



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

Protecting Women's Health from Whole Women's Health

Seen by many as the most important abortion case before the High Court in 25 years, *Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* is the first abortion case the Court has taken up since 2007, when it upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortions in *Gonzales v. Carhart*. A pivotal consideration will most likely be whether health and safety requirements place an "undue burden" on a woman's right to abortion, criteria first announced in the Court's 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision.

The case comes from the Texas courts, and litigants targeted two provisions present in Texas law: (1) that abortion clinics meet the same building standards as ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs); and (2) that abortionists have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital for situations of medical emergencies. The latter has already gone into effect.

During the proceedings, Justice Samuel Alito went through several of the specific regulations under consideration, including requiring that a registered nurse with CPR certification be on staff and that corridors could accommodate a stretcher. He suggested that many of these requirements were "basic safety" measures. He also said that when "Whole Woman's Health" facilities were inspected, the inspectors found holes where rats could come in, and other sanitation problems.

Health and safety violations have plagued abortion clinics over the last ten years. As Arina Grossu wrote in her recent March 1 commentary for the *Daily Signal*, "Now imprisoned abortionist Kermit Gosnell profited because of a lack of oversight of his gruesome "House of Horrors" in Philadelphia. His barbaric practices led to women being hurt or killed in his facility, in addition to the thousands of babies killed in his 30-year abortion career.

"His center was not inspected for 17 years, even after multiple complaints to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. His facility was shielded from inspections in the face of the insistent demand of those advocating abortion at will that there be no "barrier up to women" considering abortion, even if this means exposing women to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

"Fire Department lieutenant Don Burgess testified to the jury that the Gosnell facility hallways were so narrow that it was impossible to use a stretcher to take Karnamaya Mongar, a woman who was severely injured during an abortion, to the hospital.

"An emergency door was only a few steps from the abortion procedure room, yet it was "chained and padlocked and neither Gosnell nor his staff had the key." Burgess ordered his firefighters to open the door with a bolt-cutter. It was all too late: Mongar died at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania."

"Whole Women's Health" is trying to prove that the law requiring hospital admittance caused the closing of 20 clinics in Texas – a claim which they contend proves that this law creates an "undue burden" on those seeking to have an abortion. They further claim that the new law, requiring the same sanitation as an ambulatory service center, would then close the remainder of clinics.

Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito both requested further evidence from the "Whole Women's Health" litigator about this claim, to which the litigator responded that it was in the plaintiff's testimony, but they could not produce it at the moment.

Justice Alito responded to this assertion, saying, "... If you go through this now, we're not talking about a huge number of facilities. I really don't understand why you could not have put in evidence about each particular clinic and to show why the clinic closed. And as to some of them, there is information that they closed for reason that had nothing to do with the law."

Chief Justice Roberts went on to ask the litigator for "Whole Women's Health" whether they were challenging in any way the rational basis for these health and safety laws – that is to contend that they are irrational. The litigator replied that they were not contending the laws' rationality.

After the litigator informed Chief Justice Roberts that they were not preserving their rational basis claim, he responded, "Well, we have to assume [the law's rationality], we have to assume it [sic] does, since you're not contending it, don't we?"



Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

(Photo Source: BusinessInsider.com)

Senate Judiciary Committee Hears Testimony on Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing March 15 on the subject, “Late-Term Abortion: Protecting Babies Born Alive and Capable of Feeling Pain.” The hearing encompassed subjects addressed by two bills, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S. 1553), sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC.), and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 2066), sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Ne.).

Graham’s bill would generally prohibit abortion after 20 weeks fetal age, a point by which scientific evidence indicates that unborn children can experience pain when subjected to late abortion methods. Sen. Sasse’s bill would provide federal protections for babies who are born alive during abortions. The House of Representatives passed companion measures to both bills during 2015.



Melissa Ohden, Abortion Survivor

(Photo Source: melissaohden.com)

Nationwide support for the protection of unborn children who can feel pain during abortions has grown over the last few years. Thirteen states have enacted the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The testimonies included those of an abortion survivor and a former abortionist.

Melissa Ohden survived a “failed” saline infusion abortion in 1977, went on to found the Abortion Survivors Network, and knows more than 200 survivors of “failed” abortions.

As Ohden described the experience in an article for NRL News Online, “It’s a rather uncomfortable situation, to say the least, to sit in a room with legislators and activists who state, right in front of you, that the ‘procedure’ meant to end your life is ‘important and necessary’ for women.”

