



February 2017

“Life is winning again in America”



Pro-life individuals from across the nation traveled to DC for the March for Life to send the message "Stop Abortion Now." Marchers ended at the US Supreme Court building, where on January 22, 1973, abortion on demand was thrust on our nation.



national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Help us stop the pro-abortion assault on Judge Gorsuch

Pro-abortion organizations like Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and EMILY's List have really been taking it on the chin lately.

Planned Parenthood faces having its funds cut off by the federal government and by many states. EMILY's List recently lost 83% of the election races where it went head-to-head with National Right to Life's political committees.

And recent statistics show that Americans more and more are rejecting abortion; today, for example, there are 680,000



Judge Neil Gorsuch

fewer abortions each year in the U.S. than there were 25 years before.

Pro-abortion groups and their Democratic Senate allies are angry, bitter and desperate.

That's why they are whipping their supporters into hysteria over the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Judge Gorsuch is an exemplary nominee. His statements and writings show a true respect for our Constitution and our nation's laws. He understands and respects that

the role of the legislatures in a democracy to make law, and that the courts' role is to make sure that constitutional law is aptly applied - not to write laws themselves.

Gorsuch has also written about the value of human life, and against assisted suicide, all of which drives pro-abortion groups into an angry frenzy.

Since a right to abortion is found nowhere in the

See "Assault," page 8

2018 U.S. Senate Elections *Great Pro-Life opportunities abound*

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

In 2018, there are **many** opportunities to replace a pro-abortion United States Senator with a pro-life Senator.

Next year Democrats are defending 25 seats, while Republicans are defending only eight. Generally speaking, the best pickup opportunities are in states that voted for pro-life President Donald Trump in 2016, but which have pro-abortion Democratic senators.

According to political pundits, 15 of the 25 Democrat Senate seats are considered "safe Democratic," while 6

of the 8 Republican seats are considered "safe Republican."

Let's discuss the 10 Democratic seats which are at varying degrees of vulnerability, and two pro-life Republicans who may need to be protected.

Currently, four Senate Democratic seats are considered "tossups." They are:

- In Indiana where Sen. Joe Donnelly claims to be pro-life, but who has a 22% pro-life voting record for this Senate term,

as scored by National Right to Life. His challenger is expected to be pro-life Reps.

Luke Messer, Susan Brooks, or Todd Rokita.

See "Senate," page 21



Editorials

So busy torching the Trump Administration they don't realize their own house is on fire

Elsewhere in the February digital edition of *NRL News*, we take a close look at the sorry lot of pro-abortion Democrats (see page one and the other editorial that begins on page two). We do so both because it is 100% true and because it is only the “legacy media’s” blind determination to delegitimize the new Trump administration that prevents these outlets from realizing they are merely taking their own pulse.

The evidence is everywhere, except to those who have willfully chosen to put on blinkers.

For starters, I do understand how the Democratic Party, now in the hands of genuine extremists who grow more violence-prone by the day, is between a rock and a hard place. No matter how in the throes they are to the Abortion Industry and the Bernie Sanders’ wing of the party, what few remaining realists there are at the top have to know they are sitting on a powder keg.

By that I do not mean only those who are attempting to intimidate Republicans from speaking at their own town halls. Democrats seem to have convinced themselves the public has an infinite appetite for speech-suppression. My bet is just the exact opposite.

I also mean an electoral powder keg. Democrats might respond, how can it be worse? Republicans control both houses of Congress and the presidency. (There are 11 fewer senators and 62 fewer representatives from the Democratic Party than when Barack Obama assumed office.) They’ve lost nearly 1,000 seats in state legislatures and numerous governorships.

But, in fact, it could get **much** worse for pro-abortion Democrats.

For instance, as *NRL* Political Director Karen Cross explains on



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

page one, there are far more Senate Democrats up for re-election in 2018 than Senate Republicans. Of course you can never say never, but the chances of Democrats taking over the Senate, minus a tidal wave, would seem to be miniscule.

How else could a dark horizon become pitch-black? By learning nothing from what has happened to a party that once upon a time prided itself on its identification with working class folks, like my

See “Trump,” page 28

Fake news, fake even-handedness, fake respect for democracy

It was intended as an exaggeration (but only ever-so-slightly). Referring to President Trump’s nomination of federal appeals court Judge Neil Gorsuch to be Justice Antonin Scalia’s successor, pro-life Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse wrote of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, “Senator Schumer is about to tell Americans that Judge Gorsuch kicks puppies and heckles piano recitals.”

