national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

May 2021

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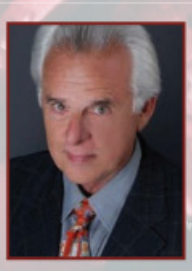


Wesley Smith

& MORE!

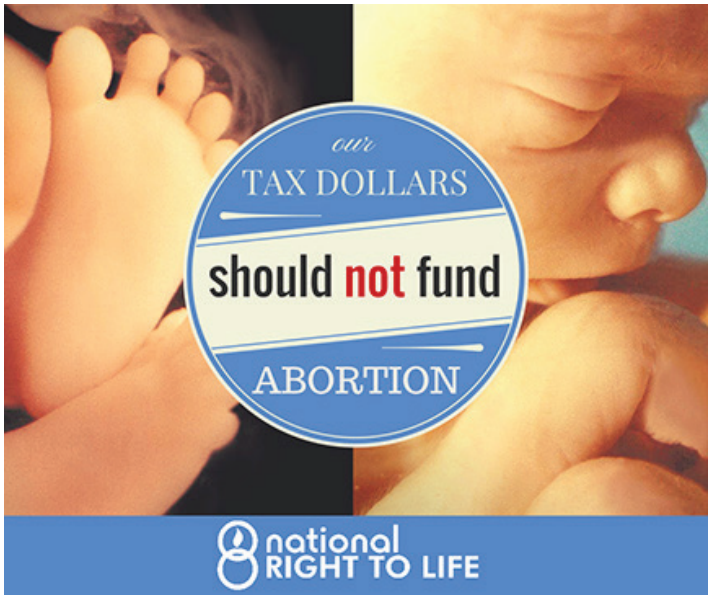
national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Summer Showdown looms to Save the Hyde Amendment

By Jennifer Popik, NRLC Federal Legislative Director

National Right to life is gearing up for a fight to save the Hyde amendment in the annual appropriations bill, which is expected to begin moving this summer. Pro-abortion President Biden and the equally pro-abortion Democrat congressional leadership have committed publicly to ending the Hyde Amendment and reestablishing taxpayer funding of abortion.

In his first 100 days in office, President Biden thrilled the Abortion Industry by firmly established his commitment to abortion on demand and taxpayer funding of abortion.



Where once he supported the Hyde Amendment, President Biden flip-flopped in 2020. (See page two for more about President Biden's record on abortion.)

In addition to administration actions, President Biden signed the so-called COVID-19 pandemic relief package into law without a single Republican vote. The legislation contains numerous provisions aimed at propping up the abortion industry as well as potentially funneling millions of dollars

See "Funding," page 39

Just a few of many reasons you really want to attend the 50th annual National Right to Life Convention!

By Jacki Ragan, Convention Director

2021 is an incredibly special year for the National Right to Life Convention. It will be our 50th convention (which was supposed to be celebrated last year but you know what happened to that). So, we are extra excited to bring you the 50th convention in 2021.

The convention will be housed at the Hilton Washington Dulles hotel in Herndon, VA and will officially begin on Friday, June 25. However, if you can make it, we encourage you to attend a special opening of the convention set for Thursday evening, June 24.

National Right to Life Conventions, Inc will host a showing of the play, "Viable" along with a dinner beginning at 6:30 pm. Tickets are available for $35 each, and you do not have to be registered for the convention to take advantage of this spectacular event.

The play has received stunningly positive reviews from day one. To cite just a couple…

> **"'Viable' is a beautifully written play that emphasizes the life-altering, negative impacts – psychological, familial, and spiritual – that commonly**

See "Convention," page 25

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Editorials

Biden/Harris administration works overtime to give abortion lobby what it wants

Okay, which comes first, the chicken or the egg? The in-the-tank-for-any-Democrat-for-President press corps or a pro-abortion Democrat administration that must run double time to keep up with the demands of the Abortion Industry? As slavishly subservient as Joe Biden was and is to the Abortion lobby, the latter was likely impossible without the former, given that candidate Biden was essentially out of sight for most of the campaign, which would have meant curtains if the nominee were a pro-life Republican.

On April 30th, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris commemorated/celebrated/observed their 100th day in office. If you read the glowing headlines, you'd have thought that while Biden may not (to quote Chris Matthews going gaga over Barack Obama) have sent a "thrill" up the media's collective leg, he was on the brink of being the most "transformative" president since at least Lyndon Baines Johnson, if not Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

However, if you read the headlines beginning late last week and over the weekend, well, the bloom is clearly already starting to come off the rose. But not—not—when it comes to abortion. Biden/Harris started the onslaught on Day One and pro-abortion veteran scribes such as Emily Crockett want—and expect--more.

While conceding that Biden has been busy, on Monday Crockett lamented, "Many reproductive justice advocates gave middling reviews of Biden's first 100 days in office, partly because they feel he can do much more on policy and partly because he hasn't yet

shown the same vocal, unapologetic support for abortion rights that he has for other issues." Put another way, Crockett complains that Biden "hasn't even uttered the word 'abortion' in public since taking office, much less forcefully spoken out about the record

See "Overtime," page 30

A look inside at the May edition of the "Pro-Life Newspaper of Record"

Do yourself a real favor by going to page six of the May digital edition of *National Right to Life News*. There you will read a terrific overview of state legislation provided by Ingrid Duran, NRL State Legislative Director. Her in-depth overview analysis of what has taken place in many state legislatures will brighten your day.

Then take a moment out to digest the tremendous series of 2021 legislative successes in such individual states as Montana (page 8), Indiana (page 13) , Arkansas (page 17), West Virginia (page 19), and Arizona (page 22).

No wonder (see page 29) the Guttmacher Institute, the Abortion Industry's principal think tank, fearfully wrote, "The number of abortion restrictions—and specifically bans on abortion designed to directly challenge *Roe v. Wade* and the U.S. constitutional right to abortion—that have swiftly been enacted over the past four months is unprecedented. If this trend continues, 2021 will end up as the most damaging antiabortion state legislative session in a decade—and perhaps ever."

There are any number of initiatives that Ingrid Duran categorizes but one in particular that makes me wonder if it might not represent a chink in the pro-abortion armor. This thought was reinforced last week when I read two stories whose headlines read, "New law part of wave of state-passed abortion restrictions"; and "May be a harbinger of things to come."

Joyce Frieden is Washington Editor for *MedPage Today.* The headline to her story is "Arizona Governor Signs Bill Banning Abortions Due to Genetic Anomalies," a reference to Senate Bill 1457 which includes multiple pro-life components.

Friedman summarizes two of the primary features in the next paragraph. SB 1457

> **outlaws abortion for genetic anomalies such as Down syndrome, unless the genetic abnormality is considered lethal. …And it outlaws mailing or home delivery of abortion-inducing medications such as RU-486, although in-person visits to get the medication are still allowed in some cases.**

See "Look," page 34

From the President
Carol Tobias

We are the Movement of Light and Truth

A couple of years ago, I had a discussion with the director of a pregnancy resource center who told me about a client who had come to her for help. The woman had undergone an abortion previously and was looking for help with her current pregnancy.

The director suggested an ultrasound and the woman agreed. Unexpectedly, the client let out a spine-chilling wail as the image of her unborn child appeared on screen. The woman became almost hysterical, explaining that her first child, the one she'd aborted, had been older than the child she was carrying now. She cried, "They told me there was no body, that it was just a blob of cells! They lied to me!"

I've often thought of that woman and prayed she received the help she needed to overcome her anguish.

As pro-lifers, we know her circumstance isn't unique. If it isn't by out and out lies, the pro-death movement accomplishes its deadly objectives by deception and by withholding information.

By contrast, pro-lifers believe passionately that women must be told the truth. They should be given valuable information before they make that life or death decision. That takes a number of forms.

Many states have enacted laws to require informed consent provisions prior to an abortion. For example, the abortion-minded woman must be given information about pregnancy, scientifically-accurate information about the development of her unborn child, and available alternatives to abortion.

States have also enacted laws to require that a woman seeking a chemical (or "medication") abortion be told about abortion pill reversal--APR. The chemical abortion is a two-step process. If a woman changes her mind after taking the first drug, but before taking the second, she may be able to reverse the process by taking progesterone and save her baby's life.

But that's just the beginning of the threat that providing genuine information to women poses to the Abortion Industry. There is scientific evidence that unborn children by, at least, 20 weeks gestation, feel pain. Imagine how a woman would react to that if it were widely known?

There are numerous studies showing a link between abortion and an increased risk of breast cancer. Shouldn't a woman know that?!

But, of course, the abortion industry fights these laws with fervor. The industry, and its allies in the media, attack these facts as "junk science." (We are told that their studies, by contrast, are the model of scientific integrity.) They don't want anything to interfere with a woman's "right" to kill her unborn child and they don't want her exposed to information that might change her mind.

(We see similar examples of disinformation/misinformation in the pro-death, pro-euthanasia, pro-assisted suicide movement. They will include language in legislation to provide so-called "safeguards" in order to get the bill passed. But time after time, efforts begin almost immediately to remove the "safeguards" and to expand the list of eligible patients.)

Unfortunately, there will always be some women who do know what they are doing when they abort but, for whatever reason, go through with it anyway. But if our educational efforts can reach women with the facts about pregnancy and child development, we can both save babies and prevent the psychological and emotional anguish that torments many aborted women.

What does that education include? It begins at the beginning. Pro-lifers understand science and human biology. We know that a new, unique, irreplaceable human being begins the moment the egg and sperm unite. And we respect that life, no matter how tiny or how frail.

Like you, I believe in the power of education--that more people will support our efforts to protect innocent human life if they also understand that each and every human life begins at conception.

(See Paul Stark's very informative essay on this that appears on page nine.)

We are faced with an abortion industry, and its powerful allies, which outrageously supports abortion no matter how old the unborn child is.

Their logic seems to be if the intent of the abortion is to end the life of a child, that end should happen even if the child survives the abortion and is born alive. That's why Democrats in Congress refuse even to allow a vote on legislation to provide care for abortion survivors.

We not only need to teach about when life begins--even some pro-abortionists concede that. We need to teach, and share our conviction, that each human life is precious and **must be protected**.

We are the movement of love, the movement of hope. We are also the movement of light and truth. Any time we can proclaim the truth and provide information (i.e., shed light on what is happening), we are making a difference that will save lives.

The Road to retaking the House in 2022

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Republicans and their pro-life leadership are just a handful of seats away from retaking the House of Representatives. Pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi's grip on the majority is hanging by a thread.

Restoring pro-life control of the House will be crucial going forward under the presidency of pro-abortion Joe Biden. There are already several positive indicators that this goal is within reach.

New Mexico's 1st Congressional District

On June 1st, voters in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District go to the polls to fill the vacancy left by pro-abortion Rep. Deb Haaland, who was confirmed as Interior Secretary. National Right to Life has endorsed Mark Moores, a state senator with a strong pro-life record. He faces Melanie Stansbury, a pro-abortion state representative who is endorsed by EMILY's List and the political arm of Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider.

The contrast could not be starker between the candidates. Mark Moores supports legal protection for unborn children and opposes taxpayer funding of abortion. Conversely, Melanie Stansbury supports a policy of abortion on demand, even late in pregnancy, and she supports using tax dollars to pay for abortions.

While the district leans Democrat, anything can happen during a special election. Pro-life voters could make the difference in flipping the seat and bringing us one step closer to retaking the House majority. (You can read our analysis of the contest here--www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/04/a-pro-life-opportunity-in-new-mexico-special-election.)

Texas's 6th Congressional District

On May 1, voters in Texas's 6th Congressional District went to the polls for the first round in a special election to fill the vacancy left after the passing of pro-life Rep. Ron Wright in February. Candidates from both parties competed in a single primary, and since no candidate received more than 50%, the top two finishers continue on to a runoff election to be set for a date later this year.

Coming out on top were two pro-life Republicans: Susan Wright, the widow of the deceased Representative and Jake Ellzey, a Texas state representative. In 2020, President Trump carried the 6th Congressional District by just 3 points, putting the district in the sights of Democratic operatives hoping to flip the seat and cushion their slim House majority. Yet in a huge setback, Democrats were effectively shut out of the race when their top candidate, pro-abortion Jana Sanchez, landed in third place.

Democratic Retirements

Another bad sign for Democrats heading into the midterms is the increasing number of high-profile retirements from within their ranks. One of the most notable is pro-abortion Rep. Cheri Bustos (IL-17), a former chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

In 2018, Bustos won reelection by 25 points. But in 2020, she found herself in an unexpectedly close race, ultimately winning by just 4 percentage points over a first-time candidate. Illinois will be losing one congressional seat because of redistricting, so it is possible the district would have become even more difficult for Bustos to hold.

Pro-abortion Congressman Filemon Vela (TX-34), the vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, is also retiring after this term. He was first elected in 2012, capturing the seat by a 25-point margin. In 2020, Vela won by 14 points. The impact of redistricting may have weighed heavily on his decision.

Similarly in Florida, Republicans control the redistricting process. Pro-abortion Rep Charlie Crist (FL-13) entered the Florida governor's race rather than seek reelection to Congress. It is also possible that Florida Reps. Val Demings (FL-10) and Stephanie Murphy (FL-7), both of whom are pro-abortion, may seek higher office. This would open up two other seats which could be more favorable for Republicans after redistricting.

In Arizona, pro-abortion Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-2) will also step down after her current term ends, opening up a seat in what was one of 2020's closest swing states. (Arizona determines the lines of their congressional districts through a nonpartisan commission.)

History is also on the side of the Republican Party heading into the midterms as the president's party typically loses seats in midterm elections. Democrats lost large numbers of seats in both midterms under Obama, and the trend continued in 2018 when Republicans lost the House majority during the Trump presidency.

But even with these factors working in our favor, we each need to do all we can to help push our pro-life candidates over the top. Elections have consequences, and those consequences impact our ability to protect unborn children and their mothers from abortion.

Tell Congress: We want to keep the Hyde Amendment!

This just may be the most important thing you do today. Please go to prolifepetition.com and read the message, then sign the petition and get as many others to do the same. Thank you for being a part of saving lives.

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An extraordinary legislative session pays rich dividends for unborn children and their mothers

By Ingrid Duran, Director, Department of State Legislation

All across the nation as the 2021 legislative session starts to wind down one thing is crystal clear: this year the unborn baby and her mother were the MVPs. There were so many great pro-life laws introduced, debated, and ultimately passed.

These bills ranged from: abortion pill reversal (APR) information requirement; regulating chemical ["medication"] abortions; protecting pain-capable unborn children; protecting living unborn children from gruesome dismemberment; enacting born-alive infant protection acts; pro-life constitutional amendments; and abortion bans. Before we deep dive into all of the encouraging news this session, it is important to know that some anti-life laws that prey on the vulnerable were also passed in deep blue states.

Last November the Massachusetts legislature passed a law that allowed abortion past 24 weeks based on the potential disability of the unborn child, as well as a provision lowering a minor girl's age from 18 to 16 under their state's parental consent law. This means that 16 year olds can now obtain an abortion in obscurity, with their parents never knowing. Gov. Charlies Baker used a line-item veto on the section lowering the adolescent's age, but the legislature overrode his veto.

Then early on in the 2021 session, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed a law repealing the state's prohibition on state funding for abortion under the exchanges created in the Affordable Care Act ["Obamacare"). Washington State recently enacted a law that would fund abortion coverage in college students health plans with some limited exceptions.

Hawaii passed a law allowing non-physicians to perform early abortions. New Mexico repealed a pre-*Roe* abortion ban leaving the state without any pro-life protections as well as legalizing assisted suicide.

These are the consequences of electing leaders hostile to the pro-life cause. Fortunately, only a relative few laws passed that are detrimental to life, while the pro-life laws enacted this session greatly outnumbered them. Here they are.

Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) Information

Abortion Pill Reversal information (APR) laws, often referred to as "A Second Chance at Life," require abortion facilities to inform mothers of the possibility of reversing the intended effects of a two-drug chemical abortion if she changes her mind after taking mifepristone, the first drug, but before taking misoprostol, the second pill. APR legislation was introduced in 10 states (AL, IN, IA, LA, ME, NC, SC, SD, VA, and WV).

Indiana, Montana, and West Virginia were successful in passing APR reversal information law, meaning there are now 13 states that require abortion facilities not to keep women in the dark about this potential life-saving measure.

In Louisiana, their proposed APR law has just passed out of one committee, and we fully expect their pro-life leaders to pass this law.

South Dakota has an APR law that requires the department of health to inform pregnant mothers on their website about the possibility of APR. During the 2021 session, the legislature amended their existing law to also provide APR information in the written discharge instructions given to women after she takes the first pill.

Amendments to State Constitutions

This session, Kansas, Kentucky, and Iowa introduced proposals to amend their state constitutions to thwart activist courts from finding a "right" to abortion (and abortion funding) in the constitution.

In Kansas, the "Value Them Both" amendment will appear on the ballot in August 2022, and in Kentucky, the "No Right to Abortion" amendment will appear on the November 2022 ballot.