Also poignant was the testimony of a former late-term abortionist. Kathi A. Aultman, MD, told the panel, “In my 2nd year of residency I got a job moonlighting at a women’s clinic in Gainesville doing abortions... [I] could make more money doing abortions than working in an emergency room.”

March 27 – That the new life of Easter may inspire us to welcome and cherish new life in the womb, we pray

April 3 - That those who have been touched by the pain of abortion may turn to Jesus and experience His Divine Mercy, we pray

April 10 - That this nation may choose to obey the law of God regarding life, we pray

April 17 - That pro-life people may choose to be a light in the darkness of the Culture of Death, we pray

April 24 - For those facing the hardship of an unexpected pregnancy, that they may turn to God for strength to choose life for their child, we pray

May 1 - That we may open our hearts in love to every unborn child, we pray

May 8 - For all expectant mothers, that they may see the infinite love of the Creator in each unborn child, we pray

May 15 - That those in positions of authority may seek wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit in deciding issues relating to the right to life, we pray

May 22 - May the Spirit of truth enlighten the hearts and minds of those who do not see the truth that abortion kills an unborn child, we pray

June 5 - For all those who mourn the death of a child from abortion, we pray

June 12 - For mothers and fathers suffering the results of the sin of abortion, that they may turn to Jesus for forgiveness, we pray

June 19 - For all fathers who are faced with an unexpected pregnancy, that they may have the courage to protect the right to life of their unborn child, we pray

June 26 - That all may come to know that the freedom to choose does not include the freedom to choose death for the unborn, the mentally and physically challenged, or the frail elderly, we pray

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Bulletin Inserts

March 27 – As we celebrate the new life Easter brings, there is a growing trend to send people off to eternal life before they are ready. California Governor Jerry Brown said, “In the end, I was left to reflect on what I would want in the face of my own death.”

What he should have been reflecting on instead were the poor, the disabled, the marginalized, and the elderly who are now exposed to grave and lethal new risks of fraud, abuse, mistake, and coercion.” (Professor O. Carter Snead in NRL News Today 10/6/15)

April 3 - “The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity.” (Pope Francis Address to US Congress)

April 10 - “Science has shown us earlier and earlier glimpses of tiny unborn human beings who can feel pain. What must such a baby feel when she is approached by doctors who come to kill rather than cure?” (Rep. Jose Pitts--R PA at a hearing to cut Planned Parenthood funding NYT 9/18)

April 17 - “Because Planned Parenthood’s snout is deep in the federal trough, decent taxpayers find themselves complicit in the organization’s vileness.” (George Will, “Barbarity of a Nation” Syndicated column 8/2/15)

April 24 - “Taxes,” stated Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, “are what we pay for civilized society.” Applying that statement to the funding of Planned Parenthood, George Will wrote, “Today (our taxes) fund barbarism.” (Syndicated column 8/2/15)

May 1 - “The abortion industry’s premise is: At no point in the gestation of a human infant does this living being have a trace of personhood that must be respected. Never does it have a moral standing superior to a tumor or a hamburger in the mother’s stomach” (George Will, syndicated column, 8/2/15)

May 8 - In Mary’s acceptance of unwed motherhood, we have “an incomparable model of how life should be welcomed and cared for.” (“Mary and the Gospel of Life” Pamphlet published by Catholics United for Life)

May 15- “Having a procedure” (sanitized language for abortion) “ -- stopping the beating of a human heart-- can indeed be a difficult decision for the woman involved. But it is never difficult for Planned Parenthood’s abortionists administering the “procedure.” (George Will, syndicated column, 8/2/15)

May 22 -”Even partial-birth abortion is--must be--a sacrament in the Church of ‘Choice.’ This sect knows that its entire edifice depends on not yielding an inch on its insistence that what an abortionist kills never possesses a scintilla of moral significance.” (George Will, syndicated column, 8/2/15)

May 29 - As we celebrate Memorial Day, let us remember the innocent victims of The Abortion War who did not even receive a name to begin with. Yet, so great in number are they that if each were individually named and placed on a wall similar to the Vietnam wall, that wall would be 58 miles long!

