national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

July 2018

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On a day like this: reflections on the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh

By Dave Andrusko

It's on a day like this—eight days after President Trump nominated Judge Brett Cavanaugh to Justice Anthony Kennedy's successor –that everything pro-lifers like you have done without fanfare over the course of decades, and particularly in 2016, is put into perspective.

On a day like this you harken back to that summer and fall and the ferocious media attacks on then-candidate Trump. What was the message we were inundated with? Don't waste your vote on someone who could not **possibly** beat Hillary Clinton. After all, hadn't President Obama said of her that "nobody [is] more qualified than Hillary Clinton to serve as president of the United States of America"?

Photo Credit: Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen

Far from abandoning him, because of your refusal to be browbeaten into submission, now President Trump has just nominated an outstanding

See "Kavanaugh," page 36

NRLC 2018 shows how we "Love Them All"

By Dave Andrusko

From the opening general session on Thursday morning to the closing Banquet Saturday evening, attendees to NRLC 2018 were treated to a demonstration of the depth, width, and breadth of pro-life expertise.

The three-day convention in Overland, Kansas, lived up to the reputation of NRLC's annual three-day convention as **the** pro-life educational gathering of the year.

National Right to Life President Carol Tobias set the tone with her opening remarks. "Our convention theme is Love Them all,'" she said.

"We love the unborn babies. We love the mothers who are facing a difficult time in their lives and need our support. We love the fathers who have no legal recourse to protect their child and suffer the loss of that child. We love the elderly and those with disabilities whose lives are threatened by assisted suicide and other forms of euthanasia.

(Left to right) Ben Clapper, David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., Carol Tobias, Karen Cross, and Darla St. Martin
Photo credit: Lisa Andrusko

"And yes, we love those who do harm to all these precious human beings. We encourage them to walk away from death and darkness; we hope they will join us fighting to protect life."

See "NRLC 2018," page 26

Editorials

With your help we won't let the haters win

As we addressed in the story on page one, like you, I was delighted that pro-life President Donald Trump chose Judge Brett Kavanaugh to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. As he had in selecting Judge Neil Gorsuch, the President had tabbed another extraordinary jurist with superb credentials.

NRL President Carol Tobias was right on target when she said Judge Kavanaugh's record "indicates a willingness to enforce the rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution, while otherwise leaving policymaking in the hands of elected legislators." The latter, in particular, is anathema to pro-abortionists who rely on lower court judges (often a single judge) to gut legislation passed overwhelmingly.

But having been around the block since 1981, I knew what to expect. An attack both on his judicial philosophy (which he no doubt will defend and explain admirably) and character assassination dressed up as a "concern for women," which (on its "best" days) will be gutter-level.

The *Wall Street Journal* put it plain and simple last Friday: "The Smears Begin on Kavanaugh."

If you are of a certain age, you remember what happens when the Left in general, pro-abortionists in particular decide they must waylay a Republican nominee to the Supreme Court. The two most famous examples are Judge Robert Bork—where they succeeded in 1987 —and Justice Clarence Thomas—where they failed four years later.

It's like it happened yesterday. I will never, ever forget driving with my family to a pro-life convention in Pennsylvania where I was speaking. I heard Thomas fight back with anger, passion, and a deep resentment.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh watches with his family as President Donald J. Trump signs the document Monday evening, July 9, 2018, in the Treaty Room of the WhiteHouse, naming Kavanaugh as his nominee to become the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Lesson? For me it is that pro-abortionists will stop at nothing!

See "Haters," page 40

A magnificent month for the Pro-Life Movement

By all accounts, the month since we published the June digital edition of *National Right to Life News* has been a tremendous success.

First and foremost, we were overjoyed that President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to fill the U.S. Supreme Court seat soon to be vacated by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. Judge Kavanaugh's credentials are impeccable, which means nothing to the pro-abortion Democratic leadership in the United States Senate which routinely does the bidding of Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and EMILY's List. (See many stories in this issue, including page one and the other editorial that begins on page two.)

Please take a minute to read the appeal on page 4. Financially, we will always be out-gunned. We need your help to do what National Right to Life does best: activate the grassroots. **Please** help us help the babies and their mothers.

NRLC's annual convention was my 38th. Like everyone else who gathered just outside of Kansas City, Kansas in late June, I came away knowing more than when I arrived, more inspired than I can ever remember, and even more determined than before to "love them all." (See page one.)

For those who take freedom of conscience seriously, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *NIFLA v. Becerra* is a tremendous victory tempered only by the knowledge that we prevailed by a single vote. Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion to the majority opinion written by Justice Thomas was a gem.

Without rehearsing the details of a case which *NRL News* readers are so familiar with, the state of California targeted pregnancy help center with onerous—and unconstitutional—burdens which directly infringed on their First Amendment rights. Justice Kennedy popped the state's self-important bubble, writing

The California Legislature included in its official history the congratulatory statement that the Act was part of California's legacy of "forward thinking." But it is not forward thinking

See "NRL News," page 33

From the President
Carol Tobias

"Elections are coming and we need to win!"

I've been thinking back to campaigns of many years ago — back to the day when political leaders who supported abortion would say "I'm personally opposed to abortion" which was code for "but I'm not going to do anything to stop it." Then there was President Bill Clinton who said abortion should be "safe, legal, and rare," although he did everything he could to expand abortion, both in this country and overseas.

But his position raised the question — if abortion should be safe and legal for anyone who wants one, why should it be rare? What is wrong with it?

That reluctance to fully embrace abortion outwardly never sat well with groups such as Planned Parenthood and NARAL who decided to challenge the idea that abortion can ever be bad. They now fight any and all efforts to limit or restrict abortion, even those that are utterly reasonable and/or have support among a large majority of the country.

That extreme position is one we can use to our advantage in the upcoming election.

Every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and thirty-five seats in the U.S. Senate are on the ballot this year. Some of the candidates have voting records that clearly reflect their position on abortion. Many have no record, but voters need to know where the candidates stand on life or death for unborn children. For example…

All candidates should clearly state whether they think tax dollars should be used to pay for elective abortion.

All candidates should tell the voters if they support the killing of unborn babies who have developed to the point of being able to feel pain as they are aborted.

All candidates should tell the voters whether they think it's okay with them to kill unborn babies by tearing off arms and legs in a dismemberment abortion.

All candidates should explain whether they support the radical position of the abortion industry that there be no limits whatsoever on abortion at any time during the nine months of pregnancy.

We cannot count on the media to get these answers into the public domain. You can help to make sure that information becomes public knowledge. Ask the candidates where they stand on the issue, and do it in a public setting, like a forum where the candidate takes questions from the audience. If candidates are being interviewed on a radio show and listeners are able to call the show to ask questions, get out your phone, dial the station, and ask that question.

(I am not suggesting you follow the Maxine Waters strategy of gathering a crowd and chasing people out of restaurants or stores or gas stations. But find a way to get that information and share it with the voters.)

We cannot let candidates slip by with some mumbo-jumbo about supporting "reproductive rights" or being "pro-choice." Voters need to know exactly where the candidates stand and how they will vote on specific legislation related to abortion, if elected.

Let's look back to the 2016 election. Democrats had 10 senate seats on the ballot; Republicans had 24. Political pundits were sure that, along with Hillary Clinton's can't-miss win, Democrats would be able to pick up many of those 24 seats.

But that night, as results came in from east to west, pro-life wins kept rolling in — Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Democrats did pick up two seats, but the Senate remained in Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's guiding hands.

This year, the numbers are reversed. Nine Republican seats and 26 Democratic seats are on the ballot. That same political wisdom would tell us that this should be a good year for pro-life Republicans because Democrats have so many seats to defend.

Take nothing for granted!! Just because a Senate race seems non-competitive in July, it could change dramatically by November. Every one of those seats is important. Work as if lives depend on it, because they do.

Keeping pro-life leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives is critical. Political pundits have been predicting a blue wave and say Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi could be Speaker of the House next year. If that happens, no pro-life legislation will pass and Rep. Maxine Waters will be pushing to impeach pro-life President Trump.

Keeping pro-life leadership in the U.S. Senate is critical. The Senate will soon begin confirmation proceedings for Judge Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump's nominee to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. This is just one of the important steps taken by the Senate to fill vacancies in the federal courts.

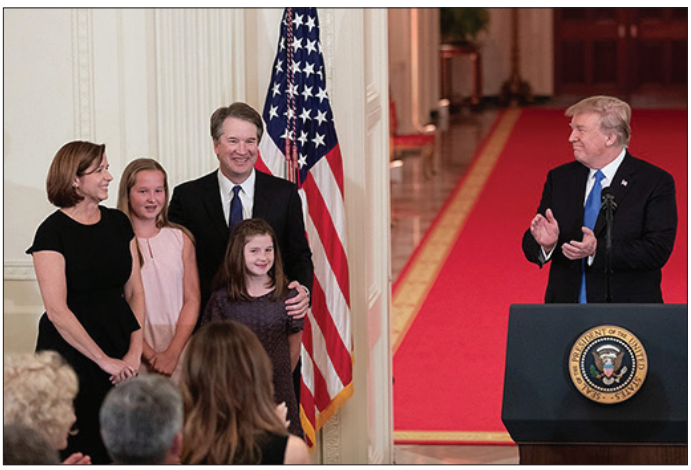
Sen. McConnell recently stated, "What I want to do is make a lasting contribution to the country, and by appointing and confirming these strict constructionists to the courts who are in their late 40s or early 50s, I believe, working in conjunction with the administration, we're making a generational change in our country that will be repeated over and over and over down the years."

In order to continue confirming those strict constructionist judges, we need to win senate elections in November.

We have a fantastic country that allows citizen to participate in the functioning of our government. For the next four months, keep your focus on electing those candidates who will preserve and protect the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh Needs Your Help!

Even before pro-life President Donald Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, pro-abortionists and other members of the far-left wing announced they will spend tens of millions of dollars



to block Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation. Their viciousness will know no bounds.

A very close vote is expected in the Senate – it is entirely possible that the nomination of this superbly qualified candidate will succeed or fail by a single vote.

Nothing is more crucial to the success of our efforts to protect mothers and their children. We need you now more than ever. Let me explain.

Prior the President's July 9 announcement, the National Right to Life staff in Washington laid the groundwork to mobilize grassroots citizens in key states to contact their senators and urge them to support Judge Kavanaugh. But to carry out these plans, we need to initially secure $500,000 and then quickly raise another $500,000 as a first step in raising the resources we need to fight Planned Parenthoods, NARAL, the pro-abortion leadership of Senate Democrats, and the Media Establishment.

Please consider an emergency sacrificial gift of $500 or $250.

Even $100 or $50 would help us secure the necessary funding we need to successfully confirm Judge Kavanaugh.

Thank you for all you continue to do to help His most defenseless children.

We can't let the haters win.

For THEIR lives,

Carol Tobias, President
National Right to Life

P.S. The timing is critical if we are going to succeed. I pray you can help us by making an emergency gift as soon as you read this.

Mum of 'one in a million' twin with Down's syndrome: "Our family is unique and I wouldn't change it for the world"

By SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

When doctors told Todd and Nicola Bailey that their twin daughter Harper had Down's syndrome, they broke the news by saying, "I'm so sorry".

But the proud parents insist that there is nothing to be sorry for. "Our family is unique and I wouldn't change it for the world," says Nicola.

The Sheffield couple, who are also parents to four year old Lucas, didn't find out that Harper had the genetic condition until she was born, 38 minutes before twin sister Quinn. Around 40,000 people in the UK have Down's syndrome and experts said the chance of having one twin with the condition is one-in-a-million.

Nothing to be sorry for

"All I really remember is the doctor saying 'I'm sorry',' says Nicola of when the diagnosis was delivered. "But as soon as I saw them both my heart just melted. They were both so beautiful."

Nicola, a nurse, is now striving to educate people about Down syndrome and reduce the stigma. "Harper is Harper and Quinn is Quinn – they are not the same so I try not to compare them, however hard that may be," she says.

"I don't see Harper as any different to my other children and would not change her for the world. You do see people staring at her and it's hard at times as the perception of Down syndrome can be so negative. We get comments like 'oh is she a Down syndrome baby' or 'I know a Down's girl'. She's not a Down's baby, she's a baby with Down syndrome.

"They still break the news by saying 'I'm sorry. I'm really not sorry. Harper is perfect I would not change her, her little smile lights up the room and she is who she's supposed to be."

Attitude of health professionals still worrying

The Baileys are yet another example of doctors giving a Down's syndrome diagnosis in negative terms.

In a debate on genetic screening in Wales, one mother complained about the language health professionals use when talking about babies with the condition. "I have been told 'I was one of the unlucky ones', whereas I would say I agree with the phrase 'lucky few' because we are extremely fortunate to have a child with Down syndrome," said Tanika Bartlett-Smith, mother of Leo. "It is quite frightening because if you have to educate health professionals, then how do you educate the general public?"

It may not be coming home but we wouldn't change a thing

However, campaign groups are working hard to change perceptions. In the last few days, a version of the football anthem Three Lions signed in Makaton by children with Down's syndrome and their families has gone viral – and brought comedian David Baddiel to tears.

Claire Constable, who is part of the group and features in the video with her son Ben, told ITV News: "Our message throughout is #wouldntchangeathing and we are working together to change existing perceptions of the condition and help others to feel better informed of aspects of Down syndrome that may not be apparent initially.

"We had a prenatal diagnosis with Ben and it would've helped us greatly to have been exposed to such material as we started our journey into parenthood with Ben."

New York Gov. Cuomo's ever-escalating pro-abortion campaign

By Dave Andrusko

Last week we posted about the comings and goings of uber-ambitious New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is furiously trying to out-promise a fellow pro-abortion Democrat running for governor in his commitment to extending, amplifying, and expanding abortion.

Cuomo first held a press conference on July 9 warning state Senate Republicans to immediately reconvene to pass the "Reproductive Health Act" which is even more radical than *Roe*. If not, he threatened, voters will send Senate Republicans packing. (The state Assembly is safely in the hands of pro-abortion Democrats.)

The following day gubernatorial rival Cynthia Nixon did Cuomo one better at her rally. Waving a coat hanger (these people are nothing if not original), Nixon tells her supporters, "We must fight like hell in New York and across the country to preserve Roe vs. Wade so that no woman will ever feel compelled to use something like this on herself again."

Not to be outdone, on Wednesday Cuomo announces if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, he'll sue the federal government.

The *North County NPR* station offers this insight:

> **It was not immediately clear what the legal basis for a lawsuit would be. Spokesman Rich Azzopardi said only that the administration "will seek to protect the fundamental constitutional right of women under both state and federal law."**

Andrew Cuomo
Photo: Pat Arnow

Of course, there isn't any "legal basis," but facts (or truth-telling) are not Cuomo's strong suits.

Cuomo, by the way, did say (according to Karen DeWitt) that

> **before legal action can begin, the state first needs to approve a measure to codify the landmark 1973 decision into state law. It was the governor's third day of campaign-style rallies to promote the bill, known as the Reproductive Health Act.**

This is another illustration of how he packages things. The Reproductive Health Act (which the GOP-led Senate has stopped) is not at all what Cuomo packages it to be. According to New York State Right to Life

> **Governor Cuomo's vilifying and bait-and-switch tactics continue to escalate in pitch and tone to obscure examination of the actual provisions of the so-called "Reproductive Health Act," which by no means is about "codifying Roe." The Reproductive Health Act is a radical abortion-any-time-for-any-reason bill which would preclude and even repeal sensible limits on abortion, something the Governor knows Americans and New Yorkers do not support.**

Why PPFA would never want the Black Abortion Rate explained

By Dave Andrusko

Can you imagine the response of Planned Parenthood or New York's reliably pro-abortion-to the-max Gov. Andrew Cuomo to this proposal made last week by *Wall Street Journal* columnist Jason L. Riley?

> **Let's Talk About the Black Abortion Rate**

How about no, absolutely no, positively no, and "you must be a racist for asking it"?