Iowa's "Protect Life Amendment" is still moving through the legislature where it must pass two consecutive sessions before going on the ballot. It has passed both the respective Legislatures in Kansas and Kentucky.

Chemical ["medication"] Abortion Regulations

The 2021 legislation session also featured a wave of bills that required common sense protections regarding the

See "Dividends," page 35

Archbishop of San Francisco tells Catholic public officials that abortion advocacy is not "compatible with the Catholic faith" and so they should not receive the Holy Eucharist

By Dave Andrusko

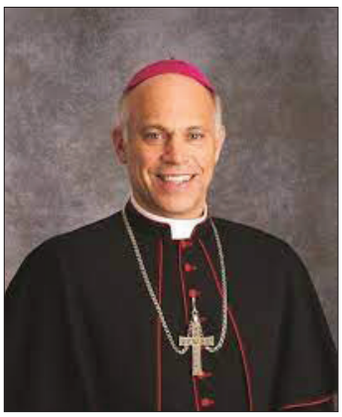
Congratulations to the *Catholic News Agency* (*CNA*) for alerting pro-lifers to a very important pastoral letter written by Salvatore J. Cordileone, the Archbishop of San Francisco, "about the worthiness required for the reception of Holy Communion in which he insisted that any Catholic cooperating with the evil of abortion should refrain from receiving the Eucharist."

"A Pastoral Letter on the Human Dignity of the Unborn, Holy Communion, and Catholics in Public Life," released May 1, "comes on the heels of growing media coverage regarding whether President Biden should be admitted to Holy Communion within the Catholic Church." *CNA* notes

Contained within his letter was a section specifically for Catholic public officials who advocate for abortion. "You are in a position to do something concrete and decisive to stop the killing," he said. "Please stop the killing. And please stop pretending that advocating for or practicing a grave moral evil – one that snuffs out an innocent human life, one that denies a fundamental human right – is somehow compatible with the Catholic faith. It is not. Please return home to the fullness of your Catholic faith."

The entire pastoral letter can be read at sfarch.org/inthewomb. The Executive Summary follows below.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you" (Jer 1:5). A young Jeremiah heard the Lord speak these words to him over 2500 years ago. In these times in which we are living, the scourge of abortion ignores the reality that humans



Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

are made in the image of God, known and beloved by God. This pastoral letter addresses all Catholics, but especially Catholics in public life, calling for deep reflection on the evil of abortion and on the meaning of receiving Holy Communion, the Bread of Life.

There are four pivotal points to this letter:

1. **The gravity of the evil of abortion:** Science teaches that human life begins at conception. The ending of life through abortion deeply wounds the woman and destroys the foundation of a just society; it is a "pre-eminent priority" because it violates the right to life, the foundation of all other rights. As Catholics we must be a voice for the voiceless and the powerless; there is no one more defenseless than a child in the womb.
2. **Cooperation in moral evil:** Who bears culpability when an abortion takes place? It is never solely the mother's act. Those who kill or assist in killing the child are directly involved in performing a seriously evil act. Someone who pressures or encourages the mother to have an abortion, who pays for it or provides financial assistance to organizations that provide abortions, or who supports candidates who advance pro-abortion legislation also cooperate by varying degrees in a grave moral evil.
3. **The meaning of choosing to receive the Holy Eucharist:** The Church has taught consistently for 2000 years that those who receive the Eucharist are publicly professing their Catholic faith and are seriously striving to live by the moral teachings of the Church. Those who reject the teaching of the Church on the sanctity of human life and those who do not seek to live in accordance with that teaching place themselves in contradiction to the communion of the Church, and so should not receive the sacrament of that communion, the Holy Eucharist. We all fall short in various ways, but there is a great difference between struggling to live according to the teachings of the Church and rejecting those teachings.
4. **The responsibilities of Catholics in public life:** From the three points above it follows that Catholics prominent in public life have a special responsibility to bear witness to the fullness of Church teaching. In addition to their own spiritual good there is also the danger of scandal: that is, by their false witness, other Catholics may come to doubt the Church's teaching on abortion, the Holy Eucharist, or both. This is becoming increasingly challenging in our time.

We are all called to conversion, not only those Catholics who are prominent in public life. Let us understand what is at stake here and work together in building a culture of life. To those who need to hear this message clearly: Turn away from evil and return home to the fullness of your Catholic faith. We await you with open arms to welcome you back with joy.

Pro-life Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte signs three pro-life bills into law

By Dave Andrusko

Will miracles never cease? *CNN*—of all media outlets—presented a fair account of the three new laws signed by pro-life Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte.

As *NRL News Today* has discussed on multiple occasions, the bills had passed both houses, with the added blessing that Gianforte, the first Republican governor in 16 years, had replaced a pro-abortion Democrat.

CNN's Caroline Kelly quoted Gov. Gianforte at the signing

> **"Today we're taking action to protect the most vulnerable amongst us, the unborn — we are celebrating life," the Republican said at the bill signing Monday, adding that he was "proud to sign three bills that will protect the lives of the unborn."**

He added, according to Holly Michels of the *Helena Independent Record*,

> **"There were many who served in this building before us who champion the unborn, people who worked hard to advance the cause of life. ….Unfortunately, their efforts were vetoed. But not today."**

House Bill 136—the Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act–bans abortions performed on pain-capable unborn children who are 20 weeks gestation age. HB 136 passed the state House on a vote of 66-34 and the state Senate by 31-19.

Montana state Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway, who sponsored HB136, said, according to Kelly,

> **that she was confident that had the Supreme Court justices who decided Roe had modern medical "knowledge and proven science before them, they would have made a different decision."**
>
> **"I feel it is time that laws catch up with the science of the 21st century," she added. "It is unethical to intentionally harm the innocence of an immature human being."**

Pro-life Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte

National Right to Life's State Legislative Director Ingrid Duran added, "Montana's Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act recognizes the medical fact that an unborn baby can feel great pain during an abortion and deserves protection."

House Bill 140 offers the opportunity for abortion-minded women to view an ultrasound of their unborn child. The House approved HB 140 on a tally of 68-32 while the Senate's equally impressive margin was 30-20.

House Bill 171 is an omnibus measure which requires women undergoing chemical (or "medication") abortions to first have an in-person visit. The abortionist must be credentialed in handing complications and risk management. In addition, the abortionist would be required to inform the woman that if she changes her mind after taking the first of two drugs, she may be able to save her baby. HB 171 passed in House by a vote of 67-33 and in the Senate, 31-19.

In addition, there will be a referendum on the Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act. If passed by the voters, it would "require health care providers to take 'all medically appropriate and reasonable actions to preserve the life and health' of any child born as the result of natural, induced or cesarean labor or an abortion," Michels reported.

President Biden's Evolution is Complete

From page 5

- California's Attorney General, she earned the vocal approval of pro-abortions groups. As a U.S. Senator, she amassed a 100% pro-abortion voting record from NARAL Pro-Choice America.
- Criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court for upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2007.
- When asked about his stance on abortion during the campaign, Joe Biden replied that, "It's a decision between them [women] and their doctor, in my view." And during a presidential debate, when asked about his position, Joe Biden said, "Reproductive rights are a constitutional right. And, in fact, every woman should have that right."
- According to the Biden campaign website, "As president, Biden will work to codify Roe v. Wade, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop [pro-life state laws]."

Unborn children aren't constructed—they develop

How a faulty view of human nature is at work in the abortion debate

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

In one *Seinfeld* episode, the character of Kramer argues with a restaurant owner, Poppie, about when a pizza becomes a pizza.

"It's not a pizza 'til it comes out of the oven," exclaims Kramer.

"It's a pizza the moment you put your fists in the dough," counters Poppie.

Sound familiar? This exchange takes place, not coincidentally, in an abortion-themed episode, and it's meant to be silly. But it actually provides some insight into how people often view unborn children.

Think about pizza. Pizza is an *artifact*. It might sound strange to call it that, but an artifact is simply a constructed object, or a collection of parts we have put together in a particular way. We build a pizza step by step.

At what point in that process do we call it "pizza"? Probably not until at least most of the key elements are in place (like the crust, sauce, and cheese), and maybe not even until, as Kramer says, it comes out of the oven. Contra Poppie, no one thinks a pizza is there from the beginning.

As that *Seinfeld* episode hints, some people think of human prenatal development in the same way they think of the building of a pizza. Human embryos and fetuses, according to this view, are like artifacts constructed part by part.

When is an embryo "complete" enough to be considered one of us? Maybe when she has a heart and a brain. Or when she resembles an infant in her appearance, with identifiable arms and legs, eyes and ears. Or when she is conscious and self-aware. Definitely not, though, when she is a single cell at conception.

In a *New York Time*s op-ed, sociologist Dalton Conley writes that "most Americans … see a fetus as an individual under construction." In *Slate*, Elissa Strauss claims that human beings undergo a "gradual passage to personhood," which is "a long, complicated, and often messy experience." Unborn children just aren't quite the same kind of being that we are—not yet. They are still "under construction." And that makes it hard to think they have the same rights or deserve the same moral consideration.

If this view of young humans were right, it would raise troubling questions. Who gets to say when an embryo or fetus becomes one of us? Is an infant one of us? What about a disabled person lacking ordinary human abilities? When we lose some of our faculties, are we no longer who we were? Are the more developed or more able-bodied or more "normal-looking" people more "human" than the rest? If human beings are like artifacts, then the answer is probably yes.

But here's the problem: Human beings—indeed, all living things—**aren't like that at all**.

Whereas artifacts are constructed, living things develop. Whereas artifacts are put together piece by piece from the outside, living things direct themselves from within. Whereas artifacts don't become themselves (they aren't "complete") until at least most of the parts are in place, living things are themselves from the very beginning, actively unfolding the capacities they already have because of the kind of being they already are.

Empirical science makes this distinction clear. "The embryo is not something that is being passively built by the process of development, with some unspecified, external 'builder' controlling the assembly of embryonic components," notes the embryologist Maureen L. Condic, a professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. "Rather, *the embryo is manufacturing itself*. The organized pattern of development doesn't produce the embryo; it is produced *by* the embryo as a consequence of the zygote's internal, self-organizing power."

Pizzas don't *build themselves* according to their own internal blueprint. But living things do that. More precisely, it's not that living things *build* themselves—it's that they are *already* themselves, and they grow and develop as such.

From the time she comes into existence, a human embryo or fetus is a human organism (human being). She is a self-integrated individual whose parts work together to develop and maintain the whole through the continuous stages of life—embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, child, adolescent, adult—as a member of our species. The single-celled embryo (zygote), as the embryology textbook *The Developing Human* puts it, "marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."

Why do some people still treat unborn children, at least

See "Develop," page 25

Appeal of D.C. Federal Judge's ERA-Expired Ruling Likely to Extend an Unbroken 40-Year Losing Streak For ERA-Resuscitation Legal Claims

WASHINGTON – Three Democratic attorneys general have appealed a landmark March 5 ruling by federal Judge Rudolph Contreras, who held that the Equal Rights Amendment expired decades ago, and that the ERA in reality has not been "ratified" by 38 states as has been widely reported (*Virginia v. Ferriero*).

Attorneys general Mark Herring (Virginia), Aaron Ford (Nevada), and Kwame Raoul (Illinois) filed notice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that they appeal Judge Contreras' ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

"The March 5 ruling by Judge Rudolph Contreras, a widely respected judge appointed by President Obama, holding the 1972 ERA expired decades ago, was only the latest in an unbroken, 40-year chain of rejections of ERA-is-alive legal claims by federal judges of all stripes," said NRLC Senior Policy Advisor Douglas Johnson, director of NRLC's ERA Project. "Today, three Democratic attorneys general set the stage for the hammering of yet more judicial nails into the ERA's coffin lid."

Judge Contreras ruled that the deadline included by Congress in the Proposing Clause of the 1972 ERA Resolution was constitutional, and the ERA therefore expired more than three decades ago. The legislative actions by Nevada (2017), Illinois (2018), and Virginia (January 2020) were not real ratifications because they "came too late to count," Contreras ruled. Contreras also said that the Archivist of the U.S. was justified in refusing to certify ("publish") the ERA as part of the Constitution, and indeed that the claim (made by the three attorneys general) that the Archivist should ignore the deadline was "absurd."

While the mainstream news media has been receptive to the narrative that the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment is alive and perhaps on the verge of becoming part of the Constitution, examination of the history in the federal courts paints a very different picture. "Over a 40-year period, 20 federal judges and justices have taken adverse actions on ERA-revival legal claims," Johnson said. "Not a single judge has accepted any element of the ERA-revival legal theories."

An article by Johnson summarizing the 40-year string of defeats for ERA-revival advocates in the federal courts was published by NRLC on March 18, 2021. (https://www.nrlc.org/federal/era/federal-judges-scorn-era-resuscitation/)

Meanwhile, a different federal appeals court will hear oral arguments this week in a separate ERA case. The pro-ERA advocacy group "Equal Means Equal" brought a lawsuit claiming that the ERA ratification deadline was unconstitutional, *Equal Means Equal v. Ferriero*. On August 6, 2020, U.S. District Judge Denise Casper of the District of Massachusetts (another appointee of President Obama) dismissed this lawsuit for lack of standing. Equal Means Equal asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review that ruling, but in October 2020, the Supreme Court rejected the group's cert petition without a single dissent. The organization then pursued an appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, where a three-judge panel will hear oral arguments on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. In a brief filed February 11, 2021, the Department of Justice Civil Division urged the appeals court to uphold Judge Casper's ruling on standing, and also asserted, "In this case, the validity of the ERA's ratification deadline is, indeed, obvious." NRLC's Johnson predicted that the First Circuit panel (made up of two judges appointed by Democratic presidents and one judge appointed by a Republican president) would uphold Judge Casper's ruling.

On February 10, 2020, in remarks at Georgetown University Law Center, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg indicated that she believed that the proper approach for ERA supporters, such as herself, would be "a new beginning. I'd

See "ERA," page 40

Memorials & Tributes

You, your family, and your friends may remember a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to National Right to Life. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn at the time of death. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card in your name will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount remains confidential.

In Memory of

Joan P. Allgaier
Michael Allgaier

Cheryl Ankenbauer-Ruehl
Robert & Rebecca Hafertpen
Patty Mertz
Josie Riestenberg
Paul Schumacher
Charlene Wogenstahl

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Thomas Schulte

Ronda Beth Strapason
Michael Strapason

David Szostak
Keith Burkhart

Janice Winiger
Ryan Elliott
Right to Life of SW Indiana

Dorothy Wolfe
Wayne Wolfe

In Honor of

Brian Dempsey
Frances Yurek

Peggy Harkins' Birthday
Jeanne LaMontagne

Kathleen Laake
Melissa Bushman

Nicholas Petrarca
James Armstrong

Colleen Saal
Thomas Van Eaton

Mary Belle Werner
Pat Werner

Rebecca's Baby
Wendy Veale

Frances
Gina Arambula

May 2021

You can make your contribution in loving memory or in honor of someone online at www.nrlc.org/giving or by sending your contribution along with the form below.

Memorials & Tributes

Contribution amount $_____

Your name_____

In memory of_____ In honor of_____

Your address_____

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Make your check payable to National Right to Life Committee and return with this form to:
National Right to Life Development Office
1446 Duke Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The challenges of working with a "woke" press corps

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

The National Right to Life Committee and its affiliates spend hundreds and hundreds of hours spreading the unvarnished truth about the right to life and the mounting number of threats to the most vulnerable among us. The most obvious place where we can get our message out is through the traditional news media.

While this may sound simple, it is not. Let me explain why.

The "mainstream media" of 2021 differs in some respects from the media industry of just 20 years ago. What used to frustrate our communications' department —an abysmal lack of coverage, a fundamental misunderstanding pro-life values, and a conscious willingness to accept the "facts" from the pro-abortion side—is the same. But in today's world of an ever-present social media that pushes an individual's "truth" as a virtue, the line between reporting the facts and the advocacy of opinions has thinned almost to the point of vanishing.

In a recent article in the *Washington Examiner*, author Ira Stoll took a look at the internal destruction of the *New York Times* as a "woke" staff now drives not only the editorial slant of the *Times* but also the *news* slant of the *Times.*

In a "woke" world, what you see in newspapers and television news is coverage actively promoting politically correct reporting. Here writing what is acceptable is far more important than a (relatively) disinterested quest for truth. As a result, if possible, coverage is weighted even more heavily in a pro-abortion direction by staff that do not even pretend to be objective.

Stoll notes a Pew survey regarding how much trust conservative-leaning adults have in the reporting of the *New York Times*. He gives a sense of how things have changed:

A Pew survey released last year found that 42% of adult Republicans or Republican-leaners distrusted the Gray Lady, a statistically significant increase from 29% in a similar Pew survey taken in 2014.

Sadly, if news outlets do not find their bearings and turn back from reporting personal opinion as "fact," watching the ongoing ruin of the "Gray Lady" (a nickname often used to refer to the *New York Times*) is a harbinger of things to come.

When I first worked at National Right to Life in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, we read the *New York Times*--along with four other newspapers--every morning. If the *Times* covered it, we could expect other media outlets to take their marching orders and quickly fall in line.

