



national
RIGHT TO LIFE
NEWS

May 2022

**Is the Supreme Court
about to overturn Roe?**





national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

U.S. Supreme Court Case Pending; Democracy May be Restored to Protecting the Unborn Child

By Tony Lauinger, State Chairman, Oklahomans For Life

The number is 63 million. That's the legacy of *Roe v. Wade*. That's how many unborn children have been killed by legal abortion in our country in the 49 years since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand throughout pregnancy.

A nation that sacrifices its most helpless little members of the human family to solve the problems of adults has lost its moral compass. Maybe we will



soon point true-north again. Maybe a slim Supreme Court majority will help us recover our humanity, view a child more as a gift than a burden, realize abortion is not a victimless act, understand life is not a zero-sum journey...

We don't yet know. The leaked draft of a possible decision in Mississippi's *Dobbs* case is three months old. Drafts

See "Pending," page 22

So-called "Women's Health Protection Act" defeated again in the Senate

Jennifer Popik, J.D. Director of Federal Legislation

Late on Wednesday May 11, all Senate Republicans, joined by one Democrat, Senator Joe Manchin, defeated a motion to invoke cloture (end debate) on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4132, the Women's Health Protection Act better described as the Abortion on Demand Until Birth Act. The vote was 49-51.

This extremist legislation, which needed 60 votes to advance, failed to even garner a majority of U.S. Senators. Nearly identical legislation was voted down by the Senate in

March. It would invalidate even laws upheld by the Supreme Court in the time since *Roe*.

The vote came a little over a week after Justice Samuel Alito's draft opinion calling for *Roe* and *Casey* to be overturned was leaked to the press. The Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate chose to again take a vote on a bill they claim will "codify" *Roe v. Wade*. The bill would go far beyond codifying *Roe*. While

See "Vote," page 28



Editorials

A.D. (After Dobbs)

This summary statement from Lutherans for Life is a perfect distillation of the importance of the impending Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

To the Abortion Industry, last week's leaked first draft of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion calling for *Roe* and *Casey* to be overturned was "cataclysmic," "seismic," and/or a "broadside attack" that "whitewashes decades of progress on women's rights."

And those were the polite characterizations.

To the pro-life community, by contrast, the draft may have "drawn on familiar arguments" (as the *New York Times*' Adam Liptak dismissively opined), it was the fruit of nearly five decades of labor on behalf of unborn children. Wesley J. Smith, a rare pro-life bioethicist, captured it succinctly:

Moreover, if *Roe* is overturned or significantly weakened, it will be precisely because pro-life citizens tirelessly dedicated themselves for decades to applying the tools of democracy to reverse what they consider to be a profoundly unjust imposition by the Supreme Court of an immoral public policy that led to the deaths of more than 63 million unborn babies. In what many considered a hopeless cause, the pro-lifers organized, petitioned their government for redress, educated, agitated,

See "After Dobbs," page 31



New poll is filled with great news for pro-lifers and terrible news for pro-abortion Democrats

A poll out yesterday from the Trafalgar Group identified yet again how much radical pro-abortionists are costing their pro-abortion Democratic patrons.

For starters, we have the Trafalgar Group asking

Do you believe that publishing the home addresses of the five Supreme Court justices and calling for protests at their private homes is an acceptable way to protests the High Court's upcoming decision on *Roe v. Wade*?

A whopping 76% said no, including 2/3rds that identified as Democrats! And, as Ed Morrissey of HotAir, wrote President Biden has not disavowed this action, nor did his outgoing Press Secretary Jen Psaki.

"How radical was Biden's tacit approval of these protests?" Morrissey asks. "Only 21.4% of *Democrats* believe they are acceptable."

The news get worse, for President Biden.

"A confidential memo to the America First Policy Institute prepared by Scott Rasmussen uses his existing national polling on the topic to conclude that overturning *Roe* creates a massive political problem for Democrats," Morrissey writes. "It's true that voters express support for keeping *Roe*, but only because they don't have a firm grasp on what that means."

"Seventy-seven (77%) of voters don't know what overturning that decision would mean," the memo explains, noting that 41% think it would make abortion illegal, and the other 36% aren't sure of the impact. More importantly, though, a very large majority want those decisions made by themselves or their legislatures. "Sixty five percent," the memo continues, "think abortion laws should be established by voters

See "New Poll" page 42

From the President Carol Tobias

“The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision.”



The above assertion appeared in a draft, leaked to the press, of the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. If the final decision of the Supreme Court is similar to the draft, it will be a resounding victory for

unborn children and their mothers.

What a time to be involved in the pro-life movement!

The draft from February may have had changes since then, and any justice can still change his or her vote. We shouldn't assume anything until the final decision is issued. Having said that, if the final decision is close to the draft, our many years of hard work will have come to joyous fruition.

Overturing *Roe v. Wade* does not make abortion illegal, but it does give us the ability to do more than we've been able to do in 50 years. It takes the decision regarding protections for unborn children out of the unelected courts and returns it to representatives elected by the people.

Supporters of abortion are, of course, up in arms about the potential outcome. The lies have already started-- women whose lives are endangered by an ectopic pregnancy won't be able to get medical help and will die; women will be jailed for getting an abortion; contraceptives are going to be banned; women will die from unsafe, illegal abortions, etc. The lies will come fast and furious.

Not all states are going to pass laws to protect unborn children. Unfortunately, several will still be open for business, even expanding their laws to provide for abortions up to birth, for any reason.

The abortion methods that are available today will still be available. So if abortion is safe now, it will be safe even if illegal. If abortions will be unsafe when illegal, then they are unsafe now.

And they truly are unsafe now.

Roughly half of all abortions are now done using the chemical abortion pill. The abortion industry, aided by the AMA,

insists it is safe to send abortion pills into a woman's home, without requiring a physical exam. If she is experiencing an ectopic pregnancy and it isn't diagnosed, she very well could die. That disregard for women's health is highly callous and irresponsible on the part of the abortion syndicate.

The media have certainly been in overdrive to cover this (hopefully) historic decision. Every news outlet has done multiple stories about how this would impact supporters and opponents of abortion, the medical profession, and even the country's financial stability. We at National Right to Life have been interviewed multiple times.

November elections to be more contentious than ever. Pro-lifers have to be more active than ever, defending and working for pro-life candidates.

Pro-abortion Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is determined to pass the so-called Women's Health Protection Act, a bill that would establish abortion for all nine months of pregnancy as a national law of the land. In fact, Schumer made the Senate vote twice on the bill-- once on the original bill and again on a slightly modified version of the bill. But both would override almost every pro-life law in effect in the states.



A reporter with the *New York Times* asked me if this was a case of a dog catching the car. I said No. If a dog chases a car and catches it, he doesn't know what to do with it. We do. NRLC and its affiliates are uniquely structured to deal with the new landscape. Our state affiliates and chapters know well the work that goes into electing pro-life candidates and passing pro-life laws, and doing their best to defeat pro-abortion laws.

If *Roe* is overturned, a state's law on abortion will be in the hands of elected officials, as it was prior to 1973. Expect the

Make sure your family and friends know where the candidates stand and get them out to vote. Congressional candidates endorsed by National Right to Life are listed at www.nrlvictoryfund.org/endorsements.

If the Court overturns *Roe*, we can't win this tremendous victory, then turn around and lose elections. The babies and their mothers need our undivided attention and steadfast determination to make sure baby-friendly candidates win.

We've worked hard to get this far. Let's not stop now!

The Clock is Ticking!

By Jacki Ragan, Director of State Organizational Development Department and National Right to Life Conventions, Inc.

Whether you are brand new to the right to life movement or have been involved for fifty years, the news of even a remote possibility of *Roe* being overturned must bring joy to your heart.

Think of it just for a minute. The idea, that *Roe v Wade* may no longer be the law of the land where abortion is concerned. Maybe...just maybe, we can pass laws to not only save unborn children, but also provide real help and needed love and support to the mothers of these babies.

No matter how long you have been pro-life, no matter how long you have been active in the pro-life movement, even if you are not active in the pro-life movement yet, **this** is your moment in time. This is your call to action, to make a difference, to help save lives.

We will do whatever we can to make sure you are ready, willing, and able to make THE difference between life and death. And that includes attending the annual pro-life educational event of the year.

Make plans now to join us for the 51st National Right to Life Convention in Atlanta, GA on June 24, 25, 2022. But we need you to come in on Thursday afternoon, June 23 so you can be a part of a special session that will help you be ready if *Roe*

indeed has been overturned.

You will learn what you need to know, what you need to do, and how you can be most

effective with your efforts. How you can and will really make a difference.

evening, June 23 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott at 4711 Best Road. We hope to see you there!

The convention officially

will host 2 General Sessions, a Closing Banquet, and another 24 workshops.

Take a look at the two-page Convention Ad located on pages five and six of this edition of *NRL News* for just a hint of some of the amazing speakers we have lined up for you.

In addition to the convention, we will also host the 35th annual National Teens for Life Convention, bringing in teens from across the nation with their own two-day convention with workshops and sessions especially for them. They will end the convention with a Pizza Banquet and a dance just for them.

We have childcare and fun field trips for the children, pro-life exhibits that will wow you, and the ability to meet and talk with other pro-lifers from different parts of the country. We will do our best to make sure you are glad you spent your time to be there.

So, plan now, get yourself registered, make your hotel reservation, and come join us for what will be a wonderful, educational, informative convention. And if *Roe* is overturned, don't think that is the end of our work. We will just be getting started! See you in Atlanta!

For information, go to www.nrlconvention.com



2022

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION

The essential pro-life educational event

Where: Atlanta Airport Marriott
Atlanta, Georgia

When: June 24-25, 2022

Why: Because YOU can impact your community

Speakers to be announced Spring 2022

Save Your Spot Starting in January 2022 at nrlconvention.com!

effective with your efforts. How you can and will really make a difference.

The session will be held from 8 to 10 pm on Thursday

begins on Friday morning with a 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast and continues Friday featuring 3 General Sessions and 24 workshops. On Saturday, we

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE 2022 CONVENTION

JUNE 24-25 // ATLANTA, GEORGIA



GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS



Catherine Davis
The Restoration Project,
Founder & President



Matt Birk
Super Bowl
Champion & Author



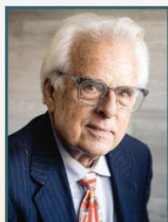
Melissa Ohden
Abortion Survivor



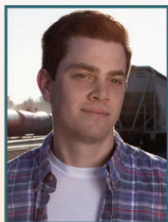
Dr. George Delgado, MD
Abortion Pill Reversal



Carol Tobias
President, NRLC



Wesley Smith, J.D.
Bioethicist



David Scotton
I Lived on Parker Avenue



Jim Daly
President & CEO,
Focus on the Family



Rep. Michelle Fischbach, J.D.
U.S. Representative
(MN-07)

**The ESSENTIAL
Pro-Life
Educational
Experience**

nrlconvention.com/register

- Opening Prayer Breakfast & Closing Banquet (ticket required)
- 40+ workshops
- 20+ exhibits & vendors open all weekend
- SPECIAL CONVENTION ROOM RATE (**must reserve with hotel by June 1**)

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE 2022 CONVENTION

JUNE 24-25 // ATLANTA, GEORGIA



WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Jennifer
Popik



Fr. Frank
Pavone



Ingrid
Duran



Olivia
Turner



Anne
Carmichael



Dr. Angela
Lanfranchi



Karen
Cross



Mary Kay
Culp



Carol
Gledhill



Tom
Glessner

AND MORE!



Tiffany
Manor

National Teens for Life Convention runs the whole weekend & has its own workshop schedule and discussion sessions. It ends Saturday with a pizza banquet & dance! nrlconvention.com/teens

Childcare throughout the weekend (fun field trips for older kids!)

Exhibit Hall is open all weekend with 20+ local and national vendors.

Reduced hotel rate if you reserve your room before June 1.
nrlconvention.com/venue

Driving to the Convention? Parking is \$4/day for day guest and \$6/day for overnight.

New Fox News poll shows strong majority in favor of 15 week ban on abortion

By Dave Andrusko

Still **more** evidence that a majority of Americans are on our side. First, there is the result of a *Wall Street Journal* survey last month on the issue of protecting unborn children after the 15th week. This is the Mississippi law the Supreme Court heard arguments about on December 1st.

We learn that 48% are in support of the 15 week ban compared to 43% who are opposed.

Then there was even more encouragement from a *Fox News* poll.

Under the headline “Fox News Poll: Just over half favor banning abortions after 15 weeks,” Victoria Balara writes, “When asked how they would feel if such a law

were passed in their state, just over half of voters favor it (54 percent) while 41 percent are opposed.”



As we wrote on April 6, “Mississippi’s 15 week abortion law is not ‘extreme,’ or ‘radical’ but mainstream.”

Balara continues, “Voters were also asked how they felt about a similar ban (with medical exceptions) on abortion after only six weeks, which is the new standard in Texas. Voters split on this policy: 50% favor vs. 46% oppose.”

Fox also asked a familiar question using slightly different language. Balara writes

Overall, 44% think abortion should be legal all (27%) or most of the time (17%), while a majority of 54% thinks it should be illegal all (11%) or most of the time (43%). The “legal” number is a record low and it’s also the first time the portion saying “illegal”

has been above 50% on a Fox News poll.

What does “most of the time” mean?

Of the four positions, the largest share, 43%, thinks abortion should be illegal except in certain circumstances, such as rape, incest, and to save the mother’s life.

To spell this out, 54% of the respondents think abortion should be either illegal (11%) or legal in the rare cases of rape, incest, and to save the mother’s life (43%).