There are many, **many** secrets PPFA and its allies desperately want kept hidden. After the grim fact that they believe in and promote abortion for **any** reason throughout the entire nine months of pregnancies, probably no truth is more threatening to them than the incredibly disproportionate number of black babies who are aborted.

As Riley, who is black, tells us, "In New York City, thousands more black babies are aborted each year than born alive." Only the likes of a Gov. Cuomo or Planned Parenthood/ NARAL could calmly brush aside what many black leaders over the years have denounced.

Riley reminds readers of historical truths only a tiny fraction would know:

> **When the Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade in 1973, polling showed that blacks were less likely than whites to support abortion. Sixties-era civil rights activists like Fannie Lou Hamer and Whitney Young had denounced the procedure as a form of genocide. Jesse Jackson called abortion "murder" and once told a black newspaper in Chicago that "we used to look for death from the man in the blue coat and now it comes in a white coat."**
>
> **In the intervening decades, those views shifted. Mr. Jackson abandoned the pro-life ship to run for president in 1984, and leaders of black civil-rights organizations today are joined at the hip with abortion-rights proponents such as Planned Parenthood.**

The magnitude of the death toll is nothing short of staggering.

> **According to a city Health Department report released in May, between 2012 and 2016 black mothers terminated 136,426 pregnancies and gave birth to 118,127 babies. By contrast, births far surpassed abortions among whites, Asians and Hispanics.**

What about nationally? Riley writes

> **Nationally, black women terminate pregnancies at far higher rates than other women as well. In 2014, 36% of all abortions were performed on black women, who are just 13% of the female population. The little discussed flip side of "reproductive freedom" is that abortion deaths far exceed those via cancer, violent crime, heart disease, AIDS and accidents.**

Think about that. 13% of the female population, 36% of all abortions!

Our single issue focus means we will not explore what Riley sees as the hypocrisy of those who value black lives out of the womb but are silent about the slaughter of black lives in the womb.

What we can say is that every abortion is a failure and a tragedy multiplied on a scale in the black community so vast that it almost defies description.

Following Supreme Court's *NIFLA v. Becerra* Ruling, Hartford Halts Attack on City's Only Pregnancy Center

By Katie Franklin

The fallout of the Supreme Court decision in *NIFLA v. Becerra* has already begun.

Shortly after the highly anticipated decision was issued June 26, the City of Hartford, Connecticut stopped the rollout of a controversial ordinance that would force the only pregnancy help center in the city to post signage steering women away from its life-saving services.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, the city planned to start enforcing the ordinance on July 1. However, the city's lawyer said they would delay doing so until he was sure the ordinance was constitutional under the new ruling.

More likely than not, that will prove a tall order to fill.

Similar to California's "Reproductive FACT Act" that was struck down in *NIFLA*, the ordinance targets a center based on the fact that it's pro-life—a clear case of viewpoint discrimination. It then mandates that the center effectively undermine its own services, requiring Hartford Women's Center to identify itself as a non-medical facility—despite the fact that its team includes licensed medical professionals working under the supervision of a physician. The center would be fined $100 per day for noncompliance.

A city ordinance passed in December targets the free speech rights of Hartford Women's Center (right). Thanks to a June 26 ruling, that ordinance may not go into effect.
Photo Courtesy: St. Gerard's Center for Life/Hartford Women's Center

Like the unconstitutional California law in *NIFLA*, the Hartford ordinance also "covers a curiously narrow subset of speakers" —so narrow, in fact, that it would apply to just one center.

If the ordinance sounds personal, it is.

Hartford Women's Center, which operates under the nonprofit license of St. Gerard's Center for Life, earned the ire of Hartford abortion advocates last spring when it opened its location right next door to the abortion facility, Hartford GYN, whose slogan is, "Abortion: 100 Percent of What We Do."

Located in the same building as Hartford GYN is NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, which has been campaigning against pregnancy help centers for the last three years.

As previously reported at *Pregnancy Help News*, in 2015, NARAL disparaged Connecticut's 50-plus pregnancy centers in a "report" that included the word "deception" 21 times in just 30 pages.

But contrary to NARAL's strawman attacks, the privately funded Hartford Women's Center is serving the city in a multitude of ways, offering free ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, options counseling, material aid, parenting education, and post-abortive help since 2006.

Despite the various ways in which pregnancy centers benefit communities like Hartford, NARAL's unproven and unfounded slurs have given rise to a flurry of legislative attacks on pregnancy centers across the country. Ultimately, *NIFLA* will spell doom for these laws too.

Though Hartford is attempting to distance itself from the Reproductive FACT Act, the two laws are undeniably cut from the same unconstitutional cloth.

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

The stakes could not be higher in 2018

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Editor's note. This speech was part of a Friday June 30 general session at the 2018 National Right to Life Convention entitled, "Saving Lives Means Saving the House and Senate in 2018."

Good morning!

It is wonderful to be with you at the National RTL convention! Attending the National convention is like an annual family reunion. The theme of today's general session is "Saving Lives means Saving the House and Senate in 2018."

The reason I'm involved in politics at all is because we save so many lives every time we pass pro-life legislation.

In South Carolina alone, there are nearly 175,000 people alive today because they passed pro-life laws.

And just one piece of federal legislation–the Hyde Amendment, which limits federal funding of abortions–is attributed to saving two million lives.

A lot is at stake in 2018. Lives are at stake…

If pro-abortion Democrats take over leadership in the U.S. House and Senate, there will be consequences.

Like Nancy Pelosi, for instance (who would become House Majority Leader).

And pro-abortion legislation like the Woman's Health Protection Act – we refer to it as the Abortion without Limits Until Birth Act – which is so extreme, if enacted, it would invalidate nearly all state and federal limits on abortion.

Shame on them.

We wouldn't be able to pass protective pro-life legislation like the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

This bill would require that a baby born alive during an abortion must be afforded the same degree of care that would apply to any other child born alive at the same gestational age.

183 Democrats voted against protecting babies who survive abortion.

Shame on them.

And we wouldn't be able to confirm justices to the US Supreme Court.

This year, there are 35 U.S. Senate seats up for election: 26 Democrat seats and 9 Republican seats.

Let's look at our best pro-life opportunities to replace current pro-abortion seats in 2018.

NRL Political Director Karen Cross
Photo: Lisa Andrusko

Florida

Pro-life Governor Rick Scott is challenging pro-abortion Senator Bill Nelson.

Nelson has a solid pro-abortion voting record, even voting to allow partial-birth abortions to continue.

Please join me in saying Shame on him!

Indiana

In Indiana, pro-life businessman Mike Braun is challenging Senator Joe Donnelly, who claims to be pro-life, however Donnelly has a dismal 40% pro-life voting record.

Pro-abortion Senator Donnelly consistently votes to give hundreds of millions of dollars of government funds to the nation's largest abortion provider – Planned Parenthood.

What do you say about that?

Shame on him!

Michigan

In Michigan, John James is pro-life and is challenging pro-abortion Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow.

Most of you know EMILY's List as the pro-abortion PAC that supports women Democrat candidates who support unlimited abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion.

Debbie Stabenow is so pro-abortion she is an EMILY's List candidate.

Shame

Missouri

In Missouri, pro-life Attorney General Josh Hawley is the lead candidate to challenge pro-abortion Senator Claire McCaskill.

Her extreme pro-abortion position is completely out of line with Missouri voters.

McCaskill is an EMILY's List candidate and is so pro-abortion she is a cosponsor of the "Women's Health Protection Act" more accurately called the "Abortion without Limits Until Birth Act."

Shame on her!

Montana

Pro-life state Auditor Matt Rosendale is challenging pro-abortion Senator Jon Tester.

Senator Tester has voted pro-abortion on every occasion.

Shame on him!

See "Stakes," page 38

"You are your baby's first home …. Your baby's first protector"

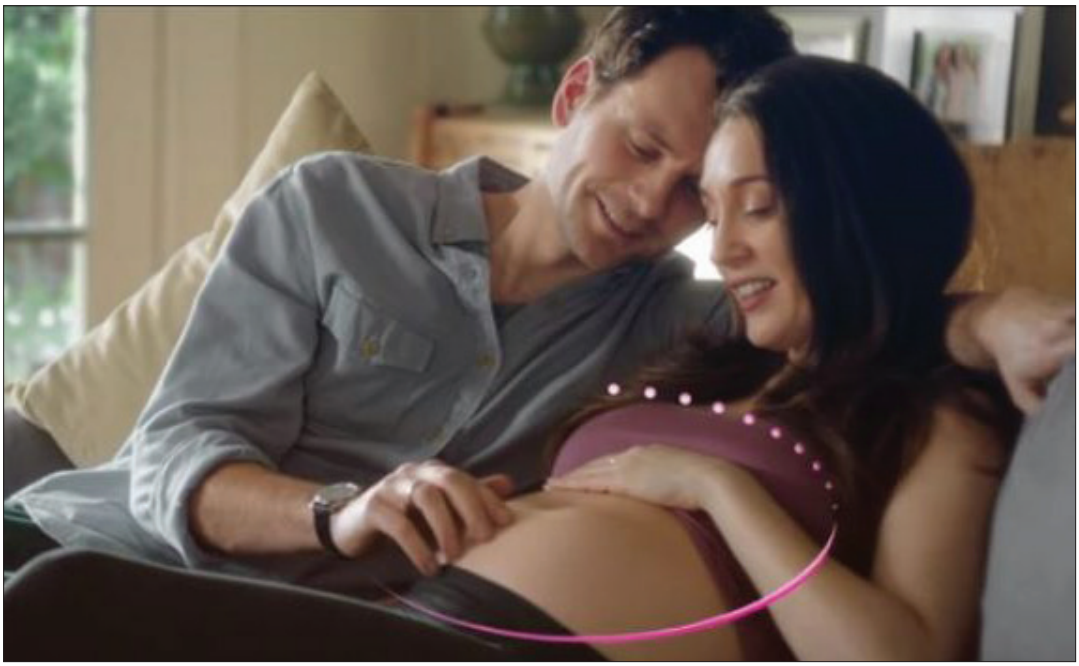
By Dave Andrusko

Imagine how different the fate of millions of unborn babies would be if moms and dads looked upon them not as a kind of disposable property but as someone whose fate is entirely in their hands and whom they should do everything humanly possible to protect.

In other words, to see and then act not as landlords eager to evict but as parents dedicated to protect.

Enter an ad for First Response Pregnancy Test. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=40DSeRkT-aY).

It's only 30 seconds long. The first two statements are the most relevant, although all the



You are your baby's first home…. Your baby's first protector.

I have written about fetolology and the incredible bond between mother and unborn baby a million times. But I've never put it in more telling, more tender terms than "You are your baby's first home."

That was the warm and fuzzy part (for me).

"Your baby's first protector." That was more sobering.

What are moms–and dads!–if not their child's first protector? We can and should be their first educator, their first role model, their first caregiver.

But nothing exceeds, because nothing precedes protecting them from harm. And what could be a greater betrayer of that sacred duty than to take our own child's life?

A beautiful, thought-provoking ad. Take 30 seconds to watch it and then please share it widely.

Abortionist sentenced in death of woman he aborted at 25 weeks

By Dave Andrusko

In May when last we reported on abortionist Robert Rho, he had just struck a deal to plead guilty to criminally negligent homicide in the 2016 death of Jamie Lee Morales. Rho, who said he had performed 40,000 abortions over his career, aborted her at 25 weeks for which he had charged her $6,000.

Rho's lawyer, Jeffrey Lichtman, Rho's attorney, called the agreement a "monumental victory" and said he expected a sentence of less than a year.

Lichtman was wrong. On June 26 Justice Gregory Lasak sentenced the 55-year-old Rho to serve fifteen months to four years in state prison.

In closing arguments, Assistant District Attorney Brad Leventhal told the jury "It's about greed and arrogance," adding, "Jaime Morales bled to death because this defendant did nothing."

Rho had faced a possible charge of second-degree manslaughter, punishable by 5 years and 15 years in prison before a last minute plea bargain with Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown

At the time, Brown said, "Sadly, a 30-year-old woman lost her life as a result of the surgery." He went on to say, "The doctor has now accepted responsibility and admitted he failed to realize the damage he'd done and did not provide appropriate and timely medical care following the surgery."

Abortionist Robert Rho (left) in Queens Criminal Court. (Todd Maisel/New York Daily News)

Morales went to Rho's Liberty Women's Health of Queens with her sister on July 9, 2016. "During the surgery, Rho caused a laceration in her cervix, a perforation of the uterine wall and a disruption and transection of the uterine artery, officials said."

Rho then "failed to provide the woman with appropriate and timely medical attention" when she bled profusely, *Newsday* reported. "Rho performed a second surgery to stop the bleeding, prosecutors said, but didn't realize Morales needed emergency medical care."

After collapsing in a vehicle during the drive to her sister's home, Morales was transported to a hospital where she was treated for vaginal bleeding, Zachary R. Dowdy reported. "She was pronounced dead the same night, officials said."

After Ms. Morales's death, Rho closed his abortion clinic and surrendered his medical license.

Buried near the end of the *Associated Press* story is this insight into Rho's history.

Even before Morales' abortion, the doctor had been investigated by state officials over concerns that he was performing procedures improperly

Unborn Babies Feel Pain & They Dream!!!

By Rai Rojas

Editor's note. Of all the thousands of posts we've published, this ranks among the most favored by ***National Right to Life News*** *and* ***National Right to Life News Today*** *readers. As such, I like to republish it every year or so that our many new readers can enjoy this powerful commentary.*

When he was about six months old, my grandson and his mom came to my home for a highly-anticipated week-long visit. In the middle of one of the nights he was there, he roused an entire household out of our collective sleeps with his screams. These were not normal newborn cries – this child sounded as if he were in serious distress.

My daughter and I arrived at his crib at almost the same time. She immediately picked him up and attempted to comfort him. But he was inconsolable, he wasn't soothed by his mom's voice, or smell, or even her just being there.

Amid his screaming and as she rocked him back and forth, I lit a dim light in the corner of the room so we could wake him up gently. When he opened his eyes and saw familiar faces and sounds he immediately began to calm. There were a few deep sighs, an occasional quick sob, but he fell back to sleep almost immediately.

My six month old grandson had just experienced a nightmare and I couldn't imagine what a 6 month old could have been dreaming about. I was ignorant as to what could have caused such a small baby to have a night terror. My ignorance led to a bit of research, and what I discovered was enlightening and interesting, but that knowledge in the context of what I do was sobering.

I found several articles on infant nightmares but a peer reviewed article by Dr. Alan Green, M.D. is the one who stood out and from which I will quote heavily.

Dr. Greene quoted a study by scientific research group Roffwarg and Associates who at the start of their research believed that they would find that infants do not have REM sleep because they do not dream.

But by the end of their study the researchers were startled to discover that not only do newborns dream – even on the first day of life – they actually dream more than the college students in those same studies. (Science, 1966; 152:604)

"This study has been repeated several times," writes Dr. Greene, "confirming and expanding our knowledge. We dream more in the first 2 weeks of life than at any other time. The visual part of the brain is more active during newborn REM sleep than during adult sleep."

Then Dr. Greene asks and answers the question that is as amazing as it is troubling:

"If children dream from the moment that they are born, might they dream before that time?"

He continues:

"We now know that they [unborn children] begin to sleep at as early as 4 weeks of gestation (Electro-encephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, 1975;38:175). Dreams appear to be a kind of parallel processing by which we integrate our experience, making new connections in our brains. In the uterus, babies probably dream about the muted light they see and the sounds they hear such as heartbeats, voices and music. Shortly after birth, they dream about the explosion of new sights, sounds, tastes, smells and textures as they delight in getting to know their parents."

Here was scientific, peer reviewed proof that unborn children dream. I read those articles over and over again and I couldn't shake-off the thought of those children who survive late term abortions, and who dreamt as they were placed in linen or broom closets to die.

I'm sickened with the thought of an unborn child's dream being interrupted by the slice of a curette, or the ingestion of poison, or the "snip" of her neck.

We fight, we work, we live in the trenches, so that our youngest dreamers can survive.

Please join us.

"I will tell each senator that I revere the Constitution"

Editor's note. The following are the remarks of Judge Brett Kavanaugh on July 9 after being nominated by President Trump to be the successor to the retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Mr. President, thank you. Throughout this process, I have witnessed firsthand your appreciation for the vital role of the American judiciary. No president has ever consulted more widely or talked with more people from more backgrounds to seek input about a Supreme Court nomination.

Mr. President, I am grateful to you, and I'm humbled by your confidence in me.

Thirty years ago, President Reagan nominated Anthony Kennedy to the Supreme Court. The framers established that the Constitution is designed to secure the blessings of liberty. Justice Kennedy devoted his career to securing liberty. I am deeply honored to be nominated to fill his seat on the Supreme Court.

My mom and dad are here. I am their only child. When people ask what it's like to be an only child, I say it depends on who your parents are.

I was lucky. My mom was a teacher. In the 1960s and '70s, she taught history at two largely African-American public high schools in Washington, D.C., McKinley Tech and H.D. Woodson. Her example taught me the importance of equality for all Americans.

My mom was a trailblazer. When I was 10, she went to law school and became a prosecutor. My introduction to law came at our dinner table when she practiced her closing arguments. Her trademark line was: "Use your common sense. What rings true? What rings false?" That's good advice for a juror and for a son.

One of the few women prosecutors at that time, she overcame barriers and became a trial judge. The president introduced me tonight as Judge Kavanaugh. But to me that title will always belong to my mom.

My dad went to law school at night while working full-time. He has an unparalleled work ethic and has passed down to me his passion for playing and watching sports. I love him dearly.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh watches with his family as President Donald J. Trump signs the document Monday evening, July 9, 2018, in the Treaty Room of the White House, naming Kavanaugh as his nominee to become the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Photo Credit: Dan Scavino, Jr.

The motto of my Jesuit high school was "Men for others." I've tried to live that creed. I've spent my career in public service from the executive branch in the White House to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. I've served with 17 other judges, each of them a colleague and a friend.

My judicial philosophy is straightforward. A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law. A judge must interpret statutes as written. And a judge must interpret the Constitution as written, informed by history and tradition and precedent.

For the past 11 years, I've taught hundreds of students, primarily at Harvard Law School. I teach that the Constitution's separation of powers protects individual liberty, and I remain grateful to the dean who hired me, Justice Elena Kagan.

As a judge, I hire four law clerks each year. I look for the best. My law clerks come from diverse backgrounds and points of view. I am proud that a majority of my law clerks have been women.

I am part of the vibrant Catholic community in the D.C. area. The members of that community disagree about many things, but we are united by a commitment to serve. Father John Enzler is here. Forty years ago, I was an altar boy for Father John. These days, I help him serve meals to the homeless at Catholic charities.

I have two spirited daughters, Margaret and Liza. Margaret loves sports, and she loves to read. Liza loves sports, and she loves to talk.

I have tried to create bonds with my daughters like my dad created with me. For the past seven years, I have coached my daughters' basketball teams. The girls on the team call me Coach K.

I am proud of our Blessed Sacrament team that just won the city championship.

My daughters and I also go to lots of games. Our favorite memory was going to the historic Notre Dame-U. Conn. women's basketball game at this year's Final Four. Unforgettable.

My wife, Ashley, is a West Texan, a graduate of Abilene Cooper public high school and the University of Texas. She is now the town manager of our community. We met in 2001 when we both worked in the White House. Our first date was on September 10, 2001. The next morning, I was a few steps behind her as the Secret Service shouted at all of us to sprint out the front gates of the White House because there was an inbound plane.

In the difficult weeks that followed, Ashley was a source of strength for President Bush and for everyone in this building. Through bad days and so many better days since then, she has been a great wife and inspiring mom. I thank God every day for my family.

Tomorrow, I begin meeting with members of the Senate, which plays an essential role in this process. I will tell each senator that I revere the Constitution. I believe that an independent judiciary is the crown jewel of our constitutional republic. If confirmed by the Senate, I will keep an open mind in every case and I will always strive to preserve the Constitution of the United States and the American rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. President.

A Letter to My Daughter: Cherish the Right to Life

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

Dear Beloved Daughter,

It seems hard to believe that you just celebrated another birthday. You have grown into an accomplished, inspiring young woman, and you give me incredible hope.

I would like to take this opportunity, though, to apologize for the fact that you grew up in a world in which the lives of preborn babies were not universally protected. At least 1/5 of your generation is not here today because of abortion. I am sorry about the friendships you've missed because of the people in your age cohort who lost their lives in their mothers' wombs.

I also believe that the lack of respect for human life that we see day in and day out on cable news is a result of *Roe v. Wade*. That tragic U.S. Supreme Court decision, made decades before you were born, brutally dehumanized preborn children. And, because of that, we as a nation are diminished. We have lost a portion of our own humanity.

I wish I had known earlier about the amazing, miraculous development of a child in the womb. I wish I had volunteered for the pro-life movement when I was invited to my first pro-life event when I was 13.

I wish I had never thought that the so-called "pro-choice" movement offered liberty for women. In fact, that movement has led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of little girls each year. They are not the only victims. Their deaths are the source of tremendous emotional pain for their mothers.

But I am so glad that I overcame my missteps. I am happy that you grew up holding soft-touch fetal models and knowing, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that every life is a unique and therefore unrepeatable master work of God. I sincerely pray that any children you will have will not have to deal with the scourge of abortion and that, for them, Roe will be an ugly asterisk in the history books. And I know that, as an unapologetic pro-lifer, you will instill in any sons or daughters the truth that all human life should be cherished and protected.

I believe that pop culture-watchers would classify you as being part of Generation Z. I hope that Z signals the end of abortion and the beginning of a new culture of life. Please hold onto your pro-life dreams and know that your work on behalf of life will never be in vain. The coming generations are counting on you!

With All My Love,
Your Optimistic Mother

Four huge myths about overturning *Roe v. Wade*

By Paul Stark, Communications Associate, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

A vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court—and the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to fill it—has produced endless talk about the possible overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Court decision that eliminated laws protecting unborn children from being killed through abortion.

"The crisis is here," warns the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. "[O]ur constitutional right to access abortion is at risk." An *NPR* reporter (rather subtly) calls this nomination "the end of the world as we know it."

The Court could indeed reverse *Roe* outright at some point in the future—or scale it back gradually over time as the justices consider and uphold new abortion limits. No one knows for sure what will happen.

But a lot of misunderstandings surround the possible overruling of *Roe*. Here are four big ones that deserve correction.

Myth #1: Most Americans support *Roe*

"Abortion rights is the majority position," proclaims Katha Pollitt in the *New York Times*. "Sixty-seven percent of Americans do not want *Roe* to be overturned."

Journalists and advocates often cite polls that find such a result, but they are highly misleading. Many (probably most) Americans don't realize the scope of *Roe*. Many wrongly think that overturning the decision would simply make abortion illegal (see Myth #2). And many poll questions about *Roe* badly mischaracterize it.

What did *Roe* do? It decided that abortion must be allowed for any reason in the first trimester of pregnancy. It also decided that abortion must be allowed for any reason in the second trimester. And it decided that abortion must be allowed for (at the very least) "health" reasons in the third trimester—and "health" reasons were understood (in *Roe*'s companion case of *Doe v. Bolton*) to encompass "familial," "psychological," and "emotional" reasons (which mean, in practice, "unhappiness about pregnancy").

Subsequent Court decisions, most notably *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, eliminated *Roe*'s trimester scheme (among other adjustments) but continued to require abortion-for-any-reason prior to fetal viability and abortion-for-"health" until birth.

And what do Americans support? Definitely not the legal regime created by *Roe*. A 2018 Gallup poll found that only 45 percent of Americans think abortion should be legal "for any reason" in the first trimester (as *Roe* mandated). Only 28 percent of Americans think abortion should be generally legal in the second trimester (as *Roe* mandated). Only 13 percent think it should be generally legal in the third trimester (as *Roe* effectively mandated).

Moreover, according to Gallup, a majority of 53 percent of Americans say abortion should be legal in only a few circumstances or in no circumstances. (Gallup has consistently found that a majority take this position.)

Roe said abortion has to be legal in *every* circumstance.

But do Americans at least support the judicial philosophy that produced *Roe*? Not really.

A 2017 poll, for example, found that a majority of 52 percent of Americans think Supreme Court justices should interpret the Constitution "as it was originally written" rather than substitute their own policy preferences in its place.

Roe, in short, is not and has never been consistent with the views of a majority of Americans.

Myth #2: Overturning *Roe* would make all abortions illegal

"Ending *Roe*," warns the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, "means we have a country where abortion is illegal." That's not accurate.

Prior to 1973, the American people, through their elected representatives, determined the kind of abortion laws they wanted. With *Roe*, the Court took that power away from them by ruling that the U.S. Constitution includes a right to abortion—that it *requires* legalized abortion (and thus *forbids* legal protection of unborn children) regardless of what the people want. This nullified the democratically decided abortion laws of all 50 states.

So what would overturning *Roe* do? It would give back to Americans their legislative authority. In the immediate wake of that change, some states would keep policies of abortion-on-demand. Other states would provide very substantial legal protection for unborn children. Many states would fall somewhere in the middle.

When *Roe* is gone, abortion policy will be left to the democratic process, as most important public issues are. It will be up to us.

Myth #3: Overturning *Roe* would have nightmarish consequences for women

Defenders of abortion claim that all sorts of awful things would befall America if *Roe* were discarded.

The most frequent claim is that many women would die by undergoing dangerous, illegal abortions. "Overturning

See "Roe v. Wade," page 41

"You're not taking this one! She's Mine!"

By Dave Andrusko

On the opening day of National Right to Life's three day convention, attendees were blessed by an immensely emotional, powerful general session titled, "The Human Face of Abortion." There were three abortion survivors. As they say, you could have heard a pin drop.

Preceding Sarah Zagorski, Dan Compton, and Melissa Ohden, was a video that just gripped my heart, and I'm guessing everyone else's. It's titled "This Time," by John Elefante, the former lead singer of the group "Kansas."

The inspiration was the real-life story of Sami, Elefante's adopted daughter, whose 13-year-old mother came perilously close to aborting Sami.

"I can't imagine life without my daughter, Sami, and it just breaks my heart that pregnant young women much like her birth mother, instead of choosing life for their babies, are denying them the chance to be born," Elefante once told Abby Carr of Charisma News. "If our song can in any way bring attention to this issue and encourage those who are considering abortion to choose life through options such as adoption, then we couldn't be happier."

So, why is "This Time" so effective?

For starters, Elefante does a marvelous job setting a real-life stage: a very frightened (barely) teenage girl who discovers she is pregnant. Scared out of her wits, she slams the bathroom door on her mother and races to the "solution": the abortion clinic.

When a girl or woman is at the abortion clinic—let alone in the operating room itself—the pressure to "get this over with" is unfathomable. In this case, the young girl is half-asleep in the waiting room and dreams of

being with the little girl she is carrying and about to abort.

It would likely take something as powerful as a "picture" in her mind's eye to convince her that abortion is desperately wrong. The staff is shown restraining her from leaving, which is not uncommon. "We see this all the time," so, to them, this is just routine, last-minute panic.

But Sami's 13-year-old mother does make it to the phone to call for her own mother. The last scene is her mother arriving to take her home.

The music, as you would expect from a multiple-Grammy-winning songwriter and producer, is just tremendous. The lyrics tell the story of why she ran to the abortion clinic….and why she chose life. (I will not spoil the delight you will experience by quoting the refrain that makes your heart soar.)

But, on second thought, I will offer one "spoiler." As the young girl sneaks out to leave, she is joined, in her imagination, by her baby, now at age 6 or 7. When they run down the hall, I just choked up. Mom and baby, racing to escape the death peddlers…together!

Take four minutes out of your busy day and watch "This Time." Believe me you'll be forwarding this video to all your friends and family.

PS Watch the video and then watch it again as you read the lyrics reproduced below.

THIS TIME LYRICS

She sat cold in a waiting room
Frightened and all alone
Watched the clock tick down
Knowing that her baby would soon be gone
Her head slung low, so embarrassed
She was 13 years old
She felt a kick inside as a reminder
Of a life she couldn't show
Then she heard a voice inside say "Run away!
It was a mistake, but don't throw your child away!"
Then she fell into a light sleep
Had a dream about a little girl
There was a birthday cake and three candles
She was living in another world
She saw the little girl become a woman
Living in a happy home
Then she was suddenly awakened
By a voice that called her name
They said, "Don't worry, you'll be fine
You're still young, we see this all the time."
Right then the Lord began to speak:
"You're not taking this one!
She's Mine!
She'll grow up and seek My name
You're not taking her! She's Mine!
And you're not taking her this time
No, you're not taking her this time."
She laid flat on the table
She asked "Please, can I talk to someone?"
But a headstrong woman with a blank stare
Said "We've gotta get this done."
Then she cried out, "Lord, please help me!
I've got to get to a phone!
I need to call my momma
To help me find my baby a home!"
They said, "Don't worry, you'll be fine
You're still young, we see this all the time."
Right then the Lord began to speak:
"You're not taking this one!
She's Mine!
She'll grow up to seek My name
You're not taking her this time

Arkansas AG appeals decision thwarting state's law regulating chemical abortions

By Dave Andrusko

To Arkansas State Attorney General Leslie Rutledge's great credit, each and every time Planned Parenthood of the Great Plains wins an injunction from U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker, Rutledge immediately files an appeal.

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

On July 6, roughly a half hour after Judge Baker's previous restraining order against Arkansas' "Abortion-Inducing Drugs Safety Act" expired, Baker issued a preliminary injunction. This action came exactly 32 days after the United States Supreme Court, without comment, allowed Arkansas to enforce Act 577.

On July 9, the attorney general's office filed notice that the state is appealing.

Arkansas' law, which is, as the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* Linda Satter explained, "a section of Act 577 of 2015," requires abortion clinics providing chemical abortifacients to have a contract with another physician with admitting privileges at a local hospital who agrees to handle any complications. The injunction was similar to the one Judge Baker issued in March 2016 which a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dissolved last summer, a decision which on May 29th the Supreme Court allowed to stand.

Planned Parenthood essentially argues two points. Abortion is so unpopular in Arkansas they can't find a backup physician. And because Planned Parenthood only does chemical abortions, if they can't find a willing physician, they'd have to stop doing abortions in Arkansas. (Little Rock Family Planning Services performs surgical and chemical abortions in Arkansas.)

In Judge Baker's most recent 148-page decision blocking enforcement of Act 577, she concluded the law would "negatively impact a 'large fraction' of abortion-seeking women in Arkansas in such a way that it violates their constitutional rights," Satter wrote.

Reflecting on the Special Olympics and the Right to Life

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

I was watching television the other night when I happened to catch a portion of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics in Seattle. It was the most inspiring program I had seen all week. There was palpable joy as the competitors danced and sang with abandon. The scene made me reflect once more on the fundamental right to life of all children–including those with special needs.

It is truly alarming that the vast majority of American children diagnosed with Down syndrome in the womb are aborted. These children are precious and worthy of protection. The Special Olympics showcases their athletic abilities, their heart, and their hope.

