national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

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Pro-Life Voters Mobilize to Stop Democrat Senate Takeover

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Pro-abortion Senator Chuck Schumer recently told supporters, "Now we take Georgia, then we change America!" If the pro-abortion Democrats, Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, win the runoff elections in Georgia the Democrats will seize control of the U.S. Senate. Sen. Schumer would become the Majority Leader and work to advance a radical pro-abortion agenda.

Schumer and Senate Democrats plan to pack the Supreme Court with additional liberal Justices who will uphold unlimited abortion on demand.

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116th Congressional Wrap-Up: Pro-life Wins and Challenges

By Jennifer Popik, NRLC Federal Legislative Director

As the 116th Congress comes to a close, it will certainly be one for the record books. Congress dealt not only with an impeachment trial, but with the effects of a global pandemic. Despite the tumult of the past two years, and facing a House led by pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.), the 116th Congress not only held the line on protecting long-standing pro-life policy, but also made strides in protecting the unborn.

As the 117th Congress approaches, the House will still be led by pro-abortion Democrats. However, their margins will be far slimmer than predicted. At the time of this writing, elections have produced a House with at least 18 new pro-life female members and, depending on final tallies, around 20 new pro-life men—a total of about 40 new pro-life members! Cumulatively, we flipped at least 13 seats from pro-abortion to pro-life.

The U.S. Senate is composed of 48 Democrats and 50 Republicans.

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Editorials

35 days out from the November 3 election. Where do we stand?

There are a thousand—actually probably a million—reasons why pro-life President Donald Trump has not conceded the 2020 election to pro-abortion Joe Biden. President Trump is utterly convinced he was robbed in a number of pivotal battleground states and is working on a multiplicity of fronts to prove his case.

Bravo! for him. Whatever happens, the President refuses to be bullied into passivity by the same media that dealt from the bottom of the deck for the past four years. Stay tuned.

I'd like to make a few points here that remind us what a force for unborn babies—at home and abroad—President Trump has been as well as how important he was in Republican successes in the statehouses and the House of Representatives.

First a number that staggered even me, someone who fully anticipated President Trump would receive a massive majority of my fellow believing and practicing Evangelical Christians, which also is a reflection of widespread skepticism about the validity of the reported election results.

George Barna is the go-to man if you're looking for hard numbers. Dr. Barna put out the results of a survey last week that are stunning.

Here are the opening three paragraphs from a story written by Mark Tapscott:

> **A national survey conducted a week after the Nov. 3 election found an unprecedented 99 percent turnout among strongly committed evangelical Christians, virtually all of whom voted for President Donald Trump.**

"That nearly universal turnout level [of strongly committed Evangelical Christians] dwarfed the estimated national turnout level of 66 percent, which itself was above-average," Dr. George Barna, who conducted the survey, said in a recent statement publicizing the results.

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So what do we know about Xavier Becerra, Joe Biden's designee to be Secretary of Health and Human Services?

Talk about a triple threat—to unborn babies, their public policy defenders, such as National Right to Life, and the Pregnancy Help Movement.

That in a nutshell is the resume of pro-abortion California Attorney General Xavier Becerra whom Joe Biden says he will appoint to the hugely influential position of Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Readers of *National Right to Life News* are likely most familiar with his anti-life tag-team efforts with Sen. Kamala Harris, who is Biden's even-more-pro-abortion-than-he-is Vice President and Becerra's predecessor as Attorney General. We wrote about their crusade against Pregnancy Help Centers in California at least a dozen times.

"In 2018, Becerra represented both the pro-abortion and anti-free speech side of the Supreme Court case, *NIFLA v. Becerra*, in which justices ruled in a 5-4 decision that California can't force crisis-pregnancy centers to post signs about state-sponsored abortion services," writes Madeline Osburn. This is in reference to California's "Reproductive FACT Act" which the Supreme Court should have thrown on a unanimous vote but didn't.

As National Right to Life wrote Monday, Becerra assumed a leadership role, working in conjunction with fellow pro-abortion attorneys general to fight pro-life legislation:

- Becerra led a pro-abortion coalition of state attorneys general in filing an *amicus* ["friend of the court"]brief supporting a pro-abortion challenge to pro-life laws in Arkansas;
- Becerra joined a pro-abortion coalition of attorneys general to file amicus brief in *June Medical Services v. Russo* that required abortionists to have the same hospital admitting privileges as other surgeons in the state;
- Becerra led a coalition of pro-abortion attorneys general in filing and amicus brief opposing Mississippi's pro-life law in *Jackson Women's Health Organization, et al. v. State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et al.*

See "Becerra," page 45

From the President
Carol Tobias

I Love Christmas

I love Christmas! I love the music. I love the decorations. I love the feeling of joy in the air. Strangers are friendlier and smile more. Even in these very hard and difficult times, people tend to be more generous toward those less fortunate, and peace, joy, and love seem to be more abundant everywhere. I love what this joyous season does for them and to me.

And I love most the Christmas story that started it all. God comes to earth as a baby, born to a young woman, to bridge the gap between us finite mortals and an infinite Creator.

A few years ago, I came across a song that was slightly different from other Christmas songs. It goes beyond the joy of Christmas to the real reason we celebrate. Entitled, "When the Angels' Song is Silent," by Mary Kay Beall, it starts:

When the angels' song is silent and the star is not so bright,
When the stable door stands open in the cold mid-morning light,
When the angels' song is silent and the shepherds have gone home,
Then the promise of Christmas begins.

When the angels' song is silent, and the prophecy's fulfilled,
When the swaddling clothes are folded, and the baby's cry is stilled;
When the angels' song is silent, and the drama is all done,
Then the promise of Christmas begins.

The song continues into Easter where the promise of Christmas is fulfilled at a cross that proves the Father's great love for you and for me.

The Christmas season comes as we approach the conclusion of a very, very difficult year. We've experienced the ups and down of COVID, elections, good and bad laws enacted, declining numbers of surgical abortions but an increasing number of chemical abortions.

We start the new year with challenges--some old, some new, some perennial. But that neither overwhelms us nor deters us. We remind ourselves that we are in this movement for the long haul. For we labor not for ourselves but for the little ones who otherwise would have no voice.

We know that 62 million unborn children have perished because the courts in our land determined these lives have no value.

Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry are working diligently to see that chemical abortion pills are available over the counter without a prescription, or that they can be mailed directly into someone's home for a do-it-yourself abortion. "Do It Yourself" abortions. Can there be an uglier phrase or more dangerous reality?

But we work not only on behalf of the children. We see the lives of the elderly and those with disabilities devalued as they are pushed out of the way, encouraged to seek a doctor's "assistance" in ending their lives, or their lives are taken as a result of starvation and dehydration or denial of life-saving medical treatment. That's in a "normal" year.

But 2020 was anything but normal. This year, tens of thousands of our elderly brothers and sisters died in nursing homes and assisted living centers from what certainly appears to be, at best, poor decisions, at worst discriminatory practices related to the COVID pandemic.

News stories and articles in medical journals written by "bioethicists" used the pandemic as an excuse to bring up one of their favorite topics: the possibility of rationing care based on the age and ability. Others raised the possibility of instituting mandatory "do not resuscitate" orders for COVID-19 patients, even if doing so overrode a patient's advanced directive or the family's wishes.

We stand committed to the proposition that the lives of the elderly and those with disabilities are no less valuable than other lives and should not be treated as though their lives are graded on a curve.

Pro-lifers work every day to change these attitudes of callousness and indifference to an attitude that respects and protects innocent human life.

What always amazes me about pro-lifers is their energy, their wisdom, their love, their joy, their fortitude, and so much more. I like to say we do everything with love in our hearts and a smile on our face. Pro-lifers are warm, caring individuals who, having seen the multiple threats to innocent life, willingly take on the challenge of being their protectors and their champions.

A final thought. We should not allow all of this to rob us of the joy of the Christmas season--the warmth, the excitement, the reassurance that there is more to the season than just gift-giving and a baby born in a manger. As dedicated pro-lifers, we know there is much to do in the coming year, and we will be ready for all of it. But that does not alter the reason for the season.

My sincere wish for all of you is that you have a joyous Christmas with loved ones. May there be peace in your heart, buoyed by the knowledge that there is no greater cause for which to give of yourself.

Youngest GOP woman elected to Congress in 2020 says Mom rejected abortion against the advice of her own family

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

The youngest Republican woman to be elected to Congress in 2020 credits her mother with saving her life.

Pro-life Florida Congresswoman-elect Kat Cammack (R-03), 32, told *Fox News* that doctors recommended abortion when her mother Ginny was pregnant with her. Even her own grandmother pushed for abortion.

Ginny had experienced a stroke when she was pregnant with Kat's sister at age 27, and physicians feared she would not survive a subsequent pregnancy. However, six years later, she was able to experience a healthy pregnancy and give birth to a healthy daughter in Kat.

Kat Cammack

As Cammack told *Fox*, "My mom chose life, which was very difficult for my family. For her to make that choice against the advice of her doctors and against the urging of her own family, that's pretty powerful. So for me, that's why I am personally pro-life."

As a newly-elected member of a Congress with a strong incoming pro-life female class of at least 18, Cammack plans to vote to defend the rights of preborn babies and for the protection of their mothers from the harm of abortion.

As *Fox News* reported, Cammack hopes to encourage other women to choose life for their unborn babies. She also plans to share her personal pro-life story on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Cammack, a former aide to Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL), will be replacing her former employer in Congress. She beat the odds by winning a 10-way primary in the Gainesville area on a pro-life platform.

Speaking of the other incoming pro-life female lawmakers, Cammack told *Fox News*, "We have incredible women that are powerhouses in their own right…whether we were in Congress together or not I would want to be friends with them."

The Disconnect of Pro-Abortion Thinking

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

Driving home after picking up my son from school, I noticed the car next to ours had a purple and white "pro-choice" bumper sticker on the driver's side. Where I live, it's always a little bit of a surprise to see these bumper stickers because our county leans conservative.

But, even more surprising, was the "baby on board" sign that waved gently back and forth in the rear window—also on the driver's side.

The messages could not have been more opposite. On the one hand, as a fellow driver, the "baby on board" sign was supposed to alert me to pay closer attention to this other driver's car—that I needed to give her extra distance when following or, if I passed her, I needed to be careful and not cut too quickly or sharply in front of her.

On the other hand, her "pro-choice" bumper sticker gave no such considerations to the unborn child. It made me wonder if the child strapped in the car seat was her first child from her first pregnancy and if her "pro-choice" bumper sticker was only a not terribly well thought philosophical statement. Or was the child a lucky survivor of someone who'd previously carried that statement into lethal practice?

Put more directly, was this woman pregnant before? Did her belief in "choice" culminate in the deaths of her first child--or even her second?

I have seen cars carry bumpers stickers that have contradicting philosophies—such as the gasoline-powered car with the bumper sticker arguing for no more fossil fuel—but, in this instance, the dichotomy runs much deeper and has more real-life (or death) impact. We in the pro-life movement are often accused of not caring for a baby after he or she has been born but that's not true. Anyone who has any understanding of the pro-life movement knows this.

Instead, when pro-abortion groups argue that we don't care, they are projecting: it is they don't care. They don't care about the baby before he or she is born. Increasingly, they argue that a living child born following an abortion should be allowed to die, a kind of retroactive abortion.

Ironically, the child I picked up from school is one of our sons with autism. Peter has the communication skills of a 4 or 5-year old and will always live with us. And, after my husband and I are gone, his sister will likely act as his guardian and look after his needs.

I couldn't help but notice the juxtaposition of my son sitting in a car only a few feet away from a driver who, if there were a prenatal test for autism, would likely have recommended an abortion.

(Currently, there is no prenatal test for autism, but I recently read that at one *in vitro* fertilization center in England, it is the most requested test for couples seeking to "screen embryos.")

But when I am with my children—and as a mom of children with special needs—I must give the beliefs of those who would not welcome my children in life the respect those beliefs deserve.

None.

Instead of continuing to dwell on the pro-abortion philosophy of the woman in the next car, I took Peter to get his favorite snack and asked him what he did at school:

I did math and added fractions.

I ate my lunch—a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fish [shaped] crackers, and apple juice.

And then he laughed and played with the motorized seat in the car and grinned at himself in the visor mirror.

I couldn't be happier.

Pro-Life Sen. Kennedy warns of the immense danger if Democrats win both senatorial run-off races in Georgia

By Dave Andrusko

There is an awful lot of misinformation being floated about the two senatorial runoffs that will take place in Georgia on January 5th. Repeating it only provides credence to baldfaced lies.

Instead here is the straightforward truth, courtesy of pro-life Louisiana Sen. John Kennedy.

Appearing last Tuesday on "Fox News @ Night," hosted by Shannon Bream, Sen. Kennedy was asked by Bream, "What's in the balance there?"

> **"I'm not going to bubble wrap it. The election in Georgia is really a second presidential election. That's how important it is. If the Democrats win in Georgia, the Republican Senate will lose its majority. In charge will be Senator Schumer, Senator Bernie Sanders, Speaker Pelosi, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez. And their ideas, in my opinion, are three gallons of crazy. … Do most Americans really want to be governed by people who celebrate abortion? I don't."**

Sen. John Kennedy

What does Sen. Kennedy mean by a "second presidential election"? He's talking about the fallout if two pro-abortion Georgia Democrats were to defeat two pro-life Republican incumbents.

There are currently 50 Senate Republicans. There would be 50 Senate pro-abortion Democrats if Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff were to win runoffs against Sen. Kelly Loeffler and Sen. David Perdue, respectively. The tie-breaking vote would be cast by the Vice President in their role as President of the Senate.

Democrats still maintain control of the House of Representatives (by a much narrower margin than we were told would be the case) and the campaign of pro-abortion Joe Biden is fending off charges votes were improperly tabulated in a number of key states.

Were The Rev. Warnock and Mr. Ossoff to prevail in less than a month, and if Biden/Kamala Harris are certified as President/Vice President, Democrats would control all the levers of legislative and executive power. They would be both empowered to promote a genuinely, no-exaggeration radical abortion agenda and emboldened to take dead aim and your and my right of religious freedom/freedom of conscience.

None of this is speculation.

They've floating everything from packing the Supreme Court with reliably pro-abortion justices (the number of justices hasn't changed since the middle of the 19th century), picking our pockets to pay for millions of elective abortions, and alerting us in no uncertain terms that if we have religious and/or conscientious objections to being involved in any way with abortion, well, that's too bad.

Sen. Kennedy said it all very succinctly, including this closing gem:

> **"Do most Americans really want to be governed by people who think that they, the governed, are morons, by people who don't respect our ideas, and who think they're better than us? I think that's what you're going to get if Schumer, Pelosi, Ocasio-Cortez, and Bernie Sanders are in charge."**

CDC Updates Abortion figures show short term increase in 2018 but long term decline

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

The afternoon before Thanksgiving, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released its latest abortion surveillance report, bringing its data up two years to 2018.

In 2016 all the statistics measuring abortion---the raw number, the abortion rate, and the abortion ratio-- reached historic lows.

Numbers for 2017 continued to offer encouraging all time lows in all three categories. For example, the number of abortions counted by the CDC decreased to 612,719. In 2018 the CDC found slight increases yet there were still fewer abortions than in 2016.

Looking at the big picture, if you compare the CDC abortion for 2008 (825,564) to the CDC total for 2018 (619,591), the number has dropped by nearly 25 percent in a just a decade.

As always with CDC, we offer the important caveat that its numbers significantly underestimate the actual national totals. There is no data from California, New Hampshire, and Maryland, which the CDC says would otherwise account for nearly one out of every five abortions performed in the U.S.

Even where they do have data, the CDC relies on the reports of state health departments which miss a certain percentage of those abortions found by the Guttmacher Institute, which surveys abortion clinics directly.

Consequently, while no one, including the CDC, thinks its numbers present a reliable national total, they still provide a regular benchmark and are very useful for tracking long term demographic trends.

Major CDC Abortion Measurements

The CDC had recorded 623,471 abortions in 2016 and saw that figure drop to 612,719 in 2017 before rising again to 619,591 for 2018.

Other CDC measures of abortion show a similar trend. For the CDC, the **abortion rate** measures the number per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44 years).

The **abortion ratio** looks at the number of abortions for very thousand live births. Both those measures dropped for 2017 but rose for 2018.

The abortion rate for 2016 was 11.6 per thousand women of reproductive age. In 2017, the CDC obtained a reduced rate of 11.2. That figure ticked up to 11.3 abortions in 2018.

Even with that slight increase, every abortion rate from 2011 onward has been lower than the rate of 14 per thousand women of reproductive age in 1973, the first year abortion was legalized throughout the United States.

The abortion ratio looks specifically at the outcomes with pregnant women. That number dropped from 186 abortions for every thousand live births in 2016 to 185 in 2017. It increased by 2% in 2018, rising to 189 abortions for every thousand live births. Again, even with that increase, it is still lower than the 196.3 recorded in 1973, *Roe*'s first year.

Taken together, what these mean is, despite what may be the signal of what we hope is only a temporary stall we are still very close to the lowest points ever recorded by the CDC.

Figures would be higher if data from California, New Hampshire, and Maryland were factored in. Even so, they would still only be about half the figures recorded back in the 80s and 90s. (For example, in 1990, the CDC counted 1,429,247 abortions. In 1980, the abortion rate was 25 per thousand women of reproductive age, according to the CDC. In 1984, the CDC calculated that the abortion ratio 364.1 abortions for every 1,000 live births.)

Any way one looks at it, abortion has become a less common feature of American women's lives. Though the size of the population has increased, fewer women are having abortions. The bottom line is that the likelihood of a pregnant woman choosing to abort her baby has dropped considerably.

And that is an enormous tribute to the faithful work of the pro-life community.

A closer look at the demographics tells us not only more about those currently having abortions in the U.S. but also may give us an idea why they may have started to trend up.

Individual States Differ

One of the first things you notice when you look at CDC tables of abortion statistics is the wide variation in state abortion rates and ratios. Of course, the larger states report more abortions, but certain states, largely on the coasts, or with major metropolitan areas, or where there are more established clinics, also appear to have high abortion rates and abortion ratios.

While the **national** abortion rate was 11.3 abortions per thousand women of reproductive age, areas such New York City (26.8) and the District of Columbia (25.3) were reporting rates more than double that. Other notable states with rates considerably above the national average were Florida (18.1), Illinois (16.9), Georgia (15.7), Nevada (14.8), Michigan (14.2), Connecticut (13,9), New Jersey (13.6),

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New York State (13.5), North Carolina (13.5), Rhode Island (13.5) and Massachusetts (13.1).

Many of the same states show up with high abortion ratios. At noted above, that refers to the number of abortions for every 1,000 live births.

While the national abortion ratio was 189 for 2018, several states still recorded more than 200 abortions for every 1,000 live births. Highest once more were the District of Columbia, with 518 abortions for every 1,000 live births, and New York City, with 457 for every 1,000 live births.

Other states with high abortion ratios included Florida (317), Illinois (293), Georgia (269), Connecticut (268), Rhode Island (268), and Massachusetts (264). New Jersey (247), Michigan (243), New York State (236), North Carolina (232), New Mexico (227), Pennsylvania (224), Vermont (222), Oregon (207), and Washington State (201) complete the list of those with abortion ratios over 200.

Sometimes high abortion numbers are, at least in part, because of high numbers of women crossing the border; there may be an abortion clinic just across the state line. For example, nearly two-thirds (65.4%) of abortions in the District of Columbia were performed on women from other states.

Kansas is another one of those states that had an abortion rate (12.4) and abortion ratio (192) above the national average. According to the CDC, 50.2% of the abortions performed there were obtained by out of state women. Notably, Planned Parenthood's Overland Park clinic in Kansas is just about a mile from the Missouri state line.

Impact of Clinic Closures

The CDC does not tell us how many abortion clinics there are in each state. However, several of these states with higher abortion rates and ratios either have large numbers of clinics or large numbers of clinics relative to the size of their population.

Data from Guttmacher helps flesh out the CDC state data.

Guttmacher identified California (not tracked by the CDC) as having the most abortion clinics--161 in 2017-- followed by New York with 113, Florida with 65, and New Jersey with 41. There were also high numbers of abortion clinics in Washington State (40), Connecticut (26), Maryland (25), Michigan (21), and Texas (21).

Several of these show up in our earlier list of states with high abortion rates and ratios. Unsurprisingly, the concentration of clinics appears to impact both the state abortion numbers and overall totals reported by the CDC.

The number of hospitals, abortion clinics, and private physician's offices performing abortion has fallen dramatically in the U.S., in many ways anticipating the drop in abortion numbers. After reaching a high of 2,918 in 1982, the number of "abortion providers" began a steady fall. In 2017, Guttmacher reported just over half --1,587 – the number of original "providers."

Not surprisingly, abortions measured by both Guttmacher and the CDC (even without California) dropped by almost half during this time.