June 5 - Gianna Jessen, who miraculously survived a saline abortion, is a powerful, living testimony to the awful realities of the abortion industry and the hypocrisy of the abortion rights movement. “If abortion is about women’s rights, then what were mine?” Jessen asked. “There was not a radical feminist standing up and yelling about how my rights were being violated that day; in fact, my life was being snuffed out in the name of women’s rights.” (NRL News Today 9/8/15)

June 12 - “You don’t have to be a pro-life activist to be sickened by such ghoulish banality (depicted in Planned Parenthood videos). ..For nothing turns hearts and minds more against the culture of abortion than its tendency to dehumanize. And what could be more dehumanizing than the reduction of an unborn baby to its parts? Well, this could: the sight of abortion providers confirming over lunch how much less that baby was worth alive than its parts are now that it’s dead. (Jeff Jacoby in The Boston Globe, 7/22/15)

June 19 - In the aftermath of abortion, the choice for fathers of aborted children is to either accept the biological reality of their fatherhood and grieve the loss and seek forgiveness, or to continue denying what is inwardly known and swell the ranks of hollowed men. (Vincent Rue, Ph.D, in pamphlet titled “The Hollow Men,” USCCB, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities)

June 26 - Writing on the topic of assisted suicide, a columnist asks, Whose life is it anyway? God has given us this life as a gift, and He expects us to cherish it as His good stewards--in old age, in terminal illness and in facing disability. (Sister Constance Veit, of the Little Sisters of the Poor in The Southern Cross, March, 2015)

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National News and Notes



When Justice Scalia passed away on February 13, National Right to Life President Carol Tobias issued a poignant statement: “We are deeply saddened by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia steadfastly defended the right of elected lawmakers to enact laws that protect unborn children and their mothers and he often issued powerful critiques of the judicially manufactured barriers that limited such legislative efforts. Our thoughts and prayers are with Justice Scalia’s widow and family.”

Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council praised Scalia’s direct reading of the Constitution, “For three decades, the bombproof cases at National Archives protected the physical document, while down the street Justice Scalia guarded its intent. ‘The Constitution that I interpret and apply is not dead but living, or as I prefer to call it, enduring,’ he once said.”

Fr. Paul Scalia, Justice Scalia’s son, gave a moving and humble homily at his father’s funeral:

We are gathered here because of one man. A man known personally to many of us, known only by reputation to even more. A man loved by many, scorned by others. A man known for great controversy, and for great compassion. That man, of course, is... Jesus of Nazareth.

It is He whom we proclaim. Jesus Christ, son of the father, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, buried, risen, seated at the right hand of the Father. It is because of Him. Because of His life, death and resurrection that we do not mourn as those who have no hope, but in confidence we commend Antonin Scalia to the mercy of God.

Notre Dame Scolded by Local Bishop

The University of Notre Dame announced on March 5 that it would be awarding its Laetare Medal, one of the oldest and most prestigious honors awarded to American Catholics, to Vice President Joseph Biden, a liberal politician who opposes most of the Church’s teachings on life and marriage. This brought on indignation from a group of Catholics at the university, as well as the local Bishop.

The Laetare Medal is awarded yearly by Notre Dame University to an American Catholic “whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity.” (Notre Dame Archives) Past recipients include philanthropists, surgeons, poets and priests. In 1956, it was given to Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, former president of the Red Cross and adviser to top generals in World War II, where his strong reasoning and detailed planning earned him the nickname “the Brain.” Novelist Walker Percy took the award in 1989.

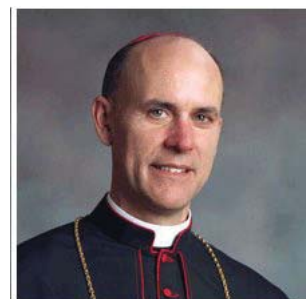
According to the Cardinal Newman Society, a group of 89 students published a letter in the university newspaper which condemned the awarding of a Catholic award to a pro-abortion politician.

Awarding the Laetare Medal to Vice President Biden caused uproar similar to that witnessed in 2009, when Notre Dame invited President Obama to speak at commencement. Students held a pro-life prayer vigil in place of the commencement and invited Priests for Life Founder and Director Fr. Frank Pavone to speak.

Now the local Bishop has gotten involved. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Notre Dame’s diocese, Fort-Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, condemned the awarding of the medal to Biden. He issued a statement, in which he said,

“If we honor Catholic politicians or public officials, we should make sure there is a basic consistency between their political decisions and sound Catholic moral and social teaching. We should not honor those who claim to personally accept Church

teaching, but act contrary to that teaching in their political choices.” ...I believe it is wrong for Notre Dame to honor any “pro-choice” public official with the Laetare Medal, even if he/she has other positive accomplishments in public service, since direct abortion is gravely contrary to the natural law and violates a very fundamental principle of Catholic moral and social teaching: the inalienable right to life of every innocent human being from the moment of conception. ...”



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades