national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

March 2020

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life representatives speak outside the Supreme Court as justices hear oral argument in important abortion case

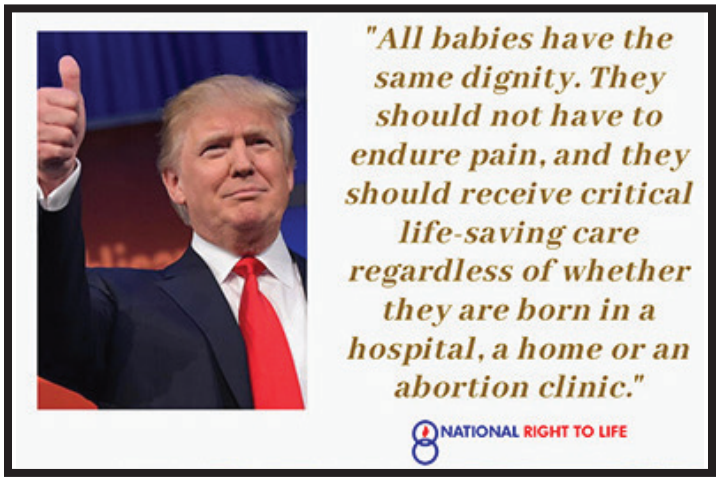
NRLC President Carol Tobias and Steve Scalise, House Minority Whip, in front of the Supreme Court

national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Pro-Abortion Democrats Block Senate Passage of Both the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" and the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act"

WASHINGTON – Although a majority of U.S. Senators voted on February 25 to invoke cloture, they did not meet the needed 60 votes to move forward on the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" (S. 3275) and the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" (S. 311) largely because of nearly unanimous Democratic opposition.

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act is sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act is sponsored by Senator Ben Sasse (R-Neb.).



"We thank Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Ben Sasse and our other pro-life allies in the Senate who dedicated their time and energy to these life-saving bills," said Jennifer Popik, J.D., legislative

See "Block," page 24

West Virginia becomes latest state to pass Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

By Dave Andrusko

And now there is one more—a state requiring that babies born-alive following a "failed" abortion to be treated no differently than any other premature baby born at the same gestational age.

"Thank you to the leaders of West Virginians for Life, National Right to Life, and members of the West Virginia Legislature who joined me as I signed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act into law today," Gov. Jim Justice said at a March 2 signing held in the Governor's Reception Room and livestreamed at governor.wv.org. "As long as I am Governor, I will always defend the right to life of every unborn child."

Gov. Justice said it was "unbelievable, to tell you the truth, that we have to do such a thing," according to the *Associated Press*. "So today we're going to put a stake in the sand that says for us, for us at least we stand for life and we stand for the right stuff," Gov. Justice said.

See "Hearing," page 27

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice holding the ceremonial signature pen with Karen Cross, legislative coordinator for West Virginians for Life.

Editorials

Placing the health and safety of women ahead of the profits of abortion businesses

For months, pro-lifers knew March 4 would be a day to remember. As *NRL News Today* had discussed in multiple posts, the Supreme Court would hear oral arguments that morning over a challenge to a protective Louisiana abortion law--a bi-partisan measure passed with huge majorities in both houses. That Wednesday would also be the first day in which we collectively began to sort out what the results of "Super Tuesday" appeared to be telling us.

First, a few words about *June Medical Services v. Russo*. Here's how Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry described Louisiana Act 620. It

> **was bipartisan legislation, led by women. Authored by Representative Katrina Jackson (Democrat, Monroe) and carried by Senator Regina Barrow (Democrat, Baton Rouge), the bill passed both legislative bodies nearly unanimously (88-5 in the House and 34-3 in the Senate).**
>
> **Louisiana Act 620 is a reasonable, common-sense safety measure. It is necessary because Louisiana abortion providers have a long, documented history of medical malpractice, disciplinary actions, and violations of health and safety standards.**

(Left to Right) Ben Clapper, executive director, Louisiana Right to Life; Carol Tobias, NRL President; and Karen Cross, NRL Political Director

Louisiana Right to Life Executive Director Ben Clapper lauded the work of the legal team defending the "Unsafe Abortion Protection Act" of 2014.

"We congratulate Louisiana Solicitor Liz Murrill on her outstanding defense of Louisiana's common-sense law designed to protect the health and safety of Louisiana women," Clapper said. "Liz effectively articulated the long history of deplorable conditions at Louisiana abortion facilities, which shows that these businesses cannot speak for Louisiana women. We look forward to the Supreme Court's decision this summer. It is time the Supreme

See "Health," page 30

Democrats now so hard-core pro-abortion they avoid even "tactical vagueness"

You can tell we are getting deeper and deeper into the presidential election cycle when reliable pro-abortion opinion writers start to post stories that recognize abortion extremism is not a winning proposition. Of course, they never acknowledge **how** damaging it is. If they did, they might actually concede that pro-abortionists such as former Vice President Joe Biden and Democratic-Socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders would need to do more than give a passing nod to meaningless "restrictions" on abortion.

David Leonhardt writes for the relentlessly pro-abortion *New York Times.* Like virtually all the Times' scribes, he hates pro-life President Donald Trump and desperately wants him defeated this November. But how?

Yesterday he wrote a story that ran under the headline, "The Simple Reason the Left Won't Stop Losing: Progressives need to care more about winning."

Leonhardt argues, "The biggest lesson [from this year's campaign] is simply this: The American left doesn't care enough about winning.

> **It's an old problem, one that has long undermined left-wing movements in this country. They have often prioritized purity over victory. They wouldn't necessarily put it these terms, but they have chosen to lose on their terms rather than win with compromise.**
>
> **You can see this pattern today in the ways that many progressive activists misread public opinion. Their answer to almost every question of political strategy is to insist that Americans are a profoundly progressive people who haven't yet been inspired to vote the way they think. The way to win, these progressives claim, is to go left, always.**

Leonhardt's op-ed is a balancing act. He wants his readers to believe that while the ultra-liberal, ultra- proabortion Democrat

See "Think Tank," page 32

From the President
Carol Tobias

The Case for Parental Consent before a minor's abortion

By Lynda Bell

Editor's note. This month's guest presidential column is written by Lynda Bell, president of Florida Right to Life and chairman of the National Right to Life Board of Directors.

On February 20th the Florida Legislature passed the "Parental Consent Before a Minor's Abortion" Bill. Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to sign the bill into law any day now.

This was a hard fought victory that was years in the making. Florida families and minor girls in Florida will now be protected in law. Special thanks to the bill's sponsors, State Rep. Erin Grall and State Sen. Kelli Stargel. This legislation puts the family back into the conversation concerning their underage girls.

While we (the pro life community) believe it to be unthinkable that a minor child can undergo an elective surgical procedure without a parent's permission, pro-abortion organizations fought with zeal to stop this common sense legislation.

Let's look at areas where parental permission is required regarding children. An underage child must have permission to get their ears pierced, get a tattoo, take an aspirin, or go on a field trip with their school. Logically, it is absurd that a child can be ushered off to an abortion clinic with no parental permission! In fact, abortion is the only elective surgical procedure that can be done without a parent's permission.

I attended many hearings, testified, and listened to the ridiculous and empty arguments against parental consent. The irony here is that this legislation does not outlaw abortion; it simply protects minor girls.

While abortion bills usually pass on strict party lines, not so with parental consent. Five African America Democrat legislators broke ranks with their party and voted in support of the bill. Florida Right to Life is so appreciative that they cared more about minor girls than falling in lockstep with their party!

It is common knowledge that children do not reach full majority until their early twenties, and teens are known for their impulsive actions. In fact the pro-abortion left, including those who profit from abortion, argue that underage children are not mature enough to make decisions about smoking, drinking, carrying a firearm or voting. However, they think it is no problem for the same child to make an abortion decision. This defines the very definition of absurd!.

The lack of parental consent in a state is a sex trafficker, or child rapists dream. They can and do abuse the minor, take her to an abortion clinic and continue the abuse. We in the pro-life community have heard countless times about minor girls being taken for abortion. While states require those be reported if abuse is suspected, they are most often not. When a parent is left out of the discussion abuse abounds and children are unprotected.

Parental Consent is a great step forward. Our minor girls deserve to be protected in law!

What every Pro-Life Candidate needs to know about Abortion

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

You're running for Congress! Congratulations! Undoubtedly, you're going to be asked about your position on abortion by a constituent, in a debate, or by the media.

Are you prepared for the inevitable question? Or do you feel like a deer caught in the headlights?

Following are a few pointers to help you on your way to a successful campaign.

There's an Advantage to being a Pro-life Candidate

Post-election polling conducted by National Right to Life in election after election since 1980 consistently finds that pro-life candidates enjoy a significant advantage over their pro-abortion opponents on the abortion issue. In the last presidential election cycle, a post-election poll taken in November 2016 found that 49% said abortion affected the way they voted. Of that 49%, 31% said they voted for candidates who oppose abortion compared to just 18% who voted for candidates who favor abortion—a 13-point advantage.

For additional information about the pro-life advantage, go to: nrlpac.org/pdf/2018%20Pro-life%20Increment.pdf

Abortion/*Roe v. Wade*

Keep in mind that many people don't understand some of the basics about abortion or what the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision actually did. If asked about their position on abortion, some people self-ID as "pro-choice" because they believe abortion should be available in the hard cases: the life of the mother, rape, incest, and fetal anomalies*. [See below for a fuller explanation.]

What they don't understand is that *Roe v. Wade*, along with its companion decision *Doe v. Bolton*, essentially allows for abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. They also don't understand that 93% to 97% of the nearly 900,000 abortions that take place in the United States every year are for social reasons: the woman doesn't feel prepared to have a baby, can't afford the baby or doesn't feel she has support at home.

For more information on the reasons cited for abortion, go to: http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS08Reasons.pdf.

So, what happens? The hard cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother are brought up by your opponents (and the biased media) because they carry so much emotional weight. The goal is to prey on the fears of the general public, who don't know the facts.

The Hard Cases

There are answers to the powerful emotional responses these cases evoke.

To begin with, and most fundamentally, the circumstances surrounding the baby's conception change nothing about the humanity of the unborn baby, the toll taken on the mother, and the inherent brutality of abortion.

Rape (and incest) are brutal acts of violence against innocent women. A woman who has experienced such a horrible act of violence deserves to be treated with compassion. However, encouraging abortion (an act of brutal violence against her innocent preborn child) is pitting the woman against her own child. It can compound the violence of the rape, making her the aggressor in this case, and greatly increasing the potential for psychological and emotional harm to the woman.

Whatever the circumstances of her pregnancy, each woman deserves support and proper care to prevent more harm being done emotionally or physically. Sadly, many women suffer physical and psychological risks after their abortions.

For information about the physical, emotional and psychological risks after abortion, go to: nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS07AbortionPsychoSocial.pdf and nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS06AbortionPhsysicalComplications.pdf

There are more than 3,000 pregnancy-help centers across the country offering life-affirming help free of charge to mothers in crisis. They offer truly compassionate solutions for both mother and her child.

Some people – and even doctors – suggest abortion when the baby has some sort of fetal anomaly. If I were a candidate, and asked my position, this would be my response:

> **"It sounds to me like you are prejudiced against people with disabilities! You are saying that those with disabilities are better off being brutally, painfully ripped apart in the womb than living with their disability? That's terrible!"**

I'd then share my magical nights as a volunteer with

See "Candidate," page 42

Tim Tebow and Kansas City Chief owner Lamar Hunt, Jr. team up at Kansans for Life banquet

By Marc and Julie Anderson

OVERLAND PARK–LIVing in victory, a reference to Super Bowl LIV, was the theme of Kansans for Life annual Valentine's Day banquet held at the Overland Park Convention Center on Feb. 11. Nearly 1,200 people attended the event.

Serving as master of ceremonies, Lamar Hunt, Jr., one of the owners of the Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, offered opening remarks, during which he said,

> **"I do not think it is a cliché to say we are in a life and death battle for the truth and authentic dignity of the human person. We need your full attention. You need to drop what you're doing and join us, and this can be in so many ways: prayer, assistance to those in need, emails, phone calls, in-person meetings. Get educated about what we're fighting about here. Really listen in and tune in."**

Later, Hunt said, "Please do something about it. Pray. Take action. If you don't know what to do, ask somebody. Place this as a major priority in your life."

Finally, Hunt said, he often heard the phrase "Live in victory" from another resident at the assisted living facility where he visits his mother.

One day, the woman came up to him and said, "Super Bowl LIV. Live In Victory."

"Think about that tonight. Living in victory. That's what we're here for tonight."

During his remarks, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the chairman of the United States

Catholic Conference of Bishops Committee on Prolife Activities said, "I think the Chiefs are an inspiration for us. They came from behind several times. The game is not over in terms of the legislature this year. It's not over until the fourth quarter, and I think we're here tonight to kind of encourage each other, to support each other, to win this victory for the unborn, and it's this victory for really the soul of our state and nation.

Naumann was referring to the current fight to pass the "Value Them Both" state constitutional amendment. The amendment is needed to correct the April 2019 decision of the Kansas Supreme Court, a ruling that could be used to try to overturn decades of pro-life laws, including those that have reduced abortions by half in Kansas.

Former Kansas governor, Dr. Jeff Colyer, spoke on the constitutional amendment fight, and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum came to underline the need for funds to win that fight!

As part of the evening's festivities, Kansans for Life leader, Mary Kay Culp, was honored at the banquet by a brief video highlighting her pro-life work of more than 40 years for two National Right to Life state affiliates, Missouri Right to Life and Kansans for Life, all without leaving the KC metro area! Such was one reason that on the 150th anniversary of the Kansas City Star, she was honored as one of the top 150 most influential people in Kansas City.

The highlight of the evening for many was the keynote address by Tim Tebow, former quarterback for the Denver Broncos.

"It is such an honor to be here," Tebow said as he thanked the archbishop, politicians, and Culp for work on behalf of the unborn.

Tebow also thanked Hunt for "having courage in the face of a lot of other people who don't have it and for your willingness to be up here and support this organization."

"It really does mean a lot more than winning the Super Bowl," Tebow said. He added, "One day, when you look back and people are talking about you and they say Oh my gosh what are you going to be known for? Are you going to say Super Bowl, or we saved a lot of babies?"

Speaking about Kansans for Life, Tebow said it's not a philanthropy.

"It's a rescue mission. You know why we call it a rescue mission? Because when we say that, it puts a timeline on it."

"When's the last time you heard a rescue mission taking place in a month or a few years. No, a rescue mission means now. It gives you a sense of urgency. It says we have to go not because it's our time, but because it's their time. … I have to live a sense of urgency because while I might have time, they don't."

Later, turning toward Hunt and Chiefs punter, Dustin Colquitt, who was also in attendance, he told them it was "awesome they won the Super Bowl."

"It's amazing. What an accomplishment! But you know the best part of that accomplishment is that it gets you an even bigger platform." That platform, Tebow said, can be used to support causes such as the prolife movement.

And it was obvious the prolife mission is one he is personally invested in and has been all his life.

See "Tebow," page 41

Columbian man unable to prevent abortion of his 8-month-old unborn child

By Dave Andrusko

A case that drew national attention in Columbia came to a tragic end when a father of an unborn child lost his bid for guardianship of his eight-month-old unborn child.

According to the *Catholic News Service's* Spanish language news partner, ACI Prensa, Juan Pablo Medina "told Blu Radio Feb. 11 that he only found out [his girlfriend] had procured the abortion on Feb. 7, when he reviewed the case file for the criminal complaint he had filed."

Medina became a national figure when he went public on January 31. "Medina posted on Twitter that he was trying to save his son, whom he had named Juan Sebastián, or JuanSe for short. The hashtag #SalvemosaJuanSe (Let's save JuanSe) was soon trending among Colombians on Twitter. Medina was interviewed by Semana.com. on the same day, and the story became headline national news," ACI Prensa reported.

Medina said that his girlfriend of 14 months, Angie Tatiana Palta "mutually agreed to have a baby together," according to ACI Prensa.

Everything seemed to be going well, including the outcome of a December 6 ultrasound which revealed no fetal anomalies. But, Medina said,

> **the situation changed when Palta's mother and family found out about the pregnancy on Dec. 27. Medina claims the family pressured Palta to have an abortion. He was then told that Palta was in the hospital, supposedly in critical condition, in great mental distress, and that the baby had deformities–grounds for abortion in Colombia.**
>
> **In a Jan. 31 interview with Semana.com, Medina said "that seemed strange to me because the last ultrasound on Dec. 6 showed the baby was in optimal condition, which makes you wonder."**

Medina was told that Palta was requesting an abortion on the grounds of danger to her mental health. However, the hospital's psychological evaluation "indicated she was not suffering psychological trauma but was confused," Medina said.

"After Palta was discharged from the hospital, Medina lost all contact with her for eight days, prompting him to take legal action to protect his unborn child," according to the *Catholic News Service*. "Medina filed a criminal complaint alleging attempted homicide, and made an emergency appeal for guardianship of the child. He bought a crib and other necessities, anticipating the need to care for the baby as a single father.

In an interview with Semina.com,

> **Medina said Palta was unwilling to talk and that he had lost all contact with her. Through contact with relatives, Medina said he learned that Palta intended to abort because she was "not ready to welcome the child, wants to finish her career and doesn't have the financial means."**
>
> **Meanwhile, Palta went to a ProFamilia abortion clinic, which claimed that she was "in psychological distress and was having suicidal thoughts and so on," Medina said.**

As *NRL News Today* previous reported, in 2006 Columbia's Constitutional Court legalized abortion in cases of rape, fetal deformities and when a doctor determines there is a risk to the life or health of the mother.

In its February 23, 2020, story the *Catholic News Service* added

> **In a 2018 ruling, the court affirmed its 2006 decision, and declared abortion to be a "human right," and asked the government to issue further regulations defining the legal circumstances for abortions to be performed. The Ministry of Health is currently working on developing those regulations.**

On This Presidents' Day We Celebrate Pro-Life President Trump

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Editor's note. President's Day was February 17, but in case you missed this in NRL News Today, we wanted to be sure every pro-lifer could read the sentiments expressed in this "thank you" note.

On this Presidents' Day we celebrate you, Mr. President!

Pro-life President Donald J. Trump and his Administration have established more pro-life policies than any other president in history.

Ever.

In recognition of President Trump's many pro-life achievements, on July 4, 2019, on the eve of its 49th annual convention, the National Right to Life Committee, the federation of state right-to-life affiliates and local chapters, endorsed pro-life President Donald Trump for his re-election.

On that day, Carol Tobias, National Right to Life president, said

> **"As our nation celebrates Independence Day, we are proud to endorse the only presidential candidate who stands for the unalienable right to life. From his first day in office, President Trump and his Administration have been dedicated to advancing policies that protect the fundamental right to life for the unborn, the elderly, and the medically dependent and disabled."**

One of the President's first acts in office was to restore the Mexico City Policy, which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change abortion laws of host countries. Later, the president expanded this policy to prevent $9 billion in foreign aid from being used to fund the global abortion industry.

The Trump Administration also cut off funding to the United Nations Population Fund because of that agency's involvement with China's forced abortion program.

On this day we celebrate fewer tax dollars going toward pro-abortion policies because of President Trump's policies.

President Trump pledged "to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any state."

President Trump is committed to signing pro-life legislation, including

- The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act;
- The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; and
- The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

On this day we celebrate the lives that will be saved due to President Trump's pro-life policies.

The importance of the 2020 elections cannot be overstated. It will determine who appoints justices to the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous federal judges to lower courts.

The election will determine whether the U.S. Senate will continue to be led by pro-life Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), so the Senate can confirm more federal judges.

Pro-life President Donald Trump

On this day we celebrate the 192 federal judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices Kavanaugh and Gorsuch, nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

And this election will determine whether pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.) can continue to squelch protective pro-life legislation such as the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

On this day we celebrate President Trump's interest in helping down-ballot pro-life candidates, furthering our ability to pass protective lifesaving legislation.

On this day, it's important that voters know the differences between the candidates.

On this day, please thank President Trump for his pro-life tenacity!!

Then, be sure to download and share this important information with your friends and family.

For an updated downloadable presidential candidate comparison to see where the presidential candidates stand on life issues, go to: nrlc.org/uploads/records/2020POTUScomparison.pdf

A summary of President Trump's record on life issues is available here: nrlc.org/uploads/records/trumprecord.pdf

Florida parental consent bill on its way to pro-life Gov. DeSantis for his signature

By Dave Andrusko

And now it is official. Both Houses of the Florida legislature have passed The Parental Consent Before a minor's Abortion Bill, a bill pro-life Gov. Ron DeSantis made a legislative priority.

Thursday's vote in the House on HB 265 was 75 to 43. As *NRL News Today* previously reported, on February 6, the Senate passed the companion bill (SB 404) on a vote of 23-17.

"February 20, 2020 was my 63rd birthday," said Lynda Bell, president of Florida Right to Life. "I can't think of a better birthday present than the passage of this commonsense bill." Bell, who is also chair of the board of National Right to Life, added

> **"The passage of this bill is a victory for Florida Families and returns protections for our minor girls. This historic bill will save countless lives of unborn babies and minor girls. It is bizarre that a minor girl can't get her ears pierced, a tattoo, or even get an aspirin at school without a parent's permission but she can get an abortion! Abortion is a serious surgical and psychologically devastating procedure. Parents have the right to be involved and girls have the right to be protected."**

Pro-life Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis

Bell noted that current polling has shown a clear and overwhelming bipartisan support for "Parental Consent." Even among those who consider themselves "pro-choice," 73% of Floridians believe in and support this legislation.

Senate bill sponsor Sen. Kelli Stargel, said her legislation is "not a pro-choice or pro-life bill." Stargel added, "This is about whether or not you're going to have adults involved in difficult decisions with children."

House sponsor, Rep. Erin Grall, rebutted pro-abortion assertions that "it is unfair for male-dominated legislative bodies to impose laws on women and girls," according to the *Palm Beach Post*.

"No one group of people, gender of people owns this issue," she said. "There is, consistently, an acknowledgement that what we are talking about is a child. And here, what we are talking about is a child who is carrying a child."

As *NRL News Today* reported, Gov. DeSantis, in his Second State of the State address delivered last month, said, "I hope that the Legislature will send me this session the parental consent bill that last year was passed by the House but not by the Senate."

In 1989, the Florida Supreme Court struck down a law that required parental consent. Since he became governor, however, DeSanctis has replaced three justices on the state's highest court — Justices Barbara Pariente, Fred Lewis and Peggy Quince — who had reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. They were replaced by Barbara Lagoa, Robert Luck, and Carlos Muniz.

Florida Right to Life expressed its gratitude to all those who made passage possible:

> **Florida Right to Life would like to thank the bill's prime sponsors, Representative Erin Grall and Senator Kelli Stargel. They are champions of the family and showed great courage and leadership in their sponsorship and defense of this Historic legislation that puts families back in the conversation concerning their underage children. They stood strong and endured an onslaught of false information and multiple attempts to sabotage the legislation and they did it!**
>
> **Florida Right to Life rallied the troops and lobbied this bill with great intensity. We would like to thank our members who showed up for numerous committee hearings and often left without being heard because of time expiring. Our members persevered and returned again and again to wave in support and share their personal and heartbreaking abortion stories.**

Epilogue: Doctors Without (Moral) Boundaries

The End Result of a Long Campaign to Push Chemical Abortion

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

Editor's note. Last week Dr. O'Bannon authored a five-part analysis of the five videos mentioned in his opening paragraph. You can access them all at www.nationalrighttolifenews.org.

Whether knowingly or not, it is clear that whatever noble or charitable impulses Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known as Doctors without Borders in English, may have had, they have been compromised by a concentrated campaign by abortion advocates to create the illusion of a worldwide need and demand for Do-It-Yourself (DIY) chemical abortions. Sadly, MSF's joining the campaign with their latest 5-part video series is a sign that campaign is working.

MSF did not originate this DIY abortion campaign. However, their new video training series is the culmination of decades of deadly research, lobbying government agencies, media manipulation, and political pressure by abortion pill activists.

Here's how it all started.

Decades ago, abortion advocates recognized a problem: there simply weren't enough trained abortionists. Not only was there a shortage, these abortionists weren't distributed widely enough to cover every area of the world.

Vast areas of the U.S. were what pro-abortionists dubbed "abortion deserts"—areas with no identified "abortion provider." And there were whole countries, particularly in the developing world, that had no abortionists at all (or at least none performing abortions legally).

Development of a drug or pill in place of surgical abortions was supposed to remedy that. Not merely offering a novel way of aborting, they theorized, chemical abortion would enable abortion advocates to take abortion to people and places where there were no traditional abortion clinics or surgical facilities.

And, most important, this would allow them a way to contravene and undermine the laws of any state or country that tried to protect unborn life.

It was, like the chemical abortion process they championed, a campaign that would involve many steps.

At first, it meant doing studies, selling the public on the fantasy of "safe," "simple," "easy abortion." They quickly moved on to securing the drug's approval somewhere. That began with France and China in the late 1980s, Britain and Sweden in the early 1990s, and eventually America in September of 2000. Most of the rest of the modern world soon followed.

Abortion pill advocates originally worked with abortionists already doing surgical abortions to learn and add the chemical method to their clinical practices. Then, touting their supposed safety record (ignoring several deaths and many injuries), they sought to expand the pool of prescribers to include pediatricians, general practitioners, and other Ob-Gyns not currently performing abortions.

That was just the beginning. Initially, they accepted modest limitations, including how far into pregnancy it could be used, how it could be distributed (directly to certified doctors rather than through pharmacies), and who (those same doctors) could prescribe it and supervise its use.

Soon, however, they produced studies arguing that these could be managed by nurses and certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants. Their complication rates were actually worse than for women who went to medical doctors for their abortions, but that didn't matter to abortion pill advocates.

Then came the webcam or telemedical version, where a woman didn't actually go to the abortion facility, but merely to a storefront clinic. There she talked to an abortionist over a computer video connection. If satisfied with her answers (and it wouldn't take much, one ventures to guess), he clicked a button releasing a drawer with the drugs for the woman to take– the mifepristone there at the clinic, the misoprostol later at home.

The only medically trained person the woman may have actually seen in person in this set up might have been a certified medical assistant with a couple of semesters training from a community college. He may have taken her blood pressure and checked her temperature.

It was only a short step from there to the suggestion than these pills could be ordered over the internet after a short "consultation." And so, in short order, large studies were produced covering several states where women could contact doctors and order their pills online and then receive their pills in the mail in a couple of days.

All this went far beyond what the FDA had originally authorized when it first approved mifepristone in September of 2000. At that time, the pills were supposed to be given directly to the woman, under a physician's supervision, limited to those no more than 49 days pregnant.

There were to be three visits: the first to take three pills

See "Epilogue," page 43

‘Let’s have the courage to say the right to life must not exclude the most vulnerable among us”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered the following remarks March 3 on the Senate floor regarding protecting life:

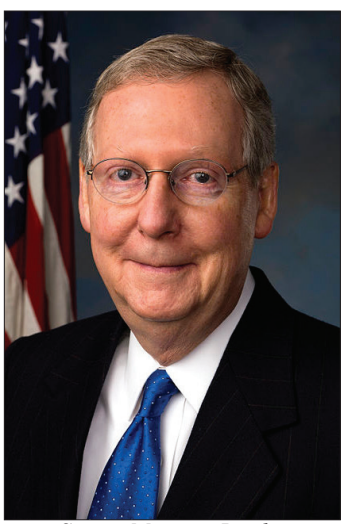
‘Today, every Senator will be able to take a clear moral stand. We’ll have the chance to proceed to commonsense legislation that would move our nation closer to the international mainstream with respect to defending innocent human life.

‘There are only seven nations left in the world where an unborn child can be killed by elective abortion after 20 weeks, and the United States of America is one of them.

‘Set aside all the far-left rhetoric that will greet Senator Graham’s straightforward legislation and consider this simple fact. Do our Democratic colleagues really believe that what our country needs is a radical fringe position on elective abortion that we only share with China, North Korea, and four other countries in the world?

‘The American people don’t seem to think that’s what we need. One recent survey found that 70 percent of all Americans believe that at a minimum, elective abortion should be limited to the first three months of pregnancy. That even includes about half of the respondents who self-identified as “pro-choice.”

‘So I hope this body will vote



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

to proceed to Senator Graham’s Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act later today. I see no reason why — at the very, very least — our Democratic colleagues should vote against even proceeding to this legislation and having this debate.

‘If there is a persuasive and principled case why America should remain on the radical international fringe on this subject, let us hear it. Let us have this debate. Few Americans agree with that radical position, but let us have the debate.

‘If my Democratic colleagues block the Senate from even proceeding to debate this legislation later today, the message they send will be chilling and clear: The radical demands of the far-left will drown out common sense and the views of most Americans.

‘The same goes for Senator Sasse’s legislation, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Even if most Washington Democrats persist in their resistance to any common-sense protections for the unborn, surely we must be able to agree that children who are born deserve protection. Surely that much cannot be controversial.

‘There is currently no federal mandate that children who are delivered alive following attempted abortions receive medical care. No clear guarantee that every child born alive in the United States — whether they were intended to be or not — is entitled to the same lifegiving medical attention.

‘The Kentuckians I speak with cannot comprehend why this would be some hotly-debated proposition. It almost defies belief that an entire political party could find cause to object to this basic protection for babies.

‘And yet, today, we will see whether our Democratic colleagues permit the Senate to even proceed to this legislation. We’ll see whether even something this simple and this morally straightforward is a bridge too far for the far left.

‘I urge all of my colleagues — let’s advance these bills. Let’s take these modest steps. Let’s have the courage to say the right to life must not exclude the most vulnerable among us.’

"And if the Senate says that it is OK to ignore born-alive babies, what we are really saying is that we are OK with a society where some people count more than other people."

Editor's note. On February 25 pro-life Republican senators moved to 'invoke cloture" (overcome a filibuster) so as to be able to debate the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" (sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse) and the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" (sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham). NRL News Today posted both of these Senators' remarks.

While each bill secured a majority vote, invoking cloture requires 60 votes. As a consequence, both attempts fell tragically short. The failure to secure 60 votes was entirely because of virtually-unanimous Democrat opposition.

The following is just a sample of the powerful remarks made by Sen. Sasse.

> **"Every baby dies if you leave her to passively die of exposure. … Today, we have a chance to advance our commitment to human dignity"**—Sen. Ben Sasse

Mr. SASSE.

Madam President, this afternoon, we are going to vote on the simplest bill in the history of the U.S Senate. It is the simplest bill we have ever considered here. It says that if a newborn baby survives an abortion, she deserves medical care. That is the bill. That is it.

Sadly, a lot of Senators are going to come to the floor, and they are going to read or they are planning to read— I hope they will reconsider—but they are planning to read talking points that were written for them by Planned Parenthood, and they are going to talk about a whole bunch of stuff that doesn't have anything to do with the bill we actually have before us. Senators are going to muddy the issue, and, sadly, too many in the press are going to report with headlines like "Abortion Restrictions" and with antiscience jargon like "A Fetus That Was Born." That was an actual portion of the headline this morning: "A Fetus That Was Born." Sadly, a lot of folks seem determined to look the other way.

Looking the other way from the issue that we are considering today in this body shouldn't be an option, so let's start with four straight, undeniable facts— four simple facts.

First, Federal law does not criminalize the denial of care to newborn babies who survive abortions. Federal law doesn't criminalize the denial of care to babies who survive abortions.

Second, we know that babies sometimes survive abortions, and the data backs that up. If Senators don't like this inconvenient fact, they can take it up with the CDC and the States that have mandatory reporting about babies who survive abortions.

Third, this bill, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, simply says that if a baby survives an abortion, she should get the same degree of medical care that any other baby would get at that same gestational stage. It is really important—same care that would be provided to any other baby at the same gestational stage.

It is a short bill. I know my

Sen. Ben Sasse
Photo: Gage Skidmore

colleagues are busy, but all of them could read the bill.

So instead of coming to the floor and reciting prepackaged talking points that Planned Parenthood wrote for you, take a few minutes and actually read the bill, and you will find that the talking points don't actually match up with the actual bill you are called on to vote on today. Those are the facts.

Finally, this is not about abortion. My colleague, the senior Senator from South Carolina [Lindsey Graham], the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has a really important piece of legislation that he is going to speak on in a moment, and I am going to support his legislation. It is a really important pro-life piece of legislation. I am in favor of it.

But my legislation, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, is not actually about abortion. It is about babies who have already survived a botched abortion. My legislation is not about *Roe v. Wade*.

It is about what happens after a baby is already born when an abortion failed to accomplish the purpose it had—the sad purpose, in my view—the purpose it had to terminate that pregnancy. This is about the babies who have already been born.

This is about whether that baby who has survived the abortion and is now lying on the abortion table or on the medical table—whether or not that cold, naked baby alone has a right to medical care. We all know the answer. The answer is, of course she does.

Every baby dies if you leave her to passively die of exposure. Whether she was born in a gold plated hospital with a lot of fancy, expensive cars in the parking lot outside that NICU unit or whether she was born in the unfortunate circumstances of an abortion clinic in a strip mall, every little baby who has already been born—they will

See "Born-Alive," page 44

ERA as written would force taxpayer funding of abortion

By Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

Editor's note. As NRLC reported last month, the Democrat-controlled U.S. House of Representatives "passed a measure that purports to reanimate the Equal Rights Resolution approved by the 92nd Congress in 1972." H.J. Res. 79 "purports to 'remove' by majority vote the deadline that was contained in the Proposing Clause of the ERA Resolution , which was approved by Congress in 1972 by the constitutionally required two-thirds margin."

Rep. Smith delivered these remarks in the House of Representatives on the day of the debate.

> …I arrive at the debate on the elimination of the deadline for the ERA from the perspective of my work to ensure equality and protection for women and every woman's right to be treated fairly and without exploitation.

The words of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the legal impermissibility of extending the deadline for ratification have sealed the fate of the proposed amendment. Justice Ginsburg's judgment is that the deadline has expired and that she «would like it to start over» presents a definitive view that the process has come to an end.

According to Vox, Justice Ginsburg also said "There's too much controversy about latecomers, plus, a number of states have withdrawn their ratification. So, if you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard states that said 'we've changed our minds?'" Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota—voted to ratify the ERA but later rescinded that ratification.

Today, however, one thing is absolutely clear from both sides of the abortion divide: ratification of the ERA with its current wording will likely overturn laws prohibiting public funding of abortion—

Rep. Chris Smith
Photo: Amanda Bossard/Medill News Service

like the Hyde Amendment—and undo modest restrictions on abortion including waiting periods, parental involvement, women's right to know laws, conscience rights including the Weldon Amendment and any ban on late term abortion including the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Should the ERA be ratified without clarifying abortion-neutral language—to wit: "*Nothing in this Article shall be construed to grant or secure any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof*"—abortion activists will use the ERA as they have successfully used state ERAs in both New Mexico and Connecticut—to force taxpayers to pay for abortion on demand.

Consider this:

- The Supreme Court of New Mexico ruled in 1998 that the state was required to fund abortion based solely on the state ERA and said the law "undoubtedly singles out…a gender-linked condition that is unique to women" and therefore "violates the Equal Rights Amendment."
- In like manner, the Supreme Court of Connecticut invalidated its state ban on abortion funding and wrote in 1986: "it is therefore clear, under the Connecticut ERA, that the regulation excepting…abortions from the Medicaid program discriminates against women."
- Today in Pennsylvania, activists are suing to eviscerate the abortion funding restriction in that state claiming that the Hyde-type restriction violates the Pennsylvania Equal Rights Amendment.

While I take issue with abortion activists who refuse to recognize an unborn child's inherent dignity, worth and value, at least activists on both sides agree that the ERA as written will be used in court as a means to compel public funding of abortion and to strike down the Hyde Amendment and other modest abortion restrictions at both the state and federal level.

NARAL Pro-Choice America plainly states: "With its ratification, the ERA…would require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws…"

A senior lawyer of the National Women's Law Centers said: "The ERA would help create a basis to challenge abortion restrictions."

The National Right to Life Committee states that "the proposed federal ERA would invalidate the federal Hyde Amendment and all state restrictions on tax-funded abortions."

And the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops agree and wrote "One consequence of the ERA would be the likely requirement of federal funding for abortions…(and) arguments have been proffered that the federal ERA would… restrain the ability of the federal and state governments to enact other measures regulating abortion, such as third-trimester or partial birth abortion bans, parental consent, informed consent, conscience-related exemptions, and other provisions."

According to the most recent Marist Poll (January 2020) ,

- 60% of all Americans oppose using tax dollars for abortion,
- seven in ten Americans including nearly half who identify as pro-choice want significant restrictions on abortion,
- a majority of Americans—55%--want to ban abortion after 20 weeks,
- nearly two-thirds of Americans oppose abortion if the child will be born with Down Syndrome.

I believe that all human beings—especially the weakest and most vulnerable including unborn baby girls and boys—deserve respect, empathy, compassion and protection from violence.

If abortion is a right, then equal rights are a fiction

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

Slogans often hide controversial and undefended assumptions.

#MyRightMyDecision is the hashtag abortion defenders used as the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments recently in an abortion-related case. Abortion is a right, the slogan claims, so people should be allowed to decide whether or not to have one.

A "right" is generally understood to be a just claim or entitlement. If there is a moral right to abortion, then other people (or society as a whole) are wrong to deprive someone of it.

So *is* abortion a right? One way it could be a right is if pregnant women have sovereign authority over what happens inside their bodies. Many abortion supporters hold this kind of view.

But sovereignty is limited by the rights of others. "Mere ownership," as philosopher Mary Anne Warren, a defender of abortion, writes, "does not give me the right to kill innocent people whom I find on my property."

This is also clear when we think about the treatment of unborn children outside the context of abortion. A pregnant woman may not ingest substances that deform or disable her unborn child. Bodily autonomy isn't a license to violate the rights of others.

Human embryos and fetuses, the science of embryology shows, are distinct human organisms at the embryonic and fetal developmental stages. Each of us was once one of them. And if they matter like we do, then dismembering and killing them (as abortion does) is no more a "right" than doing the same to other vulnerable and dependent people.

This leads to a second way that abortion could be a right. Maybe unborn humans just aren't very important. Maybe they don't have a right to life like older human beings do. Killing them, on this view, could be permissible for any number of reasons—and interference with that killing could be a violation of the rights of pregnant women.