However, the difference back then was the *New York Times* reporter who covered congressional and legislative issues. While I am quite certain she was pro-abortion or at the least ambivalent about it, I never **knew** for certain. She never indicated by word or deed what she felt on the issue and she always listened to reasonable arguments for or against a piece of legislation.

She reported—she didn't offer opinion masquerading as fact.

Today, I often don't have to guess. I just look at the official social media accounts of several mainstream reporters and journalists--who are supposed to report straight news and facts. There I can find posts about how Planned Parenthood does such great things or photos of these reporters attending (not covering but **participating** in) women's marches featuring pro-abortion speakers.

While reporters are entitled to their personal opinion, to post their professional position in their bio and then use that platform to promote a particular viewpoint seems both blatantly unethical and sure to color their coverage.

But, increasingly, many reporters don't see it that way, or don't seem to particularly care.

Let's back up. Is media distortion on the abortion issue a figment of pro-lifers' imaginations? Did it start day before yesterday? Of course not.

Consider how, in 1990, Pulitzer Prize winner David Shaw of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote a four-part series about abortion coverage by the news media. He documented how severely skewed it was toward the pro-abortion side.

In the first part of the series, Shaw wrote:

Most major newspapers support abortion rights on their editorial pages, and two major media studies have shown that 80% to 90% of U.S. journalists personally favor abortion rights. Moreover, some reporters participated in a big abortion rights march in Washington last year, and the American Newspaper Guild, the union that represents news and editorial employees at many major papers, has officially endorsed "freedom of choice in abortion decisions."

So what about now? The bias is even more widespread and reporters simply employ slightly different strategies. For example, far too many reporters who agree with the pro-abortion side simply ignore the pro-life viewpoint while others employ "quote-shopping."

What is "quote-shopping"? A reporter will question a spokesperson in such a way as to elicit a quote that will fit into a story the reporter has basically **already** written based on the reporter's preconceived view of the abortion issue.

Sadly, most reporters who engage in "advocacy reporting" are living in a world where, overwhelmingly, their colleagues and friends agree with them. Working in such an insular environment, they don't realize that they have betrayed the foundation of good journalism—to report the facts and let the reader decide for themselves.

Indiana becomes 13th state to pass law requiring that women undergoing chemical abortions be informed they may be able to save their baby if they change their mind

By Dave Andrusko

When Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed HB1577 into law on April 29th, Indiana became the second state in less than a week to pass an informed consent law that requires abortionists to inform women undergoing chemical abortions that it may be possible to reverse the abortion using a technique known as Abortion Pill Reversal. With the additions of the Hoosier state and West Virginia, APR laws are now on the books in 13 states.

HB 1577 passed overwhelmingly in the Indiana House (62-25) and Senate (36-14).

"NRLC applauds the efforts of Governor Eric Holcomb, the pro-life legislators, and Indiana Right to Life for their relentless pursuit of saving as many unborn babies as possible by enacting live-saving abortion pill reversal law that will provide mothers with a second chance at life for their babies," said Ingrid Duran, NRLC Director of State Legislation.

Chemical (or "medication") abortions is a two-step process. APR requires that the woman not take the second drug (misoprostol) and instead take progesterone in an attempt to neutralize the impact of the first drug (mifepristone). Over

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb

2,000 babies have been saved to date, according to Heartbeat International.

In 2019, of the approximately 7,600 abortions performed in Indiana, chemical abortions accounted for 44%.

The bill is scheduled to take effect in July and, predictably, the ACLU of Indiana is making noises about challenging the law in court.

During debate, bill sponsor state Rep. Peggy Mayfield said, "What we want to do is just provide the women with the information so you don't have to Google it, because it is very time sensitive that you have this information."

According to Indiana Right to Life, NRLC's state affiliate, Dr. Christina Francis, president of the American Association of Pro-Life Ob/Gyns (AAPLOG) and a board member of Indiana Right to Life, testified earlier in favor of the bill. "If we truly care about women being able to make informed choices, that should include knowing there's an option if they change their mind," she said.

Indiana Right to Life explained that

> **Another provision of HB 1577 includes a requirement that women receiving state-required informed consent counseling, at least 18-hours prior to an abortion, and be given a photo of their baby's ultrasound. In addition, a copy of the photo must be attached to her file so that state inspectors can verify the required ultrasound was performed.**
>
> **HB 1577 also ties an abortion clinic's health and safety reporting to the state's licensing process, preventing clinics with open inspection violations from receiving rubber stamp approval for licensing renewal.**
>
> **The bill also requires that any parental signatures for a minor's abortion must be notarized as an additional step to help prevent falsification of parental signatures.**
>
> **In addition, conscience protections are extended to mental health workers to protect them from being forced to facilitate or counsel for abortions, if such individuals object on ethical, moral or religious grounds.**

Why does your favorite pro-life college student need to attend the 2021 National Right to Life Academy?

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., Director, National Right to Life Academy

There's a great young man or woman in your pro-life community who's always been there for unborn babies and their mothers or has stood with older folk and those with disabilities at their most vulnerable times. What if you could channel that energy and enthusiasm and make it an effective catalyst for pro-life change in your town, your state, or even the national scene?

You can. Send them to us for the best hands-on training the pro-life movement has to offer.

After a couple of years off due to an office move and Covid-19, the National Right to Life Academy is resuming this summer at our new offices in Alexandria, Virginia. The Academy will kick off with the National Right to Life convention in Herndon, Virginia on Friday, June 25, and then will continue back in Alexandria beginning Monday, June 28 through Friday, July 30th.

Several students have already committed to the 2021 NRL Academy, but there are still a few slots available to those who contact us right away.

The cost is $3,800, with most of the tuition goings toward lodging for the students, a hot buffet breakfast, and a box-type lunch. The students will be on their own for their evening meal.

Launched in the summer of 2007, the Academy was created by the National Right to Life Committee staff to build on the work of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition, an enormously successful lobbying training program in the early years of the pro-life movement. The NYPLC was the training ground for many of today's pro-life activists, including stalwart defender U.S. Representative Chris Smith.

What to expect

Students will receive a bona fide college course, with classes, readings, research, labs, and papers. The classes and practicums are taught and led by highly trained, educated and experienced members of the NRLC staff and some of the top experts in the field. This why, if they want, students taking the course can earn three hours of college credit from the fully accredited Franciscan University of Steubenville.

It's a great investment, time and money well spent. Send

See "Academy," page 41

Giving a voice to abortion survivors

By Melissa Ohden

Editor's note. Melissa presented the following testimony in support of SB 405/HB 510: The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which the North Carolina Senate Committee on Health voted to approve. Melissa survived a "failed" saline infusion abortion in 1977. Gianna Jessen, another abortion survivor, also testified.

Thank you so much for your time today, Representatives, as we expose the horrors of Planned Parenthood.

327,653.

This is the number of abortions that Planned Parenthood's 2014 fiscal report lists as being completed that year. Based on these numbers, 897 children will lose their lives to an abortion completed by Planned Parenthood each and every day.

Why do I find this horrific? Because I have a lot in common with these children. I was meant to be one of them. I should have been just another statistic. But by the grace of God, I am more than a statistic. I come here today as a wife, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a Master's level prepared social worker, and yes, as an abortion survivor.

From "botched abortion" to "the dreaded complication of abortion" (a child who lives), I've been called just about everything you can imagine. But as you can see here in my medical records from 1977 (show record), I am the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion (the exact wording in my records reads–"a saline infusion for an abortion was done but was unsuccessful." Other parts of my records identify "saline infusion" as a complication of my biological mother's pregnancy. You could certainly say that saline infusion abortion complicated things).

It has taken years to unravel the secrets surrounding my survival, to have contact with my biological family and medical professionals that cared for me, and although there are still unanswered questions, what I do know is that my life was intended to be ended by an abortion, and even after I survived, my life was in jeopardy.

You wouldn't know it by looking at me today, but in August of 1977, I survived a failed saline infusion abortion. A saline infusion abortion involves injecting a toxic salt solution into the amniotic fluid surrounding the preborn child. The intent of that salt solution is to scald the child to death, from the outside in.

For days, I soaked in that toxic salt solution, and on the fifth day of the procedure, my biological mother, a 19-year-old college student, delivered me, after her labor was induced. I should have been delivered dead, as a successful abortion.

In 2013, I learned through contact with my biological mother's family that not only was this abortion forced upon her against her will, but also that it was my maternal grandmother, a nurse, who delivered me in this final step of the abortion procedure at St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa.

Unfortunately, I also learned that when my grandmother realized that the abortion had not succeeded in ending my life, she demanded that I be left to die.

I may never know how, exactly, two nurses who were on staff that day (one of whom has had part of her story passed down to my adoptive family) found out about me, but what I do know is that their willingness to fight for medical care to be provided to me saved my life.

I know where children like me were left to die at St. Luke's Hospital—a utility closet. In 2014, I met a nurse who assisted in a saline infusion abortion there in 1976, and delivered a living baby boy. After he was delivered alive, she followed her superior's orders and placed him in the utility closet in a bucket of formaldehyde to be picked up later as medical waste after he died there, alone.

The nursing staff at the St. Luke's Hospital NICU took this photo. It was provided to Melissa's parents when she was placed for adoption. The photo is labeled "approximately 21 days old."

A bucket of formaldehyde in a utility closet was meant to be my fate after I wasn't scalded to death through the abortion. Yet here I am today.

I weighed a little less than 3 pounds (2 pounds, 14 ounces), I suffered from jaundice, severe respiratory problems and seizures. One of the first notations in my medical records states that I looked like I was about 31 weeks gestational age when I survived.

Despite the miracle of my survival, the doctor's prognosis

See "Survivors," page 38

Pompeo: Kansans Must Reject Chinese, New York Models of Unlimited Abortion

Former Secretary of State brings international perspective and national attention to KFL Efforts

(Overland Park, KS – May 6, 2021) – Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo joined Kansans for Life (KFL) and pro-life supporters at two events on May 4 and 5, 2021. The events were held in Overland Park and Wichita, Kansas, bringing together over 1,300 committed defenders of life.

The former Secretary's presence at the events signals his and others' high-level support for the pro-life movement in Kansas as it redoubles efforts to spread word of the looming danger posed by an unlimited abortion industry in the state due to recent court decisions.

At the events, Kansans for Life presented a special award to Pompeo, "for heroic service in defense of mothers and their preborn babies across the world," in recognition of his many efforts to uphold human rights and the dignity of women in foreign countries while in Congress, as Director of the CIA, and at the United Nations as Secretary of State. As part of the Trump administration, Pompeo helped to enforce the policies barring U.S. tax dollars from being used to fund abortions in foreign countries.

The events also featured internationally recognized expert Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, who has studied China's abortion policies for over 40 years.

Mosher spoke about Pompeo's worldwide pro-life accomplishments and presented his award.

"Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is the most pro-life Secretary of State in American history," said Mosher, "and the Trump administration was the most pro-life administration in history due, in no small part, to Mike Pompeo's influence."

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

Mosher noted the parallels between extreme abortion practices in human rights abusing nation-states, such as China, and the similar threat of an unlimited abortion industry now pushing its way into Kansas, just like it has in New York.

According to Mosher, "China is one of only seven countries in the world to allow abortions after 20 weeks. Unless Kansas voters pass the VALUE THEM BOTH Amendment on August 2, 2022, Kansas abortion policies could soon look more like China's, with late term and even state-funded abortions."

Pompeo received the honor and offered praise for Kansans for Life.

"Kansans for Life is the state's most powerful and respected voice on life issues," said Secretary Pompeo, "Their long line of accomplishments and successes prove KFL is the voice we need for the pro-life battles ahead. Each of you needs to redouble your efforts to support KFL, without whose support it is unlikely I would have become a Congressman, CIA Director or Secretary of State. KFL endorsed me in my first race and was a core part of my success."

"If we all devote ourselves to this important cause to protect every life, I am confident that 20, 40, and 60 years from now America will reflect well on us, and our Republic will still stand. There will be many happy lives in the world that would not have been here without your work and that of Kansans for Life."

The Banquets were emceed by talk radio host Pete Mundo in Kansas City and KFL Board President Mary Wilkinson in Wichita. The events also included comments from clergy from various denominations, state representative Susan Humphries, consulting Executive Director Mary Kay Culp, and KFL Executive Director Peter Northcott.

"Having pro-life warriors like Mike Pompeo and Steven Mosher partner with KFL shows why the world is watching Kansas as we take the abortion industry head on," said KFL Board President Mary Wilkinson. "They encouraged Kansans to go all in with our effort and we could not be more thrilled with the response."

Kansans for Life hosted the banquets as an annual fundraising event to support the ongoing work of the organization. Last year's event featured former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow.

Kansans for Life is a nonprofit advocacy and educational organization dedicated to protecting and defending the right to life of all innocent humans from the moment of conception to natural death. We strive to protect the preborn and their mothers, the medically fragile and the elderly.

Record number of pro-life laws passed in historic Arkansas legislative session

By Tim Yarbrough

A number of strong pro-life measures were approved in what was one the busiest legislative sessions in Arkansas history – and solidified Arkansas' position as the No. 1 pro-life state in the country.

In all, lawmakers approved 14 new pro-life laws to protect the safety of women and reduce the number of abortions in the state. The laws include an outright ban on abortions, a requirement for women seeking an abortion to view an ultrasound, prohibiting abortion providers in public schools, better regulations on drug-induced abortions, and measures barring abortions in hospitals.

Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life, applauded the historic action of the Arkansas Legislature, saying it demonstrates how the state is winning the fight against abortion.

"It is so encouraging to have the enormous support for the protection of the innocent unborn and born vulnerable Arkansans that was reflected in this legislative session. The record number of pro-life laws passed was the result of a joint effort among pro-life organizations, lawmakers and our pro-life governor. It was a great success for life," said Mimms.

Following are highlights of pro-life legislation passed during the session:

Prohibiting Abortion SB 6 (Act 309) – A pro-life hallmark of the legislative session was the passage of SB 6 banning abortion in Arkansas, a bill prohibiting abortion in Arkansas except when the mother's life is at risk.

The Right to Know and See Law SB 85 (Act 498) – A law that requires display of the ultrasound image and a verbal description of fetal development of the unborn baby to the mother before an abortion.

Abortionists in Public Schools HB 1592 (Act 820) – Keeping Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers out of Arkansas schools was the aim of HB 1592, which bars public schools from entering into any type of agreement or arrangement with an abortion provider. This includes any contact such as guest lecturer, curriculum or other contacts. The legislation will help keep groups like Planned Parenthood from promoting their programs in Arkansas public schools.

Transactions with Abortionists HB 1589 (Act 561) – A law that prohibits government entities in Arkansas from engaging in transactions with abortion providers and affiliates of abortion providers.

Abortion Facility Regulations – Act 949 now requires any facility that performs abortions to be licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health as an abortion facility, as well as prohibits abortions in hospitals except in cases of a medical emergency. Another law (Act 740) requires abortion facilities to have transfer agreements with hospitals. Additionally, Act 787 requires the State of Arkansas to report abortion data to the federal Centers for Disease Control and tightens Arkansas law concerning abortion facility inspections.

Restrictions on Abortion-Inducing Drugs HB 1402 (Act 562) and Informed-Consent to Chemical Abortion HB 1572 (Act 560) – These laws update Arkansas' restrictions on abortion-inducing drugs like RU-486 and outline the informed-consent process for a chemical abortion.

Every Mom Matters Act (EMMA) HB 1195 (Act 90) – A law ensuring that women are offered information, assistance, and resources that could help them choose an option besides abortion and possibly reduce abortion in Arkansas by a third.

Codifying the 2015 Governor's Executive Order Prohibiting Abortion Providers from Receiving Medicaid Funds HB 1408 (Act 358) – Law that prevents abortion providers in Arkansas from receiving Medicaid reimbursements from taxpayers.

Unfavorable End-of-Life Legislation Defeated HB 1685/ HB 1686 –Arkansas Right to Life joined with National Right to Life, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition USA, Arkansas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents, the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock, Family Council, and other organizations to oppose and defeat two proposed bills that included elements that essentially usurped personal end-of-life healthcare decisions by placing those decisions with healthcare workers who are not physicians.

Editor's note. Tim Yarbrough serves in communications and development at Arkansas Right to Life.

Mother Chooses Life for Son with Disability, Now She Says "He is the Most Joyful Little Boy I've ever Known."

By Peter Pinedo, Texas Right to Life

Although advised by their doctor that most parents in their situation would abort, Alison and her husband chose Life, and they are extremely glad they did.

At her 18-week anatomy scan, Alison was informed that her preborn son, Justice, was diagnosed with severe Hydrocephalus. This is a rare but serious condition in which fluid builds up in cavities within the brain.

"Our doctor told us that most people in our situation would terminate the pregnancy," says Alison. "The unknowns were very scary, and seeing my son's brain ventricles grow and the cerebral spinal fluid increase during each ultrasound was difficult."

Alison admits that after the discovery of Justice's brain abnormality she experienced a wide range of emotions including fear and a sense of loneliness. But Alison adds that "I was also excited to meet my son and to get him the help he needed."

