. He justified his actions by claiming that the "baby is not a human being until born…" and as such, a human life can be defined any way each individual person chooses.

See "Video," page 25

Mom rejects suggestion she "selectively reduce" her triplets, says now, "The triplets are these miracle babies"

By Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

It's been said that good things come in "threes." Certainly, that proved to be the case for Miami resident Christine Taala.

As *The Epoch Times* reports, Taala was initially shocked when she discovered she was going to give birth to triplets.

You see, Taala had suffered the loss of three children to miscarriage, and the news of triplets came as a complete and utter surprise.

Taala was already mom to a preteen and a baby when she learned that the triplets—all of them girls–would be making their appearance in the world. When she was 10 weeks pregnant, a physician recommended "fetal reduction"—aborting one of the babies—to supposedly increase the chances of survival for the remaining little ones.

Taala refused, opting instead for a hope-filled decision for life. As the Epoch Times' Louise Bevan wrote, "Her pregnancy was high-risk, but Christine couldn't reconcile with losing one of her babies."

At one point, "Baby A" ceased growing because she was not getting sufficient nutrients from the umbilical cord she shared with "Baby B." Thankfully, Children's Hospital of Texas was able to perform a procedure to improve the blood flow.

Taala ended up going into labor at 26 weeks. But with the aid of an all-star medical team of 25, she gave birth to the trio, who were immediately taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

It was a scary time back in 2019 when the babies were born. Baby A had heart and liver trouble, Baby B also had a hole in the heart, and "Baby C" suffered from a brain bleed. As a result, the family spent much of a period of 103 days in the hospital.

The homecoming in July of 2019 brought new health challenges for the triplets–Aria, Lilah, and Sienna– and their mother.

The triplets experienced sleep apnea and one of the babies suffered a debilitating respiratory virus which resulted in an additional hospital stay. Meanwhile, Taala, who works in health care, battled post-traumatic stress disorder. With her devoted husband's help, the family was able to regain their balance.

"My husband, I think, was made to be a triplet dad!" she told Bevan. "He can stay calm when I am falling apart … I truly think we have learned to be a team, as this is no one-parent job."

Taala now blogs on the social media platform Instagram about her adventures raising triplets.

Watching her affectionate trio grow up together is the highlight of triplet parenting for Christine," Bevan wrote. "Her thriving girls, now toddlers, confirm her theory that everything happens for a reason."

As Christine told Bevan, "The triplets are these miracle babies. You see the girls today, they push every step of the way. I see how accomplished they are, how proud that they learn a new task or skill each day. They are our heroes!"

Decorated Mom Gives Life to Olympic Athletes

By John Stonestreet

Faithful watchers of the Olympics experience a letdown after the games are over. This year, with viewership in a freefall, there was likely not enough enthusiasm for there even to be a letdown on Monday morning.

Many have tired of the politicization of this year's games, which started before the opening ceremonies. Patriotism, courage, and even "historic performance" were redefined in Tokyo, and for the worse.

However, there is one protest, a quiet one, that demands our respect from the 2021 Olympics. Female athletes who are mothers earned well-deserved attention. Not merely with social media statements or corporate endorsements, but for winning medals and advocating for life. This Olympic narrative is not only heroic but counter-cultural in women's sports.

In 2008, gold medal favorite Sanya Richards-Ross boarded a plane for the Beijing Olympics games after visiting an abortion clinic. Her husband, Aaron Ross, was in practice with the New York Giants, so Richards-Ross terminated her pregnancy alone. She came home with a bronze medal, writing later, "I made a decision that broke me." Richards-Ross went on to say that every female athlete she knows has had an abortion.

This year, the U.S. Women's Olympic Track & Field team replaced a star runner in the 200 meters hurdles after she was slapped with a five-year ban on competition. The runner failed to follow anti-doping procedures because she was "traumatized after having an abortion". Her trauma lingers now even as she is facing repercussions for responding as she did to the anti-doping process. McNeal now speaks out against the pressure female athletes face in choosing career over motherhood.

Now a truly historic performance in the 2021 Olympics games may change this narrative in profound ways. Allyson Felix is the most decorated track star in U.S. history. Tokyo was her fifth and final Olympics games, and she has left with two more Olympic medals. Perhaps she will display them beside a picture of her two-year-old daughter whom she carried and gave birth to despite pressures to abort her. The decision to carry her child nearly cost Felix her life.

Felix had already won six gold medals and three silver medals before becoming pregnant in 2018. She chose to carry her child, even when her pregnancy was found to be high risk. At 32 weeks Felix underwent an emergency C-section.

Throughout the pregnancy, faced intense pressure from her sponsor. After she opted to keep her baby, Nike, her corporate sponsor, pushed a new deal that included a 70 percent pay cut to her previous contract, with no maternity exceptions. The sports brand wagered that Felix's performance would falter as she bounced back and forth from competing to pregnancy to juggling motherhood.

Felix spoke out, challenging the double-standard that exists in women's athletics for moms. Nike has since restructured how it works with mothers after Felix challenged the double standard.

Following her Olympic successes, Felix is refocusing her attention on a new endeavor called "The Power of She Fund." The new organization is designed to support mom athletes in practical ways. The Power of She Fund will provide childcare for mothers who compete at high levels, offering them the support and encouragement they need.

At least nine athletes who competed in Tokyo participated in Felix's program this year. These athletes received childcare grants that opened opportunities for greater training. Felix's work is also inspiring women's athletic brands to get behind mom athletes. Athleta and the Women's Sports Foundation are both corporate sponsors for The Power of She Fund.

Felix's story is a tremendous example of what it takes to change culture. The ideas that are evil must be challenged; the imagination of what is possible must be expanded; new and better ideas must be offered. Also, very importantly, the direction of corporate pressure must be changed. In this case, it was from pro-abortion to pro-child.

Hopefully, the important work of Allyson Felix will undo the abortion-minded atmosphere that currently surrounds women's athletics.

Editor's note. This appeared at Breakpoint and is reposted with permission.

Woman having abortion finds out she was pregnant with twins

By Sarah Terzo

Author and post-abortive woman Teresa LeGault tells her story. She was in college when she got pregnant. It was 1974, a year after *Roe vs. Wade* was decided:

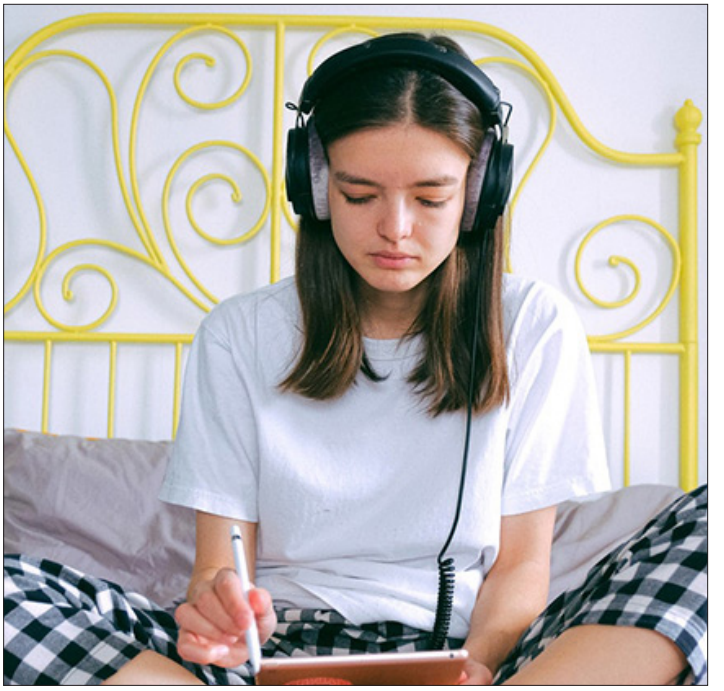
I knew nothing about terminating an unwanted pregnancy or about the development of a life within. I might have been a university student, but I was quite dumb and gullible…

I was afraid and alone. There were no alternate places to turn for help and advice. My parents were in the Middle East, consulting a counselor or church was a foreign idea at the time, nor were crisis pregnancy centers yet in existence…

I also hadn't picked up on the devastating change that took place in my dorm roommate after a quiet, but alternating, decision between her and her boyfriend.

That's probably because I had not yet reached the point where I could recognize what self-devaluation, emotional breakdown and the posture from bad decisions look like.

Blithely, I drove in the direction of Corpus Christi, Texas. There I went without much thought about what I was doing or what was going to happen; all I knew was that it was going to cost $45 to get the abortion. Amazingly, it took less than one year to make abortion a mindless practice for women with a pregnancy…



I was lying on the table with the doctor and nurse working on the other side of the sheet, discussing a local high school athlete, when suddenly the doctor announced, "Oh! There's another one." What? Two? Everything inside me cried out "No!" but not a sound or movement came from my horrified body and soul.

Not until that very moment, did I realize I was killing life, my child, actually two children, and my mind was racing. How can I stop this? But I just allowed one to be removed and now they were removing the second.

There was consternation afterwards… Soon after, I saw my old boyfriend at the restaurant where I worked, sitting with a girl who looked a lot like me, and I instantly ran to the restroom and spontaneously threw up. I didn't throw up because I was "hurt." No, all feelings were gone; I threw up because I saw the whole picture and knew the error of my ways.

Next, I proceeded to quit my job, quit school and aimlessly drove to California, living a truly "stupid" life for a while, because basically what was the point of anything, anymore, after abortion?…

The full truth about a pregnancy is intentionally withheld from girls and women who are having abortions, as of hiding the realities makes it okay.