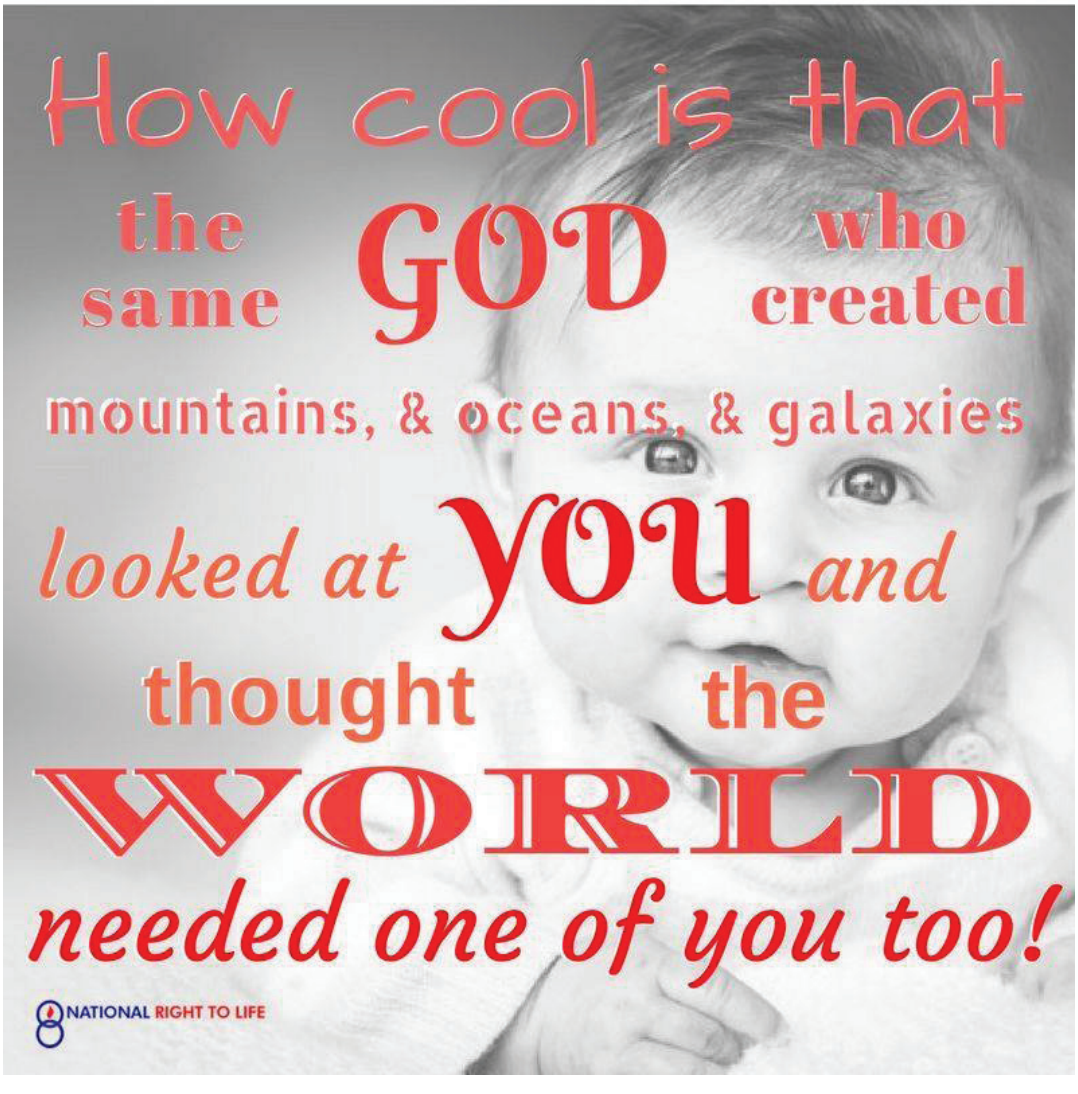
When parents learn that their preborn children may be born with Down syndrome, they may be frightened, confused, and struggling for answers. Thanks to legislation such as Pennsylvania's "Chloe's Law," parents are offered resources and assistance at the time of the diagnosis so they will not feel so alone.

But more needs to be done. That's why we urge Pennsylvania residents to contact their state Senators and encourage them to pass House Bill 2050, the Down Syndrome Protection Act. This common sense bill would ban abortion for the sole reason of a Down syndrome diagnosis.

Discrimination against people with disabilities must end. That includes the ultimate form of discrimination–ending a life in the womb.

With your help, we will save the next generation of Special Olympians, ensuring that they receive a place of honor on the athletic field, in our families, and in our communities.

Special Olympics



MP shows scan of unborn daughter in Parliament

The first time a scan has been shown in Parliament?

BY SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

An MP held up a scan of his unborn baby in the Commons chamber to make a point about parental leave offered to members of parliament.

A baby first

The Scottish National Party's (SNP) David Linden wanted more time to debate the principle of proxy voting – where another MP votes on a colleague's behalf, for example when they are on paternity leave – so it could be voted on later.

Holding the picture aloft, Mr. Linden told colleagues: "This is my daughter to be born in the autumn, so I'm particularly keen to see this be put in place as soon as possible."

The debate was pulled because of two Government statements and an urgent question, but Mr. Linden may have unknowingly broken new ground. SPUC's sources believe that this is the first time an ultrasound scan of an unborn child has been shown in the Commons chamber.

Rarely acknowledged

In fact, despite the fact that abortion has been debated an unusual amount in recent months, the very mention of the unborn child is unusual enough to be noticed. During Stella Creasy's emergency debate on repealing sections of the Offences Against the Person Act (which would decriminalise abortion in England, Wales and Northern Ireland), the Democratic Unionist Party's (DUP) Sammy Wilson noted that the debate "has of course reflected the views of those who wish to control their own bodies, but what about the unborn child? That side has been lacking in most of the speeches today. What rights and protections does the state afford to unborn children?"

Shut out of debate

Mr. Wilson and his colleagues did stand up for the rights of the unborn, but they were jeered and heckled for doing so. Hannah Bardell MP (SNP) stormed that for "DUP Members…to talk about unborn children being thrown in the bin or babies being disposed of, are disgusting ways to describe the choices that women have to make anywhere in the UK but particularly in Northern Ireland."

The Conservative MP Maria Caulfield was faced with similar vitriol when she defended the unborn during Diana Johnson's decriminalisation bill last year.

"Too often today," she said then, "debates about abortion—about the risks involved and the rights of the unborn child—are shut down; but I, and many colleagues who share my views, will not be silenced as we seek to be a voice for the voiceless, and as we argue for more modern and humane abortion law that upholds not only the dignity and rights of women but the dignity and rights of the unborn child."

These comments meant Ms. Caulfield faced a huge media outcry when she was appointed as the Conservative Vice-Chair for Women.

Despite 50 years of legal abortion, it's taken a discussion on parental leave for MPs to be shown the image of an unborn child – perhaps they'll be less shocked when an MP dares to mention the unborn in any future abortion debate.

Why Counted ER Visits Are Not a Good Measure of Chemical Abortion Safety

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

You may have seen it, you may have not. But there's a new study out from the folks at UCSF (the University of California – San Francisco, sometimes called "America's Abortion Academy"). It claims that abortion is very safe, based on there being relatively few cases of abortion-related visits to U.S. emergency rooms.

That might sound initially impressive to sympathetic reporters or even medical professionals who don't read carefully or know the issue. However to those who understand how the abortion industry works and how the reality of abortion plays out in field, the claim is on much shakier ground.

Such a study might capture some, or even most of abortion-related complications if a woman presenting herself at the ER reveals she has had or is having an abortion. But if she doesn't, or she can't, or the attending physician wants to keep it out of the medical records, the study results are bogus.

And many of those promoting chemical abortions in particular have explicitly counseled women that they don't have to reveal their abortions to the doctors treating them–that they can just claim to be having a miscarriage.

Then, if the woman has serious problems, or even dies, the "miscarriage" gets blamed, while her abortion is counted as another 'safe' procedure.

Moreover, as we shall see, serious problems are simply classified otherwise.

Study "Results"

The latest study, "Abortion-related emergency department visits in the United States: An analysis of a national emergency department sample" was published June 14, 2018 in the online edition of *BMC Medicine* (doi.org/10.1186/s12916-018-1072-0).

A UCSF team led by abortion researcher Ushma D. Upadhyay looked at samples from a national database of visits to emergency departments made by women from 2009 to 2013, the five most recent available years, examining all records coded for abortion. Doing so, they found 6,342 with an identified abortion diagnosis which after eliminating duplicates or cases clinicians determined were unrelated to the abortion, resulted in 6,239 ER visits in their sample.

When projected on the population as a whole, researchers concluded that there would have been 27,941 emergency department visits somehow connected to abortion. They then whittle these down to 5,673 "major incidents," discarding over 22,000 incidents they dismiss as "minor" or undeterminable or "no incident at all."

"Major incidents" were those requiring an overnight inpatient stay, a blood transfusion, or surgery. "Minor incidents" included all others that involved an abortion -related diagnosis or treatment, although numbers show that this included some "repeat abortions" or "uterine reaspirations" that (according to authors' definitions) did not count as "surgery." Anything connected to a pre-existing condition (e.g., high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity) were categorized as "no incident."

Notice from these criteria how many complications fail to get counted as major complications. A woman could come in with severe vomiting and diarrhea. She could have to have an IV to restore her fluids. But if she rallies and makes it home without being admitted for overnight observation, her visit isn't counted. If the baby doesn't completely abort and some doctor performs a suction abortion on the woman, that doesn't count. She can be in such significant pain that she needs high power opiate pain killers, but it isn't a major complication if she goes home.

These women may have undergone tremendous ordeals, but according to the study, their ordeals were listed as "minor" or "no incident" at all.

The biggest way the study sweeps numbers of complications under the rug, however, was in its initial coding selection. Upadhyay and colleagues selected only those records, they said, with an ICD-9 diagnosis code for abortion.

But then in listing the ones they examined, they mentioned the codes for legal abortion (635), illegal abortion (636), unspecified abortion (637) and failed attempted abortion (638). Notably missing? The one for ectopic pregnancy (633), whose symptoms often mimic chemical abortion, and the one for miscarriage, or "spontaneous abortion" (634).

Given how promoters of chemical abortions have often advised women to tell doctors treating them for complications that they are simply having a miscarriage, this last is an

See "Check," page 40

Register to Vote, Then Vote for Life!

By Suzanne Kimble

This article is to remind pro-lifers of the importance of electing pro-lifers this November in the 2018 off-year elections. But as the last week has illustrated, electing a pro-life president is critically important because of the power to nominate justices to the Supreme Court.

With the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, President Trump chose Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be his successor. The Senate has a very important role. Once the president nominates a justice, he/she must be confirmed by a majority vote in the Senate. The more pro-life senators we have, the less opportunity pro-abortion senators have to drag out, even defeat, an outstanding nominee.

Electing pro-life candidates to the House and Senate makes it possible to pass pro-life legislation. This sounds basic—and it is—but it something people tend to forget.

As a consequence voter turnout is, unfortunately, low.

According to the Pew Research Center, "55.7% of the U.S. voting-age population cast ballots in the 2016 presidential election. Traditionally the turnout for non-presidential year elections is considerably smaller. In 2014, for example, just 36.4% of eligible voters turned out.

Pro-life participation can and must be far better than that. Babies' lives depend on it.

The U.S. Constitution allows voting requirements to be largely determined by the individual states. For the most part, early in our nation's history only white men with property could vote. Now, all U.S. citizens age 18 and over may vote, provided they meet state requirements. Although we have the right to vote, many people tend to forget it is also a privilege that should not be taken for granted but exercised.

The first step is registering to vote. An amazing number of people are not eligible to vote, either because they never registered in the first place or because they have moved and failed to update their records.

Wondering how to register to vote? Follow this link to National Right to Life's website and it will provide you with step by step instructions of how to register in your state. http://nrlc.capwiz.com/election/register_vote/

Note that registration deadlines vary widely, with many states setting them about a month in advance of the election. So be on the safe side and register now.

Already registered? Encourage your pro-life friends and family to register. You can also sponsor a voter registration drive at your local church or in your community.

In this election year, and in every election year, your vote matters. Remember that your vote not only gives you a voice, but it also provides a voice for the voiceless.

This November, get out and vote for life!

Bi-partisan Down Syndrome Protection Act Gaining Support in Pennsylvania

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

A move to protect children with Down syndrome in Pennsylvania continues to receive an outpouring of support.

The Keystone State is one of a number of states poised to take legal steps to guarantee the safety of children with Down syndrome. House Bill 2050 would ban abortion if performed for the sole reason of a Down syndrome diagnosis.

This good work has not gone unnoticed. Week after week, I hear from individuals with family members who have Down syndrome who are touched by the efforts of Pennsylvania lawmakers to ensure that children with special needs are cherished and nurtured.

A recent article which appeared in both the ***Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*** and the ***Philadelphia Inquirer*** referred to the measure as highly controversial. Aside from the fact that the remark breached journalistic standards by inserting opinion into what is suppose to be a news article, the claim is factually untrue. House Bill 2050 passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by a huge bipartisan, veto-proof majority of 139-56.

The Speaker of the House, who is also the bill's sponsor (Rep. Mike Turzai), rightly took offense to this mischaracterization. "Highly controversial" bills do not garner such widespread support in the Pennsylvania legislature.

One of the reasons that the Down Syndrome Protection Act has engendered so much good will is that it is truly a disability rights bill. Preserving the rights of children with Down syndrome means ensuring that they are not aborted simply because of a prenatal diagnosis.

Advocates for the legislation have established a website, ProtectAtDiagnosis.com, which is filled with stories of people with Down syndrome leading amazing lives.

Consider the story of Olivia of Millersburg, PA. Her biography states, "Even people who meet her for the first time often seem glad to say 'hi' to her--she seems to attract people. She will often notice and greet older people or someone who is sitting alone and possibly a little downcast."

Or Zach from Brookhaven, PA, who has accomplished a number of noteworthy athletic feats: "Zach is a black belt in Karate. He is an equestrian and has participated at the Devon horse-show. He is very active in special Olympics and works three days a week at HandiCrafters. He is a productive member of the community and volunteers at a retirement community 2 times a week."

Or Mary from Harrisburg, PA, whose mother is a good friend of mine: "Mary is the sixth of seven children, with five older brothers and one younger sister. She is currently enrolled in a special program at a university in Pennsylvania. She enjoys music and singing."

Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania Senate recessed for the summer before taking up House Bill 2050. That is why it is vitally important for Pennsylvania residents to contact their state Senators and urge them to support this groundbreaking bill by going to www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#address .

The lives of people with Down syndrome are incredibly precious and deserve to be protected.

People such as Olivia, Zach, and Mary contribute greatly to our families and our communities. The least we can do is to ensure that the next generations of children with special needs are protected in law.

With your help we won't let the haters win

From page 2

As I wrote immediately after Judge Kavanaugh was announced, it would not be my intention to get into the mud with what will be a legion of critics who will do and say and infer anything to besmirch the reputation of Judge Kavanaugh.

But some things you can't let slide by.

Right out of the box, the usual suspects and their media allies were really annoyed that Kavanaugh is (as *USA Today's* Richard Wolf put it) a nominee "straight out of central casting."

Forget that "On paper, Brett Michael Kavanaugh may be the most qualified Supreme Court nominee in generations," as Wolf wrote. That means nothing to pro-abortion Senate Democrats like Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Dick Durbin (D-Il.).

Kavanaugh would offend them, it would seem, just by breathing. To start with he's the kind of guy who serves Mac and Cheese to the homeless. Worse yet, he is a faithful Catholic. And worst of all (for now) is that when President Trump announced his nomination, Judge Kavanaugh said good things about the women in his life. (Is there no end to his perfidies?)

That caused the pro-abortion feminists to blow a gasket. Their leap of logic was not just stupid, it was vicious and grotesquely unfair even by their standards.

The long and the short of the attack is, sure, sure, a guy can be wonderful to his wife, daughters, and mother, and be an ideal judicial mentor that goes out of his way to boost the careers of females by choosing them as clerks.

So what, we're told. In fact, that should work **against** him!

Pardon? "Plenty of powerful men, we've learned in the past year, can have wonderful relationships with some women and terrible ones with women at large," huffs Monica Hess whom the *Washington Post* recently chose (I am not kidding) to be its "first gender columnist."

Get it? Who knows, Judge Kavanaugh may be a secret Harvey Weinstein.

That there is not a shred of evidence that this is true (just the opposite, in fact) is beside the point.