Though they were scared, Alison and her husband knew that they could not kill their precious child, despite pressure from their doctor.

"Choosing life for our son was not difficult," Alison says. She explains that "there was a chance he would be severely (mentally challenged). (But) my husband and I believe that we are all created equally and with a purpose."

As indicated by Alison's doctor, unlike Justice, most children prenatally diagnosed with severe Hydrocephalus are not allowed to be born. Horrifically, the vast majority of these vulnerable children are aborted.

Currently in Texas, abortion is illegal after 20 weeks with one deadly loophole. Late abortions can be committed on pain-capable, third trimester children all the way until birth, if the child is diagnosed with a life-limiting abnormality or disability.

This discriminatory policy allows for the killing of preborn children based on medical diagnosis.

According to Healthline, in the United States 67 percent of children prenatally diagnosed with Down Syndrome are aborted.

Instead of offering parents support and care, such as perinatal palliative care, the norm is to simply "terminate the pregnancy."

The Preborn NonDiscrimination Act (PreNDA) (SB 1173/HB 3218), a bill which would prohibit abortions committed for discriminatory reasons such as the race, gender, or disability of the child, is one of Texas Right to Life's top Pro-Life Priorities for 2021.

PreNDA has been passed by the Texas Senate and the Texas House Public Health Committee. Now the bill must be scheduled for a vote on the House floor by the Texas House Committee on Calendars. If PreNDA is passed by the Texas House, the bill can be signed by the governor and take effect.

Had Alison and her husband not been firmly rooted in their belief in the dignity and value of all Life, Justice would most likely never have been given the chance to live.

Now, five years later, Alison says, "our lives have definitely changed for the better!" She explains that, "Justice is the happiest, most joyful little boy I've ever known. He has made us realize that just because someone may look or act a little differently, that's not a bad thing. It's just who they are."

One day after his birth, Justice underwent a brain surgery in which a shunt was placed to drain the excess fluid collecting in his brain.

According to his proud mother, "since the day he was born, Justice has thrived." Now that he is four years old, Alison says that, "cognitively, he has tested average and above average. Justice has learned to walk and talk, his vision has drastically improved, and he gets stronger each and every day."

When asked what she would say to other women and families undergoing similar situations, Alison responded that, "doctors don't always know the outcome of a baby who is diagnosed with an abnormality in utero," adding, "Your baby is not defective. He or she is perfect and was created for a specific purpose. You will love that baby more than you'll ever know."

On behalf of her son, and the many other beautiful children like him, Alison encourages the State of Texas to pass the Preborn NonDiscrimination Act, so that children may no longer be the victims of lethal discrimination based on medical diagnosis.

Texas Right to Life is extremely grateful to Alison, Justice, and their entire family for their courage and beautiful witness to Life. Please join us in urging the Texas House of Representatives to quickly pass PreNDA and the other Pro-Life Priorities, so that Life may be cherished and protected in Texas.

West Virginia Governor Jim Justice Has Signed "Second Chances at Life Act"

By Mary Anne Buchanan

West Virginians for Life (WVFL) is pleased that Gov. Jim Justice has signed the Second Chances at Life Act of 2021. The bill will require that a woman be informed that the effects of the chemical abortion pill can be reversed to save her baby if she changes her mind after taking the first pill, but not the second.

There was no formal ceremony due to Covid.

The Second Chances at Life Act (HB 2982/SB 609) successfully passed in the West Virginia Senate on April 10, the final day of the legislative session, by a bipartisan 27-6 vote. The 84-15 bipartisan House vote to concur came within a couple hours of the Senate's action and, thankfully, before the session ended at midnight.

"National Right to Life applauds West Virginians for Life, Gov. Justice, and all of the pro-life legislators who worked tirelessly to ensure that women have a right to be informed about the possibility of counteracting the effects of chemical abortions," said NRLC State Legislative Director Ingrid Duran. "These informed consent laws provide hope and a second chance at life should the mother choose it," Duran added, "but she must first know that the abortion pill reversal protocol exists, and that it has already saved over 2,000 babies and that her baby could be next."

The new bill, the latest in a series of pro-life success stories in West Virginia, will require (1) the girl/woman be informed that if she changes her mind, she may be able to save her baby with the help of medical professionals; and(2) it provides her the ability to act by informing her of the existence of a list of medical professionals versed in abortion pill reversal protocol on the existing West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Women's Right to Know website.

Montana's Governor Gianforte just signed a similar bill, making Montana the 11th state to do so, while Indiana's Governor Holcomb should also be signing his state's bill anytime now. Thus, West Virginia is the 12th state to pass abortion pill reversal legislation.

The bill will take effect July 9.

"I am pleased that other states are joining this effort to give a second chance to those girls and women who change their minds. Women deserve full information when making this life changing decision," said Karen Cross, West Virginians for Life Political Liaison.

The American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a 7,000-member OB-GYN medical group, supports offering the Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) protocol to women who regret initiating the abortion pill process.

APR involves use of progesterone to reverse the effects of the Mifepristone, the first of two drugs that make up the chemical abortion technique. Progesterone has routinely been given to women during pregnancy for over 50 years and is, in fact, standard of care to prevent miscarriages. Also, it has not been shown to cause any type of harm to women or their pre-born children.

Asked what surprised him most, director of "Roe v. Wade" movie says, "Absolutely everything"

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

Surreal. Mind-boggling. Unbelievable.

Those are just some of the words that come to my mind when I contemplate the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision ***Roe v. Wade.*** I have long wondered about the factors that led up to the tragic ruling, which has resulted in the loss of more than 62 million lives—and counting.

Writer/director Nick Loeb was similarly mystified by the behind-the-scenes shenanigans that resulted in the most controversial court ruling ever. And so he decided to make a movie about it, aptly titled, "***Roe v. Wade."*** The film deftly exposes the multi-faceted push to legalize abortion in all 50 states.

Recently, I had a chance to interview Loeb for ***LifeLines,*** the radio program/podcast of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation.

"***Roe v. Wade*** is the core case that everyone in America has heard of," Loeb said. "And I couldn't believe that no one had actually made a movie."

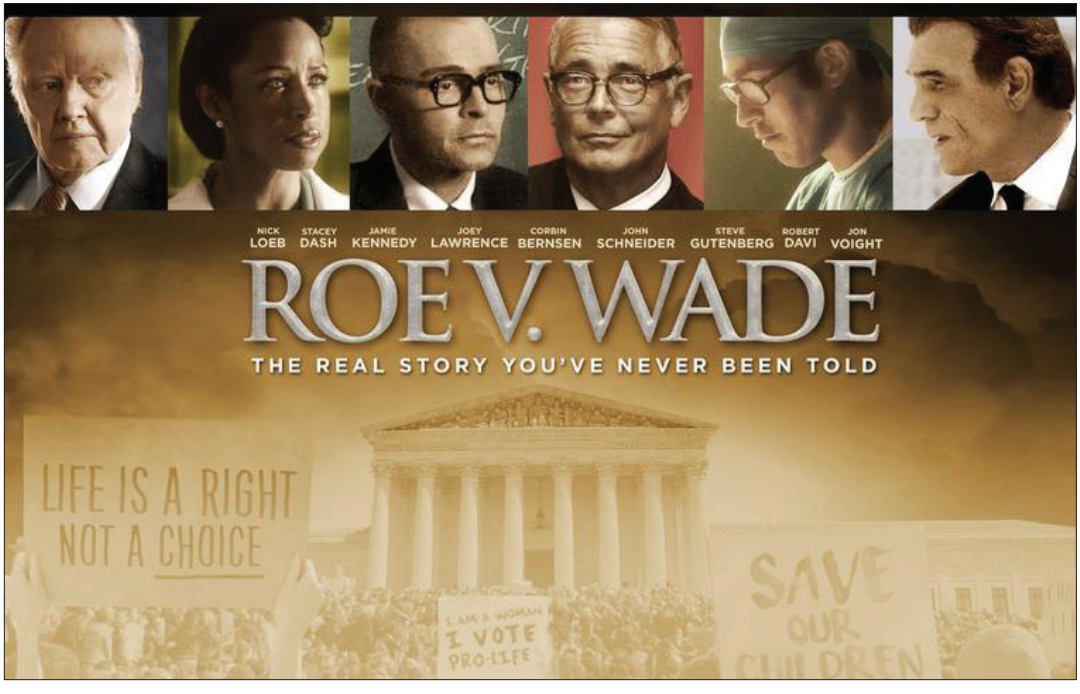
But Loeb conceded the majority of Americans really do not know much about the case.

Loeb noted that when you delve into the reality behind ***Roe,*** you discover "that people literally made stuff up or just left stuff out" when reporting on this crucial case. He pointed out that social media was not a presence in the 1970s, so communication channels were limited. There was no such thing as a story "going viral," therefore information about the court decision—along with what led to it—was scant.

When I asked him what surprised him the most when conducting research for the film, Loeb said, "Absolutely everything."

Loeb explained that the movie had to be character-driven, and he found his protagonist in Bernard Nathanson, "the biggest abortionist in American history" who had a change of mind and heart and became pro-life. Nathanson co-founded the pro-abortion group NARAL and claimed responsibility for tens of thousands of abortions during his career.

In the movie, we see Nathanson come to grips with the tragic aftermath of ***Roe***, a societal sea change which haunts us to this day.



Loeb stressed that one of the key takeaways from the film is that "life begins at conception," an inescapable fact that grounds his film in reality.

For more on this groundbreaking work, visit www.roevwademovie.com/

Texas Attorney General Paxton joins 19-state coalition defending Indiana's Parental Notice for minors seeking abortions

By Dave Andrusko

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has joined a 19-state coalition supporting Indiana's appeal to the Supreme Court in defense of its parental consent statute for minors who are seeking an abortion. His *amicus* ("friend-of-the-court" brief) was filed in the United States Supreme Court after the Chicago-based Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit blocked a law requiring parents to receive notice when a judge approves a request for a judicial bypass from an unemancipated minor so that she may have an abortion without parental consent.

"As the Supreme Court has previously recognized, nurturing his or her child is 'high duty' of any parent," AG Paxton said. "Never is this parental duty of custody, care, and guidance more necessary than when minors make the irrevocable, life-altering decision to have an abortion."

Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky Inc. arose out of a 2017 Indiana law, which (as *Courthouse News* summarized) requires "a judge to notify the parents of an unemancipated minor if the judge approves her petition for a judicial bypass and authorizes her abortion." The law was enjoined at the district court, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the injunction.

However, when the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *June Medical Services LLC v. Russo* last summer, it vacated the Seventh Circuit ruling and ordered that court to revisit the suit. A three-judge Seventh Circuit panel upheld the injunction last March, and as a result, Indiana is now appealing to the Supreme Court to hear the case since the circuit courts of appeal have split on the legality of parental notification.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

Paxton's *amicus* begins

The Seventh Circuit has left intact an injunction against an Indiana statute requiring that the parents of an unemancipated minor receive notice when their child decides to have an abortion without parental consent. And the court did so without really considering the compelling interest that States have in encouraging parental involvement in these kinds of life-altering decisions. In other words, the court disregarded the important interest that States have in protecting minors' welfare—an interest that this Court has repeatedly affirmed.

The amici States seek to protect the most vulnerable members of society—children—as they face consequential decisions like whether to have an abortion.

AG Paxton highlights a crucial distinction: "There is no question that States have a greater ability to regulate abortion access for minors than they do for adults."

That is why this Court has upheld parental-consent statutes for minors that might not survive scrutiny if applied to adults. Yet, in the decision below, the Seventh Circuit affirmed an injunction against Indiana's parental-notice statute without meaningfully acknowledging the distinction between laws affecting minors and laws affecting adults. By doing so, the Seventh Circuit ignored longstanding precedent from this Court that firmly establishes the States' heightened interest in protecting the well-being of children.

In a press release, AG Paxton explained

"Texans traditionally respect and uphold parents' right to raise their children as they see fit, and the Seventh Circuit has repeatedly upheld these ideals in previous opinions but failed to do so here. The Supreme Court now has a chance to restore parental liberty and the wellbeing of minors while giving parents room to teach and guide their children."

Ocasio-Cortez claims America's biggest abortion chain 'saves lives'

By Carole Novielli

Before the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), often referred to simply as "AOC," recently claimed that Planned Parenthood has saved "many lives" with their "prenatal care" services. She also claimed her own mother received prenatal care there, calling herself a "Planned Parenthood baby."

In her statement before a House committee hearing titled, "Birthing While Black: Examining America's Black Maternal Health Crisis," the Congresswoman, a strong supporter of abortion and Planned Parenthood, stated:

> **If we want to talk about Planned Parenthood, let's talk about how many lives Planned Parenthood has saved. And how many babies have been born because of the prenatal care provide by Planned Parenthood.**
>
> **If you don't believe it and you've never met a Planned Parenthood baby, I'm happy to let you know that I am one.**
>
> **And that my mother received and relied on prenatal care from Planned Parenthood when she was pregnant with me.**
>
> **And, so if we're concerned about life – we don't get to talk about anyone else who's not concerned about the full spectrum of that when we are upholding policies that kill people.**

While no one can confirm or deny Ocasio-Cortez's claim that her mother received prenatal care from Planned Parenthood during her pregnancy (which was likely 1988 or 1989 as she was born in October of 1989), for her to now imply that "many lives" are saved by an organization which currently kills over 350,000 children every single year through abortion is a purposeful and egregious deception.

The Facts

Politicians like Ocasio-Cortez often tout Planned Parenthood (recently **accused** of systemic racism by its own employees) as necessary "health care" for pregnant women. However, Planned Parenthood's own data is clear that its care for pregnant women — like prenatal care and adoption referrals — are actually shrinking while its abortion numbers skyrocket.

Planned Parenthood's business model has centered around the sale of abortion and it goes to great lengths to present it as a favorable alternative to parenting, so it is no surprise that the organization's abortions and taxpayer funding are increasing year over year.

The Numbers

Planned Parenthood used to report just the number of *prenatal clients* it served. However, in 2009 it began reporting "prenatal services," which had the effect of appearing to increase its number served in that category *by a factor of nearly six*.

In 2009, Planned Parenthood's report showed 40,489 prenatal

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

services provided (2009-2010 annual report) but in its Annual Affiliate Service Census Report for that same year, it reported just 7,021 clients.

A review of "prenatal services" between 2009 and the most recent 2019-2020 report shows that Planned Parenthood provided a total of 200,530 prenatal *services*. At the same time, it committed nearly ***four million abortions***. In other words, during that time frame, Planned Parenthood ended the lives of *18 preborn* children for every *one* prenatal care *service* it claimed to provide.

The year Ocasio-Cortez's mother could have been pregnant (1988 or 1989), Planned Parenthood's reports indicated the following:

- 1988: Planned Parenthood committed abortions on 104,000 women while they served 2,400 *prenatal clients*.
- 1989: Planned Parenthood committed abortions for 111,000 women while they served 3,400 *prenatal clients*.

Both categories referenced clients served; therefore, we can estimate that Planned Parenthood's abortion clients outnumbered its prenatal services clients 43.33 to 1 in 1988, and nearly 33 to 1 in 1989.

More currently, between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, Planned Parenthood provided a mere 8,626 "prenatal services" while committing a total of 354,871 abortions. And, in just *one year*, the corporation's prenatal care services declined by nearly 12% (9,798 recorded in its 2018-2019 report compared to 8,626 recorded in its 2019-2020 report).

In fact, prenatal care *services* at Planned Parenthood have dropped nearly 79% since 2009 and over 72% since 2010, figures recorded in the organization's 2010 report (40,489 in 2009 compared to 31,098 in 2010).

See "Ocasio-Cortez," page 42

Policymakers Must Prevent Unethical 'Baby in a Bottle' Science Experiments

By Dr. Tara Sander Lee, Dr. David Prentice and Lila Rose

Editor's note. This appeared in Newsweek and is reposted with permission.

A recent news story describing how scientists in China generated the first human-monkey chimeric embryos (unborn monkeys with human body parts)—a deliberate and unnatural crossing of species—sent shock waves through the world.

But this unethical experimentation on human embryos is not exclusive to China.

Scientists have now successfully grown baby mice in the lab, outside the natural womb. They are pushing to do the same with human babies. It›s not a horror movie yet, but it could be very soon.

Unborn mice embryos were grown in rotating lab bottles, outside the natural maternal environment, until halfway through gestation. They grew in bottles until they had a fully functioning heart and circulatory system, as well as other organs. Limbs and eyes were also forming.

Upon reaching optimal growth and living conditions for the tiny mice, the scientists explored a range of possible experiments. They genetically modified the embryonic mice, changing their DNA. Toxins were added to test teratogenic (deformity) effects.

In addition, researchers injected embryonic stem cells from a destroyed human embryo into the mouse embryos to make human-mouse "chimeras"—a hybrid species with both mouse and human parts, including hybrid brains. They were allowed to grow for 14 days, then killed.

But these experiments do not—and will not—stop here. The lead scientist of the "mouse in a bottle" research team is calling for human beings to be next. He is quoted in *Technology Review* saying, «I would advocate growing it [a human embryo] until day 40 and then disposing of it.»