We don't talk about it because to do so now is against the accustomed practice, the mainstream and those voices of certain women we are supposed to herald. But harm was done to me then, and it continues for other girls now.

Teresa LeGault, *2020 Sentiments of an American Woman: The History and Future of Women and Abortion* (100X Publishing, 2020) pp.14 – 16.

Editor's note. This appeared at Clinic Quotes and is reposted with permission.

Meet 'Baby Olivia': Live Action releases groundbreaking project showcasing fetal development

By Nancy Flanders

From a single-celled human to a human with a beating heart, brain waves, fingers, and toes, the miracle of human life developing in the womb is portrayed in stunning detail like never before in Live Action's newly-released video, "Baby Olivia" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-lQOooYAs8]

Created by Live Action with the support of world class visual artists along with medical experts including accredited OB-GYNs, "Baby Olivia" is the world's most realistic and medically accurate animated representation of a child developing in her mother's womb. The computer-generated 3D animation uses motion capture technology of real human movement, allowing this video to reveal the undeniable humanity of preborn children.

In the video, we see Olivia's journey from her very beginning at the moment of fertilization, and follow along to her first heartbeat 22 days later. We see her bouncing around in the womb at 11 weeks — before her mother can even feel her movements! — and responding to light at 27 weeks. Then, we see her preparing for birth, after which she will gain a whole new set of experiences in the world outside the womb.

"Baby Olivia" features facts on human development gathered from the detailed database at The Endowment for Human Development, a bioethically neutral nonprofit organization with a mission of improving health science education and public health.

The "Baby Olivia" project was reviewed and authenticated by multiple medical experts, including Dr. David Bolender, PhD, Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Medical College of Wisconsin; Dr. Donna Harrison (AAPLOG); Dr. Tara Sander Lee (Charlotte Lozier); Dr. Katrina Furth (Charlotte Lozier); Michelle Cretella, MD, Executive Director of the American College of Pediatricians; and Jeffrey Barrows, DO, MA (Ethics), Senior VP Bioethics and Public Policy.

From cute hiccups to strong kicks, and from her sweet yawns to her playful curiosity, Olivia reveals the truth about human development in the womb that was once hidden from view.

Live Action founder and president Lila Rose said of this groundbreaking video, "… As a pregnant woman myself, I know the power of seeing your child on ultrasound, and I wanted to bring to life this little person developing rapidly each week! *Baby Olivia* gives the world a peek inside the womb never seen before. We worked with a team of amazing animators to beautifully document the details of preborn life, including heartbeat, fingernails, eyelashes, and even hiccups. As we prepare for the Supreme Court to hear a case that reconsiders *Roe v. Wade*'s wildly unjust legalization of abortion, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, our team is working to make sure Olivia is seen across the globe and by parents, leaders and legislators everywhere. We know that baby Olivia is at the core of the abortion debate: will we defend her? Will we defend her constitutionally protected right to life? *Baby Olivia* should be shown to anyone considering abortion–in schools, at pregnancy resource centers, at churches, and in sidewalk advocacy. We can't wait to see the impact Olivia makes."

Visit our Help page if you are pregnant, have had an abortion, are an abortion worker, have taken the abortion pill, or are interested in information on adoption.

What Others Are Saying:

"Human dignity and value extends from conception to the grave. Preborn children and their mothers deserve to be loved and protected. *Olivia* is all of us." – *Ben and Kirsten Watson, Executive Producers, "Divided Hearts of America"*

"*Olivia* is a spectacular and medically accurate portrayal of the development of a baby girl within the womb. It is based on information from the Endowment for Human Development, a highly respected scientific source on embryology and fetal development. *Olivia* draws back the curtain on the womb giving us a realistic glimpse of the baby within. As a retired Ob/Gyn, I wish this had been available for my patients. As a former abortionist, I would recommend this video to any woman contemplating abortion if she wants to be informed about what is happening inside her body before finalizing her decision." – *Kathi A. Aultman, MD, FACOG*

"*Olivia* is the beautiful story – based on the latest scientific research – of a child's beginnings in her mother's womb, from conception until birth. The attention to detail and scientific accuracy of the developing child are astounding. Sharing this life journey should open the eyes of anyone who doubts that preborn babies are real human beings, just like you and me." – *The Charlotte Lozier Institute*

Editor's note. This appeared at LiveActionNews and is reposted with permission.

The right to life is won one heart, one person at a time

By Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

I was reminded recently of how one single human life can change the world.

I received word on Facebook that the father of a childhood friend had died. He was a long-time restauranteur who was a beloved member of his community. His generosity and devotion to faith and family were well-known. In short, he was greatly loved.

It has been hard to imagine what life would have been like without him and his graciousness. He treated those who patronized his restaurant like family, and they reciprocated with their loyalty to him. Without him, I would have never known his youngest daughter, my beautiful friend, and would be bereft of the memories I have of her.

This is why our cause is so critical. Defending the right to life means saving an unrepeatable, irreplaceable human being from destruction. Our nation is greatly impoverished by the nearly 900,000 lives lost each year to abortion. We are robbed of so many fine people, and so many wonderful memories.

If you ever weary of this campaign to preserve human life, just think about that one special friend in your life. The one who gives you the strength to carry on in this world. Imagine life without him or her. It is as inconceivable as abortion should be.

The right to life is won one heart, one person at a time. It is a valiant cause, a noble pursuit. It is worth our time and our treasure. The world is in desperate need of the people we work to save.

Pro-life feminists demolish "women need abortion to thrive" argument in amicus filed with the Supreme Court

From page 14

and social life of the nation."

In support of this premise, Justices O'Connor, Souter, and Kennedy referenced the work of a single political scientist, who herself did not claim any causal link between abortion and women's changing economic and social status. (citing ROSALIND P. PETCHESKY, "ABORTION AND WOMAN'S CHOICE.") [Underlining added.]

The amicus dryly adds, "The plurality's lack of support for its statement did not go unnoticed."

Chief Justice Rehnquist characterized the plurality's factual claim as "undeveloped and totally conclusory."

"Surely it is dubious to suggest that women have reached their 'places in society' in reliance upon *Roe*, rather than as a result of their determination to obtain higher education and compete with men in the job market, and of society's increasing recognition of their ability to fill positions that were previously thought to be reserved only for men."

Indeed, even a cursory review of history reveals that the expansion of opportunities for women — as well as their increased participation in political, social, and economic spheres — predated *Roe*.

All in all, this is an analytic tour de force. It is very much worth reading.

Six Ways to Defeat a Pro-Life Candidate

From page 1

about their candidate that if he/she loses to another pro-life candidate (especially in a primary), the pro-life grassroots person doesn't support the pro-life candidate who won. Because their candidate didn't win, they won't volunteer in the campaign or work to get others to vote for that candidate. Pro-life candidates need the active support of all pro-lifers and, all too often, without that full support, a pro-abortion candidate wins.

2.Believe that your candidate is the only real pro-life candidate in the race and bash other pro-life candidates. Some people pick out the one or two votes that a pro-life candidate didn't vote right on and attack him or her as not being really pro-life. By doing this, however, the pro-lifer demoralizes other pro-lifers and weakens enthusiasm for the pro-life candidate who does win the primary.

3.Support a really nice candidate who is pro-life but has no chance of winning. The viability of a candidate must be considered when we decide whom to vote for. If it is apparent a wonderfully pro-life candidate can't win, he needs to be encouraged to step aside for a candidate who may not be as eloquent but who can actually win and then be in a position to take action to protect unborn children.

4.Expect the candidate to sound like a Right to Life chapter chairman. Many

candidates will do what's right when they're elected, but that doesn't mean they will be comfortable or eloquent talking about the killing of unborn babies. Some of our strongest pro-life elected officials, whose actions have helped to save hundreds of thousands of unborn babies, are not articulate on pro-life issues. Remember, words are nice, action is far better.

5.Expect the candidate to make abortion the top issue in the campaign. In order to win, a candidate has to focus on several issues that will appeal to a broad variety of voters. In some races, making abortion an issue will help the candidate, but in some parts of the country, the pro-life candidate must stress other issues in order to win.

6.Vote for a third-party candidate who has no chance of winning. There will be times when a third-party candidate will get into the race, claiming to be the "real" pro-lifer. He will attack the pro-life candidate and get other pro-lifers to jump on board. This is a sure strategy to elect the pro-abortion candidate. In some close races the number of votes for a third-party candidate can be the difference between electing a pro-life candidate instead of a pro-abortion candidate.

You can go to www.nrlvictoryfund.org/resources/6-ways-to-defeat-a-pro-life-candidate to download the "6 Ways to Defeat a Pro-Life Candidate" brochure to distribute to your friends and family. Remember the outcome of elections matters tremendously and a pro-life candidate must win in order to be able to take the action necessary to save babies.

In South Carolina alone more than 184,000 babies are alive today because South Carolina Citizens for Life helped pass pro-life legislation. That's 184,000 families blessed with a baby instead of cursed with despair and regret.

What a difference pro-lifers can make in a race! Let's be careful that our well-intentioned actions don't help defeat the pro-life candidate.