Good news.

Voters Head to Polls in First Primaries of Critical 2022 Midterm Elections

By Karen Cross

The 2022 midterm elections are officially underway! By June 30, there will have been primaries in thirty states, setting the stage for November's head-to-head contests. A net gain of one seat in the Senate and a handful of seats in the House will determine whether the U.S. House and Senate will regain pro-life leadership or stay in pro-abortion hands.

Following is an overview of the primaries in Texas, Indiana, and Ohio.

Texas

On March 1st, Texas held its first round of voting with runoff elections to follow on May 24th with races narrowed to the top two finishers in contests where no candidate exceeded 50% of the vote. Heading to the November general election in the Texas gubernatorial race are pro-life incumbent Governor Greg Abbott (R), who signed the Texas Heartbeat Act among other significant pro-life bills, and pro-abortion former Congressman Beto O'Rourke. The contrast between the candidates could not be starker with O'Rourke supporting a policy of abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy and paid for with taxpayer dollars. On May 5th, at a press conference outside the Texas Capitol, O'Rourke declined to name a single protection for unborn children and their mothers that he would support. His abortion-without-limits position puts him drastically outside the mainstream of Texas voters. The last two Democrats to face Abbott in a general election, including notorious abortion

advocate Wendy Davis, held similar out-of-touch views to O'Rourke's. They both went down in defeat by double digits.

In Texas's 28th district, a swing district that will be hard-fought by Republicans and Democrats in November, nine-term Congressman Henry Cuellar (D) failed to avoid a

President Kamala Harris as the tiebreaker, every Senate race in 2022 matters. Republicans need to flip just one Senate seat if they can hold all their current seats in order to retake the majority.

In Indiana, pro-life Senator Todd Young (R) is up for re-election, a must-

on Indiana's 1st Congressional District. Currently held by pro-abortion freshman Democrat Frank Mrvan, the district is listed as Leans Democrat by the Cook Political Report. While Democrats continue to hold an edge in voter registration in the new redistricted lines, this region of the state, which includes Gary, has been steadily becoming more Republican over recent years. Republican primary voters selected pro-life veteran Jennifer-Ruth Green as their nominee. If elected, Green would become the first Black female veteran to ever serve in Congress.

Ohio

In Ohio's May 3rd primary, Republicans selected best-selling author and commentator JD Vance as their nominee for the Senate seat left open by Senator Rob Portman's retirement. Vance is pro-life, stating on his campaign website,

"I am 100 percent pro-life and believe that abortion has turned our society into a place where we see children as an inconvenience to be thrown away rather than a blessing to be nurtured. Eliminating abortion is first and foremost about protecting the unborn, but it's also about making our society more pro-child and pro-family."

THE 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS ARE UNDERWAY!

RECAP

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS IN:

TEXAS INDIANA OHIO

national RIGHT TO LIFE

runoff. He will face Jessica Cisneros, a pro-abortion lawyer endorsed by EMILY's List and other pro-abortion groups, who nearly defeated him in 2020. On the Republican side, Cassy Garcia and Sandra Whitten advanced to the May 24th runoff. A Republican victory in the general election would reinforce the narrative that the GOP is making significant inroads in South Texas, particularly among Hispanic voters.

Indiana

With the current composition of the U.S. Senate being 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, with pro-abortion Vice

hold for Republicans. After Indiana's May 3rd primary, it was confirmed that Senator Young will face pro-abortion Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott (D) in the general election. McDermott supports a policy of abortion on demand and taxpayer funding of abortion. McDermott even endorses the so-called *Women's Health Protection Act*, which really should be called the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act" because it would enshrine abortion in federal law and policies, and tear down pro-life protections passed at the state level.

Looking ahead to November, both parties have their eyes

See "Primaries" page 9

Oklahoma Gov. Stitt signs Oklahoma Heartbeat Act

By Dave Andrusko

Gov. Kevin Stitt, who had promised to sign all pro-life legislation that reached his desk, kept his word again last week when he signed the Oklahoma Heartbeat Act into law.

“I am proud to sign SB 1503, the Oklahoma Heartbeat Act into law,” Stitt tweeted Tuesday after signing the bill. “I want Oklahoma to be the most pro-life state in the country because I represent all four million Oklahomans who overwhelmingly want to protect the unborn.” The law has an “emergency provision” which means it took effect immediately after the governor signed it.

Also on Tuesday the Oklahoma Supreme Court rejected the request of abortion providers for a temporary injunction to block the law

from taking effect. The vote was 6-3.

“As a result, until the Court makes a further determination, most abortion in Oklahoma is banned, cutting off access for the thousands of people who seek abortion care in Oklahoma each year,” Planned Parenthood said in a statement.

According to Mary Kekatos of ABC News, “Several groups, including the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Oklahoma Call for Reproductive Justice, have already filed a joint lawsuit to block S.B. 1503.”

HB 1503 was co-authored by Sen. Julie Daniels and Rep. Todd Russ.

“Combined with other Oklahoma statutes now on the books, it is hoped the practice



Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt

of abortion will cease in our state for all time,” Russ said in an earlier statement. “We will continue our work until that is accomplished.”

On March 10, when the bill passed the Senate, Senate

President Pro Tem Greg Treat told the committee, “This is an opportunity to save more Oklahomans. I hope that we see a good decision out of the U.S. Supreme Court, but we can’t wait around for that,” according to *Fox 23 News* reports. “We need to save unborn life.”

Tony Lauinger, Vice President of National Right to Life and State Chairman, Oklahomans For Life, told the *Associated Press’s* Sean Murphy that he’s optimistic the measure will be deemed constitutional.

“It’s identical to the bill that was enacted by the Texas Legislature last year, and that bill has passed muster with the United States Supreme Court,” Lauinger said. “We are hopeful that this bill will save the lives of more unborn children here in Oklahoma as well.”

Voters Head to Polls in First Primaries of Critical 2022 Midterm Elections

From page 8

Vance will face pro-abortion Congressman Tim Ryan (D) in the general election. Ryan’s extreme position on abortion is in line with the abortion industry, not Ohio voters. Ryan voted to eliminate the Hyde Amendment, which bars federal tax dollars from being used for abortions in many federal programs. The Hyde Amendment has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives since its passage in 1976. Ryan also voted for the extreme Women’s Health Protection Act, confirming his support for abortion on demand, for

any reason, at any time in pregnancy.

Having taken office in 1983, pro-abortion Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D) is the longest serving woman in the House. But under Ohio’s new redistricting map, she finds herself in a district where Republicans hold an edge in voter registration. She will face pro-life Republican challenger J.R. Majewski. The Cook Political Report rates the race in Ohio’s 9th Congressional District as a Tossup.

Ohio’s 13th District, also classified as a Tossup,

features an even split between Republican and Democrat voters. In that district, pro-life Republican Madison Gesiotto Gilbert will go head-to-head with pro-abortion Democrat Emilia Sykes, a candidate endorsed by EMILY’s List, the fundraising behemoth that bankrolls female Democrats who support abortion without limits.

Next up will be primaries in Nebraska and West Virginia on May 10. West Virginia Republicans will decide between pro-life incumbent Reps. David McKinley and

Alex Mooney, who are vying for the same seat due to redistricting. Democrats in Nebraska will determine who will challenge pro-life Rep. Don Bacon.

Stay tuned to see how the races shape up across the nation.

For more information on elections in your state, please visit www.nrlvictoryfund.org. If you are not registered to vote, please visit <https://voice4thevoiceless.org/> and register before your state’s deadline.

Will Supreme Court empower lawmakers to protect weakest and most vulnerable?

By Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

The leak of Justice Alito's February draft opinion on Dobbs is an egregious abuse of process and trust.

That said, the U.S. Supreme Court seems poised to take a powerful step towards empowering elected representatives to protect the weakest and most vulnerable. We are at the tipping point.

A new national debate on abortion has begun and fresh scrutiny must be brought to bear on how the lives of unborn children are destroyed including by dismemberment with sharp knives, pulverization by powerful suction devices, or poisoning by any number of toxic chemicals.

I join millions of Americans



Pro-life Congressman Chris Smith

who are hopeful that government sanctioned violence against babies and the exploitation of women by abortion is nearing an end—although in a very real way, the struggle to defend children in the womb and offer tangible assistance to their mothers now enters a critically important new phase.



"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

“Democracy for me, but not for thee”

By Dave Andrusko

As always, but especially now that a leaked draft indicates that a majority of the Supreme Court is ready to overturn *Roe*, our benighted opposition insists it is pro-lifers who are thwarting democracy. Which is truly odd since it is pro-lifers who long insisted that the wisest course is to return the abortion issue to the states. No, no, no: “Democracy for me,” abortion advocates say in response, “but not for thee.”

A brilliant *Wall Street Journal* succinctly summarizes how foolish the pro-abortionists’ claim is:

The latest theme on the political left is that the Supreme Court Justices who might overturn *Roe v. Wade* are at war with democracy. It’s a strange argument, since overturning *Roe* would merely return abortion policy to the states for political debate in elections and legislatures. That’s the definition of democracy.

But since they brought it up, by all means let’s talk about who is really threatening



democracy. An independent judiciary is crucial to democratic self-government, and after the leak of Justice Samuel Alito’s draft opinion, the left is targeting the Justices who might vote to end *Roe*.

Chief Justice John Roberts was still fuming when he told the 11th Circuit Judicial Conference meeting in Atlanta

that “A leak of this sort — let’s assume that’s what it is — is absolutely appalling, and if the people behind it, or

person behind it, thinks that it’s going to have an effect on our decision process, that’s absolutely foolish.” He added, according to *CNN*, “We will go about doing our work as we would in any event, regardless of the leak.”

What is the proper role for the Court? The *WSJ* editorial said

The Supreme Court’s job is to say what the law is, not to be a body of philosopher kings to impose progressive

outcomes. Overturning *Roe* won’t usurp democracy. It will put the abortion debate back where it belongs in a democracy—for voters to decide.

Final word here. Judge Alito’s first draft—way back in February—is unyielding in its criticism of *Roe* and the 1992 *Casey* decision.

***Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, *Roe* and *Casey* have enflamed debate and deepened division.**

Roe and *Casey* “must be overruled,” Justice Alito wrote, “and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives.”

White House changes its tune on “where people protest”

By Dave Andrusko

Just last Thursday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked by *Fox News*'s Peter Doocy about pro-abortionist who were picketing the homes of Supreme Court Justices.

Doocy: “Activists posted a map with the home addresses of the Supreme Court justices. Is that kind of thing this president wants?”

PSAKI: “I don’t have an official U.S. government position on where people protest.”

Apparently, Psaki was comfortable with such intimidation tactics. After all, all is fair in love and abortion politics, right? Picketers were selective in their outrage: they limited their bullying tactics to the justices who are presumed to make up the majority ready to call for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Flash forward to Monday morning when Psaki was singing a very different tune.

“[Biden] strongly believes in the Constitutional right to protest. But that should never include violence, threats, or vandalism” Psaki said.

“Judges perform an incredibly important function in our society,

and they must be able to do their jobs without concern for their personal safety,” she added.

What happened between last Thursday and today? The families of these justices—



including their children—such as Kavanaugh, were no less in danger. And Justice Alito and his family had already reportedly been moved to an undisclosed location due to concerns for their safety.

What then?

Perhaps it was the news that someone tossed a Molotov cocktail through the window of a Wisconsin pro-life organization Sunday morning and spray-painted a message outside reading, “if abortions aren’t safe then you aren’t either.”

Maybe the follow up by Caroline Reilly, a reporter

for the pro-abortion organization *Rewire*, caught the administration’s attention. In a since deleted text she wrote, “more of this. may these people never know a moment of peace or safety until they rot in the ground.”

Or it could be—just guessing

to a nearby Planned Parenthood site on the first Saturday of every month, according to WNYW-TV.

One “protestor” was busy screaming “I’m killing the babies!” while “waving around dolls wearing a one-piece bathing suit.”

One pro-abortion protester was photographed holding a sign that said “abortion is a gift.” Another sign said, “RIP Jesus, killed by ‘woke’ deadbeat dad.”

here—the picture of “Pro-abortion activists descended upon an iconic New York City church on Saturday as an anti-abortion group showed up once again in their monthly routine of demonstrating outside a nearby Planned Parenthood clinic,” according to *Fox News*.

The activists showed up at the Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral in Manhattan on Saturday morning, just feet from a group of anti-abortion protesters who typically walk from the church

Or perhaps the administration does not want to defend what may well be a violation of federal law which “prohibits picketing or parading in front of the home of a judge, juror, witness, or officer of the court under pain of up to one year in prison,” according to the *Washington Examiner*. “Efforts to intimidate people within the legal system are an offense against judicial independence, a key prerequisite to democracy.”

Or perhaps it was just to cover their bases—be on the record against “violence, threats, or vandalism”—should something truly dreadful occur.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita leads new multistate action defending unborn children

Attorney General Rokita proclaims Texas Heartbeat Law is a model for other states

Attorney General Todd Rokita is leading an 18-state coalition fighting the Biden administration's latest efforts to derail a Texas law that prohibits abortion when doctors can detect a fetal heartbeat.

"We will continue to protect the lives of the unborn and the health of women, especially against those who believe the individual states are incapable of passing our own laws to do so," Attorney General Rokita said.

Attorney General Rokita led an 18-state amicus brief filed Monday in the Fifth District



*Indiana Attorney General
Todd Rokita*

U.S. Court of Appeals.