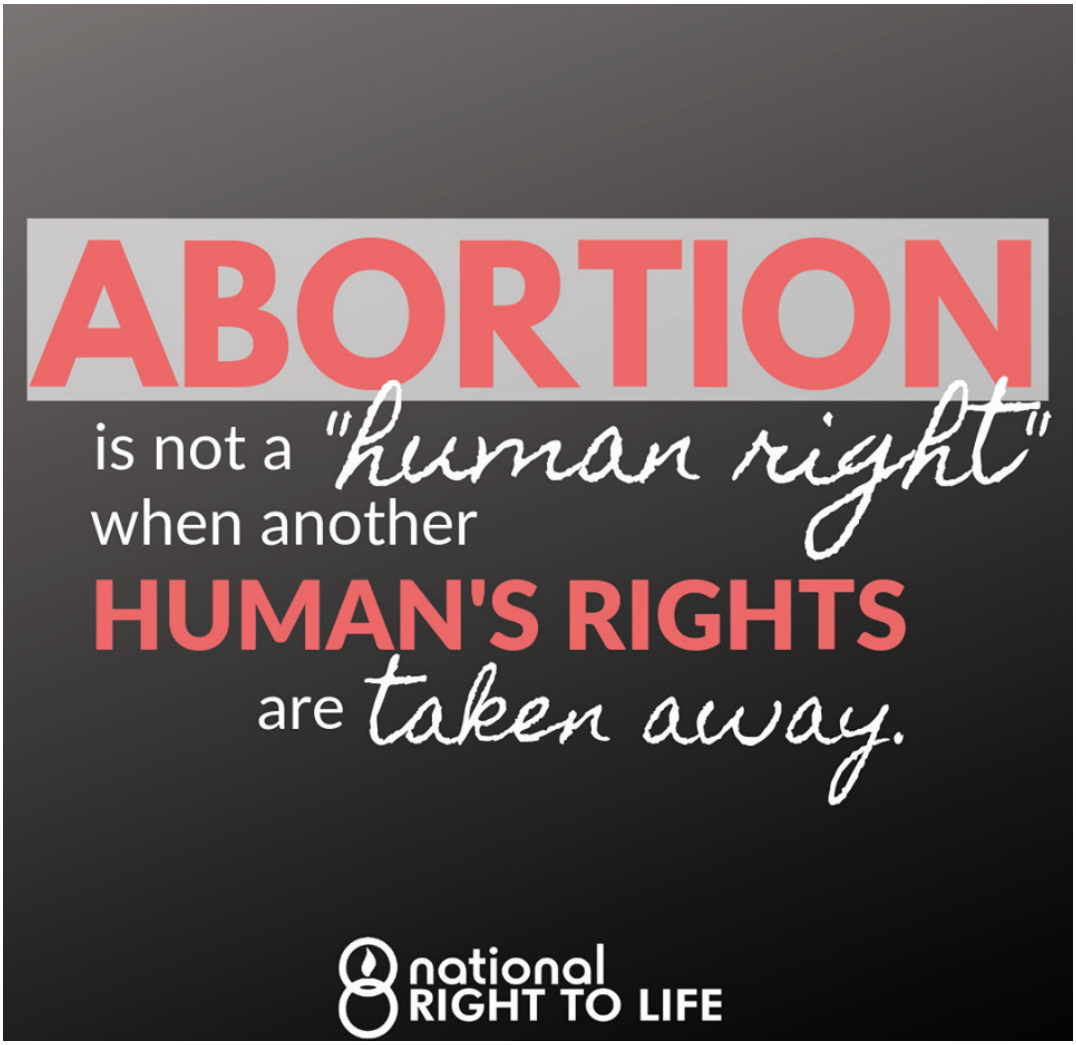
But this position relies on a sharp moral distinction between members of the species *Homo sapiens*. Some humans have rights and deserve respect from others and protection under the law. Other humans have no rights and may be discarded for the benefit or convenience of those who *do* matter.

Most abortion defenders in the cultural and political arena rarely recognize this assumption, much less defend it. It raises all sorts of troubling issues.

If only some human beings have rights, then merely being human isn't enough, and the term "human rights" is actually a misnomer. (If abortion were really a *human* right, a right possessed by virtue of humanity, then unborn humans would have a right to abortion—but not a right to exist in the first place.)

According to this view, then, some other characteristic must be necessary for the possession of rights. And since any such trait (e.g., mental ability, independence or "viability," appearance) comes in varying degrees, people with more of that characteristic have greater rights than those who have less.

So abortion could be a right—but only if "human rights" is an incoherent concept and "equal rights" is a fiction. It's easier not to argue for (or think about) those presuppositions, though, and just tweet #MyRightMyDecision.



Please sign Petition calling on Speaker Pelosi to allow a vote on The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

By Dave Andrusko

As *NRL News Today* reported on many occasions, the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives has heretofore successfully bottled up proposed legislation to explicitly 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," including transportation to a hospital. The title of the measure is "The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" (H.R. 962).

NRLC is asking you to download a petition addressed to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.), fill it out, and return it to

National Right to Life
1446 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The Petition simply but powerfully calls on Speaker Pelosi "to allow a vote on legislation that would protect babies who are born alive following an abortion attempt."

You can download additional copies at www.nrlc.org/involved or call (202) 378-8843.

We deeply appreciate your help.

TELL SPEAKER PELOSI:
Protect Children Born Alive Following an Attempted Abortion

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Current federal law does not sufficiently protects babies who survive an attempted abortion. While the law recognizes that all infants born alive are "persons," babies who survive an attempted abortion are left defenseless because there is no requirements that the abortion provider treat the infant with the same degree of care they would provide to any other newborn.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 962) would remedy this problem by requiring 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," including transportation to a hospital.

However, your Democrat House Leadership is refusing to hold a vote on this legislation. Therefore, we the undersigned call on you to allow a vote on legislation that would protect babies who are born alive following an abortion attempt.

1	PRINT NAME PHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS	ADDRESS
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national RIGHT TO LIFE
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(202) 626-8800 www.nrlc.org

Please return immediately to National Right to Life.
To download additional copies, visit www.nrlc.org/getinvolved
OR call (202) 378-8843.

"Depraved" Online Video surfaces on Tik Tok of girl celebrating during a surgical abortion

By SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

An online video has surfaced which shows a young woman dancing in an abortion clinic and smiling as her unborn baby is killed during an ultrasound guided surgical abortion.

Eden Linton, SPUC Youth and Education Officer said: "This video is grotesque. For any person to celebrate and smile as an innocent human is torn apart is utterly depraved."

"Abortion Time! Take 2"

The video, which was posted the on the social media platform, Tik Tok, is captioned, 'Abortion Time! Take 2". The footage shows the girl cradling her early pregnancy bump and laughing in a car as she arrives at a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

She is then seen dancing in celebration in the waiting room, whilst another couple sat sadly in the corner. The footage shows the ultrasound-guided abortion where the baby is then sucked from the womb. The girl is seen smiling cheerfully on the bed with her legs in stirrups.

The video has been viewed millions of times and has sparked controversy across social media with many users reporting that they were disturbed by the footage.

"Watching a mother smile and dance whilst her unborn baby is sucked through a tube is a reflection of just how depraved the 'pro-choice' culture has become." Ms Linton said. "An entire generation has been indoctrinated to believe that abortion is something to be celebrated, and footage like this is the result."

She continued, "Tik Tok is currently one of the most popular social media platforms, which is tailored specifically for very young children and teenagers to use. It is worrying to think of the millions of young children who have viewed this video and similar content."

Tik Tok's Distressing And Dangerous Abortion Content

Tik Tok is a social media platform which is used by children and teenagers to post and share short video clips. Since its launch in 2018, Tik Tok has risen to incredible levels of popularity with over 500 million people using the platform each month.

Amongst its users are pro-abortion activists who have used the platform to create and share disturbing abortion content.

In February, another Tik Tok video sparked controversy after the footage showed a pregnant woman finding out the sex of her unborn baby and having a surprise abortion at the end.

A range of 'humorous' abortion content is also rife throughout the platform which includes girls meeting aborted foetuses in the afterlife and 'best friend' abortion appointments where young teenage girls video themselves going to abortion clinics on a day out.

Correcting a media account in a manner that promotes respect for all human life

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

There is an old expression: "It is easier to draw flies with sugar than with vinegar." That adage reminds us that treating others with kindness often creates a better outcome than when we express criticism—even when justly deserved—through anger or rudeness. Here's one recent example.

Not surprisingly, recent media coverage of key National Right to Life-backed legislation, such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act was primarily one-sided in many media outlets. But one outlet—*CNN*--did something nothing short of shocking.

When I read the article, I was stunned. The reporter, when describing the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, wrote, "The second bill to be considered Tuesday is the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, sponsored by Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, that would require abortion providers to work to 'preserve the life and health' *of a fetus that was born following an attempted abortion as they would for a newborn baby*..." [emphasis mine.]

The reporter was lambasted in social media for calling a baby born alive after an abortion "a fetus" instead of a baby, newborn, or even neonate, any one of which would have been accurate. Such an egregious error called for a response.

In this day and age, it would have been easy to take to social media and criticize her publicly. But to what end? Wouldn't the chances of her understanding why her words were wrong be much improved if I contacted her privately? My conclusion was yes.

So, in my role as communications director, I wrote her an email.

My job is not to get angry at the press. My job is to treat reporters with respect and courtesy, the same respect and courtesy that I would hope to be given as a professional and the same respect I would want our issue to be given.

In the email, I told the reporter that I was alarmed to read that a baby born alive was referred to as a fetus and then I explain why,

A fetus born alive *is* a living newborn baby--regardless of how he or she came into the world. As such, the law recognizes that a child born alive following an abortion is a legal person fully deserving of the protection of our laws. What the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act does is impose penalties for those who neglect the care of a *living baby* and treat him or her like medical waste.

It is disturbing to find a newborn baby referred to as a fetus--as if the legality of his or her life is in question because of *how* that particular baby was born. What *should* be disturbing is that a living human baby is allowed to die after he or she is *already born*.

My point was to show her the error of her wording and do it respectfully.

Is it silly to call a baby born alive a "fetus?" Yes.

But does it serve the cause of unborn babies to publicly chastise her? No.

As an aside—but an important one—too many are losing touch with some of our most valuable social norms: courtesy and respect. Too often, we see (and hear!) angry exchanges between those with opposing viewpoints and things like common courtesy and respect for others are lost.

It is important, more so now than ever, that we as pro-lifers stand out because we do believe in respect. We stand for respect for every human life because each person is made in God's image. Whatever the provocation, our respect for human life is greater. And that includes the media which covers our issue.

See "Correcting," page 25

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life representatives speak about Supreme Court oral arguments

WASHINGTON—On March 4, representatives of National Right to Life (NRLC) and its Louisiana affiliate, Louisiana Right to Life (LARTL), spoke outside the U.S. Supreme Court while the Court heard oral arguments in *June Medical Services, L.L.C. v. Russo*.

At stake is Louisiana's 2014 "Unsafe Abortion Protection Act" which requires that abortionists have admitting privileges to a hospital within 30 miles of an abortion clinic. Louisiana already requires doctors who perform surgery at outpatient surgical centers to have hospital privileges. Act 620 extends that requirement to include abortionists.

The National Right to Life Committee and Louisiana Right to Life filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Louisiana's "Unsafe Abortion Protection Act"

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life said:

For years, the abortion industry has carved out an exemption for itself from minimal health and safety requirements intended to protect unborn children and their mothers. They insist they should not be required to follow the same laws as other surgical centers because, somehow, that would be "singling" them out. That is nonsense.

The law in Louisiana requires that doctors at ambulatory surgical centers have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Why should the abortion industry be exempt? Why should they receive special treatment?

Hospital admitting privileges are called "privileges" for a reason. A doctor must meet certain requirements established by the hospital before he or she is allowed to practice there. Those privileges are usually given to doctors based on credentials and performance.

Carol Tobias, National Right to Life President
Photo Credit: Live Action

If the abortion industry is really worried about women, they should want an admitting privileges requirement, in order to reassure women that they are getting good care. If admitting privileges are not required, the door is open for all substandard doctors to start performing abortions in LA.

I stand here today in support of Act 620 and the Louisiana citizens who want to enact laws to better protect women. The Supreme Court should allow Louisiana to honor that noble goal.

Together with State Rep. Katrina Jackson, Louisiana Right to Life passed the 2014 "Unsafe Abortion Protection Act" with a bi-partisan majority in the legislature to protect the health of Louisiana women.

Alexandra Seghers, director of education for Louisiana Right to Life spoke directly to pro-abortion groups and their allies, saying:

While you abortion advocates say you fight for "women's rights", we stand here today with actual Louisiana women, fighting for their lives.

While you say that emergencies are rare and hospital admitting privileges aren't necessary, we say, tell that to the woman last year who suffered at the hands of one of our abortionists, bleeding out, without having the emergency supplies on hand to stop it. She had to have an emergency hysterectomy after all of her delays in care.

You say that abortion should be legal and safe, we ask why you don't join us in condemning Louisiana abortion facilities for not sanitizing their equipment between abortions, for having unqualified staff neglecting patient's vital signs, and for protecting statutory rapists.

We here know that they already disregard the life of the innocent unborn, so it is not far from that to know that they also disregard the lives of their mothers. Today we are shedding a blinding spotlight over all of their attempts to keep in the dark these abusive health violations, their for-profit motive, and these brave Louisiana women's stories.

Alex Seghers, Director of Education for Louisiana Right to Life
Photo Credit: Live Action

This law, the Unsafe Abortion Protection Act, Act 620, was written by women,

See "Arguments," page 45

What kind of Nation are we "if we are one of seven nations that allow abortion on demand?"

"It is 2020, for God's sake. It is not 1020"—Sen. Lindsey Graham

Editor's note. On February 25 Republican senators brilliantly made the case to move past a filibuster ('invoke cloture') in order to have a real Senate debate over whether it is acceptable to kill unborn babies capable of experiencing excruciating pain as they are annihilated and if we think it's okay to allow abortion survivors to die without treating them the same way we would any premature baby born at the same age. Invoking cloture requires 60 votes.

Tragically the final vote was 53-44 in favor of cloture on the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" (S. 3275) and 56-41 in favor of cloture on the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" (S. 311). The former was sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.). The latter was sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) whose remarks we are also reposting today.

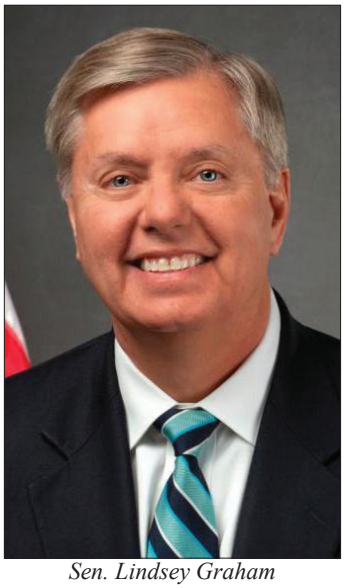
The failure to secure 60 was entirely because of near-unanimous Democratic opposition.

The Trump Administration released a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) strongly supporting the bills and stating that President Trump would sign into law both pieces of legislation.

The following are the remarks of Sen. Graham.

Mr. GRAHAM.

Madam President, before Senator Sasse leaves, I say to the Senator, I just can't thank you enough for the passion and the persuasion you bring to these issues. You speak from the heart. You speak with reason. You make a lot of sense, and over time, you will prevail. Just stick with it. Your day will come. What he is saying is, if



Sen. Lindsey Graham

you try to abort a child, and the child survives the abortion, shouldn't the doctor and the nurses and everybody involved treat the child the same as if they came into the world some other way? I think the answer is yes.

Really, these two pieces of legislation are about us as a nation. This is 2020. Who are we as Americans? To me it is odd that we even need to have a discussion about this. I am just perplexed that this is even a problem.

Abortion is legal in the United States. There are certain restrictions on it, but I just can't believe we can't rally around the idea that if a baby survives the procedure and is alive and breathing and functioning, medical science doesn't kick in to save the baby. It is just—I don't know. I don't know what happened. What happened to our country that we are even talking about this? It is 2020, for God's sake. It is not 1020. Anyway, just hang in there, Ben. Your day will come.

My legislation—I have been doing this for a few years now. We are one of seven nations in the world that allow abortion on demand at 20 weeks, along with North Korea, Vietnam, China, Singapore, the Netherlands, and Canada. What would this legislation do at 20 weeks? This is about the fifth month in the birthing process. The bill is called the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Why do we call it that?

Medical science has determined that a child at 20 weeks is capable of feeling excruciating pain. So if there is an operation to save a child's life or to repair a medical defect at 20 weeks, they provide anesthesia to the child because, during the surgery, the child feels pain. You can see that when a child is poked, they actually repel against the poking. The bottom line is, I find it odd that medical science requires anesthesia to save the baby's life, but during that same period, you can dismember the child. That is what we are talking about here.

What kind of Nation are we if, at the fifth month—this is 20 weeks into the birthing process—we are one of seven nations that allow abortion on demand? There are exceptions for the life of the mother—that hard decision if the mother's life is impacted by the child, and we will leave that up to the family—and if the pregnancy is as a result of rape or incest. But beyond that, we want to eliminate abortion on demand at the 20-week period because, I would argue, that doesn't make us a better nation. It doesn't advance anybody's cause.

The bottom line is, based on medical science, we know that this child has nerve endings intact. Medical encyclopedias encourage young parents to sing to their unborn child during this period of development because they can begin to associate their voice and recognize who they are. I find it odd that we would encourage young parents to sing to their unborn child at 20 weeks; we require anesthesia to save the child's life; but we are also a country that allows the child to be dismembered. It makes no sense to me. They have exceptions that make sense: life of the mother, the result of rape or incest where there is no choice at all.

The bottom line is that these two pieces of legislation are going to continue to be advanced until they pass. It takes a while for America to kind of get focused on what we are saying here because abortion is an uncomfortable topic to talk about, particularly in the early stages of the pregnancy. But what Senator Sasse is saying is that in the case of the child surviving an abortion, there is really not much to talk about. We should protect the life that is now a being.

The baby survived. I don't know why the baby survived. I don't know how the baby survived. I just know that decent people would want to come to the child's aid once

See "Nation," page 46

Not so long ago, the *New York Times* knew there were terrible conditions in abortion "mills"

By Sarah Terzo

In an article from 1991, the *New York Times* wrote about rundown, sleazy "abortion mills" in New York City.

The article, written by Robert D. McFadden, described abortion in New York City this way:

> **"It is a shadowy business, the unregulated world of abortion mills, shabby clinics operating behind the facades of doctors' offices, often in poor neighborhoods. Its victims are women who know little about legal rights or medical options, who have seen an ad or heard a tip and come to this … to risk butchery on a table….No one knows how many such fly-by-night surgeries there are in New York City or how many abortions they produce. But law-enforcement officials and medical experts say dozens of these clinics are believed to be tucked away behind storefronts and in more ordinary-looking doctors' offices and they are believed responsible for scores or even hundreds of illegal or incompetent abortions annually."**

The article refers to:

> **"chilling secrets of sleazy abortion mills — most of them run by licensed doctors who use their offices as abortion "clinics," but are not licensed as full-fledged abortion clinics and are thus not subject to rigorous state standards and periodic inspections."**

After giving several examples of abortion malpractice, the *Times* points out that despite multiple botched abortions causing injuries, only one New York doctor lost his license.

> **"Only one doctor in 1989 had a license summarily suspended for gross misconduct in an abortion…. there have been only four other summary suspensions — emergency actions invoked before hearings on charges — related to abortions in the last six years — one in 1985, one in 1990 and two this year.**
>
> **While the state regulates and inspects the legitimate clinics, it lacks the authority and staff to regulate and inspect doctors' offices, and can only challenge a doctor's license after a complaint and an investigation. And many clients, even if dissatisfied, are reluctant to file a complaint."**

This is a rare candid article from a newspaper that usually stays firmly pro-choice and, in future years, would argue against any kind of health regulations on abortion facilities.

From Robert D. McFadden, "Abortion Mills Thriving Behind Secrecy and Fear" *New York Times* November 24, 1991.

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

High school students raise funds to "let women in crisis know that they are not alone"

By Lisa Bourne

Two California high school students took their pro-life conviction to a new level this school year when they decided raise funds for a pro-life organization.

Madison Zeigler and Pietro Lanza said they were moved by the experience, both in raising funds to support life, but also by voicing the value of human life in conversations that occurred in the process.

After conceiving and completing the project to take place during their school's homecoming football game this past fall, the two high school juniors discovered Heartbeat International through an internet search and made a donation to the pregnancy help organization.

"It was truly an incredible experience, and my club-partner and I are so thankful that we had the opportunity to do it!" Madison wrote to Heartbeat.

Both young people consider themselves strongly pro-life, and they liked that Heartbeat embodies the idea that there are better options for women facing unplanned pregnancy than abortion – that there is hope.

"We love your organization because it provides women in crisis with the support that they need, and saves the precious lives of unborn children," they said, "while also sharing the hope of Jesus Christ in situations that seem hopeless."

"We too want "to make abortion unwanted today and unthinkable for future generations," they continued, quoting from Heartbeat's vision, "and we feel the best way to do that is to support organizations like yours that let women in crisis know that they are not alone, and that there is hope that can be found in Jesus Christ."

Pietro started a student club last year at their San Diego-area high school, Santa Fe Christian, to educate people on world events and social issues. He said the main goal was to provide the opportunity for students to practice critical thought. They named their student group Young Americans for Freedom, though not affiliated with the national group of the same name.