Clinics have continued to close in many places, particularly older ones in economically depressed areas. But in recent years that decline has begun to slow. Many of those older clinics have often been replaced by shiny, new regional mega-centers, designed to handle and capable of performing high volumes of abortions (or managing high numbers of webcam chemical abortions).

With some 74% of abortions being performed at centers with caseloads of a thousand or more a year (Guttmacher figures for 2017), the building of these abortion megaclinics comes with a potential to reduce or reverse these recent abortion declines. Perhaps some of that is reflected in the recent increase reported by the CDC.

Many private physicians have also added chemical abortions to their practice, which likely accounts for some of the recent slight increase in the number of abortions.

Most Demographics Fairly Constant

Other demographic data from the CDC are largely along the lines of previous reports. Most abortions are performed on women in their twenties (57.7%). These women also have the higher abortion rates (19.1 for women ages 20-24, 18.5 for women 25-29).

Younger women, teenagers, have lower abortion rates (6.0 for females 15-19, 0.4 for those under 15) but higher abortion ratios (334 abortions per 1,000 live births for teens 15-19 and 872 for those under 15). What this means is that they are much more likely to abort when they do become pregnant.

More than 4.5 out of 5 (85.2%) of aborting women are unmarried, though 59.3% have already had at least one previous live birth. Just over four in ten (40.2%) reported having at least one prior abortion. About one in ten (9.9%) indicated having two past abortions, while 6.4% admitted to having had three or more.

All told, the CDC now says it expects that about fewer than one in five (18%) of all pregnancies end in abortion. It does not provide earlier estimates to give us a frame of reference in this report, but popular figures once put that figure at one in three or even one in four.

Of course, all CDC data is somewhat compromised by the absence of official statistics from California, Maryland, and New Hampshire. However, other specialized CDC datasets are also affected by differences even among states that do respond; some states report some demographic elements while others don't.

For example, not all states count or report the race or ethnicity of the aborting woman, and those that do may not report it in the same way (that is, reporting race but not ethnicity). CDC estimates of Black and Hispanic abortions are thus based on data from just thirty states and the District of Columbia.

Racial and ethnic data is missing not only from California, which has a high

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Planned Parenthood closes its doors, God opens new ones

By Chris Alexis

A building in Bettendorf, Iowa, used to be the place where countless innocent lives were destroyed and hearts were broken via abortion.

After 20 years, this Planned Parenthood location closed. In its place, God opened new doors — this time to the Women's Choice Center, which is dedicated to preserving unborn life and serving pregnant women in need. The turn of events means a pregnancy help center and a pro-life and family, faith-based medical practice will now operate in the same space where abortions were once performed.

Let's rewind the clock as this story begins in the 1990s.

A group of pro-life advocates organized as the Life & Family Coalition. Their goal was to keep Planned Parenthood from putting down any roots in the community.

At the time, Iowa's Planned Parenthood of the Heartland was on a mission to expand within the state. However, a member of the Life & Family Coalition bought a site in Davenport out from under Planned Parenthood, thwarting this expansion.

But the coalition's celebration was cut short when Planned Parenthood purchased another building from an out-of-state landowner, adjacent to Davenport in Bettendorf in 1997. The abortion facility opened its doors there and began aborting unborn children.

Let's skip ahead to 2002. The Women's Choice Center, offering free pregnancy testing, counseling and other services, opened across the street from the Bettendorf Planned Parenthood. The two entities, polar opposites of the moral spectrum, remained in competition.

While abortions continued across the street, the Women's Choice Center offered further services, including:

- Distribution of new and gently used maternity and baby items, including diapers, formula, baby food, clothing, toys, and infant equipment
- Birthing, nutrition, parenting, and other practical life-skills education
- SaveOne post-abortion Bible studies
- Perinatal hospice
- An outdoor granite Memorial Wall honoring child lost to abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, illness, or injury
- Trained educators providing pre-sentations to empower junior high-aged youth to make healthy decisions for their futures through REAL Choices, their sexual risk avoidance program
- And more recently, abortion pill reversal

"Since our beginning in 2002, we have been a faith-based ministry," said Linda Rubey, the center's director. "In that time period, nearly 1,400 babies have been saved from abortion. Typically, 80% or more of our clients choose life after meeting with our counseling staff to receive caring, compassionate options counseling."

Women's Choice Center (Google Maps)

In the 2016 election, Iowa Republicans won control of the Statehouse and cut off funding to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers in Iowa. This led to Planned Parenthood announcing the closure of four locations, including the Bettendorf site — which shut its doors on December 27, 2017.

And in May 2018, the Women's Choice Center took over the building.

With a total of 8,500 square feet, the Women's Choice Center only utilizes between 50-60% of the space. Upon purchase of the property, the board of directors planned to expand faith-based medical services to the community.

"We are happily anticipating the December 2020 opening of our sister organization — Life & Family Medical, a direct primary care clinic," said Rubey.

And the future looks brighter still.

"In 2021, we're also preparing to add a weekly client programming series, 'WCC Village,' to support moms and families in more personal and practical ways that will help them thrive with greater confidence and loving support," Rubey said.

The pregnancy help director noted how society tends to portray abortion as an "easy, quick fix with no regrets."

"Research shows us that is just not true," she said. "We are blessed to provide love, support, and encouragement for all women, no matter their pregnancy decision."

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

Pro-Life Candidates Defy Expectations, Flip at least 13 House Seats

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Despite dire predictions from virtually all the politicos and pundits, the 2020 elections were a monumental year for pro-life Congressional candidates in the U.S. House of Representatives.

At the time of this posting on Monday afternoon, 13 Democratic House seats have flipped to pro-life Republicans. Two potential pickup opportunities remain undecided.

As we wait for the final tallies, it also appears virtually every pro-life Republican incumbent has won re-election to the U.S. House.

All but one open seat that political prognosticators had labeled tossups were won by pro-life Republicans. While Democrats will retain the House majority, pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi will be working with the slimmest majority since the 1940s.

The importance of the pro-life vote in 2020 cannot be overstated. Nationally, 23% of voters said that the abortion issue affected their vote and voted for candidates who oppose abortion. This compares to just 18% who said abortion affected their vote and voted for candidates who favor abortion, yielding a 5-point advantage for pro-life candidates.

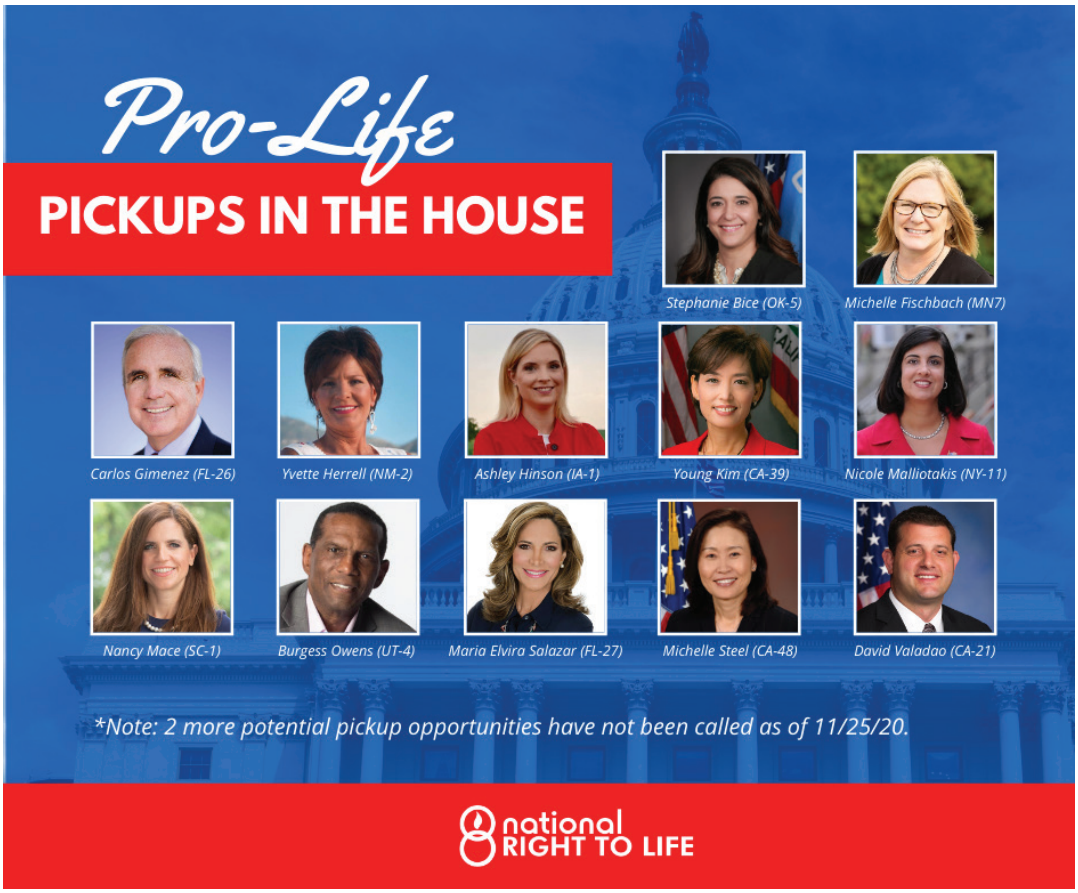
The pro-life gains in the House bring a dynamic and diverse freshman class to Washington. Their various backgrounds in state and local government, the legal and medical fields, journalism, professional sports, and more provide them with unique experiences to draw upon as they represent their constituents and work to safeguard the rights of all Americans.

Stephanie Bice, an Oklahoma state senator, defeated freshman pro-abortion Democrat Kendra Horn in Oklahoma's 5th District. Bice becomes the first Iranian American to be elected to Congress. Horn, backed by national pro-abortion groups, won the seat in an upset in 2018. Throughout the campaign, Bice wore her pro-life convictions on her sleeve and did not shy away from opportunities to call out Horn for her extreme position in favor of abortion on demand and taxpayer funding of abortion. She won her race against the incumbent by more than 4 points.

Michelle Fischbach, the former Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota and state Senate President, unseated 30-year incumbent Democrat Collin Peterson in Minnesota's 7th District. Republicans have had their eyes on this seat for years but had previously been unsuccessful. Fischbach brought it home. While Peterson professed to be a pro-life Democrat, he only scored 58% on the National Right to Life scorecard for the 116th Congress [https://bit.ly/3kRgV5p]. In contrast, Fischbach has shown decisive pro-life leadership throughout her career. She will be an outstanding champion for the unborn heading into the 117th Congress.

Carlos Gimenez, the Republican mayor of Miami-Dade County, defied the odds and flipped a seat in Florida's 26th District, defeating pro-abortion incumbent Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. Gimenez was born in Cuba and immigrated with his family when he was six years old. Prior to his involvement in politics, he was a member of the Miami Fire Department and served as fire chief for nine years. He will be one of four new Hispanic Republicans in the House.

Yvette Herrell, a former member of the New Mexico House of Representatives, won a rematch against pro-abortion Democrat Xochitl Torres Small. As a Cherokee woman,



See "Flip," page 49

How poetry highlights the humanity of the unborn–and the barbarism of abortion

By Jonathon Van Maren

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

Nobody is really in any doubt about what takes place in the womb during pregnancy. It's why we don't ask expectant mothers what it is they're expecting, and why we never wonder whether the child she is carrying is a human. We don't wonder because we know. Only in the contemplation of extinguishing that life are people suddenly gripped by willful ignorance and captivated by murderous, unscientific philosophies. We know that the child in the womb is a child, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone. To justify tearing that flesh and cracking those bones, we perform absurd and deadly mental gymnastics in defiance of the truths screaming at us from our hearts.

We see this innate truth reflected almost everywhere in our culture. In a heartbreaking but beautiful piece on her miscarriage in the *New York Times*, Meghan Markle wondered why women are often so silent about this hidden pain. The sad answer to that is simple: Abortion. How can women mourn their miscarried children as their children when NARAL, Planned Parenthood, the Democratic Party, and an unhealthy portion of academia are fighting tooth and nail to prevent our culture from recognizing pre-born children as human? We want to grieve with those who have lost children by recognizing the obvious: That they have lost a child. But to do that is to inadvertently expose abortion for what it is.

In art, song, and literature, the unborn child is often a theme. Leonardo Da Vinci created breathtaking sketches of children in the womb. Artists frequently release songs addressed to their unborn children, filled with hope and anticipation. And poets, too, have been irresistibly drawn to the subject.

One of the most beautiful examples of this is Ultrasound, by A.E. Stallings. I first heard this poem read by Ben Domenech on his podcast "A Year of Dying Gracefully," as he memorialized the loss of his pre-born child through miscarriage (his wife, Meghan McCain, wrote about the experience for the *New York Times*.) Ponder this for a moment:

What butterfly—
Brain, soul, or both—
Unfurls here, pallid
As a moth?

(Listen, here's
Another ticker,
Counting under
Mine, and quicker.)

In this cave
What flickers fall,
Adumbrated
On the wall?

Spine like beads
Strung on a wire,
Abacus
Of our desire,

Moon-face where
Two shadows rhyme,
Two moving hands
That tell the time.

I am the room
The future owns,
The darkness where
It grows its bones.

Sarah Estruch, a freelance writer and poet, penned her chaotic, free verse "Sonnet for the Unborn Child" when she discovered that she was pregnant with her first child. "I wanted to explore questions such as: where does life come from? How, when and why does life begin?" she wrote. "I chose to use the universe as an extended metaphor in order to link the conception of a child to the mysteries surrounding the beginnings of all life." Conversely, it is difficult not to draw the conclusion that if the mother writing the poem were to choose an abortion, she would be ending an entire world:

Yours is a curious spaceship: a stick
of pink plastic, urine-dipped – a blue line
and the numeral five blinking on the side
of the stick. So you arrive into our world –
though you were there already, had been
for a month (or more, who could tell?)
amid the nebulae of blood and cells
a constellation of heat and light
waiting for the night to ripen – and me
as ignorant as a black hole.
Now I stand
beneath the moon, waiting for the sky
to split open and reveal you, constellation
dancing in liquid space. I want to see you –
I want to see your shape.

See "Poetry," page 47

Pregnancy Support Centers provide an invaluable safety net

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

6,500 diapers.

The sheer magnitude of the number may seem overwhelming. But for the team at the Carlisle Area Family Life Center, the figure represents the impact of the pandemic on their central Pennsylvania community.

In just six weeks, the pregnancy support center distributed those 6,500 diapers to families in need. The demand for baby wipes and formula also skyrocketed during the COVID-19 crisis.

But crises are nothing new to the facility, which has been serving the Carlisle, PA area for decades.

Director Jackie Phillips says many women do not know what they would do without the center, which has been in operation since 1979.

Board member Maria Key says, "The Family Life Center is here for the women wherever they are in their journey and to help them—to help them be the mother that they can be…to help them with their family and to give them hope."

A fellow board member, Patty Dowling, states, "I think it's a vital need…Every community needs a place like this."

The beauty of the center's outreach can be seen in the statement of its mission: "Carlisle Area Family Life Center's mission is to support, educate and give practical assistance, in a loving way, to families in need by providing positive alternatives to abortion and by enabling them to make informed decisions regarding their lives and the lives of their unborn children."

A local television station profiled the center as part of its Giving Tuesday coverage. The spotlight on its services is greatly needed during this time of economic upheaval caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Centers such as these offer an invaluable safety net which will take on even greater significance, once the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

Women need the comprehensive support that pregnancy resource centers offer, in all seasons and in all circumstances. Let us celebrate the work of these vital organizations, which bring hope and help to women during some of the most challenging times of their lives.

Pope Francis defends the unborn as his native Argentina considers legalizing abortion

By Dave Andrusko

Many may know that Pope Francis was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and became its archbishop in 1998. So, it's fair to assume, that moves to "liberalize" abortion in his native country may have a special meaning to the Pontiff.

The Crux is an independent publication that provides invaluable news about the Vatican and the Catholic Church. Last week Inés San Martín posted an article under the headline, "Pope Francis once again enters abortion debate in Argentina."

Her account is nothing short of fascinating.

San Martin gives her readers the context:

> **President Alberto Fernandez introduced a bill in November to make abortion "legal, free, and safe," across the nation.**

Before we get to Pope Francis's sterling remarks in defense of the unborn, I want to quote Gines Gonzales Garcia, the country's health minister, whom San Martin describes as "one of the biggest proponents of the bill." From her story:

> **During his remarks on Tuesday, he called abortion a "public health issue," and said what's being debated is if terminations are performed "safely or clandestinely."**
>
> **"Here there are not two lives as some say," the health minister said, making reference to the slogan of the pro-life campaign in Argentina. "There's clearly a single person and the other [thing] is a phenomenon. If it were not like that, we would be facing the greatest universal genocide, [because] more than half the civilized world allows it."**

The unborn, to this "health minister," is a "phenomenon"? The unborn child is, indeed, phenomenal, in the best possible way, just as Gonzales Garcia's ethical and medical conclusions are phenomenal, in the worst possible way.

But it's easy to understand why Gonzales Garcia has to discard the preborn's importance, indeed even his or her very existence. To acknowledge otherwise is to admit we are slaughtering 40 to 50 million human beings worldwide each and every year—which Gonzales Garcia concedes would be "the greatest universal genocide."

Contrast that with Pope Francis's assurances in a private letter to Argentina Father Pepe Di Paola, a priest he has known for decades.

From San Martin's story:

> **"For me the deformation in the understanding of abortion is born mainly in considering it a religious issue," said the private letter from Francis to Father Pepe Di Paola.**
>
> **"The issue of abortion is not essentially religious. It is a human problem prior to any religious option," the letter continued. "The abortion issue must be addressed scientifically."**
>
> **The priest noted that "scientifically" was underlined by the pope.**
>
> **"Francis emphasizes this to me because he maintains that many believe that 'no to abortion' is rooted in an opinion and not science," Di Paola said.**
>
> **Fr. Di Paola shared the Pope's remarks as he spoke "via live stream at congressional session debating legalizing abortion in the South American country."**

Should abortion be legalized in Argentina, Fr. Di Paola, who works with the poor in the slums of Buenos Aires, warned that the next step is "the elimination of the elderly disguised with the euphemism of a dignified death, 'consummating the exclusion of the weakest."

"Deputies and senators: don't put yourself in God's place, let science speak seriously, rule for the poor and not for the enlightened capitalist elites, Di Paola said. "Let us all make a country where life is loved, a country where the Pope can feel comfortable when he decides to come."

A belief in universal human rights and abortion cannot co-exist

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

Dec. 10 is Human Rights Day. It marks the anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Most everyone today believes in human rights. Defenders of abortion are no exception—they typically consider abortion itself such a right. But the very concept of human rights actually poses a fatal difficulty for their view. Here's why.

Consider the *basis* for possessing human rights. What does an individual need to have in order to possess them? What's the criterion? The straightforward answer is that the criterion is *being human* or having a human nature. Humans have rights because of *what they are*. Indeed, the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) explicitly defines human rights as "rights we have simply because we exist as human beings."

If that's true, then human rights are both universal and equal. They belong to *all* human beings because all humans are human. And they belong to all human beings *equally* because all humans share equally in their humanity.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights puts it, humans bear "inherent dignity" and "equal and inalienable rights … without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." The OHCHR says rights are "inherent," "universal," and "equal."

What does this mean for abortion? The science of embryology shows that human embryos and fetuses are living human organisms—members of the species *Homo sapiens*—at the embryonic and fetal stages of development. They are the same kind of being as each of us. *We* were once *them*.

If embryos and fetuses are human beings, and if all human beings have human rights, then unborn human beings have human rights.

Defenders of abortion (including, ironically, many at the United Nations) don't want to accept that conclusion. They want to exclude unborn humans. But that means they need a criterion for human rights that unborn humans don't meet—something other than humanity. It could be a particular kind of physical appearance. It could be certain abilities or certain mental capacities. It could be that the attitudes or decisions of others determine whether someone has rights. Abortion advocates have argued for all of these.

Notice the implications if this approach is true. First, "human rights" becomes a highly misleading term. After all, that term suggests that there are rights we have simply by virtue of being human. And this view denies that. On this view, strictly speaking, human rights don't exist.

Second, rights become very exclusive. That's because any proposed criteria exclude not only unborn humans, but other humans too. If higher mental functions like self-awareness are key, for instance, then infants don't have rights. That's a conclusion that some of the world's most academically distinguished and intellectually honest abortion defenders embrace. But we should know better than to think killing newborn babies is okay.

Third, this view of rights is fundamentally inegalitarian. Since we all differ from each other in the characteristics suggested as criteria for rights (we have greater or lesser cognitive ability, for example), we don't have equal rights. Some of us have greater rights and some of us have lesser rights. Some are superior and some are inferior. This is a horrifying conclusion, but it's unavoidable once we reject shared humanity as the basis for value and rights.

These problems leave abortion defenders with a grave dilemma. They can believe in universal and equal human rights as articulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or they can stick to the idea that unborn humans are expendable. They can't consistently have both.

Human rights and abortion just cannot co-exist.