"For months I have praised this law as a pro-life model for use in other states. I have led previous multistate actions supporting Texas paving the way so that other states—including Indiana—could adopt such a law," said Attorney General Rokita. "Oklahoma, for example, recently enacted its own law modeled after the Texas Heartbeat Law."

Among other things, Attorney General Rokita's brief argues that U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland cannot sue a state anytime he deems a state

law to be unconstitutional — especially when no state official plays a role in enforcing the law.

Attorney General Rokita's latest brief is found at https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/INAG/2022/05/10/file_attachments/2154450/Amicus%20Brief%20of%20Indiana%20and%2017%20Other%20States%20in%20Support%20of%20Defendants-Appellants%20.pdf

What is the explanation for people not wishing to overturn *Roe* and yet wanting many limitations on abortion?

By Dave Andrusko

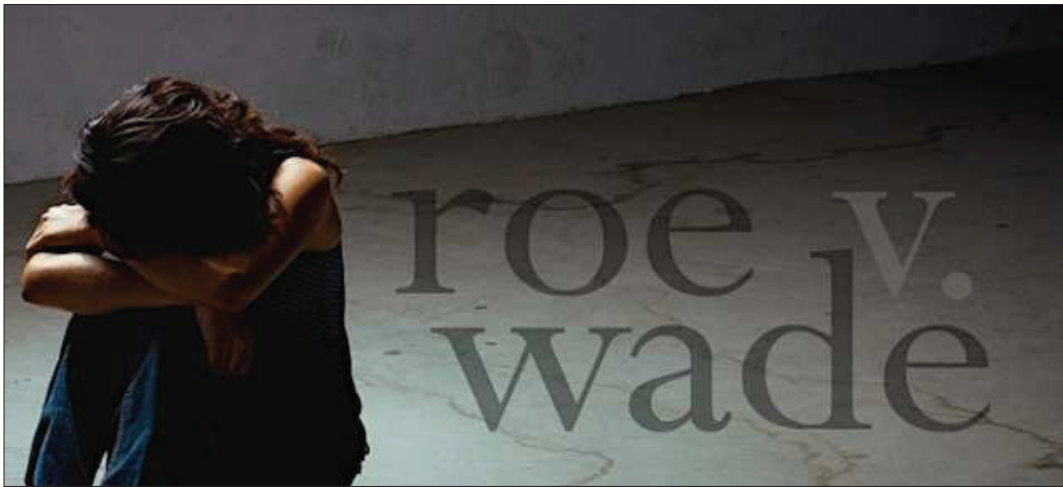
The fallout from the leaked first draft of a Supreme Court opinion on abortion has seen reporters plowing territory they should have tilled years ago. But, as they say, better late than never!

Supreme Court leak on *Roe v. Wade*.”

He trots out a number of polls which—lacking context—show public opinion against reversing *Roe*. Romano does not explore why that is so

this dynamic. If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, leaving it up to states to make their own abortion laws, only 13% of Americans would

legal all (27%) or most of the time (17%), while a majority of 54% thinks it should be illegal all (11%) or most of the time (43%). The “legal” number is a record low and it’s also the first time the portion saying “illegal” has been above 50% on a *Fox News* poll.



Reporters are discovering Pregnancy Help Centers, for example, or (to a lesser extent) how diverse our Movement has grown to be over the last 49 years. Also, writing as if the abortion issue has already been returned to the states (the end of *Roe*) allows reporters to see the genuinely nice people who make up the Right to Life Movement.

But something else crops up in many stories. How can the public be against overturning *Roe*, yet favorably disposed to many limitations on the right to abortion, the kind that are incompatible with *Roe*?

Andrew Romano explores that in “Polling on abortion helps explain uproar over

and **what** people think *Roe* legalized.

Of course, as pro-life activists we know that the public doesn’t have a clue how genuinely radical *Roe* (and *Doe v. Bolton*) were. Only of late, have most pollsters stopped framing the companion cases of *Roe* and *Doe* as “legalizing abortion in the first trimester” rather than abortion on demand throughout pregnancy.

But even if he misses the bigger picture, Romano does acknowledge that “beneath the consensus — and the backlash — much of the country tends to see abortion in shades of gray rather than black and white.” He writes

A question from the April Yahoo News/YouGov poll illustrates

prefer their own state to “ban all abortions”; just 28% would prefer that their state “keep all abortions legal.” Far more — a full 46% — would prefer something in between: either keeping most (but not all) abortions legal (22%) or banning most (but not all) abortions (24%).

But even that doesn’t convey the nuances of public opinion. *Fox News* ran a poll which we wrote about elsewhere in this edition.

Victoria Balara tells us **Overall, 44% think abortion should be**

When you ask very precise questions, you get very different responses:

Of the four positions, the largest share, 43%, thinks abortion should be illegal except in certain circumstances, such as rape, incest, and to save the mother’s life.

But regardless of which poll you use, many of the same people who do not want *Roe* overturned want strict limitations on abortion. The reason? “Americans have mixed feelings about the morality of the procedure, which means it matters to them when and why it’s being performed,” Romano writes.

Well...yes!

As the public learns the truth about how there are essentially **no** limitations on abortion; that the pro-life movement is built on lovingly helping unborn babies and their mothers; and because their opinions tell us they should be pro-life, the life-affirming numbers will grow larger and larger.

Let's hope the winds of change blowing across America will sweep a pro-life individual into Pennsylvania Governor's office

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

An event featuring pro-abortion Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf underscores the importance of this year's hotly-contested Gubernatorial race.

Wolf, a former Planned Parenthood volunteer clinic escort, joined with Planned Parenthood officials and other pro-abortion politicians to express his fury at the possibility that the U.S. could soon move into a post-*Roe* era.

"Today, I am angry," Wolf said. "The right to bodily autonomy is under attack."

Wolf's statement is a real head-scratcher. If the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* falls by the wayside, the public, through their duly-elected representatives, will be able to decide abortion policy at the

state level without the threat of a supposed Constitutional "right" to abortion. The bodies of precious preborn babies

human being deserving of legal protection.

Wolf went on to say, "Overturning *Roe v. Wade* isn't



could be protected as never before. An unborn child has a separate DNA from the mother—and may be a different sex. A preborn baby is not like a gall stone, but is a distinct

about preserving life. It's about exerting control."

Huh? Overturning *Roe* is all about preserving life—an irreplaceable, unique human life. Controlling personalities

often try to pressure pregnant women into having abortions—research shows that as many as 60 percent of abortions are the result of coercion.

Thankfully, for babies and their mothers, Wolf's term is coming to an end. But radically pro-abortion Democrat Josh Shapiro is vying to take Wolf's place. In sharp contrast, all the many GOP candidates for PA Governor are pro-life.

The winds of change are blowing across America. Let's hope that they will also sweep a pro-life individual into Pennsylvania Governor's office. Wolf's tenure has been a time of tremendous trial for pregnant women in the Keystone State. It's time for a reset—one that will recognize the humanity and dignity of the preborn child.

Vermont eliminates all safeguards in its updated “aid in dying” law

By Dave Andrusko

“Gov. Phil Scott signed S.74 into law Wednesday, amending Vermont’s medical-aid-in-dying statute. Advocates for the changes said S.74 would make the medical-aid-in-dying process more accessible for terminally ill Vermonters—Riley Robinson.

Let’s give Robinson credit for offering the background to Vermont’s medical-aid-in-dying law and explaining why all the safeguards needed to be removed to make it “accessible.”

In a nutshell, according to Robinson,

Vermont’s medical-aid-in-dying law has been in effect since 2013. It set up a multi-step process to request a life-ending prescription for any patient with a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Under the original law, the patient had to make two in-person requests to a prescribing physician, visit another consulting physician in person and submit a written request.

After all these steps were completed, the patient had to wait an additional 48 hours to obtain a prescription.

With S.74, patients will now be able to request the prescription using telemedicine. S.74 also got rid of the final 48-hour waiting period.

That’s convenient. Someone can just dial up a lethal prescription. No more in-person visits; no more second physician involvement; no more submitting your request in writing; and, best of all, away with a 48 hour waiting period.

And the law that Gov. Scott signed

adds explicit legal immunity for all licensed health care workers involved in the process, including the pharmacist who fills the prescription.

Mary Beerworth is Vermont Right to Life’s Executive Director. She explained how the “pro-abortion, pro-suicide majorities of the Vermont House and Senate ignored the testimony provided by medical providers as well as lobbyists

for the Vermont Right to Life Committee.”

“The testimony pointed out the experimental nature

the House, some lawmakers expressed discomfort with patients going through the request process entirely over



of the multiple drug cocktail and urged caution of over prescribing a lethal dose over the telephone,” she said. “The in-person consultation was an opportunity for health care providers to be certain that their patient was not under coercion or pressure to end their lives for the convenience of others.”

Robinson, in his story, did acknowledge some apprehension. “As the bill progressed from the Senate into

telemedicine.” The bill passed 98-41.

Beerworth told me, “We are grateful to Representative Anne Donahue for offering an amendment on the House floor that would require some kind of in-person interaction with a health care provider before obtaining the lethal dose. While the amendment failed to pass, it provided an opportunity to increase awareness of the agenda to remove safeguards around assisted suicide in Vermont.”

Debunking President Biden's claim that if *Roe* falls, it "would mean that every other decision related to the notion of privacy is thrown into question"

By Dave Andrusko

The inspiration for this story was an editorial that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*: "The Abortion Disinformation Campaign: Don't believe the claims that other rights are in jeopardy if *Roe v. Wade* falls."

Anticipating the pro-abortionists attempt to link abortion to what the *Wall Street Journal* calls "unrelated social topics," Justice Alito writes straightforwardly

None of the other decisions cited by *Roe* and *Casey* involved the critical moral question posed by abortion. They do not support the right to obtain an abortion,

and by the same token, our conclusion that the Constitution



Pro-abortion President Joe Biden

does not confer such a right does not undermine them in any way."

Thus, as opposed to the most

prominent "unrelated social topics," *Roe* remains stubbornly contentious. The editorial goes on to say

Whatever the High Court thought it was doing in *Roe* and again in *Casey*, it didn't come close to settling the debate. And judges are ill equipped to draw the distinctions in abortion policy that a plurality of Americans say they want.

There are many other keen insights; I'll just quote one from the editorial: "*Roe* also stands apart on what Justice Alito's opinion calls 'workability; grounds. *Roe* has continued to

inspire a mass of litigation as modified by *Casey's* 'undue burden' test. No one really knows what that burden is, so states bring case after case to contest it."

A week ago we wrote about how President Biden had accidentally used the word "child" when talking about abortion. But the entire point of his comments to reporters assembled on the tarmac was that if *Roe v. Wade* falls, it "would mean that every other decision related to the notion of privacy is thrown into question."

No matter how many times pro-abortionists say it will, it won't.

Abortionist explains why she now performs second trimester abortions

By Dave Andrusko

The “ambivalence of abortion” was a 1978 book by Linda Bird Francke which I have quoted from numerous times. Here is a passage from one of the many women she interviewed that is embedded in my memory:

“There was no doubt, when I became pregnant, that life was right there, in my womb. Left undisturbed, that blob of cells and tissue would have grown into a baby. The process was beginning, and I chose to end it.....I was totally unprepared for my mounting ambivalence as the time for the abortion came closer, an ambivalence that turned into grief and guilt for a period after the abortion was over. The little ghost haunted me for about six months before it disappeared, and after it was gone, I even missed it a bit. But as my children grow and take up more and more of my time and energy, I realize emphatically that the addition of another child for me would have been negative rather than positive.”

I have often thought that “The little ghost” may well have haunted her long after she would admit.

With the publishing of the first draft of Judge Alito

opinion that called for *Roe* to be overturned, there have been a raft of stories the intent of which is to persuade the reader that *Roe* must remain legal.

Dr. Alison Block takes that a step further in her essay in the *New York Times* which is titled “Why I Learned to Perform Second-Trimester Abortions for a Post-Roe America.”

The argument is that these horribly destructive abortions will be needed more than ever in a post-*Roe* America. However what is fascinating is the ambivalence she tells us abortionists may feel, yet they are to be congratulated for overcoming.

But first she tells us that previously “the vast majority of abortions that I perform in my California practice are at six, seven or eight weeks of pregnancy — a period during which the gestational sac, a tiny piece of tissue that resembles a cotton ball, is about the size of a coin.” Clearly she is already desensitized to what she is doing—and to whom.

Block admits “Abortions, especially second-trimester ones, can be emotional and complex, then excuses it away: “But for me, condemning a person to an unwanted pregnancy is worse.”

This is par for the course—such abortions are tough but somebody got to do them. For example

“Nobody likes doing this,” a mentor said to me the first time I witnessed a second-trimester abortion as a medical student, more

than a decade ago. As we were examining the pregnancy that we had just removed from the patient, my

are still holding on tenaciously to winter. I look up at the trees, and their spread-out branches remind me



mentor went on to explain that we do this work because people need us, and we do it because it's the right thing to do.

Many second-trimester abortion providers I know balance ambiguity and a sense of responsibility: The work is sometimes hard and complicated, and it is our duty to provide the care those patients need.

“Yes, but...”

Block ends her piece with a rhetorical flourish:

Later on, I go for a walk along the Oklahoma River. The sky is the bright cornflower blue of spring, but the leafless trees and dry dull grass

of human anatomy, the arteries splitting into arterioles and capillaries, branching into ever finer points.

The natural world has all sorts of these redundancies, where life echoes life. I feel a deep wonder at the beauty of the natural world, and the complexities of the human experience within it. And I feel gratitude that, at least for now, I can continue to provide.