Pietro Lanza and Madison Zeigler at their pro-life display during their high school's homecoming football game
Photo courtesy of Madison and Pietro

Madison would later come to be co-leader with Pietro, and she suggested the pro-life fundraiser when they learned of the opportunity to have a table at the school's homecoming game.

At first Pietro was skeptical over how effective the project might be, but Madison persisted, convincing him the idea of raising funds to benefit life was worthwhile.

"I really took that to heart," Pietro said.

After talking it over they agreed that it was a good goal, adding that as Christians it's important to practice what one preaches.

Pietro and Madison planned, prepared, set up and manned their table for several hours during the school's homecoming football game, offering pregnancy resource information from Heartbeat, including Option Line, the Abortion Pill Rescue Network and the LOVE Approach, which is Heartbeat's guide for dealing with someone who is facing an unplanned pregnancy and may be considering abortion. The students also had cookies, donuts and water available for donations.

They engaged with visitors at the table on the pro-life issue, and many donated more money once they learned why Madison and Pietro were raising it. In fact, the students said that most of what they brought in came from additional donations to the pro-life cause.

When all was said and done, they were able to make a $160 donation to Heartbeat.

They learned a lot from the hands-on experience, they said, both in terms of putting their faith into action and producing results.

"It's really helped my own beliefs," Pietro told *Pregnancy Help News*. "Here we are talking about it, now let's do something about it."

Madison said, "It has real-life effects when we're able to do that."

Their parents are proud of their work, both students said, and at least one member of the school's leadership commended their putting time and effort into a cause they believe in.

The student club continues to go well, Madison told Pregnancy Help News, and with much going on in the world, the students have been able to tackle many important topics and educate members.

Pietro and Madison haven't yet had another chance to fund-raise through their student club, but they continue to examine potential ways for the club to be active and effective.

"We still are very much passionate about the pro-life movement," Madison said, "and want to support it any way we can whether it be through educating our fellow club members, participating in pro-life events, or fundraising again, which I know we would love to do!"

She looks forward to putting her voice out there for life in the future.

Pietro agreed, saying, "It's really cool that my words can result in action for the world."

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

An abortion proponent takes a genuine medical problem and offers a wrong-headed, life-destroying "solution": abortion

By Laura Echevarria National Right to Life, Director of Communications and Press Secretary

On February 18, *NBC News'* "Think" opinion page posted a piece about maternal mortality in the U.S. written by Prof. Summer Sherburne Hawkins.

Hawkins asserts that it is on the rise and is especially egregious in Washington, D.C.— and lays a large portion of the blame for it on a lack of access to abortion.

"Maternal Mortality is Worse in Washington, D.C. than Syria. Abortion Access is One Reason Why" contains the most insupportable errors I think I have ever seen in one article.

Hawkins, an associate professor at Boston College's School of Social Work, not only compares unrelated patient groups and makes sweeping assertions, she ignores facts to create a conclusion of her own making.

First, Hawkins uses the country of Syria as a starting point. She argues that due to war time conditions, Syria's maternal mortality rose from 26 deaths to 31 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2007 and 2015 (According to the data she uses, her dates are in error. The statistics she uses actually fit the 2007 to 2017 time period—a ten year time period).

She then compares this number from Syria to the average number of maternal deaths in Washington, D.C. (for the 8-year time* period she cites) which is 33 deaths per 100,000 live births. Hawkins then presents shocking statistics. African-American women in Washington, D.C. die at a much higher rate –59.7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017–than Panama's rate at 52 deaths per 100,000 live births or the U.S. current rate of 19 maternal deaths per 100,000.

So, why the huge disparity?

She argues that it's because of a lack of abortion access.

But Hawkins fails to note, or acknowledge, several critically important things.

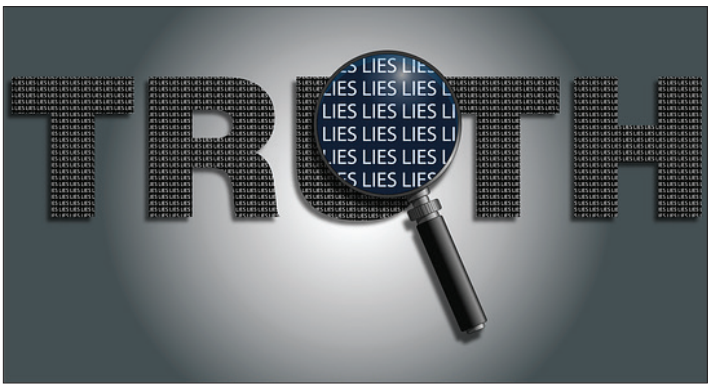
The deaths she includes in the statistics for both the U.S. and around the globe include those **following** an abortion. Note the statistics she uses for worldwide maternal deaths come from the United Nations' World Health Organization (W.H.O.) which defines maternal deaths as: "Maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or *within 42 days of pregnancy termination* per 100,000 live births." [emphasis mine]

But also compare this definition with the one used by the Centers for Disease Control for all U.S. deaths which includes Washington, D.C.: CDC defines pregnancy-related death "as the death of a woman during pregnancy or *within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication*; a chain of events initiated by pregnancy; or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy." [emphasis mine]

The W.H.O. uses statistics that chart deaths up to 42 days after a pregnancy-related complication. The CDC charts deaths up to a year **following** a pregnancy-related complication.

Obviously, the CDC's definition will create a greater number of deaths per 100,000 live births, skewing any comparisons.

The issue is not that maternal mortality has risen in the last few decades. It is why—and the increase is **not** for the reason that Hawkins insists is the primary cause: the lack of abortion access.



First, Hawkins fails to note the elephant in the room—Washington, D.C. is home to one of Planned Parenthood's mega-clinics. In fact, in the Washington, D.C. area, a woman has the option of visiting any one of nearly a dozen locations where she can obtain an abortion. So, lack of access in Washington, D.C. cannot be the cause.

Second, compounding the issue in Washington, D.C., is that two hospitals closed maternity wards. A third restricts the number of Medicaid patients it will accept.

In addition, the higher African-American population and higher poverty rate combined with a lack of access to immediate medical care creates conditions that make a greater incidence of maternal mortality likely— if not guaranteed.

Third, the medical conditions that contribute greatly to maternal mortality, such as diabetes and high-blood pressure, have a higher impact on African-Americans at a much higher rate than other population groups. While maternal mortality among blacks is higher among African-Americans nationwide for the reasons listed, it is particularly high in Washington, D.C. for a myriad of reasons—**none** of which involve abortion access.

The real numbers are that eighteen women died from pregnancy-related complications in Washington, D.C. between the years 2012-2016. Of those 18, 17 of them were African-American, one was Hispanic. The total number of live births in Washington, D.C. in 2016 was 20,000.

But Hawkins ignores these very real contributing factors that have nothing to do with abortion and uses the "study" she led to push abortion.

See "Solution," page 41

The beauty of respecting life—even when circumstances look bleak

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

What drives your commitment to promoting the sanctity of innocent human life? Was there an eye-opening moment when a life-changing incident forced you to come to grips with the tragedy of abortion?

For Tracy, a candidate for the Pennsylvania state legislature, the defining moment occurred when she was pregnant.

As Tracy wrote to me, the life issue came up front and center—and she could not avert her eyes.

"This issue is very close to my heart," Tracy noted.

"I was offered a 'selective reduction' when carrying my twins, based on a non-confirmed diagnosis."

"Selective reduction." Code words for aborting a living preborn baby, while allowing her twin to live.

Tracy would have none of it. She was determined to give birth to both her girls.

"My daughters were born at 28 weeks," Tracy said. "Emily passed (away) shortly after birth, but we were given time to hold her and say goodbye."

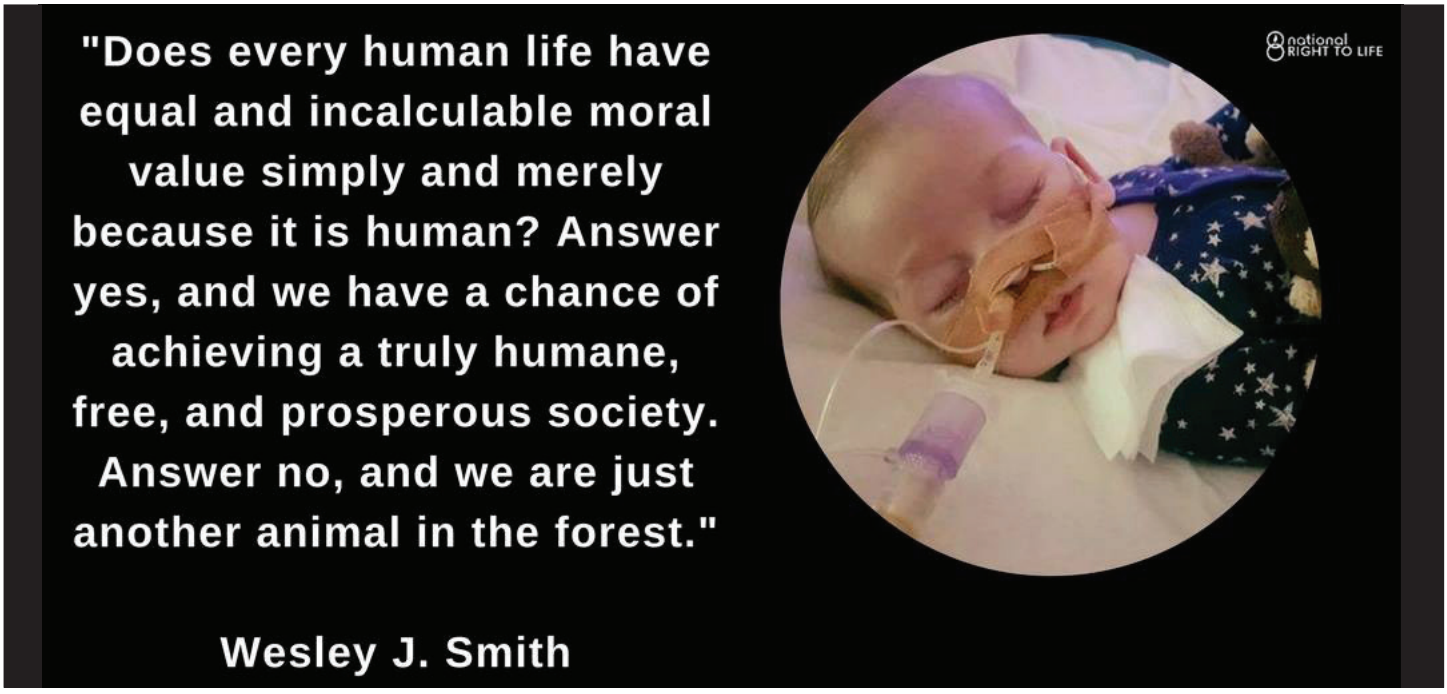
As for the other twin?

"Alyssa graduates from college in May," Tracy stated.

This incident is just one more example of the beauty of respecting life—even when circumstances look bleak. Imagine what Tracy's emotional pain would have been, if she had agreed to the abortion? She never would have had that profound peace that came with holding her baby in her arms.

Tracy is one of the many women who courageously resist a doctor's call to abort their offspring. They choose the path of life—and they are grateful for it. Tracy is eternally thankful that she had the opportunity to spend time with Emily…to embrace her…and to love her before the twin passed into eternity. She received a sense of closure that an abortion would not have given her.

How about you? Was there one particular incident that propelled you to defend human life? Sharing that personal story may be just what is needed to save an innocent, unrepeatable human being!



The story behind "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always," Robert Munsch's classic children's story

By Rai Rojas

Editor's note. This ran a while back but it is so incredibly powerful I repost it every couple of years.

"Only he who suffers can be the guide and healer of the suffering."
— Thomas Mann

My six-year-old grandson loves to read almost as much as he loves being read to. So much so that if during the course of the day he commits a slight transgression the sure-fire way to get him back on track is to threaten to read him one less story later that night. It works every time.

A few years ago he asked me to come sit in the rocking chair in his room as his mom read to him before prayers and sleep, and of course I obliged. I'll admit that I was only halfway paying attention when my daughter began reading Robert Munsch's "Love You Forever."

The book starts off with a young mom rocking her baby and singing a song to him as he falls asleep.

"I'll love you forever,
I'll like you for always,
"As long as I'm living
"My baby you'll be."

For the rest of his life, no matter his age, she always manages to find him in bed and—well–rock him to sleep.

I'll also admit that I thought it was a little creepy; I mean at one point she's climbing stairs to get into her adult child's room to take him out of his bed to… rock him to sleep.

But the mom's self-less devotion clearly resonated with my daughter, reading and repeating this verse to her son, because about half way through the story I realized that she was crying and on the verge of a sob.

She got out of bed, handed me the book and asked me to please finish reading it for the little dude – and I did. After she composed herself, she nuzzled in next to the boy and read the last two books of the night.

Now, several years later my daughter is finally at a point where she can read "Love you forever" to him without blubbering. Well, she was.

Last night she sent me a text with a link to the author's web site with the words – "This is so horribly sad" written underneath.

And it was.

On his web site Mr. Munsch explains the story behind his best-selling book.

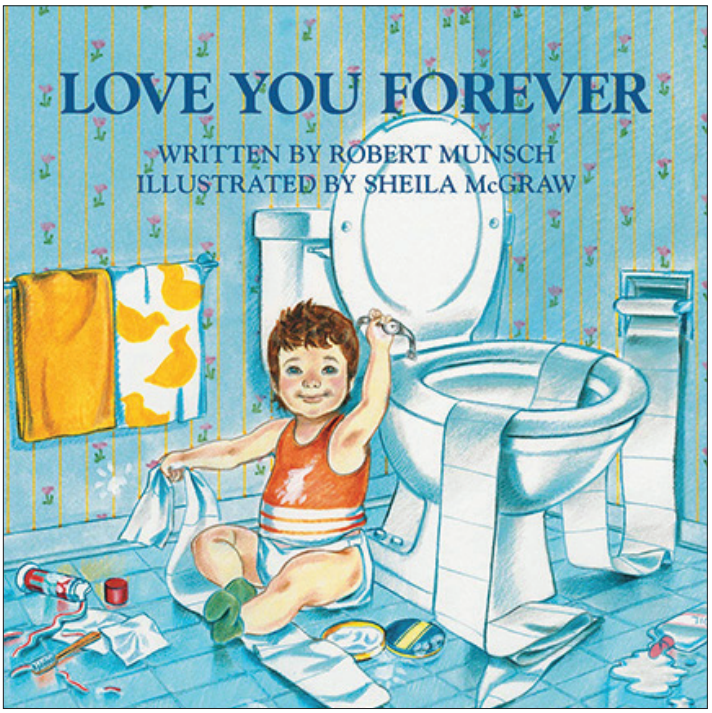
"I made that up after my wife and I had two babies born dead. The song was my song to my dead babies. For a long time I had it in my head and I couldn't even sing it because every time I tried to sing it I cried. It was very strange having a song in my head that I couldn't sing.

"For a long time it was just a song, but one day, while telling stories at a big theater at the University of Guelph, it occurred to me that I might be able to make a story around the song.

"Out popped 'Love You Forever' pretty much the way it is in the book."

Oh my.

I immediately thought of my friends who've lost babies at birth, or who have miscarried, and how some of them have grappled with that great loss.



But I also reflected of the countless women I've met who have also lost their children no less tragically to the once prevailing culture of death.

Some of these women have healed, some are still painfully engulfed in the process of mourning – but all have expressed a forever love for their children.

The pro-life movement aches with them and for them. We fight, on a daily basis, to protect the lives of the innocent children, but also because we know the harm and the damage that is suffered by our post-aborted sisters and mothers and daughters. We know all too well the devastation that is felt by women once they realize that they are in fact the mothers of dead children.

It's a pain I can't and won't imagine – but it's a pain made manifest by the narrative behind Mr. Munsch's book.

My grandson has outgrown the story, and his little brother won't be ready to hear it for another couple of years. But now that she knows the back-story it may be even more difficult for my daughter to read.

That may be true for many of us.

Pro-Abortion Democrats Block Senate Passage of Both the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" and the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act"

From page 1

director for National Right to Life.

The Trump Administration released a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) strongly supporting the bills and stating that President Trump would sign into law both pieces of legislation,

> **Our most helpless Americans cannot protect themselves from pain or from those who would callously allow them to die. The government, therefore, has a compelling responsibility to defend the rights and interests of these babies, including to be free from excruciating or unnecessary pain. All babies have the same dignity. They should not have to endure pain, and they should receive critical life-saving care regardless of whether they are born in a hospital, at home, or in an abortion clinic.**

The final tally was 53-44 in favor of cloture on the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" with 2 Democrats voting in the affirmative and 56-41 in favor of cloture on the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" with 3 Democrats joining their Republican colleagues.

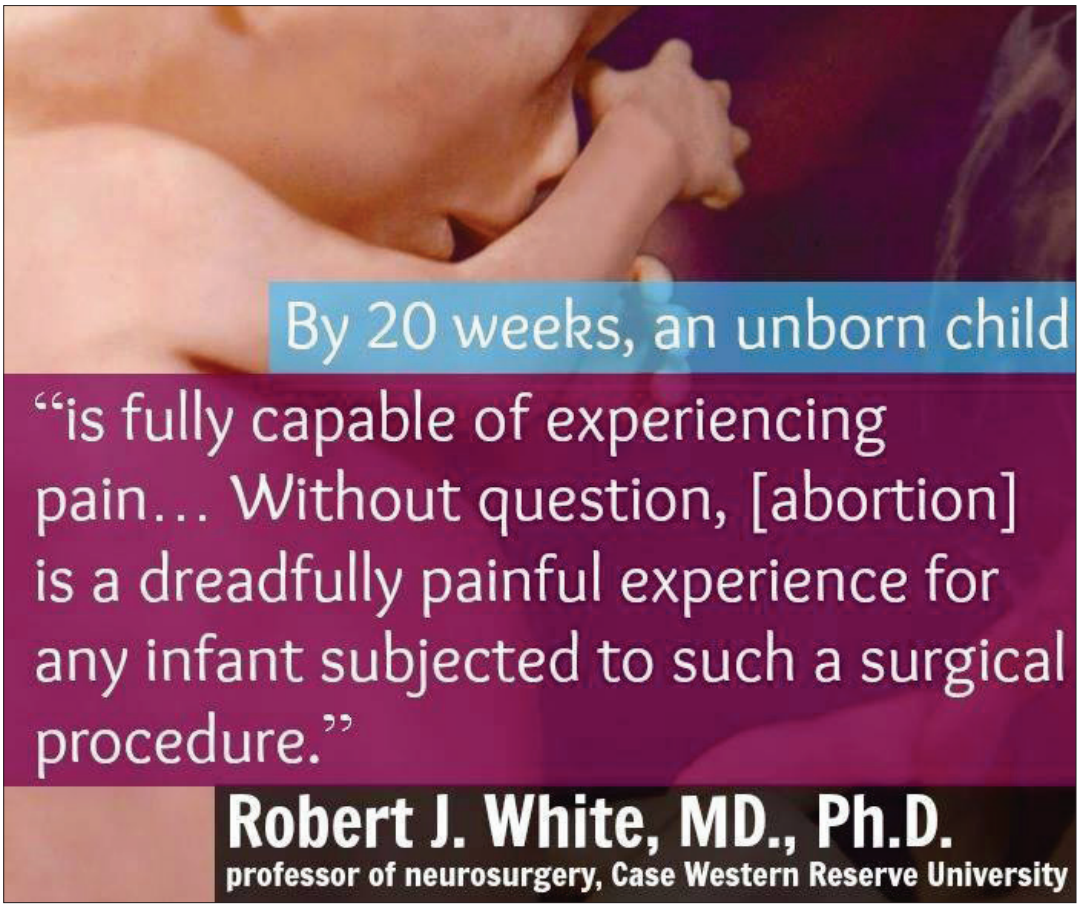
"These bills would have protected very developed, living unborn children who can feel pain and those babies who are born alive following an abortion who are often allowed to die from neglect," said National Right to Life President Carol Tobias.