Pro-life and human rights champion Reggie Littlejohn about being in the presence of a spiritual giant

By Dave Andrusko

I'm sure most of our readers are familiar with Reggie Littlejohn, the founder of Women's Rights Without Frontiers. Nobody but nobody has spoken, testified, or documented the ghastly way women and their unborn babies have been maltreated in China than Reggie.

She is an authentic heroine, a towering human rights advocate and staunch opponent of abortion in general, the horrific targeting of female babies (gendercide), in particular.

Most of our readers are likely also familiar with "Breakpoint," a program of the late Chuck Colson's "Colson's Center for Christian Worldview," which produces terrific content, much of it very pro-life.

They joined forces to produce a memorable podcast. You can listen to it in its entirety here, or read excerpts here.

Reggie gave us a heads up at her webpage. Here's how she summarized the interview:

> **I am grateful to Breakpoint and the Colson Center for highlighting our life-saving work in China. This Breakpoint piece focuses on my work at Mother Teresa's home for abandoned children in Calcutta. I tried to feed a small girl with a broken body but the spirit of a giant. The radiance of her smile showed me why Mother Teresa was committed to the infinite value of every human life, especially those society casts off as worthless. In many ways, this small girl was the inspiration behind our mission to save baby girls in China. You can read this inspiring Breakpoint interview here.**

I would very much hope that you read and/or listen to the podcast. Here are three highlights, drawn from the transcript.

> **#1. A couple of years after graduating from college, I went to India and I was on the Ganges at Varanasi, which is a religious city. I wanted to take a boat ride on the Ganges, and I was just stepping into this little boat, and I saw something floating in the waters. It kind of caught my eye, so I looked down.**
>
> **To my just shock and horror, it was a fully formed beautiful baby girl. I mean, it was like physical shock waves through my body. I'll never forget her face. She had such a pretty face. I mean, she was so beautiful, and she was just drowned. She was dead and just floating in the water.**
>
> **That was my introduction to the issue of gendercide.**

> **Gendercide is the killing of somebody because of their gender. The more accurate term would be femicide, which is killing somebody because they're female.**

It is far more dramatic, more stomach turning, if you were to see the body of a late term or even full-term baby girl. But we abort baby girls in this country late-late into their development for a variety of reasons—"wrong" sex, "wrong" ethnicity, "wrong" genetic makeup (typically Down syndrome).

The abortion industry, in whose DNA blindness is encoded, fights every attempt to prohibit abortions for such blatantly discriminatory reasons.

> **#2. She [Mother Teresa] had a home called Shishu Bhavan, which is a home for abandoned children. To my recollection, every child in that home was a girl. They're all abandoned because they are female. One of the things that really impressed me working at Shishu Bhavan was Mother Teresa's commitment to the life of every person, no matter what. She founded Shishu Bhavan when she found a baby girl in a trashcan.**

If not aborted late in pregnancy; if not abandoned (or actively killed) at birth, countless females were/are abandoned. When is the last time you heard pro-abortion "feminists" decry such lethal sexism? If you did, it would probably be the first time. **Nothing** is as important as "choice," the right to do whatever they want with unwanted and/or inconvenient babies.

See "Giant," page 21

Abortionist who'd already lost his license in one state, gives it up in another after "alleged gross and repeated negligence"

By Dave Andrusko

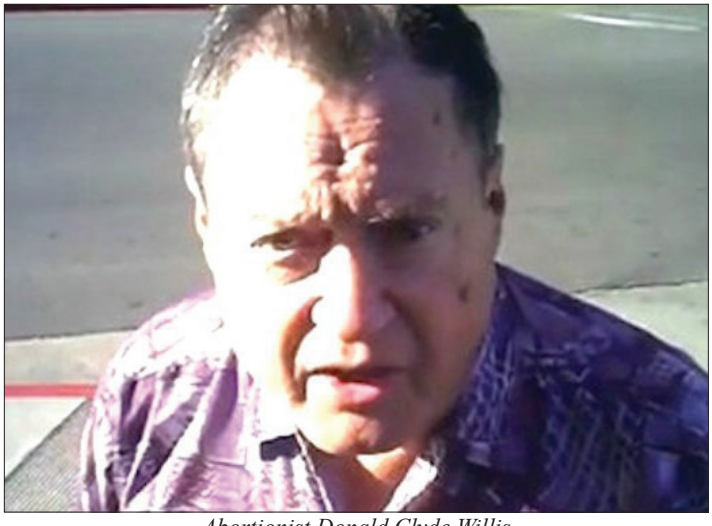
It's still another example of an out-of-control abortionist, someone who has already lost his license to practice medicine in one state, losing it in yet another after what is described as "alleged gross and repeated negligence."

"Donald Clyde Willis agreed to surrender his medical license, effective Nov. 25" to the Medical Board of California, Emma Gallegos reported for *The Bakersfield Californian*. "As a part of his agreement, Willis admitted to the allegations brought forth by the board."

Willis worked "for various clinics throughout California for Family Planning Associates, now known as FPA Women's Health," according to the medical board documents.

In 2003, Willis lost ("surrendered" is the euphemism) his medical license in Alaska, according to the state medical board. "He had also agreed to voluntary limitations on his license in the state of Oregon in 1994, according to the state medical board," Gallegos wrote.

"One patient went into cardiac arrest at a hospital and had her uterus removed, after the doctor attempted to perform an abortion where he couldn't see what he was doing, according to state medical board documents," Gallegos explained.



Abortionist Donald Clyde Willis

In two cases, the board says Willis transferred women to the hospital after performing abortions on them but without documenting key information. One woman's bleeding was increasing when she was transferred but he failed to fill in many blanks in preprinted medical record forms, including what kinds of surgical tools he used during the procedure. Another woman's cervix was torn when she began suddenly "jerking" at the end of her procedure. When she was transferred to the hospital, he failed to document what had been removed during the procedure.

The other two women recovered without complications but a third case was more serious. The board says that Willis attempted to perform an abortion on a woman despite the risks it posed to her and despite him not being able to see her cervix. The patient went into cardiac arrest, and suffered complications, including requiring a hysterectomy and a damaged ovary and fallopian tube.

All three instances that left to Willis forfeiting his license took place in 2017, *The Bakersfield Californian* reported. "At the time of the allegations, he was working as a gynecologist performing surgical abortions in Fresno and Modesto. "

Franklin Graham says "Raphael Warnock champions the killing of babies in the safety of a mother's womb through abortion"

By Dave Andrusko

Franklin Graham, the son of the legendary evangelist Billy Graham, is a force to be reckoned with in his own right. He is, for example, the founder of Samaritan's Purse which describes itself as "a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world" going all the way back to 1970.

Its outreach is incredible, the good work it does in the worst of catastrophes inspirational.

Franklin Graham is also a passionate—Passionate with a Capital P—pro-lifer who keenly understands what is at stake January 5th in Georgia. Politically, yes, but also morally and biblically, as he tweeted out earlier this week.

NRL News Today readers fully understand that if Democrats win the two Senate runoff races, there will be 50 Democrat senators and 50 Republican senators. If Joe Biden is confirmed as President, his vice President, Kamala Harris, will cast tie-breaking votes in her role as President of the Senate.

Franklin Graham's ire was particularly raised by the Rev. Raphael Warnock, the pro-abortion Democrat running against pro-life Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler who has a 100% pro-life voting record with National Right to Life. The other crucial contest features pro-life Republican Senator David Perdue versus pro-abortion Democrat Jon Ossoff.

As we've discussed in prior *NRL News Today* posts, Rev. Warnock is a favorite of Planned Parenthood. As the *Atlantic Journal-Constitution* wrote

> **Staci Fox, the head of Planned Parenthood's Atlanta-based chapter, called Warnock a "dedicated champion" who will fight new abortion restrictions in the U.S. Senate. …**
>
> **Warnock, who worked as a sexual health educator before joining the clergy, has long been a vocal supporter of abortion rights.**

Rev. Warnock is quite adept at espousing his pro-abortion views. According to *Breitbart News*, Rev. Warnock said in an interview with WGAU's Tim Bryant back in August that abortion is "consistent with" his philosophy as a Christian minister:

> **"I believe unequivocally in a woman's right to choose, and that the decision is something that we don't want government engaged in – that's between her and her doctor and her minister," he said, adding that, during his campaign, he has been "focused on women's health, women's choice, reproductive justice. That is consistent with my view as a Christian minister. And I will fight for it."**
>
> **When Bryant asked him, "Do you think it's consistent with God's view – that God endorses the millions of abortions we've had in this country since Roe v. Wade?" Warnock replied, "I think that human agency and freedom is consistent with my view as a minister."**

He also tweeted out

> **@Reverend Raphael Warnock: I will always fight for reproductive justice.**

Franklin Graham (Twitter)

For us, as single-issue pro-lifers, "Reproductive justice" means not only the obvious—abortion on demand—but also "access." Access can and does mean many things but first and foremost it means facilitating abortion by compelling unwilling taxpayers to foot the bill for elective abortions and eliminating any and all protective state laws.

A week ago last Monday, Franklin Graham offered up a fiery response

> **@PPFA calls GA Democratic Senate Candidate @ReverendWarnock a champion for reproductive rights. Truthfully translated, that means Raphael Warnock champions the killing of babies in the safety of a mother's womb through abortion.**
>
> **Candidate Warnock also said he supports "reproductive justice." Justice? What an ironic term to use. Abortion represents the most significant INJUSTICE of our time—genocide of entire masses of babies. This isn't just a political issue, it's a moral & a biblical issue.**

Thank you, once again, Franklin Graham, for standing up for unborn babies.

Initially resisting the nudge to action is to be expected. But follow through for your sake and the sake of others

By Melissa Ohden

Editor's note. As most of our readers know, Melissa survived a saline abortion in 1997. But what has happened in the years since is in some way almost more miraculous. She has testified before Congress, spoken all over the world and at many National Right to Life conventions, and founded The Abortion Survivors Network.

A friend asked me this recently, and I thought it was a great question to reflect upon.

"Do you think it's okay that I feel like I HAVE to do this, not that I WANT to do this?"

If we're being honest with ourselves and others, I think we've all been there, or maybe we're there right now.

We feel like there is something we should do, something that we're feeling called to, and we understand the importance in following through with it, for our sake and the sake of others.

But…..

Along with the interest in being obedient, there's an absence of joy in doing it—at least initially.

As my friend and I talked about where she felt like God was leading her, she shared her ambivalence about doing it. She loves Jesus, but she's also well aware of how following Him right now will up-end her life, yank her out of her comfort zone, and challenge her mentally, emotionally, and even physically.

I couldn't help but smile as she poured out her heart to me, looking for my advice. I smiled because I've been there. Probably more times than I can count.

I know the feeling of being excited about where God was leading me, but feeling unsure and frankly panicked about it all, rather than particularly joyful. At least initially.

Melissa Ohden

When I first shared my story publicly years ago, I did it because I knew that God had called me to it. He orchestrated so many details in a short span of months in 2007 that there was no denying where I was being led. Although I felt some joy in following Him, I didn't feel joy in sharing my story back then. I was a nervous wreck. I cried when I spoke. A lot.

Some of that was from the fresh pain of the journey I was on in finding my birthparents, but looking back on it, part of that was also anxiety and fear. I was used to listening to other people's stories in my role as a social worker. Having other people listen to me was a whole different experience, one that made me uncomfortable.

And there I sat in my discomfort for a few years. I did interviews, spoke at events, voice shaking, hands clamoring. As I started to speak more and more, though, a funny thing happened.

I found ***joy*** in it, even when facing individuals, organizations, and media that were openly antagonistic to me and my experience….

I found more and more clearly defined purpose.

I found peace about who I am, who God created me to be.

I found healing by connecting with others who can empathize with my experience.

And I realized over time that as much as I questioned God about calling me to be a public speaker, I actually have the gifts and talents necessary to be an effective witness for Him. The shaking and clamoring have been replaced with a smile and laughter, an ease with who I am and what I'm called to do.

You may not be called to the same purpose that I have been. But whatever is your calling, we all get that nudge or sometimes, shove, from the Holy Spirit that calls us to cooperate with God's will.

Don't let the absence of joy in initially following Him deter you from doing just that.

In my experience, it's perfectly normal for our doubts and fears to far overshadow any other feeling, at least initially.

The beauty of God's grace is that as we follow Him and grow deeper into our relationship with Him, the more joy, peace, and healing we experience.

What begins as simply one step in obedience will likely lead to a place of incredible blessing for you in many areas of your life. Like me, I believe you will likely find a wealth of gifts and talents that you didn't even know you possessed. And because of the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit, you will become an even greater version of who He made you to be.

If you've been wrestling with this, yourself, I hope that you find encouragement in knowing you're not alone in it. And trust me, if I can find the joy that I have in fulfilling God's purpose for me, you surely can, too.

Pro-Life Voters Mobilize to Stop Democrat Senate Takeover

From page 1

They plan to pass a national pro-abortion law which would wipe out state pro-life legislation. And they plan to pay for abortion with your tax dollars.

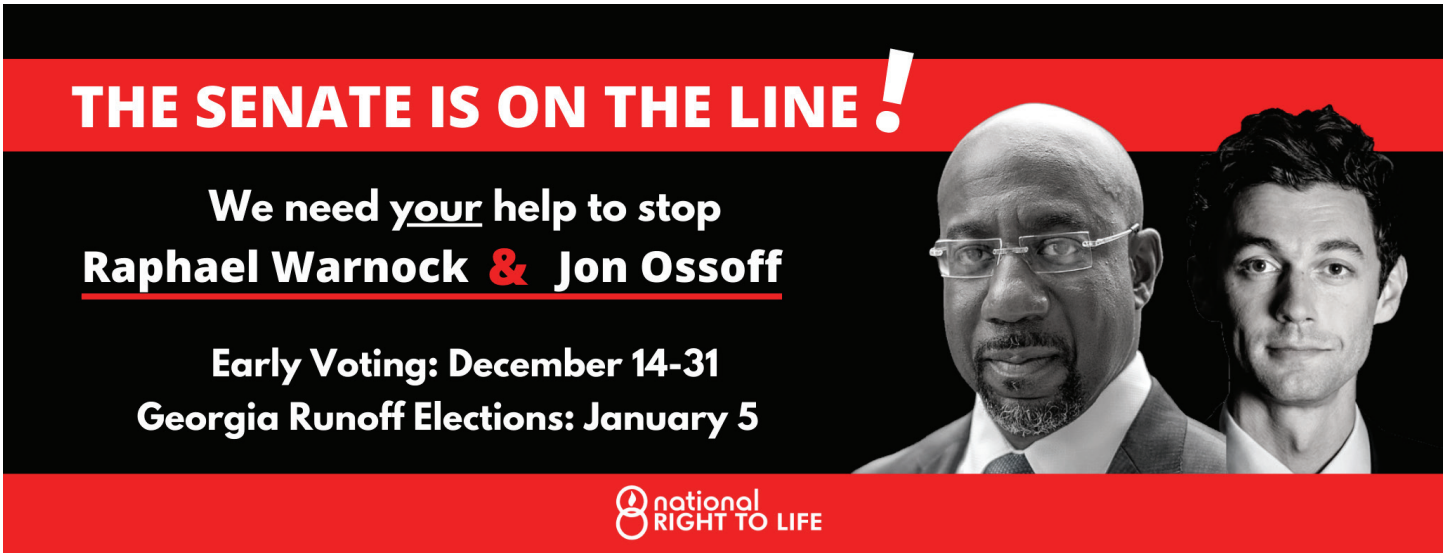
The importance of the two Georgia Senate races cannot be overstated. It is vital for the pro-life movement to return Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue to the Senate. With Loeffler and Perdue, Republicans will hold the Senate by a margin of 52-48, establishing a critical firewall against pro-abortion advances by Speaker Pelosi in the House or by the Biden-Harris Administration.

House Democrats are holding a hearing for the purpose of smearing the life-saving Hyde Amendment. They fully intend to eliminate the Hyde Amendment in future spending bills and require taxpayers to fund abortions. Without a firewall in the Senate, this critical pro-life policy, which has saved at least 2 million lives since its inception in 1976, could fall by the wayside.

The pro-abortion movement is keenly aware of what is at stake in the Georgia runoffs. Their allies in media are hard at work carrying water for the pro-abortion candidates and spreading misinformation. For instance, multiple outlets have run stories claiming Republican voters are opting to sit home on Election Day as some sort of protest over the presidential election results in the state of Georgia.

This could not be further from the truth. Supporters of the President know the importance of these Senate races. President Trump himself tweeted on November 27th, "We must get out and help David and Kelly, two GREAT people. Otherwise we are playing right into the hands of some very sick people" The President made an appearance in Georgia over the weekend on Loeffler's and Perdue's behalf. Any Georgian who supports President Trump and opposes a Democratic takeover of the Senate must get out and vote in the runoff elections.

Senators Loeffler and Perdue have demonstrated strong pro-life leadership during their time in the Senate. Both voted to advance pro-life legislation and to confirm well-qualified judges like the latest addition to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Amy Coney Barrett. By contrast, Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff have staked out extreme positions on abortion. Both support a policy of abortion on demand and taxpayer funding of abortion. Both Warnock and Ossoff are backed by national pro-abortion groups, including the nation's largest abortion provider.



The Georgia Senate runoff elections are January 5, 2021. Early voting runs December 14 through December 31, 2020.

Here are downloadable resources to share with your friends and family comparing the candidates: www.nrlc.org/uploads/records/GAPerdue-Ossoff2020.pdf and www.nrlc.org/uploads/records/GASenLoeffler-Warnock2020.pdf

Why the 6th Circuit upheld Tennessee's law banning abortions performed because the baby is diagnosed with Down syndrome

By Dave Andrusko

We recently were happy to post that the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had given the state of Tennessee a big victory when a three-judge panel ruled the state could begin enforcing a ban on abortion when the abortionist knows that the woman is seeking the abortion because of the child's sex or race or if he knows the woman is seeking an abortion because of a diagnosis of Down syndrome. In a moment we will analyze the very thoughtful and to the point majority opinion rendered by Senior Judge Eugene E. Siler, Jr. and Judge Amul Roger Thapar. (Judge Eric L. Clay dissented.)

According to Kimberlee Kruesi of *The Associated Press*, Samantha Fisher, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office, issued a statement saying they "'appreciate the Sixth Circuit (in *Memphis Center for Reproductive Health v. Slatery*) lifting the lower court's injunction' and looked forward to continuing defending the statute."

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, who vowed earlier in the year that he will do "whatever it takes in court" to defend the omnibus House Bill 2263/Senate Bill 2196 abortion measure, said

> **"Our law prohibits abortion based on the race, gender, or diagnosis of Down syndrome of the child and the court's decision will save lives," adding, "Protecting our most vulnerable Tennesseans is worth the fight."**

So how did Judge Eugene E. Siler, Jr. and Judge Amul Roger Thapar come to their conclusion? They began by addressing whether the district court judge's opinion met the criteria (the "factors") justifying a preliminary injunction.

For starters, Tennessee's law was not vague. The plaintiffs offered a tortuous critique of the law—specifically, that the abortionist "knows" that "the abortion is sought 'because of' the sex, race, or Down syndrome diagnosis of the unborn child."

However the state explained that the law elsewhere defines "knowing" and (quoting a prior 6th Circuit decision), the majority writes, "When the common meaning of a word provides adequate notice of the prohibited conduct, the statute's failure to define the term will not render the statute void for vagueness."

The law already includes an exception—a "medical-emergency affirmative defense to Section 217"—but again, the plaintiffs argue that **this** is vague. That was so foolish it was dismissed in less than a paragraph.

How about the likelihood the challenge would succeed on the merits? Nope.

What about "irreparable harm" [to the plaintiffs] if a stay is granted? There **is** irreparable harm, the majority agrees, but it is to the state if the stay is **not** granted!

> **[T]he district court's preliminary injunction of Section 217 "subjects [the State] to ongoing irreparable harm." "[A]ny time a State is enjoined by a court from effectuating statutes enacted by representatives of its people, it suffers a form of irreparable injury." The equitable factors therefore weigh in favor of granting a stay.**

We will keep you up to speed on this case and other laws that ban abortions performed for discriminatory reasons.

An answer to a prayer for a baby brother

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

The photo is impossible to miss—a baby boy, happily looking up at the camera, a broad smile on his face. The border around the picture is in the shape of a heart—a symbol of the love that surrounds him.

Baby Remy is one of the adorable children featured in CareLine, a publication of the Women's Care Center, which boasts 32 centers in eleven states.

The newsletter I was reading is the York, Pennsylvania edition for November, and it carries the bold headline, "You Helped Annie Make a Heroic Choice…Adoption."

Annie, Remy's birth mother, is quoted as saying, "I flipped over the positive pregnancy test and fell on my knees bawling. But by my second ultrasound I thought, 'Wow! That's incredible. I'm blown away—a little person inside of me.'"