Such thoughts and intentions are abhorrent. They set the stage for systematic exploitation of human beings. No human being should be considered disposable, brought into existence as a science experiment and then destroyed. Moreover, exploiting human beings for experimentation is unnecessary, as numerous ethical research avenues exist—avenues which do not involve the creation and vivisection of young humans.

Growing live human babies in bottles up to 40 days post-fertilization (more than five weeks after conception) brings them to what scientists call Carnegie stage 16, when the heart is fully beating. At this stage, the brain, limbs, eyes and ears are forming. Early reproductive cells are beginning to migrate to the developing reproductive organs.

Human "baby in a bottle" experiments are not happening yet, mostly because of the "14-day limit," a rule not to grow human embryos beyond two weeks in the lab, that scientists worldwide have agreed upon. This limit—written into law in some countries, but only a guideline in others, including the U.S.—is insufficient to prevent the unethical creation of human embryos for experimentation. There have been increasing calls to remove the 14-day limit as scientists seek to experiment on nascent human life.

Coincidentally, in the very same issue of the journal *Nature* that featured the "mouse in a bottle," two other research teams described the first complete model of the human embryo. The human embryos are called "blastoids" because they resemble the early blastocyst stage of a developing human being. Human embryos were made from cultured human cells and cell lines—a new type of human cloning. They are not the same as "babies in a bottle," but they nonetheless prove that scientists are chafing at the starting line. They're just waiting for the signal that they can rush forward once the 14-day rule is gone.

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is perceived as the ethical authority in this arena. Ominously, it is scheduled to release new guidelines later this month concerning the new technology of stem-cell-based human embryo models.

If the ISSCR drops the 14-day rule, the horrendous practice of growing human babies in the lab will almost certainly proceed unchecked.

All research that creates, exploits, manipulates and destroys human beings at any stage of development is inherently wrong. Those practicing science must respect every human being—regardless of age, the manner in which he or she was created and whether he or she is inside or outside of the womb. A *zero-day* limit is the best rule for upholding the sanctity of every human life. State and federal policymakers should act now to ban these grotesque and unethical experiments.

Tara Sander Lee, Ph.D. is senior fellow and director of life sciences for the Charlotte Lozier Institute. David Prentice, Ph.D. is vice president and research director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute. Lila Rose is president and founder of Live Action.

After video shows her the horrors of 2nd trimester, abortion, woman completely changes her mind

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

When I began studying television news reporting and production in college, I learned the incredible power of video to tell a story. No matter how strong the words I had written might be, my script would always be overshadowed by the visuals. If the visuals were compelling, the piece would be absolutely riveting. If not, the TV news story basically fell apart.

I was reminded of this phenomenon once when we chose to lead off our PA LifeLinks email newsletter with a video posted by the pro-life group Live Action. We headlined the story, "Amazing Video—Woman Changes Mind About Abortion."

Of all the stories we have ever run in the *Online News*, the video was by far the most popular, stunning us with its "click rate" (in other words, the number of people who clicked on the video in order to view it).

But it was more than just curiosity that made the video a crowd-pleaser. It was also the subject of the video itself—an articulate young woman being questioned about her views on abortion.

At the beginning of the video, she admitted that she didn't really like abortion. But she claimed there are times when an individual "needs" abortion. She went on to suggest that abortion was a matter of "rights" and what a pregnant woman might want to do.

Then, the woman viewed a video explaining a second trimester dismemberment abortion—an abortion in which a baby is torn limb by limb from the mother's womb. The woman begins to cry, and you can see a wave of pain flooding her features.

Her mind has been enlightened, her heart has been broken, and her position on abortion has been changed.

She discusses the fact that she had not realized, prior to viewing the video, that the unborn baby would be "detached" and "crushed." She points out what she has now learned about the risks of abortion to women. She then discusses the fact that there are "so many options" and that there is "always another option" besides abortion. "It is a life," she explains.

The video experiment shows how eyes can be opened to the horrors of abortion, once individuals are educated about the process. It also proves a point that I have often made—that people support the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*, the decision which legalized abortion, because they do not realize what *Roe* actually did.

News stories fail to define the word "abortion," so people are left in an information vacuum. The pro-abortion side benefits from the veil surrounding abortion.

But once people see the brutality of abortion—the fact that babies are torn apart and mothers have their hearts ripped open—they oppose it. In the time it takes to play a short video, a mind can be forever changed.

This fact should compel us to share ultrasounds and other educational videos on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Because in those videos lies an awesome, life-giving power which can save babies from otherwise certain death.

Just a few of many reasons you really want to attend the 50th annual National Right to Life Convention!

From page 1

follow abortion for those who may be considering abortion, while simultaneously offering a message of understanding, redemption, and hope available through Jesus Christ to those already affected by abortion. I highly recommend 'Viable.'"

"'Viable' is raw and real."

A 12-year-old audience member may have said it best: "This is not what they are teaching us in school."

We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity and join us for this amazing event.

The convention officially opens on Friday morning, June 25 with a 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast. We are honored to have the Reverend Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. as our featured speaker.

It has been said of Rev. Seltz that "His experience as a pastor, …a professor …and as 'Lutheran Hour' speaker has given him extensive exposure to the cultural and social realities that shape American culture."

Tickets are $35 each, and the Prayer Breakfast is always a favorite event of any NRLC convention.

On Friday evening, we are thrilled to feature Patricia Sandoval as our guest. She is an author, global speaker, and an *EWTN* show host. She has an amazing story of hope for this generation. Her testimony is as powerful and as raw as it gets, with her personal history of abortion and then being hired by Planned Parenthood. Her terror at what happens behind the scenes led her to drugs and homelessness.

But her story does not end there! The title of her session is, "Relentless."

Saturday morning, June 26, begins at 9 am with one of our favorite speakers, Wesley J. Smith, J.D., author, and one of the very few pro-life bioethicists. He has written numerous books, published hundreds of articles and opinion columns nationally and internationally on issues such as the importance of being human (human exceptionalism), assisted suicide, bioethics, the [im]morality of human cloning, legal ethics, medical ethics, and public affairs.

The title of his session is "There's No Such Thing as 'Just a Little' Euthanasia." You will not want to miss this, and we will all learn much from it.

All in all we have the Dinner Theater featuring "Viable," the Prayer Breakfast, four General Sessions, a closing Saturday night Banquet, and 54 workshops on all the topics of interest to pro-lifers. In addition there is the National Right to Life Teens convention, Pro-Life Exhibits, and Childcare so your children have a great time while you are equipping yourself to go spread the word and the knowledge you have learned in your own city and state.

And there will be still more. Stay tuned. To keep on top of what to expect, visit www.nrlconvention.com for the latest information!

I really hope to see you there.

Unborn children aren't constructed—they develop

From page 9

the youngest ones, like partially constructed objects?

Looks can be deceiving. Early embryos are (currently) small and unable to perform the cognitive functions we can. Even though a five-day-old embryo is radically different from an amorphous clump of cells, the two may look the same to us. Our imagination limits us.

When we gaze backwards, though, we can better see embryos for what they really are. "We may doubt that a new sprout, or even a barren vine, is really a tomato plant, but once it bears tomatoes, we know that it was always a tomato plant," observes Prof. Richard Stith of Valparaiso University. "We may doubt that embryos are persons, but as we look back upon ourselves or upon our neighbors, we recognize that we and they were all once embryos."

Human beings are not like pizza. Each of us began life as a tiny embryo, and each tiny embryo will, if all goes well, grow up just like we did. Every embryo now is what we all once were. We share the same nature. We are human beings.

"An embryo in a photograph may at first seem no more than a grain of sand," says Stith, "but if that embryo snapshot had been taken twenty years ago, just after our friend Mary was conceived in vitro, we may well exclaim, 'Look, Mary. That's you!'"

The Pill that Kills, delivered to your door by mail

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

If a vaccine were to kill 24 people and injure 3,000 more, would that vaccine remain available?

What about an *abortion drug*?

Despite the recognized danger of the drug Mifeprex (mifepristone), the Biden Administration has lifted safety restrictions on the abortion pill, erasing medically-necessary precautions that have been in place since FDA approval in 2000.

By tossing out these needed safeguards, the administration and the abortion industry are playing Russian roulette with women's lives, handing them "a loaded gun" in the form of chemical abortion.

According to a statement released by the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), which represents approximately 7,000 women's healthcare practitioners, the abortion pill has led to at least 24 deaths and 3,000 injuries, with 500 more women at risk of dying had they not reached emergency medical care in time. Death due to abortion often goes unreported, so it is difficult to determine the true fatality rate of the drug.

Since the FDA stopped collecting data on the "adverse effects" of the drug in 2016, the complication rate could be much higher.

Earlier this month, a 23-year-old Argentinian woman died from a chemical abortion after it was made legal in her country.

Now, in our country, the most pro-abortion President in history jeopardizes the lives of unsuspecting young women as they are misled into believing they can safely abort at home.

No longer will an in-person exam be required to confirm the gestational age of the child or to rule out an ectopic pregnancy or multiple babies or other complicating conditions or to determine if a woman is RH negative and in need of a Rhogam injection.

Rather, the potent drugs can be delivered to a mailbox or pharmacy simply through a tele-health visit with an abortion provider. Planned Parenthood Keystone is already enthusiastically promoting this "service" on their website.

The two-pill abortion procedure is only approved up through 10 weeks, but many young women are frequently uncertain as to how far along they are. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology estimates that about 50% of women are wrong about their gestational age when relying on recall of their last cycle, which is why determining the baby's age by ultrasound had been standard practice in the past. Taking the drugs past 10 weeks significantly increases the chance of complications.

But the abortion drug is dangerous earlier in pregnancy too. AAPLOG notes, "A Finnish study involving nearly

50,000 women who had abortions at 9 weeks or less showed that immediate adverse events were **four times** more likely with chemical abortion than surgical."

That is why the safety regulations, known as REMs (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation), were enacted in the first place. There is significant risk of hemorrhaging, infection, incomplete abortion, and more that can threaten a young woman's life.

"This requirement is not restrictive–it is protective," states AAPLOG.

And while there is a definite physical risk to women, there is also a tremendous emotional and psychological impact. Young women are left alone to endure hours of severe cramping and bleeding to deliver and dispose of a dead child.

It's hard to understand that anyone could possibly think such trauma is part of "empowering women." Rather than given authentic support at a difficult moment, women are given a pill to kill, one that might kill them as well as their baby.

But under the misleading title of "reproductive justice," that seems like a risk the Biden Administration is willing to take.

Pro-abortion think tank fears 2021 represents "unprecedented threat to reproductive health care" (abortion)

By Dave Andrusko

As the oldest and most media-recognized of the pro-abortion think tanks, the Guttmacher Institute checks off many boxes. Its pronouncements are given more creditability than they would if they came down on tablets from Mt. Sinai. Although wholly in the pockets of the Abortion Industry, its research is credentialed as "scholarship," rather than talking points for pro-abortion politicians and lazy reporters. And it cranks out studies whose lone function is to "document" that abortion is safe, safe, safe and that pro-life protective language is diabolical, dangerous, and demeaning to women.

But perhaps at the top of the list is Guttmacher's role as official Chicken Little. The sky is **always** falling. Enter its quasi-hysterical "2021 Is on Track to Become the Most Devastating Antiabortion State Legislative Session in Decades."

Authored by one familiar face—Elizabeth Nash—and another not- so-familiar face—Lauren Cross—the post begins apocalyptically: "Right-wing ideologues are engaging in a shock and awe campaign against abortion rights that is largely getting lost against the background of a broader attack on other basic rights…"

Nash and Cross continue breathlessly

> **The number of abortion restrictions—and specifically bans on abortion designed to directly challenge Roe v. Wade and the U.S. constitutional right to abortion—that have swiftly been enacted over the past four months is unprecedented. If this trend continues, 2021 will end up as the most damaging antiabortion state legislative session in a decade—and perhaps ever.**

It's like a bad rip off from "A Christmas Carol" where the Ghost of Christmas Present tells Scrooge, "If these shadows remain unaltered by the future…."

What follows is an initial tally

> **Since January, there have been 536 abortion restrictions, including 146 abortion bans, introduced across 46 states (all counts current as of April 29, 2021). A whopping 61 of those restrictions have been enacted across 13 states, including eight bans.**

followed by even worse news for abortion advocates

> **A Devastating Record: 28 Abortion Restrictions Enacted in Just Four Days: Between April 26 and April 29, 28 new restrictions were signed into law in seven states—almost half (46%) of the restrictions passed so far in 2021.**

Of course, pro-lifers see these measures not as threats, but sources of protections for unborn children and their mothers, many of whom are under enormous pressure to abort (which is why the Abortion Industry so fears and despises waiting periods).

None of this would be possible if pro-lifers hadn't elected responsive legislators in many, many states. As *National Review Online* noted

> **[T]the success that Republicans have enjoyed at the state and local level has made it much easier to pass protections for unborn children. Currently, Republicans control both chambers of the state legislature in 30 states and possess unified control of government in 23 states. In fact, even though Democrats won the Presidency and control of both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate during the most recent election cycle, Republicans actually won unified control of two additional state governments during the 2020 election cycle. As recently as 1990, Republican controlled both chambers of the state legislature in only five states. The investments that pro-lifers have made in local elections are certainly paying impressive dividends.**

We write about these triumphs every week, sometimes almost five days a week, and often more than one story per issue. NRLC state affiliates are performing yeoman duty.

Nash and Cross gloomily conclude

> **The current barrage of coordinated attacks must be taken seriously as the unprecedented threat to reproductive health care and rights that it is. The year 2021 is well on its way to being a defining one in abortion rights history.**

While they are 100% incorrect about the impact of the legislation, let us hope their prediction of unprecedented pro-life success is 100% accurate.

SCCL Wins Victory for Dying Children, Incapacitated Adults

By Holly Gatling, Executive Director, South Carolina Citizens for Life

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The State Senate Medical Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 29, 2021, unanimously adopted an amendment proposed by South Carolina Citizens for Life to protect dying children, especially when parents might disagree on treatment. SCCL proposal also protects adults who are unable to make medical decisions for themselves.

The purpose of the unamended original bill was to allow the parents of a terminally ill child to request a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order when the child is near death and the parents seek only palliative or comfort care for the child. Under current law, only adults with a "terminal condition" may request a DNR.

Unfortunately the original bill introduced to give parents the right to request a DNR for a child had two serious problems. First, instead of using the phrase "terminally ill" (meaning death is imminent) the bill used the vague phrase "seriously ill." Second, the bill had no provisions for resolving a dispute between parents who disagree about whether a DNR is right for the dying child.

South Carolina Citizens for Life

THE FIRST CIVIL RIGHT IS THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The SCCL amendment adopted unanimously by the Medical Affairs subcommittee and then the full committee reversed the "seriously ill" language back to "terminally ill." In his testimony before the Medical Affairs subcommittee hearing S.508, SCCL lobbyist Jimmy Hepburn pointed out that the words "serious illness" fail to specify "whether the patient would die even if the condition were treated." He argued that, "Patients have a right to refuse any medical treatment for themselves, but agents or surrogates of adults, and parents of children do not have the right to deny life-saving treatment from patients entrusted to their care who could really live beyond the short term."

Mr. Hepburn noted that children and adults "unable to make their own medical decisions should not be allowed to die when treatment exists for their illness that would prevent their imminent death." He used the example of someone choking on a chicken bone which is a life-threatening event unrelated to serious or terminal illness. "Choking on a chicken bone will certainly result in someone's death within twelve months," he argued, "and is thus a 'serious illness'" as originally defined by S.508. But choking on a chicken bone is a condition that can be quickly reversed, he said. The current South Carolina law "at least requires that an illness be irreversible and so does our amendment."

The second part of the SCCL amendment "stops a do not resuscitate order from being placed on a child if one parent explicitly refuses consent" and allows either parent to ask for a judge to resolve the dispute.

"Parents should be able to request a do not resuscitate order for their children who have a veritably diagnosed terminal condition" Mr. Hepburn said. In many cases, however, "an illness on its own is not sufficient to bring about imminent death."

The bill now moves to the full Senate calendar. If it remains uncontested, it could pass and be sent to the S.C. House before the 2021 legislative session ends on May 13, 2021.

Jahi McMath Was Not Brain Dead

By Wesley J. Smith

Readers may recall the sad case of Jahi McMath out of Oakland, Calif. In 2013, Jahi experienced a severe bleeding event after throat surgery and a subsequent cardiac arrest. She was successfully resuscitated, but her brain was catastrophically injured from loss of oxygen. Doctors at Oakland Children's Hospital declared her brain dead and announced plans to remove Jahi from life support.

Not so fast. Jahi's mother, Latasha "Nailah" Winkfield, did not believe her baby was dead. She sued to keep her daughter's life support maintained. It made national headlines. Eventually, a deal was worked out in which California issued a death certificate and Jahi was transferred to her mother's care still attached to life support. Nailah moved Jahi to New Jersey that permits a religious exemption from brain death, insisting that her daughter was severely disabled, but alive.