Tobias continued, "Tragically, pro-abortion Democrats in the Senate are beholden to pro-abortion groups. Shame on pro-abortion Democrats for not being willing to even protect living babies that survive abortion or to protect late-term babies who feel the excruciating pain of abortion. Their constituents will want to know why they are willing to allow these horrors to continue."

Since 2010, National Right to Life and its state affiliates have led the effort to protect pain-capable unborn children, starting with enactment of model legislation in Nebraska. Sixteen states have enacted the National Right to Life model legislation, and the law is currently in effect in 15. The legislation has previously passed the U.S. House of Representatives and has garnered a majority of votes in the U.S. Senate.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act contains an explicit requirement 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," including transportation to a hospital. This language does not dictate bona fide medical judgments nor require futile measures, but rather, requires that babies born alive during abortions are treated in the same manner as those who are spontaneously born prematurely.

"Babies born after an abortion are considered separate individuals in the eyes of the law and every effort should be made to preserve their lives," Popik said. "Babies capable of feeling pain are considered by the medical profession to be a 'second patient' and should be treated in the law as the pain-capable human beings that they are."



Pro-life Pa. legislators question Governor's attempt to funnel as much as $3 million to Planned Parenthood

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

Some Pennsylvania lawmakers are expressing great skepticism about pro-abortion Governor Tom Wolf's attempts to funnel money to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion operation.

Wolf, who once was a volunteer "escort" at a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic, has included in his budget a line item for "access to reproductive health care." That is code language for $3 million in taxpayer funds for abortion giant Planned Parenthood.

During a recent legislative hearing on the budget, state Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York County) asked pointed questions of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Teresa Miller, about the controversial new line-item.

Senator Phillips-Hill said she has had "many constituents contact (her) with great concern with regard to this new line item with the belief that it would provide taxpayer-funded abortions."

The Senator pointed out that the money would go solely to Planned Parenthood; no other organization that provides reproductive health care would receive a share.

Miller acknowledged that the line item was meant to address the loss of federal funds to Planned Parenthood—a hallmark initiative of the Trump Administration. (Planned Parenthood stop participating in the Title X program when the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule" restored Title X family planning regulations that prohibit grantees from co-locating with abortion clinics or from referring clients for abortion.)

But Miller maintained that the money will not go to abortion "services" and said Planned Parenthood already has to verify to the state that they separate abortion from other family planning services, both financially and physically.

But Senator Phillips-Hill pointed out that "recently we have learned that grant money has not been used as the Commonwealth saw fit." (The controversy involved money that had been allocated for high-speed Internet for rural areas, but the money was never used for its intended purpose.)

Pro-abortion Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf

Given that experience, the Senator argued, "How do you intend to audit to assure that those grant funds are used for what they're being said they are used for?"

Miller responded that independent audits would be conducted and that the Commonwealth "will be checking."

But Senator Phillips-Hill remained leery of the department's assurances that tax money would not be used for abortion.

"I can certainly say that it would be incredibly difficult to support a budget proposal that provides $3 million for abortions, but a $45 million cut to school safety.

"I think that would send a very disturbing message to the public," Senator Phillips-Hill warned.

Miller shot back, "It is not funding abortions. Just so we're clear."

But it would be funding an operation that is by far the largest "provider" in an industry that takes the lives of more than 330,000 precious preborn children in one year alone.

Pro-life advocates will be watching carefully to see if the Republican-controlled legislature strips the Planned Parenthood funding from the Governor's budget—as by rights they should do.

Correcting a media account in a manner that promotes respect for all human life

From page 16

I didn't hear back from the reporter that day. But I noticed two days later that *CNN* had updated its story and used more neutral language when describing the bill. There were some who took to social media criticizing *CNN* for not pointing out the change and why it was needed.

I took a different approach. I emailed the reporter, again. This time, I wrote:

I noticed today that the language in Tuesday's article, "Senate to vote on two abortion restriction bills" was revised to make the description of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act more neutral.

Thank you for making the adjustment and using language that conveys the intent of the bill.

It was a simple email but I wanted her to know that I noticed, that I appreciated the change, and that I respected her enough to thank her in a professional manner.

Imagine my surprise when the reporter replied to my email around 6:30 that night, thanking me and wanting to know if she could speak to our president, Carol Tobias, by phone for an interview. I responded with a friendly email offering to set something up.

We are changing hearts and minds with truth, courtesy, kindness, and respect. It's how we reach reporters—and the general public —every day.

Abortion is big business' former abortionist says

By Sarah Terzo

A few years ago, I quoted former abortionist Dr. Robert Siudmack, who was featured in a video series called "The Truth about Abortion." The series was released by Coral Ridge Ministries and was divided into 10 parts.

The sixth video, which you can watch below, addresses the issues of abortion profits and the lack of doctor-patient relationships within abortion facilities.

First, Dr. Siudmack explains how an abortionist only sees a patient on the day of her abortion. He has no ongoing doctor-patient relationship with her. Usually, the abortionist is too busy performing abortions to counsel the patient and does not interact with the woman until her actual abortion procedure. He never lays eyes on her until he walks into the operating room and finds her on the table, her feet in stirrups. Siudmack says:

> **I would like to believe all doctors share a genuine concern for the health and well-being of their patients. The doctor-patient relationship is unique one that is started on the first visit and develops over the course of time. In an abortion clinic, there is no doctor-patient relationship. The doctor enters the room, there's a brief introduction. The patient is already on the table ready to have the procedure done. There is no sort of opportunity for any sort of meaningful relationship to develop.**

This lack of communication between doctor and patient could make it harder for the abortionist to view the woman as a unique, valuable person. Without any previous introduction, the abortionist walks in and sees the woman in a vulnerable position, her legs splayed open and her private parts exposed. It could be easy to see the woman not as a person, but as an object. Abortionists who go from room to room, doing abortions as if on an assembly line, barely even see the faces of the women they are operating on.

Other abortionists have commented on the lack of contact with patients. According to abortionist Eugene Fox:

> **They would put up these clinics and then they would bring in doctors, and the game was, how many can you do in an afternoon?… You didn't get a chance to know the patients ahead of time… We were like cogs in the wheel.**[1]

According to abortionist Edward Allred, who owns a chain of abortion facilities called Family Planning Associates:

> **We're trying to be as cost-effective as possible and speed is important… We try to use the physician for his technical skill and reduce the one-to-one relationship with the patient. We usually see the patient for the first time on the operation table and then not again. More contact is just not efficient.**

(Incidentally, at least a dozen women have died from botched abortions at Family Planning Associates abortion clinics.)

After commenting about the lack of doctor-patient interaction, Dr. Siudmack then talks about how making money was a huge motivation for his fellow workers in the abortion business:

> **I worked at the [Planned Parenthood] Margaret Sanger Center in downtown Manhattan for about a year before moving to South Florida, and it was all about the money, and how many abortions we could do in a short period of time. There was a set price, and obviously the more abortions one did, the more money they would make…. Abortion is big business.**

Another article I wrote back in October 2014 presented 10 quotes from abortion providers about how profitable abortion is for doctors who perform them and for those who own abortion facilities. While some abortion workers may genuinely want to help women, the abortion industry is first and foremost a moneymaking industry. No facility performs abortions for free (unlike pro-life crisis pregnancy centers, which have all kinds of free services for pregnant women).

The abortion industry has a long history of cutting corners and endangering women's lives in order to increase profits.

[1] Carole Joffe. *Doctors of Conscience: the Struggle to Provide Abortion before and after Roe Versus Wade* (Boston, Massachusetts: Beacon press, 1995) p.175.

Editor's note. Sarah Terzo is a pro-life author and creator of the Clinic Quotes website.

West Virginia becomes latest state to pass Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

From page 1

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (HB 4007/SB 231) will 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," including transportation to a hospital.

Moreover, for the first time, the legislation makes it possible to investigate and prosecute these cases. West Virginia law will define the actions required by the abortionist in the case of a born-alive abortion survivor as well as spelling out the penalties for failure to comply with the law.

Ingrid Duran, director of state legislation for National Right to Life, told *NRL News Today*, "The perverse nature of abortion on demand policies are that we have to debate not in what manner we treat a human baby that survives abortion but whether to treat. Thanks to West Virginians for Life for saying Yes to Life!"

'West Virginians for Life salutes the sponsors of the bill, Rep. Ruth Rowan and Sen. Patricia Rucker," said Dr. Wanda Franz, president of West Virginians for Life. "We thank the leadership, Senate President Mitch Carmichael and Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw and all those pro-life representatives who co-sponsored and voted for the bill."

Leaders of West Virginians for Life, National Right to Life and pro-life legislators gathered together March 2 in the Governor's Reception Room as Gov. Justice signed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

PPFA wins hefty award for attorney fees, news account misses that same law could well be upheld in the not too distant future

By Dave Andrusko

This really does remind you of the old definition of chutzpah: the man who kills his parents and then throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan.

Virtually every single pro-life measure passed in Indiana (or most anywhere else) is challenged in court by one or another platoon of the massive pro-abortion legal army, usually the ACLU or the Center for Reproductive Rights.

The point is the Abortion Industry has access to deep-pocketed legal organizations that either defend abortion as part of their portfolio or challenge pro-life laws as pretty much all they do. Guess what? That costs the state defending its duly passed pro-life law a small (or large) fortune.

Here's what makes the latest judgment handed down against the state by the relentless pro-abortion Southern Indiana District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt even more infuriating. It is not just the amount of the attorney fees she happily doled out to Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (represented by the ACLU): a whopping $179,977.80 (and $2,521.93 in "costs"), according to the *Indiana Lawyer*.

It's also that as *NRL News Today* reported back on May 29, 2019, "The United States Supreme Court upheld Indiana's Fetal Remains law, reversing the judgment of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals."

In other words, the Supreme Court had already upheld portions of the 2016 House Enrolled Act 1337, which (had it taken effect) "would have enacted three new provisions to Indiana abortion law," as Olivia Covington reported: "a prohibition on abortions based on gender, race or genetic abnormality; a requirement that abortion providers inform patients of those anti-discrimination policies; and a requirement that fetal remains be disposed of as a 'deceased human body.'"

In that same decision, however, the Supreme Court chose not to hear Indiana's defense of its prenatal nondiscrimination law protecting unborn children from discriminatory abortions, such as when abortions are carried out on the grounds of race, sex, or conditions like Down syndrome.

It was on that basis that Judge Platt granted Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky's request for $182,499.73. But is there anything conspicuously missing in the *Indiana Lawyer's* account? Indeed, there is!

In denying Indiana's petition, the High Court noted it was **not** speaking to the merits of the case, but was following its "ordinary practice" of denying petitions in cases that have not been considered by multiple Courts of Appeals. That is in the process of changing.

While he concurred with the Court's decision to deny certiorari on the question of Indiana's "Sex Selective and Disability Abortion Ban," Justice Clarence Thomas used a 20-page concurrence to note that laws like Indiana's "promote a State's compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics," (www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/052819zor_2dq3.pdf, beginning on page 13).

That is to say, the justices may well revisit the issue and could easily come to a very different conclusion.

So while PPFA soaks another state for lawyer fees, hats off to the state of Indiana for passing and then **defending** laws whose only "fault" is they are ahead of their time.

Ode to Abortion: Pro-abortion wordsmiths who poeticize death

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

In my past life as an English teacher, I encouraged students' playful experimentation with language. Words matter, I told my students. Words stir emotions, illuminate a truth, even persuade a foe. Poetry and prose possess power.

Yet, words can be used for more malevolent purposes. They might not illuminate but darken and distort. They can minimize, romanticize, even glorify that which is ugly, violent, and evil. Words can be used to manipulate those who hear them.

No one knows this better than the pro-abortion wordsmiths.

They have poeticized abortion, luring many with polished vocabulary and rhythmic phrases that seek to dull senses and numb protestations.

Their "ode" to abortion goes something like this:

> **The right to choose is a private decision between a woman and her doctor and an integral part of her reproductive freedom and health care. The termination of a pregnancy is a safe procedure that empties the pregnancy tissue from the uterus and is a Constitutionally protected right.**

Sounds almost harmless.

Until you scratch through the lexicon's shiny veneer.

Deconstruct this abortion "poem" phrase by phrase, and the blaring truth is a cacophony that pierces our conscience.

"The right to choose"

Choice implies freedom. Yet almost two-thirds of women (64%) felt coerced into getting an abortion and 84% felt under-informed about their options. (Forced Abortion in America) And what is being chosen? Death for another.

"a private decision between a woman and her doctor"

Ninety-three percent of abortions take place in a free standing "clinic" where there is no previous doctor-patient relationship established. An intimate, well-thought out decision between a patient and her long-time physician? No, a desperate decision often rooted in fear. It's an exchange of cash for services from a complete stranger who profits from that fear.

"Reproductive freedom"

Reproductive freedom exists –prior to reproduction. Does bodily autonomy extend to destruction of another's life? As the saying goes "The right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins." The right to manipulate my body ends where another life begins.

"health care"

Health care extends life. Abortion ends it. There is nothing healthy nor caring about abortion. Traumatized women are left alone to recover and heal and a child is relegated to a medical waste container or worse.

"Termination of a pregnancy"

The natural process of pregnancy is ended by the unnatural killing of a human being. The child is terminated.

"Safe procedure"

"Safe abortion is a euphemism," said Dr. Beverly McMillan, founder of Mississippi's first abortion facility.

Between 1973-2014, the Centers for Disease Control reported that 437 women died from abortion complications, but due to under reporting, the number is likely much higher. Kermit Gosnell's facility killed at least two women and infected them with STD's. A Philadelphia Planned Parenthood has failed 13 of the last 23 inspections. Missouri's last abortion clinic failed multiple inspections and called an ambulance 72 times. The list goes on. (see checkmyclinic.org)

Safe? Post-abortive women suffer higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide. Nothing about abortion is safe.

"empties the pregnancy tissue"

Eyes by day 19, heartbeat by day 24, skeleton by day 42, this is a genetically distinct, unrepeatable living human, not mere tissue. At implantation, this new life develops a hormone to prevent mother's body from rejecting it. This is baby's home.

"a Constitutionally protected right"

There is no right to abortion in the Constitution. Legal scholars on both sides agree that *Roe vs. Wade* was decided on shaky legal ground, citing the right to privacy as the basis. Consider this from Justice Harry Blackmun's former clerk, Edward Lazarus, who considers himself pro-choice:

> **"As a matter of constitutional interpretation and judicial method, Roe borders on the indefensible. … Justice Blackmun's opinion provides essentially no reasoning in support of its holding. And in the … years since Roe's announcement, no one has produced a convincing defense of Roe on its own terms."**

But those who compose the ode to abortion care little for facts that might interrupt the smooth rhythm that has been so carefully crafted.

Those of us committed to protecting life, though, will not be fooled by the euphemisms. We will sing loudly our song of truth, drowning out the poetry of death.

Placing the health and safety of women ahead of the profits of abortion businesses

From page 2

Court put the health and safety of women ahead of the profits of abortion businesses."

NRLC President Carol Tobias keenly explained the mentality of abortionists and their legion of media defenders. "For years, the abortion industry has carved out an exemption for itself from minimal health and safety requirements intended to protect unborn children and their mothers," she said. "They insist they should not be required to follow the same laws as other surgical centers because, somehow, that would be 'singling' them out. That is nonsense."

Tobias added, "The law in Louisiana requires that doctors at ambulatory surgical centers have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Why should the abortion industry be exempt? Why should they receive special treatment?"

Why, indeed?

A decision is expected in June. There are a bevy of other forms of protective abortion laws that defenders of unborn children and their mothers anticipate will eventually come before the High Court.

What about former Vice President Joe Biden's banner Super Tuesday in which he won ten states compared to four states for Democratic Socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders? Who saw that coming?

As Jazz Shaw put it, "Up until South Carolina, Joe Biden looked dead in the water. Bernie was set to win the vast majority of Super Tuesday states, some by large margins. There was continual talk of Sanders waking up this morning with an insurmountable lead."

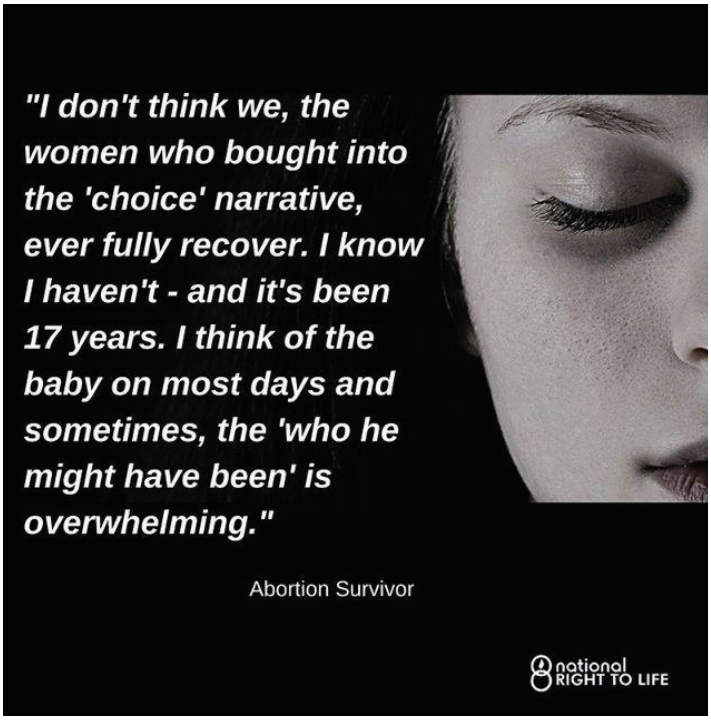
The nature of presidential nominating campaigns is that the flashier typically outshines the more mundane, at least in the short term. "But some things remain up in the air," as the *New York Times* reported. "It's worth remembering that the number to watch is delegates — not votes."

But because reporters are predisposed to race to embrace the conventional wisdom, they get wrapped up in Biden's "comeback story." However, as Andrew Prokop explained over the weekend, best estimates are that Biden has "between a 70 and 80 delegate lead over Sen. Bernie Sanders." It is by no means an unassailable advantage.

He added, "For context: There are 3,979 pledged delegates in the Democratic contest, and 1,499 will have been allotted after Super Tuesday, with 2,480 remaining. So a 70-80 delegate lead is not insurmountable: far from it. Sanders only needs to win a little over 51 percent of remaining pledged delegates to pass Biden."

Two concluding thoughts. First, Biden does enjoy the support of candidates who've dropped out. Every little bit helps move the former vice president closer to a majority of the delegates. If neither Biden nor Sanders reaches that figure, a chaotic Democratic National Convention would undoubtedly ensue. Clearly, to prevail, Sanders has to win some states and keep the margin of defeat in those states where Biden wins as small as possible. (Democrats essentially allocate delegates on a proportional basis, although it is much more complicated than that.)

Second, it is very much worth remembering that turnout for President Trump has been extremely high in the primaries even though he is unopposed, for all practical purposes. In addition, as *Rolling Stone's* Andy Kroll recently wrote, **"**Democrats Have a Turnout Problem: Trump is setting turnout records. The Democrats need to replicate their historic 2008 voter mobilization — but they keep falling short."



The ERA is "a partisan messaging bill designed to appease radical pro-abortion groups"

Editor's note. On February 11, the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed a measure which (as NRLC explained) "purported to reanimate the Equal Rights Amendment approved by the 92nd Congress in 1972." There were brilliant voices speaking against H.J. Res. 79. We have been reposting them all week. The following comes from Rep. Virginia Fox (R-NC).

Ms. FOXX

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 79.

As a woman who has worked all her life, often in male-dominated professions, I detest discrimination in any form against any group, and I have always done all that I can to eliminateit. Furthermore, I welcome any discussion on how to root out discrimination against women where it exists.

But do not be deceived. This is not what this legislation is about.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution already

Rep. Virginia Fox

provides women and all Americans equal protection under the law, but the goal of this legislation is different. The goal here is to expand access to abortion up to birth and to overturn the broadly supported policies that protect taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortions. As we know all too well, *Roe v. Wade* has broadly legalized abortion in the United States, but the equal rights amendment that this resolution tries to ratify goes much further.