The ultrasounds tugged at Annie's heart, and empowered her to place her child for adoption. "When I saw those ultrasounds and watched him moving around, I knew I loved this little boy so much. I can't give him less than he deserves."

Annie notes that placing her child for adoption was not easy, however, "the strength came out of my love for him."

Remy's adoptive parents, Ashleigh and Adam, says Remy was an answer to their son Kaiden's prayer.

"Kaiden prayed for a baby brother every single night for a year," according to Ashleigh and Adam.

During November, which is National Adoption Month, it is altogether fitting to feature babies such as Remy, who have been given a chance at life thanks to the miracle of adoption. Far too often in our society, adoption does not receive the attention it deserves. It can indeed be a loving alternative to the inherent violence of abortion.

Remy is one happy baby, thanks to the love showered upon him by both his birth mother and his adoptive mother. By supporting pregnancy resource centers such as the Women's Care Center, we make such inspiring stories possible.

Pro-life and human rights champion Reggie Littlejohn about being in the presence of a spiritual giant

From page 15

#3. In what was for me the most powerful passage, Reggie talks about attempting to feed a little girl in Mother Teresa's home for abandoned children.

> **There was this one little girl who was in a bed on her back. She was about two feet long. Her spine was just twisted like a dish rag, all of her limbs going out at different angles. Her jaw looked like it had never been formed.**

Reggie felt helpless, thinking that the way the little girl ate was a failure on Reggie's part. It wasn't. One of the sisters tells her,

> **"No, you're doing fine. That's just how she eats."**

The little girl faces so many challenges, you could almost anticipate what Reggie (or any of us!) might be thinking:

> **In my mind, this is true confessions, I was thinking, "What is the point of preserving a life like this? It's just a life of suffering." I admit that I thought that.**
>
> **Then the sister said, "Well, why don't you talk to her?" and I realized it had not even occurred to me to talk to her. She looked so helpless in so many ways, so I just assumed that she wouldn't know how to speak, which was not true. She actually was fluent in understanding English and Bengali.**
>
> **I didn't know what to say to her, so I just said to her, "So, how did you like your breakfast?" And she broke into the most beautiful smile I've ever seen in my life.**
>
> **I mean, her smile was radiant. It was full love. It was full of gratitude. It was full of life. I realized in that moment that I was in the presence of a spiritual giant, that I was a midget in the presence of the spiritual giant. That's when I understood Mother Teresa's commitment to every single life.**
>
> **Every human being is formed by God in his image and likeness, including that little girl.**

Please take ten minutes out and listen to Reggie's conversation.

You will be blessed.

5th Circuit upholds Texas's and Louisiana's defunding of Planned Parenthood

By Dave Andrusko

On November 23rd, the full 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ("en banc") vacated a preliminary injunction that prevented Texas and Louisiana from excluding Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid programs.

The decision by the New Orleans-based court "also affects Mississippi, which is under 5th Circuit jurisdiction," wrote the *Associated Press's* Kevin McGill. "The issue is likely to go next to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton applauded the 11-5 decision, "Planned Parenthood is not a 'qualified' provider under the Medicaid Act, and should not receive public funding through the Medicaid program," he said.

As Texas Right to Life explained previously

> **The question at hand is whether citizens may file a federal lawsuit to demand Planned Parenthood (or any other provider of their choice) be included in their state's Medicaid program after each state had decided to terminate Planned Parenthood's contract.**

Judge Priscilla Owen, who wrote the opinion for an 11-member majority, addressed that issue at considerable length. The key summary paragraph begins

> **Medicaid beneficiaries have an "absolute right" … to receive services from a provider whom the State has determined is "qualified," but beneficiaries have no right under the statute to challenge a State's determination that a provider is unqualified.**

The case has followed a long and complicated path, beginning in 2016, when, after more than a year of delays, Texas defunded Planned Parenthood. As AG Paxton wrote in his statement, Texas concluded that a lengthy series of undercover videos taken by the Center for Medical Progress "plainly showed Planned Parenthood admitting to morally bankrupt and unlawful conduct, including violations of federal law by manipulating the timing and methods of abortions to obtain fetal tissue for their own research."

A three-judge panel of the same court (in *Planned Parenthood of Gulf Coast, Inc. v. Gee*) had held that Louisiana could not exclude Planned Parenthood. The full 5th Circuit Court had only 14 members and when Louisiana appealed, the court deadlocked 7-7.

The court is now comprised of 16 members. Four of those participating a week ago Monday were appointed by President Trump.

In January 2019, the 5th Circuit held that a lower court "had incorrectly blocked Texas' decision to exclude Planned Parenthood from the program, but "still maintained precedent set in *Gee* that Medicaid patients could bring a challenge under Section 1983," Daniel Friend wrote.

However, the November 23rd *en banc* decision disagreed, holding instead that Medicaid patients do not "have a right under Section 1983 of the U.S. public health code to challenge a State's determination that a health care provider is not 'qualified' under their Medicaid program."

The unborn child: The ultimate "least among us"

By Dave Andrusko

As I do every day, I texted my children this morning both to celebrate the 10th birthday of our oldest grandchild and to make sure we knew who was bringing what for Thanksgiving Day dinner, just two days off.

Before you know it, we will in the Christmas season full bore. The temptation in both cases—Thanksgiving and Christmas—is to lose sight of what they represent.

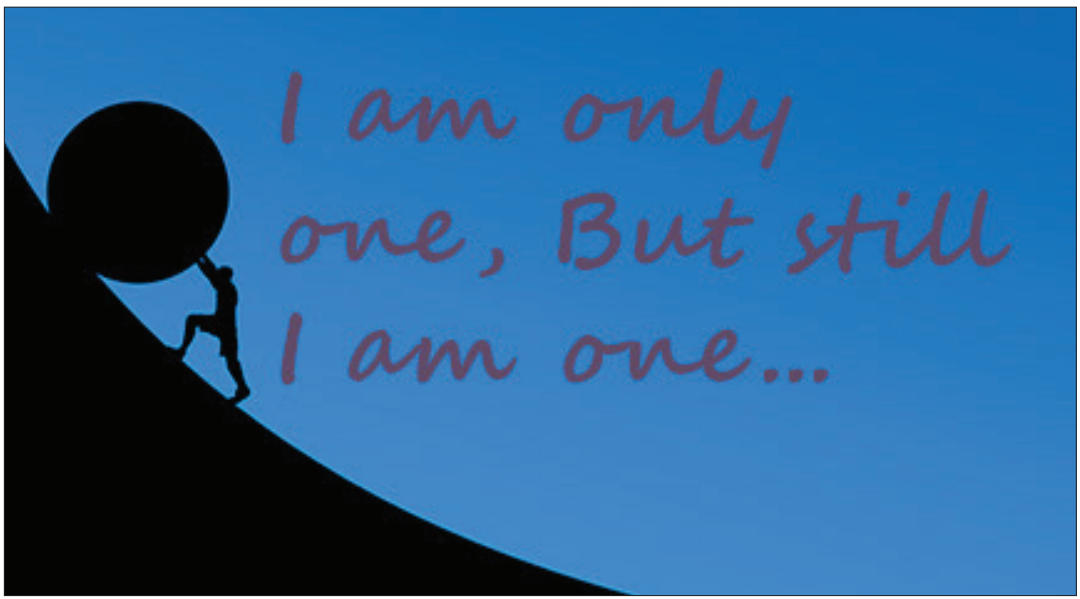
No sooner had I texted my children than I thought of a pro-life Keynote speech I once watched. Her remarks were terrific, from beginning to end, but I most remember her beginning.

She began her speech with a quote from Edward Everett Hale, who, as it happens, was the grandnephew of Nathan Hale, the Revolutionary War hero.

Once upon a time, she told us, Rev. Hale (who was a Unitarian minister) was quite famous as a man of many and enormous talents. His career spanned the mid-19th Century through the early 20th Century. Among his many accomplishments, Rev. Hale was chosen to become the Chaplain of the United States Senate in 1903.

The quote is probably familiar to some of you, its application to us obvious to all of you.

I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything,



I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

I serve in several voluntary positions. As it happens, I am in charge of two of them. In one seasonal enterprise, for a long, long time, I acted as if I **could** do everything! In fact, I did.

Naturally, it was my wife who showed me how thoroughly I had missed the boat. By failing to offer others the opportunity to help, I cheated them of the chance to be blessed by serving the poor, the dispossessed, and the marginal.

But the more specific application for us as pro-lifers is not that sometimes you or I would rather "do it ourselves." It is rather that each pro-lifer, from Maine to Washington, from California to Florida, has a contribution to make.

They "cannot do everything," but a wise leader doesn't ask them to. They realize and respect that pro-lifers tend to be very family-oriented, and they do not want these volunteers to give short-shrift to their loved ones.

But at the same time(as Hale's quote illuminates), each of us **can** do something to aid the greatest movement for social justice of our time. And because our consciences have been pricked and our hearts softened by the plight of the little ones, we cannot refuse to do whatever that "something" is.

I trust as we approach Thanksgiving and then the Christmas season, we never forget the ultimate "least among us"– the unborn child.

116th Congressional Wrap-Up: Pro-life Wins and Challenges

From page 1

There are currently two run-off Senate races scheduled in Georgia for January 5th. They pit two pro-life Republican incumbents against two pro-abortion Democrat challengers. The election of these two pro-life Senators is critical to ensuring votes to prevent radical pro-abortion policies.

Republicans were widely predicted to lose their Senate majority this past election. But the re-election of either Georgia pro-life Republican senator would maintain the Senate under the leadership of pro-life Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

While several items will be highlighted below, the entire legislative scorecard can be found here: https://cqrcengage.com/nrlc/scorecards

House of Representatives

In terms of pro-life issues, the House primarily dealt with two tracts: fighting back attempts to roll back life protections and attempting to force votes on initiatives to protect the unborn.

One of the major battles in the House related to the Equal Rights Amendment, or ERA.

National Right to Life Committee opposes adding any so-called "Equal Rights Amendment" to the federal Constitution, unless an "abortion-neutral amendment" is included to prevent the ERA from being used as a pro-abortion legal weapon. In 1972, Congress submitted an ERA to the states that contained no abortion-neutral language, and therefore could be used to attack virtually all limits on abortion.

The ERA failed to achieve ratification by the required 38 state legislatures by the 1979 deadline that Congress included in the original resolution. Only 35 legislatures passed ratification resolutions, most of which explicitly referred to the deadline, and five states rescinded their ratifications before the deadline.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that the 1972 ERA was dead.

Nevertheless, pro-abortion Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Ca.) introduced H. J. Res. 79, which purports to retroactively remove the ratification deadline. NRLC opposes H.J. Res. 79 because it sought to place the pro-abortion 1972 ERA into the U.S. Constitution, and also because it seeks to employ an unconstitutional method. On this vote, 232 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted for the joint resolution, while 182 Republicans and one Independent opposed it (NRLC position). The measure was then sent to the U.S. Senate, where no action was taken. This measure remains one to be vigilant for in the next Congress.

Democrats also attempted to use the appropriations process to roll back numerous pro-life policies. H.R. 2740 sought to undo the "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care" rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. That rule enforces approximately 25 existing longstanding statutory civil rights provisions that protect health care providers from suffering discrimination if they do not participate in abortion, sterilization, or assisted suicide.

Democrats also attempted to block the Trump Administration's rule related to pro-life changes to the Title X family planning program. Under the rule, abortion facilities may not be in the same location where family planning services are delivered. The rule also states that Title X grantees may not refer for elective abortion.

In addition, Democrats voted to overturn the pro-life Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance program, and worse, create a statutory prohibition against a future Administration ever issuing a similar pro-life policy again. This vital pro-life policy, sometimes referred to as the Mexico City Policy, was originally adopted by President Reagan and announced at a 1984 population conference in Mexico City. The policy was restored and expanded under President Trump in 2017 (after stoppage under the Obama Administration).

Under the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance program, in order to be eligible for U.S. "population assistance," a private organization must sign a contract promising not to perform abortions (except to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest), lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries, or otherwise "actively promote abortion as a method of family planning."

National Right to Life Committee opposed passage of H.R. 2740, which passed the House, 226-203 last year. 226 Democrats voted in favor of the bill. 7 Democrats and 196 Republicans voted against the bill. The Senate version which became law was stripped of these offensive provisions and the pro-life policies remained.

While there were other votes worth examining on the scorecard above, one effort in particular stood out on the part of pro-life Republicans -- an effort to force a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 962).

Despite being in the minority, House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) pushed tirelessly to try to force a vote on H.R. 962. Democrat leadership repeatedly refused to allow a vote on this measure, although at least 80 attempts were made on the floor. They denied Republicans the opportunity to even hold a hearing on the legislation. Republicans instead held a minority hearing, with over 43 members of Congress in attendance as well as a standing-room only audience.

Introduced by Rep. Wagner, H.R. 962 would provide a standard of care that currently does not exist in federal law. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require that any health care practitioner provide the same degree of professional care that they would to any child born alive at the same gestational age.

Republicans also filed a discharge petition designed to force the legislation to the floor of the house for a vote. Despite all Republicans signing along with several Democrats, they fell several signatures short of achieving this goal. We can again expect this bill to be a priority in the 117th Congress.

U.S. Senate

As noted above, if either of the two incumbent Republican senators wins one of the two January 5th runoffs, the Senate will remain under the steadfast leadership of pro-life Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

See "Wrap-up," page 50

"It will never be the wrong decision to give that baby life"–single mom gets help with Unplanned scholarship

By Lisa Bourne

Another mom who's prevailed after facing unplanned pregnancy is benefitting from the scholarship inspired by a movie bearing a powerful pro-life message.

Sarah recently finished school for massage therapy and took out student loans for the program and licensing. The Unplanned Movie Scholarship will now help cover her costs related to school.

Sarah, a single mom of four, is the second recipient of the scholarship, a collaborative project with actress Ashley Bratcher and Heartbeat International, benefitting moms facing unplanned pregnancy who choose life and wish to pursue their education.

Bratcher, who played the lead in "Unplanned," based on the memoir of pro-life activist Abby Johnson, was moved to create the Unplanned Movie Scholarship after women approached her with their stories of feeling they had to make the heartbreaking choice between continuing their education and life for their unborn child.

The actress presented the scholarship to Sarah in a surprise reveal event held Monday at InnerVisions Healthcare, a pregnancy help medical clinic with locations in Des Moines and West Des Moines, IA.

"It makes my heart so happy to be able to turn around, after having my own experience as a young, single, working mom, to be able to reward someone else who has chosen life for her kids," Bratcher said, "and Sarah is so beautiful and vibrant, she has four little ones, she just finished school – super excited for her."

InnerVisions staff had assisted Sarah in completing the scholarship application some time ago, and the prospect of it being awarded became back-burner over time.

Sarah, who gives back and does what she can to support the center, came to InnerVisions Monday with the understanding she had an appointment there, with no idea that Bratcher, who traveled from her home near Atlanta, would be waiting to present her with the scholarship.

Sarah with Unplanned lead actress Ashley Bratcher
Photo: Lisa Bourne/Heartbeat International

"She has turned around and is serving others which is exactly the kind of woman that we want to honor," Bratcher said of Sarah. "Because she is a great example of what it looks like to be a powerful, strong woman and mother."

Sarah broke down when she saw Bratcher. She said when she walked into the pregnancy medical clinic and recognized Bratcher standing there, she knew what that meant.

"I am surprised, my mind is blown," Sarah said. "I just feel a lot of support and love right now."

Once Sarah collected herself, Bratcher made the presentation.

"I was once in your place," Bratcher told Sarah. "I had an unexpected pregnancy when I was 22. I was not married, I had to be on WIC and Medicaid, and I could hardly afford anything."

She continued, telling the young mom that after making the "Unplanned" movie it's important to her to make sure gives back to other people. Bratcher said she was happy for Sarah and hoped the scholarship would help take care of her expenses so she would not have to worry. Sarah will receive $11,700 to help cover education expenses.

"You're exactly the kind of woman that we want to honor," Bratcher stated. "Thank you for choosing life for your little ones, because now they get to grow up and be the amazing people that you're going to watch grow."

"Thank you so much," Sarah said. "I appreciate it."

Explaining how she'd just graduated with her massage certificate, earned her license and found employment, Sarah said, "and so now I am making money doing something I love and helping people feel better."

Bratcher thanked those who have supported the Unplanned Movie Scholarship.

"You are making dreams a reality," she said. "You are taking away the financial burden that keeps a lot of young mothers from pursuing their dreams and getting their education."

It's personal, something she thinks about every single day, Bratcher told *Pregnancy Help News*, "Because I have an amazing 10-year-old little boy and I'm so glad that I get to see him grow, that I don't have to wonder what could have been."

It makes her heart happy to do this for other women, Bratcher said, "because as hard as it was for me and as scary as it was, it has been so worth it."

"It's the most wonderful thing I've ever done in my life," she said, "being a mother. And to help someone else and encourage someone else who has made that decision makes me really happy."

The scholarship would not be possible without Heartbeat International, Bratcher said, and one of the reasons she partnered with Heartbeat is the pregnancy help network's longevity and the prevalence of so many centers across the country.

Additionally, she said, "I know that when woman steps foot in a Heartbeat-affiliated center that she is met with love and kindness, she's

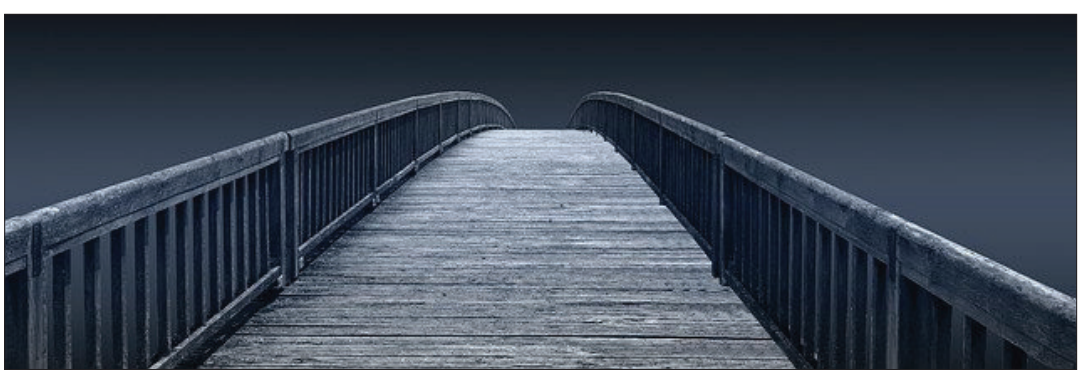
See "Scholarship," page 50

Bridges that Build a Culture of Life

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

Some songs just resonate with us. That was the case for my teenage self with Simon and Garfunkel's *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Faithful friendship, self-sacrifice, a reason to hope. The slow, low start that builds to a bright, buoyant finale, signaling the journey from dark despair to shining dreams in the distance.

When times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over
troubled water
I will lay me down.



Throughout high school, I tried to be a bridge for friends in need. But during Thanksgiving break in 1986, everything changed. A college freshman with a positive pregnancy test, I was now drowning in my own troubled waters of fear and uncertainty. Who would be my bridge? Who would carry me through?

Raised in a religious home, I had an interior trust that God would always be with me. But did He not need human hands to accomplish His work?

I've had 34 years to reflect on the bridges that carried me to the other side, to a safe shore, to a place not without pain or sacrifice, yet rich in rewards and goodness.

My bridges were many: first and foremost, my then-boyfriend/now husband. Then our parents, siblings, extended families, and friends. None could rescue us from the turbulence we would face during some very difficult years, but all of them in their own way supported our desire to choose life for our child. Their role cannot be overstated.

But there were others too, many who may not even know how critical they were to our journey toward a new life.

Like my college roommate, who was a shoulder to cry on, offering wise words and loving support through it all. She confessed she didn't know what she'd do in my situation but understood that abortion was not an option for me. My first bridge, she "mothered" me while I was away at school.

And there was the admissions counselor at my new university, who made my transfer as smooth as possible. I was so grateful that he excused a pregnant me from a gym requirement and that he found a way to have a large academic scholarship transferred to my new school. He was a bridge to a fresh start on my educational path.

Another bridge was the kind couple who provided an apartment over their law office for a very reasonable rent. Generous and hard-working, they gave us much more than housing, with their own example of marriage, family, and virtue having a great impact on us. They were also a bridge to my husband's path to law school.

Many more selfless people carried us through troubled waters, "laying themselves down" in beautiful gestures that mirrored Divine Love itself. For all of these "bridges," I am thankful every day.

I pray that I remain open to being a bridge in some way to others in need, especially to women and their pre-born babies. No woman should ever feel trapped, forced to enter a sea of despair that leads to the death of her own child.

May we in the pro-life movement continue to be bridges of love and support that carry women and their children safely to the shores of life, where a sense of peace and promise of hope await.

These are the bridges with which we will build a renewed and shining culture of life.