Sen. Casey voices pro-life platitudes but strikes out when called to support pro-life legislation

By Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

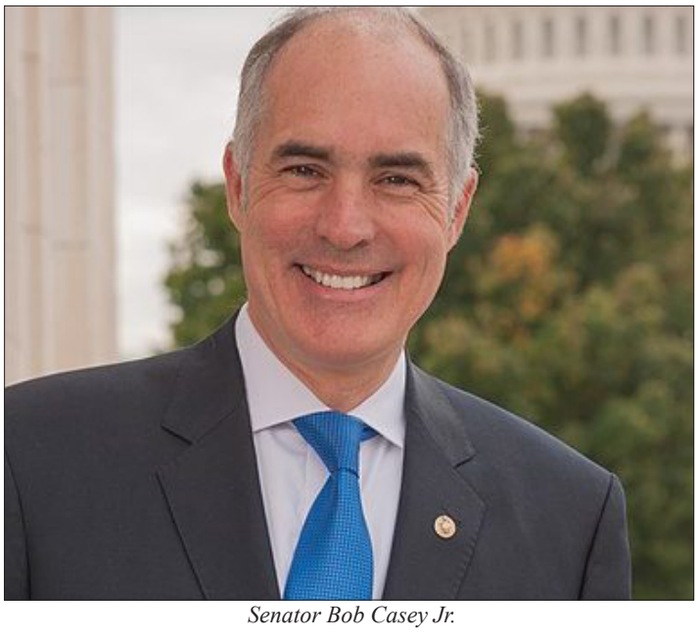
Less than a month ago, U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat from Pennsylvania, sent a message to a constituent declaring himself pro-life:

"I am a pro-life public official. I believe that life begins at conception, and that the role of government is to protect, enrich and value life for everyone, at every moment, from beginning to end."

Yet, when a critical vote came up this week, Casey caved. Big time. He voted against not one, not two, but three pro-life amendments.

Those amendments included the Lankford Amendment, barring federal funding for abortion and providing conscience protections. In other words, the amendment supported the long-standing Hyde Amendment, dealing with taxpayer funds for abortion, and the Weldon Amendment, dealing with conscience rights.

The other two amendments Casey voted against would have banned late-term abortions after 20 weeks (the Kennedy Amendment) and would have protected preborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome from abortion (the Inhofe Amendment).



Senator Bob Casey Jr.

Incredibly, in correspondence to a constituent less than a month ago, Casey voiced support for Hyde.

"Because I am pro-life, I believe we must continue the status quo of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. Since 1976, this country has kept these funding restrictions in place in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill and in other appropriations, such as the Financial Services bill, which covers the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. Consistent with this belief, I have also supported legislation to 'codify' the Hyde Amendment. Such legislation would make the Hyde Amendment permanent, rather than continuing to deal with this matter every year through the appropriations process."

Casey clearly broke his promise to the people of Pennsylvania. He put forth pro-life platitudes, but when it came to an actual vote, he betrayed preborn babies and their mothers.

One wonders what his late father, pro-life champion Robert Casey, Sr., former Governor of Pennsylvania, would think of his pro-abortion flip-flop.

Robert Casey, Sr. once said, "Our moral, religious, and political traditions are united in their respect for the dignity of human life."

His son not only has broken with tradition—he has broken the hearts of Pennsylvanians who long for justice for the preborn.

An overview and update of federal legislation

From page 21

Supreme Court

In other pro-life news, as you will see elsewhere in the August edition of *National Right to Life News*, many *amicus* briefs have been filed in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. Judge Carlton W. Reeves blocked the 2018 Mississippi law which prohibits abortions after 15 weeks with a very few exceptions. Judge Reeves's decision was subsequently upheld by a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

The Supreme Court then agreed to hear the appeal by the state of Mississippi. The question before the Court is whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional. The Court is expected to hear oral arguments in *Dobbs* this fall.

National Right to Life supports a wide variety of amicus briefs which defend Mississippi's protective H.B. 10 against pro-abortion attacks and which explain to the justices why *Roe v. Wade* is a bad law that ought to be overturned.

National Right to Life/ Louisiana Right to Life submitted an *amicus* brief which supports the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and provides a legal framework that will lead directly to achieving that goal.

Included among the many other *amicus* briefs discussed in *National Right to Life News Today* is one submitted by 228 Members of Congress, including 44 Senators and 184 Representatives. National Right to Life supported this brief and encouraged members to sign on.

In addition, another *amicus* was filed on behalf of 321 legislators from 35 states. National Right to Life state affiliates, in coordination with National Right to Life, urged state legislators to sign onto the brief.

A fuller description at the briefs can be found here: www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/08/a-look-back-at-the-briefs-filed-on-behalf-of-mississippis-pro-life-gestational-age-act-strongly-support-the-conclusions-roe-should-be-overturned-2/amp/

Surprise! Three major newspaper accounts of pro-life brief filed with the Supreme Court defending Mississippi's abortion law are fair!

By Dave Andrusko

There has been so much hysteria, most of it artificial, about Mississippi's Gestational Age Act that I fully expected news accounts of the brief filed by Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch to be riddled with the same over-the-top responses. But taking just three (of many) examples that appeared the day of or immediately after, that proved not to be the case.

USA Today's John Fritze, the *Washington Post's* Robert Barnes and the *New York Times'* Adam Liptak actually reported on the brief in which Fitch defended her state's law that, with some exceptions, bans abortions after the 15th week.

You can tell instantly whether a story has a chance to be fair. How? It's actually quite simple. Whether the other side (in this case, pro-abortionists challenging the 2018 law) is quoted extensively before the story addresses what AG Fitch actually wrote.

But in his first five paragraphs, Fritze lets us know the brief asks the justices to overturn *Roe* ["In their sharpest framing of the blockbuster dispute since the appeal was filed at the Supreme Court more than a year ago"]; that the 19 page brief is one of the early salvos in "an expected flurry of written arguments"; outlines in brief (although not entirely accurately) the collective impact of *Roe* and the 1992 Casey decision; and finishes up with a quote from the brief—"*Roe* and *Casey* are egregiously wrong. The conclusion that abortion is a constitutional right has no basis in text, structure, history, or tradition."

Lots of other useful background information follows, as well as a quote from a statement issued by Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. In her famously understated way, Northup charged that Mississippi's brief "reveals the extreme and regressive strategy, not just of this law, but of the avalanche of abortion bans and restrictions that are being passed across the country."

Barnes's story begins, "Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to overrule *Roe v. Wade* in order to uphold the state's restrictions on abortion access, and to renounce the court's landmark holding a half-century ago that the Constitution protects a woman's right to obtain an abortion." (Barnes called it "The state's bold request.")

Two of the first six paragraphs includes quotes taken from AG Fitch's brief.

> **"*Roe* and *Casey* are unprincipled decisions that have damaged the democratic process, poisoned our national discourse, plagued the law — and, in doing so, harmed this Court," the brief states.**
>
> **"Nothing in constitutional text, structure, history, or tradition supports a right to abortion," the brief states. And thus states should be free even to ban elective abortions so long as they show the prohibition promotes a legitimate government interest, Fitch writes.**

What makes Barnes' story so informative—and complete—

is that he explains how the brief (in Barnes's paraphrase) "says changes in society and science have undermined Roe."

> **"Today, adoption is accessible and on a wide scale women attain both professional success and a rich family life, contraceptives are more available and effective, and scientific advances show that an unborn child has taken on the human form and features months before viability," the brief states.**
>
> **It dismisses the argument that reproductive control is essential to what Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg once called "a woman's autonomy to determine her life's course, and thus to enjoy equal citizenship stature."**
>
> **Instead, Mississippi's brief says, "Innumerable women and mothers have reached the highest echelons of economic and social life independent of the right endorsed in" *Roe* and *Casey*.**

See "Surprise," page 32

Pro-abortion Democrats ignore an enduring truth: the public strongly supports the Hyde Amendment

By Dave Andrusko

Tip of the cap to Kimberly Ross, writing in the *Washington Examiner*. Ross referenced a piece that ran in *Slate* magazine in June 2019, just after then-presidential candidate Joe Biden flip-flopped, from decades-long support for the Hyde Amendment to strident opposition.

The title of William Saletan's analysis is "Abortion Funding Isn't As Popular As Democrats Think." Nothing has changed in the ensuring two years that changes the enduring truth that he carefully documented. In fact more recently polling shows even greater support for the life-affirming Hyde Amendment.

Nonetheless, pro-abortion Democrat leaders, beginning with Biden-Harris, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, have persuaded themselves that they know better than what the results of 40 years of polling uniformly document: the public overwhelmingly does **not** want to pay for abortion.

But pro-abortion Congressional Democrats and the Biden-Harris administration plow ahead anyway. And to make matters worse, they intend to spend US dollars not only at home but abroad as well.

As the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues wrote, "Democrat Members of the U.S. House of Representatives passed two spending bills that remove decades-old bipartisan agreements preventing the use of federal funds for abortion on demand in the U.S. and around the world."

Let's examine Saletan's very thoughtful piece which was subtitled, "Recent polls debunk much of what progressives believe." It's particularly telling because *Slate* is strongly pro-Democrat and pro-abortion.

The late Congressman Henry Hyde

He begins with the words of a chorus of Democrats announcing in 2019 that there is "an emerging consensus within the Democratic Party" that Hyde must go. In the words of Sen. Bernie Sanders, "There is #NoMiddleGround on women's rights," to which Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand added, " I don't think there is room in our party for a Democratic candidate who does not support women's full reproductive freedom."

But what do the opinion polls—as opposed to pro-abortion politicians—say?

"In every poll, a plurality of Americans opposes public funding of abortions," Saletan writes. "In every poll but one, that plurality is a majority. The questions vary, but the result is the same. Respondents support 'banning federal funding for abortion' except in rape cases or to save the woman's life."

Since Saletan wrote his article in June 2019, there have been two additional polls that showed even stronger support for the Hyde Amendment.

The first is a November 2020 McLaughlin poll showed that 64.6% oppose tax funding of abortion including 49% of Democrats and 69% of Independents. Note that three times as many respondents strongly **opposed** federal funding of abortion as strongly supported funding.