Or, look at another way, it **is** the point. Smears, guilt-by-association, and other left-overs from the McCarthy era are just fine if employed by Senate Democrats, the pro-abortion Movement, and their allies in places like the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

It's enough to give double standards a bad name.

The personal attacks on Justice Thomas did not begin in earnest until after he had squeaked through the Judiciary Committee on a 9-9 vote. This time around, the anti-liberal Liberals haven't waited a week.

I so hope you are contributing to National Right to Life so that NRLC can mobilize grassroots citizens in key states to contact their senators and urge them to support Judge Kavanaugh (see page four). As NRLC President Carol Tobias explained this past week, to carry out these plans, we need to initially secure $500,000 and then quickly raise another $500,000 as a first step in raising the resources we need to fight Planned Parenthoods, NARAL, the pro-abortion leadership of Senate Democrats, and the Media Establishment.

Please consider an emergency sacrificial gift of $500 or $250, or whatever you can afford.

We can't let the haters win.

Wesley Smith warns NRLC 2018 about campaign to force pro-lifers out of medicine

By Dave Andrusko

After listening to pro-life bioethicist Wesley J. Smith at Saturday's open general session of NRLC 2018, you came away fully aware that the title—"Will pro-life doctors and nurses be driven out of Medicine?"—accurately conveys the hoped for objective of anti-life forces.

Protecting the right of conscience was a prominent theme of the three-day convention in Kansas City, Kansas. Smith's step-by-step explanation of the worldwide threat against conscience perfectly complemented the remarks of Roger Severino at a Thursday night general session, Severino, Director of the Office of Civil Rights at HHS, said Thursday night, Trump is already the most pro-life President in American history. In explaining how and why Severino talked at length about the much under-reported threat to religious liberty and the right of conscience and what the Trump Administration is doing about it.

For example, *NRL News Today* readers remember that earlier this year the Department of Health and Human Services created a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in the HHS Office for Civil Rights. This is a very, very important move.

As NRLC president Carol Tobias explained at the time, "Rights of conscience are extremely important to the right-to-life movement to protect medical professionals, religious institutions, and employers from being forced to participate in abortion."

NRLC commended the Trump Administration for creating the new Division that will focus on enforcement of and compliance with existing laws that protect conscience. Tobias added, "We are pleased to see this new division in the face of a growing number of actions by some state governments to compel participation in abortions by health care providers and others, and because the Obama Administration had effectively adopted a non-enforcement policy with respect to existing federal conscience-protection laws."

In response *The New York Times* published what was (even by their over-the-top standards) a hysterical editorial informing readers that the Trump Administration "puts the Bible above the Hippocratic Oath." Of course, the *Times* conveniently overlooks that the Hippocratic Oath forbade physicians from giving women abortifacients.

Both Severino and Smith emphasized that there are laws on the books but under President Obama, they were not enforced. However even with a new administration that is dedicated to protecting the right of conscience, more must be done.

Jennifer Popik, JD, NRLC's Federal Legislation Director, told the morning's general session audience about "The Conscience Protection Act." The Act would prohibit any level of government from mandating that health care providers participate in abortion. It would protect doctors, nurses, hospitals, and health plans (and employers who purchase the plans). Most importantly, the bill empowers those who are affected by abortion mandates to file private lawsuits in federal courts.

Smith, the author of many books, including most recently "The Culture of Death: The Age of 'Do Harm' Medicine," outlined the rapid expansion in Europe and Canada of the "right" to assisted suicide which includes coercing unwilling physicians. The actions of the Canadian province of Ontario is the canary in the coalmine not just for Canadians but for all who are under siege by the likes of "Compassion & Choices."

As Smith wrote in a post at National Review Online, Ontario "has passed a law formally legalizing lethal injection euthanasia. And it will force all provincial doctors to be complicit by either doing the deed themselves to all legally qualified patients who request to be killed, or by tasking them with procuring a death doctor."

Just in the last month, barely after a referendum had passed in Ireland doing away with its protective 8th Amendment to the Constitution, the Minister of Health announced that if they receive any governmental funding, Catholic hospitals must perform abortions or refer a woman to someone they know who will (so-called "effective referral"). As Smith correctly observed, prior to the referendum vote, that possibility was never raised by proponents of gutting the 8th.

Smith contended the objective of pro-death forces is clear: to drive out pro-life doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and midwives out of medicine.

Euthanasia Hurts Palliative Care in Quebec

By Wesley J. Smith

Legalizing euthanasia can stunt the palliative-care sector. The Netherlands, for example, has traditionally performed comparatively poorly in this field. Indeed, one doctor once infamously said he didn't need palliative care when he had euthanasia.

Now, in Quebec, the head of provincial medical association — who supports euthanasia — warns that some patients have been forced to "choose" to be killed because they couldn't access quality palliative care. From the McLean's story:

> **Provincial foot-dragging on plans to substantially expand palliative care services is actually denying patients the very choice that was promised in the shift to MAiD, and making it increasingly problematic to discern which patients truly wanted to have a doctor deliberately end their life, [Collège des Médicins President, Dr. Charles] Bernard says.**
>
> **"In certain identified cases, patients, for the lack of (palliative) care, might have had no choice but to ask for medical assistance in dying to end their days 'in dignity,' which deeply concerns us," the Collège president tells the minister.**
>
> **Worse, he adds, the Collège has been hearing increasing concerns from its member doctors about re-direction of already scarce resources from palliative care to medical assistance in dying, which risks a violation of both the letter and the spirit of Quebec's law governing end-of-life care.**

Paint my expression as completely unsurprised. The delivery of proper palliative care requires specialized training and can be very labor intensive. The most difficult cases may demand a great deal of inadequately compensated time from the doctor. Euthanasia doesn't require anything like that kind of expertise.

Indeed, the *least* trained or most inept doctors in dealing with serious conditions are quite capable of providing death. Jack Kevorkian was a pathologist with no experience after medical school and residency in treating living patients.

In California, the Life Legal Defense Foundation learned in a lawsuit that a large percentage of lethal prescriptions in California have been written by Lonnie Shavelson — a euthanasia crusader, not board certified in any specialty, much of whose medical career he spent as a part-time ER doctor, and who mostly pursued journalistic endeavors in recent years rather than treating patients.

Defenders of assisted suicide will respond to that charge by saying that prescribing morphine increased after legalization in Oregon — which is true. But it also increased in Rhode Island after that state outlawed assisted suicide and provided greater legal protections for doctors who prescribe strong pain-controlling drugs.

Besides, I believe that legalizing assisted suicide — *by definition* — denies many of those who die by lethal overdose or lethal jab of essential palliative services.

Defenders of assisted suicide will respond to that charge by saying that many patients who take prescribed poison were in hospice. True. But *they were denied suicide prevention intervention*, an essential hospice service — as much a part of good palliative care as prescribing morphine.

Bottom line: Hospice/palliative care and euthanasia/assisted suicide are mutually exclusive. One cares. The other kills.

Editor's note. Wesley's fine columns appear at National Review Online and are reposted with the author's permission.

NRLC 2018 shows how we "Love Them All"

From page 1

We will find ways at this convention, she promised, to "Love them all."

Mary Kay Culp,executive director of Kansans for Life, and author Sue Ellen Browder
Photo credit: Lisa Andrusko

In the opening general session, Dr. George Delgado, medical Director of Abortion Pill Reversal and Culture of Life Family Services, offered a terrific overview of the mounting evidence that Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) is safe, effective, and appreciated by women who have changed their mind in the course of undergoing a chemical abortion.

The promise of APR is that as many as 68% of the women who do not take the second drug carry their babies to term. These are in a real sense "abortion survivors."

Carol Tobias, NRLC President, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, NRLC's Director of Outreach Ernie Ohlhoff, and EWTN President Doug Keck.
Photo credit: Lisa Andrusko

So, too, in a different way are Sarah Zagorski, Dan Compton, and Melissa Ohden, who spoke at "The Human Face of Abortion" General Session later on Thursday. Their stories were riveting and illustrated that while not common, there are abortion survivors whose living testimonies often leave pro-abortionists speechless.

There was much encouraging news about the movie that's been made about convicted abortionist Kermit Gosnell—"Gosnell: The Trial of America's biggest serial murder." The film does have a distributor, we learned from Executive Producer John Sullivan, and the goal is to be in theatres this coming October. Stay tuned to *NRL News* and *NRL News Today* for further information about dates and locations.

In addition to fellowship and camaraderie, which are key to all successful gatherings, during the course of the convention attendees were the recipients of a crash course in everything from the 2018 off-year-election, to raising funds for local and state right to life groups, to Planned Parenthood's tentacles of death, to a history of China's "One-Child" policy which China is moderating slightly in light of the disastrous impact on the culture, and everything in between.

Kelsey Hazzard explained the secular case for the right to life
Photo credit: Lisa Andrusko

A wonderful convention. Next week we will be posting information about how you can order convention CDs and MP3s.

Be sure to order them. It's the next best thing to being there.

The mounting evidence that Abortion Pill Reversal is safe, effective, and appreciated by women

By Dave Andrusko

One of the most exciting developments in the last few years is the growing evidence that not only does Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) work, it is safe for the mother and unborn child.

Speaking at the opening session of NRLC 2018, Dr. George Delgado, medical Director of APR and Culture of Life Family Services, told his audience in layman's terms how a chemical abortion can be reversed. Very briefly, if the woman changes her mind after taking the first of the two drugs (mifepristone) but not the second (misoprostol), there is up to a 68% chance she can save her baby by having a vigorous regimen of progesterone administered.

Dr. Delgado laid out the "three pillars" that undergird the case that APR is successful, safe, and pleases mothers and tracked the history of APR. He gently pointed out how pro-abortion critics simply are not honestly explaining the numbers that document APR's success.

Dr. George Delgado

For example, they inflate the number of pregnancies that will successfully go to term if the second drug is not taken but also in the case where no progesterone is administered. Why? To suggest the difference APR makes is far less than research have proven it to be.

Dr. Delgado alluded the research he and his colleagues published in *Issues in Law and Medicine*. Among other important components to the study, it addressed a primary pro-abortion criticism—that previous studies were too small. This one followed 547 women.

Interesting enough, there are far fewer premature births with babies who are rescued using APR than is ordinarily the case. The incidence of birth defects, very small, is the same.

A fascinating general session which has enormous significance in light of the growing percentage of chemical abortions.

Sound of mother's voice boosts brain growth in premature babies

By SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

A possible solution to premature babies language difficulties

Pro-lifers have long known that unborn babies respond to sounds from as early as the fourth month after conception – including their mother's heartbeat and voice. Indeed, studies in the 1980s found that babies learn to recognise their mothers' voices and even recognise stories that are read to them in the womb.

But there's also evidence that the mother's voice plays an important part in shaping the brain for hearing and language development.

Born too soon

Babies born prematurely are more than twice as likely to have difficulty hearing and processing words than those carried to full-term. Once babies in the womb start to hear, they mostly hear low frequency sounds, such as their mother's heartbeat, and the melody and rhythm of her voice. Researchers believe that the introduction of melody and rhythm of speech to a baby, prior to hearing individual words, may be a key part of early language acquisition that gets disrupted when a baby is born early.

This theory has received support when researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston asked the parents of forty premature babies in incubators to take part in an experiment. Half of the mothers made recordings of themselves reading and singing, which, along with audio of their heartbeats, was played to their babies for three hours a day. The other half received standard care, only hearing routine hospital noise.

The power of a mother's voice

After 30 days, they compared ultrasound images of the brains of both groups. The researchers found that those infants who heard the maternal sounds had a significantly larger auditory cortex—the part of the brain that controls hearing and processing of sounds—compared with that of the other babies. Hearing their mother's voice rather than environmental noise actually boosted the babies' brains.

"The results of this study suggest that in the case of babies born prematurely, exposure to maternal sounds may set the auditory cortex of the brain on the right trajectory for completing its maturation outside the womb," explained study co-author Amir Lahav, ScD., assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

It also confirms what pro-lifers have known all along – that mothers and babies have a special bond long before birth!

A magnificent month for the Pro-Life Movement

From page 2

to force individuals to "be an instrument for fostering public adherence to an ideological point of view [they] fin[d] unacceptable." It is forward thinking to begin by reading the First Amendment as ratified in 1791; to understand the history of authoritarian government as the Founders then knew it; to confirm that history since then shows how relentless authoritarian regimes are in their attempts to stifle free speech; and to carry those lessons onward as we seek to preserve and teach the necessity of freedom of speech for the generations to come. Governments must not be allowed to force persons to express a message contrary to their deepest convictions. Freedom of speech secures freedom of thought and belief. This law imperils those liberties.

Please take time to read this 41-page edition in its entirety and pass along stories to your pro-life friends and family. There is so much in this July issue of the "pro-life newspaper of record." Here are just a few examples.

On page 3, NRLC President Carol Tobias tells us "Elections are coming and we need to win!" Indeed, with critically important mid-term elections coming up this November, we turned to Political Director Karen Cross to give us an overview of key Senate races (pages 9 and 21).

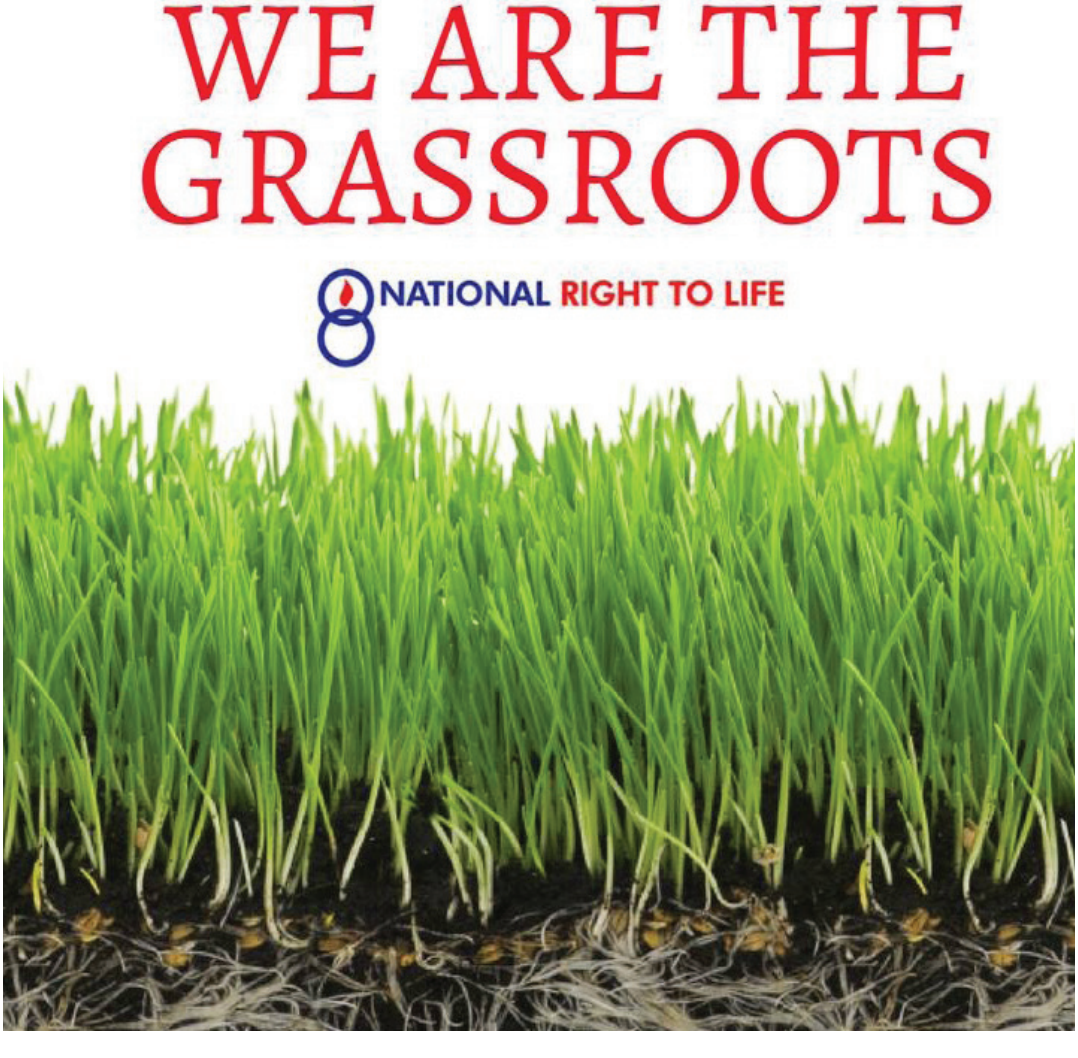
There is just this precious story we are reposting on page 5. A mom had twins, Harper and Quinn, and there was just a one in a million chance that one would have Down syndrome. Rather than listen to the nonsense that people should feel "sorry" for her, the British mother said, "I don't see Harper as any different to my other children and would not change her for the world.