Sail on, silver girl
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are
on their way

Ban on the dismemberment of living unborn babies goes into effect

Abortion Industry in Nebraska does not challenge LB 814

By Dave Andrusko

It's not often the Abortion Industry fails to challenge a piece of pro-life legislation– no matter how popular or commonsensical it is– but that's what just happened in Nebraska.

On November 23rd, Martha Stoddard, of the *Omaha World-Herald,* reported that LB 814, a law that prohibits the dismemberment of living unborn babies, had gone into effect the prior week.

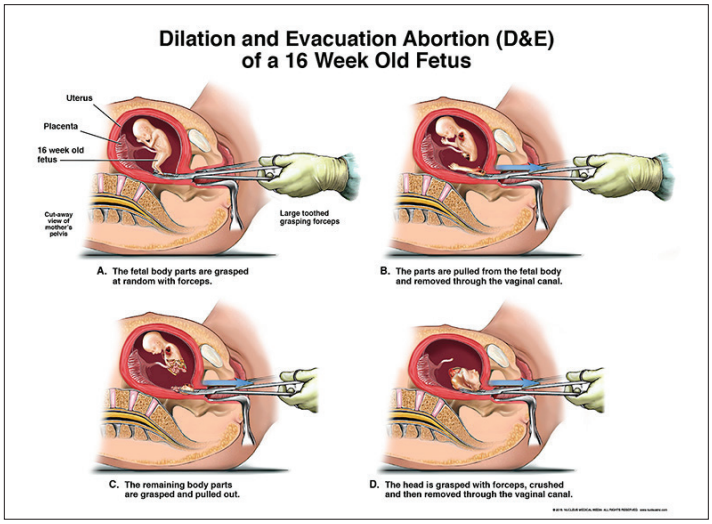
As for a response from abortionists, we read

> **No legal challenges have been filed in Nebraska. A spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood North Central States, which covers Nebraska, said the organization has no plans for litigation.**
>
> **"Planned Parenthood is proud to provide our patients with high-quality, nonjudgmental reproductive health care, and that will not change with this new law," Emily Bisek said.**

If you read Stoddard's account (really an editorial dressed up as a news story) in conjunction with the mere three paragraph account in the same *Omaha World-Herald* back in August when Gov. Pete Ricketts signed LB 814 into law, you have a case study in agenda-driven, media bias.

Stoddard's entire argument is that the law won't make any difference, that not that many abortions will be stopped. She even quotes Dr. LeRoy Carhart, the King of late-term abortions, to that effect.

Which is fascinating because once the law passed, Carhart fled to Maryland where he could ply his grisly trade under the state's ultra-permissive abortion laws.



But, in fact, there is plenty of impact from passage. Stoddard quoted Marion Miner of the Nebraska Catholic Conference who placed LB 814 in context. Miner

> **noted that the new law follows 2019 legislation requiring that women be told that it may not be too late to continue their pregnancy if they change their minds halfway through a medication abortion. It also follows 2018 legislation that effectively barred Planned Parenthood from receiving federal Title X family planning funds distributed by the state.**

Of course, Stoddard is so busy pooh-poohing the law's direct impact that she misses the tremendous educational impact of the legislative debate. How many Nebraskans knew, for example, what is done to large, developed unborn babies?

State Sen. Suzanne Geist, the sponsor, said at a January 8 press conference, "Regardless of our individual opinions on the issue of abortion, I think we can all agree that no living human being should be torn apart limb by limb."

As LB 814 was being debate, the late Julie Schmit-Albin, who was Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life at the time, said, "Can you imagine what it would feel like to be torn limb by limb until you bleed to death?" She added, "Now put yourself in the place of defenseless unborn babies who are aborted via this method known as Dismemberment Abortion. We thank Senator Geist for seeking to ban this practice with LB 814."

Schmit-Albin concluded, "When the abortion industry practices brutal techniques, it only makes sense for lawmakers to seek to end those practices just as they have previously with partial-birth abortion and with abortions after 20 weeks based upon fetal pain."

Contrary to Stoddard, each and every pro-lifer in Nebraska understood the importance of "Ending the Disgrace of Dismemberment Abortion," as Gov. Ricketts described it in a March 2, 2020 column.

There are now 13 states that have drawn a line in the sand. Nebraska joins Kansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Ohio, North Dakota, and Indiana in saying this monstrosity is beyond the pale. We can only hope and pray that number increases.

Allow me to quote from Governor Rickett's March 2 column, written as the long journey to pass LB 814 was picking up speed:

> **Thankfully, State Senator Suzanne Geist is taking steps to end this horrific practice. This session, she has introduced a bill (LB 814) to end the brutal practice of dismemberment abortion in Nebraska. This type of abortion usually takes place between 13 and 24**

See "Ban," page 42

Micro-preemie born weighing less than one pound goes home healthy

By Texas Right to Life

One Michigan family will have a special holiday season with their little girl. Baby Harper Rose Shultz who was born weighing a mere 11 ounces successfully came home in early November after 128 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Saginaw and Bay City News reports that Baby Harper was born at Saginaw's Covenant HealthCare on June 29, almost four months ahead of her estimated due date of October 23. At only 22.5 weeks' gestation Baby Harper was considered a micro-preemie, a severely premature newborn, and was the smallest baby ever resuscitated at Covenant's NICU.

Like so many parents, Harper's father, Patrick Schultz, said his daughter has been a "glimmer of hope" in 2020 which has brought many difficulties amid an ongoing pandemic and political turmoil. In a video about Harper's story, he added, "It's nothing short of a miracle." On November 4, when Baby Harper was released from the NICU, her mother, Emilee Wendzik, echoed Schultz's sentiment, telling reporters, "She's such a blessing and we are just so thankful."

Among the challenges that Schultz and Wendzik faced in 2020 was each losing a grandmother. Harper Rose was named in honor of her great-grandmothers.

Upon release, Baby Harper weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces. She still receives supplemental oxygen and requires specialized feeding, which is common for babies born so prematurely. With continued care and therapy, many micro-preemies outgrow all complications and catch up to their same-age peers.

Kristin Knoll, communications manager for Covenant Healthcare, told the Saginaw and Bay City News that the hospital has the only Level III NICU capable of caring for micro-preemies in the region. Knoll explained that roughly 80 of the more than 700 babies admitted to the 55-bed unit each year are micro-preemies. Most babies stay for only a short time with the average being 20 days, but especially fragile babies like Harper require a longer stay.

With advances in medical technology, premature babies are thriving as never before. Even so, Knoll said babies born weighing less than 1,500 grams, or about 3.3 pounds, have an overall survival rate of about 80%. For babies as small as Harper's 11-ounce birth weight the survival rate falls to 20%.

Harper's family was stunned by her early arrival. After going to the hospital for abdominal pain, her mother never expected that Harper would be born so prematurely. When nurses weighed Harper at birth, her dad thought there might be an error because she could not possibly weigh so little.

For the care team of medically fragile babies like Harper, the baby is more than simply another patient. After such a long stay in the NICU, Harper has a bond with the nurses and doctors who cared for her, evidenced by the hugs and tears as she left the hospital with her family. "We love our babies very, very much and we are always so happy when they get to go home," said Dr. Renae Reisig, a Pediatrics-affiliated Neonatologist at Covenant HealthCare.

Baby Harper's incredible journey is inspiring and hopefully forges a path for other babies who will be born early in years to come. Not all babies at 22 weeks' gestation receive the same loving and nurturing care. In many states, babies at the same gestational age can be violently killed in abortion while in the womb. Other babies born naturally at that age would not receive care but instead be left to die.

Dr. Martin Nwankwo, a Pediatrics-affiliated Neonatologist at Covenant HealthCare, explained, "This is the smallest baby that we've ever resuscitated, and to see her grow from where we started to going home now in reasonably good shape, it's mind-boggling for us. We've never done this before. And, to be honest with you, half the hospitals in the United States would not have attempted this." Harrowing stories of parents begging for their babies to receive care and being denied have gone viral.

Although there were never any guarantees that Baby Harper would be going home healthy, her dad says one doctor told them to "treat every day as a gift." Both of her parents took this to heart, making the most of each day they were able to spend with their daughter. On her due date, her mother said, "We were blessed with 116 days with her earlier than what she was supposed to be here."

There appear to be many more days ahead for Baby Harper and her family, beginning with a holiday season finally at home as a family.

Guatemala blocks Planned Parenthood from opening office in the country

'I am a faithful defender of life and I am emphatic in stating that I will not endorse in my administration the creation, registration or start-up of any organization that goes against life,' President Alejandro Giammattei said.

By Charles Robertson

The president of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei, has repealed an agreement to allow Planned Parenthood Global to set up an office in the country.

On October 7, the country's Interior Ministry made an agreement with Planned Parenthood to operate in Guatemala. But when that agreement was made public on November 2, pro-life groups made their opposition clearly heard, resulting in the rescinding of the agreement and the resignation of the Interior Minister responsible for its initial approval.

Vice.com reports that the President was unaware of the agreement prior to its announcement. In a message to the left-wing website, presidential press secretary Francis Masek wrote: "It was not until the publication of the NGO's authorization that the president became aware of the error of authorizing an organization whose social aim is to attack the right to life, which, among other things, the state of Guatemala must safeguard."

President Giammattei responded to the announced agreement by reiterating his commitment to protect life at all stages.

"I recognize life from conception and therefore I will not tolerate in my administration any movement that violates what is established in our Political Constitution of the Republic, that goes against the values with which I was raised and that conflicts with my principles as doctor," he wrote.

"I am a faithful defender of life and I am emphatic in stating that I will not endorse in my administration the creation, registration or start-up of any organization that goes against life," he continued.

Planned Parenthood Global is the international arm of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Although Planned Parenthood Global does not directly provide abortions outside the United States, it does seek to "empower local partners and allies with resources, funding for family planning services and programs, information, and support to stand strong on their own."

Its website says that in Guatemala, Planned Parenthood Global uses "innovative tools to increase access to health information and services, including birth control, as well as improve maternal mortality and unsafe abortion rates. We promote community engagement to change the social, legal, and political climate to equate sexual and reproductive rights with human rights."

Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei Telediario/Youtube

AFI Guatemala (Family Matters Association of Guatemala), which thanked Giammattei "for his firm statement," has pointed out on its Twitter page that although Planned Parenthood does not "operate officially" in Guatemala, it does have a subsidiary called APROFAM.

Guatemalan pro-lifers have been largely effective in resisting the pressure to weaken the country's abortion laws, which currently permit abortion only in the case of threat to the mother's life. In 2018, more than 20,000 pro-lifers marched in the capital in support of life after pro-abortion activists pressured the government to expand access to abortion.

A year earlier, the Guatemalan military blocked a ship operated by the Dutch pro-abortion organization Women on Waves. That organization seeks to provide women with abortions by taking them to international waters where their country's laws do not apply.

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

Delta Hospice Society Will Fight On in Face of a Disappointing ruling from British Columbia Appeal Court

Editor's note. This statement was issued by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of the Delta Hospice Society expresses its dismay at the November 13th B.C. Appeal Court ruling that denied the Society's ability to protect itself from a hostile takeover via a mass membership drive. This ruling now puts our membership and our constitution at risk of being overrun by ideologues seeking to impose medical assistance in dying (MAiD) into our hospice.

While respecting the authority of the Court, our next step must be to seriously consider appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada. We will be meeting with our legal team immediately to exhaustively explore all possibilities for appeal.

We do this first of all to safeguard the Society from being forced by proxies of Dying with Dignity Canada into administering euthanasia on the premises of our 10-bed Ladner, B.C. hospice contrary to long-standing interpretations of provisions in our constitution, and to the very reason for the existence of our private organization.

A related motivation is the need to protect all private institutions in Canada from being taken over and forced to conduct themselves in ways that are in complete violation of their understanding of their founding principles, purpose and conscience.

That is precisely what has happened to the Delta Hospice Society where MAiD [Medical Assistance in Dying] activists have literally gone door-to-door in our community misinforming residents and signing up "new members" in order to infiltrate our private Society and force change upon us. During this attempted hostile takeover, we have witnessed attempts to poison the community against us, suffered assaults on our 30-year reputation for good works, and been forced into a protracted and painfully expensive court battle just to preserve our integrity as a centre for authentic palliative care.

As a Board, we have never been interested in such antics. We want our energy fully devoted to operating our hospice and care centre so that those facing the end of life have their choice respected to receive palliative care in a setting where MAiD is not practiced.

"We follow a 50 year medical discipline committed to caring not killing," noted Delta Hospice Society Board President Angelina Ireland. "We resist the destruction of palliative care in Delta, and in British Columbia as well as the rest of Canada. Our actions are to defend and protect palliative care which is a national treasure and gift to humanity."

The Board is not fighting against the availability of MAiD for those who choose it. There are many places where MAiD is available, but MAiD is not congruent with palliative care and is contrary to its values.

"While we do not believe MAiD is sound medical practice, we also recognize that the 2015 Carter decision and the Parliament of Canada in June, 2016 made euthanasia legally permissible. Neither the Supreme Court of Canada nor Parliament mandated that assisted suicide must be made available in all places at all times. In light of that, we ask only that our desire to remain MAiD free be respected," Ireland said.

"Sadly, the ideologues who oppose us reject that. They insist that all hospices be forced by provincial health authorities to provide MAiD. They are intent on undermining the Delta Hospice Society's understanding of its constitution, our founding principles, and the wishes of those to whom we offer care," she added.That is what is at risk with today's Appeal Court ruling. It's why the Board sees the likely need for a further appeal ending in the Supreme Court of Canada's affirmation of our rights.

We as a Board are alarmed, first and foremost, because of what is being done to the principles of palliative care that we cherish. Nor can we as Canadians stand idly by while ideologues run roughshod over private institutions who wish only to live out a pluralistic vision in freedom and peace.

35 days out from the November 3 election. Where do we stand?

From page 2

"But just as remarkable as their turnout was the solidarity of the segment's vote: 97 percent of SAGE Cons [Spiritually Active Governance Engaged Conservative Christians] cast their ballot for President Trump," said Barna, director of research for the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University.

Tapscott continued:

The intensity of support for Trump among SAGE voters may also help explain the intensity of public concern about allegations of widespread voting fraud in the presidential race.

"Since the close of the election, there has been widespread disappointment, if not outright anger, among SAGE Cons regarding the election outcome," Barna said.

"Eight out of 10 (79 percent) felt that there were 'numerous instances of abuse' in the voting."

But the impact downstream of President Trump, who added more than eleven million additional votes in 2020 to what he received in 2016, is a factor that the Major Media insists on belittling if not outright denying. They are still smarting over the massive rallies President Trump conducted in pivotal states.

As *NBC News* pointed out, "Democrats invested nearly $100 million among various groups, along with the creation of a new group — the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, led by former Attorney General Eric Holder and backed by former President Barack Obama — to focus on electing Democrats to state legislatures."

Patrick Rodenbush, the communications director for the group, conceded to Liz Brown-Kaiser and Leigh Ann Caldwell, "Let's be honest, it wasn't a great night for Democrats." He added, "We were going to need a huge blue wave, and it never materialized for Democrats in the way we wanted it to." A major reason was the "supercharged Republican turnout for President Donald Trump."

So instead of gaining control of state houses, Democrats took a pounding. As the *Washington Post* gloomily observed,

Democrats failed to pick up any state legislative chambers this November, and they could face the consequences of that for the next decade.

That's because next year, states will redraw electoral maps for congressional and state legislative districts. It's something the Constitution mandates every decade based on new census data.

In many states, it's up to politicians in state legislatures to do that. Republicans controlled the mapmaking process in most states after a stellar 2010 election and were able to draw state and congressional districts that made it harder for Democrats to regain power at all levels. After a stronger-than-expected performance this November, Republicans will control map drawing in a majority of chambers next year, too, although to a slightly lesser degree.

What about the House of Representatives? Pro-life Republicans there, as they did in statehouses, were the beneficiaries of the "tsunami" of support for Trump—and awfully good candidates.

We were told Democrats would enlarge their majority in the House, probably considerably. Nope. Their advantage shrank. As of Friday morning, Democrats controlled 222 seats to 212 for Republicans. There will be at least 18 new pro-life Republican women!

And as FiveThirtyEight (no friend of Republicans) noted, "Republicans Are On Track To Take Back The House In 2022."

We have posted dozens and dozens of stories about the impact President Trump has had on the cause that you and I have devoted our lives to.

The list goes on and on.

*Three superb appointments to the Supreme Court. The impact of more than 230 federal judicial appointments, including 53 appointments to federal appeals courts and more than 140 to district courts, will be felt for decades to come.

*Protecting abortion survivors and preemies by signing an executive order that prohibits hospitals from unlawfully discriminating against or withholding treatment from extremely preterm infants, infants born with disabilities, or any other infants in need of emergency care, including abortion survivors.

*Making Planned Parenthood choose between abortion and genuine family planning. PPFA, of course, chose abortion.

*Aggressively protects right of conscience.

To name just a few accomplishments.

The President is fighting with all his strength to protect both the vulnerable and the integrity of the electoral process which has proven to be even more vulnerable than we feared. Our prayers go out that he—and therefore unborn children—are successful.

When we abort children with Down syndrome on a massive scale, what does that say about us a culture?

By Dave Andrusko

Back in September we repost a story that told the grim truth about the fate of babies with Down syndrome in Denmark. In 2019 there were virtually none—just 18!

I immediately thought of that story and of the 2017 story from *CBS News* about Iceland titled "What kind of society do you want to live in? Inside the country where Down syndrome is Disappearing" when I read "The last children of Down Syndrome" by Sarah Zhang, which is a brilliantly written piece that appears in the current *Atlantic* magazine.

The subhead puts the story in the larger context: "Prenatal screening is changing who gets born and who doesn't. This is just the beginning."

Nobody questions the legality of abortion in Denmark, Zhang writes.

> **"Danes are quite open about abortion—astonishingly so to my American ears—but abortions for a fetal anomaly, and especially Down syndrome, are different. They still carry a stigma."**

Why this is so is the thread that runs through this long must-read story.

The backdrop is that "in 2004, Denmark became one of the first countries in the world to offer prenatal Down syndrome screening to every pregnant woman, regardless of age or other risk factors," Zhang explains. "Nearly all expecting mothers choose to take the test; of those who get a Down syndrome diagnosis, more than 95 percent choose to abort." The few babies born with Down syndrome are typically because of a "misdiagnosis" or because the parents are told the odds of having a baby with an extra chromosome were almost infinitesimally small.

One of the questions raised is why women abort and how influential gloom and doom prognostications can be. The sister of Karl Emil, an 18-year-old young man with Down syndrome who is the heart of the story, put it this way:

> **Think about it this way, Karl Emil's sister, Ann Katrine, said: "If you handed any expecting parent a whole list of everything their child could possibly encounter during their entire life span—illnesses and stuff like that—then anyone would be scared."**
>
> **"Nobody would have a baby," Grete [Fält-Hansen, their mother] said."**

Or, looked at another way, are women exercising genuine "choice" in such a cultural setting? When the expectation is a woman carrying a baby with Down syndrome will abort? When, while the language ("mongoloid") is not so harsh, physicians not quite so brutally dismissive of these children, and less emphasis is publicly placed on "saving money" by aborting as was the case years ago, the message still rings clear: aren't all of us, including the child, "better off" if he/she is aborted?

As Zhang writes, "The decisions parents make after prenatal testing are private and individual ones. But when the decisions so overwhelmingly swing one way—to abort—it does seem to reflect something more: an entire society's judgment about the lives of people with Down syndrome. That's what I saw reflected in Karl Emil's face."

The constant back and forth cultural narrative is between the virtual absence of children with Down syndrome and guilt that Danes, in so doing, are not living up to their own image of themselves or their culture.

> **"I think it's because we as a society like to think of ourselves as inclusive," Stina Lou [a researcher] said. "We are a rich society, and we think it's important that different types of people should be here." And for some of the women who end up choosing abortion, "their own self-understanding is a little shaken, because they have to accept they aren't the kind of person like they thought," she said. They were not the type of person who would choose to have a child with a disability.**

One other thought. It's a long quote, but it speaks to what we lose when achievement is so highly prized at the expense of more important qualities:

> **Stephanie Meredith, the director of the National Center for Prenatal and Postnatal Resources at the University of Kentucky, told me of the time her 20-year-old son saw his sister collide with another player on the basketball court. She hit the ground so hard that an audible crack went through the gym. Before Meredith could react, her son had already leapt from the bleachers and picked his sister up. "He wasn't worried about the rules; he wasn't worried about decorum. It was just responding and taking care of her," Meredith told me. She had recently been asked a simple but probing question: What was she most proud of about her son that was not an achievement or a milestone? The incident on the basketball court was one that came to mind. "It doesn't have to do with accomplishment," she said. "It has to do with caring about another human being."**
>
> **That question had stayed with Meredith—and it stayed with me—because of how subtly yet powerfully it reframes what parents should value in their children: not grades or basketball trophies or college-acceptance letters or any of the things parents usually brag about. By doing so, it opens the door to a world less obsessed with achievement. Meredith pointed out that Down syndrome is defined and diagnosed by a medical system made up of people who have to be highly successful to get there, who likely base part of their identity on their intelligence. This is the system giving parents the tools to decide what kind of children to have. Might it be biased on the question of whose lives have value?**

Abortion provider Marie Stopes International change name to hide links with eugenics

By Right to Life UK

Abortion provider, Marie Stopes International, has changed its name to hide their association with eugenicist and Nazi-sympathizer, Marie Stopes.