How does support/opposition break down along gender lines? According to Saletan

> **To many advocates of abortion rights, covering the cost of an abortion like any other medical procedure is a matter of respecting women. But in surveys, women are no more likely than men to support that policy. The sexes differ on other reproductive policy questions, but not on abortion funding.**

This reinforces another enduring truth about abortion. While people's position on abortion does tend to track along their self-identified political position (Republicans are much more supportive of the Hyde Amendment than Democrats), that is not the case with women and men.

But what cannot be overlooked is that many Independents—a whopping 65% in a 2021 Marist poll—and almost a third (31%) of Democrats— also oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion.

In addition, Saletan cites a poll by YouGov that found an even greater number of Democrats–55%–who "supported prohibiting federal funding of abortions." That same poll found that "66 percent of respondents said 'the decision on abortion should be made by a woman and her doctor.'"

Saletan's spot-on conclusion? "A lot of people seem to think that the right to choose abortion is compatible with the right not to pay for other people's abortions."

Former abortion worker on half-hearted options: "another tool that was used to force a woman into an abortion"

By Sarah Terzo

From one former abortion worker:

"In my facilities, I always gave options counseling. Of course you make the abortion the most appealing. I told them about adoption and about foster care and about (when there was welfare) assistance. The typical way it would go is, "Well, you know you can place your baby out for adoption" but then, in the same breath, you would say, "That's an option available to you, but you also have to realize that there's going to be a baby of yours out here somewhere in the world you will never see again. At least with abortion you know what's happened. You can go on with your life."…

The longer I was in it, the less I cared, so I really didn't care what my conscience said. My conscience was totally numb anyway. But what it did do was public relations wise. You were able, when a reporter or TV crew came, to pull out a packet of information for the patients to read and they received it. So what can anybody say? Publicly it looked good – in reality it was another tool that was used to force a woman into an abortion. It's typical – I would give them an option and then shoot it down. The only option you didn't shoot down, obviously, was abortion.

Richard and Rhonda White, *Confronting Abortion Distortions* (Xulon Press, 2013) p.61.

Editor's note. This appeared at Clinic Quotes and is reposted with permission.

Unearthed video: Former Planned Parenthood prez trounced in debate over when life begins

From page 15

"I think you have to define this process according to your own intellectual point of view, and perhaps your own social and religious background…" Guttmacher said.

Is the fetus a human being?

In his rebuttal to Guttmacher, Ayd asked a simple question: "Is the fetus a human being?"

He then went onto to say:

… [M]any abortion supporters say that the fetus is nothing more than a blob of protoplasm, nothing more than that, but I don't think that they honestly recognize their own contradiction.

Now, if the fetus is not a human being, what is it that's damaged in the early weeks of its experience by a viral infection such as rubella, by drugs, chemicals, x-rays and so forth, which is used to justify abortion?

If the fetus is not a human being, why are so many physicians and scientists spending millions of dollars and countless hours trying to develop a vaccine for rubella, trying to devise ways of avoiding birth defects, trying to develop an artificial placenta, trying to fertilize the ovum outside the body in a test tube and by artificial insemination and genetic engineering and genetic surgery, to enable man to improve the mere and remote descendant that he may have.

Now, furthermore, in this country, if the fetus is not a human being, then I must ask the question, why does the United States Food and Drug Administration caution against, or in some instances prohibit, the administration of certain drugs in the first three months of pregnancy?

Ayd ended his argument by stating, "to say that a fetus is not human is sheer nonsense."

Ayd pointed out that all three men had developed from a fetus.

Guttmacher doubled down, "I was a fetus to be sure," he said, but claimed he was only "a potential human" until he "was born."

"I think that a fetus is until birth is a potential, you think a fetus is actual as a human being immediately after fertilization, so let's agree on that and let's go on," Guttmacher said.

Nevertheless, Ayd made his point clear: *the fetus is a human being*.

"Dr. Guttmacher was a fetus, I was a fetus, you were a fetus. You see, our existence began this way, and for someone to terminate it, if someone had terminated the fetal existence of any one of the three of us, we wouldn't be here on this panel today. So that the fetus is a human being," Ayd said.

Editor's note. This appeared at Life Action News and is

Abortion, cognitive dissonance, and the backfire effect

By Dave Andrusko

> **"Death, once invited in, leaves his muddy boot prints everywhere."** — John Updike, from his 1968 novel, "Couples"

There is next to no chance even the closest readers of *NRL News Today* will remember the name Meaghan Winter. In 2013, she compiled the accounts of the abortion experiences of 26 women for an article that ran in *New York* magazine.

We wrote about these riveting stories at length. Although Winter's goal was to "destigmatize" abortion, ironically the accounts were much more likely to make the average person even more skeptical of abortion, even more convinced it is a horrible "choice."

For me, the overwhelming takeaway from Meaghan Winter's story was sorrow. Abortion's ugly truth—and bloody boot prints– is everywhere.

Consider the honesty of Winter's introduction. Take this paragraph, for example:

> **"And yet abortion is something we tend to be more comfortable discussing as an abstraction; the feelings it provokes are too complicated to face in all their particularities. Which is perhaps why, even in doggedly liberal parts of the country, very few people talk openly about the experience, leaving the reality of abortion, and the emotions that accompany it, a silent witness in our political discourse. Even now, four decades after Roe, some of the women we spoke with would talk only if we didn't print their real names."**

Again, I completely understand that the whole point is that the more often women tell their stories, in theory the less "stigma" will attach. But it's not stigma that is running roughshod in many of their hearts but deep, **deep** regret. Which is why if you take the time to read all the stories, you come away aching for almost all of these women.

Why do I mention this last Friday—and as the last post of the week at that? In looking for something else (which often happens to me), I ran across a piece that ran in *Scientific American*.

As was the case with Winter's story, the takeaway the author of "How to Convince Someone When Facts Fail" would have us take home is not necessarily what we carry away. In fact, the impact for many of us is just the opposite.

He was ridiculing the usual easy targets but also people who simply disagree with his conventional liberal pieties. So what explains "This power of belief over evidence"? It's "the result of two factors: cognitive dissonance and the backfire effect."

The author quotes a psychologist who wrote back in the 1950s [!] that cognitive dissonance can be described as "the uncomfortable tension

that comes from holding two conflicting thoughts simultaneously."

He wrote of one group that "sought frantically to convince the world of their beliefs," and when their prediction didn't come true, they made "a series of desperate attempts to erase their rankling dissonance by making prediction after prediction in the hope that one would come true."

Can you come up with a better example of this than the promises made to women if only they abort their unplanned children? On a specific front, how about the nonstop accusation that pregnancy help centers are (a) ineffective, (b) too effective, which means (c) they must be "lying to women?"

Likewise with Abortion Pill Reversal. To pro-abortionists, evidence of their effectiveness is beside the point. APR **must** be a sham, **must** be even "dangerous" to women. It seems as if every time they attack Abortion Pill Reversal, they up the ante.

But, as I see it, this is like the game of Jenga. Many blocks have already been removed and the abortion tower is already shaky. Remove that block—the guarantee that once an abortion is begun the baby cannot be saved—and the whole tower could collapse.

Just a word about the backfire effect. According to the results of a series of experiments, we find what they call the backfire effect "in which corrections actually *increase* misperceptions among the group in question."

Why? "Because it threatens their worldview or self-concept."

Exactly. Abortion is a necessity; it is a good; it advances women's prospects; it is the axle out of which all the many spokes of "reproductive justice" extend.

But what if killing your own children accomplishes none of these? What if abortion is an unspeakable evil, one that takes the life of helpless unborn babies and maims so many of their mothers?

Could there possibly be a more telling example of the backfire effect than that?

The universal pro-abortion answer to everything: More and more and more abortions

From page 2

So who is the author, Stephanie Chen? A "board certified obstetrician-gynecologist based in Philadelphia and a Fellow of Physicians for Reproductive Health." She tells us she is already a parent and is pregnant.

Chen tells us early on that she was asked if her situation felt "weird"—being "visibly pregnant" while aborting women?

No, she "half-truthfully" answers. But Chen does wonder how her "patients " will respond.

But not to worry.

Chen tells us "[E]veryone congratulates me, and patients often want to know every detail of my pregnancy. Despite our different circumstances, talking about my baby allows my patients and me new opportunities to connect and bond."

Think about that for a second. And then consider this classic case of disassociation:

> **Multiple people have told me that providing abortions while nurturing my own baby inside me must present a moral conflict. Those people don't understand that my baby has nothing to do with my patients. The people who come to me for abortions cannot become parents at this time for their own perfectly valid reasons. Their situations are different from mine.**

So while nurturing her own unborn baby, she sucks out babies, scrapes out babies, and tears out limb by limb babies from mothers who are in situations "different from" Chen's. She assures us this doesn't "change my ethical understanding of abortion."

She takes refuge in the falsehood that "Most people [aka women] in the United States who have abortions already have one or more children." This is no doubt a reference to a 2014 Guttmacher study that concluded that 59% of women obtaining abortions were already mothers.

However, James Studnicki et al. "analyzed pregnancy outcomes from the Medicaid records of the 17 U.S. states which provide Medicaid coverage for abortion. The reproductive histories of 4,884,101 women were analyzed."

What did they find? "Women with both births and abortions represent 5.7% of the study population and have **7.2%** of total births."

One other pro-abortion talking point Chen trots out: being aborted ain't all that bad:

> **Forcing the responsibility of supporting a life onto someone who does not want to be pregnant or become a parent is unhealthy for both the parent and the child. Rather than being "anti-family," people who seek abortions are protecting their current and future families, whatever that looks like.**

She ends with the usual excusatory blather and calls (what a surprise) for "eliminating the Hyde Amendment, an annual legislative rider that bars federal funding for abortion." The lives of at least 300,000 babies were saved each year because of the Hyde Amendment—at least 2.4 million altogether since 1976.