Ah, yes, it's all so “complex,” yet there she is offering an ode to the “human experience.” Too bad hundreds, perhaps thousands, of “little ghosts” will never experience the “beauty of the natural world.”

N.H. Republicans reject Democrats' efforts to “enshrine” abortion in state law

By Dave Andrusko

New Hampshire Republicans have rejected efforts by Democrats to “enshrine” abortion rights into state law and into the state Constitution, the *Associated Press* has reported.

According to *AP* reporter Holly Ramer “New Hampshire has outlawed abortion after 24 weeks gestation since Jan. 1, thanks to a budget provision Republican Gov. Chris Sununu signed into law last year. Anticipating the Supreme Court action, Democrats have sought to enshrine abortion rights into state law and the state constitution, only to have the bills tabled in the House earlier this year.”

On Thursday, Democrats tried unsuccessfully in both houses to amend other bills to include “proactive protections.”

Republican Majority Leader Jason Osborne accused Democrats of “grandstanding over the outrage du jour” and said taking up the bill was “just a waste of our time.” Nearly seven hours later, Holly Ramer reported, “the Senate voted down a similar amendment. Instead, it approved the underlying bill, which would eliminate the safety zone that keeps protesters at least 25 feet (7.5 meters) away from abortion clinics.”



Four ideas that show what the pro-life view is really all about

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

As the Supreme Court prepares to rule in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case, a lot of people are talking about abortion. Not all of this talk is true or reasonable.

Many advocates, commentators, journalists, and others present the pro-life position as an extreme and unsupportable view. They sometimes suggest that it's tied to a specific religious outlook or to a narrow political ideology. But this is a major misunderstanding.

The pro-life view is rooted in widespread convictions that even many supporters of abortion hold. Here are four key concepts or principles—science, human rights, justice, and love—that summarize what it means to be pro-life and explain why it makes sense.

Science

The first idea is that a human embryo or fetus is a living human organism—a member of the species *Homo sapiens*. How do we know this? We know it through the science of human embryology.

The embryo or fetus grows through cellular reproduction (she is living); she bears a human genetic signature (she is human); she has a body and DNA separate from her parents (she is a distinct individual); and she is a whole member of our species (an organism) developing herself through the different stages of human life, not a mere part of one (like an organ or a clump of cells). The embryo or fetus, then, is the same kind of being as each of us. She is a human being.

“Human development

begins at fertilization when a sperm fuses with an oocyte to form a single cell, a zygote,” according to the textbook *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*. “This highly specialized, totipotent cell marks the beginning of each of us as a

in—that human rights belong to all human beings.

Unborn humans differ in various ways from most born humans, but those differences don't determine whether or not someone has rights. Unborn humans look different from older humans, for example,



unique individual.” Explains another textbook, *Langman's Medical Embryology*: “The development of a human being begins with fertilization, a process by which the spermatozoon from the male and the oocyte from the female unite to give rise to a new organism, the zygote.”

We were all once embryos and fetuses, just as we were once infants, toddlers, and teenagers. Without these long-established scientific findings, the pro-life movement wouldn't exist.

Human rights

Science by itself, though, can't tell us how someone ought to be treated. That's where the second idea comes

but appearance has nothing to do with value. Unborn humans are less physically and mentally developed, but toddlers are less developed than teenagers, and we don't think they count any less. Unborn humans are highly dependent on someone else, but so are newborns, conjoined twins, and many people who are elderly, sick, and disabled.

Some say that rights belong only to individuals with certain developed mental capacities. Since unborn humans currently lack those abilities, they aren't “persons” like the rest of us. One problem with this view is that it doesn't just exclude unborn humans. It may also (depending on the criteria) exclude infants, people in

temporary comas, people with severe cognitive disabilities, and people with advanced dementia—anyone who doesn't meet the standard.

Another problem is that people have mental functions to a greater or lesser degree. No two people are exactly the same. That means some have greater rights and some have lesser rights. Some of us, then, matter more than others. This view undermines equality for everyone.

But suppose, instead, that we have rights simply because we are human beings. Suppose we have rights not because of what we look like, or what we can do, or what other people think or feel about us, but rather because of what we are. That means everyone is included. And it means we all matter equally because we share equally in our humanity. This is the pro-life view.

If unborn children are human beings, and if all human beings have human rights, then unborn humans have human rights. We ought to treat them accordingly.

Justice

Some people say this conclusion is well and good, but it doesn't answer the legal question. Abortion may be morally wrong, they argue, but that doesn't mean it should be illegal.

Here, then, is the third key idea: The law ought to safeguard basic human rights and, in particular, protect people from being unjustly killed. This

See “Ideas,” page 25

Noonan: Abortion has released a kind of poison into the air

By Dave Andrusko

Peggy Noonan's *The End of Roe v. Wade Will Be Good for America* preliminarily assumes that the leaked first draft of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion on Mississippi's abortion law is what the final version will essentially look like: *Roe* (and *Casey*) are overturned! As many have pointed out, that may or may not be true, although pro-lifers fervently pray that it is.

While Noonan covers numerous aspects of *Roe*'s awful impact on our culture, what I find most inspiring is her explanation for why she is pro-life:

I am pro-life for the most essential reason: That's a baby in there, a human child. We cannot accept as a society—we really can't bear the weight of this fact, which is why we keep fighting—that we have decided that we can extinguish the lives

of our young. Another reason, and maybe it veers on mysticism, is that I believe the fact of abortion, that it exists throughout the country, that we endlessly talk about it, that the children grow up hearing this and absorbing it and thinking, "We end the life within the mother here," "It's just some cells"—that all of this has released a kind of poison into the air, that we breathed it in for 50 years and it damaged everything.

Yes, *Roe* changed everything. *Roe* undermined the moral obligation mothers—and fathers!—have to their unborn children. Like acid, *Roe* ate away at the foundations of our culture making abortion seem to be an acceptable "solution."

Yet, in season and out of

season, pro-lifers are the eternal optimists. Why? Because we believe the better angels of our nature will not—cannot—be

And if *Roe* is indeed overturned, God bless our country that can make such a terrible,



forever silenced. As a nation, we are better than turning a blind eye to almost 900,000 abortions a year would have you believe. Reminding our fellow citizens of this tragedy is among the most important tasks you do, day in and day out.

Noonan's conclusion is immensely powerful:

coldhearted mistake and yet, half a century later, redress it, right it, turn it around. Only a thinking nation could do that. Only a feeling nation could do that. We're not dead yet, there are still big things going on here.

U.S. Supreme Court Case Pending; Democracy May be Restored to Protecting the Unborn Child

From page 1

of opinions and positions of justices often change during consideration of Supreme Court cases. We'll have to wait and see.

What might the Court's decision mean? It will not mean an end to abortion. It could, though, mean a level playing field at last. When the official ruling is issued, if there are five justices who support the leaked version, it would mean the democratic process could again function – as it did prior to 1973 – regarding abortion. The elected representatives of the people in each of the 50 states could once again decide whether, and to what extent, the lives of unborn children would be protected within that state.

The draft opinion makes that point straightforwardly: “It is time to heed the Constitution

and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives.” The draft also quotes the late justice Antonin Scalia who wrote: “The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting.”

The draft's author, Justice Samuel Alito, points out that, where the Constitution is silent – as it is regarding abortion – the citizens of our nation govern themselves through elections and legislation, not through the courts.

The Supreme Court in 1973, in what dissenting justice Byron White called “an exercise in raw judicial power,” fabricated out of thin air a “constitutional” right to abortion which was

nowhere in the Constitution. Far from deciding the issue once-and-for-all, the Supreme Court shut down the democratic process and stifled citizens' opportunity to protect the lives of unborn children. In so doing, the Court transformed abortion into the most contentious and polarizing issue in the country.

For pro-life Americans, the positive, compassionate, painstaking effort to win hearts and minds for the protection of innocent human lives must continue with more dedication than ever before. It is essential to elect pro-life public officials at the state and federal levels, and a pro-life president who will nominate judges and justices who respect the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence's recognition that we are all

endowed by our “Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life...”

The late Congressman Henry Hyde called the pro-life movement the most selfless of causes because its adherents are not seeking to benefit themselves, but, rather, those with no voice who are totally dependent on what others do on their behalf.

We will one day be judged by how we have treated the weakest and most vulnerable members of our human family – those at the dawn, and those in the twilight, of their lives. Let us strive that we might be able to plead that, in the midst of a culture of death, we sought to create a Culture of Life, and that to all life, we brought love.

Pro-life Virginians at the Capital welcome the new pro-life Governor and pro-life Lt. Governor to the March for Life

By Virginia Society for Human Life (VSHL)

The Sun shone brightly on the hundreds of pro-lifers from various parts of Virginia who gathered on the grounds of the Capital in Richmond on April 27th to be seen and heard by the members of the General Assembly attending Veto/Reconvene day.

For the second time since February's Defending Life Day pro-life citizens made the trip to participate in the process of changing hearts and minds. All of them were thrilled to see Governor Glenn Youngkin step out of the Capital to meet them at the start of the March around the streets and the area of Capital Square in Richmond.

He shook hands and posed for pictures and commented to everyone he met how pleased he was to see them taking part in this peaceful demonstration supporting a shared cause. The Governor did not make a speech but walked with his fellow pro-life citizens through the streets.

Before the march began there was a brief rally where the 600 or so people who had gathered for the event organized by the March for Life Committee and supported by Virginia Society for Human Life as well other pro-life groups in the Commonwealth, listened to speeches from elected officials and pro-life leaders. That included VSHL President Olivia Gans Turner, Alveda King, and the Bishop of Richmond. The remarks from Lt Governor of Virginia,

Winsome Sears, Del Nick Freitas, patron of the Born Alive Abortion Survivors, roused the marchers with passionate statements about the power of pro-life people to change our society.

recalled his own mother's courage when she was pregnant with him.

He praised the courage of every woman who defies the abortion industry's siren call and protects their babies. He

next to their shared goals of protecting innocent human life. Mrs. Turner encouraged the attendees to become more familiar with how new laws are made and to stay connected to their own legislators.



Left to Right: Rev. Robert Gurley, Virginia director of the Douglas Leadership Institute and founder of End Black Genocide; Olivia Gans Turner, President VSHL; Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin; and Kay James, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

A number of pro-life Delegates and Senators attended part of the event but had to leave before the Rally ended in order to participate in the business of the Day which was the Veto session at noon.

Lt. Gov. Sears pointed out how abortions are killing more African American children every year and that no one realizes how racist the abortion industry really is. Del. Freitas

called on his colleagues in the General Assembly who claim to care about women to pass laws that will protect women and their children. His bill to protect babies who survive an abortion attempt was defeated this year by pro-abortion members of the Virginia Senate.

Olivia Gans Turner, VSHL President, that there are no small pro-life bills. That every step builds on the

She urged everyone to contact their members when they got home and tell them they were at the March and why they had come to Richmond. She reminded them that elections will be coming to Virginia again in 2023 and they could help remove the biggest obstacle to passing new pro-life laws by electing a pro-life majority in the Senate.

Sen. Rand Paul and HSGAC Republicans Send Letter to SBA Administrator Guzman Requesting Information on Illegal PPP Loans to Planned Parenthood Affiliates

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Recently, U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and Republican members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) requested information from U.S. Small Business Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman regarding illegally obtained Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans received by Planned Parenthood affiliates across the U.S.

“On May 19, 2020, SBA notified a number of Planned Parenthood affiliates that they had wrongfully applied for 38 PPP loans totaling more than \$80 million dollars. SBA determined that these local affiliates of Planned Parenthood

Federation of America were ineligible for PPP loans under the applicable affiliation rules



Pro-life Sen. Rand Paul

and size standards, and that the loans they received should be returned,” the Senators wrote.

“Despite this determination, the SBA approved 17 new PPP loans to Planned Parenthood affiliates totaling nearly \$40 million in 2021. Moreover, under your leadership, the SBA has forgiven at least 34 Planned Parenthood PPP loans to date. This raises serious questions about the SBA’s management of the PPP program which was intended to provide relief to small businesses. In order to better assist Congress in performing its oversight function, please provide the information requested in this letter no later than 5:00PM on May 10, 2022.”

Dr. Rand Paul has continually requested information on this matter and has repeatedly called for Planned Parenthood

to return the more than \$80 million it stole from American taxpayers. Dr. Paul was joined by Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Ron Johnson (R-WI), James Lankford (R-OK), Josh Hawley (R-MO), and Mitt Romney (R-UT) in sending the letter.

You can read the letter www.paul.senate.gov/sites/default/files/page-attachments/04.26.2022_HSGAC%20Letter%20to%20SBA%20Administrator.pdf

Four ideas that show what the pro-life view is really all about

From page 20

is a foundational purpose of government. Whatever else the government should or should not do, justice requires that it at least do that.

The application to abortion is straightforward. If unborn humans have rights, then the law ought to protect those rights. If abortion is the intentional killing of an innocent human being, then abortion is precisely the kind of act that the law ought to guard against as a matter of justice. A just legal system does not exclude innocent human beings from the law's protection against lethal violence.

Some people object, however, that pro-life laws aren't actually effective in reducing abortions. Many also claim that such laws produce harmful consequences, especially the deaths of women from dangerous, illegal abortions.

But these objections face two problems. The first is a factual problem. A wealth of research shows that pro-life laws can and do reduce the incidence of abortion by affecting its availability and costs. Moreover, clear evidence from both U.S. history and other countries shows that a society can protect unborn humans while maintaining a very high standard of maternal health.