The abortion provider will now be known as MSI Reproductive Choices.

Marie Stopes herself was a member of the Eugenics Society and set up Britain's first clinic in 1921 because of her belief that the "degenerate, feeble-minded, and unbalanced" should be eliminated from society. She went so far as to call for the compulsory sterilization of those "totally unfit for parenthood".

Marie Stopes' views on eugenics were also infamously shared by the Nazis in Germany, and in 1935 she attended a conference in Berlin to promote 'population science'. She was even an admirer for Hitler to whom, in 1939, she sent a book of her poems with a letter enclosed saying: "Dear Herr Hitler, love is the greatest thing in the world".

She also fell out with her only son because he married someone who was short-sighted and sent a letter to a deaf father who had four deaf children, telling him that he had brought 'more misery… into the world'. Despite Marie Stopes' views being known for decades, the abortion provider has used her name since 1976.

Illegal abortions, fake doctors and abortion bonuses

While continuing to perform millions of abortions across the globe and receiving over £340 million from the British tax payer over the last ten years, the abortion provider, MSI Reproductive Choices, continues to be surrounded by scandal.

In October 2020, the bodies of ten illegally aborted babies were found discarded and decomposing in a bin at a Marie Stopes International franchise 'Medical Centre' in Kenya resulting in the closure of the clinic.

In 2017, a damning report from the UK's Care Quality Commission (CQC) accused Marie Stopes International (now MSI Reproductive Choices) of paying staff bonuses for persuading women to have abortions.

In addition, the CQC found the abortion group was not following proper sterilization and infection control protocols and was improperly disposing of the bodies of the babies they aborted.

In 2016, Marie Stopes International was forced to suspend abortion services for a month after an unannounced inspection by the CQC found "dead fetuses lying in an open bin and staff trying to give a vulnerable, visibly distressed woman an abortion without her consent".

Right To Life UK's spokesperson, Catherine Robinson, said

"This change in name is deeply disingenuous. The eugenic abortion of babies with disabilities continues to be perfectly consistent with MSI's principles, and remains a form of discrimination against those with disabilities, or as Stopes herself called them, the 'degenerate, feeble-minded, and unbalanced'.

"The majority of the organisation's work is targeting their resources to increase the number of abortions that are performed by the organisation in developing countries. They run one of the largest population control programmes in the world. This programme is targeted directly at developing countries, with the organisation being responsible for the ending of the lives of almost five million babies in developing countries in 2018.

"A change in name does not change the reality of what Marie Stopes stood for, nor does it change the reality of what MSI Reproductive Choices stands for today.

"Marie Stopes' abhorrent views have been known for almost a century and they were just as vile then as they are now. MSI knew her views and despite their change in name, was and is happy to be part of her dark legacy."

Amy Hasbrouck Submits Powerful Testimony To Canadian Senate Committee in opposition to Bill C-7

Editor's note. This article was published by Not Dead Yet on December 1 and reposted at Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

On November 23, 2020, Amy Hasbrouck, Not Dead Yet Board Member and Director of Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet [TVNDY], submitted testimony to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Canadian Parliament.

The Canadian Parliament will soon be voting on Bill C-7 to expand the current euthanasia bill [Bill C-14]. This bill is in response to a court case (Truchon, et al.) in which two disabled people, one with cerebral palsy and one with MS, sued because doctors would not say their deaths were "reasonably foreseeable," the vague standard under the current law

Amy Hasbrouck's description of TVNDY is a strong and moving introduction to why the disability rights strongly opposes assisted suicide and euthanasia laws:

> **Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet (TVNDY) is a project of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities to inform, unify and give voice to the disability rights-based opposition to assisted suicide, euthanasia, and other ending-of-life practices that have a disproportionate impact on disabled people, women, elders, indigenous and racialized people, and persons subject to other forms of oppression. TVNDY was founded in 2013 as a progressive, non-religious organization of disabled people and our allies. We believe**

Amy Hasbrouck

> **that there can be no free choice to die while old, ill and disabled people don't have a free choice in where and how we live. We recognize that the movement toward assisted death is driven by the devaluation of disabled lives captured in the phrase "better dead than disabled" and manifest in society's inequitable application of suicide prevention policies; where non-disabled people who want to die get suicide prevention services, while disabled people get suicide completion assistance.**

Her testimony sums up the situation as follows:

> **In its 2015 decision in Carter v. Attorney General of Canada that struck down the prohibition on physician assisted dying, the Supreme court said that protecting "vulnerable" people (such as elders, women, LGBTQI and disabled folks, indigenous and racialized people) would require a "carefully designed system imposing stringent limits that are scrupulously monitored and enforced." The language and implementation of Bill C-14, the medical assistance in dying or MAiD law have not met the Carter mandate. Bill C-7 compounds this failure by rolling back protections beyond what is mandated by the Québec superior court in the Truchon c. procureur général decision, and before parliament has done the five-year review required in the MAiD statute. Far from being "an exceptional measure for exceptional cases" . . . , Canada's program already has resulted in the deaths of nearly 20,000 disabled people, many of whom also have a terminal illness.**

The TVNDY testimony highlighted the lack of independent living options impacting people with disabilities who request euthanasia, and pointed to concerns raised by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of People with Disabilities:

> **In her 2019 End of mission statement, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of People with Disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar said she was "extremely concerned about the implementation of the legislation on medical assistance in dying" as well as the lack of options for independent living. In our series of webcasts "No Free Choice" TVNDY has documented numerous examples of persons who sought assisted death because they did not have the services and supports they needed to maintain a reasonable quality of life. . . . During the pandemic, disability rights activists have joined with racial and other social justice movements to declare that #NoBodyIsDisposable, yet 80% of deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in long-term care facilities.**

Hasbrouck pointed out that the proposed amendments to the Canadian bill go beyond what would have been required by the Truchon decision and make matters worse "before the five-year review mandated by Bill C-14 has been accomplished."

> **Bill C-7 would reduce the number of witnesses required to sign the written request from two to one, and allow that person to be a care provider, thus**

See "Hasbrouck," page 43

REPORT: U.S. pro-life pregnancy centers assist nearly 2 million with essential services in 2019

Study gives emphasis to abundance of care for women and families

By Lisa Bourne

Pregnancy help centers in the United States served scores of people in need last year, according to a new report, providing hundreds of millions of dollars in essential medical, education and support services – doing so frequently at no charge. The extensive study of approximately 2,700 pregnancy centers nationwide released Wednesday by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) shows the centers served almost two million people in 2019, at an estimated total value of services and material assistance of nearly $270 million.

CLI gives an in-depth look at the far-reaching impact of U.S. pregnancy help centers in its report, from the early medical care begun in pregnancy centers 35 years ago, to the centers' high standards of care, estimates of the total value of the assistance centers provided in 2019 and individual stories of those helped by the centers' services.

CLI's study also features developing areas of pregnancy help, including outreach to victims of human trafficking and the life-saving abortion pill reversal protocol.

The newest report from CLI, the research arm of Susan B. Anthony List (SBA List), is titled, "Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time," and is the second in CLI's series, "A Legacy of Life and Love." It is based on national survey data provided by major pregnancy center networks Care Net, Heartbeat International, and the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA), along with many smaller networks.

In 2019 U.S. pregnancy centers provided almost 732,000 pregnancy tests, more than 486,000 free ultrasounds and 160, 000 STI/STD tests, according to the study.

These services – usually delivered gratis by the centers – provided vital support to women and families facing unplanned pregnancy and other challenges.

"Pregnancy centers exist to serve and support mothers in the courageous decision to give their children life, even under the most difficult circumstances," said Chuck Donovan, president of the Charlotte Lozier Institute. "This report calculates the impact of their mission of love in concrete terms."

"Thousands of centers around the country provide a multitude of free services for millions of women, as well as tens of thousands of men, saving communities millions in tax dollars annually," Donovan said. "Eight in 10 people involved at pregnancy centers are volunteers, an extraordinary example of igniting points of light in the darkness."

More than 291,000 clients attended parenting and prenatal education programs in 2019, CLI's study found, more than 21,000 clients received after-abortion support and more than 881,000 students attended sexual risk avoidance education presentations.

Pregnancy centers also gave out nearly 1.3 million packs of diapers and more than two million baby outfits.

Pregnancy help centers have continually taken on a medical designation to best meet the needs of women and families with services such as ultrasound, the latest numbers reflected in CLI's report.

More than 68,00 workers serve pregnancy centers, the study said, including nearly 3,800 licensed medical staff, which comprise 25% of the centers' paid staff.

Eight in 10 of these workers (53,855) are volunteers, with more than 6,400 of them, or 12% of all volunteers, licensed medical volunteers.

"Thirty-five years have now passed since the introduction of life-revealing and life-changing ultrasounds into pregnancy centers, and their medicalization continues to grow and thrive," said Donavan. "All Americans benefit from these resources in communities everywhere across our national landscape."

An overwhelming majority of pregnancy centers provide numerous tangible services and support to clients, with 94% offering material items, 86% offering parenting/prenatal education, 79% offering ultrasound and 72% offering after-abortion recovery.

Additionally, a growing percentage of centers offer sexual risk avoidance presentations to youth (36%), STI/STD testing (30%), STI/STD treatment (21%), childbirth classes (27%) and breastfeeding consultations (19%).

Heartbeat International President Jor-El Godsey welcomed CLI's findings on pregnancy centers in the United States.

"A comprehensive big-picture look at the service performed by pregnancy centers is just amazing," Godsey said. "These pregnancy help centers work every day to empower moms

See "Assist," page ??

Supreme Court says no to Satanic Temple which wanted Justice Barrett to recuse herself from case challenging Missouri law

By Dave Andrusko

You have to give the Devil (so to speak) his due. The Satanic Temple is nothing if not diligent in its efforts to overturn a Missouri law that requires a 72-hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion and that she receives "an informed-consent booklet" that "expresses Missouri's view that '[t]he life of each human being begins at conception [and that] [a]bortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being.'"

The Supreme Court has not decided if it will hear *Judy Doe v. Michael L. Parson* but has decided to reject the call for Justice Amy Coney Barrett to remove herself from the case because of her Catholic convictions.

In a press release The Satanic Temple [TST] wrote that

> **In its motion to disqualify, TST stated that "any objective observer would reasonably believe it is unlikely Justice Barrett could set aside her religious conviction, impervious to reasoned argumentation, regarding the illegitimacy of abortion and barbarity of [Roe v. Wade] to render an impartial decision on the Petition.**

Pro-life Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmit countered with a fierce defense of religious liberty:

> **"Petitioner Judy Doe, a member of The Satanic Temple, seeks to disqualify Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett from this case on the ground that Justice Barrett has sincere religious beliefs and, before she assumed judicial office, made public statements discussing Catholic doctrine and expressing personal opposition to abortion. … This argument is meritless. Religious freedom is a bedrock principle of our Nation. Justice Barrett's life of faith and service will enrich her judicial service on this Court, not diminish it. Personal and religious beliefs on policy issues—however strong and sincerely felt—without more, provide no basis to disqualify a Justice. Petitioner accuses Justice Barrett of creating an appearance of impropriety by "openly and publicly embracing … Catholic dogma." Petitioner's argument thus echoes the worst of the hostile public rhetoric and anti-religious animus opposing Justice Barrett's faith and judicial service. This Court should reject it.**

In his conclusion, AG Schmit cites two Supreme Court precedents:

> **For all these reasons, Petitioner's speculation that Justice Barrett's personal religious beliefs might create an appearance of impropriety here is baseless. In essence, Petitioner contends that any Justice with strong personal or religious views on abortion cannot participate in a case related to abortion. "The implications of this argument are staggering." [Cheney.] Every Justice undoubtedly has strong personal views on many policy issues—none is "a complete tabula rasa." [Laird.] "Even one unnecessary recusal impairs the functioning of the Court." [Cheney.] To require routine recusals of members of this Court in innumerable cases would undermine the Court's ability to function.**

Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett

The Supreme Court agreed.

Pro-Life Lou Holtz to receive Presidential Medal of Freedom

By Dave Andrusko

If, when all the counting and tabulation is concluded, pro-abortion Joe Biden is our next President, it would take a week to properly detail all the actions taken by pro-life President Donald Trump that would never, could never, occur in an Administration headed by the likes of Biden and Kamala Harris. Let you offer one small example of what may seem, on its face, not to be highly important but symbolically speaks volumes.

Last Thursday President Trump awarded the Medal of Freedom to Lou Holtz, the pro-life football coach best known for his incredible success at Notre Dame and for delivering powerful pro-life remarks at the Republican National Convention August 26.

The Medal of Freedom is our Nation's highest civilian honor.

Ellen DeGeneres, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Robert DeNiro were among the recipients during the presidency of Barack Obama.

"America recognizes Lou Holtz as one of the greatest football coaches of all time for his unmatched accomplishments on the gridiron, but he is also a philanthropist, author, and true American patriot," as the White House statement announcing the award explained. The announcement goes on to spell out all of Coach Holtz's accomplishments off the gridiron.

We wrote about Holtz's fiery speech. Let me elaborate here.

First, why he was supporting President Trump. He began by referencing a statute at Notre Dame:

> **[I]f you look closely, you will see these three words there: trust, commitment, and love. All my life. I've made my choices based on these three words. I use the three rules to make choices about everything, my beloved wife of 59 years, athletes I coached, and of course, politicians, even President Trump. I ask myself three things. One, can I trust them? When a leader tells you something, you got to be able to count on it. That's President Trump. He says what he means. He means what he says. And he's done what he said he would do at every single turn. One of the important reasons he has my trust is because nobody is a stronger advocate for the unborn than President Trump.**

Lou Holtz

Pro-lifers would say (and do say) "Amen." President Trump kept every promise that was in his power to make come to pass and much, much more, including in the all-important realm of freedom of religion/freedom of conscience.

A Biden/Kamala administration would attack not only millions of unborn babies but also your right not to pay for their slaughter and the right of medical personnel not to be dragged into the slaying of the Innocents. It would be up to us to fight a Culture of Death on steroids.

Second, Coach Holtz was clear-eyed in his assessment of the opposing presidential ticket.

"The Biden-Harris ticket is the most radically pro-abortion campaign in history. They and other politicians are 'Catholics in Name Only' and abandon innocent lives. President Trump protects those lives."

And third, there was Holtz's stirring conclusion:

> **In President Trump, we have a President we can trust, who works hard at making America greater, and who genuinely cares about people. If I apply this test to Joe Biden, I can't say yes to any of these three questions. I used to ask our athletes at Notre Dame, if you did not show up, who would miss you and why? Can you imagine what would happen to us if President Trump had not shown up in 2016 to run for President? I'm so glad he showed up. Thank you for showing up Mr. President.**

I've been in the trenches with many of you going back to the 1970s. In all that time, we certainly have had pro-life presidents, but none who can hold a candle to Donald Trump. He was elected because countless millions of pro-lifers showed up.

If you get a chance, watch Coach Holtz's speech.

Actress Sally Phillips accuses Emmerdale of being ‘irresponsible’ after Down’s syndrome abortion plotline

By Right to Life UK

Editor’s note. “Emmerdale” is a popular British soap opera which introduced a story line in which a couple decides to abort their baby after a diagnosis of Down syndrome (Down’s syndrome is the British spelling.)

Actress Sally Phillips has accused ITV of being ‘irresponsible’ and causing ‘unnecessary hurt’ after a storyline in Emmerdale featured a couple who have an abortion after learning their baby has Down’s syndrome.

The actress, who has a sixteen-year-old son with Down’s syndrome, said: “The use of a Down syndrome diagnosis brings unnecessary hurt to a group of individuals, many of whom watch and enjoy the show precisely because there is a character with Down syndrome.

“Disability hate crime is on the rise and running with this storyline in Disability Awareness Month was at best poorly informed and thoughtless, and at worst irresponsible.”

Phillips’ comments come after more than 26,000 people signed a petition calling for this plotline to be scrapped. A number of MPs and charities have also written to the head of ITV, Dame Carolyn McCall, asking for the same.

Thousands, including some with Down’s syndrome, have posted comments and videos on social media arguing that the story perpetuates the idea that those with Down’s syndrome are unable to lead full lives and are a burden on society.

Down’s syndrome community not consulted

While ITV has said it collaborated with pro-abortion charity Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC) some of the UK’s largest Down’s syndrome charities say they were not consulted. ARC was founded in 1988 as Support After Termination For Abnormality (SATFA).

An actress with Down’s syndrome, Bethany Asher, who has appeared in BBC soap Doctors, said on Twitter: ‘Years ago people like me were locked away and treated like aliens … Your storyline is encouraging people to view us like that all over again.’

Sharon Thomson, whose six-year-old son has the condition, said: “It’s bad enough that health care professionals present Down’s syndrome so negatively without it being done the same way on television. It’s an ignorant and outdated view.”

“It’s disappointing that this is the way they have decided to portray what it’s like finding out your unborn baby has Down’s syndrome.

Discrimination against people with Down’s syndrome

Disability-selective abortion has become an increasing issue in recent years. In 2019 there were 3,183 disability-selective abortions across England & Wales, with 656 of those occurring following a prenatal diagnosis of Down’s syndrome.

Around 90% of babies with Down’s syndrome are aborted following a positive prenatal diagnosis.

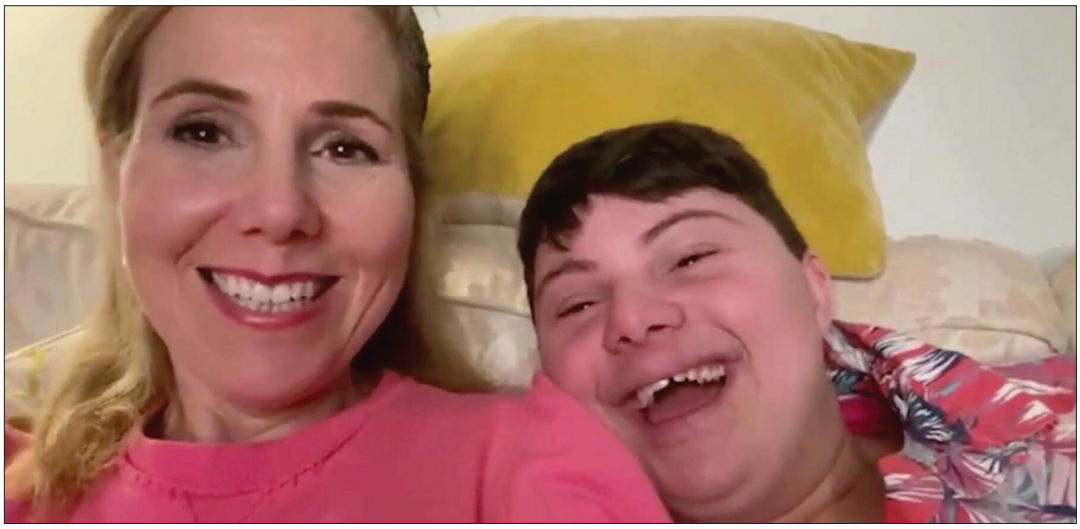
At the same time, a recent report revealed that pregnant mothers who refuse to abort their children with Down’s syndrome are being pressured by some medical professionals to change their decision.

One mother, whose child is now four years old, said medical professionals told her they could leave her baby with Down’s syndrome to die if it was struggling after birth.

The discrimination against people with Down’s syndrome is not going unchallenged. The High Court in London will hear a landmark case against the UK Government over the country’s discriminatory abortion legislation, which singles out babies with disabilities by allowing terminations right through to birth for conditions including Down’s syndrome, cleft lip and club foot.

Right To Life UK’s spokesperson, Catherine Robinson, said: “It’s encouraging that Sally Phillips and others with her profile are speaking out against Emmerdale’s negative and discriminatory portrayal of those with Down’s syndrome.

“On the one hand, as Phillips points out, it’s great that the show has a character with Down’s syndrome as this helps to show just how normal it is. On the other hand, the producers are completely undermining this by introducing a plotline where a baby in the womb has their life ended precisely because he or she has Down’s syndrome.”



Sally Phillips with her son, Oliver Bermejo

Caring for an Elderly Relative who says they want to die. "The real answer is to help make living as good and meaningful as possible until death"

By Nancy Valko

I was disturbed but not really surprised when I read the October 21, 2020 New England Journal of Medicine article by Scott D. Halpern, M.D, Ph.D., titled "Learning about End-of-Life Care from Grandpa".

Dr. Halpern, a palliative care doctor and ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, wrote about his elderly grandfather who had been widowed for the third time and wrote "My life was over too, only existence remained," in a memoir for his family.