The pro-abortion answer to everything? More deaths, more misery, more and more and more abortions.

Abortion" a 21st Century Trojan Horse

By Jean Garton

Editor's note. Although it does truly seem like yesterday, we lost this pro-life giant five years ago. Jean, my friend of over 30 years, wrote many stories for NRL News and NRL News Today. Periodically, we run one of her terrific posts for those who were not privileged to read the magnificent work of the author of the pro-life classic, "Who Broke the Baby?"

I recently invited an audience of senior citizens to share a lesson they remembered from their grade school years. The first person to respond brought laughter from the others when he said what he most remembers is his mother saying, "Pick up your room!"

That wasn't what I had in mind, but it certainly is a universal memory. A woman then said she can still recite the names of all the Grecian columns. Another could still identify the different types of clouds he learned in seventh grade. My own favorite lesson from early years is about the Trojan Horse. ….

For 10 years the mighty Greek fleet and thousands of its warriors lay siege to the city of Troy. Then, in a seeming admission of defeat, the Greeks built a huge wooden horse and presented it to Troy as a parting gift of "surrender." The trusting Trojans dragged the gift through a demolished section of the city wall only to discover, hidden inside, Greek soldiers who, having once gained entrance, captured the city, sacked and burned it.

Troy fell; not because of the superiority of its enemy but because of a deception that has made it a famous ever since. Everyone in the group that evening remembered that ancient story from 3,000 years ago and remembered its famous warning: "Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts."

The Twenty-First century, in a real sense, has its own Trojan Horse— the pervasive practice of abortion which has been promoted by many as a "gift" to women.

Most recently, for instance, the reports of the damage done to children in the womb thought to be caused by the Zika virus–microcephaly–has spurred pro-abortionists to assert that abortion is a great gift to such mothers. Even Brazil, which has been strongly pro-life, is being urged to loosen its protective abortion laws. Fortunately, those countries, parents of children with microcephaly, and people with microcephaly are fighting back. They understand that this is no "gift" but the latest example of the pro-abortion response to everything: kill.

Like the Trojan Horse, contained within this "gift" is a stealthy enemy. The price that we all pay for the deaths of 58 million [now over 61 million] unborn babies is incalculable. Let me more specific about this bogus "gift":

What happens to a medical profession that engages in killing defenseless children both impersonally and with detachment, yet very, very lucratively? What happens to Western medicine, the most compassionate, humane medicine in history, when it reverts to the pagan practice in which the doctor becomes both healer and executioner at the same time? This is no "gift" to our country.

What happens to attitudes toward all children, born and unborn? Women have always sensed that in pregnancy the child is theirs to protect, but abortion teaches that the child is theirs to accept or reject. Abortion births a view of unborn children as "property," a mentality that is often carried over to born children. This is no "gift" to children whether in or out of the womb.

What happens to men who have no legal way to prevent the death of their child by abortion? Many men whose partners had an abortion, themselves grieve over the loss of their child, are angry at the woman involved, and/or have a feeling of impotence about their lives in general. Abortion is no "gift" to these men.

What happens to fundamental relationships following an abortion such as relationships with parents or even other children in the family? Teenagers can have abortions without parental consent or knowledge. How is that a "gift" to family unity and well-being?

Girls who have had an abortion are four times more likely to commit suicide than are women who do not. Children already existing in the family often experience a deep, subtle but permanent fracture of a trusting relationship with their mother.

Their unspoken question is, "If I become unwanted, imperfect, or inconvenient, will mother do that at to me?" A "gift"? Not for children already born or for girls who lack family support.

See "Trojan," page 37

Author describes seeing baby's body after abortion: 'I screamed… I had killed my four babies!'

By Sarah Terzo

CG Richardson had four abortions. Each time, she believed what the abortion facilities told her – that a preborn baby was just tissue, not a human being. But after her fourth abortion, she came face-to-face with her aborted child, and she shared the experience in her book, "No One to Hear Their Cries."

After the abortion was carried out, Richardson bled heavily for several days and suffered intense cramps. This was different than what she experienced in her previous abortions. A week later, she was sitting on the toilet when she passed the intact body of her aborted child.

She describes being devastated: "'How could this be?' I screamed…Hesitantly I looked closely, examining every inch and there was no denying it: This Was a Baby!"

She could see every feature of the child:

> **I could plainly see the little eyes, nose, mouth, tiny little hands and feet that had already formed! I also saw blood vessels and the spine as the skin was very transparent! The thing that made me fall to my knees was looking at what I believe to be my baby's heart. This little heart was once beating until I gave the order to have it stopped!**

At that moment she realized, "I had killed my four babies!"

Richardson became hysterical, cradling the baby's body, singing lullabies, and screaming. Finally, she wrapped up the child and put the baby's remains in a box.

She drove to a friend's house, and the friend brought her to the hospital. When she told the nurse what had happened, the nurse at first didn't believe her:

> **The look on her face was pure shock and then turned to disbelief. "You must be mistaken," she responded. "Here, let me see what you've got in the box." I slowly handed it to her. She cautiously opened and carefully unfolded the foil and tissue paper.**
>
> **For a moment I thought she was going to scream out loud but instead she cupped her hand over her mouth. Tears started to fill her eyes as she said, "You are right! There's no mistaking it! The little eyes, nose and tiny fingers are perfect!"**
>
> **She pointed out the precious little mouth as well. The mouth that would never be able to uttered [sic] a word! She slowly laid the box on the counter and draped the tissue across my baby ever so gently.**

The doctor told Richardson she'd suffered a "missed abortion." Richardson was admitted to the hospital and received intravenous antibiotics. She had a serious infection, and the doctor told her that if she hadn't gone to the hospital when she did, she would have died.

The nurse took the body of the baby away to pathology, where Richardson knew her child would be dissected. Saying goodbye was devastating:

> **[O]ut the door she went carrying my tiny child never to see again. I prayed silently for this innocent child. The child I had tried to discard of so easily had come back into my life and I didn't want to let go! I didn't want to face what was going to happen and there was nothing I could do about it! I had made my choice the day of the abortion and there was no way to undo it!**
>
> **I have to live with this memory for the rest of my life! This would be my final goodbye!**

Perhaps out of compassion, the doctor wrote in Richardson's chart that she'd suffered a miscarriage, and the nurses that cared for her were very kind.

The incident had a profound emotional effect on Richardson's doctor. She explained, "My doctor was a caring man. This day he was looking very tired and worn. He loved people, especially babies, and that's why he became an OB/GYN."

He told Richardson that abortion could cause serious complications and that he'd seen them himself. He said:

> **"I've known of and personally seen girls that had to have a D&C just like you did. At times we have found the tiniest of body parts left inside the womb! A hand, an eye… It's a very difficult thing to witness!**
>
> **"You are very lucky that your baby was intact when you held it in your hand. Imagine if a hand or eye was missing or dangling! It would have been 100 times more traumatizing than it was!" After the last statement, his eyes started to water, and he turned and walked out of the room.**

Both the doctor and the nurse cried.

Richardson has had to face the fact that she is responsible for the deaths of four of her children. She describes herself as being "brainwashed" by a culture that denies the humanity of preborn human beings.

Richardson wrote her book hoping to convince other women to choose life and escape the emotional pain she suffers on a daily basis.

Editor's note. This appeared at LiveAction News and is reposted with permission.

Propose Time-Delayed Suicide Implant for Dementia Patients

By Wesley J. Smith

Bioethicists are looking for ways to eliminate people diagnosed with dementia when they become incapacitated. Belgium and the Netherlands permit advance orders to be euthanized. Another proposal gaining traction in bioethics would force caregivers to starve patients to death.

And here's a new idea: Writing in the *Hastings Center Report* — the world's most prominent bioethics journal — two prominent bioethicists propose the implantation of a *time-release suicide device* that will cause future death at the time of the patient's choosing. They call the hypothetical device an "advance directive implant, or ADI" (bioethicists sure love their acronyms).

From, "Ending One's Life in Advance:"

> **The ADI would require extensive engineering and may not be feasible with current technologies. Still, we suspect it could become feasible in the near future. We imagine the ADI as something like a computerized subdermal implant containing a lethal dose of a medication or combination of medications. Release of these medications would occur rapidly after a predetermined interval or after some specific event had occurred. The ADI would likely require a long-lasting battery, computerized control, and a pump or microfluidic mechanism. . . .**
>
> **It is crucial that the ADI be easily and immediately removable. After all, even those certain of their wish to obtain it would still like the option of changing their minds, at least prior to the onset of dementia, whether for personal reasons or because an effective treatment for their condition has been developed.**

Yeah, good luck with that, guys.

And, of course, the usual sop of safeguards to protect against abuse:

> **The permissibility of ADIs would, first, depend on reasonable standards of care and preimplantation assessment criteria. One would not want healthy adults with minimal risk of dementia to receive them; one would not want them to be implanted under external pressure, forcibly, or surreptitiously; one would not want them to be implanted in persons whose decision-making capacities are impaired by depression. One possible set of criteria would be those used for physician aid-in-dying in Oregon: that the requestor be an adult; able to make and communicate health care decisions; seen by at least two physicians who concur in the diagnosis, prognosis, and assessment of decision-making capacity; not suffering impaired judgment due to a psychiatric or psychological disorder, not coerced, and informed of alternatives.**

I don't have space to get deeply into it here, but the Oregon safeguards are a joke. If one doctor says no, the suicidal patient can just go doctor shopping. There is no state oversight prior to death, the system relies on doctors' self-reporting, and there are rarely any referrals to psychologists.