The second problem is that such objections don't get around the justice requirement. If abortion is unjust, then the risks of participating in the injustice are not a good reason to make it legal. Indeed, no one really thinks that way about other serious injustices. And if unborn children deserve protection under the law, then any difficulties in upholding that law are not an excuse to abandon those children to death. They are a reason to

improve the law, not end it.

Justice means giving people what they are due. Unborn children deserve equal protection under the law.

Love

A critic of the pro-life view, understandably, might respond: But what about women? What about their bodily autonomy or the terrible circumstances they often face? This is where the fourth idea—a love that is at the crux of how pro-life people see the world—becomes especially relevant.

Take the argument that abortion is justified because women have right to control their own bodies. One problem with the argument is that, although bodily autonomy is important, it isn't a right to attack the body of someone else. Abortion isn't merely declining to let someone (the unborn child) use a woman's body to survive. Abortion is intentional killing, often involving a brutal process of dismemberment. If unborn humans have human rights, then abortion violates those rights.

But there's a deeper problem with the argument. It treats mother and child not as mother and child, but as isolated competitors fighting for scarce resources. "The so-called right to abortion," Mother Teresa observed, "has pitted mothers against their children" and "sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships."

The pro-life perspective looks at pregnancy—and human relationships in general—very differently. It recognizes that human beings depend on each other in order to flourish. Sometimes we rely on others, and sometimes others rely on us. We form "networks

of uncalculated giving and graceful receiving," as the moral philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre puts it. And no network is more central to human flourishing than the relationship between parents and their children. The pro-life position, in short, says that we need to love each other.

Consider another argument. Some say that abortion is justified by the tough circumstances that confront many pregnant women. Any such circumstances, though, can't justify a violation of human rights. No one thinks that a single and poverty-stricken father may abandon his toddler to alleviate financial or social stress, no matter how great. If unborn humans matter like toddlers do, then killing them for the same reasons isn't okay either.

As with bodily autonomy, though, the deeper problem with the argument is that it sees pregnancy as a zero-sum game, a problem whose solution is abortion. But pregnancy just isn't an either/or proposition. It's a both/and one. Unborn children deserve respect and protection because they are human beings. And their mothers deserve support and empowerment in the midst of difficult and unfair circumstances. Women can and do thrive without the destruction of those who depend on them.

The pro-life movement believes this as much as it believes anything. That's why it operates thousands of pregnancy care centers and other organizations that offer practical support and alternatives to abortion for pregnant women, new mothers, and their families. It's why pro-lifers (many of whom are

post-abortive themselves) lead post-abortion ministries for women and men dealing with the aftermath of abortion.

And it's why "love them both" is one of the oldest slogans of the pro-life movement—one that runs through the heart of pro-life efforts over the last five decades.

What it means to be pro-life

Science, human rights, justice, and love are values and principles shared by all sorts of people. It's no surprise, then, that the pro-life position reaches across a wide spectrum of Americans. Men and women are about equally likely to hold it. Some pro-life groups champion feminism. Some are religious and some are secular. Some are progressive and some are conservative.

Indeed, pro-life people differ on many matters. But they agree about the science of life in the womb, and about the principle that human rights belong to all humans, and about the importance of equal protection under the law—and, perhaps above all, about love.

"We come rich and poor, proud and plain, religious and agnostic, politically committed and independent," wrote the late Dr. Mildred Jefferson, an early leader of National Right to Life and the first Black woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. "The right-to-life cause is not the concern of only a special few but it should be the cause of all those who care about fairness and justice, love and compassion and liberty with law."

This is what it means to be pro-life. It's not a narrow view tied to specific political or religious commitments. It's wide open to everyone.

“They saved not only my life, but my daughter’s life”- Young mom grateful for APR, pregnancy help

By Lisa Bourne

A young woman was so thankful for the assistance and support she received from a Pittsburgh, Pa. pregnancy help medical clinic and the Abortion Pill Rescue Network that she was moved to share her story.

“What are the chances you’ll find somebody who wants to help you?” Ashley said.

Just out of high school last year, Ashley was focused on partying. When she began to regularly feel tired, she had no idea she was pregnant.

After taking a pregnancy test and getting a positive result, she was frightened.

“Like this isn’t a joke,” Ashley said. “This is real. I was scared. I’m a kid. I’m a kid about to have a kid. How do you do that?”

When Ashley told the child’s father, he urged her to have an abortion. She didn’t want to, but eventually conceded.

She had an appointment for a chemical abortion at seven weeks and five days gestation. The abortion facility staff told her that once she took the first abortion pill, it would block her hormones, and her baby would stop growing.

“And then you go home, and you finish it at home,” Ashley recalled. “And I just sat in that waiting room and he was like, ‘You’re already here. You’re already here. You’re already here you go. Just do it.’”

The chemical abortion regimen consists of two drugs. The first, mifepristone, blocks progesterone, the natural hormone in a woman’s body necessary to sustain pregnancy. The second drug, misoprostol, taken a day or so later, causes the mother to

go into labor and deliver her deceased child.

Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) entails taking progesterone to counter the first abortion drug. If a mom acts quickly enough

doubt. You didn’t try to be a mom.”

Ashley was terribly upset.

“I couldn’t do anything but cry,” she said. “I was like, I don’t want to do this. I don’t



*Mom Ashley with baby Thailynn
Photo: Women’s Choice Network*

after taking the first abortion pill, it may be possible to save her unborn child through the APR protocol.

“And then I took the abortion pill,” Ashley said.

She immediately had regret.

“I felt like I did the wrong thing,” Ashley said. “And I hated that I did that. Is there any way I can take back? Like I can’t take this back. I just killed my baby. That’s scary.”

She kept telling herself that she went ahead with the abortion because she was unsure.

“But it’s like, exactly, you were unsure,” she said, “you didn’t give it the benefit of the

want to do this. I can’t even describe it. I just felt a burden on me. Like I felt heavy. I felt like I did the wrong thing, and I couldn’t take it back.”

Ashley wondered how she would live with this decision for the rest of her life.

She contacted the abortion provider for help, to no avail.

“I called back the doctors who gave me the abortion pill and they were like, no, no. Like the progesterone is gone,” Ashley said. “I’m freaking out. I was terrified. I thought, okay, I lost my baby. I did it. There’s nothing I can do about it.”

Ashley went on the internet and searched, “Is there any way

to reverse an abortion?”

She called the Abortion Pill Rescue® Network (APRN) hotline and heard back from a nurse consultant first thing in the morning. The nurse connected her with Women’s Choice Network, where Nurse Manager Gloria Hale arranged for her progesterone prescription. This took some doing since it was a Sunday.

“I would not still be pregnant if it wasn’t for that,” said Ashley.

Ashley said several times over the phone that she just wanted to see the baby’s heartbeat, Hale said. They were successful in getting the progesterone started and Ashley came into the pregnancy help medical clinic Monday morning for an ultrasound.

“She brought her mom with her,” Hale told Pregnancy Help News. “Words can’t capture the relief shown and then absolute glow on her face as we showed her the baby’s heart beating. I’ll never forget Ashley’s excitement as she grabbed her mom’s hand and said, ‘Mom, that’s my baby!’”

The APRN is managed by Heartbeat International and is made up of around 1,100 medical professionals and pregnancy help organizations that facilitate APR. The Network’s statistics show that to date, 3,000 lives and counting have been saved thanks to APR.

“Every night, I laid down and I prayed, and I let God know I’m thankful for him,” Ashley said. “I reversed my abortion, and I am pregnant. I’m about to give birth to a beautiful baby girl.”

Life is a good which should always be cherished, protected, and loved

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

Something always strikes me in the days leading up to Easter. It is a passage from Scripture that is often repeated as Christians mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

The line is a question uttered by Pontius Pilate, who stands in judgment of Christ. It is just a few words, but it's a quotation that could be the hallmark of our age: "What is truth?"

People who consider themselves agnostic when it comes to abortion policy frequently claim that they do not know when life begins—as if the truth is unknowable. But, in fact, each human life has a beginning and an ending. A 4D Ultrasound clearly shows us that the beginning is long before birth. The only logical conclusion is that life begins at conception.

Once that truth is accepted, it is difficult to deny the humanity of the preborn

What is truth?

Truth is that a heartbeat can be detected 24 days after



child—especially when that face appears on a screen. It is one thing to talk theoretically about “choice”—it is quite another to hear the heartbeat of “choice’s” victim.

conception. Brain waves are apparent 44 days after conception. At 12 weeks in utero, the preborn child can move her arms and legs and suck her thumb.

Truth is that abortion takes the life of an innocent, unrepeatable human being.

Truth is that abortion destroys the physical bond between mother and child.

Truth is that each abortion changes the world forever, because it denies the world of a unique soul.

The truth may seem inconvenient, but it is nonetheless the truth.

In the end, as has been often quoted, the truth shall set us free. Living in the truth will help us to rebuild a culture of life in our communities and in our country.

Instead of asking, “What is truth?” let us boldly ask, “What can I do to promote life?” For the truth of the matter is that life is a good which should always be cherished, protected, and loved.

So-called “Women’s Health Protection Act” defeated again in the Senate

From page 1

Democrats claimed to be pushing the Women’s Health Protection Act because of *Roe v. Wade’s* potentially demise, this piece of legislation has been trotted out in various forms for decades.

Background

On May 9th, 2022, Majority Leader Schumer delivered floor remarks after filing cloture to set up a vote on S. 4132. He said in part,

It will be one of the most important questions this chamber confronts in decades, because for the first time in fifty years, women in America face the real possibility of living in a world where the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are a thing of the past. It will set up a situation where our children, women children, female children have less rights than their grandparents, something that is so un-American, taking away rights, stepping backward on rights in such a dramatic way.

An earlier version of the legislation, known as the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was pushed by pro-abortion forces beginning in the late 1980s, when they feared that the Supreme Court was preparing to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. When President Clinton, a FOCA supporter, took office in January 1993, Planned Parenthood predicted that the FOCA would be law within six months.

But the bill died after an education and lobbying campaign led by NRLC persuaded many pro-*Roe* lawmakers that the bill went beyond *Roe* and would strike down many state laws that had broad support.

The original FOCA faded from view after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in the 1994 election. President Obama endorsed this radical legislation during his 2008 run for president, but was never successful in attracting all Democrats, nor Republican, support. It has been introduced in various forms over the years since.

During the fight over the earlier versions, proponents of the bill often tried to deny effects that they have already admitted with respect to the new bill. This included the invalidation of all restrictions on government funding of abortion.

However, now the embrace of running roughshod over even the most common-sense state abortion restriction is complete. 49 of 50 current Democrat Senators **voted for** the “Women’s Health Protection Act” and 218 Democrat House members voted for the measure (see here: <https://cqrengage.com/nrlc/app/vote/403798?11>).

S. 4132 would enshrine into law abortion-on-demand and would overturn existing pro-life laws and prevent new protective laws from being enacted at the state and federal levels. This bill seeks to strip away from elected lawmakers the ability to provide even the most minimal protections for unborn children, at any stage of

their pre-natal development.

S. 4132 would invalidate nearly all existing state limitations on abortion and prohibit states from adopting new limitations in the future, including various types of laws specifically upheld as constitutionally permissible by the U.S. Supreme Court.

S. 4132 would invalidate most previously enacted federal limits on abortion, including federal conscience protection laws and most, if not all, limits on government funding of abortion.

Among the protective laws that the bill would nullify:

- *Requirements to provide women seeking abortion with specific information on their unborn child and on alternatives to abortion;
- *Laws providing reflection periods (waiting periods);
- *Laws allowing medical professionals to opt-out of providing abortions;

- *Laws limiting the performance of abortions to licensed physicians;
- *Bans on elective abortion after 20 weeks when an unborn child is capable of feeling pain;
- *Bans on the use of abortion as a method of sex selection. Anti-sex selection laws generally have broad public support in the states in which they are enacted, including support from substantial majorities of women.

While this vote fell far short of the 60 votes needed, it is only due to the fact that the filibuster remains intact. It is more critical now than ever to hold those voting for this radical legislation accountable at the ballot box this fall.

Should Democrats gain seats in the Senate, it is extremely likely that they would eliminate the filibuster and only require simple majority votes to pass sweeping legislation like the “Women’s Health Protection Act.”

ABORTION

is not a “human right”
when another

HUMAN'S RIGHTS

are taken away.

They refused to have an abortion, and their son is beating the odds

By Bridget Sielicki

One couple in Northern Ireland was told to undergo an abortion when doctors believed their son wouldn't survive birth. But the little boy defied the odds and is now thriving at home with his family. The story is yet another cautionary tale demonstrating that prenatal

screening tools aren't always accurate, yet far too many parents are advised to abort based on their results. Brenda Dortman and Francis Casey said that after a 12-week scan, it looked like their son's organs were growing

outside his body and he likely had Trisomy 18, or Edwards syndrome. Doctors didn't believe the child would survive birth, and advised the couple to have an abortion. The couple refused, and now little Frankie has proven all the doctors wrong.

his liver and bowel that we know of to date," Dortman explained to Belfast Live.

"Exomphalos is often associated with chromosome abnormalities like Edwards, Downs and Patau syndrome. In our case, the medical professionals were almost

on their son. "We thankfully continued with the pregnancy despite the odds stacked against us, the fear was unbelievable. We prayed day and night and I think everyone in the town that knew about our situation was praying for Frankie," Dortman said.

Miraculously, Frankie made it to a full-term delivery, and weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces at birth. And while the early tests had showed he likely had Edwards syndrome, he was born without the condition. While Frankie's other medical needs required him to spend several months in the hospital, he has since been able to go home with his family. His mother said that at 10 months old, he is now learning to accept solid foods and drink from a cup.