As Dr. Halpern writes, "It was downhill from there" as his grandfather coped with challenges like blindness, deafness and arthritis.

Family members offered to care for him but the grandfather chose to go into an assisted living facility where family members could visit him frequently. But then, Covid 19 visitations cut him off entirely from the outside world.

Eventually, the grandfather was allowed to see relatives one at a time outdoors at the facility.

Nearing his 103rd birthday, the grandfather started asking Dr. Halpern about "any plausible option to hasten death".

New Jersey had recently approved physician-assisted suicide, but Dr. Halpern was "ambivalent" about that option. In addition, his grandfather did not have a terminal illness but rather was "dying of old age, frailty, and more than anything else, isolation and meaninglessness".

Alarmingly, Dr. Halpern found that the medical code for this diagnosis called "adult failure to thrive" was being used not only used to access hospice but also to access physician-assisted suicide in some states.

Unable to find a New Jersey doctor willing to use physician-assisted suicide on his grandfather anyway, Dr. Halpern offered his grandfather the option of VSED (voluntarily stopping of eating and drinking) to hasten or cause death that the pro-assisted suicide group Compassion and Choices touts as "natural" and legal in all states.

THE TRUTH ABOUT VSED

Dr. Halpern wrote that his grandfather had trouble refusing food and water on his own. He started and stopped the process a few times.

Dr. Halpern was not surprised, writing that:

> **"For people with a consistent desire to end their life, unencumbered by mental illness or immediate threats to their survival, the only alternative — to stop eating and drinking — is just too challenging. Hospice experts around the country had warned me that less than 20% of people who try to do so "succeed," with most reversing course because of vicious thirst."** (Underlining added)

Finally, Dr. Halpern' write that his grandfather said "I just want it over with. Scott, do whatever you need to do."

Dr. Halpern writes that he consulted his hospice team and began treating his grandfather's thirst "as I treat other forms of discomfort — with morphine and lorazepam" (Emphasis added) Even then, it took 12 long days for his grandfather to finally die.

The lessons that Dr. Halpern says he finally learned were that:

> **"despite many problems with physician-assisted dying, it may provide the most holistic relief possible for people who are not immediately dying, but rather are done living."**

And

> **"stopping eating and drinking is largely impossible without knowledgeable family members and dedicated hospice care."** (All underlining added)

Conclusion

Dr. Halpern obviously loved his grandfather and tried to meet his grandfather's emotional and physical needs before telling him about the VSED option and eventually adding terminal sedation. And it seems that the imposed isolation because of potential Covid 19 infection was especially devastating for his grandfather.

But his justification for physician-assisted suicide as "the most holistic relief possible for people who are not immediately dying, but rather are done living" is chilling.

Unfortunately, that is an attitude seen all too often in medical professionals that has led to the expansion of some assisted suicide laws from terminal illness to non-terminal conditions like "completed life" and disabilities.

See "Elderly," page 45

Baby born one week before UK abortion time limit leaves intensive care

By Right to Life UK

A New Zealand baby born at 23 weeks is now 9 months old and has left the hospital.

Declan Colquhoun, along with his brother Riley, was born in March at just 23 weeks gestation. He was so small, weighing only 400g [well less than a pound], that his aunt's wedding ring would have fitted around his arm.

Over the next two weeks, Riley sadly lost his life, but 8 months later, Declan is getting stronger every day. He now weighs 7kg [a little over 15 pounds].

At 22 weeks gestation, the twins' mother Kathryn Hutchinson was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia and had to have an emergency caesarean. The twins were born so early, that their eyes were still fused shut. They were immediately put on ventilators and neither their mother nor father was able to hold them.

After Riley died, the country went into lockdown and things got harder as only Declan's mother was allowed to visit him in the hospital due to the risk of COVID-19. The father, Chris Colquhoun, was not able to see his son for six weeks.

"He was extremely fragile."

Declan's recovery has been a slow process. He had three surgical procedures within a week. In October though, Declan was well enough to go outside for the first time in his life. His parents took him for walks around the hospital grounds.

Last week, he was transferred out of intensive care to a special care baby unit at Hutt Hospital. He still requires oxygen and a tube to feed.

"It's a step in the right direction", Hutchinson said.

"Good things take time. His development is delayed but he's smiling now and making quiet little noises",

Born below the abortion limit

In England and Wales, it is legal to have an abortion up to the 24th week of gestation, despite the fact that babies, like Declan, can and do survive when they are born before that point.

In 2019, there were 3,675 abortions after 20 weeks. Furthermore, there is increasing evidence that babies in the womb can feel pain as early as 12 weeks gestation.

In November of this year, a large number of MPs attended a Parliamentary webinar on foetal pain hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group (APPPG). It aimed to raise awareness of the need to review the science behind foetal pain and address the current contradiction in UK law concerning the treatment of the unborn.

Right To Life UK's spokesperson, Catherine Robinson, said: "The number of babies born before the 24-week abortion limit in the UK, who go on to survive, is increasing all the time. While Declan was born alive at 23 weeks and is now flourishing, there are babies at the same gestation whose lives are ended by abortion whilst still in the womb."

Guess what speech won't be free in a Joe Biden administration?

By Dave Andrusko

We've run several posts previously in *NRL News Today* which give us fair warning where a pro-abortion President Joe Biden would take us. We have additional stories in the December issue of *National Right to Life News*.

The first is taken from a powerful speech delivered by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

POLITICO, no friend of the Justice or conservative jurisprudence in general, captured one key element of his address to the Federalist Society in its subhead: "The Supreme Court justice warned that not only is freedom of belief under threat, but freedom of expression is as well." More about this in our second, related post.

In general (there are exceptions), Big Tech is intensely hostile to pro-life and conservative viewpoints. They have a real friend in Joe Biden and his chief of staff, Ron Klain.

Protocul.com described him this way: "[I]nside the tech world, Klain is regarded as a keen-eyed startup investor who has bridged the often expansive gap between tech and politics, advising dozens of tech companies both inside and outside of Democratic circles" Aka, Klain is a big-time lobbyist.

As Tucker Carlson said, his long and close ties to Biden is

> **not why he got the job. Ron Klain is also a lobbyist for Big Tech. Four years ago, he joined the executive council of Silicon Valley's lobbying arm in Washington.**

As Alexander Hall pointed out in his piece for *Newsbusters*

> **Former Vice President Joe Biden has said that he "plans to convene a task force to create best practices for containing online harassment, which disproportionately affects women and young people," CNBC summarized in a Nov. 10 report.**

Sound innocuous, even praiseworthy, right?

> **CNBC's reporting consulted multiple experts who eagerly anticipate a new wave of censorship to wipe out their political enemies. …**
>
> **"We know these platforms are consistently the source of online harassment and threats to women, and there's a connection to extremist consequences," Vanderbilt University professor of psychology and human development Lisa Fazio commented to CNBC, with zero skepticism about the implications towards free speech.**
>
> **The Biden-Harris campaign website explained that the task force will combine the power of many elite institutions if he wins the presidency, including: "federal agencies, state leaders, advocates, law enforcement, and technology experts."**

Consider all the censorship that took place over the past year—where, as Carlson aptly described it, they "shutdown one side [pro-Trump], protected the other" [Joe Biden] from the least amount of critical scrutiny imaginable.

All of us need to pay the closest attention to the Biden/Kamala Harris administration. They hate us, and are not the least bit reluctant to use every tool possible to stifle our voices.

Justice Alito's passionate defense of religious liberty and freedom of speech

By Dave Andrusko

Let's name three obvious reasons why Justice Samuel Alito's November 12th speech delivered to the National Lawyers Convention would have been criticized, whatever he said.

#1. Justice Alito is a leader, along with Justice Thomas, of the conservative wing of the High Court.

#2. The convention is organized by the Federalist Society, instrumental for decades in grooming strict constructionists judges, later justices, which you find throughout the federal judiciary.

#3. Justice Alito tells it like it is. That's fine when it lines up with the dominant media narrative, not at all when it doesn't. And when he warns of the clear and present danger to religious liberties (not to mention persecution of cultural conservatives), he is definitely not going to receive good press.

Here is just one item from a fiery speech he delivered to a virtual conference.* And that addressed the by-now famous case of the Little Sisters of the Poor that has dragged out for years and years and years.

After offering a few of the

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito

superlatives admirers of their selfless work extolled them for, Justice Alito said, "Despite this inspiring work, the little sisters have been under unrelenting attack for the better part of a decade."

They were "targeted by the prior administration. If they did not knuckle under and violate a tenet of their faith, they faced crippling fines, fines that would likely have forced them to shut down their homes.

> **The current administration tried to prevent that by adopting a new rule. But the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey supported by 17, under other states, challenged that new rule. Last spring, the Little Sisters won their most recent battle in the Supreme Court, I should add by a vote of seven to two, but the case was sent back to the Court of Appeals. And the Little Sisters legal fight goes on and on.**

Justice Alito said "A great many Americans disagree sometimes quite strongly with the religious beliefs of the Little Sisters" and "of course , they have a perfect right to do so. That is not the question. The question we face is whether our society will be inclusive enough to tolerate people with unpopular religious beliefs."

He added, "It pains me to say this, but in certain quarters, religious liberty is fast becoming a disfavored right." The following encapsulated his unremitting defense of religious liberty:

"That is just what has come to pass," he said. "One of the great challenges for the Supreme Court going forward will be to protect freedom of speech. Although that freedom is falling out of favor in some circles, we need to do whatever we can to prevent it from becoming a second tier constitutional right."

*Thanks go out to Josh Blackman for transcribing Justice Alito's remarks.

Ban on the dismemberment of living unborn babies goes into effect

From page 27

The barbaric procedure literally rips apart a preborn child, piece by piece, to destroy the life of the baby.

Developmentally, babies make incredible strides between 13 and 24 weeks. Early in this stage, a baby's sex becomes clear. During this window of time, little boys or girls start to move their eyes, and they begin to hear. Around 16 weeks, an ultrasound can detect them moving their arms and legs. A few weeks later, a baby will begin to suck his or her thumb. Babies born prematurely at the end of this stage (24 weeks) have a survival rate of around 60-70%. Improvements in neonatal care are constantly increasing these odds as well as making survival a possibility even earlier in a pregnancy.

Imagine watching a sleeping baby girl peacefully suck her thumb inside of her mother's womb. Then consider the horror of seeing that same baby girl flail her tiny arms and legs as an abortionist uses forceps to clutch at her body. If you could stomach the sight, you would see the baby's life gruesomely destroyed as the abortionist dissevered her body, bit by bit, grasping and crushing her little skull as part of the process.

Unfortunately, we **can** imagine; we wish we couldn't. Tragically, the Abortion Industry and its minions in the media can't either, a failure of moral imagination on a colossal scale.

Ex-abortionist: After giving birth, I made the 'fetal-baby connection'

By Calvin Freiburger

Former abortionists and abortion supporters can awaken to the barbarism of abortion in a variety of ways, and former abortionist Dr. Kathi Aultman says her journey began when the birth of her own child focused her mind of the humanity of preborn babies.

Aultman, a retired OB/GYN who is now with the pro-life Charlotte Lozier Institute, has testified before Congress on behalf of pro-life laws, and joined LifeSiteNews' Jonathon Van Maren for an interview on last week's episode of The Van Maren Show.

"I think I must have made the fetal-baby connection when my baby was born," she said, "because when I went back to the clinic, I ran into these three patients, and when I look at my responses now, I must've been thinking more of that fetus as a baby."

One patient was seeking her fourth abortion, the second declared "no, I just want to kill it" in response to being asked whether she wanted to see the "tissue," and the third was a mother of four who aborted for financial reasons, and "cried the whole time she was there."

Aultman recalled telling her clinic manager she didn't want to commit abortions anymore, only to be met with, "you don't have that right. She has the right to do that and you need to do the abortion." She responded, "that's easy for you to say. You're not the one doing the killing."

Former abortionist Dr. Kathi Aultman
Photo: Claire Chretien/LifeSiteNews

"So at that point, I must have already known somehow that I was killing," Aultman said. "I think God brought to my mind that it was the apathy and hostility of the first two patients contrasted with the misery of the third patient who knew what it was to have a child. That contrast was what changed my mind and I personally just couldn't stomach doing abortions anymore."

While those experiences pushed her away from personal involvement in abortion, she did not become fully pro-life until a friend shared with her an article comparing abortion to the Nazi Holocaust.

"My father was with the unit that liberated the first concentration camp in World War II," Aultman said. "And so I grew up with those stories and pictures. And I when I became a doctor, I couldn't understand how the German doctors could do what they did, until I read that article."

"Yeah, they could do it just like I could kill babies because we didn't consider them human," she confessed. "They didn't consider the Jews and the other people they mistreated and killed as humans. And I didn't consider fetuses as human."

"And that was the first time that I saw myself as a mass murderer," Aultman continued. "And it was right about then the Ted Bundy case was in the news. And then I thought, 'oh my gosh. You know, I've killed a lot more people than Ted Bundy.' But it wasn't illegal." Her first congressional testimony against abortion followed shortly afterward.

The Van Maren Show is hosted on numerous platforms, including Spotify, SoundCloud, YouTube, iTunes, and Google Play.

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Amy Hasbrouck Submits Powerful Testimony To Canadian Senate Committee in opposition to Bill C-7

From page 34

setting the stage for an abusive attendant to coerce a person to ask for death, and then serve as the only witness to the request. Instead of clarifying what it means for someone's natural death to be "reasonably foreseeable" — or scrapping the slippery and malleable concept altogether — Bill C-7 puts those folks on a fast-track to death. The bill would eliminate the ten-day reflection period, as well as the requirement that the person be able to confirm their consent when the lethal injection is given; thereby creating a de facto advance directive. So even if a person must wait weeks to see if an antidepressant will relieve their emotional distress, or months to get access to palliative care, they can get the deadly dose right away. That person with the abusive caregiver mentioned earlier; no one will even blink if they're euthanized the same day they're approved (as happened in Québec).

Her testimony concludes:

Instead of rushing to pass over-reaching legislation to meet a court-imposed deadline in the midst of a pandemic, parliament should concentrate on performing a rigorous and balanced examination of the euthanasia program as a whole. Parliament must determine whether the MAiD law . . .monitoring system is robust enough to detect problems, prevent the deaths of ineligible persons and impose consequences for those deaths. The five-year review could also answer the question whether it's possible to enforce the MAiD law, let alone if it's being enforced. Anything less would be a betrayal of the democratic process and the public trust.

To read the full testimony, please go to the TVNDY website .

"It's the statehouses, stupid." Pro-abortion publication acknowledges how well pro-life Republicans did in the states

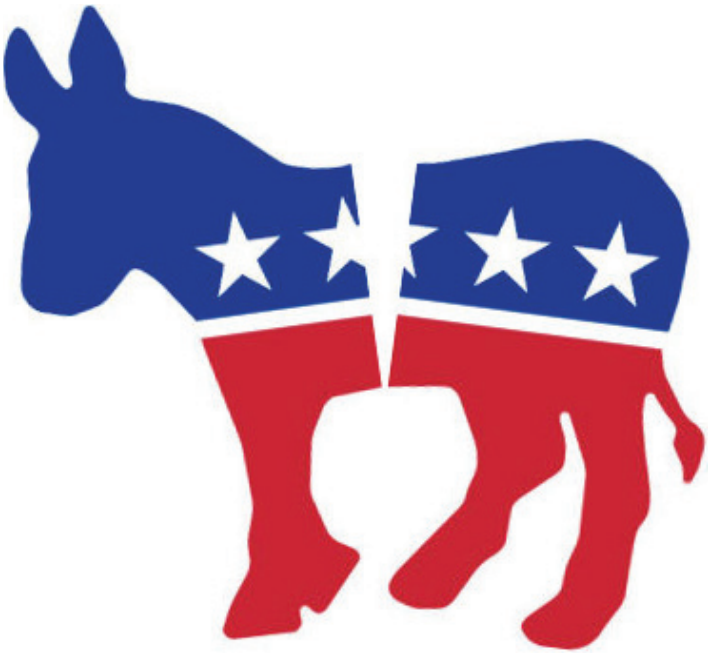
By Dave Andrusko

In *National Right to Life News Today*, we've written articles illustrating what a pounding pro-abortion Democrats took at the statehouse level in the November 3rd elections. A friend of mine subsequently forwarded a link to an article that appeared in Slate, which is solidly pro-Democrat and pro-abortion, which painted an even grimmer picture.

The title for Mary Harris' piece, which was "an excerpt of a conversation from Slate's daily morning news podcast, 'What Next,' is "Democrats Have a Much Bigger Problem Than the Senate or the Electoral College: It's the statehouses, stupid."

It's a long post, but let me start with the conclusion that appears at the very end of the excerpt:

> **Mary Harris:** *The Democrats seem to lack the organizational knowhow, the infrastructure to compete with Republicans in these states they see as battlegrounds. Is my perception right here or am I just being cynical?*
>
> **Ari Berman:** *I don't know if that's totally true when it comes to state legislative races, because Democrats raised more money than Republicans did with state legislative races. They had really high-profile figures like Eric Holder [President Obama's Attorney General] working on these races. I don't think it was for lack of effort or for lack of organization. I just think these were really, really difficult places to win seats. And I think Democrats have a red America problem. It's very, very clear they're not competing as strongly as they should be in states that are red or haven't flipped yet from red to purple. And a lot of the seats that needed pickup were in the redder parts of purple states. It was about the more conservative suburban areas, the rural areas? That's where the Democratic Party really underperformed. Donald Trump ran up huge margins there. That was enough for Republicans to be able to hold control of all of these state legislative chambers.*



Democrats spent hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars on state and congressional races. With rare exceptions, they had unified support from the entire media complex, in addition to Hollywood, academia, and virtually unlimited funding from pro-abortion billionaires such as George Soros. That, and some (such as President Trump) would say dishonest ballot counting in a number of key battleground states.

All this going for pro-abortion Democrats and (if he finally wins) a victory for Joe Biden by the skin of his teeth; losses in the House of Representatives; for now a stalemate in the Senate that will be decided by two runoff elections January 5 in Georgia; and losses in many, many legislatures.

Harris and Berman never quite say it, but clearly they believe 2020 was a huge loss—"This year was the best opportunity for Democrats," Berman says– that will come back to haunt Democrats.

"[T]his year you had Joe Biden on the ticket, you had high Democratic turnout, and they were still unable to flip these state legislative chambers," a reference to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, and Texas where Democrats had hoped to assume control of the state legislature.

How did what took place on November 3rd come to pass?

Berman argues, "Republicans basically held all of their vulnerable chambers and seats" which means "right now it looks like, with a few exceptions, the post-2020 redistricting cycle is going to look very similar to the post-2010 redistricting cycle, when Republicans dominated the process." Berman adds, "So you just wonder, when are they going to get a better opportunity?"

President Trump will never, ever be given credit for the rallies that help turn out enormous numbers of Republican voters. Pro-lifers will never, ever be given credit for the massive work done by NRLC and state pro-life organizations.

But looking ahead, these victories at the state level that you helped make possible are incredibly important.

So what do we know about Xavier Becerra, Joe Biden's designee to be Secretary of Health and Human Services?

From page 2

In addition, Osburn explained that

> **"After being appointed California attorney general he carried on the work Sen. Kamala Harris started in prosecuting undercover journalist and pro-life activist David Daleiden on behalf of Planned Parenthood. In 2017, Becerra charged Daleiden with 15 felonies, marking the first time any person in the state has been criminally prosecuted for allegedly violating California's video recording law."**

Planned Parenthood could not possibly have had a more agreeable ally in its fight to squelch alternatives to abortion and thwart investigations into its practices.

What many of us may have forgotten is Becerra's awful record as a Member of the United States House of Representatives from 1993-2017. During that long time span, there was nothing that NARAL and the Abortion Lobby wanted supported (or opposed) that Becerra didn't gleefully get behind.

Laws against sex-selection abortion (Becerra was against). Laws such as the Conscience Protection Act (Becerra was against).

Even a law that prohibited partial-birth abortions, so hideous that even many pro-abortion fellow travelers gulped.

The genius of partial-birth abortion was and is that the description cleared away the gauzy euphemisms. A baby is partially delivered, surgical scissors are jammed into the baby's skull, and her brains

Xavier Becerra

are vacuumed out like so much soot.

But to hard-core types such as Becerra, this was much ado about nothing.

Finally, Biden says such…. curious things… that you don't know what he believes or even if he is particular aware what he is saying. And because the Major Media are Major Lapdogs for anyone not named Donald Trump, he is never pressed to explain his ramblings.

So, he burbles on about "uniting" the country. This at the same time he chooses militant pro-abortion ideologues such as Becerra who no doubt will work closely with Kamala Harris to make life as miserable for unborn babies and their defenders as humanly possible.

If ever there was proof positive that "elections matter," this is it.

Fortunately, our Movement is composed of people who are neither intimidated, browbeaten, nor given to giving in. If Biden is the next President of the United States, he will know very quickly that pro-lifers are gearing up to oppose his every anti-life initiative.