I initially supported the brain-death declaration, but changed my mind over time when Jahi's body did not begin to breakdown, as almost always happens in brain-death cases. Moreover and far more importantly, the noted neurologist Alan Shewmon reviewed the tapes of her seeming responsiveness and opined that while she met the criteria for brain death at the time, he believed she wasn't any longer. He stated under penalty of perjury that she was not dead, but severely disabled. (Shewmon does not believe that brain death is a legitimate diagnosis.) I wrote about these twists in Jahi's story repeatedly.

Well, it now turns out that Nailah and Shewmon had it right. An article detailing the results of examination of Jahi's brain by another neurologist, published in the respected *Journal of Neurosurgical Sciences*, explains precisely why she was not really brain dead meaning, she was *not dead at all*. Rather, the doctor opines that she experience a severe cognitive disability of a kind not observed heretofore. From, "Jahi McMath: A New State of Disorder of Consciousness":

> **BD has been characterized by the loss of all HRV [Heart Rate Variability] power. On the contrary, all HRV bands, BD were preserved in this patient, demonstrating preservation of autonomic function. Moreover, autonomic reactivity to "mother talks" stimulation demonstrated remaining function at different levels of the central autonomic system. These results support Dr. Shewmon's analysis of Jahi McMath's videos, who emphasized that her movements reflected responses to her mother. . . .**
>
> **Jahi McMath was a rare and argumentative case. The concept of BD is not denied with the discussion of this case but brings back the debate of using or not ancillary tests in BD confirmation.**
>
> **In conclusion, Jahi was in a new state of disorder of consciousness, non-previously described, that I have termed as a "responsive unawake syndrome."**

Jahi McMath

So much for the arrogance of, "The mother just can't accept reality," or, "She is in it for the money," disdain that was thrown at Nailah constantly by people who loathed her for fighting for Jahi's life. Perhaps one lesson in this tragedy is that doctors should be less dismissive of loved ones' perspectives in cases like Jahi's (and Terri Schiavo's, among others).

On a personal note: I had the great honor of visiting Nailah and Jahi in New Jersey, a visit arranged by Terri Schiavo's brother, Bobby Schindler, who, almost alone in the world, stood courageously in solidarity with Nailah during the entire ordeal. For what it is worth, I found her to be a mother who was very aware of her circumstances and fighting fiercely for her beloved daughter's life without ulterior motives.

It was a day I shall never forget. Nailah asked Jahi to touch her right index finger and thumb together. Jahi appeared to be trying to comply — it was hard to say for sure, but her hand began to shake. A few minutes later, I saw her slowly move her thumb and forefinger together and touch them. I nearly jumped out of my shoes, as she complied precisely with what Nailah had asked of her. It is important to note that Jahi's digits did not "jerk" or "twitch" during the movement, as one would expect from an involuntary action. Rather, it appeared entirely volitional and controlled.

So, I am not surprised that Jahi was not really dead for all those years she lived in New Jersey. I wrote — and still believe — that scientists around the world should want to know more about her case and to further explore the brain-death diagnosis. Hopefully, this article will spark renewed interest. People need to have faith that when a loved one is declared dead, they are really dead.

Post Script: Jahi **really** died in 2018.

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

Biden/Harris administration works overtime to give abortion lobby what it wants

From page 2

number of state restrictions introduced this year."

This is utterly preposterous, but it does illustrate the abortion lobby's insatiable thirst for killing. Consider "President Biden's Evolution is Complete: His First 100 Days Shows His Commitment to Abortion on Demand," a summary that NRLC put together that ran on April 29, and reposted below. It is must reading.

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As President Biden approaches his first 100 days in office, National Right to Life (NRLC) deplores his extreme commitment to abortion on demand.

"Joe Biden's first one hundred days has been a horrendous assault on unborn human life," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. **"Joe Biden's evolution into a virulent supporter of abortion on demand has been solidified by his record number of pro-abortion executive orders and reversal of pro-life policies."**

The Biden/Harris Administration's extreme pro-abortion actions include:

- An Executive Order issued January 28th repealing the pro-life Mexico City Policy that had been reestablished and expanded by the Administration of President Trump.
- On the same day, President Biden issued an Executive Order that began the process of overturning the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule" on Title X. That rule ensured that Title X family planning money did not flow to abortion providers and that everyone receiving Title X funds would not refer for abortion. In March, HHS announced it will repeal the Protect Life Rule by the end of the year.
- President Biden signed the $1.9 Trillion Reconciliation Package which includes billions of dollars available for taxpayer-funded abortions.
- President Biden's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended protections established for women undergoing chemical abortions, such as seeing the abortionist in person. The in-person requirement is vital because it ensures that complications, such as an ectopic pregnancy, are ruled out in advance of a woman undergoing a chemical abortion. Mifepristone, the "abortion pill," has no impact on an ectopic pregnancy which is a life-threatening medical condition.
- President Biden nominated California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who was confirmed by the Senate, to head HHS. Becerra's support of abortion on demand for any reason and at any time during pregnancy, as well as his campaign against pregnancy help centers, is extensive and well documented.
- President Biden's National Institutes of Health (NIH) reversed Trump-era fetal tissue requirements. In its internal research, NIH will again fund research using tissue from aborted babies. It will also no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board, established under President Trump that was designed to review extramural research grant applications.
- Though he long supported the Hyde Amendment in the past, as a presidential candidate, President Biden flip-flopped in 2019. President Biden is now on record in support of eliminating the Hyde Amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. Named after its original sponsor, pro-life Congressman Henry Hyde, the original amendment was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. It was estimated that before the Hyde Amendment took effect, approximately 300,000 abortions were paid for by Medicaid programs each year.

"Biden's first 100 days in office leaves no doubt that his administration will do all it can to expand abortion on demand, reverse protective, pro-life legislation and policies, and take every opportunity to entrench pro-abortion policies," Tobias said.

Tobias continued, **"No one should be surprised at Biden's actions. In past statements, he has made clear his support for taxpayer funding of abortion and his support for late-term abortions, and abortions performed on unborn children who are capable of feeling pain."**

In addition to the damage his administration has already inflicted, Biden's prior pro-abortion actions and statements include:

- Choosing Kamala Harris as his running mate. While serving as California's Attorney General, she earned the vocal approval of pro-abortions groups. As a U.S. Senator, she amassed a 100% pro-abortion voting record from NARAL Pro-Choice America.
- Criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court for upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2007.
- When asked about his stance on abortion during the campaign, Joe Biden replied that, "It's a decision between them [women] and their doctor, in my view." And during a presidential debate, when asked about his position, Joe Biden said, "Reproductive rights are a constitutional right. And, in fact, every woman should have that right."
- According to the Biden campaign website, "As president, Biden will work to codify *Roe v. Wade*, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop [pro-life state laws]."
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Woman with Down syndrome's case against UK Govt over discriminatory abortion law to be heard by High Court in July

By Right to Life UK

A landmark case against the UK Government over the current discriminatory abortion law that allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome will be heard at the High Court on 6th July. Heidi Crowter, a 25-year-old woman from Coventry who has Down's syndrome, together with Máire Lea-Wilson from Brentford, West London, whose twenty-three-month-old son Aidan has Down's syndrome, are challenging the UK Government over a disability clause in the current law.

"Intense pressure to abort"

Currently in England, Wales, and Scotland, there is a general 24-week time limit for abortion, but if the baby has a disability, including Down's syndrome, cleft lip, and club foot, abortion is legal right up to birth.

Latest figures show that around 90% of babies who are prenatally diagnosed with Down's syndrome are aborted.

Ms Lea-Wilson has spoken frequently about how she was "placed under intense pressure" to have an abortion after a 34-week scan revealed her son had Down's syndrome.

Alongside today's announcement of the forthcoming hearing, she added: "I have two sons that I love and value equally, but the law does not value them equally. This is wrong and so we want to try and change that…We proclaim that we live in a society that values those with disabilities, that everyone deserves a fair and equal chance at life, regardless of their ability status. This law undermines that narrative, does it really have a place in 2021?"

"Offensive and discriminatory"

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has consistently criticised countries that provide for abortion on the basis of disability. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' concluding observations on the initial report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also made a key recommendation that the UK change its abortion law so that it does not single out babies with disabilities.

The Disability Rights Commission (subsumed into the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2007) has said that this aspect of the Abortion Act "is offensive to many people; it reinforces negative stereotypes of disability…[and] is incompatible with valuing disability and non-disability equally".

A 2013 Parliamentary Inquiry into Abortion for Disability also found the vast majority of those who gave evidence believed allowing abortion up to birth on the grounds of disability is discriminatory, contrary to the spirit of the Equality Act 2010, and that it affects wider public attitudes towards discrimination. The Inquiry recommended Parliament reviews the question of allowing abortion on the grounds of disability.

Standing up for equality

In a press release announcing the High Court hearing, Lynn Murray, spokesperson for Don't Screen Us Out and mother of Rachel who has Down's syndrome, stated: "By stating that disability is grounds for termination, section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act promotes inequality. The provision in the Abortion Act harks back to a time when we thought it was better for people with disabilities not to be part of our society. We're a far more progressive society now, we realise that diversity is healthy, and all of our laws should reflect that".

Mrs Crowter said: "People like me are considered to be 'seriously handicapped', but I think using that phrase for a clause in abortion law is so out of date…People shouldn't be treated differently because of their disabilities, it's downright discrimination".

Ms Lea-Wilson added: "I am thrilled to hear that the case will be heard in court on the 6th and 7th July, and I hope that this will be the time that we all stand up for equality".

Widespread popular and political support

Last March, the UK Government introduced new abortion regulations to Northern Ireland. The regulations allow abortion up to birth for disabilities including Down's syndrome, cleft lip, and club foot. 1,875 people with Down's syndrome and their families signed a letter to Boris Johnson urging him to ensure that selective abortion for Down's syndrome was not introduced to Northern Ireland.

Polling has shown that the majority of people in England, Wales and Scotland feel that disability should not be a grounds for abortion at all, with only one in three people

See "Woman," page 34

139 nameless deaths every minute

By Dave Andrusko

The title of Ken Rolheiser's immensely powerful post is, "Children without names."

So what does the following list of 50 names have in common?

Zelma, Keli, Tereasa, Kathlyn, Kay, Santina, Anastasia, Luci, Suzy, Davida, Les, Tricia, Norma, Lorelei, Rochel, Tess, Margy, Vickey, Lilia, Marvis, Ozella, Gertrudis, Efrain, Michell, Saran, Mabel, Theresa, Selma, Rina, Ena, Emerald, Bobbie, Letitia, Viki, Florine, Stefan, Mariette, Jessenia, Daine, Layne, Jerri, Rhonda, Luciano, Pok, Bill, Theresa, Claudine, Maire, Cicely and Jeanene

Well, they are ordinary names, yes. But they are, Rolheiser reminds us, "only 50 names" when

The World Health Organization tells us that every minute, 139 babies in the world die of abortion. I repeat, 139 babies die every minute.

These remain nameless statistics. But they are more than that. They are people who could have been named David or John or Anne or Ken.

I don't know exactly why but "nameless statistics" struck me so hard but it did.

After all we talk all the time about the "voiceless" unborn child.

We rarely omit the "pain" of the unborn child when we speak.

But "nameless" and "statistic" strike different chords.

A name recognizes our individuality and our uniqueness. Why would you name somebody—some "thing"—you have utterly dehumanized?

To abortion advocates, who routinely trivialize preborn babies as mere "tissue," it would be utterly incomprehensible

to contemplate the little ones as fellow irreplaceable members of the human family. "Nameless" also reminded me of how angry pro-abortionists are that we would require humane disposal of the bodies of aborted babies.

Naw, we're told, their remains are "medical waste," no different than "paper towels, wipes, gloves, syringes without needles, bandages or dressings with small amounts of dry blood or fluid, and any other material from medical care."

"Statistic"? Russian mass murderer Joseph Stalin is crediting with saying, "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic." In his deep cynicism, he understood how we can be overwhelmed by sheer numbers, losing the truth that each one of those million was a single death.

I thought of Stalin when I read, "When we stop to think about the World Health statistics, it is mind blowing. A total of 73.3 million abortions per year. That can equal the population of Canada, Australia and Cuba. And that is in one year only."

Rolheiser ends his post by quoting Jeremiah 1:5.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Each and every one of us is "set apart."

None of us is a number.

None of is nameless in the eyes of God.

We Asked, You Answered: How Former Pro-Choicers Changed Their Minds

By Secular Pro-Life

Editor's note. This is reposted with permission.

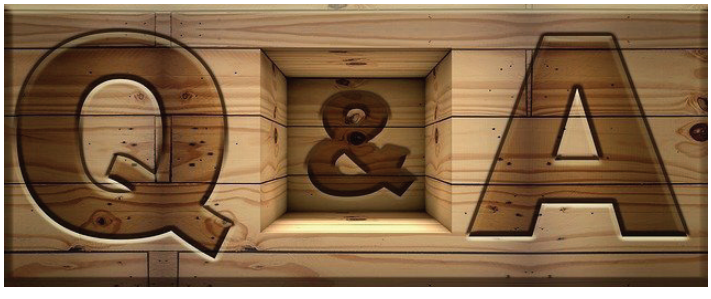
We asked our Facebook followers: "For those of you who used to be pro-choice, what made you change your mind?" The post blew up, with hundreds of thoughtful comments. Here are just a few of our favorites.

Jamie S.: Actually listening to pro-life people instead of just dismissing them, and researching the science of the developing embryo as my unborn baby developed inside of me. I began questioning what I was actually fighting for –what could be more important than the tiny little life that was growing inside of me, whose sole protector was me?

Bradley B.: I hate to admit this but it was one of those great big billboards showing baby remains on my college campus. In my case it was an arm and a torso next to a dime. It was just so visceral and made me truly stop and consider what we are doing.

Maribel L.: First sonogram of my little bean, who we then lost. Completely solidified when I saw my 26 weeker grow in an incubator. I saw his eyelashes grow out during his stay. You can't convince me that is NOT a person in the womb, no matter the gestational age.

Tess S.: Basically realizing that it was inconsistent to support abortion being legal only in the first trimester if abortion needs to be available because of bodily autonomy. I never agreed with late-term abortion but I thought it should be legal in the first trimester. Eventually I came to realize that the only really consistent positions to take was either the pro-life position or allow abortion basically up until birth. I thought about how generally speaking we see humans as valuable because of what they are, regardless of ability or age.



Chad K.: Science made me change my mind.

KC K.: Hearing conversion stories from former abortionists, especially Dr. Bernard Nathanson.

Lynn W.: Found out how MANY abortions were done, and then decided one was too many, after befriending numerous women who experienced long-lasting trauma from their abortions.

William A.: Their rhetoric is convincing if you don't think about it. The "abortions will still happen even if you make them illegal" was convincing to me for a long time till I realized if we apply that logic equally nothing may as well be illegal.

Stefan S.: I used to say to myself "I personally would never want anyone I'm with to have an abortion, but everyone else has that choice." But I slowly came to the realization that morality can't be fluid. It's a fixed idea. Therefore if I believed it was wrong for myself, it must be wrong for everyone. Arrogant, I know, but that was really only the first step.

Elise M.: I used to be pro-choice in that I saw abortion as killing, but I reasoned that sometimes killing is justified (like in self-defense). Then, once I explored the actual reasons that someone would need to end a pregnancy in order to save their life, I quickly realized that abortion was never medically necessary. In a medical emergency, it's far quicker to deliver a baby via c-section, than to perform a late-term abortion. I also learned that most life-threatening medical complications in pregnancy occur later on, when an abortion is actually full-on labor and delivery of a dead baby. This completely changed my mind and made me see that abortion was never necessary. Even if the baby would certainly die if delivered early, it's still acceptable if the life of the mom is at stake. What's not acceptable is killing the baby first and then delivering it. What nonsense.

Lisa D.: When safe, legal, and rare became commonplace, desirable, and celebrated.

Robert W.: Becoming a mortician. When you deal with death every day you realize how valuable all lives are, at every stage of development.

Peggy A.: The total subjectivity and intellectual dissonance of – if the baby is wanted it's tragic if there's miscarriage but if the pregnancy is unplanned … completely ok and even celebrated to end the baby's life. My own deep grief – when I couldn't even describe it as that – testified to the inherent worth of my child's life.

A look inside at the May edition of the "Pro-Life Newspaper of Record"

From page 2

Passage of SB 1457 was the "hook" for quoting the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute which had just put out an analysis bemoaning the massive number of pro-life bills proposed and/or enacted this session.

But for Friedman the key—the aforementioned "harbinger" — are bills described as banning "discrimination-based" abortions, such as because the child has been prenatally diagnosed with a genetic anomaly, most often Down syndrome.

To the abortion-for-any-reason-or-no-reason crowd, this is the proverbial tip of the spear. Friedman quotes Elizabeth Nash, principal policy associate for state issues at the Guttmacher Institute, one of whose primary job assignments is to habitually warn the "end is near."