Why engage this supposed "thought experiment" — which is actually much more than that? Here's a good hint (my emphasis):

Perhaps the greatest advantage of ADIs is that they would reduce the distress that *living and dying with dementia imposes on others*. This is true in two senses. First, there is the obvious sense that ADIs would tend to shorten the period in which the person living with dementia represents a burden for others. . . . ADIs would also reduce the distress that dementia imposes on others because the device, relatively free of any external input or activity, mostly immune to the judgments, misgivings, and second-guessings of family members, physicians, and friends, would absolve people of many of the burdens of judgment once the patient developed advanced dementia.

In other words, we should let the patient put him--or herself *out of our misery*.

The authors [Margaret Pabst Battin and Brent M. Kious] describe the ADI as a means of "getting the better of Alzheimer's." No, it is *softening the ground for authorizing direct killing of such patients*. And no, this proposal isn't satirical or a form of "what if" musing to start a philosophical salon conversation:

> **As we said at the outset, whether this consideration of the ADI is understood as a conjecture,**

See "Implant," page 37

6th Circuit Uphold Tennessee's 48 hour waiting period

"This is great news for women and babies" says NRLC President Carol Tobias

By Dave Andrusko

On August 5, when the full 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Tennessee's 48 hour waiting period, dissenting Judge Karen Nelson Moore bitterly complained "this case was dead on arrival."

In one sense, Judge Moore is correct, just not in the way she meant. The Center for Reproductive Rights, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of Tennessee abortionists, failed to produce women who were harmed by having to wait 48 hours between the time they went to the abortion clinic and (assuming they decided to go ahead) they return.

"None of the plaintiffs' witnesses could name specific women who could not get an abortion because the waiting period pushed them past the cutoff date," Judge Amul Thapar wrote for the majority in *Bristol Regional Women's Center v. Slatery*. "None of the witnesses could identify specific women whose medical conditions caused complications or psychological harm during the waiting period."

Moreover, importantly, the impact of the law was not argued in the abstract. The 2015 law was in effect until October 2020 when District Judge Bernard A. Friedman resurrected the dormant lawsuit.

As *NRL News Today* wrote at the time, after a four day bench trial, in a 136 page opinion, Judge Friedman maintained the law "burdens the majority of abortion patients with significant, and often insurmountable, logistical and financial hurdles" because it requires two visits to the abortion clinic.

But as the appellate court noted, during that 2015-2020 time period, abortion rates remained fairly steady.

"It is one thing to predict that the sky will fall tomorrow," the ruling states. "It's quite another thing to maintain that the sky fell five years ago for women seeking abortions when the numbers tell us otherwise." (For more on this, see below.)

As we reported previously, in its brief, the state of Tennessee highlighted that

> **Tennessee is now the only State that cannot enforce its waiting-period law because of a federal-court injunction. Fourteen other States have similar laws that impose waiting periods of 18 to 72 hours and generally require two trips to an abortion provider. Although some of these laws have been challenged, the State is unaware of any successful federal constitutional challenge to a waiting-period law that has survived federal appellate review since Casey was decided. Federal courts have instead consistently upheld those laws. This Court should do the same.**

Here are highlights from Judge Thapar's majority opinion.

1. "Before making life's big decisions, it is often wise to take time to reflect. The people of Tennessee believed that having an abortion was one of those decisions. So they passed a law requiring a waiting period of 48 hours. Although the Supreme Court upheld a similar 24-hour waiting period in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the district court said that Tennessee's waiting period violates a woman's right to have an abortion. We disagree and reverse."

There are a number of issues the Supreme Court has addressed multiple times and in so doing continually upheld commonsense requirements. A waiting period has been litigated numerous times. For example, in the 1992 *Casey* decision, the justices concluded

> **The waiting period helps ensure that a woman's decision to abort is a well-considered one, and rationally furthers the State's legitimate interest in maternal health and in unborn life. It may delay, but does not prohibit, abortions. …**

2. Judge Thapar's majority opinion provided the background. In 2000, the Tennessee Supreme Court struck down a prior version of the 48 hour waiting period. In 2018 Tennessee voters approved a constitutional amendment, saying there is no right to abortion in the state constitution and then passed the 48-hour waiting period law. Judge Thapar continued…

"A law regulating abortion is facially valid if it meets two requirements: (1) the law is 'reasonably related to a legitimate state interest,' and (2) the law does not place a 'substantial obstacle' in the path of a large fraction of women "seeking an abortion of a nonviable fetus.'"

Put in the affirmative, "a law regulating abortion is facially constitutional unless it places a **substantial obstacle** in the path of a **large fraction** of women seeking previability abortions." (Emphasis added.)

The law readily passed the first requirement. As for the second, "Tennessee's waiting-period law is not a substantial

See "6th Circuit," page 37

Post-abortive women compares her abortion to rape, turns to alcohol to cope

By Sarah Terzo

One post-abortive woman told her story:

The abortionist and the nurse attendant were cold and unfeeling. Though I was tearful and panicky before and during the procedure, there was no exploration of what I was feeling or experiencing.

The procedure itself was painful as I felt severe pinching and pulling and sharp stabs during the suction abortion. I saw the blood in the tube. I heard the suction interrupted by clumps of tissue. This was emotionally traumatic.

After the abortion, I was changed. My previous sunshiny personality was overtaken by grief. I emotionally flatlined. My child was lost forever.

Prior to the abortion, I had never drank or smoked. I was an A and B student, homecoming queen, served on student council, and marched in the band. I was in a happy two-year relationship with my high school sweetheart.

But after the abortion, we both struggled with anger and guilt over what we had done. Our relationship imploded. I turned to alcohol to help numb my pain and succumbed to a promiscuous lifestyle. I did not feel worthy of dignity after the abortion.

The medical procedure itself felt like a violation. I am not embellishing to say that the abortion I underwent felt like a medical "rape." The abortionist's instrument, coupled with the insensitivity, disdain, and lack of respect given to me during the procedure by the medical doctor was a trauma in itself.

Susan Justice, "Retired nurse: Abortion promised an answer, but created trauma in my life."

Editor's note. This appeared at Clinic Quotes and is reposted with permission.

Surprise! Three major newspaper accounts of pro-life brief filed with the Supreme Court defending Mississippi's abortion law are fair!

From page 23

Near the end, Barnes outlines about how the brief offers the High Court two options. If it chooses not to toss *Roe* and *Casey*

As an alternative, Mississippi said the court could reduce the heightened scrutiny that abortion laws must meet and find that Mississippi's law meets legitimate objectives such as protecting the unborn, women's health or the medical profession.

It could find that not all pre-viability abortions are unconstitutional, the state said, or that the 15-week restriction does not place an undue burden on a substantial number of women.

Third, and best, the first six paragraphs of Liptak's story capture the core of Fitch's argument, including something we wrote about:

She told the justices that the scope of abortion rights should be determined through the political process. "The national fever on abortion can break only when this court returns abortion policy to the states — where agreement is more common, compromise is often possible and disagreement can be resolved at the ballot box."

Liptak also very helpfully adds near the end that "The precise question the justices agreed to decide" was "whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

He explains, "Depending on how the court answers that question, it could reaffirm, revise or do away with the longstanding constitutional framework for abortion rights."

Many amicus briefs defend Mississippi's pro-life law, strongly supported the conclusion *Roe* should be overturned

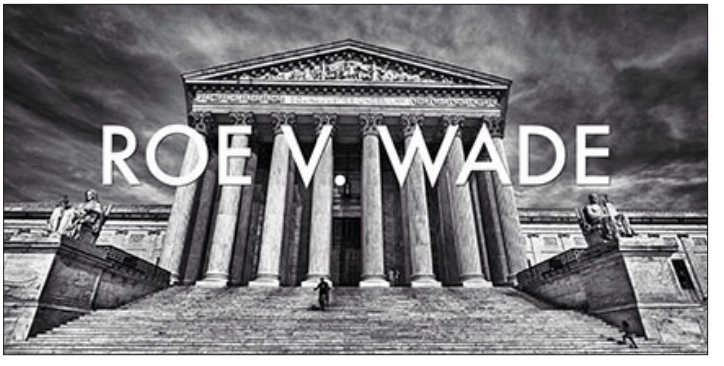
From page 2

*Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch provided a sterling defense of the Gestational Age Act. In a press release accompanying her brief, Attorney General Fitch highlights how the enormous changes in science, shifts in the culture, and tremendous improvements in pre-and post-natal care have outstripped the jurisprudence of *Roe*, decided in 1973, and *Casey*, handed down in 1992. She argues that the precedent set in these cases "shackle states to a view of facts that is decades out of date."

*An *amicus* was filed on behalf of 321 legislators from 35 states. National Right to Life state affiliates, in co-ordination with National Right to Right, urged state legislators to sign onto the brief.

That brief's summary of why the Court should overturn *Roe* covers a wide swath of important considerations.

> ***This Court should overturn Roe because all three prongs of the stare decisis analysis support overturning the precedent: Roe is egregiously wrong, it has caused negative jurisprudential and real-world consequences, and overturning Roe will not necessarily upset reliance interests. Once this Court overturns Roe, it should apply rational basis to state laws regulating abortion, as rational basis review conforms to this Court's precedent and the Constitution's structure. The application of rational basis review would once again afford States their proper constitutional role in protecting the health and welfare of their citizens, empowering democratically-elected state legislators, who are your amici, to make considered policy decisions carefully crafted to protect the life and health of both the mother and child.***



*More than 200 members of Congress filed an amicus brief supporting the State of Mississippi. *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization,* they wrote, "provides the Court a chance to release its vise grip on abortion politics, as Congress and the States have shown that they are ready and able to address the issue in ways that reflect Americans' varying viewpoints and are grounded in the science of fetal development and maternal health."