There is a broad consensus that the ERA could be used to overturn pro-life laws, legalize abortion up to birth, and mandate taxpayer-funded abortions.The expansion of abortion is not the only harmful impact of the ERA. It would have a harmful impact on shelters that protect women from violence, eliminate women-specific workplace protections, and destroy women's sports.

Furthermore, were this resolution ever to become law, the Supreme Court would undoubtedly rule that it does not ratify the equal rights amendment.

As everyone in this room knows, when Congress initially passed the equal rights amendment, it intentionally included a 7-year deadline for the required 38 States to ratify, a deadline which has long since passed. Multiple States have also rescinded their ratification.

As such, Supreme Court precedent requires that any attempt to ratify the ERA must start at the beginning. Even Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was recently quoted saying she would like the process to start over.

To be perfectly clear, with this resolution, the Democrats are attempting to write into the Constitution the right to an abortion at all three trimesters, force taxpayers to pay for them, and eliminate all conscience protections for medical providers who wish to abstain from abortion.

This resolution is not about protecting women. It is a partisan messaging bill designed to appease radical pro-abortion groups. If the majority were serious about the equal rights amendment, it would start the process anew and give all States the option to consider the ERA again.

Democrats now so hard-core pro-abortion they avoid even "tactical vagueness"

From page 2

activist wing of the party goes too far on virtually every issue, the electorate is moving in the Democrats' direction on some issues.

How true that may or may not be, is beside the point. Those are issues outside our domain. Is the electorate coming closer to Democrats on abortion?

Leonhardt can't actually spell out how far out to sea Biden and Sanders (and all the other candidates who've already dropped out) actually are. They don't figuratively, they **literally** believe in abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason or (preferably) no reason. They want (they'd demand, if they controlled both houses and the presidency) the taxpayer pay for abortion.

And if you are a baby who survives an abortion, too bad. No Democrat running for president would require equal treatment—not more treatment, just no less treatment—than would be given to baby born at the same gestational age.

To his credit, while describing how the extremists can persuade themselves the public is with them, Leonhardt observes, "They often do so by pointing to polls with favorably worded, intricate questions — and by ignoring evidence to the contrary." He concedes "that most Americans favor some abortion restrictions…"

Those "restrictions" (which he does not list) include opposition to abortion funding and abortions after 20 weeks, and support for parental involvement and ultrasounds prior to an abortion, to name just four. No Democrat running for president is in agreement on any of these.

In a prior column, which he links to in this one, Leonhardt revisits the "purity" issue vis a vis Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who exited last week. In what amounted to a very revealing aside, Leonhardt wrote that neither Sanders nor Warren would embrace "even much tactical vagueness."

But "tactical vagueness" was exactly what used to be the Democrats' position on abortion. Remember "safe, legal and rare," President Clinton's meaningless formulation that Hillary Clinton adopted until she, like all the other Democrats running for the highest office, embraced and now touts abortion extremism on steroids? Not anymore.

Please do read *National Right to Life News Today* (nationalrighttolifenews.org) each Monday through Saturday. We will keep you updated, beginning with the results of today's primaries in six states.

The amazing women whose tireless advocacy powers the pro-life movement

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

In the spirit of Women's History Month, I wanted to reflect on the awe-inspiring women who have contributed greatly to the cause of advancing protection for innocent human life.

When I was quite young, I read a biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and was deeply impressed by it. I admired the way this suffragette fought for both the abolition of slavery and equality for women.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (seated) and Susan B. Anthony

Reflecting on the tragedy of infanticide, Elizabeth wrote, "There must be a remedy for such a crying evil as this. But where shall it be found, at least begin, if not in the complete enfranchisement and elevation of women?"

Women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony was also a staunch defender of human life. The newspaper that Anthony published spoke out boldly against abortion, defining it as infanticide and child murder. Through her outspoken defense of mothers and children, Anthony fought for a true equality that recognized the rights of all women—born and preborn.

Dr. Mildred Jefferson

In more recent times, Dr. Mildred Jefferson carried the pro-life torch aright. The first African-American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, Jefferson led the National Right to Life Committee with a profound dignity and grace. Her advocacy of life was noted in the first paragraph of her *New York Times* obituary, which labelled her an "outspoken opponent of abortion."

Jefferson had been hailed as the greatest orator of the pro-life movement. In an article in ***The American Feminist,*** she was quoted as saying, "I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow this concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged and the planned have the right to live."

These courageous women, and so many others today, fought for the imperfect, the humble, and the unplanned. They exuded a respect for the dignity and value of human life at all its beautiful and wondrous stages.

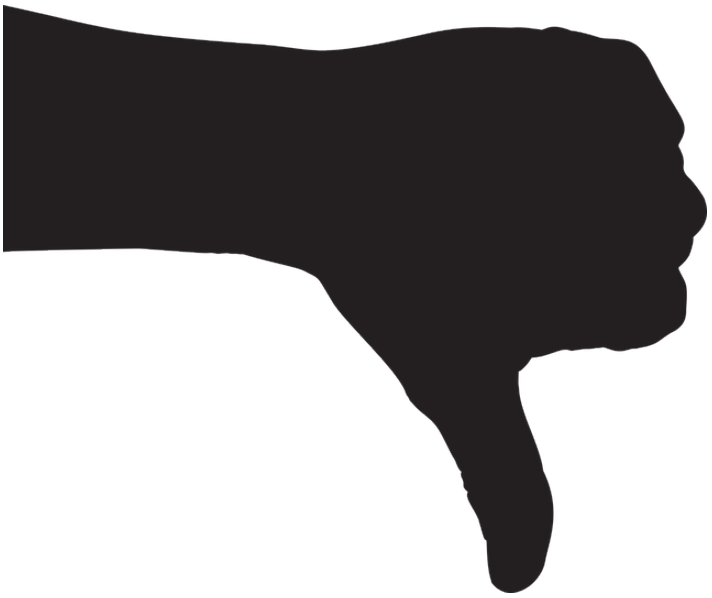
Let us pause this month to recognize the amazing women whose tireless advocacy powers the pro-life movement. Their sacrifices on behalf of the cause of life inspire us all to redouble our efforts to protect the most vulnerable among us.

The Abortion Industry's hatred for parental involvement laws

By Dave Andrusko

As the in-house think-tank for the abortion industry, the Guttmacher Institute's response to any parental involvement in their minor daughter's decision whether to abort would be, of course, a thunderous thumbs-down.

I can't know this but as likely as not the report's timing is geared to have an impact—that is, derail–the strong movement in Florida to require parental consent. That and what Guttmacher says is the introduction in four states of attempt to repeal parental involvement laws.



How they reach their conclusion is worth pondering for a few minutes.

"'Parental Involvement' Mandates for Abortion Harm Young People, But Policymakers Can Fight Back" is the headline of the study, first officially published online today. Notice "Parental Involvement" is in quotation marks, as if the very idea that parents should not be in the dark requires something resembling air quotes to signal the absurdity of it all.

Here's the opening paragraph which captures Guttmacher's conclusions. Sophia Naide writes

> **Young people deserve access to the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion care. Yet, states have long imposed special barriers by forcing minors to involve their parents in their decision to have an abortion. These parental involvement mandates are unnecessary, deny young people's bodily autonomy, and can add logistical and financial burdens to abortion care.**

We understand that for these folks, there is no teenage too young to require that their parents be given a heads-up. That they might know something about their minor daughter your local Planned Parenthood "counselor" wouldn't is so absurd, so irrelevant to Guttmacher (formerly Planned Parenthood's 'special affiliate') that it does not require a rebuttal.

Noteworthy is this throwaway paragraph:

> **The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the constitutional right to abortion applies to minors, but that states may pass parental involvement laws if they include a judicial bypass, a process that allows young people to seek a waiver from a court.**

But state laws DO include judicial bypass provisions. So what's the problem? Naide tells us

> **Some states have amplified the burden of these laws in the decades since the Supreme Court's ruling by requiring involvement of both parents or requiring parents to show identification, proof of parenthood or a notarized statement" (aka "special hoops," in Guttmacherese).**

So, if a state does anything to actually make sure parents are actually involved—as opposed to merely going through the motions—Guttmacher and its erstwhile patron, Planned Parenthood, have a conniption. And without rehearsing the experiences of the last 40 years, I can assure you that the Abortion Industry does everything in its considerable power to negate parental involvement, regardless of what state law requires.

What Naide variously describes as "special barriers" or "special hoops" resulting in "forced parental involvement" is a backhanded acknowledgment that even the Supreme Court grasps that the "bodily autonomy" of a teenage girl is different from that of an adult woman.

The real reason for the Abortion Industry's feigned concern for teenagers is access to a population, fewer of whom are having abortions than was the case not so many years ago. To Guttmacher. Planned Parenthood, and the National Abortion Federation, it is a colossal disappointment that more teenagers are carrying their babies to term.

If they can just keep those useless barriers (i.e., parents) out of the way, who knows there might be a return to the good old days when a high percentage of adolescents aborted their babies.

But we won't let that happen. And, in places such as Florida, we will move forward to make sure there is a better and more realistic opportunities for parents to help their minor daughters at a time of crisis.

Baby boy born alive after failed abortion dies in mother's arms

By Right to Life UK

A grieving mother has relived the harrowing moment she went into hospital for an abortion but instead gave birth to a live, crying, baby boy who died in her arms.

Doctors diagnosed Sofia Khan's son with spina bifida during a routine ultrasound scan 20 weeks into the pregnancy.

Even after the diagnosis, Sofia was determined to choose life for her baby. Recalling the moment, she told *The Sun*: "I was devastated. I kept thinking that we would manage and that he could have surgery to help him"

However, doctors put immense pressure on Sofia and her husband to abort the baby claiming the baby boy's spina bifida was the worst case they'd ever come across. They told Sofia to have an abortion saying it was unlikely her son would survive the pregnancy.

Heartbroken, and following much discussion, the couple decided they would listen to the doctors' advice. Sofia said: "We were heartbroken, but we made the decision to terminate. We felt it was best for the baby but even so I had moments of doubt and guilt."

At 25 weeks pregnant Sofia travelled to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester to terminate the pregnancy.

During the procedure, a lethal injection was administered to the umbilical cord with the intention of stopping the baby's heartbeat. Sofia was then transferred to her local hospital, in Bolton, where she underwent an induced labour with no choice but to deliver what she expected to be her dead baby.

Following the injection, doctors carried out two scans to ensure there was no heartbeat and confirmed to Sofia that her son was dead.

Sofia said: "It was a relief to know his suffering was over but heart-breaking that he was gone."

But, before the procedure she

felt her son move. She alerted midwives but had her concerns dismissed as they assumed the injection in the other hospital had killed Sofia's baby.

Sofia told Anna Roberts and Ann Cusack of *The Sun*, "As I waited, I felt the baby kick. I told the midwife but she said it was impossible. I asked her to put the monitor on to be sure but she said there was no need."

Ten hours later, she gave birth and was stunned to hear her baby son crying.

She says:

"I thought I was going mad. I thought I was hearing the cry because that's what I wanted – my baby to be alive.

"The midwife went into shock. She was screaming for help, she ran with the baby into the corridor.

"They brought him back and said: 'What do you want us to do?' and I didn't know what they meant. I held him and cuddled him and told him how much I loved him.

"He was such a fighter. He had a huge hole in his spine and he was very disabled, and yet he hung on to life for an hour.

"I can't help thinking that he was determined to have one cuddle with his mummy."

Sofia and her husband named their son Mohammed Rehman. They gave him a full funeral and he is buried near their home.

Shockingly, an internal investigation into the incident revealed that the assistant coroner had recorded the baby's death as "*by natural causes*, "despite the intervention of a lethal injection and forced labour.

Dr. Philip Bullen told assistant coroner Simon Nelson: "I was extremely shocked to hear what had happened … I was stunned as the procedure had gone exactly how we like the procedure to go, very smoothly."

Disturbingly, rather than ensure doctors do more to help babies who survive an abortion, guidelines have been changed to ensure doctors listen to heartbeats for longer post-abortion to ensure that they have ended the lives of babies before inducing labour.

Asked if the hospital had apologised, Sofia added

"The hospital have offered their condolences to me but it doesn't feel to me like they have actually apologised.

"I have been told it was very, very unfortunate and very rare and that in future women will be told that the procedure is not 100 percent effective…

"I do feel angry with the hospital. I feel angry that I wasn't listened to."

"I am still grieving. I think of him every day," she added.

Estimates have predicted that 80 percent of unborn babies diagnosed with spina bifida, each year, are aborted.

However, pro-life campaigners are hopeful that now [spinal] surgery has been made routinely available on the NHS, the number of unborn babies terminated each year will fall.

A new study, conducted by researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health, has confirmed the long-term benefits of the surgery over those who had traditional corrective surgery after birth.

Last week, a former nurse revealed how babies born alive in 'failed' abortions in the US are being left to die, something which could happen under the Conservative's proposed extreme abortion framework for Northern Ireland.

"The candidate knows that he could have easily become an abortion statistic"

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

A candidate for the state legislature in Pennsylvania contacted me recently with an intriguing message.

He said that the pro-life issue was quite important to him, because he had been adopted into his forever family.

The topic of adoption came up again when I was explaining Pennsylvania's award-winning Pregnancy & Parenting Support Services program to an aide to a state Senator. She wanted to know if women served by the program were also offered resources for placing their children for adoption. They are—along with plenty of support no matter whether they choose adoption or to parent the child on their own.

We need to have a national discussion on adoption, for it is a life-saving, life-changing option that is too often overlooked in today's society. So many couples are willing to add to their family through adoption, yet find the process can be unnecessarily complex and intimidating.

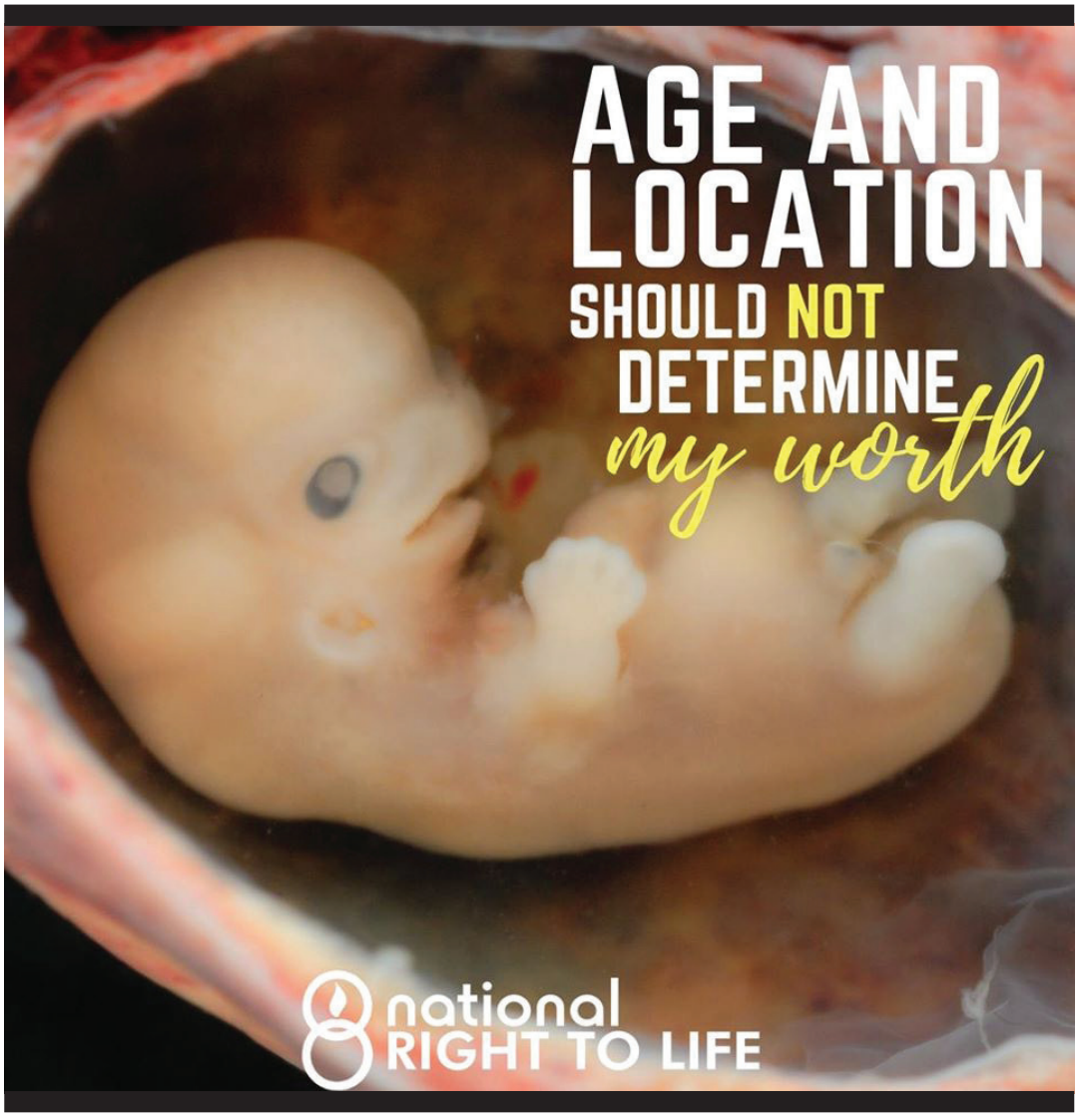
My own family has been greatly enriched through adoption. Both major branches of my family tree included a number of adoptions. How tremendously we all benefited from the adopted children in our brood.

Women who place their children for adoption need to be honored for their selfless gift. Adoptive parents should be extolled for their abundant love. And adopted children need to be celebrated for the tremendous gift they are to families.

Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion operation, has a woefully dismal record when it comes to assisting women with adoption. That's because their business model is based on abortion—not loving alternatives.

The candidate I spoke of knows that he could have easily become an abortion statistic. But thanks to adoption, he received a new lease on life.

Let's do what we can to promote the immense blessing of adoption. It forms families of the heart, who can accomplish amazing feats. Adoption builds up our society, showing the inestimable value of each human being. We as a nation are so abundantly ennobled, because of the adoptive families in our midst.



Rougher waters ahead for pro-abortion ERA

By Dave Andrusko

On February 13, National Right to Life offered a keen summary of what happened to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives' attempt to "resuscitate" the pro-abortion ERA. It naturally passed—with the rarest of exceptions, to be a congressional Democrat is to be pro-abortion—so that was inevitable.

However (as the headline aptly summarized), "U.S. House of Representatives attempts time-travel rescue of long-dead 1972 Equal Rights Amendment – but resuscitation campaign likely to encounter cool receptions in the U.S. Senate and the federal courts."

For our purposes here, there are two very important components. First, many (although not all) pro-abortionists no longer shy away from boldly stating that the ERA will be used to attack pro-life legislation. As NRLC wrote in a letter to the House of Representatives

> **There is now broad agreement between key pro-life and pro-abortion groups that the language of the 1972 ERA could be employed by liberal federal judges to reinforce and expand "abortion rights." For example, NARAL Pro-Choice America, in a March 13, 2019 national alert, asserted that "the ERA would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion . . . [it] would require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws . . ." A National Organization for Women factsheet on the ERA states that "… an ERA — properly interpreted — could negate the hundreds of laws that have been passed restricting access to abortion care…" The general counsel of the National Women's Law Center told AP that the ERA would allow courts to rule that limits on abortion "perpetuate gender inequality." We could cite many other examples.**

Second, there is the Ginsburg factor. The headline over the story written by David Savage of the *Los Angeles Times* reads, "Ratification of Equal Rights Amendment runs into opposition — from Trump, sure, but Ruth Bader Ginsburg?

Justice Ginsburg is an ardent supporter of the ERA but thinks supporters need to start afresh. Referring to a public interview that Ginsburg gave Monday at the Georgetown University Law Center Savage reported

> **"There is too much controversy about latecomers," she said in response to a question. The votes by Virginia, Illinois and Nevada came "long after the deadline passed…. I would like to see a new beginning. I'd like it to start over."**

Savage noted that Ginsburg was repeating a conclusion she had voiced last year.