> **Laws such as Arizona's are part of a "slippery slope," she [Nash] added. "We see these bans based on genetic anomaly, race selection, and sex selection — what this does is pull into question any reason for any abortion."**

If the abortionist can no longer end an unborn child's life because: she is a girl rather than a boy; is genetically "imperfect;" or is of the "wrong" race, the pro-death mind fears what may be next.

Talk about clueless.

This attitude is blatantly at odds with the last fifty years of greater inclusivity, a more welcoming attitude to children with Down syndrome, and a move to promote greater gender equality. But all of these positive developments are lost on the pro-abortionist who sees evidence of a "slippery slope" everywhere he looks.

Could discrimination-based abortions be a chink in the pro-abortion armor? One suspects they think so…and they fear more such laws are coming.

Woman with Down syndrome's case against UK Govt over discriminatory abortion law to be heard by High Court in July

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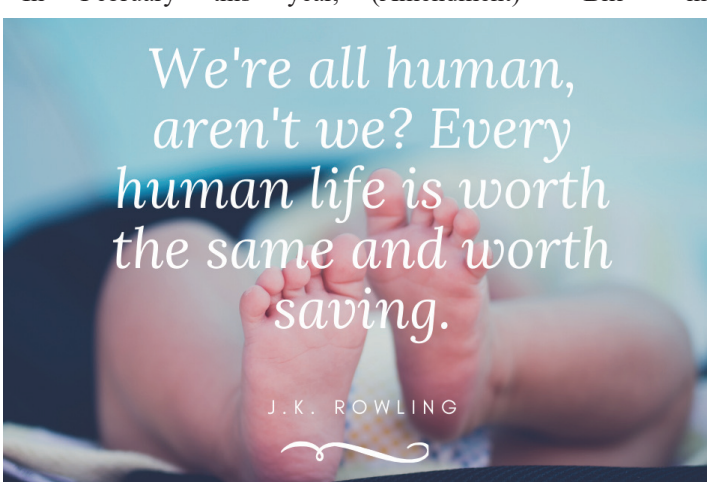
thinking it is acceptable to ban abortion for gender or race but allow it for disability.

In February this year, Northern Irish MLA Paul Givan introduced the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill in conjunction with the 'Don't Screen Us Out' Campaign. It has since received a huge level of support with 1,608 people with Down's syndrome and their families signing an open letter to the Assembly urging them to vote in favour of the bill. Almost 28,500 members of the general public have also signed a petition in support of the Bill, which proposes to amend the aspect of the 2020 Regulations that allows abortion up until birth for babies with disabilities.



Right To Life UK spokesperson, Catherine Robinson, said: "As Heidi and Máire have tragically highlighted, the current law – which allows abortion up to birth for babies with disabilities but does not permit abortion past 24 weeks for babies without disabilities – does tell people with disabilities that they are valued less than people without disabilities".

"There is simply no place for such abhorrent legal discrimination in 21st century Britain. We hope the High Court will rule in favour of equality and justice, while also taking into account the majority of the public's disapproval of the current discriminatory law".

An extraordinary legislative session pays rich dividends for unborn children and their mothers

From page 6

dangers of chemical abortions. These laws have one or more of the following: establishing the requirement that facilities must use protocols such as informed consent; requiring a physician's presence; prohibiting anyone from mailing the deadly cocktails for self-managed ["Do-It-Yourself"] abortions; reporting of complications; and requiring distributors to be licensed.

Five states--Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, and Montana--passed measures that regulated chemical abortions. In Oklahoma it has passed both houses and is currently in conference. In Texas, the legislation has passed the House.

Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (BAIPA)

The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (BAIPA) ensures that if a baby survives an abortion attempt, she receives the same lifesaving measures that are taken to care for any other infant born at the same gestational age. Eighteen states had introduced BAIPA bills (AL, HI, IL, KY, MA, MN, MS, MO, MT, NH, NY, NC, OH, OR, RI, SD, WI, WY).

The Kentucky legislature passed a BAIPA. It went into effect without the signature of pro-abortion Gov. Andy Beshear. Born-alive bills were also signed by South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon.

The Montana legislature recently passed a measure that placed its Born-Alive Infant Protection Act on the November 2022 ballot. This referendum will allow voters to make the final decision.

Abortion Bans/Heartbeat Bills:

Arkansas passed a direct abortion ban which is not scheduled to go into effect until 90 days after their legislative session ends. Oklahoma and South Carolina passed heartbeat bills; in South Carolina, the pro-abortion lobby has already challenged the law. Idaho and Oklahoma also passed a trigger abortion ban--laws that would go into effect when courts allow states to prohibit abortions.

The Texas legislature passed Texas Right to Life's Pro-life Priority Agenda bill. After it goes to the state Senate for a final vote, the bill will be sent to the desk of Gov. Greg Abbot. The bill contains three pro-life elements: 1) an anti-discrimination abortion ban; 2) a heartbeat bill that will take effect in two years; and 3) a total ban on elective abortions that will take effect in four years.

Down Syndrome Prenatal and Postnatal Education Act

Another growing trend that is also life-affirming and modeled after Pennsylvania "Chloe's law" are laws aimed at educating families about caring for a person with Down syndrome and demonstrating that these individuals are capable of living full lives with the right support. These laws also provide families with resources and support from their local communities. Idaho and Mississippi both enacted such a law during this session.

Anti-Discrimination Abortion Bans

Anti-discrimination abortion bans prohibit an abortionist from aborting a child because of the unborn baby's sex, race, or potential disability. There were fifteen states that introduced a bill protecting vulnerable babies (AR, AZ, FL, ID, MD, MI, MS, NC, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, WA, WY).

Arizona enacted a law that makes it illegal to perform the abortion due to a "genetic abnormality" of the baby. South Dakota passed Gov. Noem's priority bill which forbids abortionists from taking an unborn baby's life because she or he has been prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Supporting Pregnant Mothers

This session, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas introduced the "Every Mom Matters Act (EMMA). These laws remove barriers to choosing life by supporting expectant mothers with assistance and pregnancy resources so they can deliver healthy babies. The more that

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An extraordinary legislative session pays rich dividends for unborn children and their mothers

From page 35

we can show up for pregnant women in need and address issues with love and support, the less likely these women will show up at abortion facilities feeling like abortion is their only option.

This session Arkansas was the 1st state to enact EMMA. In Texas, it has passed the Senate and it is working its way through the House. In Tennessee, the proposal is still in committee. The Missouri legislature also passed an appropriations bill that secures funding for their Alternatives to Abortion program that directs funding to nonprofits that look to help pregnant mothers in need.

Ultrasound

Arkansas modified and strengthened their ultrasound law to mirror the NRLC model. Previously, if abortion facilities used an ultrasound prior to performing the abortion, the mother was offered a chance to view the images on the screen. The improved provision requires all facilities to perform an ultrasound prior to an abortion and display the images so that the pregnant mother can view it if she chooses. Studies indicate that performing an ultrasound prior to an abortion is routine (at least 98% of the time) in order to date the pregnancy and determine which abortion procedure to perform.

Montana also passed an ultrasound law requiring facilities to offer the pregnant woman a chance to view the picture. Indiana amended their law to offer the pregnant mother a copy of the ultrasound image free of charge.

Other worthy mentions

In Arkansas, the legislature passed and Gov. Hutchinson signed a conscience protection law which protects healthcare workers from being forced into participating in an abortion; a law keeping abortion giants such as Planned Parenthood out of public schools by prohibiting the schools from entering into a contract with them; and requiring abortion facilities to have written transfer agreements with a nearby hospital in case of emergencies.

The Montana legislature also passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act which protects babies at 20 weeks from abortion. They also passed an "opt out" law, allowing the state to "opt out" of providing insurance plans that cover abortions in the state exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. The legislature recently sent Gov. Greg Gianforte a bill that redirects Title X family planning funding away from abortion facilities and prioritizes funding for public entities and rural health clinics and primary care.

South Dakota enacted a perinatal hospice law which gives parents alternatives to abortion when they are faced with a fatal diagnosis of their unborn child. Wyoming passed an Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which recognizes the unborn child as a separate victim if the mother is a victim of a crime such as assault or murder.

It is clearly evident that life is winning. It is vital to keep the unborn child and her mother in mind when passing these laws.

Pro-abortionists continue to exploit women for political gain. The pro-life community, by contrast, seeks win-win solutions to serve the needs of women and their unborn children.

There will be more laws that pass as some states are still in session which we will report about in *NRL News Today*.

Thanks to grassroots pro-lifers, there is no sign the cause of life will ever slow down.

Learning the truth about babies who survive abortions: ”Survivor: An Abortion Survivor’s Surprising Story of Choosing Forgiveness and Finding Redemption”

By Melissa Ohden

Editor’s note. Melissa, the survivor of a “failed” saline abortion in 1977, speaks all over the world, including at numerous National Right to Life Conventions. She is an author, the founder of The Abortion Survivors Network, and a contributor to National Right to Life News .

Abortion survivors remain a mystery to most. Even if you’ve been involved in the pro-life movement for decades and have met a handful of us, we are still by and large a bit of an enigma outside of our own community.

This is understandable, certainly when it comes to the general public. If the presumption that is drilled in day in and day out is true–that abortion procedures are “safe”–what is there to survive? But this begs the question. Safe for whom?

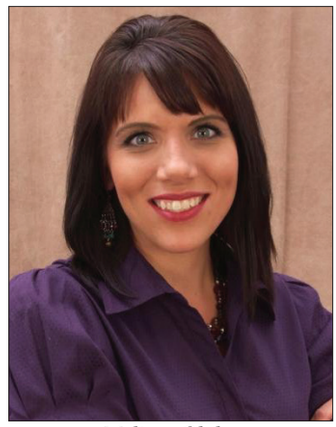
So who is an “abortion survivor,” really? The term has been cynically misappropriated by some. They attempt to turn the focus from where it belongs—babies who survive the abortionist’s best efforts to kill them–to mean women who had an abortion and survives doing so.

Incredibly, some have gone so far as to liken a woman who has aborted to a cancer survivor, complete with a ribbon of color associated with their “disease” and the clanging of a bell when “treatment” is completed.

Stories about babies who survive abortions clearly tell us (if we are willing to listen) that, yes, some children narrowly escape with their lives intact, perhaps not with all their limbs or maybe with a visible mark of the attempt, but alive.

Some, like me, bear no physical mark at all. I was born alive 44 years ago after a saline abortion “failed” to kill me. So, too, for Claire Culwell, host of the “Called to Be Bold” podcast. Claire has a new book out, *Survivor: An Abortion Survivor’s Surprising Story of Choosing Forgiveness and Finding Redemption*.

Claire’s story is so remarkable on so many levels. She was a



Melissa Ohden

twin and her brother’s physical presence obscured hers. The abortionist believed his work was “done” when he killed Claire’s brother. Claire survived and was eventually adopted by a loving family!

In these circumstances, no one is more surprised by a true abortion survivor – the child who lives – than the parents and the medical “expert” who failed to properly suck out, chemically eradicate, dismember, or induce and let die, a child. In language straight out of Orwell’s “1984,” the tiny survivor is reduced to a “botched abortion” or a “failed abortion.”

Significant effort to cover up or ignore the existence of abortion survivors has occurred for as long as abortions, legal and illegal, have been performed. The Abortion Survivors Network, which I’m blessed to have founded and now lead, has connected 384 survivors since 2012, working with whole families toward healing, where possible.

And, when undeniable evidence is provided that abortion survivors exist, whether it be at a pro-life rally, in a news article, or during expert witness testimony before Congress, the next step is to diminish these lives as a “rare exception.” What is “needed” is not compassion and outreach but failsafe abortion procedures.

As many of us remember, on January 22, 2019—the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*—New York State decided to clarify that abortion up until birth is legal. When aborting a full-term child requires delivery, is “birth” defined as a celebrated birth or an uncelebrated one? The answer to New York Gov. Cuomo and the legislator was clearly the latter.

Each of those 384 abortion survivors is a unique human being, just like you. There are no more or less human now than they were in the womb when they were subjected to the brutality of an attempted abortion.

Who knows what percentage that 384 represent of the whole of abortion survivors? This is certainly not a conversation a parent freely enters into or would likely want to share.

While some abortion survivors are raised by adoptive parents and are unaware of the birth circumstances, others continue to remain with their birth parents. Still other abortions survivors live very difficult lives.

We’re witnessing the generational impact of abortion through these survivors’ lives. Our survivor community includes women who have taken someone to an abortion clinic, worked in abortion clinics, or have had abortions themselves. Difficult as it is to believe, many of our survivors who have had abortions report feeling pressured to abort their own child to make up for the “failed” abortion that resulted in them being born alive.

There is a reason pro-abortion legislators and the abortion industry fight legislation to ensure that babies who survive an abortion receive equal treatment to any other baby born at the same age so hard. A recent groundbreaking report by the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that in just the last two years, 33 children across four states were born alive, only to be left to die alone in a clinic!

If their fates were known, would their story have led international news? Would Go Fund Me Campaigns been launched? T-shirts made? Representatives called?

Rare as it may be, every single media outlet that shines light on the story of an abortion survivor gives all who know and all those who will never know their survival story the recognition and dignity each has fought for so hard.

An article—any article—about one of these 33 Americans left to die by medically trained personnel represents a glimmer of justice. That’s one of the reasons why alongside you, we celebrate when survivor feel sufficiently healed, empowered, and called upon to share their story publicly, as my friend Claire did this week.

Until it’s safe for abortion survivors to be their authentic selves in our world; until families are healed from the shame that keeps so many of them locked in silence over a “failed abortion,” we take consolation in small victories.

Why? Simply because a victory for one survivor is a victory for all survivors. And a victory for all survivors is a victory for all of us, in and outside our Movement.

No human being should ever be reduced to a “choice. ”

Arizona Governor signs sweeping pro-life legislation into law

By Dave Andrusko

Hats off to the pro-life governor of Arizona and pro-life Republican legislators for passage of an extremely comprehensive law that among many other provisions, forbids abortionists from taking an unborn child's life because the child has been prenatally diagnosed with a genetic anomaly, most often Down syndrome.

"There's immeasurable value in every single life — regardless of genetic makeup," said Gov. Doug Ducey. "We will continue to prioritize protecting life in our preborn children, and this legislation goes a long way in protecting real human lives. My sincere thanks to Senator Nancy Barto for her leadership and work on this life-saving issue."

To which state Sen. Barto added, "We need to protect our most vulnerable, especially those with treatable genetic conditions. They are loved, integral members of our community that make Arizona whole — and I'm proud to sponsor legislation that gives them a voice before they're even born. Thank you, Governor Ducey, for signing Senate Bill 1457."

According to the governor's statement, SB 1457 "also requires the doctor performing the abortion inform the woman that is it unlawful to perform an abortion due to the child's race, sex, or genetic abnormality."

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

Passage was always going to be precarious. Each of the two houses is almost exactly divided evenly among pro-abortion Democrats and pro-life Republicans. One Republican in the House and one in the Senate were holdouts at different stages.

At the request of the House Republican, Rep. Regina Cobb, the Senate version was amended to allow an abortion if the baby had a "severe fetal anomaly."

When it returned to the Senate, Sen. Tyler Pace objected that another portion of the bill lacked clarity. However, "A new amendment tacked on in a conference committee Monday makes it a felony for a doctor to perform an abortion if the sole reason the woman seeks it is that the fetus has a genetic abnormality," reported Bob Christie of the *Associated Press*. "And it clarifies the definition of a lethal fetal abnormality."

Maria Polletta of the *Arizona Republic* reported that Senate Bill 1457 also "forbids the mailing or delivery of abortion-inducing drugs.

"It also requires fetal remains to be buried or cremated and imposes new reporting requirements on medical facilities.

It prohibits public educational institutions from performing abortions unless the mother's life is in jeopardy. And it prevents public money from supporting research involving abortions or embryo transfers.

In addition, HB1457 includes a legislative declaration that Arizona laws recognize that an unborn child has "all rights, privileges and immunities available to other persons, citizens and residents of this state."

"With this legislation, Arizona remains among the top pro-life states in the nation," Governor Ducey's Office said in a news release.

Giving a voice to abortion survivors

From page 15

for my life was initially very poor. My adoptive parents were told that I would suffer from multiple disabilities throughout my life. However, here I am today, perfectly healthy.

Yet it isn't just how abortion ends the life of children like me that isn't talked about in today's world. It's also not discussed what happens to children like me who live.

We are your friend, your co-worker, your neighbor, and you would likely never guess just by looking at us that we survived what we did. In my work as the Founder of The Abortion Survivor's Network, I have had contact with 203 other abortion survivors. Letters from some of these survivors have been submitted to this committee.

I'm here today to share my story to not only highlight the horror of abortion taking place at Planned Parenthood, but to give a voice to other survivors like me, and most importantly, to give a name, a face, and a voice to the hundreds of thousands of children who will have their lives ended by Planned Parenthood this year alone.

As you consider the horrors of what happens at Planned Parenthood each day, I would urge you to remember my story, and Gianna's, too. We may not have survived abortions at Planned Parenthood, but the expectation for our lives to be ended by abortion are the very same as those who do lose their lives there.