* A brief from "240 Women Scholars and Professionals, and Pro-Life Feminist Organizations" demolishes the "women need abortion to thrive" argument," adding, "It is grotesque to suggest that abortion ***is*** a prerequisite to equality."

*Any number of briefs, including The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty's, quoted the late pro-abortion Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who on several occasions harshly criticized the legal basis Justice Blackmun used to gut the abortion statutes of all 50 states. (She also lamented that *Roe* stimulated the growth of the Pro-Life Movement.)

*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops told the Justices, "The Constitution does not create a right to an abortion of an unborn child before viability or at any other stage of pregnancy. Abortion is inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this Court has accorded constitutional protection. An asserted right to abortion has no basis in constitutional text or in American history and tradition."

* Twelve pro-life Republican governors argued in their *amicus* brief that

> **"Justices on this Court and circuit court judges have consistently recognized that the original understanding of the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause does not include any right to terminate the life of an unborn child. Indeed, none of this Court's major abortion decisions—including *Roe v. Wade*, (1973), and Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania v. Casey, claims otherwise. Nevertheless, half a century ago, this Court (without any consideration of the original meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment) found a constitutional right to abortion somewhere in the Constitution."**

This is just a sample of some of the outstanding briefs that have been filed. You can read the stories we've already written about them at www.nationalrighttolifenews.org. If you are not a subscriber to *NRL News Today*, please take out 30 seconds and sign up at https://mailchi.mp/nrlc/emailsignup.

Abortion wounds women, forsakes fathers, undermines families, and weakens society

By Bonnie Finnerty, Education Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

The world is flat. People are property. Tobacco is harmless.

Like many other long-held but misguided beliefs, over time these ideas were proven wrong. Consequently, people and societies function differently, in light of what we've come to know to be true.

Let's consider another strongly held belief: preborn life is an insignificant clump of cells, mere tissue possessing no inherent dignity.

This belief was held by early advocates for abortion who regarded the origin of human life to be an unsolvable mystery. Denying the humanity and personhood of the fetus was foundational in the January 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* decision.

But then science demystified the mystery.

As enlightening as a spherical earth or revolutionary as the emancipation of an enslaved people, ultrasound technology obliterated the "clump of cells" myth, giving us a clear view of the previously invisible universe of the womb. In 3D imagery, we see that a heart beats as early as 18 days after fertilization. Brain waves are measureable at six weeks. Every organ system is in place by 10 weeks, and by 12 weeks, fingers grasp and the unborn baby hiccups.

This science cannot be dismissed. Through it, our very eyes witness the undeniable humanity and personhood each of us has possessed since our own conception. And this expanding knowledge has consequences.

In writing the majority opinion for Roe v. Wade, years before such evidence was revealed, Justice Harry Blackmun, stated that if personhood were able to be established, the "the appellant's case…collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [14th] Amendment."

If personhood were established, the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed.

That time has come. Science and law must be in harmony.

Roe was a case decided in a darker era when we knew so little about the little ones. We must abandon the cognitive dissonance that says sometimes we are human and sometimes we are not.

We must acknowledge that our society was misguided in our beliefs, and we must embrace the truths that have become apparent.

Abortion takes the life of a living human being, violently. That alone should give us pause. But there's more.

Abortion has failed to deliver on its promises. Poverty still exists. Children are still abused. Women are still mistreated.

Abortion has solved nothing.

Rather, abortion feeds a culture in which the more powerful annihilate the weaker, where "wantedness" determines worth, where the supposed safe haven of the womb has become the hardest border of all to cross.

Abortion wounds women, forsakes fathers, undermines families, and weakens society.

We are less because of abortion. More than 62 million Americans less. Less their talent, less their genius, less their love.

We are less morally because of abortion. Ending life at the very start makes it easier to end it at the very end, or at any point in between.

The sacredness of all life is compromised.

This is where abortion has taken us. Abortion based on a faulty proposition that has since been disproven.

Life, your life, my life, all life, begins in the womb.

Science recognizes that.

Now so must our laws.

Biden administration drops "most open and shut" case of a violation of conscience in over a decade

By Dave Andrusko

On Tuesday we reported on the tragic—but utterly predictable—decision by the Biden-Harris administration's Department of Justice to drop a civil suit against the University of Vermont Medical Center which stood accused of compelling a nurse to be a party to an abortion. That suit was initiated on December 16, 2020, by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. In a statement, the Justice Department under then-President Donald Trump explained that the lawsuit

> **alleges that UVMMC violated the Church Amendments when it chose intentionally and willfully to discriminate against a nurse who plainly made her objection to participating in abortions based on her religious beliefs or moral convictions known to UVMMC.**

Fox News covered the decision to drop the suit last Friday, and quoted Roger Severino, who is the former head of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights (OCR). He told *Fox News's* Sam Dorman, "It's a dereliction of duty that is an insult to the bipartisan consensus that says you cannot force people to assist in abortions."

Severino then wrote a fine piece for *National Review Online*, headlined, "Becerra and Biden Betray Medical Professionals Being Forced to Assist in Abortions." It is immensely instructive and foreshadows what we can predict from an administration that has no interest in honoring conscience or freedom of religion if they get in the way of their anti-life agenda.

Severino writes that "The UVMMC matter was the most open and shut conscience case in over a decade." He tells us that

> **"Don't hate me" is "what an abortionist at the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC) said to a nurse before she forced her to assist in the termination of a child's life on pain of losing her job and potentially her license if she refused," according to that aforementioned lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice (DOJ).**

In spite of all the evidence, "on Friday, the DOJ quietly, and voluntarily, dismissed the case," Severino wrote. "No admission of guilt, no injunction, no corrective action, no settlement, no nothing. Worse yet, because the victim has few to no options to sue on her own (due to nuances around private rights of action), the Biden administration is effectively giving UVMMC a full pardon and will continue to give it federal funds, despite it having been found by HHS to have violated the law."

One question, among many. Why is Big Abortion "desperate to eliminate conscience protections for medical professionals that have been in place for decades"? In part, Severino writes, "because it helps their bottom line to have more people complicit in their sordid business. And now with

President Biden and HHS secretary Xavier Becerra in power, the abortion industry is getting its wish."

And regardless of numerous assurances he would honor conscience, there are real reasons "Becerra may be the most notorious violator of conscience laws in recent years," Severino writes.

He even lost a Supreme Court case with his name on it, *NIFLA v. Becerra*, after he tried to coerce pro-life pregnancy-resource centers into violating their consciences by forcing them to refer mothers in search of life-affirming alternatives to free abortion services. Becerra was twice found in violation of conscience-protection laws by HHS's Conscience and Religious Freedom Division, but now he is in charge of the entire agency. The fox is running the hen house.

Which Severino aptly describes as "this looming conflict of interest."

Since the essay should be read in its entirety, let me offer just one more quote:

> **I cannot understate how unusual it is for DOJ and HHS to drop a duly authorized lawsuit after it has been investigated and filed, while getting literally nothing in return. The government strenuously avoids doing such a thing because it calls into question the consistent expectations of the law, reeks of politics, and exposes the government to potential liability for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act. Without so much as a slap on the wrist, this was a clear favor to abortion special interests and a spit in the face of not only the victim in the case, but the many medical professionals who have suffered conscience violations through the years and will continue to suffer, but now with little hope of recourse from their government.**

Severino's conclusion is tough but fair: "We now know, if there was ever any doubt, that Biden and Becerra's first loyalty is not to their proclaimed Catholic faith or to the law, but to abortion, abortion, and more abortion."

Pro-abortion Professor offers lame defense of a veto of a bill in North Carolina that bans discrimination-based abortion

By Dave Andrusko

Nothing like a "progressive" professor of religious studies to give cover to an anti-life governor who has and will continue to veto any measure that provides the slightest protection to unborn children.

In this case, Rebecca Todd Peters is not only the author of "Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice," she also authored a piece for the *Charlotte Observer* headlined, "The governor was right to veto a dangerous NC abortion bill."

The governor is pro-abortion North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. The "dangerous" abortion bill he vetoed June 25th is HB453—Human Life Non-Discrimination Act/ No Eugenics— which would prohibit abortionists from performing abortions if he knows a woman is seeking the abortion because of race, sex or a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

Pro-life Republicans are waiting for the appropriate moment to attempt to override Cooper's veto, a hefty challenge.

To Peters, a professor of religious studies at Elon University in North Carolina, none of what you would think a "progressive" would find right up her alley--preventing an abortionist from taking the life of an unborn baby because the abortionist has been told the baby (most likely a girl) is the "wrong" sex, or the "wrong" color skin, or has been prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome—cuts any ice.

Naw, the bill is all about (altogether now) "exploit[ing] the emotional legacy of eugenics in an attempt to stigmatize women who have abortions and bully opponents into falling in line with the bill."

Worse yet (from her perspective), HB453 fails "to respect the moral agency of women as capable decision-makers."

Two things.

First, Peters defines "eugenics" in a manner that suits her argument. But a better—and more accurate—understanding is that eugenics is powered by a hatred of "imperfection"—in this case, a physical disability—and driven by sexism and racism.

In an opinion piece written for *US News* Grazie Pozo Christie wrote

> **Eugenics is the creation or selection of offspring with "desirable" traits, and the elimination of those that are deemed "deficient." Aborting a child with Dwarfism or Down's would certainly qualify as eugenic.**

Or, we would add, aborting a girl, because she is a girl, or aborting a child, because he is the "wrong" color.