Caring for an Elderly Relative who says they want to die.

From page 39

Both personally and professionally as a nurse, I know how difficult it can be on families when caring for a family member-especially an older relative-who says he or she wants to die.

But I also know that while we all can have sympathy for someone who says they want to die, the word "no" can be a powerful and loving response. The real answer is to help make living as good and meaningful as possible until death.

For example, I became the only caregiver when my elderly aunt developed diabetes and late-stage pancreatic cancer in 2000.

I went to doctor visits with her and went over the options with her. My aunt rejected chemo and radiation that had only a small chance of even slowing the cancer. She also refused hospice.

I offered to care for her in my home with my 15 year old daughter who also wanted to help. However my aunt felt it would cramp my daughter's lifestyle so she decided to stay in her own home until she died.

So I helped her at home and purchased my first cell phone so that she could contact me at anytime. At that time, I was a single parent and worked full time nights in an ICU.

However, one day my aunt asked me about stopping her insulin to die faster. I told her how that could put her at risk for a heart attack or stroke from high blood sugar with no one there to help.

So she changed her mind and then even began opening up about her condition with others. She was stunned when people told her how inspiring she was and offered to help her in any way.

My aunt became happier than I had ever seen her.

Eventually, my aunt did accept hospice care at a facility she knew. I visited and called often. My aunt was physically comfortable and alert.

One day when my daughter and I went to visit her, we found that she had just died quietly in her sleep. The nurses had just stepped out to call me.

My daughter later wrote a beautiful essay about her first experience with death for her high school and received an A+. Her essay was later published on a nursing website.

In the end, causing or hastening death does not really solve anything but rather can be seen as an abandonment of the suffering person and a destroyer of the necessary trust we all must have in the ethics of our healthcare system.

We must never discriminate when it comes to helping anyone contemplating suicide.

Editor's note. This appeared on Nancy's blog and is reposted with permission.

Massachusetts legislature passes abortion until birth amendment to 2021 fiscal year budget

By Dave Andrusko

We've posted explanations and factsheets and critiques from our affiliate, Massachusetts Citizens for Life, of the latest over-the-top pro-abortion proposal–abortion up until birth and the removal of protection for abortion survivors, for starters.

But all that our affiliate did, along with the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, did not prevent the legislature from passing Amendment 759 (in the House) and Amendment 180 (in the Senate) to the proposed fiscal year 2021 state budget.

As the **Boston Pilot** explained

> **Legislators had inserted amendments into house and senate budget bills that would effectively implement the "ROE Act," a bill proposed in 2019 to legalize abortion in the state in the event Roe v. Wade were overturned by the Supreme Court.**

The pro-abortion Gov. Charlie Baker will eventually decide whether to veto. At one point he said he has "concerns about eliminating the parental-notification requirement" and about "changing the terms and conditions associated with late-term abortions in Massachusetts."

Moreover, according to Alexandra DeSanctis of *National Review Online*,

> **Earlier this month, Baker said of the Democratic attempt to include abortion in the budget, "I do share some of the unhappiness that was raised by a number of members of the Republican Party — that putting policy in the budget was something that both leaders in the House and Senate said they would not do. And it's pretty hard to argue that this isn't a major policy initiative that is now in the budget."**

But the margins were veto-proof. Unless some legislators in the House change their minds, the amendments will be part of the next fiscal year budget.

According to the *Boston Pilot*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston

> **The amendments would allow for abortions up until the point of birth in the event of a lethal fetal anomaly. They would also allow for minors as young as 16 years old to have an abortion without parental consent.**
>
> **In addition, the bill calls for life-saving equipment to be in the room when a doctor performs a legal late-term abortion, but only says the equipment is to "enable" the doctor to save the life of a baby surviving an abortion. Pro-life groups have warned that the language amounts to "passive infanticide" by not specifically requiring a doctor to save the infant's life.**

More specifically, Massachusetts Citizens for Life explained "Amendment #789/180 would eliminate current laws requiring that physicians ' The current law is clear:

> **Section 12P. If an abortion is performed pursuant to section twelve M, the physician performing the abortion shall take all reasonable steps, both during and subsequent to the abortion, in keeping with good medical practice, consistent with the procedure being used, to preserve the life and health of the aborted child.**

But "the new language states only that there must be 'life-supporting equipment' present, and eliminates the requirement for the abortionist to actually USE it."

It would be difficult to imagine a more awful proposal. But if pro-abortion Democrats win control of the United States Senate (they already control the House) and if Joe Biden is declared President, it would likely be a foreshadowing of what a party saturated in death would propose.

Postabortion woman:" I wish I could turn back the clock"

By Sarah Terzo

One postabortion woman says:

"I've always loved babies, and I love my boyfriend—although we've only been together for less than a year. But I let my fear get the best of me…I had my abortion at 11 weeks, 2 days, on the 7th of February, 2017. I waited over a month after finding out because I struggled. But I did it, and it is the worst decision I've ever made, I wish I walked out of the hospital that morning. I took my baby home with me to bury and that just deepened my pain—but I don't regret that.

"I cry and I get angry a lot. It's a huge thing to hold on your shoulders. I'm constantly looking up pictures of what my baby would have looked like right now if I had kept him or her. Nothing has ever hurt me this bad; I feel so stupid. I wish I could turn back the clock. BE SURE ABORTION IS WHAT YOU WANT. Don't let the pressure get to you. Ugh. It just sucks so bad, thinking about my little baby all the time."

Ashley Wehrli, "15 Women Who Regretted Their Abortion Tell All." Babygaga April 20, 2018.

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

How poetry highlights the humanity of the unborn–and the barbarism of abortion

From page 11

Even G.K. Chesterton, who never had any children of his own, penned a poem titled "By the Babe Unborn":

If trees were tall and grasses short,
As in some crazy tale,
If here and there a sea were blue
Beyond the breaking pale,
If a fixed fire hung in the air
To warm me one day through,
If deep green hair grew on great hills,
I know what I should do.
In dark I lie; dreaming that there
Are great eyes cold or kind,
And twisted streets and silent doors,
And living men behind.
Let storm clouds come: better an hour,
And leave to weep and fight,
Than all the ages I have ruled
The empires of the night.
I think that if they gave me leave
Within the world to stand,
I would be good through all the day
I spent in fairyland.
They should not hear a word from me
Of selfishness or scorn,
If only I could find the door,
If only I were born.

Nobody reads any of these poems and grows indignant by the authors' attribution of humanity to the unborn children, because it would not cross our minds to do so. These poems affirm what we already know. The pro-life case is backed by science, human observation and instinct, and consistent human rights philosophy. But more than that, even the art world can be marshaled in defence of the indisputable truth that our lives begin long before we are born.

As the great German poet Günter Grass observed in his poem "Family Matters," a look at the secular attitudes of Sunday culture-goers from the perspective of aborted babies placed in formaldehyde-filled jars, secularization and the sexual revolution have infected our minds:

In our museum – we always go
there on Sundays –
they have opened a new department.
Our aborted children, pale, serious embryos,
sit there in plain glass jars
and worry about their parents' future.

Perhaps Leonard Cohen, the Montreal poet and troubadour, put it more succinctly:

Destroy another fetus now
We don't like children anyhow
I've seen the future, baby: It is murder.

CDC Updates Abortion figures show short term increase in 2018 but long term decline

From page 8

minority population, but also from other major states like New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Georgia.

Still, based on the state data it does have, the CDC reports that Black American women accounted for 33.6% of the abortions the CDC measured in 2018.

Where the CDC knew the ethnicity of the aborting woman in 2018, Hispanic women represented about 20% of all abortions.

To put this in context, the U.S. Census bureau estimates that Blacks made up 13.4% of the nation's population in 2019 and Hispanics 18.5%. Even if adding to these the 2.8% of the population the census identified as from two or more races, it still leaves us with the two largest minorities accounting for **just about a third of the population but more than half of the abortions performed in the U.S**.

Abortion rates and ratios also reflect this racial disparity. Non-Hispanic black women have an abortion rate 3.4 times higher than white women and an abortion ratio 3 times higher than white women.

Hispanic women had an abortion rate 1.7 times and an abortion ratio 1.4 times that of their white counterparts, according to the CDC.

Most of the demographic statistics cited so far are pretty much in line with what has been reported in the past, most abortions are to unmarried women in their twenties, many who have already had abortions or had previously given birth, an overrepresentation of minorities, etc. But data on gestational age and abortion method expose some concerning trends.

Growth in Chemical Abortions

The CDC says most abortions in 2018 were performed in the first trimester, as it has been the case for many years. In 2018, 92.2% of abortions reported to the CDC occurred at 13 weeks gestation or less.

Of course, this leaves, even by the CDC minimal counts, tens of thousands of abortions performed on babies in the second or third trimesters. These are the later term abortions the media likes to pretend don't exist.

There has been a shift, nevertheless, particularly in the past twenty years, to abortions performed earlier and earlier in the first trimester. Current figures for 2018 show more than three quarters (77.7%) of abortions were performed at nine weeks gestation or less. More than four in ten (40.2%) are performed at six weeks or earlier.

For comparison, in the CDC's report from twenty years ago (1998 Abortion Surveillance), 75.7% of abortions were performed at ten weeks or less (the CDC grouped weeks together differently at that point). Just 18.8%, *less than half* the current 40.2%, were performed at six weeks gestation or less.

The explanation for this shift can be seen in another set of data from the CDC and a quick recounting of history.

The "abortion pill" RU-486, also known as mifepristone, was first approved for use in the United States in September of 2000. Originally, its use was supposed to be limited to women no more than seven weeks pregnant, measured from a woman's last menstrual period. But bending to pressure from the abortion industry, President Obama's FDA allowed its use up to ten weeks in March of 2016.

Though the number of chemical abortions began to rise slowly, the CDC now says that chemical abortions (or as it puts them, "medical" abortions) running up through nine weeks and 6 days account for 38.6% of all abortions where procedure was identified.

They account for 54.9% of abortions performed at six weeks or less, which explains the CDC's rising figure of early abortions mentioned earlier.

The CDC says that the number of "early medical abortions" reported to them rose **120%** from 2009 to 2018.

On top of that, the CDC says an additional 1.4% of "medical" abortions took place at some point greater than nine weeks.

That 1.4% likely reflects the fact that despite the official government protocol, abortionists have in the past prescribed their use past the recommended cutoff date. *

In any case, both the CDC's abortion method and gestation data document a significant change in the timing of abortions and the way they have been performed over the past two decades. If the abortion industry continues to promote these and to press the government to further loosen distribution requirements to allow online sales and at-home use, these numbers might keep on keep on increasing.

It seems likely that this growth in chemical abortions amidst other long-term declines may be a dominant factor in the recent slight increase seen in abortions, abortion rates, and abortion ratios recorded by the CDC for 2018.

The Empire Strikes Back?

Anyone who thought that the abortion industry would stand idly by while their empire crumbled, while states were passing laws holding them in check, pro-life pregnancy centers were offering their potential clients better life preserving alternatives, and major abortion chains were being defunded, was probably overly optimistic.

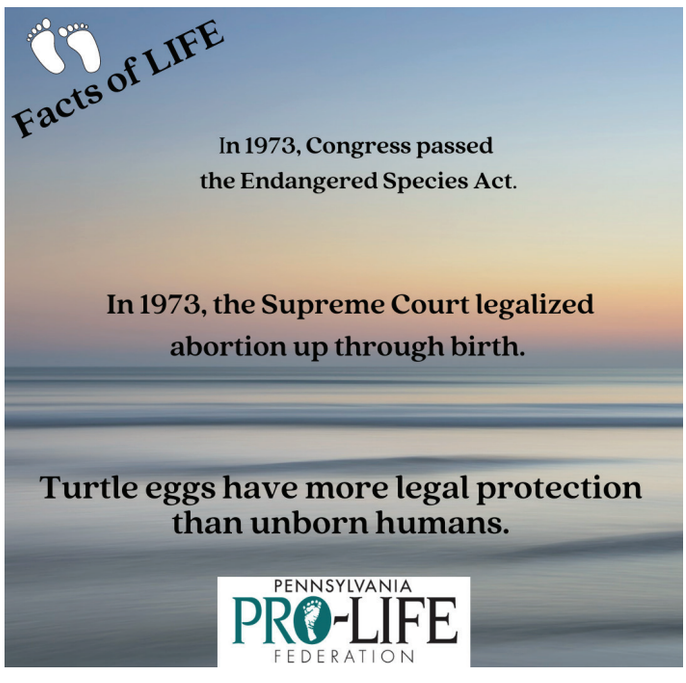
Abortion advocates have seen this decline in abortions coming for several decades and have taken steps to shore up their industry. They have rebuilt their customer base, constructed new megaclinics, heavily promoted chemical abortions, and fought pro-life laws in the courts and legislatures.

The CDC's latest data shows us both that years of pro-life education, legislation, outreach, and private assistance have had a long term impact, but also that counter efforts by the abortion industry may be starting to blunt or even reverse those trends.

Abortions, abortion rates and ratios are slightly up in their latest figures, but many moms and their babies have already been spared over the last three decades because of the tireless efforts of pro-lifers.

But this recent report shows us that our work is far from over.

*Though, in theory, these could involve other drugs, chemical methods using urea, oxytocin, or prostaglandins would likely be counted as "intrauterine instillation" procedures, for which the CDC has a separate category.



Pro-Life Candidates Defy Expectations, Flip at least 13 House Seats

From page 10

Herrell earns the distinction of being the first Native American Republican woman elected to Congress and only the third Native American woman ever elected. She made her pro-life position a cornerstone of her campaign, regularly calling out the abortion extremism embraced by Torres Small. Her home state of New Mexico is one of several states that allow abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. Herrell's support for commonsense protections for the unborn made the difference in a close race that she won by just one percentage point.

Ashley Hinson took back the seat in Iowa's 1st District when she defeated pro-abortion freshman Abby Finkenauer. Prior to Congress, Hinson served in the Iowa House of Representatives, where she was a strong supporter of pro-life legislative efforts. Political forecasters at Inside Elections and Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball had rated the race "Leans Democrat" heading into the final days of the campaign. A Monmouth University poll had Hinson down 12 points two weeks before Election Day. She ultimately won by 3 points.

Young Kim, a former California Assemblywoman, won a rematch against pro-abortion Democrat Gil Cisneros in California's 39th District, located in Orange County. Prior to 2020, a Korean American woman has never been elected to Congress. As an immigrant from South Korea, Kim becomes one of three Korean American women to be awarded that distinction this year. The political pundits had written off this race, relegating it to "Likely Democrat," but Kim was a strong candidate who managed to prove them all wrong. FiveThirtyEight gave her just a 26% chance of victory. With Kim's win, along with Michelle Steel in the 48th District and David Valadao in the 21st, 2020 marked the first time Republicans defeated incumbent Democrats in California since 1998.

Nicole Malliotakis, a member of the New York State Assembly, prevailed over pro-abortion Democrat Max Rose in New York's 11th District. As the daughter of Cuban and Greek immigrants, she becomes the first Hispanic American to win elected office in Staten Island. In the New York State Assembly, she voted against late abortions and taxpayer funding of abortion. By contrast, Rose had a 0% rating from National Right to Life in the 116th Congress.

Nancy Mace was victorious in South Carolina's 1st District against pro-abortion Democrat Joe Cunningham. Mace, a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, bears the distinction of being the first woman to graduate from the Citadel. The 1st District had previously been a Republican seat but Cunningham was able to ride 2018's so-called "Blue Wave" to victory. In his term, Cunningham had a 0% pro-life rating. Mace voted in favor of pro-life proposals in the South Carolina House, including a bill to protect unborn babies from late abortions when they can experience pain.

Burgess Owens, a retired NFL football player who played for the Oakland Raiders and the New York Jets, flipped a seat in Utah's 4th Congressional District. In addition to his sports background, Owens is a businessman and runs a nonprofit organization to help troubled and incarcerated youth. Owens defeated Democrat Ben McAdams, who had claimed to hold a pro-life position but only scored 38% with National Right to Life. Considered a rising star in Republican politics, Owens spoke on the third night of the 2020 Republican National Convention.

Maria Elvira Salazar pulled off a major upset with her win over pro-abortion incumbent Donna Shalala in Florida's 27th District. Salazar prevailed in a race that had been labeled "Likely Democratic" by most political prognosticators and in a district carried by both Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Prior to running for Congress, Salazar was a journalist and broadcast television anchor for the Spanish-language network Telemundo. Her opponent, Donna Shalala, served as HHS Secretary under President Bill Clinton and was a founding member of the extreme pro-abortion political group EMILY's List.

Michelle Steel, a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, defeated pro-abortion incumbent Harley Rouda in California's 48th Congressional District. Pundits and pollsters had given the edge to Rouda in the race but Steel defied the odds and won by three points. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Steel becomes one of two Korean American Republicans, the other is Young Kim, heading to Congress. She is strongly pro-life and defeats an incumbent who had a 0% rating from National Right to Life.

David Valadao has won a rematch for the seat he previously held in California's 21st District, defeating freshman Democrat TJ Cox. Valadao, the son of Portuguese immigrants, was a partner in Valadao Dairy, a dairy farm established by his father in Kings County, California. Prior to his term in Congress, he also served as a member of the California State Assembly. He maintained a pro-life voting record throughout his time in elected office and becomes another pro-life addition to the California delegation for the 117th Congress.

As we await the results of two more potential pickups in Iowa and New York, we can be heartened that our efforts to bring pro-life leaders to Washington have borne fruit. Here at National Right to Life, we are looking forward to working with the new freshman class and all those concerned with protecting unborn babies and their mothers.

116th Congressional Wrap-Up: Pro-life Wins and Challenges

From page 24

While the Senate actively took up pieces of pro-life legislation, they most enduring mark is the lifetime appointment of hundreds of solid, conservative judges and justices, faithful to the Constitution. These are the judges that will often be tasked with reviewing the many strong pro-life laws and regulations enacted at both the state and federal level.

The Senate recently confirmed Justice Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, adding to the appointments_made in the last congress of Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Senate Leader McConnell has also made the life issue a high priority, scheduling votes on important pro-life pieces of legislation.

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S. 3275), sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), prohibits abortion after 20 weeks fetal age, with certain exceptions. This bill was developed from model legislation developed by National Right to Life in 2010 and enacted by a number of states.

In early 2020, the U.S. Senate voted on whether to advance this legislation. Fifty-three senators voted to take up the bill (pro-life), but 60 votes were required, so the bill did not advance. The bill was supported by 51 Republicans and two Democrats. Forty-four senators voted against advancing the bill (two Republicans and 42 Democrats). Three Democrats were absent.

The Senate also took up the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 311), described above, sponsored by Senator Ben Sasse (R-Ne.). In the 2020 vote, 56 senators voted to take up the bill (pro-life), but 60 votes were required, so the bill did not advance. The bill was supported by all 53 Republicans and three Democrats. Forty-one senators voted against advancing the bill. Three Democrats were absent.

While the 116th Congress was certainly a busy and unusual one, we look ahead to the 117th Congress. It is critical that those in Georgia who can vote to elect Sens. Perdue and Loeffler do so.

Maintaining a majority in the Senate will be critical to holding back radical pro-abortion policies promoted by the House under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi. We expect that the highest pro-life priority in the 117th Congress will be holding back attempts to force taxpayers to fund abortion by removing the Hyde Amendment.

"It will never be the wrong decision to give that baby life"–single mom gets help with Unplanned scholarship

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never judged, and they're full of people are going to walk alongside of her."

Bratcher spoke further about the partnership and voiced her desire to make a real difference in upholding the sanctity of life and helping women.

"I would love to be able to change the narrative that says that abortion empowers women," she said. "Abortion does not empower women. What empowers women is when they choose life for their children and they can still pursue their dreams. Because they can, sometimes it just takes a little help."

"I want to be a part of a group of people who are champions for mothers who want to pursue their dreams and prove that successful women can be mothers," she added.

Sarah is also a courageous mom who chose life after having started the chemical abortion process, experienced regret, then sought and received help through Heartbeat's Abortion Pill Rescue® Network for a successful abortion pill reversal.

She offered practical encouragement for moms facing unplanned pregnancy who feel they may have no choice about their future if they choose life.

"It'll be a struggle," she told Pregnancy Help News, "but it will never be the wrong decision to give that baby life. Because through giving that baby life, you're giving yourself another life."

She reflected on having thought at one point that she could not face life as a single mom, now compared to having received so much love and support from pro-life medical providers and pregnancy help personnel, encouraging moms to not despair and to seek assistance.

"So, just reach out for support from a local pregnancy center because they really are there to help you if you don't have a good support system," Sarah said. "And they'll pray for you, support you and help you. They'll bend over backwards for you. They will really help you out."

"As a single mom of four kids, no matter what you're facing, there's always someone out there who is willing to help," she said, "who's willing to pray for you, and who wants to see both you and your baby thrive and survive."

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