> **"Noting in September that the ERA "fell three states short of ratification," she said, "I hope someday it will be put back in the political hopper, starting over again, collecting the necessary number of states to ratify it."**

A final comment about the abortion connection, from NRLC's story:

During the House debate, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca. made the remarkable statement, "This [ERA] has nothing to do with the abortion issue." NRLC's Johnson commented, "Pelosi says the ERA has nothing to do with abortion, but her friends at Planned Parenthood, NARAL, NOW, and the National Women's Law Center have been shouting from the rooftops that it has a great deal to do with abortion." As the Associated Press (David Crary) accurately reported on Jan. 21, "… Abortion-rights supporters are eager to nullify the [ERA ratification] deadline and get the amendment ratified so it could be used to overturn state laws restricting abortion."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell Defends Judicial Independence Following "Reckless" Schumer Comments

Editor's note. At a pro-abortion rally outside the Supreme Court building last Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY)said, "I want to tell you, [Justice] Gorsuch; I want to tell you, [Justice] Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions." His words were so over-the-top that Chief Justice John Roberts issued what was correctly described as a "rare rebuke."

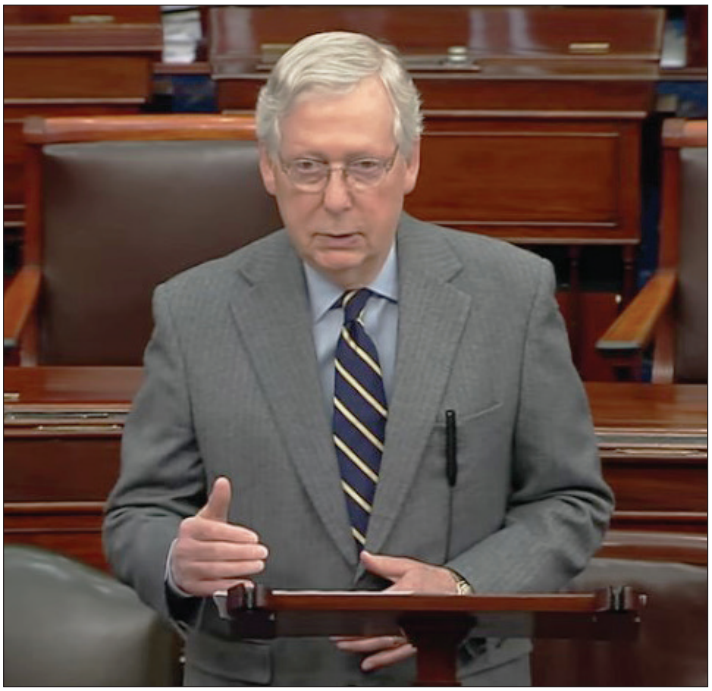
"Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous," Roberts said. "All members of the court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter."

No critic was more eloquent than Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) He delivered the following remarks on the Senate floor. You can watch McConnell delivering his remarks here.

They are particularly important because the Majority Leader placed the attacks on the two Supreme Court Associate Justices in the context of "How Democrats increasingly respond to political disappointments with extreme claims that our system of government itself must be broken."

A few weeks ago, I spoke on this floor about a dangerous trend that threatens our self-government.

I explained how some in the Democratic Party appear more interested in attacking the institutions of our government than in working within them. How Democrats increasingly respond to political disappointments with extreme claims that our system of government itself must be broken.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

The failure can't be their own. It can't be that the left needs better arguments or ideas. No, the fault must lie with the Constitution itself.

Democrats have tried to cloak their anger at President Trump in rhetoric about protecting norms and institutions. But in reality, it is their own side of the aisle where anti-institutionalism is rampant.

We could talk about attacks on the office of the presidency… on the Electoral College… on the First Amendment… on the Senate itself.

But most striking of all have been the shameless efforts to bully our nation's independent judiciary. And yesterday, these efforts took a dangerous and disturbing turn.

By now, many already know what the Democratic Leader shouted outside the Supreme Court yesterday morning.

I'm sorry to have to read it into the Record.

First, he prompted a crowd of left-wing activists to boo two of the Associate Justices — as though Supreme Court justices were professional athletes and Senator Schumer were jeering from the stands.

And then the senior Senator for New York said this:

I want to tell you, Gorsuch! I want to tell you, Kavanaugh! You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price! You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

I'm not even sure where to start. There is nothing to call this except a threat. And there is absolutely no question to whom it was directed.

Contrary to what the Democratic Leader has since tried to claim, he very clearly was not addressing Republican lawmakers or anybody else. He literally directed the statement to the Justices, by name. And he said, quote, "if you go forward with these awful decisions," which could only apply to the Court itself.

The Minority Leader of the United States Senate threatened two Associate Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Period. There's no other way to interpret that.

Even worse, the threat was not clearly political or institutional. As I'll discuss in a moment, those kinds of threats are sadly nothing new from Senate Democrats.

This was much broader. The Democratic Leader traveled to the workplace of two judges, and in front of a crowd of activists, he told those judges "you will pay the price" and "you won't know what hit you."

If any American had these words shouted at them from a sidewalk outside their office, they would hear those threats as personal. And most likely they would hear them as threatening or inciting violence.

That's how any American would interpret those words if they were directed at us. And that is certainly how the press and leading Democrats would have characterized them if President Trump or any senior

See "Reckless," page 47

Columbia retains very protective abortion laws

By Dave Andrusko

No two ways about it, it was a huge pro-life victory last week when Colombia's Constitutional Court dashed the hopes of pro-abortionists in Latin America by deciding against legalization the destruction of unborn life through 16 weeks.

Writing for the *New York Times*, a disappointed Julie Turkewitz explained

> **A top court in Colombia declined to legalize abortion on Monday, disappointing abortion rights supporters who had hoped the case would herald a shift in Latin America and encourage other nations in the region to liberalize their laws.**

The 6-3 decision leaves abortion legal in only three situations: "when [a woman's] life is at stake, when a fetus has serious health problems and when her pregnancy resulted from rape," Turkewitz wrote.

President Iván Duque, praised magistrates for making "an important decision," The *Buenos Aires News* reported. "I've always said I'm pro-life," he said. "I think that life starts at conception."

The case was brought by Natalia Bernal, a pro-life lawyer who asked the court to protect all unborn babies from abortion. The judges chose not to revisit the 2006 decision the nation's highest court had rendered: "The plaintiff hasn't submitted sufficient arguments to call into question a constitutional judgment," they wrote.

The *Times'* story outlined why the decision not to expand abortion beyond three very limited categories is so important.

"If the court had ruled to legalize abortion, the decision could have rippled across Latin America," according to Turkewitz. "Colombia, with about 50 million people, is not only among the most populous and culturally influential nations in the region, but its Constitutional Court is often considered a leader when it comes to defining individual rights."

Amnesty International which, tragically, is an international force to erase all abortion limitations, "accused the court of turning its back on women," *The New York Times* reported.

"We regret that the court has decided to continue restricting women's sexual and reproductive rights instead of setting a positive example for the region, "said Amnesty International Americas Director Erika Guevara Rosas.

Some further thoughts on the great pro-life news coming out of Iowa

By Dave Andrusko

Last week *NRL News Today* posted two stories detailing great pro-life news coming out of Iowa. Here is a quick update.

One story addressed proposals about ultrasounds, providing information about Abortion Bill Reversal, licensing requirements for abortion clinics, and a 72 hour time of reflection before a woman rushes into an abortion.

The second post detailed an important initial movement forward in a proposed constitutional amendment declaring there is no right to an abortion in the state constitution or a requirement that they be publicly funded.

It is the latter I'd like to address for a moment. *The Daily Iowan* is describes as "an independent, 8,500-circulation daily student newspaper serving Iowa City and the University of Iowa community."

They posted a story, written by Katina Zentz, under the headline "How would a proposed constitutional amendment affect abortion laws in Iowa?"

Part of the subhead is certainly true: "it's not for certain whether the amendment will eventually become law." As Zentz summarizes, "A constitutional amendment requires passage by two consecutive General Assemblies, then needs to be ratified by a majority of voters in the next election — 2022 at the earliest." Yes, but…

A couple of thoughts.

First, pro-life constitutional amendments are more difficult to pass than any other constitutional amendment because the press is virtually uniformly hostile. But it can be done, as was shown in Tennessee and West Virginia in just the last few years.

Second, Zentz quotes University of Iowa Law Prof. Todd Pettys who

> **said past Iowa Supreme Court rulings, such as a 2018 decision striking down a 72-hour waiting period, enshrined a right to an abortion under the state constitution.**
>
> **"If the proposed constitutional amendment ultimately passes, that will take away the state constitutional right to abortion," Pettys said. "But it won't have effect on any federal constitutional right to abortion that might still exist at that time."**

Of course. But that's the point.

As Zentz observes later in her story, the United States Supreme Court could continue to rein in the abortion "liberty." That is why legislatures dominated by pro-abortion Democrats (such as New York, Illinois, Vermont, to take three examples) have passed laws obliterating what minuscule protections that existed for unborn babies and abortion survivors.

However, let's say the Supreme Court narrows the "right" to abortion, but a state Supreme Court discovers a right to abortion lurking unbeknownst for a hundred years or so in the state constitution (as the Kansas Supreme Court did last year), the only way to keep current laws and/or enact new protective laws is to amend the state constitution to state explicitly there **is** no such right.

And when you do pass such an amendment, good things can and will happen. Zentz quotes Erin Davison-Rippey, Iowa executive director for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, who said "Tennessee passed a similar constitutional amendment — they sold it as this way to restore power to the legislature."

What has happened? "Since the point of that constitutional amendment being adopted, Tennessee lawmakers have passed seven laws aimed at closing abortion clinics."

Tim Tebow and Kansas City Chief owner Lamar Hunt, Jr. team up at Kansans for Life banquet

From page 5

"You see, my mom 32 years ago had doctors tell her she needed to abort me because if she didn't, it was going to cost her life. And they didn't even believe that I was a baby. They thought I was a tumor."

Tebow now laughingly reports that as the baby of a family of 5 siblings, that some occasionally enjoyed, as only siblings can, referring to him as "Timmy the tumor."

Getting serious though, Tebow said, "to make a long story short, when I was born, they found out the placenta wasn't actually attached. So, the doctor looked at my mom after 37 years of being a doctor and said, 'This is the biggest miracle I've ever seen because I'm not sure how he's alive.' … I'm so grateful that my mom trusted God with my life and her life."

In 1986, Tebow's father, Robert, prayed for God to give him one more child. Showing more of the family's easy humor he later said, "I prayed for a preacher and got a quarterback."

Left to Right: Mrs. Rita Hunt; Tim Tebow; and Lamar Hunt, Jr.

Culp, whose idea it was to feature Tebow at the event, said that both parents trusted God implicitly. They named him Timothy and prayed for him by that name prior to birth because Timothy means "to honor God," Culp said, "of course, neither parent had any idea about just how powerfully their prayers would be answered: that the issues surrounding Tim's birth, coupled with his athletic abilities and deep faith would offer their "preacher" progeny access to a worldwide audience most preachers can only dream of!

Concluding his remarks at the banquet, Tebow said, "What you're doing here matters. You're fighting for life. You're fighting for people that can't fight for themselves. And my question to you is: Are you willing to stand up in the face of persecution, in the face of adversity, in the face of criticism, when other people are going to say it's not worth it, when other people won't stand beside you? Maybe not everybody is going to be with you. Will you stand up for what's right?"

An abortion proponent takes a genuine medical problem and offers a wrong-headed, life-destroying "solution": abortion

From page 21

She does a horrible disservice to the very women she claims to want to help. She ignores the real issues behind the maternal mortality statistics: lack of early prenatal care, lack of access to emergency care, and a high incidence of certain life-threatening medical conditions among specific populations.

According to the CDC, 3 in 5 maternal deaths could be prevented here in the U.S. with early prenatal care. But this is the kind of genuine **medical** care that Planned Parenthood and abortionists do not provide.

However, many of the pro-life pregnancy centers across the U.S. **do** provide early confirmation through ultrasounds, provide prenatal vitamins, parenting classes, practical/material help and can connect clients to doctors in the area who take Medicaid—all for free.

I know what it's like to have the life-threatening medical condition pre-eclampsia during each of my pregnancies. I know several women who almost died from the same condition. Just like diabetes, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia are leading causes of death among African-American women but it can often be treated with regular prenatal care.

Abortion is *not* medical care and for the woman who *wants* to keep her baby, pushing for abortion access does not provide for her prenatal care, pay for her medical care during her pregnancy or ensure that she has the medications she needs during her pregnancy. It certainly doesn't provide follow-up care after birth.

Once again, an abortion proponent takes a real problem and offers a wrong-headed, life-destroying "solution."

*Hawkins says eight-years but the statistics she uses fit the ten year timeframe of 2007-2017.

What every Pro-Life Candidate needs to know about Abortion

From page 4

Special Olympics, where I've experienced unconditional acceptance and unbelievable joy.

In cases where the prognosis is that the baby will inevitably die before or soon after birth, the baby doesn't need to be killed. The families will benefit greatly from perinatal hospice – a life-affirming and healing response to families in need.

Babies with or without disabilities feel pain during abortion by 20 weeks, and even earlier. For more information, go to www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS20UnbornPain.pdf and https://www.nrlc.org/abortion/fetalpain/

For more details discussing the hard cases, go to www.nrlc.org/uploads/WhenTheySayPacket.pdf

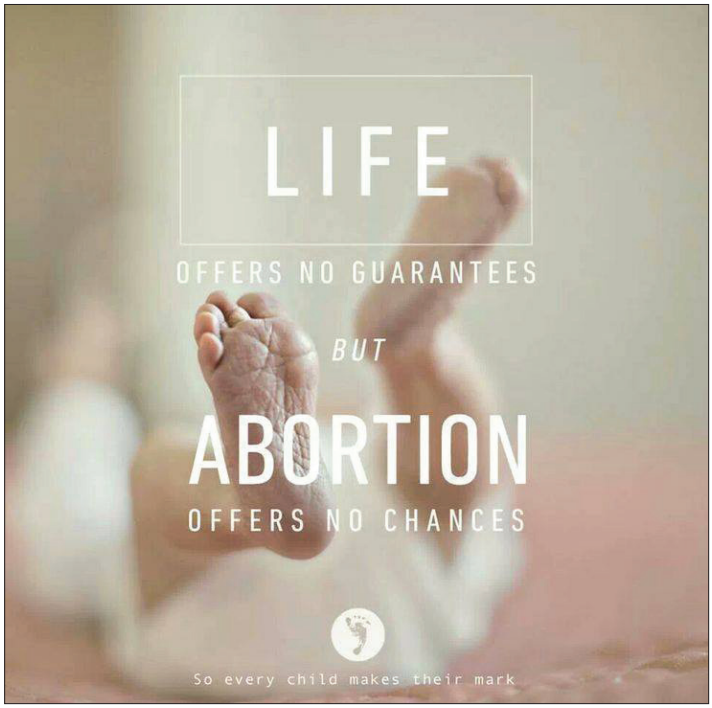
For information about perinatal hospice, go to www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2016/04/perinatal-hospice-offers-alternative-to-abortion-in-cases-of-babies-unlikely-to-live-long-after-birth/

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

Most people – even those who consider themselves "pro-choice" – don't support using tax dollars for abortion. According to a 2020 Marist poll, "Six in 10 Americans (60%) also oppose domestic taxpayer funding of abortion. This includes 89% of those who identify as pro-life, and 37% of those who identify as pro-choice."

There's a lot of misinformation about taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. Planned Parenthood receives more than $1 million dollars **a day** of government funds under the guise that they are providing "healthcare for women." But when the government again made clear that Title X family planning money recipients could not provide abortions or refer patients for abortion, Planned Parenthood opted out.

When polled and asked the question whether the government should defund Planned Parenthood, many people – even some pro-lifers – say no, because of the false perception that they would be denying healthcare to women. Yet, in the same conversation, with the same people, when asked if the government should fund abortion providers, a majority say no. Clearly many people are unaware of PPFA's deep involvement in abortion.



So, if I were a candidate and was asked if I would defund Planned Parenthood, I would answer:

> **"I don't believe our tax dollars should go to abortion providers. Instead, we should take the hundreds of millions of dollars that go to abortion providers and redirect that money to the local community health care clinics that are providing real health care to families, closer to home."**

Advocates of Planned Parenthood claim that "not one dime of that money is used for abortion," yet Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion and money is fungible. Those millions of dollars build more buildings, hire more staff, do more advertising, and more little girls walk through their doors. And when those girls do walk through their doors for an abortion, our tax dollars don't pay for it, the girl pays for the abortion, or their boyfriend or aunt or someone else pays for it.

Unsurprisingly, over the years, as Planned Parenthood has received more tax dollars, the numbers of abortions they commit have increased, even though nationally the abortion numbers have decreased significantly.

Meanwhile the number of genuine health care services they do continue to diminish. According to PPFA's most recent annual report, the number of cancer screenings and prevention services they perform has actually decreased by 70%! Planned Parenthood does not provide mammograms and it's rare to find one that provides prenatal care!

Remember the motto, "When you think of Planned Parenthood, think abortion." Anytime Planned Parenthood is discussed, be sure to link them to abortion.

For more information about Planned Parenthood and abortion, go to: www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2020/01/planned-parenthoods-recent-annual-report-shows-big-increase-in-abortion-and-taxpayer-funding/ and www.nrlc.org/abortion/plannedparenthood/

Being Pro-life is NOT Extreme

Finally, your pro-life position is NOT extreme. If your opponent supports abortion on demand through birth and wants taxpayers to pay for it, he or she is the extreme candidate – not **you**.

In fact, according to a February 2019 Marist poll, only 22% of Democrats, 10% of Independents, and 4% of Republicans supported the New York-style abortion on demand through birth and beyond policy. Actually 64% of Democrats, 92% of Republicans and 83% of Independents supported limits on abortion.

When your pro-abortion opponent attempts to paint you as extreme on abortion, be sure to point out their extreme position of abortion–through-birth and using your tax dollars to pay for them.

So be prepared, stay calm, and be proudly pro-life. It's a winning issue.

For an overview of the state of abortion in the United States, go to: www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2020.pdf

*National Right to Life's position is if it's necessary to prevent the death of the mother.

Epilogue: Doctors Without (Moral) Boundaries

From page 9

of mifepristone; the second to administer two pills of the misoprostol; and the third to do a follow up to confirm the abortion. Distribution of the pills was handled directly from the supplier to the doctor, bypassing pharmacy and consumers.

From the very beginning, abortion advocates fiercely resisted each element of the FDA protocol. They wanted to reduce doses of the expensive mifepristone, cut the number of visits, allow women to take the misoprostol at home, extend the gestational cutoff, and allow lower level clinicians to prescribe and administer the pills.

In March of 2016, under the Obama administration, the FDA gave in to these demands, but advocates were still unhappy. They wanted to end the controlled distribution of the drug so that they could eliminate office visits entirely and sell the drugs directly to women over the internet.

They floated stories, dutifully reported by the press, of women picking up abortion drugs from the black market or using herbal concoctions to self abort. This simultaneously promoted the idea of "do-it-yourself" abortions and thumbed their noses at government efforts to limit chemical abortions.

Rogue websites sprung up giving women instructions on how to obtain and use abortion drugs. Many followed the lead of "abortion ship" pioneer Rebecca Gomperts, who made it her personal mission to import abortion pills into countries where abortion was illegal and to promote DIY abortion in areas where abortion was legal but abortionists were few.

Academic abortion activists and researchers conducted and published studies at each point along the way. As we reported, they claimed, often with highly questionable data, that each modification of the protocol to loosen control and broaden access to the pills was fully safe and effective. That all this happened while nearly two dozen women were dying and thousands more were suffering complications (many of them very serious) mattered not to these people.