Christie concludes

> **When we do everything in our power to detect the existence of a baby with a special need with the sole purpose of terminating him or her, we create a discriminatory culture, where only perfect humans may apply for entrance. This is a powerful obstacle against equality and acceptance of the disabled, which a just society must set as its first goal.**

Second, I'm not sure I can think of a phrase more misused and abused than "moral agency." It is one of the idioms you fill in with whatever contents justify what you want to do.

Is a man who beats his wife exercising his "moral agency?" Is a blackmailer exercising his "moral agency" when he extorts money for his silence?

Prof. Peters would doubtless say something along the lines of "everyone knows" these actions are wrong (but why?). Or, this are examples of one person inflicting pain on another (but isn't that exactly what happens to a defenseless unborn baby?).

Let us hope and pray that Republicans in North Carolina are able to sway a few Democrats by appealing to the better angels of their nature. Every abortion is an affront to justice, but discrimination-based abortions may be the worst of a hideous lot.

Abortion" a 21st Century Trojan Horse

From page 28

What happens to women who have an abortion? When they abort, women are waging war with their own nurturing nature. While she can have an ex-lover or an ex-husband, she can never have an ex-child – only a living child or a dead child – but a child, nevertheless, who is written forever on her biological consciousness.

While responses to an abortion vary from woman to woman, the most common response is guilt. Sadly, much "counseling" often plays down the reality of guilt, telling the woman it is her right, her choice, her body, a "gift" to solve a problem. In other words, she is made to feel guilty about feeling guilty.

At a recent March for Life, I saw a poster that said, "We're not opposing your right; we're opposing a so-called 'right' that is wrong." Through our God, even abortion can be forgiven. Our biggest mistakes, our greatest failures can be forgiven. That is the real gift, to sustain and protect life, not end it!

Unlike the destructive gift of the Greeks to Troy, unlike the "gift" of abortion that has damaged our country, our families, and our people, the Gift of God brings healing to the broken spirit and peace to the grieving heart.

Propose Time-Delayed Suicide Implant for Dementia Patients

From page 30

> **as a hypothetical exploration, as a real-life thought experiment, or as a proto-proposal, we think it important to take this seemingly radical idea seriously. We may not currently have the technology to realize it, and perhaps not the social conditions that would allow it to be used without abuse.**
>
> **It may even be hard to conceive of this idea: "Horrible," said one friend, "even if I agree with the conclusion." But we think it is an important idea nevertheless: it makes us see what is so problematic about how we respond to dementia in our current world, forcing some to suffer a future they dread and burdening others with acting for them. No one, really, wants to live with dementia: for most of us, it is bad to lose the memories and cognitive capacities that contribute to who we are and that enable us to do many of the things we care about.**

There it is! "No one [they left out the implied "should"] wants to live with dementia." That's the dehumanizing message people facing this difficult circumstance constantly hear, stripping them of their intrinsic human equality.

Articles like this — particularly when published in influential journals — are insidious because they normalize the noxious idea that dementia patients' lives are not worth protecting or living. Instead, we should continually assure those who face this crucible that we love them, want them, and will care for them — no matter what.

And don't any reader tell me that I don't know how difficult Alzheimer's can become. My mother died of the disease, spending the last five months of her life living in my wife's and my home, with quality hospice care. Was it easy? No! But so damn what? Part of the essence of true humanity is caring and loving each other — no matter how taxing and emotionally devastating — especially when a person is so ill or injured they can't take care of themselves. That's the best part of who we should be.

The movement to eliminate suffering by eliminating the *sufferer* is becoming a cult.

Editor's note. Wesley's great articles appear at National Review Online and are reposted with permission.

6th Circuit Uphold Tennessee's 48 hour waiting period

From page 31

obstacle to abortion in a large fraction of cases," Jude Thapar wrote. "Thus, the plaintiffs' facial attack fails as a matter of law. Precedent compels this result" (to wit, the *Casey* decision). Then the key paragraph:

> **If there is any distinction between the record in Casey and ours, it is the statistical evidence that women in Tennessee continued to obtain abortions in large numbers after the waiting period took effect. In *Casey's* pre-enforcement challenge, the courts relied on expert testimony predicting the effects of the law. But the Tennessee law had been on the books for five years by the time the plaintiffs sued. And five years of data tell us much more than an expert's prediction of how the law will play out. It is one thing to predict that the sky will fall tomorrow. It's quite another thing to maintain that the sky fell five years ago for women seeking abortions when the numbers tell us otherwise. …[W]hile abortions declined slightly (by about 9%), the law did not keep a large fraction of abortion seekers from obtaining the procedure.** [Underlining added.]

"There is absolutely nothing wrong with providing women with information about abortion before they make that life-or-death decision, and then asking them to take some time – sometimes it's 24 hours; in the case of Tennessee, it's 48 hours – to think about what they have heard," NRLC President Carol Tobias told *One News Now*. "This is great news for women and babies."

As *NRL News Today* reported, Tennessee had support. On March 3, 2021, a coalition of 21 states filed an amicus brief in support of the request for the full 6th Circuit to hear the case.

Salvatore Cordileone, Nancy Pelosi's Archbishop: "Let me repeat: no one can claim to be a devout Catholic and condone the killing of innocent human life, let alone have the government pay for it"

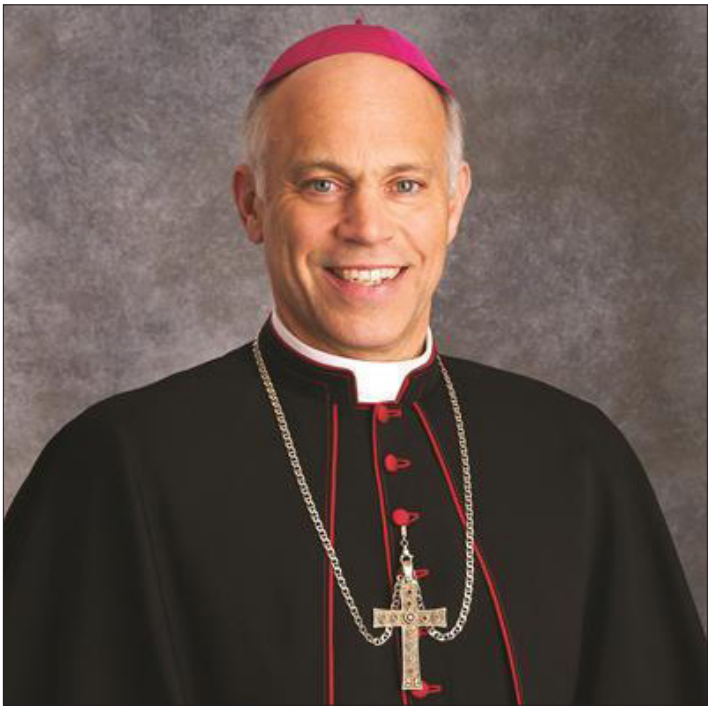
By Dave Andrusko

Kudos and thank yous are extended again to San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, the leading Catholic official in pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home district, for calling Pelosi to account.

Speaker Pelosi (D-Ca.) "stated her support for repealing the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion, 'because it's an issue of health for many women in America,' and she also emphasized her Catholic faith," John Lavenburg explained. At her weekly press conference, Pelosi said paying for abortions is "an issue of fairness and justice for poor women in our country," adding "And it is something that has been a priority for many of us for a long time."

Archbishop Cordileone rebuked her position in so uncertain terms:

> **Let me repeat: no one can claim to be a devout Catholic and condone the killing of innocent human life, let alone have the government pay for it. The right to life is a fundamental – the most fundamental – human right, and Catholics do not oppose fundamental human rights. To use the smokescreen of abortion as an issue of health and fairness to poor women is the epitome of hypocrisy: what about the health of the baby being killed? What about giving poor women real choice, so they are supported in choosing life? This would give them fairness and equality to women of means, who can afford to bring a child into the world. It is people of faith who run pro-life crisis pregnancy clinics; they are the only ones who provide poor women life-giving alternatives to having their babies killed in their wombs. I cannot be prouder of my fellow Catholics who are so prominent in providing this vital service. To them I say: you are the ones worthy to call yourselves "devout Catholics"!**



Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

Assigning herself a position as a kind of secular authority on fundamental matters of the Catholic faith (because she is "a devout Catholic and mother of five in six years") is nothing new for Pelosi, as we've discussed on many occasions. But it takes on added significance in light of the relentless push by the anti-life Biden-Harris administration and pro-abortion congressional Democrat leadership to abort the Hyde Amendment.

It is unacceptable to them to continue limiting federal funding of abortion. Their eyes light up at the thought that if the federal pump again primed, at least an additional 300,000 babies—and probably a great many more—would lose their lives annually.

Pro-abortionists—whose stock and trade is death—know the stakes. As Jennifer Popik, JD, Director of Federal Legislation, has written, "There is abundant empirical evidence that where government funding for abortion is not available under Medicaid or the state equivalent program, at least one-fourth of the Medicaid-eligible women carry their babies to term, who would otherwise procure federally-funded abortions. Some pro-abortion advocacy groups have claimed that the abortion-reduction effect is substantially greater–**one-in-three, or even 50 percent**." (emphasis added.)

Again, thank you San Francisco Archbishop Cordileone. As he said in a previous condemnation on January 21

> **To begin with the obvious: Nancy Pelosi does not speak for the Catholic Church. She speaks as a high-level important government leader, and as a private citizen. And on the question of the equal dignity of human life in the womb, she also speaks in direct contradiction to a fundamental human right that Catholic teaching has consistently championed for 2,000 years.**