No sooner does Senator Sasse make this kind-of tongue-in-cheek prediction than *NBC News* runs a classic-classic-fake news story about an imaginary past it conjured up for Judge Gorsuch.

I will not be overly specific. To rehash in detail what was written would be to feed into the fake news machine.

Suffice it to say, as is often the case with “real” reporters who find something so wonderful (i.e., anti-President Trump), the reporter couldn’t be bothered with checking the facts. Five minutes of real reporting would have demonstrated that he had falsely attributed something to Gorsuch when he was an undergrad at Columbia which he never wrote.

And so it goes. Driving home one night I was listening to

one Democratic operative explain why she must oppose Judge Gorsuch. After you boil away the rhetorical lard, her resistance was because he was so young (49)! He could be around forever.

Then there was the *Washington Post* editorial on Gorsuch, headlined, “Gorsuch deserves a hearing. These are the questions he should answer.” In typical *Post* editorial fashion, they feign at being even-handed. They give with one hand and grab back with the other.

So, we read

But trashing Mr. Gorsuch as an outlandish radical, despite his impeccable credentials, the wide respect he commands in his field, his long service as an appeals court judge and the unanimous voice vote he received the last time the Senate considered him for the federal

See “Fake,” page 29



From the President Carol Tobias

Don't Let This Moment Get Away

Like many of you, I have been in our battle to protect innocent human life for a very long time. I can't recall a time that you and I have had such a great opportunity to take huge steps forward. We have a pro-life president, a pro-life majority in the U.S. House, pro-life leadership in the House and Senate, and pro-life control in a majority of state legislatures.

We need to take advantage of every opportunity available.

It is a blessing that over time the Republican party has grown more and more solidly pro-life but a source of sadness that Democrats have become the unapologetic party of abortion and death. Certainly, there are pro-abortion Republicans and pro-life Democrats, although virtually none in Congress. But, truth be told, it would be hard to argue against the premise that Planned Parenthood and NARAL control the Democratic party.

During the eight years of the pro-abortion Obama presidency, Democrats have lost almost a thousand seats in state legislatures. Reid Wilson of the *Hill* publication put it this way after the 2016 elections: "The Democratic Party will hit a new nadir in state legislative seats after suffering more losses in November's elections, highlighting the devastation up and down the party across the nation."

As *Fox News* added, "Republicans now control the governor's house or the state legislative chamber in 44 states with full control in 25 states." That doesn't include pro-life Nebraska since its legislature is nonpartisan. By contrast Democrats control the house, senate, and governor's mansion in only five states.

In a report about the recent U.S. House Democratic retreat, *Politico* reported that "Caucus tensions are 'definitely still simmering.' A House Democratic aide said '[The] problem is that it was such an

a__-kicking up and down the ballot that no one knows who is right anymore.'" But, as they say, denial is not a river in Egypt. Pro-abortion Democrats cling to the illusion that their embrace of abortion has not cost them dearly.

Pro-lifers have been working for many years to get to the point we are at now. We have the ability to pass laws in state legislatures, we have the ability to pass laws in the U.S. House and hopefully the U.S. Senate, and we have a chance to influence the federal courts.

We have the opportunity to re-route approximately half a billion dollars annually from Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, to community health centers that offer real and comprehensive health care.

We have already seen the U.S. House pass the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." I expect to see a repeal of, or big change to, Obamacare. There will likely be efforts to pass the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," and a bill to protect conscience rights so no one can be forced to participate in an abortion--and more.

On a state level, as you have read in *National Right to Life News Today*, state legislatures have already passed bills to protect unborn children who can feel pain and to prevent the use of the gruesome dismemberment abortion procedure to kill living unborn children.

But the bottom line is the courts. As long as a majority on the Supreme Court refuses to acknowledge the humanity of the unborn child and the rickety legal reasoning that underlies *Roe v. Wade*, persuading them to uphold legislative measures will be difficult. However, that doesn't mean we won't give them opportunities.

To fill the current vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, pro-life President Donald Trump has nominated Neil Gorsuch, a

highly qualified, highly intelligent federal appeals court judge to take the seat formerly held by the highly-esteemed Antonin Scalia.