And I have long believed that if my birthmother's abortion would have taken place at a Planned Parenthood, I would not be here today. Completing over 300,000 abortions a year provides them with the experience to make sure that "failures" like me don't happen.

As a fellow American, as a fellow human being, I deserved the same right to life, the same equal protection under the law as each and every one of you. Yet we live in a time where not only do such protections not exist, but my own tax dollars and yours go to fund an organization that has perfected the very thing that was meant to end my life.

This must end.

Summer Showdown looms to Save the Hyde Amendment

From page 1

into programs without the protections of the Hyde Amendment.

While this outcome was sorely disappointing, the larger fight to retain the Hyde Amendment in government-wide funding is shaping up.

The House Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees plan to mark up the 12 spending bills to fund the government for the 2022 fiscal year in June, with floor action expected in July.

The House needs only a simple majority to advance the appropriations package. However, the 60-vote threshold for passing spending bills in the Senate means that the fight to save Hyde will depend a great deal on pro-life senators holding firm against voting for any final appropriations package that doesn't contain the pro-life language.

September 30th is the deadline for funding the government, at which point a stopgap measure would be necessary to keep the government open.

What is the Hyde Amendment and Why is it So Important?

After *Roe v. Wade* was handed down in January 1973, various federal health programs, including Medicaid, simply started paying for elective abortions. By 1976, the federal Medicaid program was paying for about 300,000 elective abortions annually--and the number was escalating rapidly.

That is why it was necessary for Congressman Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) to offer, beginning in 1976, his limitation amendment to the annual Health and Human Services appropriations bill. With narrow exceptions, the Hyde Amendment prohibits the use of funds that flow through that annual appropriations bill from being used for abortions. In a 1980 ruling (*Harris v. McRae*), the U.S. Supreme Court held, 5-4, that the Hyde Amendment did not contradict *Roe v. Wade*.

In subsequent years, the Hyde Amendment was attached to the Labor Health and Humans Services appropriations bill, while the remaining appropriations bills, as well as other government programs, were also brought into line with this life-saving policy.

As many, many polls over decades have shown, a majority of Americans have consistently opposed taxpayer funding of abortion.

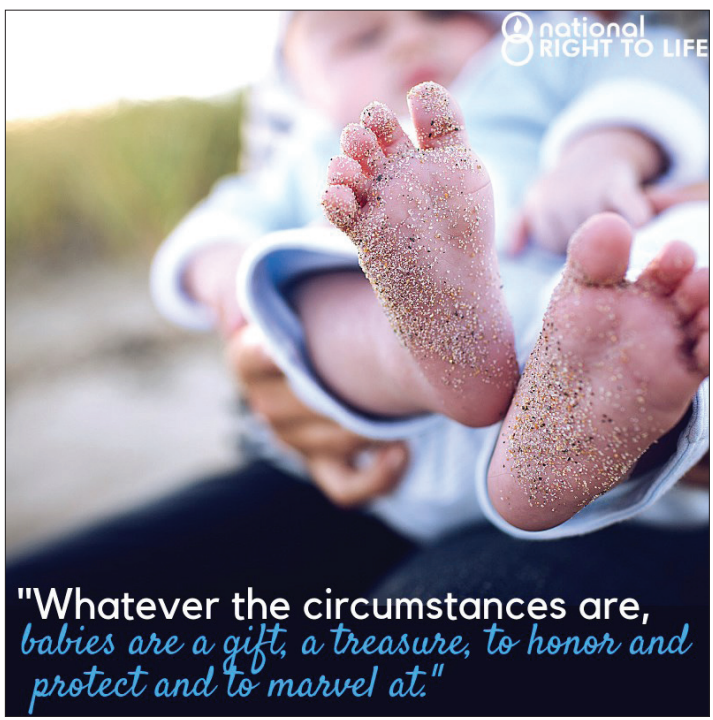
National Right to Life has testified that we believe that the Hyde Amendment has proven itself to be the greatest domestic abortion-reduction measure ever enacted by Congress. The Hyde Amendment is widely recognized as saving over an estimated two million American lives.

There is abundant empirical evidence that where government funding for abortion is not available under Medicaid or the state equivalent program, at least one-fourth of the Medicaid-eligible women carry their babies to term, who would otherwise procure federally-funded abortions.

Some pro-abortion advocacy groups have claimed that the abortion-reduction effect is substantially greater: one-in-three, or even as high as 50 percent.

The fight ahead to save the Hyde Amendment will be fierce and critical in saving unborn children. We will keep you updated in the monthly *NRL News* and in *NRL News Today* which runs Monday through Saturday.

You can find more on the Hyde Amendment as well as a petition to urge members of Congress to preserve this life-saving policy at prolifepetition.com and on page 22 of this edition.



Appeal of D.C. Federal Judge's ERA-Expired Ruling Likely to Extend an Unbroken 40-Year Losing Streak For ERA-Resuscitation Legal Claims

From page 10

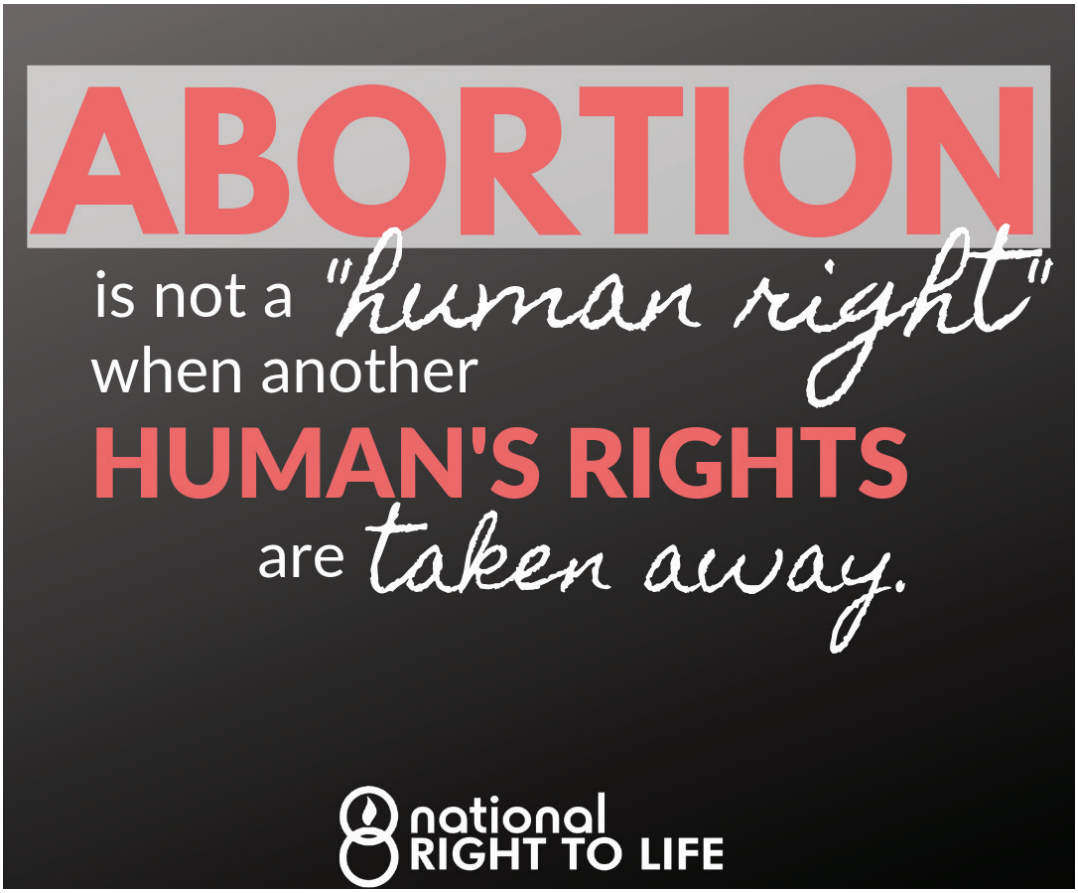
like it to start over." Virginia's January 2020 adoption of an ERA resolution was, she said, "long after the deadline passed." If such "a latecomer" were to be recognized, she suggested, "how can you disregard states that said, 'We've changed our minds'?"

On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives, on a near-party-line vote, approved a measure (H.J. Res. 17) that purports to retroactively "remove" the ERA ratification deadline – an exercise that the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in 2020 compared to a current Congress attempting to override a veto by President Carter. At a May 1 "ERA Summit," Equal Means Equal lead attorney Wendy Murphy essentially agreed, stating, "It's obvious that they [Congress] cannot retroactively remove a deadline."

NRLC's Johnson said that the "deadline removal" measure faced a steep climb in the Senate: "Only two of the Senate's 50 Republican senators have announced support–the same two who supported it in years past. Despite much drum beating to the media, the pro-ERA groups have failed to produce a single new Republican supporter – which leaves them well short of the 60 votes they would need to pass this patently unconstitutional political gimmick."

National Right to Life opposes the 1972 ERA because it is likely to be employed as a textual constitutional foundation for judicial rulings that would invalidate virtually any state or federal law or policy that impedes access to abortion, or even that has a "disparate impact" on the availability of abortion, including any restrictions on government funding of elective abortion.

While journalists sometimes write that "opponents claim" these things, in fact many of the strongest affirmations of the ERA-abortion link have come from leading abortion-rights advocates who support ERA. For example, NARAL Pro-Choice America 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 ACLU, in a March 16, 2021 letter to the House of Representatives, said that the ERA "could provide an additional layer of protection against restrictions on abortion…[it] could be an additional tool against further erosion of reproductive freedom…" Five pages of such footnoted quotes from leaders and attorneys associated with prominent abortion-rights organizations are found at https://www.nrlc.org/uploads/era/ERA-AbortionQuotesheet3-5-20.pdf



Douglas Johnson is NRLC's subject matter expert on the Equal Rights Amendment, an issue on which he has written and worked for 40 years. Mr. Johnson is available for interviews or email exchanges to discuss the congressional and ratification histories of the ERA, to comment on the legal and political aspects of the issue, and to discuss the ERA-abortion connection.

@ERANoShortcuts is a non-NRL but recommended Twitter account dedicated exclusively to tracking ERA-related legal and political developments in the courts, Congress, Executive Branch, and state legislatures, from an "ERA-skeptical" perspective.

Why does your favorite pro-life college student need to attend the 2021 National Right to Life Academy?

From page 14

us a good candidate and at the end of five weeks, you'll end up with a young woman or man who is informed and equipped, trained and ready, motivated and encouraged, and ready to lead and make a difference.

Informed and Equipped

Even the efforts of the most enthusiastic and sincere pro-lifers can be neutralized or be rendered ineffective by error and misinformation. That is why the Academy "begins at the beginning." What do I mean?

Students who come to the Academy become well versed in the basics of fetology and those attributes that make us unique as human beings. They learn the history of the pro-life movement, the road that local and national pro-lifers have traveled, and the strategies that did and did not work to advance the cause of life over the years.

They come to understand the legal situation, the shaky ground on which *Roe* stands, and the legislative measures that have helped to turn the tide in our favor so that the number of abortions has been nearly halved in the past thirty years.

They learn how the issues of abortion, infanticide, and assisted suicide/euthanasia are all interconnected, and how the culture of life challenges underlying principles of the culture of death.

Trained and Ready

Students attending the Academy receive much more than instruction and information, valuable though that is. A key educational feature of the NRL Academy is training, developing and honing the skills necessary to be an effective pro-life lobbyist, educator, communicator, or advocate.

Through our practicum program, students will not just be told how to lobby or to make a speech, they'll also have a chance to practice that with NRLC staff and fellow students. By giving and taking valuable critiques, they will hone their craft so that they can be effective when they return home to address their local chapter, rally a group of pastors, or make the case for the latest pro-life legislative initiative to a state legislator.

They'll also learn basic media and communication skills – learning how to set up a press conference, design and launch an ad campaign, handle a radio or TV interview, or how to develop and utilize a social media presence.

Academy student learn how to write an effective news or opinion column, how to respond to the latest study by abortion advocates claiming abortion's relative safety over childbirth or the supposed negative consequences of being "denied" an abortion.

That means when they leave, they'll be ready to hit the ground running, prepared to address whatever pro-abortion campaign that hits their campus or their local community, and equipped to make the case for whatever legislation that their chapter or state affiliate is making in their state capitol.

Motivated and Encouraged

An important consequence of being informed and trained is the development of confidence. When you suddenly encounter a challenging argument or circumstance, you take stock of the situation and realize you've heard all this before or seen something similar, and you know what to do.

It also helps to know that there are others out there like you, who share your convictions, who understand why this matters so much to you, who have encountered similar situations, done the work, followed the advice of their instructors, and emerged victorious.

The encouragement and camaraderie of fellow classmates provides a critical boost, providing a safe and supportive and energizing environment and the potential to make lifelong friends and comrades.

Ready to Lead and Make a Difference

A student investing a summer in the NRL Academy comes out not only ready to help the pro-life movement but to begin to lead in their community.

Having been informed, trained, and motivated, they can inform, train, and motivate others to provide an effective voice for the unborn, the infirm, and the aged in your community, to make that case to the public, to schools and churches and the legislature.

All of this will provide a solid grounding so that Academy students can return home to help save lives. And that's what we're all here to do, isn't it?

Ocasio-Cortez claims America's biggest abortion chain 'saves lives'

From page 22

Currently, Planned Parenthood commits 41 abortions for every one prenatal care service and 133 abortions for every adoption referral. This does not even remotely show a focus on helping women to give birth to their children — i.e. "saving lives."

Planned Parenthood Provides Less Than 1% of Prenatal Services

Planned Parenthood only serves three percent of women of reproductive age in the U.S.

Currently, Planned Parenthood's own website makes it clear that only "*some*" Planned Parenthood facilities offer any prenatal care and nationwide data shows that Planned Parenthood only provides a minuscule amount of the service overall.

According to a 2016 analysis published by the National Center of Health Statistics, women had 22.5 million prenatal visits with providers in the U.S. That same year, Planned Parenthood reported just 7,762 prenatal services; in 2019, PP reported 8,626 prenatal services.

This means that Planned Parenthood likely provides even ***less than one half of one percent*** (.0004%) of prenatal services in the United States.

Yet, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide almost *twice the number of prenatal services annually* as Planned Parenthood has reported *over the span of 20 years*.

Perhaps it is FQHCs that should be touted as the true lifesaving entities.

Prenatal Care Deception

Live Action's undercover investigations have revealed that prenatal care is not just difficult to find at Planned Parenthood facilities, but practically nonexistent. As can be heard in the recordings, even the workers themselves seemed baffled that anyone would call asking for prenatal services, which were advertised at the time on Planned Parenthood's own website and later scrubbed.

In 2017, Live Action found that only a small number of Planned Parenthood facilities were offering prenatal care of any kind. Out of 97 facilities called, only **five** said they offered *any* type of service to mothers who wanted to carry their babies to term.

Nearly every Planned Parenthood staffer plainly told investigators they did not offer prenatal services at Planned Parenthood. Watch:

Planned Parenthood's failed initiative

At one time prenatal care was described as Planned Parenthood's "fastest growing area." But times have certainly changed.

According to Planned Parenthood's 1996-1997 annual report, the organization had implemented a three-year $1.4 million initiative with 18 affiliates called the PPFA Comprehensive Prenatal Care Network (CPCN). It was created to "reduce the rates of infant and maternal death." Today, the organization touts abortion as a solution to these serious public health issues.

The CPCN initiative may have been the result of a failed "reinvention plan" to reshape Planned Parenthood into a broader health care organization. It was developed under then-president (and former nurse) Pamela J. Maraldo in the mid-1990's.

According to a *New York Times* report, the plan was soundly rejected because "[…] some of the group's affiliates felt would inevitably diminish their role as advocates for abortion rights and low-income women's access to health care."

Retaining power is crucial to Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood is an organization focused on abortion and obtaining power, according to its own president Alexis McGill Johnson, who was recently asked if there was a "path to ensuring some kind of stability [on abortion rights]."

Her response? "Building and holding power."

The organization's past president Cecile Richards once told NBC's Chuck Todd that she was helping to turn Planned Parenthood into "the largest kick butt political organization." And as a result, the corporation has made many political alliances — with politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — that benefit its bottom line.

Richards' replacement, Dr. Leana Wen, who was later ousted for *failing* to focus on abortion or on expanding Planned Parenthood's political power, tweeted regarding her departure, "The new Board leadership has determined that the priority of Planned Parenthood moving forward is to double down on abortion rights advocacy."

According to Planned Parenthood's 2019-2020 annual report, the corporation lost over half a million donors but accumulated nearly $70 million in excess revenue over expenses in just that one year, making Planned Parenthood's net assets over $2 billion. In the past decade (2010-2019), while Planned Parenthood committed 3.3 million abortions, the organization's net assets have climbed by nearly one billion ($880.9 million).

Planned Parenthood's focus, in other words, is not on "saving lives" through prenatal care, but on abortion — and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's claims to the contrary are misleading and disingenuous.

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