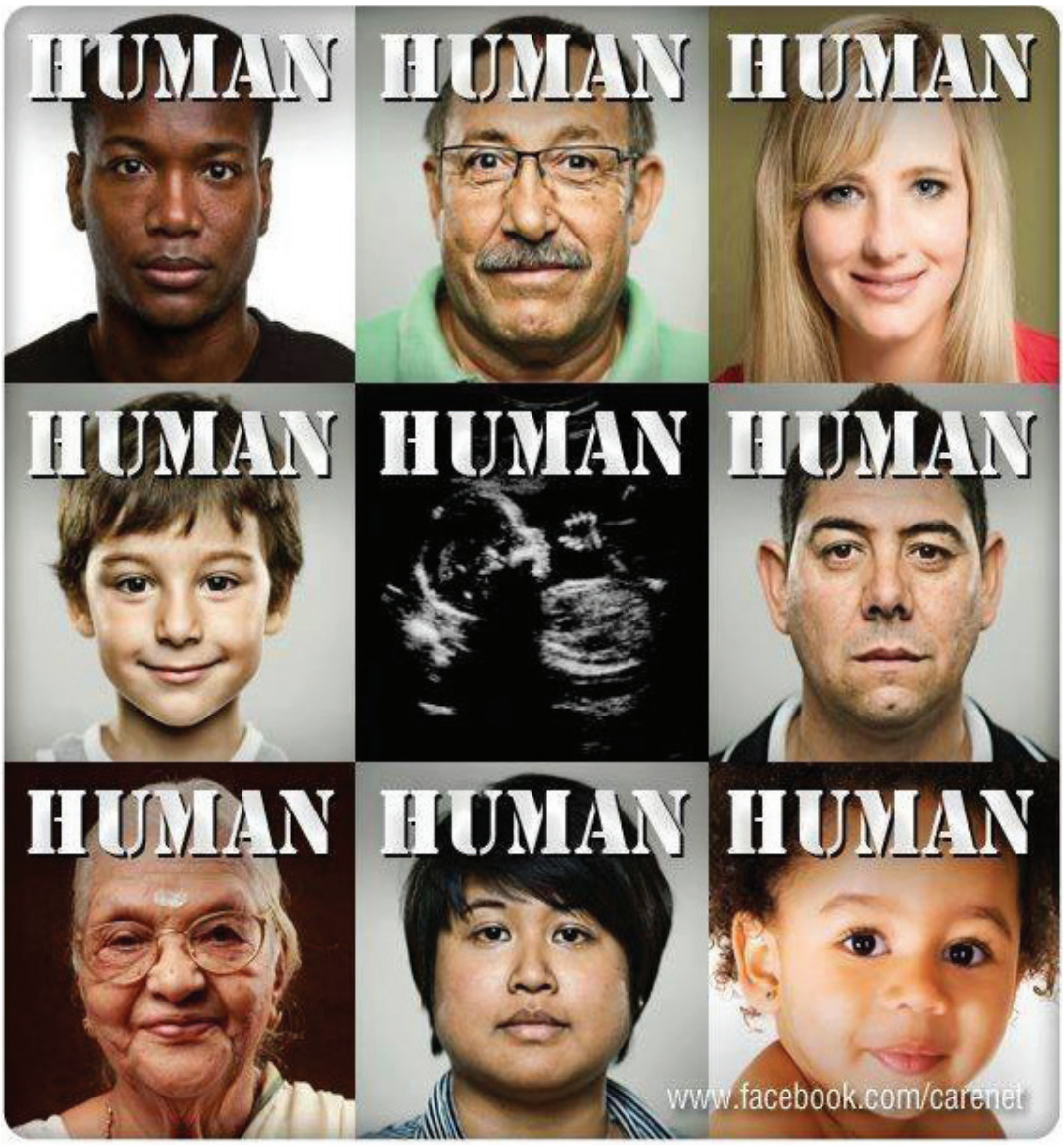
Rather than using that data to counsel caution, they've doubled down, now suggesting that these could be used much later in pregnancy, even in the second or third trimester.

The data that abortion pill advocates have cranked out — on women's self-abortion attempts, safety estimates of webcam and mail order abortions (based on the reports of only those women willing to admit to having chemical abortions), high numbers of abortions and abortion related maternal mortality in countries where there were no hard official statistics, etc. — all joined together to make the case that Doctors without Borders now makes in these videos.

And that is that (1) women supposedly are desperate for abortion; (2) chemical abortion offers them a way to safely and easily abort their babies; (3) these are abortions that amateurs (or even the women themselves) can handle with just minimal instruction, the sort of thing one can pick up in a short video just a couple of minutes long.

This string of falsehoods, particularly the lie about the alleged safety of chemical abortions means two things to those who know the truth. In lieu of the life-saving prenatal care that desperate women really need, more babies are dying and more women's lives are being put at risk.

That's not humanitarian. That's not even humane.



"And if the Senate says that it is OK to ignore born-alive babies, what we are really saying is that we are OK with a society where some people count more than other people."

From page 11

die if you deny care to them. So, of course, we shouldn't do that.

Of course, the U.S. Senate should stand up and defend those babies. We all know that denying care to the most vulnerable among us is barbaric, and this body ought to be able to stand 100 to 0 against that barbarism. It is inhumane, and it is passive infanticide, and the Senate should today condemn and prohibit that practice.

Is that practice what my colleagues really want to defend? I can't believe they do.

The 44 who filibustered this legislation a year ago this week, when you talk to them one to one, they get really uncomfortable, and they try to change the subject to all sorts of other culture war debates because they don't want to have a conversation about the actual legislation and the actual babies we are considering today. Why?

Because they are scared to death of Planned Parenthood's army of lobbyists, that is why. It is not because any of them really want to defend the morally reprehensible and the morally indefensible practice that is passive infanticide. None of them want to defend it. They are just scared.

Last year, 44 Senators filibustered this legislation. They said that it was OK to look the other way while newborns were discarded. They said that Federal law should not ensure that these babies are treated with care. They seem to have a hard time saying that human beings outside the womb have the same right to life as you and I ought to have and that we get care; we need care. They need care, and they should get care.

Put down your talking points. Please read the bill before you vote today. Read the expert testimony that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee allowed us to hold in his committee room 2 weeks ago, where we brought in both medical and legal experts to talk about what happens in these abortion clinics. For those in this body who are not on the Judiciary Committee or who didn't do the preparation for today's vote, I want to summarize the testimony of one of the people who came before our Judiciary Committee—Jill Stanek, who now works for the Susan B. Anthony List.

She was at an Illinois hospital in the 1990s and early 2000s. Here is a quote from her:

> **Of 16 babies Christ Hospital aborted during the calendar year 2000, four that I knew of [were born alive, and they] were aborted alive.**

That is 25 percent—4 out of the 16 abortions at that hospital. She continues:

> **Each of those babies—[there were] two boys and two girls—lived [somewhere] between 1½ and 3 hours. One baby was 28 weeks' gestation [age]—7 months old—and weighed two pounds, seven ounces.**

Numbers from the CDC and the States that report data on abortion survivors—that is about 8 of the 50 States that do some reporting and data collection on this—tell a story of babies who were breathing, whose hearts were beating, who stretched their arms, wiggled their fingers, and kicked their legs. This is the actual data.

You want to talk about being pro-science— being pro-science is pro-baby. What happened to the babies? Medical practitioners have testified before Congress about walking into rooms where living babies were lying naked and alone on countertops, where they would be left to expire by themselves— alone, cold, naked, and denied care.

Opponents of this bill don't want to deal with the facts.

They prefer to stick to talking points and claim that this never happens. If they will not listen to the medical experts, perhaps they will take the word of the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam.

In January of last year, disgraced Governor Northam was explicit during a radio interview in which he said that a baby born alive during an abortion ''would be kept comfortable. . . . then a discussion would ensue'' about whether that baby should be left to die. That is actually what Governor Northam was talking about on the radio in Virginia.

What he did is make the terrible faux pas of saying in public the true stuff about this procedure and this practice of walking away and backing away from these babies and letting them die. He just decided to talk in public about the reality of what happens in some of these abortion clinics.

Governor Northam is not an outlier. Just 3 weeks ago, one of the Democratic candidates for President was asked point blank on national television about infanticide: Would he be comfortable if a mother invoked infanticide to kill her now already born alive child? Mayor Buttigieg's response: "I don't know what I'd tell them.''

Really? Somebody asks you if you can kill a baby who has already been born, and you say you don't know what to say?

Every one of us, especially somebody running for the highest office in the land to uphold the laws—laws that promise to protect the right to life– should be able to say without any hesitation that leaving babies to die is unacceptable. This isn't horrid stuff, people. There are actually some horrid debates we have in this Chamber. This isn't one of them. This is about babies who have been born alive and whether you can decide to kill them.

There is really no debate to be had here, which is why so many people who were planning to speak on the other side decided not to speak this afternoon, because you can't defend the morally reprehensible procedure that is backing away, that is passive infanticide.

There are no exceptions. There are no special circumstances. We should protect every human being, no matter how small they are, no matter how weak they are. And if the Senate says

See "Born-Alive," page 45

"And if the Senate says that it is OK to ignore born-alive babies, what we are really saying is that we are OK with a society where some people count more than other people."

From page 44

that it is OK to ignore born-alive babies, what we are really saying is that we are OK with a society where some people count more than other people.

We would be saying that we want a society where some people can be pushed aside if other people decide those folks are inconvenient, a society where we can dispose of you if you happen to come into the world a certain way.

It is unbelievably telling that Planned Parenthood, NARAL, which is the extremist abortion lobby and their armies of lawyers and slick public relations teams and influence peddlers, cannot draw this line. It is pretty amazing.

This bill is not about abortion. Again, I want to be clear. We are voting on two things today.

One of them is a piece of legislation about abortion. It is the pain-capable bill. Lindsey Graham, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is going to speak in favor of it in a minute. I am an original cosponsor of his legislation. I support it, and I am going to wholeheartedly vote for it.

But the other piece of legislation we are going to vote on today isn't actually even about abortion. This should be 100-to-0 no-brainer. This bill is not about *Roe v. Wade*. This bill will not change one word of abortion law in the United States.

My colleagues can vote up or down, but they can't pretend that they don't know the stakes of what we are talking about. America is a country built on the beautiful principle of equality, and the terms of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act are intended to reflect that.

A child born alive during a botched abortion should be given the same level of care that would be provided to any other baby born at that same gestational stage, which is just to say that a born-alive baby is a human being with fundamental human dignity, which is undeniable. They should receive the care and affection due to every other human being.

Today, we have a chance to advance our commitment to human dignity. We can protect those babies who come into the world under the worst of conditions. We can welcome them into a world with love and hope and help and care.

My colleagues, please do not turn your backs on those babies.

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life representatives speak about Supreme Court oral arguments

From page 17

starting in our very own Louisiana Right to Life office, for women, and now being defended by women. Because you know what? Empowered women empower women.

To June Medical services and all of you abortion facilities in my state's backyard, this is not about closing you. This is about expecting the decency that what you claim to be "women's health" be upheld by a lick of basic health standards.

Thank you to our Louisiana Attorney General's team, thank you to our Louisiana Representatives and Senators, Democrat and Republican, women and men, for together stating that those women, especially in such a critical moment, should receive the best possible care we can legally provide.

We look forward to the day that all unborn babies will be protected by law and welcomed with love. And abortion advocates, while you're keeping abortion legal, we are also fighting for the day that your bloody profits are not gained through the danger and demise of the women walking in your doors.

Until that day comes, you are too incompetent. You are too unsafe. You need to step aside. You do not deserve to speak on behalf of Louisiana women.

It's 2020. Women can speak for ourselves.

The U.S. Supreme Court will also be looking at third-party standing—whether abortionists can sue on behalf of patients who have not actually come forward to challenge a law.

The amicus brief can be found www.bopplaw.com/images/nrlc-june-acbr-final.pdf.

What kind of Nation are we "if we are one of seven nations that allow abortion on demand?"

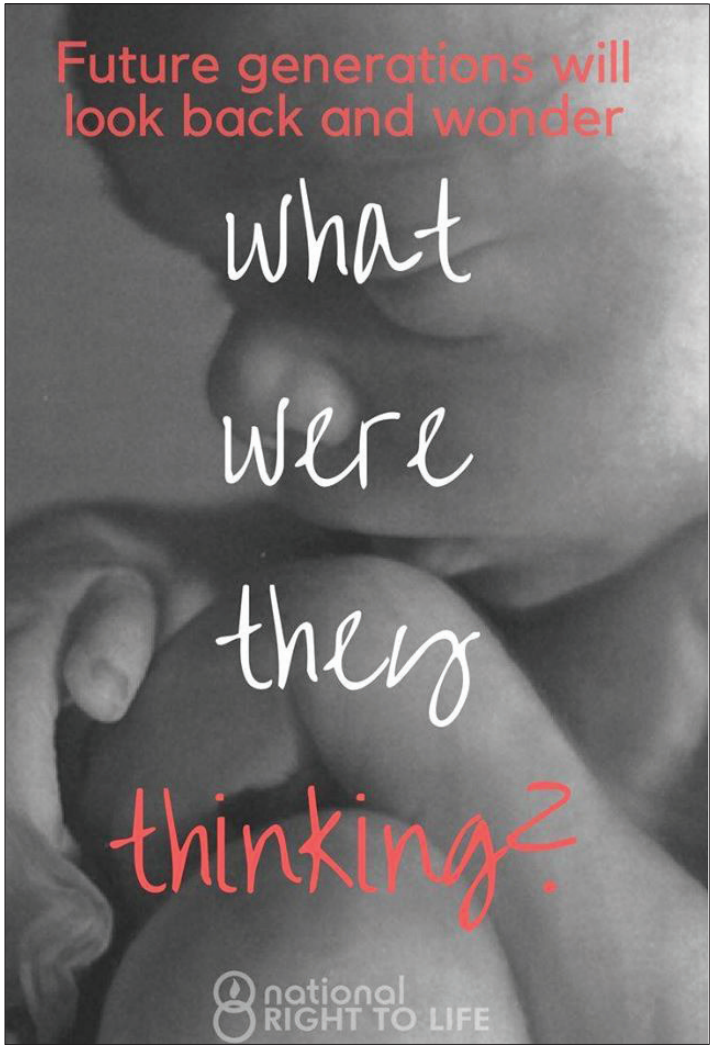
From page 18

she does survive. Just imagine what it must be like, after the baby survives the abortion, to be left unattended for 1½ to 3 hours. That says a lot about us as a nation. I just think we are better than that. It is kind of odd that we even have to have this debate, but apparently we do because this happens more than you would ever think. Babies actually survive abortion, and the rules in this country are that you just let it die. There is no longer required care. That, to me, as Senator SASSE said, is barbaric. It doesn't make us a better people, and it really doesn't affect the abortion debate because the baby survived.

My legislation is about us as a nation too. How does abortion on demand in the fifth month advance the cause of America? I don't think it does. We have exceptions in those instances where it is a tragic choice between the life of the mother and the unborn child and in the cases of rape or incest, which are tragic and criminal, but generally speaking, we would like to get ourselves out of a club of seven nations that allow abortion on demand at a time when the parents are encouraged to sing to the child and you have to provide anesthesia to save the child's life because you would not want to operate on a baby in a fashion to hurt the child.

I dare say that if you are a doctor and you try to save the baby's life at 20 weeks through surgery and you don't provide anesthesia, you are going to wind up getting yourself in trouble. I find it odd that the law would allow the dismemberment of the child even with anesthesia, but that is where we are. To Senator Sasse, I say that you are an articulate spokesman for your legislation. One day, we will prevail. It took 15 years to pass the late-term abortion ban [the ban on partial-birth abortions]. It is going to take a while, but our day will come.

At the end of the day, the sooner America can get this right, the better off we will be.



Senate Majority Leader McConnell Defends Judicial Independence Following "Reckless" Schumer Comments

From page 38

Republican had said anything remotely similar. We have seen much more hay made out of much less.

Perhaps our colleague thinks this is absurd. Perhaps he would like the most generous possible interpretation: that he got carried away and did not mean what he said.

But if he cannot even admit to saying what he said, we certainly cannot know what he meant.

At the very best, his comments were astonishingly reckless and irresponsible. And clearly, as the Chief Justice stated in a rare and extraordinary rebuke, they were "dangerous."

Because no matter the intention, words carrying the apparent threat of violence can have horrific unintended consequences.

In their most recent year on record the United States Marshals Service tracked thousands of threats and inappropriate communications against the judiciary.

Less than three years ago, of course, an unhinged and unstable left-wing activist attempted a mass murder of congressional Republicans at a baseball field across the river.

A Senate leader appearing to threaten or incite violence on the steps of the Supreme Court could literally be a matter of deadly seriousness.

So I fully anticipated our colleague would quickly withdraw his comments and apologize. That's what even reliably liberal legal experts such as Laurence Tribe and Neal Katyal have publicly urged.

Instead, our colleague doubled down.

He tried to gaslight the entire country and stated that he was actually threatening fellow Senators. As though that would be much better. But it's a fiction.

And then a few hours later, the Democratic Leader tripled down. Instead of taking Chief Justice Roberts's sober and appropriate statement to heart, he lashed out yet again, and tried to imply the Chief Justice was biased for doing his job and defending the Court.

Our colleague therefore succeeded in attacking thirty-three percent of the Supreme Court in the space of a few hours.

***

Throughout the impeachment and the Senate trial, for months, Washington Democrats preached sermons about the separation of powers and respect among equal branches.

So much for all that. And sadly, this attack was not some isolated incident. The left-wing campaign against the federal judiciary did not begin yesterday.

My colleagues will recall that during the impeachment trial, the senior Senator for Massachusetts and outside pressure groups tried to attack the Chief Justice for staying neutral instead of delivering the outcomes they wanted.

Those same groups came to Senator Schumer's defense yesterday with gratuitous attacks against the Chief Justice for condemning the threats against his colleagues.

And last summer, a number of Senate Democrats sent an extraordinary brief to the Supreme Court. It threatened to inflict institutional change on the Court if it did not rule the way Democrats wanted.

Here's what they wrote: "The Supreme Court is not well… Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured'…"

A political threat, plain as day. As you read the document, you half-expected to end by saying: That's some nice judicial independence you've got there. It would be a shame if something happened to it!

Independence from political passions is the cornerstone of our judiciary in our country.

Judicial independence is what enables courts to do justice even when it is unpopular; to protect constitutional rights even when powerful interests want them infringed.

Judicial independence is what makes the United States of America a republic of laws rather than of men.

It has almost been a century since the last time Democrats threatened to pack the Supreme Court because they wanted different rulings. History still judges that disgraceful episode to this day.

So I would suggest that my Democratic colleagues spend less time trying to threaten impartial judges, and more time coming up with ideas that are actually constitutional.

Fortunately, this extraordinary display contains one ironic silver lining.

These clumsy efforts to erode a pillar of American governance have just reminded everyone why that pillar is so crucial.

These efforts to attack judicial independence remind us that independence is essential.

Every time Democrats try to threaten sitting Justices, we are reminded exactly why the Framers gave them life tenure and salary protection.

Every time Democrats toy with packing new seats onto the Court, we are reminded exactly why, as Justice Ginsburg recently said, "nine seems to be a good number."

The distinguished men and women of the Supreme Court do not, and must not, serve at the pleasure of angry partisans.

They do not need to pay any mind to unhinged threats, as shameful as they may be.

In fact, as the Chief Justice reminded us all yesterday, they are duty-bound to pay such things no attention at all.

Their job description is simple. To apply the law to the facts, as the Chief Justice put it, "without fear or favor, from whatever quarter."

I have great confidence the Court will do just that. I am confident that if the facts and the Constitution would have led the Court to disappoint Democrats the day before yesterday, they will still feel free to do so today, tomorrow, and beyond — notwithstanding these shameful tactics.

I had hoped I would not need to reiterate what every Republican Senator told the Court in August after Senate Democrats sent their threatening brief. But today I have no choice but to say it again.

Republicans are absolutely and unshakably committed to the core constitutional principle of an independent federal judiciary.

As long as this majority holds the gavel, we will never let the Minority Leader's dangerous views become policy. This majority will ensure the only casualties of this recklessness are the reputations of those who engage in it.