"Frankie, in general, is such a joy. A very well behaved and happy child despite all his abnormalities, medical needs and everything he's been through," Dortman said. "He is a real people person and loves people chatting to him. He is at the babbling stage now and it's great to see. He has just brought so much joy to our lives."

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screening tools aren't always accurate, yet far too many parents are advised to abort based on their results.

Brenda Dortman and Francis Casey said that after a 12-week scan, it looked like their son's organs were growing

"We found out about Frankie's abnormalities at our 12-week scan, [where] an exomphalos major was detected. Exomphalos is an abdominal wall defect where some of his organs are on the outside. In Frankie's case it's

certain Frankie had Edwards syndrome and we were told Edwards babies don't live very long after birth, therefore we were often offered the option to terminate."

Despite the grim outlook, the parents refused to give up

The human touch, the healing touch, helps a pregnant woman whose “soul was broken”

By Dave Andrusko

If you did not have the opportunity to read “The Power of Hope,” I would very much like to encourage you to take the time.

Like every untimely pregnancy, Yascara’s story is unique.

What is not unique was the love and comfort and solace and concrete aid offered to her by HOPE in NOVA, a woman-helping center, located in Northern Virginia, which has provided offered pregnancy counseling & assistance since 1971. I’d like to take five minutes to highlight what she wrote, because what HOPE provided to a woman whose first child had multiple disabilities is a roadmap for what we can do on a much smaller, individual scale.

Yascara was alone, utterly alone, away from her family which lived in another country when she became pregnant with her second child. A recurring theme in her story is that her doctor assumed she would abort. This assumption no doubt grew when she not only developed placenta previa but because she also bled a lot and was in constant pain.

That is where a woman-helping center like HOPE came in. Before she met the woman from HOPE who provided hope, Yascara felt “bad and guilty” and was so despondent she didn’t know if she wanted to live.

As she wrote in a line I won’t soon forget, “My soul was broken.”

Here’s a key paragraph:

From the beginning the person who took care of me was kind. I think she knew how I was feeling. My soul was broken. She told me to choose whatever



maternity clothes I wanted. She gave me a plan of what to expect from Hope during and after my pregnancy. She gave me hope and confidence that day, and the most lovely hug that put all my pieces back together.

Let’s flesh this out.

*“From the beginning...” Even if a woman coming into a woman-helping center isn’t

necessarily abortion-prone, she is highly vulnerable. That first impression is all important.

*And “she was kind,” Yascara wrote. “I think she knew how I was feeling.” It is not at all uncommon that the volunteers are women who have been through a crisis pregnancy themselves. “Empathy is a much over-used word, but it

my pregnancy” but also as a way of getting her life under control.

*Hope and confidence. Remember, her first born, among other difficulties, was partially blind. Yascara had placenta previa, (when the placenta covers the opening in the mother’s cervix), bleeding (which often accompanies placenta previa), and constant pain during her pregnancy. She feared she would lose her baby.

Who could possibly use “hope and confidence” more?

*And she gave Yascara “the most lovely hug that put all my pieces back together.” The human touch, the healing touch, the touch that told her she had a friend who cared. All this helped her put the pieces of her life back together again.

This particular story has a happy, happy ending. Her daughter, Rebecca, was born “happy and healthy.” And Yascara has maintained a relationship with the woman she met that first day at HOPE.

“The people at Hope are sensitive and caring,” she writes. “God bless their hearts for caring for families like ours.”

God bless them, indeed! And bless all of you who help women through this incredible challenge.

applies perfectly here.

*The volunteer who worked with her provided her with maternity clothes. To the outsider, that might seem either obvious or unimportant. It is neither. It was an example of meeting a need, and quickly, and signaling that you understand the rigors of what she is going through.

*She provided a plan...this cannot be emphasized enough. Not just what she could “expect from HOPE during and after

A.D. (After Dobbs)

From page 2

and protested against the abortion regime. Indeed, the massive annual March for Life demonstrations in Washington D.C. have been among the best-attended protests in American history. Pro-lifers also willingly accepted the scorn of the media, popular culture, and many politicians in the greater cause of saving unborn lives.

POLITICO's Josh Gerstein and Alexander Ward broke the story. They wrote

“The Supreme Court has voted to strike down the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, according to an initial draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito circulated inside the court and obtained by POLITICO.

The draft opinion is a full-throated, unflinching repudiation of the 1973 decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of abortion rights and a subsequent 1992 decision — *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* — that largely maintained the right.

“*Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start,” Alito writes.

Rich Lowry lathered his op-ed in sarcasm:

Despite what you might have learned in high school civics, the Supreme Court really only has one role in our system of government — to uphold *Roe v. Wade*.

Lowry continued

Left-wing commentators have hailed the shocking leak of the opinion and said that the Court deserves to be burned down and even ended altogether for the offense of finding no constitutional warrant for one of the court's most controversial and consequential decisions of the last half-century.

That's the animating sentiment behind the furor over the leak of a Supreme Court opinion drafted for a majority by Justice Samuel Alito overturning *Roe* and *Casey*.

In his draft opinion (which was dated February 10), Justice Alito wrote that “*Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start.”

Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging

consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, *Roe* and *Casey* have enflamed debate and deepened division. It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives.”

It is no accident that supporters of *Roe* and the 1992 *Casey* decision rely heavily on stare decisis—the power of precedent. What else do they have? But, as Justice Alito wrote, “In many other occasions, this Court has overruled important constitutional decisions. ... Without these decisions, American constitutional law as we know it would be unrecognizable, and this would be a different country.”

Actually, they do have another line of attack. In lieu of an argument, critics of the draft have demagogued, insisting that overturning the “right” to abortion would endanger other rights unrelated to abortion. Justice Alito anticipated this rejoinder.

He wrote “To ensure that our decision is not misunderstood or mischaracterized, we emphasize that our decision concerns the constitutional right to abortion and no other right. Nothing in this opinion should be understood to cast

doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion.”

As *NPR* (how many times have we favorably quoted *NPR*?) wrote “Alito also repeatedly suggests that any right not explicitly outlined in the Constitution must be ‘deeply rooted’ in American history and tradition in order to be recognized by the Supreme Court. ‘Until the latter part of the 20th century, there was no support in American law for a constitutional right to obtain an abortion. Zero. None.’”

Of course—**of course!**—that didn't prevent pro-abortion President Joe Biden from telling reporters, “This is about a lot more than abortion. What are the next things that are going to be attacked?”

Jonah Goldberg noted that this is a familiar Biden tactic. “Biden's plan is to return ‘to a playbook he crafted 35 years ago’ when he opposed Robert Bork's nomination as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. To that end, the White House wants to make the case that this is about more than abortion.”

Undoubtedly, more demagoguery to come.

If you are not subscribing free of charge to *NRL News Today*, please do so immediately. We will be writing each Monday through Friday about the latest on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, as well as other important issues. Go to <https://mailchi.mp/nrlc/emailsignup>

Polling proves that when the public learns about abortion, they support restrictions

By Nancy Flanders

A recent article in *The Washington Post* made the claim that abortion restrictions recently introduced and passed in pro-life states (such as The Texas Heartbeat Act and Florida's new law that restricts abortion to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy) are "well outside the mainstream of America." But polling has consistently shown that Americans largely support such restrictions on abortion when they are educated about what they entail.

In the April 14 piece for the *Post*, writer Amber Phillips argues that most Americans support abortion access, based on a 2021 *Washington Post-ABC News* poll asking U.S. adults, "Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold *Roe v. Wade* or overturn it?" That poll appears to show that most Americans want *Roe v. Wade* to be upheld (60%), but it failed to explain what it would mean for *Roe v. Wade* to be upheld versus overturned.

Most Americans don't realize that *Roe v. Wade* doesn't simply "uphold a woman's right to abortion up until about 24 weeks of pregnancy" as Phillips claims, but that, along with its sister case *Doe v. Bolton*, it allows abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason — including financial reasons. Overturning it wouldn't outlaw abortion but would allow states to make their own abortion laws. A previous analysis showed that when poll respondents are asked about *Roe v. Wade*, the majority don't even understand what *Roe v. Wade* actually allows regarding abortion. Therefore, asking the public whether they support

a court case they don't even understand accomplishes little.

Together, *Roe* and *Doe* forced states to legalize abortion through 24 weeks for any reason, and then allowed states to restrict abortion after that point if they so choose. Because some states have chosen to enact zero restrictions on abortion, it is effectively legal up until birth in those states.

The flawed *Washington Post-ABC News* poll also asked, "A state law in Texas authorizes private citizens anywhere in the country to sue anyone who performs or assists in an abortion in Texas after about six weeks of pregnancy. Do you think the U.S. Supreme Court should uphold or reject this law?" According to the results, 65% of Americans think the law should be rejected — but those answers weren't based on when abortion is restricted, but on how that law is enforced. Those are two very different questions.

Such skewed polling can never be relied on to reveal the truth.

Instead, look to the polls that focus on the details. A Rasmussen poll asked likely voters about The Texas Heartbeat Act: "The Supreme Court has refused to block a new Texas law that effectively prohibits most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Do you support or oppose the Texas law?" This more specifically-focused question revealed that 46% of those who responded (the plurality of those polled) agreed with the Texas law restricting abortion to the first six weeks of pregnancy. Forty-three percent opposed the law.

Likewise, a poll commissioned by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University found that when respondents were specifically told that the Texas law involves restricting abortion once a preborn child's

abortion should be 'generally illegal' during the second trimester."

That Marquette University Law School poll revealed more about why some polls can make it appear that Americans support unrestricted abortion. In a nationwide survey of 1,004 adults in the period November 1-10, the poll found



heartbeat can be detected, 55% said they supported the law. Forty-five percent opposed it. However, prior to learning the specifics of the law, 69% had said it was too restrictive. Having the facts matters.

In addition, a *Wall Street Journal* poll found that more people support a restriction on abortion at 15 weeks than oppose it. Forty-eight percent of respondents said they support a 15-week abortion restriction while 43% said they oppose it.

"This recent *Wall Street Journal* poll adds to the body of data which shows that people support legal protections of preborn children after 15 weeks gestation. Two out of three polls conducted by Marquette University Law School since September of 2021 show such laws enjoy majority support. Furthermore, six Gallup polls taken since 1996 all found that at least 65% of Americans think

that "Despite the intensity of political arguments over *Roe* for nearly 50 years, 32% say they haven't heard anything or haven't heard enough about this issue to have an opinion."

As pointed out by National Right to Life, this is why abortion proponents use euphemisms and strategic marketing to keep up the falsehood that preborn children are not persons and that abortion is a right, while working to keep Americans in the dark about how expansive *Roe v. Wade* allowed abortion laws to be. While Americans continue to erroneously believe that *Roe* legalized abortion in the first trimester, *Roe* and *Doe* allowed abortion up until birth. Since most Americans oppose that, most Americans oppose *Roe v. Wade*.

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

Connecticut Senate passes expansive abortion law amid talk of pro-abortion racism

By Nancy Flanders

Following a heated debate, Connecticut Senators passed a bill that will expand abortion in the already abortion-friendly state. The bill will allow non-doctors to commit abortions in order to expand access, and also protect a Connecticut-residing abortionist or any resident who assists in an illegal abortion in another state and faces a lawsuit under the Texas Heartbeat Act or a similar law.

The Senate voted 25-9 with two Republicans absent shortly before midnight on Friday. It had previously passed the House 87-60 and Governor Ned Lamont has vowed to sign it.

Under the bill, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and nurse-midwives will be able to commit first-trimester surgical abortions in addition to distributing the abortion pill. Currently, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is facing lawsuits in Connecticut involving non-doctors at their facilities. The bill was created because most physicians do not want to commit abortions and women are waiting up to two weeks to undergo one.

The bill would also protect a Connecticut resident who assists in an illegal abortion in Texas or another state with a similar law to that of Texas' Heartbeat Act. The Heartbeat Act allows private citizens to sue abortionists and anyone who assists in obtaining an

abortion once a preborn child's heartbeat is detected, usually at about six weeks. (A preborn human's heart begins beating just 21 days after fertilization.) The bill changes Connecticut's extradition statute so that Connecticut residents cannot be summoned by another state.

One of the most outspoken legislators in opposition to the bill is Rep. Trenee McGee (D-West Haven), who inspired members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus with her passionate speech.

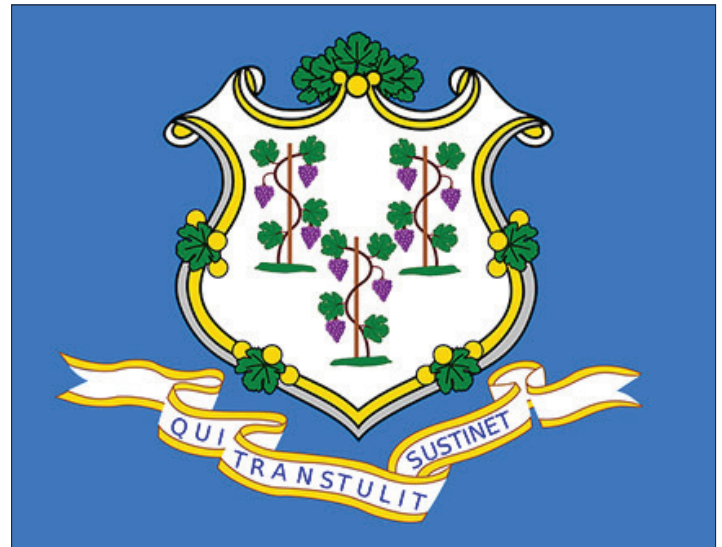
"I want to speak to the history of this industry and why I think it's destructive to my community," McGee said, referencing the fact that Black women "obtain 36.2% of all reported abortions. Black women have the highest abortion ratio in the country — 474 abortions per 1,000 live births."