Judge Gorsuch has received accolades from judicial experts on both the liberal and conservative sides of the political aisle. However, that won't stop pro-abortion Democrats in the Senate from doing everything they can to stop him from being confirmed.

We've seen the mud thrown at cabinet appointments like Sen. Jeff Sessions, Betsy DeVos, and Rep. Tom Price in an attempt to prevent them from taking their positions. We know pro-abortion Democrats will unleash an ugly attack on Judge Gorsuch and any future Supreme Court nominee made by President Trump.

It's easy to think your phone call or email won't make any difference because your senators have already made up their minds about how they are going to vote on this nomination. It doesn't matter. We need to mobilize every voice in our grassroots movement.

If you have a senator who is going to vote for Judge Gorsuch, contact him or her anyway. Let him or her know you appreciate their support of the judge. If you have a senator who always listens to the abortion lobby and has stated he or she will oppose Judge Gorsuch, contact the senator anyway. Let them know that they have constituents who support Judge Gorsuch.

Believe me, EVERY senator will be hearing from the Planned Parenthood-NARAL-NOW crowd, expressing their opposition to Judge Gorsuch. Our voices must be heard as well.

Based on what we've seen since the November election, we face some unknown, turbulent times. But these are also going to be exciting times for the pro-life movement. Hold on to your hats, it's full speed ahead!

Pro-abortionists floundering in their campaign to derail Judge Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court

By Dave Andrusko

Pro-abortion Senate Democrats find themselves in a quandary. They, of course, want to hound, harass, and harangue Judge Neil Gorsuch but realize what their base wants most of all--to filibuster his nomination to the Supreme Court--is a fool's errand.

To be sure, the likes of Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) are scared witless by the prospect of a Judge Gorsuch on the High Court. The appeals court judge is not only a highly appealing candidate, such a natural successor to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, he is also the kind of intellectual heavyweight and consensus-builder that might bring sanity to a court whose opinions often are, at best head scratchers, at worse befuddling.

But a filibuster simply invites a change in rules so that a nominee can be approved by a simple majority vote. Not to filibuster, futile as that would be, is to risk enflaming a sizable sector of the party that has never and will never get over pro-life Donald Trump defeating pro-abortion Hillary Clinton.

As evidenced by the praise from liberal and conservative judicial commentators alike, Judge Gorsuch is an outstanding jurist. Here are just a few reasons why President Trump nomination was a "10."

For starters, his choice was hailed by pro-lifers and was proof positive that President Trump intended to keep his promises.

When he made his announcement January 31, Mr. Trump said, "When

last February, I made a promise to the American people: If I were elected president, I would find the very best judge in the country for the Supreme Court. I promised to select someone who respects our laws and is representative of our Constitution and who loves our Constitution and someone who

Washington, DC., he wrote

When the official announcement came, it was exactly what every conservative who voted for Trump despite their doubts about him had dreamed of: a true conservative



Judge Neil Gorsuch (left) after Pro-life President Donald Trump nominated him to the Supreme Court

will interpret them as written. ... "I am a man of my word."

A second metric is the hysteria with which Judge Gorsuch was met; more about that in a second.

A third way of grasping how excellent the selection was can be seen in the headline over an op-ed written by one of the *Washington Post's* many Trump-haters, columnist Chris Cillizza: "Donald Trump just had the first good day of his presidency."

That is not true, of course, but the point is that even someone as bitter as Cillizza is conceded President Trump's nominee is a winner.

After Cillizza first acknowledged that Mr. Trump had managed to keep his choice secret, no mean feat in gossipy

justice with the sort of pedigree (Harvard, Oxford) that will make it tough for Democrats to stand in unified opposition to the pick. ...

Gorsuch then stepped to the mic and knocked it out of the park, delivering a humble thank you that any politician — no matter the party — couldn't have been anything but impressed by.

Back to metric two—the gasket-blowing harangues from the likes of pro-abortion Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and the editorial page of the *New York Times*. Even on

those rare occasions (off our topic) when I can agree with the *Times* editorial page, I am amazed how sloppily reasoned is their argument.

Many writers, including yours truly, have long since dispatched the tiresome argument that the Republican Senate had some sort of obligation to hold confirmation hearings for outgoing President Barack Obama's nominee to replace Justice Scalia. It simply isn't true, but it is now such a part of pro-abortion Democratic folklore that (as the headline to the *Times's* editorial put it) Judge Gorsuch can only be described as "the Nominee for a Stolen Seat."