On page 20, Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, NRLC director of Education & Research, provides his monthly debunking of spurious pro-abortion claims of abortion's "safety." There are many other stories in the issue in which we take the Abortion Industry to task (see, for example, pages 6, 11, and 16).

Thank you again for reading *NRL News*. Please drop me a line with your thoughts at daveandrusko@gmail.com. Your feedback is essential.

And be sure to help NRLC thwart the pro-abortion campaign to stop the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh (page 4).

Thank you!



"Loving them all" and "The Human Face of Abortion"

By Melissa Ohden

Editor's note. In 1977 Melissa survived a saline infusion abortion. She has written many times for NRL News Today and NRL News.

"Love them all" was the theme of the 2018 NRLC Convention in Kansas City, Kansas, which, coincidentally, is my home. I was thrilled to see so many friends and colleagues from my community at this year's three-day event.

When we think of "loving them all," I'm sure most of us have similar thought. We love the women driven to abortion AND their unborn children. We love the men who often play a role in an abortion decision being made. We love the families who are, tragically, affected by abortion for generations, unless there is healing that occurs. We love those with life-changing and life-threatening health issues or disabilities, whether they're in the womb, at the end of a life long-lived, or somewhere in between.

On Thursday, "The Human Face of Abortion" General Session, moderated by the Honorable Lynda Bell offered a panel consisting of three abortion survivors: Dan Compton, Sarah Zagorski, and myself. As I participated, another realization struck me. We weren't just speaking that day about our experiences to put our individual face to the issue of abortion.

Nor were we only exemplifying the critical importance of loving the women and men, children and families impacted by abortion. All of us gathered at the Convention also acknowledged that we must love even the abortionists and clinic workers who are a part of the abortion industry.

We know they have built walls of justification and rationalization that enables them to do the awful work that they do. We love them enough to put a face to what they've done to us and break down those walls. We love them enough to want more for them than to traffic in the blood of unborn babies and their mothers' misery. We love them enough to pray for them.

Maybe I'm alone in thinking about this during our panel, but many thanks to Dan Compton, a fellow Kansas Citian, for sharing his story. For reasons we will never know, abortionist George Tiller spared his life by refusing to complete an abortion on his biological mother. As Dan shared how Tiller housed his birthmother the last few months of her pregnancy and ultimately delivered Dan at birth, I couldn't help but think that there was more to Dr. Tiller than the 50,000 abortions he had once boasted about performing.

Dan is not the first child that I've heard about Dr. Tiller sparing. Was there an ulterior motive that wasn't loving in nature on his part when he took such actions? I don't know, nor will we ever. God knows his heart and whether he repented.

What I do know is that for whatever was his motivation, Tiller showed mercy to Dan in a way that my birthmother's abortionist didn't to me. Only God and those who fought for me once I was delivered alive were merciful to me.

Dan's story of being rescued, of being redeemed and restored through his adoption and later sobriety after a decade of struggle with drugs, is a powerful one. My greatest takeaway, though, was the reminder that when we "love them all," that includes those in the abortion industry, difficult as that is.

I can't help but wonder, if Tiller was still alive today, would he have been converted to a pro-life position? The life of Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of NARAL, reminds us that conversion and repentance is, indeed, possible.

I feel a kindred connection to Dan in this respect. Although my birthmother's abortionist had long been deceased, I would have been grateful for the opportunity to reach out to him, to let him know that in spite of all that I've experienced, I was not hateful towards him. I would have loved the opportunity to hear his perspective about if and how my survival affected him.

Thanks again, Dan, and Sarah, for sharing your stories, and to Kansans for Life and NRLC for an outstanding Convention. From the conversations that I had with others, attendees were informed, inspired and energized, just as I was.

Planned Parenthood drives up abortion numbers in Minnesota

By Paul Stark

ST. PAUL — Abortions in Minnesota increased slightly in 2017 thanks to the state's leading performer and promoter of abortion. Planned Parenthood grew its own abortion total by 11 percent while non-Planned Parenthood abortion centers saw a 10 percent drop.

"Planned Parenthood likes to take credit when abortions go down," said MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "That's simply bizarre, because abortion is Planned Parenthood's business, and Planned Parenthood is dominating the market. No organization or group does more to keep abortion numbers high."

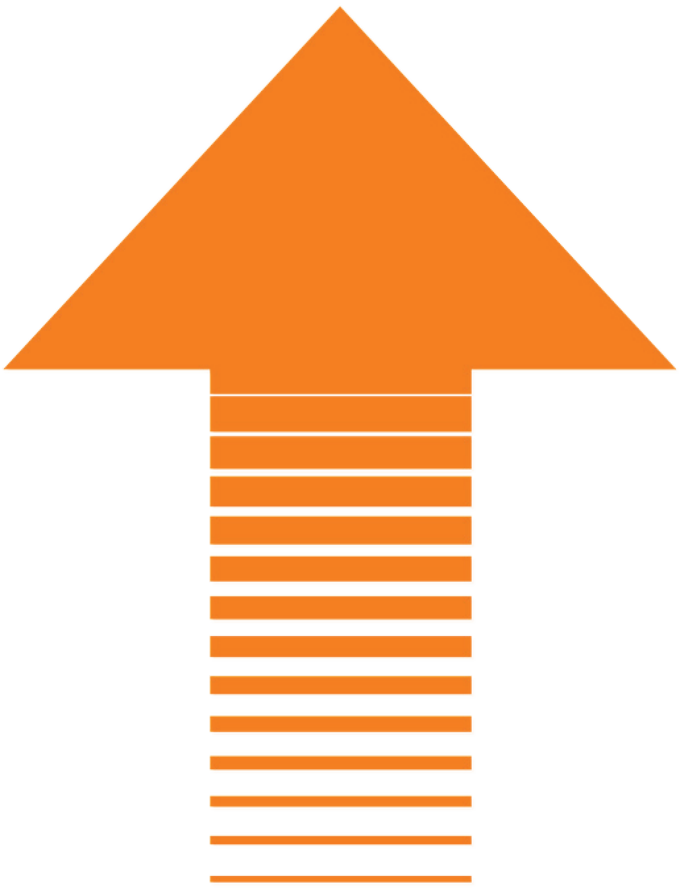
The Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) annual Abortion Report, released today, shows that 10,177 abortions took place in the state last year, a three percent increase since 2015, when abortions hit their lowest level since 1974. Despite the recent plateau, abortions in Minnesota have dropped 47 percent since their high in 1980.

Planned Parenthood, however, performed a record-high 6,234 abortions in 2017—giving the organization a record-high 61 percent share of the state's abortion market. It has increased its abortions by 58 percent just since 2008 (overall abortions in the state have dropped 21 percent over the same period) and doubled its market share.

Whole Woman's Health, the second leading provider of abortion, performed 2,012 abortions in 2017—a 15 percent decline compared to the previous year.

2017 data show some positive developments

Minor abortions dropped from 292 in 2016 to 248 in 2017, just 2.4 percent of all abortions. With the help of Minnesota's 1981 parental notification law, abortions on minors have plummeted 89 percent from their 1980 peak of 2,327.



A total of 11,338 women received Woman's Right to Know informed consent information in 2017. That means 1,161 women opted against abortion after receiving information about risks and alternatives.

"Woman's Right to Know and Minnesota's other pro-life laws continue to empower women and save lives from abortion," said Fischbach. "But more pro-life measures are needed to reduce abortions further and counteract Planned Parenthood's influence. That's why getting a pro-life governor—someone who will sign pro-life legislation into law—is so crucial."

Full reports for 2017 and prior years are available at the MDH website.

The following is additional information concerning "Induced Abortions in Minnesota January – December 2017: Report to the Legislature," released June 29, 2018, by the Minnesota Department of Health

The total number of reported abortions performed in Minnesota since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortion on demand: 639,008

Chemical (non-surgical) abortion is becoming more and more prevalent as an abortion method. Chemical abortions using the drug mifepristone (RU486) accounted for an all-time high of 39% of all abortions in 2017—up from 35% in 2016

Suction was still the most common abortion procedure, used in 53% of abortions (down from 56% in 2016). Dilation and evacuation (dismemberment) abortion, the primary second-trimester method, was used in 696 abortions (down from 861 in 2016)

The number of abortions at 20 weeks gestation or later fell from 241 in 2016 to 223 in 2017. The latest abortion was performed at 26 weeks (same as 2016)

49 different people performed abortions in 2017 (a decline from 118 in 2016). Minnesota's 5 abortion centers performed 99% of all abortions in the state

41% of women who received an abortion in 2017 had at least one prior abortion (up from 40% in 2016)

Reasons women gave for their abortions (more than one reason could be given):

- Less than 1% rape or incest (consistent with past years)

See "Minnesota," page 34

The war on the right of conscience and the next Supreme Court nominee

By Dave Andrusko

As the day drew near when pro-life President Donald Trump announced his selection of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, the flurry of hostile articles—already mountainous—grew even larger.

Among the more blatantly unfair stories appeared in the *New York Times* (what else is new?) and was headlined, "How Conservatives Weaponized the First Amendment." Another more intriguing (and far fairer) analysis appeared in the *Washington Post* written by Amy Goldstein. Her story ("Religious liberty becomes a main focus for conservatives in Supreme Court nomination") talked about how important the nominee's judicially-expressed attitude toward religious liberty would be in the selection.

What does this have to do with us as single-issue pro-lifers?

I cannot emphasize enough how important freedom of conscience is. Not surprisingly, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput may have put it best in remarks he once prepared for the annual March for Life.

The "abortion struggle," he wrote

> **teaches a very useful lesson. Evil talks a lot about 'tolerance' when it's weak. When evil is strong, real tolerance gets pushed out the door. And the reason is simple. Evil cannot bear the counter-witness of truth. It will not co-exist peacefully with goodness, because evil insists on being seen as right, and worshiped as being right. Therefore, the good must be made to seem hateful and wrong.**
>
> **The very existence of people who refuse to accept evil and who seek to act virtuously burns the conscience of those who don't. And so, quite logically, people who march and lobby and speak out to defend the unborn child will be – and are – reviled by leaders and media and abortion activists that turn the right to kill an unborn child into a shrine to personal choice. …**
>
> **Now abortion is not just a right, but a right that claims positive dignity, the license to demonize its opponents and the precedence to interfere with constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, assembly and religion. We no longer tolerate abortion. We venerate it as a totem."**

Opposition to this evil—and abortion **is** evil—cannot be dismissed as something that merely sticks in the abortion advocate's craw, although surely it does. It is much, **much** more than that.

Consider the nightmarish prospect of a President Hillary Clinton when even a pretense at "tolerance" would be

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia

abandoned. There is virtually no end to the mischief her administration would've inflicted on those of us who refuse to be complicit—in any fashion—with the Abortion Industry's ceaseless campaign to increase the carnage.

You might ask what fuels this passion for death?

For one thing, more dead babies and more emotionally maimed mothers mean more revenue for Planned Parenthood. You don't become a $1.5 **billion** dollar "non-profit" if you don't work overtime to make sure more mothers end their babies' today than did yesterday.

For another, as Archbishop Chaput made clear, opposition is a standing rebuke to the moral supremacy the Abortion Industry affects. Speaking out against abortion is an offense because abortion must be seen as a positive good, essential to female equality.

That is why the campaign to have women "talk about their abortions" is so essential to the Abortion Establishment. They believe that the more people hear these stories, the more they will be desensitized to what is done to helpless babies when the abortionist plies his bloody trade.

The irony is, as we have pointed out dozens of times, that these accounts so often boomerang. When women (and men) feel free to talk about their real feelings, of course some will rant and rave against pro-lifers.

But more often than not in their reflections you cannot miss the pain and hurt and regret and remorse. (It is important to remember that often the physical pain of undergoing a chemical abortion is almost unbelievable.)

"Conservatives," of course, is media shorthand that sweeps in pro-lifers, as if we all are conservative. But that garbled miscategorization is secondary to the terrible lie that to protect freedom of conscience is to "Weaponize the First Amendment."

It is nothing of the sort. It is to stand up to bullies who, when they are in power, will do everything humanly possible to mangle the warp and woof of the First Amendment.

Roe v. Wade, the "Cave Boys," and the stain of abortion on our national character

By Dave Andrusko

I'm sure I was but one of tens, if not hundreds of millions of people who checked their I-pads and Droids and laptops every hour or so to hear the latest updates about the 12 teenage soccer players and their coach trapped in a cave in Thailand.

The good—make that wonderful, even miraculous—news is that all were saved.

Columnist Mona Charen wrote a fascinating piece titled, "What the Cave Boys Teach about Abortion."

She asks this pointed and provocative question: why so much attention to these boys, ages 11-16, when there is so much mass misery in the world?

> **We saw images of these particular boys crouched in that cave. We learned of the long odds against a successful rescue – their debilitated health after so many days without food and water, the sharp rocks, narrow passages, and nearly complete darkness of the cave, and waters that challenged even experienced divers (as the death of a Thai Navy seal underscored). Some of the boys didn't even know how to swim, far less scuba dive. ….We saw those boys as individuals and thus our sympathy was engaged.**

What is the connection to abortion? Stay with me for two more paragraphs.

The miracle—and even now I think of it as a kind of miracle—of ultrasound, its power of revelation. It has utterly changed the way many-to-most of us relate to unborn children.

When my wife and I saw the first ultrasound of our first child back in 1983, I have to admit (now, not then) that I didn't see much of anything; the technology was that primitive.

Cave or Womb?
Photo credit: shutterstock.com

Not now! "Once grainy and hard to interpret for non-experts, ultrasound images are now clear and unambiguous," Charen writes. "They reveal that fetuses as young as 15 weeks old will move to avoid a bright light shined on the mother's belly. They reveal fetuses placing their hands in front of their faces, palm out, sucking their thumbs, getting hiccups, and smiling. Some interpret these smiles as random muscle movements rather than true smiles since born babies rarely smile until six weeks old. But try telling the besotted parents who glimpse a smile on a sonogram that it means nothing. That's the way we're wired.

"Ultrasound is like those cameras in the cave. It reveals the humanity of those inside a dark, inaccessible place." She adds, "And some women report not feeling pregnant until they've seen the ultrasound image."

Her point is reinforced by Malcolm Nicolson, who authored a history of ultrasound. Nicolson told *LiveScience*, "Overwhelmingly, pregnant women expect to be scanned, and are moved and excited by seeing the fetus."

If you are a hard-core, dyed-in-the-wool, never-say-live pro-abortionist, all of this is just hooey. Who cares if the unborn child is no longer shrouded, out of sight, out of mind? What difference does it make that it is impossible to deny our common humanity? So what if the unborn child moves and tumbles and (if a twin) jostles with his/her sibling—and all in plain view?

But to the rest of us, it raises the moral ante by making it increasingly difficult to rationalize the execution of our own children as nothing more than an abstract exercise of "choice."

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor walked to the brink of recognizing the insanity of abortion before retreating. But her point in a dissent rings even more true today than in her 1983 dissent in *Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*: "The Roe framework , then, is clearly on a collision course with itself."