Though he supported the bill, Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Democrat from Hartford, said McGee's speech was one of the best he had heard. "She said [abortion is] used as birth control in our community," he said. "I'm just giving you the facts. You make your own decision. ... Rep. McGee pulled the scab off something. Yes, she did."

Sen. Patricia Billie Miller, a Democrat from Stamford who voted against the bill, spoke about the racist history of so-called family planning, stating, "Babies were ripped

from Black mothers, African mothers, during slavery. That's the history that Black women and Native American women have had to endure. ... There's

view this. ... I'm sorry if I'm emotional ... but this goes back to Africa for me. ... This goes deeper than just choice. ... Sometimes we don't have the



no way that I can accept a system that would intentionally take a baby from a mother. ... yes, they sterilized men, too. It wasn't just women."

She continued, "I know I'm not going to be the most popular person after tonight. [McGee] said, in the black community, abortions are birth control. That's true. ... I hear family planning — code word for abortion. Why can't it be a code word for planning your family?"

She continued, "I agree it is her body to choose. ... I cannot support a system that has tried, systemically, to get rid of a race of people. ... Sorry, this is about racism, and that's how I

choice because we don't have the money."

Sen. Marilyn Moore of Bridgeport said she worked for Planned Parenthood for eight years but was now thinking differently. "What I learned at Planned Parenthood was how much racism and distrust there is in the medical system. ... People talk about why Black people don't want to get vaccinated because we've had medical apartheid. .. Right now, I'm not feeling good about this bill. Planned Parenthood will need to step up and say we need to do better."

Editor's note. This appeared at Live Action News.

Federal court instructs judge to dismiss lawsuit against Texas Heartbeat Act

By Texas Right to Life

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals effectively ended abortionists' primary lawsuit over the Texas Heartbeat Act on April 25. The ruling from a three-judge panel ordered district court Robert Pitman to dismiss the challenges to the private enforcement of the Texas Heartbeat Act in *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson*. The last step is for Pitman to dismiss the case.

Since passage of the law, abortion proponents filed 22 lawsuits trying to stop enforcement of the Texas Heartbeat Act, 14 of which are against Texas Right to Life.

This case traveled to the U.S. Supreme Court twice, which dismissed several key defendants in December. The U.S. Supreme Court allowed *Whole Woman's Health v.*

Jackson to continue in the Fifth Circuit against only a few state agencies.

The Fifth Circuit then asked the Texas Supreme Court to

the authority to enforce the Texas Heartbeat Act under state law and returned the question to the Fifth Circuit.

With this ruling, all of the



weigh in. Texas Supreme Court judges unanimously agreed these state agencies do not have

abortion industry's targets became immaterial to the legal proceedings.

The Fifth Circuit's instruction to dismiss the challenge to the Texas Heartbeat Act's enforcement mechanism confirms what Texas Right to Life has known since the beginning: The abortion industry's legal attacks are meritless.

The Texas Heartbeat Act continues to stop approximately 50% of abortions each day in Texas. We await a ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* from the Supreme Court of the United States, which could overturn *Roe v. Wade* and allow states to protect all preborn children from elective abortion. Until then, we praise God for the continued legal success of the Texas Heartbeat Act.

“They saved not only my life, but my daughter’s life”- Young mom grateful for APR, pregnancy help

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Ashley remarked on the help she received from the APRN and Women's Choice Network, and how it was offered without judgement.

“Nobody's telling you what you did was wrong and now you have to live with it,” she said. “They're 100%. Like I will help you from my own pockets. I will take money out of my own pocket and go help you.”

It can be a roller coaster of emotions not only for the client but for those involved in caring for her as well, Hale said.

“From responding to her desperate phone call with words of affirmation, encouragement, and hope, to holding our breath alongside of her as the ultrasound begins and we're hoping to see a viable pregnancy,” she said. “However, with all that said, it is truly a blessing and privilege to come alongside these brave women and support them in every way we can through their APR and pregnancy experience.”

Ashley gave birth to daughter

Thailynn in August 2021.

The young mom shared her story last fall via video with the attendees of the Women's Choice Network banquet, then joining staff onstage afterward with Thailynn.

“It was an incredible moment for our crowd,” said Executive Director Amy Scheuring. “It's so humbling to see how God uses us to intervene and transform.”

After the Women's Choice Network event Ashley and Thailynn were doing well,

settling in with Ashley's parents.

“And the whole family is in love with Thailynn,” Hale told Pregnancy Help News.

“Woman's choice network. 100% gave me my baby,” said Ashley. “They saved not only my life, but my daughter's life.”

Editor's note: Heartbeat International manages the Abortion Pill Rescue Network and Pregnancy Help News where this first appeared. Reposted with permission.

Who'd have guessed? Pro-abortion Kate Smith, formerly of *CBS News*, joins Planned Parenthood

By Dave Andrusko

When Kate Smith quit her job at *CBS News* last year, this stenographer for the Abortion Industry famously tweeted that she could finally be “candid about my own opinions on reproductive rights.”

“Candid”? Short of hiring a skywriter, her pro-abortion sympathies couldn't have been clearer.

Below is her Instagram post from July 15, 2021:

“Now that I'm not a reporter I can be candid about my own opinions on reproductive rights. I'll say this: With or

without *Roe v Wade* access to abortion is disappearing across the South and Midwest for low income women. And it's happening more or less under the radar.”

(“Under the radar”? Who is kidding whom? “Reporters” like Smith have been howling about this for years.)

In announcing that she was accepting a job with Planned Parenthood “as its first ever senior director of news content,” she was simply

following the inevitable arc of her career.

“Thrilled to be joining Planned Parenthood full-time on this exciting new project. Much, much more to come. Stay tuned!” gushed Ms. Smith.

Valerie Richardson, a veteran reporter for the *Washington Times*, quoted both critics and supporters of Smith's work and her choice of where she landed. Among the supporters were, of course, fellow employees of the Abortion Industry.

Those cheering the move included Brandon Richards, communications director of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

“Huge congrats Kate!!!” he tweeted in all capital letters. “This is so awesome and welcome to the PP team!”

Melanie Roussell Newman, Planned Parenthood senior vice president, tweeted: “So excited about this news, and so proud to welcome @byKateSmith to the @PPFA team!”

When she quit, Smith airmailed that she was disappointed in her colleagues'

lack of faith in the abortion cause:

It's a pivotal moment for abortion rights, and one that deserves a lot of coverage and our attention. Editors, I know there's reader and viewer fatigue when it seems like the millionth six-week ban. But it still major news and ought to be covered.

So, just to point out the obvious. Why would there be “reader and viewer fatigue when it seems like the millionth six-week ban” unless there were like a million stories on this ban and every other piece of pro-life legislation? There's been no shortage of abortion talking points masked as news “stories.”

And, of course, a year ago, the Supreme Court had not yet heard the case out of Mississippi, a ban on abortion after the 15th week!

I concluded my comments last year with this:

“We'll see Smith's byline soon enough. There are plenty of openings for someone who parrots the Planned Parenthood line.”

Well, I'll be darned.



American Academy of Pediatrics changes guidelines on Down syndrome diagnosis

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser

The way parents receive a Down syndrome diagnosis will hopefully be changing after years of advocacy. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is updating their guidelines on how medical professionals deliver a diagnosis, something that could be potentially life-saving.

The Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network (DSDN) originally launched on World Down Syndrome Day in 2014, with the goal of helping to support families after receiving a Down syndrome diagnosis, both prenatally and after birth. The other part of their mission was to improve how the medical community delivers a diagnosis, with an emphasis on accurate, up-to-date information. DSDN also promoted nationally recognized guidelines on how to deliver a diagnosis properly, a physician feedback program, and resources for medical professionals.

Another DSDN campaign featured letters written by parents to the doctors who delivered their diagnoses; while a small number were positive, the majority were negative. One mother said doctors referred to her baby as “it”; another woman’s doctor said her daughter would be a ‘vegetable’.

Part of the DSDN mission has included medical outreach, which again, has involved negative experiences. Heather Bradley, a member of the Board of Directors and former president of DSDN, spoke about what was said during an American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District meeting in Wisconsin.

“In speaking with a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist from Minnesota, he said that delivering a Down syndrome diagnosis was like giving someone a ‘crap sandwich,’”



she wrote on Facebook. “When a new or expectant parent is just told the news their baby has Down syndrome and the first words are ‘I’m so sorry’ or ‘When should I schedule the termination?’, what is that physician saying about their CHILD? It most definitely tells them that their child IS a ‘crap sandwich.’”

One survey found that just 11% of women reported having a positive prenatal diagnosis experience, while another survey found that 13% of doctors admitted purposely overemphasizing the negative aspects of Down syndrome in an effort to pressure parents into abortion.

But the years of hard work and advocacy is slowly paying off. The AAP’s new clinical report includes updated guidelines on how physicians should deliver a diagnosis. Families

When it comes to prenatal diagnoses, doctors are to include prenatal care considerations, and to take a “non-directive” approach to discussing options; in other words, no more assuming the parents want an abortion, making appointments without their permission first, or pressuring them into abortions.

“For [EIGHT] YEARS we have been working with health care professionals to improve the diagnosis experience for families. We were steadfast in sharing the stories of our DSDN families with medical professionals, so they knew what the current realities were and to ask them to embrace and advocate for using an accurate, up-to-date, unbiased approach to sharing the news of a Down syndrome diagnosis.

“We specifically asked for prenatal medical care guidelines for a Down syndrome pregnancy, and to connect families to national and local support organizations as soon as possible,” DSDN Founding Director of Medical Outreach, Jenny Di Benedetto, said in a statement. She added, “We made a real and tangible change in the way a Down syndrome diagnosis is going to be delivered. Us. This group of moms who never gave up. For [EIGHT] YEARS we advocated and this week, when we were least expecting it, the medical community showed us that they listened. They heard us, they agreed with us, and they are advocating alongside us.”

are to be congratulated (no more apologizing for a child’s existence), to refer to the baby by name, and to make sure a support person is there for the parents during the discussion.

Physicians are also told to leave out their own personal biases, to use up-to-date and accurate information, to use person-first language, and to connect parents to local support groups and resources. Doctors are also told to emphasize the positive aspects of Down syndrome, including improved medical outcomes and the fact that people with Down syndrome and their families overwhelmingly report being happy with themselves and their lives.

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

Some thoughts on why abortion activists so hate photos of pre-born babies

By Jonathon Van Maren

If the pre-born are not human, pro-life apologist Scott Klusendorf is fond of saying, then no defence of abortion is necessary. But if they are human, no defence of abortion is adequate. The entire abortion debate hinges on whether or not the person being aborted is, in fact, a person. Human beings have human rights. Human rights can only begin when the human being begins. And there is an iron-clad scientific consensus as to when a new, unique, and whole human being begins his or her life: At fertilization.

As we have acquired the ability to witness what takes place in the womb during the earliest stages of human development through ultrasound technology, the pro-choice movement has been forced into making increasingly untenable arguments. Many have simply accepted the fact that they are killing a human being, but claim that it is a moral act because it is legal. Others, like Peter Singer, have advocated for the legalization of infanticide and attempted to deny personhood status to pre-born children. Many simply attempt to deny the science entirely.

The difficulty with that last—and most common—approach is that it defies an enormous body of growing evidence. Thus, we have delusional articles like this column in *Vice*, titled “The Iconic Photo Hijacked By the Anti-Abortion Movement.” According to Amarins Eggeraat, images of babies in the womb should be being used as pro-life propaganda:

If you look up the word abortion in a stock image bank, you’ll find roughly three types of photograph: sad women, protesters holding pro-choice signs or foetuses,



usually near-fully developed, with a human face, closed eyes and sometimes even a tiny thumb in their mouth.

Besides being morally loaded, the visual association between these tiny babies and abortion is also scientifically incorrect, since the vast majority of procedures are carried before 13 weeks. And yet, anti-abortion movements have used foetuses as a primary symbol since the 1970s.

A few comments on those

strange assertions. Contrary to what Eggeraat suggests, many of the photos used by the pro-life movement (including the organization I work for) utilize photos of pre-born children prior to 13 weeks. Those children, contrary to

after appearing in *Life* magazine in 1956. Nilsson captured extreme closeups showing the different stages of human development, from fertilised egg to fully-formed baby.

The colour photographs were one of the first representations of the miracle of life, and really gave viewers the impression they were staring directly into the womb, looking at a foetus calmly floating around like a little astronaut. In reality, Nilsson photographed miscarried and aborted foetuses, using artist lighting and planning his subjects’ postures. The same year Nilsson’s series came out, a hospital in Glasgow used ultrasound technology for foetal screenings for the first time. Now our best tool for checking foetal development before birth, the ultrasound changed prenatal care (and motherhood) forever.

These scans were more than a medical exam – they were our earliest “window into the womb”, as media studies professor José van Dijck wrote in 2001. Before then,

her insinuation, look very much human. To imagine them suctioned into slurry is to visualize what Eggeraat is defending. More:

For most of human history, foetuses weren’t actually visible. We didn’t know much about how they evolved in the womb, we only had drawings and wax models based on stillborns, or foetuses preserved in jars of formaldehyde. That all changed with Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson’s book of photography *A Child Is Born*, which became a global sensation

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Some thoughts on why abortion activists so hate photos of pre-born babies

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only mothers could really know how the pregnancy was developing – they’d be the first to feel the signs of life, or if something wasn’t right.