That aside, the gist of the *Times's* position is that "President Trump had a great opportunity to repair some of that damage by nominating a moderate candidate for the vacancy." Exactly how?

By **not** replacing one "originalist" (Justice Scalia) with another originalist (Judge Gorsuch). Ah....why? Because

Mr. Trump's failure to choose a more moderate candidate is the latest example of his refusal to acknowledge his historic unpopularity and his nearly three-million-vote loss to Hillary Clinton. A wiser president faced with such circumstances would govern with humility and a respect

See "Gorsuch," page 25

Miracle twins save each other's life by holding hands while still in the womb

Doctors feared "selective termination" very last resort

By Dave Andrusko

When Hayley Lampshire, 27, from Kidlington, Oxfordshire, England discovered her twins were suffering from an extremely rare condition, the odds were so daunting that (as she told Richard Hartley-Parkinson) "We were told that a selective termination would be a very last resort but we tried not to think about it."

The discovery was made at the twelve week scan when Hayley and her husband, Charlie, first learned she was carrying twins. At the same scan, "We were told our pregnancy was going to be high risk and a week later we were sent to a specialist who confirmed I was carrying Monoamniotic-Monochorionic twins."

Which meant Rowan and Blake were sharing one amniotic sac. The dangers were enormous.

Hartley-Parkinson explained

'Because the boys were in the same amniotic sac their cords could get tangled if they moved around, which would cut off their oxygen and food supply.

'If that did happen then it would be likely that we wouldn't know, we couldn't do anything to prevent it which was the scariest part.

'They needed to keep still in order

to keep one another alive...'

How could that possibly happen, given the cramped living quarters? We read

but the chances of losing the twins increased the more they grew. Why?

"As the babies got bigger there was more of a chance of

and were struggling to breathe.

Hayley told Hartley-Parkinson that while she was discharged quickly (three days after the twins were born), "the boys had to stay in the hospital



*Rowan (left) and Blake like holding hands
(picture: Caters)*

But she was amazed when she went for a scan – and saw her two boys cuddling each other – and even appeared to be holding hands.

At every scan, Hayley was amazed to see her twins holding on to each other.

The risk factor decreases after 12 weeks, in most pregnancies,

their cords becoming tangled.

So doctors decided that at 34 weeks it was time for a C-section "as the doctors didn't want to risk them getting any bigger; I was huge at this point." The boys were delivered last August.

Born 36 seconds apart, they were small but not tiny, tiny. They had fluid on their lungs

for three weeks before we could finally bring them home." Needless to say, "leaving them there was the hardest part."

Five months later, Hayley told the reporter the boys "are now doing really well and are growing so fast, and Charlie and I know how lucky we are to have them both here."

She added, "When they get older we will tell them how special their bond is."

“Life is winning again in America” VP Pence tells March for Life

“At 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue we are in the promise-keeping business”

By Dave Andrusko

Because I wanted to be able to see and hear some of the great speakers at the January 27, March for Life, I hung back awhile and watched the beginning of the rally on C-SPAN.

Then a knock on my door and a colleague stuck his head in. “This is the year for sure you want to get that photo at the top of the hill.” He was referring to my decades-long practice of snapping a picture of the crowd marching up Constitution Avenue on its way to the Supreme Court. “It’s massive,” he said.

And, by all accounts, attendance was huge. Certainly the atmosphere was optimistic, even celebratory. How could it not be with all that has taken place these last two and a half months, in addition to the stirring speeches from pro-life counselor to President Donald Trump and pro-life Vice President Mike Pence?

Between Facebook, various Hashtags, news accounts, and tweets, one conclusion would be hard to miss. For whatever reason (and we named a half-dozen possibilities earlier in the week), there’s been much more media attention paid to the March for Life, which first began the year after the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision was dropped on an unsuspecting public.