Justice O'Connor was referring to the three trimester framework Justice Blackmun concocted in *Roe v. Wade*. But the entirety of *Roe* is on a collision course with improved medical technology, a more aware public, and a growing realization that abortion is a horrible abomination, a dark stain on our national character.

Roe must, and will, go!

"Comedian" says abortion "should be on the dollar menu at McDonald's!"

By Dave Andrusko

Writing for *The Daily Beast*, Matt Wilstein opines, "This is why it's so important to have women hosts in late-night television." Before we get to the "what," what is the "why"?

"In a segment that could never have been delivered by her male counterparts, Michelle Wolf responded to the news of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement on this week's episode of [her Netflix show] *The Break* by clearing up some common misconceptions about abortion in America."

Of course, Wolf doesn't clear up anything except for those few souls who cling to the hope there are some limits to how far pro-abortionists will sink. Answer? There are no limits.

Wolf took the occasion of the 4th of July weekend to dress up in a red, white, and blue outfit to pronounce "Look, access to abortion is good and important. Some people say abortion is 'killing a baby.' It's not. It's stopping a baby from happening. It's like 'Back to the Future' and abortion is the DeLorean. And everyone loves DeLoreans."

This is the same Wolf who back in April unloaded on pro-life Vice President Mike Pence at the White House Correspondents' dinner in Washington, D.C. and (in an even more ugly fashion) on White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders. You may remember that after about ten minutes of mild criticism, the Establishment Media decided this stream-of-consciousness vulgarity was not foul-mouthed and tasteless but a marvelous example of "speaking truth to power."

(By the way, what if any 'comedian' lobbed volley after volley of vile personal attacks at President Obama, his wife or daughters, Vice President Biden, or any of Obama's White House spokespeople, would the usual suspects hail her or him as a guardian of the people's "right to know"? I'm guessing not.)

Michelle Wolf
Photo by Erin Nekervis

A couple of related thoughts. It is (as they say) no accident that talentless "comedians" like Wolf and Samantha Bee (and throw in Kathy Griffin) are out front at the same time members of the Trump administration are routinely harassed when they risk going out in public. (This applies to pro-life Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, too.)

Given a pass by a sympathetic, compliant, and ever more hysterical media, they push the boundaries not just of taste (that's LONG since gone) but intimations of violence.

Second, what do we make of this (quoting Wilstein quoting Wolf)?

> **"Abortion shouldn't be a luxury," she said. "It shouldn't be the new, 'I summer in Montauk.' It should be on the dollar menu at McDonald's!"**
>
> **Wolf ended her July 4th weekend show with a salute to abortion, complete with a marching band, balloons and confetti. "Women, don't forget: you have the power to give life!" she concluded. "And men will try to control that. Don't let them! God bless abortions and god bless America!"**

Has she merely gone off the deep end? Is it just a way to push more people who think (to use the word loosely) like she does to her Netflix show? Probably both, but it's much more.

If you think about it, the irony is enough to knock you off your chair.

The same people who drone on about pro-life self-righteousness are so steeped in their own invincible sense of superiority they will say anything both to show that they are beyond criticism and to dehumanize people like you and me who stick up for unborn babies.

Cruelty, vulgarity, and thinly veiled threats take the place of gentleness, common courtesy, and respect for persons.

They may persuade themselves this will carry the day. It may, with the tiny percentage of Americans who agree with them.

The rest of America? I think not.

Planned Parenthood drives up abortion numbers in Minnesota

From page 31

- 70% "does not want children at this time" (same percentage as 2016)
- 24% economic reasons (down from 29% in 2016)

Complications:

- 75 complications were reported at the time of the abortion procedure, including cervical laceration, hemorrhage, and uterine perforation (67 were reported in 2016)
- 57 post-operative complications were reported, including hemorrhage, infection, and "incomplete termination of pregnancy" (89 were reported in 2016)
- 3 abortions in 2017 resulted in a live birth; in none of the cases did the infant survive.

Abandoned 5 month old boy miraculously survives in remote mountain area

By Dave Andrusko

Newsbusters' John Sexton put it perfectly. In addition to the spectacular rescue of 12 teenage soccer players and their coach from a cave in Thailand, "There was another amazing rescue this week."

Here is the lead from *CNN's* story:

A sheriff's deputy who found a baby partially buried but alive in the mountains of Montana over the weekend says he lost his composure when he found the infant — and had just been on the verge of giving up hope the boy could be rescued.

Ross Jessop, a Missoula County sheriff's deputy, was scouring a wooded area in the western part of the state for the 5-month-old boy with other officers early Sunday, after a man told deputies the baby might be buried there.

It was believed the baby, found buried under a pile of sticks in a wet and soiled onesie, had been in the remote area for at least nine hours in 46 degree temperatures.

What triggered the hunt which brought together members of Missoula County Search and Rescue, the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Montana Highway Patrol, and Missoula County deputies? According to the sheriff's office statement the child had been in the care of a man later identified as Francis Carlton Crowley on Saturday.

"He was seen acting strangely near a small resort area known as Lolo Hot Springs," Sexton wrote. "Police were called around 8 pm but when they arrived Crowley was gone. Meanwhile, the responding deputies learned that Crowley had been watching an infant and the infant was now missing."

CNN reported that Crowley left the area before deputies arrived. According to the statement, "they learned that the baby who was supposed to be with him hadn't been seen for hours."

Crowley returned to the hot springs and was apprehended by police, the statement said. As deputies tried to question him, Crowley appeared to be under the influence of drugs and was not making sense to officers, it said.

Crowley made statements to officers saying the baby was possibly buried in the mountains, authorities said.

That's about as vague as you can get. So why the all-out search? "Because it was believed a life was at stake."

However by around 2am Sunday, after six long hours, the search party had all but given up hope. "All night long, I was preparing myself mentally to find a dead baby. … I was angry, kind of, at the time," Jessop told *HLN's* Mike Galanos on Tuesday afternoon. "I was losing my faith … that the baby was even alive."

Then, providentially—on a "whim"—Jessop and another officer walked uphill from where they had last seen some debris.

"When they were about to crest the hill, they paused to tell other officers by radio where they were," *CNN* reported."'And during the break in communications, we both heard the small whimpering of a child,'" Jessop recalled.

"I was so overcome with emotion that my cop instincts and my cop training … went away," Jessop said. "I just wrapped that baby up just like a father would any child in need."

"I have three kids myself, and I think without a question that hearing that little baby the other night brought to me more joy than even my own children coming into this world," he said.

The child has minor scrapes and bruises, but is in good condition, according to CNN affiliate KPAX. The baby was placed in the custody of the Montana Child and Family Services Division.

Jessop, at a news conference Tuesday afternoon, said when he picked up the child the baby had a sparkle in his eye. The deputy gave him a few kisses. The child was too fatigued to cry, the deputy said. The baby was cold and seemed distressed so officers draped a coat around him.

"He settled in pretty good. He was coughing a little bit, he actually coughed up a few sticks out of his mouth," Jessop said.

On a day like this: reflections on the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh

From page 1

candidate to fill a second vacancy on the nation's highest court.

On a day like this, you recall the pivotal importance of Mr. Trump's promise to nominate men and women to the Supreme Court "in the mold of the late, great Justice Antonin Scalia." Even the legion of media enemies who were and are most hostile to Trump and to the pro-life movement could not ignore *CNN*'s election night polling results.

Over one-fifth (21%) of all voters said appointments to the Supreme Court was the most important factor in their vote. How did they break?

56% to 41% for Trump.

On a day like this you recall what NRLC Executive Director Dr. David N. O'Steen told *NRL News* readers about the diametrically opposed commitments of Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton:

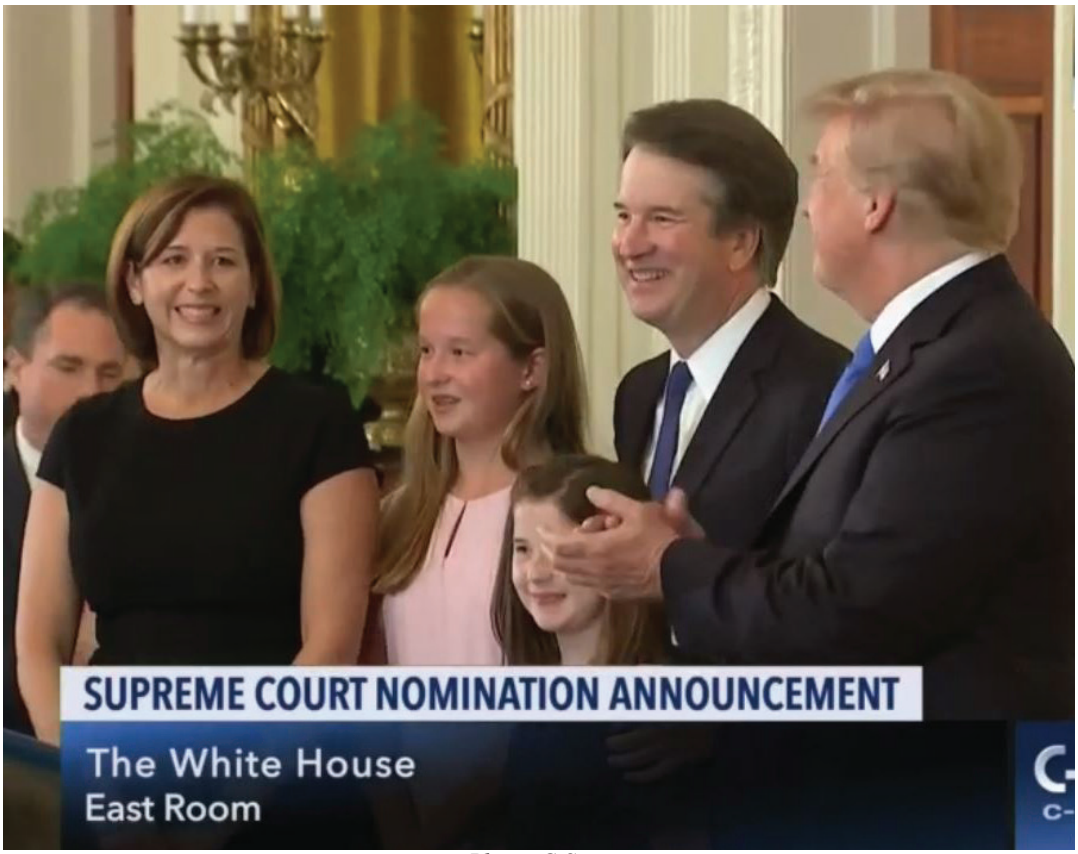


Photo: C-Span

Donald Trump gave 100% pro-life answers to National Right to Life's questions, met with pro-life leaders of National Right to Life and made campaign manager Kellyanne Conway, a strong, well-known pro-life advocate, a public face of his campaign. At the same time Hillary Clinton made seemingly countless appearances at Planned Parenthood events pledging over and over her fealty to their abortion agenda.

In the their third debate President Trump made what were perhaps the strongest pro-life statements ever made by a candidate to a national audience and called out Hillary Clinton on her past Senate vote in favor of partial-birth abortion. Hillary Clinton countered by continuing to defend her support for legal partial birth abortion, undoubtedly thinking that was a winning ticket.

How wrong she was.

And, finally, on a day like this we remember that had Mr. Trump not carried the day, unborn babies and their defenders would have felt the full fury of a woman who is dedicated to multiplying the number of abortions at home and abroad all funded by you.

Instead we have an administration whose pro-life accomplishments in less than 17 months we have documented over and over and over again.

Your work paid rich dividends for the cause of life.

Judge Kavanaugh's nomination and "What if?"

By Dave Andrusko

At about 9:08 on July 9, prolife President Donald Trump formally introduced Judge Brett Kavanaugh as his choice to be Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's successor.

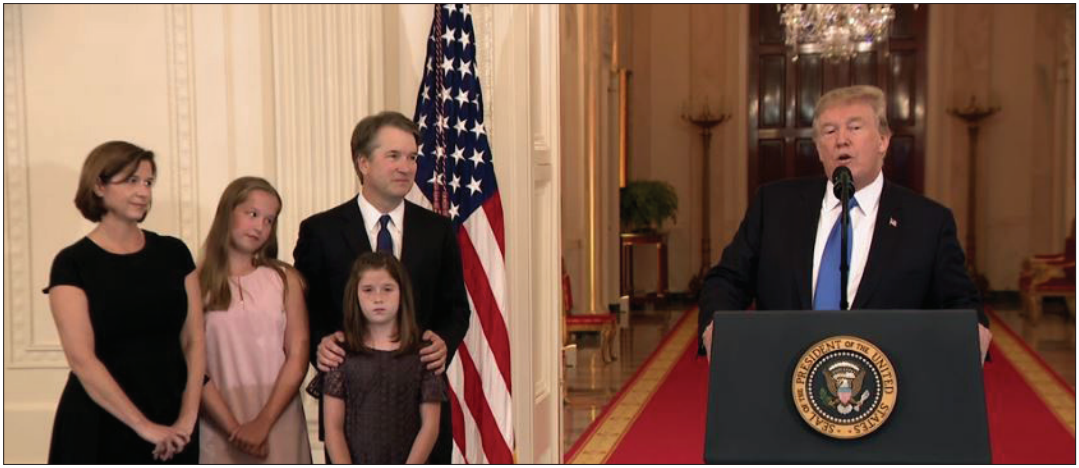
As delighted as I was, nonetheless I couldn't help but think "what if?" That is, what if Hillary Clinton had secured what she clearly felt was her due—the Presidency?

For one thing, ABC's *Nightline* would not have tweeted out 90 minutes before President Trump's announcement that Terry Moran would be"reporting on the controversial Supreme Court Justice pick and the possible implications for the country." It wasn't that *Nightline* was psychic. It was just that there is no one that President Trump could possibly have nominated who would not have been "controversial."

Of course Moran/*Nightline* were just dutifully following the pro-abortion line.

Pro-life Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) put it this way:

> **"[O]ur Democratic colleagues still haven't tired of crying wolf whenever a Republican president nominates anyone to the Supreme Court. We've seen the same movie time after time – after time…. So these far-left groups have been at these same scare tactics for more than forty years…. Decade after decade. Nominee after nominee. The far left's script hardly changes at all."**



For another, no nominee selected by a "President" Hillary Clinton would be described as Kavanaugh was by Douglas Johnson, senior policy adviser for National Right to Life, speaking to *National Review Online*: "Judge Kavanaugh's record, viewed as a whole, indicates a willingness to enforce the rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution, while otherwise leaving policymaking in the hands of elected legislators. Kavanaugh is exceptionally well qualified to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court — and like Neil Gorsuch, he will be subjected to a smear campaign by those on the Left who are addicted to the imposition of social policy by judicial decree."

A video released by Campus Reform confirmed what Majority Leader McConnell and Mr. Johnson predicted. It was highly amusing in one sense and prophetic in another.

Prior to Kavanaugh's nomination, Cabot Phillips, Media Director for Campus Reform, went to New York University "to ask students what they thought about who Trump had chosen to replace Justice Kennedy. Despite the fact that Trump's decision was still days away from being finalized, students unanimously condemned Trump's move, harshly criticizing the president's nonexistent nominee."

The students, unencumbered by actually knowing who they were talking about, described the as yet-to-be chosen nominee as "extremist." Another student chimed in, "I saw the new nominee is like racist, and he's starting a new wave of something very negative, and I'm really scared about the future and what choices he will make."

The stakes could not be higher in 2018

From page 9

North Dakota

North Dakota's pro-life Congressman Kevin Cramer is challenging pro-abortion Senator Heidi Heitkamp, who has a solid pro-abortion voting record, even voting against legislation to protect unborn children from abortion who can feel pain.

Shame on her!

Ohio

In Ohio, pro-abortion Senator Sherrod Brown has a long history of voting against pro-life legislation. Pro-life Congressman Jim Renacci is challenging Sen. Brown.

Senator Brown is so pro-abortion he even voted against the partial-birth abortion ban every chance he had.

Shame on him!

Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, Senator Bob Casey has a 20% pro-life voting record in the current Congress. Pro-life Congressman Lou Barletta is running against Sen. Casey.

Many of you may remember the strong pro-life position Bob Casey's dad took while governor of Pennsylvania.

Senator Casey is not his father.

While he claims to be pro-life, his actions speak louder than his words. He consistently votes to continue government funding for Planned Parenthood.

Shame on him

West Virginia

West Virginia's Senator Joe Manchin claims to be pro-life however his voting record in the 115th Congress is a pathetic 40%. Manchin will face pro-life Attorney General Patrick Morrisey in the general.

Senator Manchin consistently votes to allow funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider that performs 900 abortions every single day.

Manchin claims "not one dime of that money goes for abortion".

We don't care Senator. Money is fungible. Planned Parenthood receives more than a million dollars a day. They use that money to build more buildings, hire more staff and do more advertising, then more little girls walk through their doors and she pays for it, or her boyfriend or aunt pays for it.

By voting against defunding Planned Parenthood, Senator Manchin is keeping money from actual health care providers who will offer comprehensive health care for more women, closer to home.

Shame on him!

Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, the August 14 primary will determine pro-abortion Senator Tammy Baldwin's pro-life opponent.

An EMILY's List candidate, Senator Baldwin is a cosponsor of the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act" and has voted against the life issue on every occasion in Congress, even voting to allow partial-birth abortions to continue and to use taxpayer funds to pay for abortion.

Shame on her!

Two Republican senate seats are currently considered vulnerable in 2018.

Arizona

An August 28 primary will determine which pro-life Republican will run against pro-abortion Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona's open seat.

Sinema is so pro-abortion she voted against the bill to protect babies who are born alive after abortion.

Shame on her!

Nevada

Nevada's Senate race is rated a tossup.

In 2012, pro-life Senator Dean Heller, who has a 100% pro-life voting record, defeated a pro-abortion EMILY's List candidate, 46% to 45%.

In 2018, he's facing a challenge by pro-abortion Congresswoman Jacky Rosen, also an EMILY's List candidate, who supports abortion on demand throughout pregnancy.

Shame on her!

Tennessee

And finally, in Tennessee, the likely candidates are pro-life Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn and pro-abortion former Governor Phil Bredesen.

Bredesen is so pro-abortion, as governor he wouldn't even sign a pro-life license plate bill into law.

Shame on him!

House of Representatives

Democrats need 24 House seats to take over leadership.

With Nancy Pelosi in control of the gavel, pro-life legislation would be blocked and children's lives would be at stake.

So what do we have to do to save the House and Senate in 2018?

First and foremost, we need to raise enough money to frame the argument and tell the truth about candidates who hide behind their religion or mislead voters about their true positions on life.

We have to overcome the "misinformation trifecta."

We have held a number of special elections in 2017 and 2018 leading up to the 2018 midterms.

In election after election, political pundits have claimed the special elections would be an indicator of what is to come in 2018. A bellwether, they said.

Then, in election after election, when the Republican was pro-life and opposed using tax dollars to pay for abortion, while the Democrat candidate supported unlimited abortion, and supported using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion on demand, we continued to win.

In each of these races, the National Right to Life Victory Fund informed pro-life voters about the stark contrast between the candidates on life.

And when we won, what was the media response?

Crickets.

You could hear a pin drop.

Here's *CNN's* response to pro-life Karen Handel's win over pro-abortion Jon Ossoff in Georgia's 6th congressional district last year. {A screen shot of a very unhappy *CNN* panel.}

In order to win in many areas of the country, Democrat candidates must have pro-life votes. They, the media, and even EMILY's List, are recognizing that their unlimited, abortion on demand positions are not winning issues among the majority of American voters.

We've known that for decades.

Misinformation from the media

So here's what they did in Pennsylvania's 18th congressional district special

See "Stakes," page 39

The stakes could not be higher in 2018

From page 38

election between Republican state Rep. Rick Saccone and Democrat Conor Lamb.

Again and again, I heard national news describe Conor Lamb as "pro-life."

The illusion that Conor Lamb was a "prolife, pro-gun" centrist Democrat prevailed. Democrat Conor Lamb won the election by less than 3 tenths of a percent, and fewer than 600 votes out of more than two hundred thousand cast.

Just to clarify: Conor Lamb is not pro-life.

He is Catholic but said he wouldn't interfere with a woman's right to choose; and he even opposes the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Interestingly, the media repeatedly admitted that Democrats would fare better in the red and swing districts if only they had more candidates like Conor Lamb.

While this is true, we need to be sure they don't continue to deceive voters with candidates who really are not pro-life.

In West Virginia, Indiana, and Pennsylvania we have incumbent Democrat Senators who claim to be pro-life, however they have pro-abortion voting records.

Misinformation by the Candidate

The most ridiculous evidence of this took place when West Virginia Democratic Senator Joe Manchin appeared in a picture holding a Planned Parenthood sign that read, "I stand with Planned Parenthood."

Manchin later appeared in a picture with a pro-life group holding a sign that read, "We don't need Planned Parenthood."

Misinformation from Campaigns

Pro-abortion groups and campaigns will attempt to define our pro-life candidates with the false notion that their positions are "dangerous" to women and would "ruin women's lives," which is ironic, because it is abortion that ruins many women's lives, and most certainly abortion is dangerous to the unborn child.

And they will spend millions of dollars doing it.

Year of the pro-life woman

Many in the media are referring to 2018 as the "Year of the Woman." Of course for them that really means "Year of the Pro-Abortion Woman."

If you tally the numbers, more women are running for election to the U.S. Senate, for the U.S. House, or for governor than ever before. Some estimate that more than six hundred women filed to run in 2018 – which really is a record-breaking number.

Because of that influx, the Democrats have an unusually high number of pro-abortion candidates supported by EMILY's List, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood Action, the political arm of the nation's largest abortion provider, running this year.

EMILY's List claims "women will flip the House of Representatives in 2018 – both our strong Democratic women candidates and women voters who are furious…"

But in fact, there are record-breaking numbers of women running for Congress in both parties, including many pro-life Republican women.

And their elections will make a difference for life!

It will be interesting to see how pro-abortion women fare in November with pro-life values voters.

Historically, National Right to Life does incredibly well in races against EMILY's List candidates.

In 2016, in spite of an enormous financial disparity, we defeated EMILY's List candidates in competitive races.

You see, in 2016, 49% of voters considered the issue of abortion when they voted. Of those, 31% voted for the pro-life candidate and 18% voted for the pro-abortion candidate.

The life issue netted a 13% advantage among those voters who considered abortion when they voted.

In 2018, EMILY's List is on target to raise and spend $90 million, while Planned Parenthood is planning to spend $30 million. NARAL Pro-Choice America has pledged an unprecedented $5 million.

This means there will be a huge number of competitive pro-life vs. pro-abortion races in November.

I promise you that National Right to Life will do our best to expose their extreme views of unlimited abortion and using taxpayer funding of abortion on demand.

Together, with your help, we will battle tirelessly to expose the true positions of candidates on life.

As we continue to win these battles, we will one day win the war.

You know, we really are in a war with a real body count.

Thank you.

Why Counted ER Visits Are Not a Good Measure of Chemical Abortion Safety

From page 20

irresponsible and potentially fatal omission for the study.

But, nevertheless, considering the 5,673 identified "major incidents" out of the 5,282,500 total abortions Guttmacher reports for the five years under examination, Upadhyay and her team come up with an incidence of rate of 0.11%, or 108 "major incidents" per 100,000 abortions.

The authors conclude from this data that "Perceptions that abortion is unsafe are not based on evidence,"

Upadhyay went further with the *Los Angeles Times*, saying that those regulating abortion in the name of safety should know better. "The people who are supporting these laws must know that abortion is safe," Upadhyay told the *Times*. "They've seen the research – studies like this one – which only adds to the abundant scientific data that abortion is safe" (6/15/18).

Deficiencies in the Data

There are problems with the study, some major, which casts serious doubt on the authors' conclusions.

The study is premised on the assumption that abortion related complications will be reported as such. But there is no guarantee that this will happen.

Even when the outcome is as drastic death[1] physicians may not note the abortion or pregnancy. Why? Past studies suggest it could have been either because they did not know, or felt there were reasons to avoid mentioning in the public death certificate (Journal of Contemporary Health Law & Policy, Spring 2004 at www.afterabortion.org).

Busy ER doctors may consider the injury irrelevant, or may honor the request of the woman to keep it out of the record, or may even be concerned that this could be used against abortionist colleagues. A hemorrhage will be noted simply as a hemorrhage, an infection as just an infection, regardless of whether it was precipitated by an abortion.

And note that women who received treatment for their complications–at the clinic or by returning to the clinic rather than going to the ER–would not have been captured by UCSF study.

The abortion industry has a history of covering up its mistakes. A June 16, 2011, report by the Chicago Tribune found that mandatory reporting of abortions and complications to the state was often being ignored. More recently, in May of 2017, the director of Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services Randall Williams released a statement saying that he had found that abortionists had not been complying with a state law requiring them to report every abortion complication they diagnosed or treated to his department within 45 days.

Upadhyay and colleagues admit that their method, using billing codes to discern the nature of ER visits could be "imprecise" and "incomplete," but want to blame the "stigma" surrounding abortion as a possible reason for error. "The estimates here may be conservative," says the UCSF team, "if patients did not report having had an abortion due to fear of stigmatization of if relevant diagnosis and procedure codes were systematically misreported."

While granting further that "this study may miss abortion-related incidents that were inaccurately coded as a miscarriage," Upadhyay and UCSF team, long connected to the promotion of "medication abortion," failed to note (as noted above) that prominent promoters of chemical abortion have advised women that they do not need to tell ER physicians they have taken abortion pills.

Women on Web, an international service that ships abortion pills all over the world and has garnered a great deal of publicity here in the U.S., explicitly tells women "You do not have to tell the medical staff that you tried to induce an abortion; you can tell them that you had a spontaneous miscarriage. Doctors have the obligation to help in all cases and know how to handle a miscarriage."

They advise women that concealment is easy to accomplish. "The symptoms of a miscarriage and an abortion with pills are exactly the same and the doctor will not be able to see or test for any evidence of an abortion, as long as the pills have completely dissolved" (www.womenonweb.org/en/page/485/how-do-you-know-if-you-have-complications-and-what-should-you-do, accessed 6/21/18).

A website by "woman family doctors" from New York City called "earlyabortion.com" tells women that they can "disguise" their abortion as a "bad menstrual period" so that others in the household will not know what they are going through. "In addition," they note, "a medical professional will not be able to tell that you took the abortion pill. Even in an emergency room, a doctor can't differentiate between a miscarriage and a medical abortion" (www.earlyabortion.com/abortion-pill-step-7-having-the-miscarriage-at-home, accessed 6/21/18).

Unwarranted Conclusions about Abortion Safety

We already know, from other studies by abortion advocates, that women are not always forthcoming about their abortion histories. Rachel Jones and Katryn Kost found that fewer than half of abortions to women in the U.S. from 1997 to 2001 were reported by women in face-to-face interviews in the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (Studies in Family Planning, 9/5/07, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17933292).

If there is the stigma that Upadhyay and her team talk about, it would mean that a large percentage of women would not be inclined to reveal their abortions to ER doctors, especially if they felt they didn't have to.

If just a fraction of the million or so women using mifepristone during the study period saw the internet advice suggesting they conceal their abortions from medical personnel, and then followed it when they showed up hemorrhaging at the ER – which seems not only possible, but likely – the study's conclusions of abortion's safety would be significantly compromised.

(1) Upadhyay's team did uncover 15 deaths in their study, but somehow missed more than a third of those reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Four huge myths about overturning *Roe v. Wade*

From page 15

Roe would take us back to the days of women being seriously injured and dying because they can't get basic medical care," says U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Ca.). "We've come too far to go back to those days." (By "basic medical care," Feinstein means abortion, not basic medical care, which would be unaffected by the reversal of *Roe*.)

History, however, tells a different story. Antibiotics and other medical advances produced a dramatic decline in abortion-related maternal deaths through the middle of the 20th century. This decline occurred before *Roe* and the nationwide legalization of abortion, which had no apparent effect on maternal mortality rates.

Indeed, a wealth of worldwide evidence shows that a high standard of maternal health simply does not require legalized abortion. Chile reduced maternal mortality to a level comparable to that of the U.S., for example, while also strengthening legal protection for unborn children. Maternal health in Ireland exceeded that of England and much of the developed world even as abortion was illegal.

There's no evidence **whatsoever** for the claim that new limits on abortion in the U.S. would lead to some kind of health disaster.

Another common worry is that women who have illegal abortions would be sent to prison. NARAL says, for example, that overturning *Roe* and prohibiting abortion would "criminalize women" and "punish women."

That's just false. Before *Roe*, when unborn children were largely protected by law, women were virtually never prosecuted for illegal abortions. There were good reasons for that (culpability and practical considerations are important factors). And this would remain the case in any post-*Roe* world that restores protection for unborn children.

Myth #4: The Court should uphold *Roe* because it's precedent

Politicians who support *Roe* often appeal to the idea that judges ought to adhere to past decisions (a practice called *stare decisis*). But everyone, including every pro-*Roe* senator and every member of the Supreme Court, agrees that at least some mistaken precedents should be overturned (and many have been). So should the precedent of *Roe* be overturned?

One crucial factor in the decision to overrule a past mistake is just how bad and constitutionally groundless it is. *Roe* is historically bad and has no constitutional grounding whatsoever. The Constitution doesn't mention abortion, and the Court has never come up with a plausible or even coherent reason to think a right to abortion is implied. That's because it obviously isn't.

In fact, many of the Americans who ratified the Fourteenth Amendment—the part of the Constitution from which *Roe* tried to derive an abortion right—also voted (during the same era) to enact statutes protecting unborn children from being killed by abortion.

Not only did they not agree to a right to abortion—they firmly and overwhelmingly *rejected* a right to abortion.

"[*Roe*] is bad because it is bad constitutional law," concludes the eminent legal scholar John Hart Ely (who supported legalized abortion as a matter of public policy), "or rather because it is *not* constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be."

The "stability" of a precedent is another factor that can influence the decision to overturn. The Court's abortion jurisprudence, even after 45 years, is remarkably unstable. It frequently changes as the Court considers new cases and rules on new abortion-related questions. The Court has sometimes reversed itself on those questions or applied its abortion principles (such as *Casey*'s "undue burden" standard) in inconsistent ways. The late Justice Antonin Scalia mockingly referred to this ongoing project as "the abortion umpiring business" and the "enterprise of devising an Abortion Code."

No one ever knows with confidence how the Court will rule on new abortion-related laws. That's because the persistence of *Roe* requires the justices to continue acting like legislators creating policy rather than like judges applying law that already exists—to continue usurping authority that belongs to the elected branches of government. That makes *Roe* a perpetually harmful mistake.

"We should get out of this area [of making abortion policy]," Justice Scalia told the rest of the Court, "where we have no right to be, and where we do neither ourselves nor the country any good by remaining."

Why *Roe* must go

Judge Kavanaugh himself hit on the key issue in a 2017 speech. "[J]udges are confined to interpreting and applying the Constitution and laws as they are written and not as we might wish they were written," he explained. "[C]hanges to the Constitution and laws are to be made by the people through the amendment process and, where appropriate, through the legislative process—not by the courts snatching that constitutional or legislative authority for themselves."

The Supreme Court should overturn *Roe* because it's a lawless decision that snatched authority away from the American people. But *Roe* isn't merely that. It also produced a profoundly unjust legal regime with morally catastrophic results. It banned the protection from lethal violence of a whole class of innocent human beings. Some 60 million of those human beings have now been legally killed.

Reversing *Roe* and returning abortion policy to the legislatures will enable much greater protection of unborn children. It will at least allow for the possibility of equal protection of the human rights of all members of the human family. It will, ultimately, save millions of lives.

If the end of *Roe v. Wade* is "the end of the world as we know it," it's also the beginning of a more inclusive one.