‘But since these new exams could only be interpreted by specialists, medical personnel became responsible for directly monitoring the foetus’ well-being, while the mother’s role drifted into the background. “The same technology that made the foetus visible, has made the mother invisible,” wrote American political scientist Rosalind Pollack Petchesky in an influential 1987 essay.

Again, this is almost entirely revisionist history. The reason photographs of pre-born children were (and are) utilized was not to push mothers to the background or some such nonsense. It was to answer a fundamental question as the abortion movement began to achieve success: Who, exactly, was being aborted? If abortion simply removed a clump of cells, then we could comfortably accept its legalization.

But if it destroyed a child, that was another matter entirely. Photographs shed light on the subject at the centre of the abortion debate—the very subject abortion activists desperately wanted to avoid. More:

And then, the public window into women’s private domain became

political. Before ultrasound technology, anti-abortion activists often relied on religious or moral arguments against safe access



to abortions. But the powerful imagery of prenatal scans helped them strengthen their cause –triggering people’s protective instincts towards what looked like a tiny unborn child.

Still living in Sweden, Nilsson was said to have been shocked when he visited London in the 1980s to find his own images plastered on anti-abortion posters. Realising how the images were being used abroad, he refused to allow them to be published again, until an exhibition shortly before his death.

It really is impressive how much Eggeraats has managed

to get wrong. In fact, abortion was first banned in the United States because of campaign by doctors who had begun to realize, based on an increasing body of evidence, that life began



much earlier than “quickening” as previously assumed by many. (Dr. Daniel K. Williams of the University of West Georgia has written a fantastic book on this subject, *Defenders of the Unborn*.) The push to get pro-life legislation was a drive for science-based legislation.

More:

In her 1987 essay, Petchesky argued the pro-choice movement hadn’t found an image powerful enough to match the foetus as an icon of the anti-abortion movement. According to Christa Compas, director of Humanistisch Verbond – an NGO based on secular humanistic values – that remains true today. “I would love it if there was

a powerful image in support of the idea that people have the right to choose and shape their own lives,” Compas said in a 2019 interview.

The fact that women can die from unsafe abortions clearly hasn’t been enough to stamp out the anti-abortionist movement. Today, feminist movements across the world are going up against imagery that associates abortions with baby-killing. And for pregnant women, the procedure is still often associated with shame and tragedy. But in reality, many women also feel relief and a renewed sense of control after the procedure. Abortions can save lives: theirs.

Nowhere does Eggeraats address the central point here. The reason photos of the foetus are powerful is that they *show us who is being killed during an abortion*. A single photo of a baby in the womb dispels all the murky nonsense pushed by abortion activists and forces us to confront the truth about feticide.

Sonogram photos aren’t propaganda. They are evidence. Eggeraats’ essay inadvertently makes that point for us: Abortion activists cannot believably assert their unscientific claims unless photos of children in the womb are ignored or dismissed.

Editor’s note. This appeared at The Bridgehead and is reposted with permission.

The real “knowledge gap”: ignoring the dangers of DIY abortions

By Dave Andrusko

So much for down-the-middle coverage of chemical abortions, also known as medication abortion. *POLITICO* ran a story headlined “Abortion advocates’

doctors remain in the dark or misinformed about the pills, how to obtain them, where to seek follow-up care and

But we are doing our best to fill the **real** knowledge gap about the dangers of medication abortion, which the FDA unleashed last December when

take the second drug of the two-drug protocol.

What worries abortion advocates is that pro-life states are requiring women to have an in-person meeting with the abortionist. As Addia Wuchner, Executive Director, Kentucky Right to Life, explained

Without an in-person consultation between a pregnant woman or minor girl and a medical professional, not only is it difficult to assess any serious risk factors such as an ectopic pregnancy, but the door is also left wide open for vulnerable women and girls to be physically forced into an unwanted or quick decision on abortion. ...

A woman facing an unplanned pregnancy deserves the opportunity to learn about her options other than abortion, and deserves for her reproductive health to be respected rather than thrown down to a mail-order solution for such a serious, life-impacting decision, such as terminating the life of her child.



strategy depends on pills. An information gap threatens their efforts,” with a subhead “With SCOTUS decision looming, confusion and fear hinder post-*Roe* plans.”

Get a load of this lead from the story by Alice Miranda Ollstein and Megan Merrerly: “Mail-order abortion pills could help millions of people discreetly terminate their pregnancies should the Supreme Court strike down *Roe v. Wade* in the coming months, providing a way to circumvent mounting state-imposed restrictions.”

“Discreetly terminate”? “Circumvent mounting state-imposed restrictions”? That would be nirvana for abortion advocates. But...

But the majority of patients and many

how to avoid landing in legal jeopardy, according to medical groups, abortion-rights advocates and national polls.

This has left abortion advocacy groups “scrambling to get accurate educational, medical and legal information out about the pills to patients and providers.”

The remainder of Ollstein’s and Merrerly’s article outlines what abortion advocates doing to fill “knowledge gap.”

Is there anything—anything at all—the suggests/hints/intimates that there is a down side to chemical abortions? No, of course not. Abortion advocates and most journalists are two sides of the same coin.

it eliminated the requirement that women go in person to the abortionist’s office. The drugs can be mailed to them—“Do It Yourself” abortions—whose dangers are simply not acknowledged.

States are tackling medication abortions in various ways. They propose to ban the pills altogether or require their state’s informed consent law to inform women that there is a good chance they can save their baby if they promptly changes course—Abortion Pill Reversal.

The success of the Abortion Pill Reversal depends on a woman being told—being informed—that there is a window of opportunity to reverse the effects of the lethal chemical if she seeks medical attention in time and does not

National Right to Life has multiple sources on Do-I-Yourself abortions. They include our special report on DIY/Mail order abortion and our new factsheet on RU Safety and Efficacy, particularly addressing the special problems with DIY abortions.

Facing the pressures and fears of being unexpectedly pregnant later in life

By Dave Andrusko

I shared a number of tweets this weekend with my pastor. He is, like all of us, under tremendous strain. It is one thing (as he should have) to conduct Sunday services via Facebook. It's another to do so during Lent—especially Palm Sunday and, again, the following week on Easter.

The next time we talk I will not forget (as I have more than once, alas) to share the wonderful news about the daughter of one of the members of the Adult Sunday school class I lead. Her daughter was older, at the edge of the 15-44 age group that accounts for virtually all pregnancies. Everyone was worried sick there could be complications. Thankfully, there were none.

The experience of this grandmother/daughter/grandchild reminded me of some of the many posts I've written about women who become pregnant later-in some cases, much later in life. I particularly recall one, "I'm What? Accidentally pregnant at 42, I faced the hardest decision of my life," a deeply personal reflection that appeared at parenting.com

The title struck home for two reasons. My own mom, rest her soul, delivered my youngest brother when she was 40. My dad, an over-the-road truck driver, was gone, and I drove mom to the hospital. To this day the experience remains as vivid as if it happened yesterday. While she was delivering James, I was working on a paper for a writing class my freshman year in college!

The other reason is that two of the most pro-life women I know have told me how conflicted (to put it politely) they were, torn (to be more candid) when they found out they were pregnant at 39 and 41 years old, respectively.

As I often tell my "pro-choice" friends who insist pro-lifers live in some parallel universe free of struggles and difficulties, we are just human beings, too. It's what you do with those struggles and difficulties that count.

All pro-lifers know from first-hand experience there are many, many instances where a pregnancy seems terribly ill-timed. We know the fear that a



woman experiences, including the apprehension that she couldn't be a "good mother" at that stage of her life. (Dads can—and do—feel exactly the same sense of inadequacy.) That is a perfectly understandably reaction.

The story written by "Nancy" does a wonderful job conveying the emotional ups and downs. She and her husband had adopted two children after their attempts to have their own biological children fail, and then, wham!

And even though 42 years old, she tells us her first response was denial summarized in four words.

"This cannot be happening."

You look for clues in the narrative to figure out why Nancy reaches the decision she does.

It's off to an ominous start—the understandable worries about her age, her bouts of morning sickness, her sense that she's never really been into little babies, that all this is simply too much!

Nancy describes herself as a religious person who

"believes that God has a plan, and it usually works out if we just ride with it. In rare

alone what would be our first infant. More important, we both feel we have our family — these two girls are our babies, and we will never love anyone more. A biological child feels like an intrusion, a strange add-on to a beautiful family. The window of opportunity for more children is gone. We're done."

But she decides she has to know what she is getting herself into. "If I'm going to have an abortion, I have to learn something from the experience. I can't just look at this pregnancy as a mistake"—a very revealing remark.

Nancy tells friends who she believes will support her decision [!] and finds that a surprising number have had abortions. While they do not say "don't," they are not cheerleaders on behalf of abortion, either.

What strikes you is how true to life this is—how so much of what Nancy feels reflects how good (or bad) she feels that particular day. After she has wrestles with going in for a "termination consultation," she says

"I'm only 75 percent sure about my decision. The other 25 percent is terrified that I'll never forgive myself for giving the baby up, that I'll always wonder what it would have been like. I pray for some kind of resolution. I just want a sign. We need to move on."

moments I can imagine this will all be okay, that I'll be able to handle three children and even like it. But most of the time I want to scream, What kind of sick joke is God playing on me? I'm a weary mother of two with a high-pressure job and a house that's falling apart! I can't raise another child."

She wakes her husband up at three in the morning to discuss abortion.

"We talk for two hours, and the next morning we both feel relieved. Abortion, as awful as it is, feels like the right thing to do. Neither of us wants another child or feels equipped to deal with one, let

They're Human Too at Tulane University

By Kandace Landreneau, College Director, Louisiana Right to Life

On Wednesday, we brought our “We’re Human Too” Pro-Life Expo to Tulane. Tulane University is one of my favorite schools to go to because I always know it’s going to get the most attention on that campus.

Many people seem Tulane as “hopeless” when it comes to the pro-life message, but I feel it’s the exact place we should be.

You might be surprised to learn that there were more pro-life Tulane students who came up and talked to us than there were pro-life students at Northwestern State University. It’s hard to believe, but it’s real. Where it is “darkest” the light shines the brightest.

The pro-life student group is one of the bravest groups of students in the state. I never have to beg or convince them to do something bold on campus. They’re always all for it and they are fearless! They know what they believe, and they also know they have just as much of a right to say it at Tulane as the pro-choice group has a right to speak. Their boldness encourages me more than any other campus.

Our expo was packed all day long and we deliberately set up a “free speech” board where students could come up and write whatever they thought on the board. This allowed everyone to have an outlet to speak and for us to



start conversations. It worked beautifully.

The activism didn’t stop when I took the expo down and went back to Shreveport. For the last two days I’ve had over 100 Tulane students texting me, continuing the conversation. Some are texting me to vent, but others are texting and

calling me to have real, serious conversations about abortion. I respect that and admire their willingness to talk.

I had a 15 minute phone conversation with a pro-choice Tulane student that was one of the most productive

conversations of the whole trip. She called me and said “I saw the expo and wanted to follow up. I respect that you came, I just don’t understand why you want to take the choice and right away from women.”

During our calm and back and forth I explained to her that if the unborn is not a human life,

then abortion is totally fine, but since we know that the unborn IS a human life, then we have a serious problem.

We’re killing innocent human life every day and we have to deal with that. No one should have the choice or right to kill the defenseless. Our conversation ended cordially and it’s students like that who give me hope, because she was willing to talk and challenge her own ideas.

People often think that going to campuses like Tulane is just going to induce screaming matches, and that has never been the case when we’ve been there. Students get angry, sure, but what I always walk away with is know that we had dozens and dozens of great conversations with pro-choice students who were given the truth and now have to think about it. Our prayer and hope is that they never forget what they saw, many for the first time.

I can’t wait to go back to Tulane; I can’t wait to get to the rest of Louisiana’s colleges. Thank you for your continual support of our campus outreaches.

Facing the pressures

From page 40

Don’t know if it qualifies as a “sign,” but as she walks her oldest daughter to kindergarten she realizes she feels better even though the nausea remains strong in the morning.

“I think about another child and feel that the possibility might be there,” she writes. “After I drop her off, I end up walking all the way to work —

a good 40 minutes — just to prolong the good vibe.”

The pivot in many ways may be that because of the conflicting emotions, she has put off her “termination consultation.” And the baby that four weeks before “looked like a grain of rice,” now (she is shocked to see) “has arms and a head.”

Nancy tells us, “I walk out into the sunshine and realize I’m having another child.”

The conclusion will tear you up, at least it did me.

“A week later I’m sorting through summer clothes and packing some up for charity. Roma keeps taking things out of the

giveaway bag, and I get annoyed. ‘But Mom,’ she says, ‘We need to save these for the baby.’ John and I haven’t said a word to her, but she already knows.

“Everything is going to be okay. More than okay. Blessed? I think so.”

New poll is filled with great news for pro-lifers and terrible news for pro-abortion Democrats

From page 2

and their elected representatives.” Only 18% prefers “the status quo,” Rasmussen writes, which the draft *Dobbs* decision would eliminate. And 73% acknowledge that “there are two lives to consider” in abortion — “the woman’s and the unborn child.”

Incredibly good news but not a surprise to pro-lifers. We know the public does not have a grasp on the true legal dimensions of *Roe* (it essentially legalized abortion on demand throughout pregnancy) nor are they aware that if *Roe* is overturned, the issue goes back to the state legislatures.

Best yet, nearly three-quarters acknowledge that “there are two lives to consider” in abortion — “the woman’s and the unborn child.”