Could be a pang or two of guilt over the seemingly endless stream of flattering stories about the pro-abortion, anti-Donald Trump “Women’s March”? Might be that, as Mr. Pence concluded today, “Life

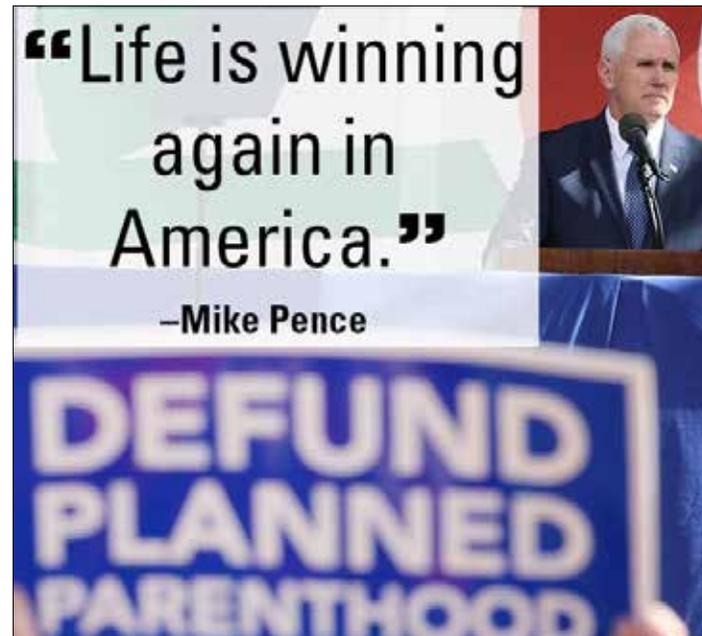
is winning again in America”? Or perhaps outlets were intrigued by the heterogeneity of the attendees to the March.

are joining our ranks for more and more different reasons. Bless them all.

The crowd loved Kellyanne

to a partial transcript helpfully provided by March for Life)

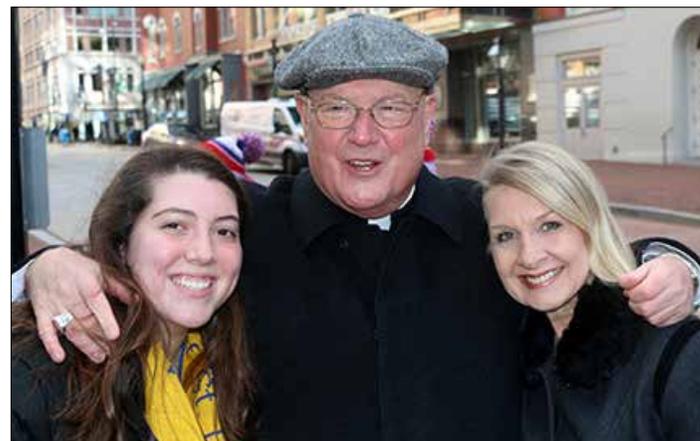
“It is such an honor to stand with the Vice President of the United States and with so many leaders, families, and students from places near and far to defend the unborn. Your courage, your conviction, your resolve and your faith are impressive and consequential. . . . It is no coincidence that the first right stated in the Declaration of Independence is the right to life. It is not a privilege. It is not a choice. It is God-given. . . . This is a new day, a new dawn for life. . . .”



This yearly gathering of pro-lifers never was the homogenous myth created by the legacy media but it is also true that more and more people

Conway and went wild with delight when Vice President Pence’s name was announced as the next speaker.

Mrs. Conway said (according



His Eminence, Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, posed for pictures with fellow pro-lifers in front of the National Right to Life office on his way to the annual March for Life.

My favorite line was

To the March for Life 2017, allow me to make it very clear: we hear you, we see you, we respect you, and we look forward to working with you. And, yes, we walk, we march, we run, and we endeavor forward with you.

Mr. Pence mentioned pro-life President Trump numerous times, pledging the Trump Administration to work with the Movement.

“Today, because of all of you and the many

See “Winning,” page 15

The difference between legislating and judging—and why it matters for the right to life

By Paul Stark

In a speech shortly after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, Judge Neil Gorsuch, who is now the nominee to replace Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court, explained and defended the important distinction between legislating and judging:

I want to ... suggest that perhaps the great project of Justice Scalia's career was to remind us of the differences between judges and legislators. To remind us that legislators may appeal to their own moral convictions and to claims about social utility to reshape the law as they think it should be in the future. But that judges should do none of these things in a democratic society. That judges should instead strive (if humanly and so imperfectly) to apply the law as it is, focusing backward, not forward, and looking to text, structure, and history to decide what a reasonable reader at the time of the events in question would have understood the law to be—not to decide cases based on their own moral convictions or the policy consequences they believe might serve society best.

Gorsuch notes that the Constitution itself assumes this distinction by separating the legislative and judicial branches of government. Legislators *legislate*—they make law. Judges *judge*—they interpret and apply the law that

already exists. These are two fundamentally different powers in our system of government.

“To the founders,” Gorsuch says, “the legislative and judicial powers were distinct by nature and their separation was among the most important liberty-protecting devices of



Judge Neil Gorsuch

the constitutional design.”

Indeed, if this separation of powers is lost—if a judge can act like a legislator—then “the judge would need only his own vote, or those of just a few colleagues, to revise the law willy-nilly in accordance with his preferences,” Gorsuch explains. This judicial legislation would not be constrained by the “bicameralism and presentment hurdles of Article I” that limit *actual* legislators. And it would be extremely difficult to change the legislation “to account for changes in the world or to fix mistakes.” Judges, unlike legislators, cannot be defeated at the ballot box.

“Notice finally,” Gorsuch says, “how little voice the people would be left in a government where life-appointed judges are free to legislate alongside

elected representatives. The very idea of self-government would seem to wither to the point of pointlessness.”

Judges who act as legislators undermine our system of government. And they undermine democracy because they usurp authority that rightly belongs to the American people and their elected representatives.

Maintaining the distinction between judges and legislators, then, is very important, but it should be of urgent concern for anyone who wants to protect the equal dignity and right to life of unborn children and other marginalized and defenseless human beings.

That’s because, in a particularly infamous example of judges acting like legislators, the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision ruled that the American people are not allowed to provide legal protection for human beings *in utero*. The killing of unborn children, the Court said, must be permitted for any reason. *Roe* nullified the existing abortion laws that had been enacted by legislatures.

The Court nominally claimed that this right to abortion is part of the Fourteenth Amendment—even though the American people who drafted and ratified the Amendment obviously did not create or agree to any such right. (Indeed, on the contrary, the ratifiers clearly rejected the idea of a right to abortion because they enacted many state laws *prohibiting* abortion during the same time period in which they ratified the Fourteenth Amendment.) But the *Roe* Court thought there *should* be a right to abortion. So they invented one. They chose to legislate rather than to judge.

Thus *Roe* “partakes more of judicial legislation than it does of a determination of the intent of the drafters of the Fourteenth Amendment,” observed dissenting Justice William Rehnquist. Justice Byron White, another dissenter, called it “an exercise of raw judicial power.”

The problems with this violation of the separation of powers are exactly as Gorsuch warns. The Court changed the Constitution willy-nilly according to the preferences of seven men. And we can’t simply fix their mistake (barring a constitutional amendment) because justices cannot be voted out of office and replaced. We are stuck living under the dictates of a handful of unelected lawmakers. We are governed by abortion law that the American people never agreed to.

And the consequences are grave. Almost 60 million young human beings have been legally killed because of *Roe v. Wade*.

If we are to have a say about what the law will be—if we are to have the freedom to protect the rights of unborn children and others as justice requires—then we need judges who will, as Justice Scalia once put it, “dissent from this [judicial] enterprise of devising an Abortion Code, and from the illusion that we [justices] have authority to do so.”

We need judges who understand that, as Judge Gorsuch says, “judges should be in the business of declaring what the law is using the traditional tools of interpretation, rather than pronouncing the law as they might wish it to be in light of their own political views.”

We need judges who actually judge.

Marist Poll shows strong support for justices who will interpret Constitution as originally written

By Dave Andrusko

For wholly understandable reasons, one of the most “liked” posts of 2017 was titled, “New Knights of Columbus Poll finds strong support for ban on abortions after 20 weeks and vigorous opposition to tax-funded abortions.”

In a survey of 2,729 adults taken for the Knights of Columbus (KOC), 59% of Americans supported a ban on abortions after 20 weeks, except to save the life of the mother. Twenty weeks is the point at which medical science demonstrates that the unborn child can experience pain.

There was also towering bi-partisan opposition to the use of tax payer dollars to pay for abortions at home (61% to 35%) and aboard (83% to 14%) and support for broad limitations on abortion.

We also talked about what the KOC described as “overwhelming support for the swift nomination of a Supreme Court justice who will apply the constitution as originally

written.” That is precisely the characterization of the judicial philosophy of Judge Neil Gorsuch, pro-life President Donald Trump’s nominee to



replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Overall, the survey found that 8 in 10 Americans (80 percent) say it is an “immediate priority” (56 percent) or an “important” one (24 percent) to appoint Supreme Court justices

that will interpret the constitution as it was originally written. Ninety-three percent of Republicans,

originally written” and not on what they think the “constitution means now.” This held true not just for Republicans (78% to 18%) but also for Independents (50% to 42%).

Moreover, according to the Marist Poll conducted for the KOC

[A]lmost 9 in 10 Americans (89 percent) see protecting religious freedom as a priority, including 57 percent who describe it as an “immediate priority” and 32 percent who consider it an “important” one.

The issue is embraced in a bi-partisan manner. **Fifty-one percent of Independents, 55 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of Republicans concur that this is an “immediate priority.”**

Americans’ Opinions on Abortion

January 2017

77 percent of independents and 70 percent of Democrats agree.

In addition,

By a 12 point margin (52% to 40%) want the court to interpret the constitution “as it was

Help us stop the pro-abortion assault on Judge Gorsuch

From page 1

Constitution, they need to have justices who are willing to make up law. Without that, *Roe v. Wade* is doomed, and they know it. And Neil Gorsuch is not their kind of Judge!

When Supreme Court nominees such as Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas came up for public debate the pro-abortion side used every tactic, fair or foul, imaginable.

In the case of Robert Bork it worked. We can’t let that happen to Neil Gorsuch!

So expect waves of protest, of untruths about Judge Gorsuch

from Planned Parenthood’s and NARAL’s public relations machines. Expect them to spend more money on this one confirmation fight alone than National Right to Life could hope to have.

But this time we can’t let them win. We have a much larger

national grassroots network than those groups. If we have a sufficient amount of financial support, we can generate more calls, letters, and emails asking Senators to confirm Judge Gorsuch, than our opponents possibly can.

Please help us - today - get

that vital word out to the American people, to call their Senators and express support for Judge Gorsuch’s confirmation. After all that was done to elect a pro-life president and Senate, we can’t let this tremendous opportunity to confirm a justice in the mold of the departed Antonin Scalia be thwarted.

History is calling with this nomination. Please help us answer that call by contributing to our important campaign to secure his confirmation.

Thank you!

MAKE A DONATION

Autos for Life rolls into 2017

By David N. O'Steen, Jr.

With 2017 upon us, and this year having the potential to be a pivotal turning point for the pro-life movement, the National Right to Life Foundation needs your help more than ever!

Our "Autos for Life" program is one way that you can help the most defenseless in society.

Thanks to dedicated pro-lifers like you, Autos for Life has received a wide variety of donated vehicles from across the country! Each of these special gifts is vital to our ongoing life-saving work in these challenging times.

Please, keep them coming!

Recent donations to Autos for Life include a 1996 Chrysler Sebring from a pro-life supporter in Virginia, a 2000 Ford Escort from a pro-life gentleman in Pennsylvania, and a 2001 Dodge Caravan from a pro-life supporter in California. As always, 100% of the sale amount for these vehicles went to further the life-saving educational work of the National Right to Life Foundation.

This year will be very important to the pro-life movement, and you can make a big difference in helping to save the lives of unborn babies



as well as the lives of the most vulnerable in our society! By donating your vehicle to Autos for Life, you can help save lives and receive a tax deduction for the full sale amount!

Your donated vehicle can be of any age, and can be located

anywhere in the country! All that we need from you is a description of the vehicle (miles, vehicle identification number (VIN#), condition,

features, the good, the bad, etc.) along with several pictures (the more the better), and we'll take care of the rest. Digital photos are preferred, but other formats work as well.

To donate a vehicle, or for more information, call David

at (202) 626-8823 or e-mail dojr@nrlc.org

You don't have to bring the vehicle anywhere, or do anything with it, and there is no additional paperwork to complete. The buyer picks the vehicle up directly from you at your convenience! If the vehicle is in non-running condition, we can also get it picked up for you as well! All vehicle information can be emailed to us directly at dojr@nrlc.org or sent by regular mail to:

Autos for Life
c/o National Right to Life
512 10th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Autos for Life" needs your help in making 2017 a great year for the pro-life movement! Please join us in helping to defend the most defenseless in our society, and remember that we are so thankful for your ongoing partnership and support! We thank you, and the babies thank you!

“You Carried Me.” Three Words that Mean the World

By Melissa Ohden

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

“You Carried Me”: That’s the title of my memoir, which was released through Plough Publishing House in early 2017.

The title has so many meanings behind it. God has carried me through all of the peaks and valleys of my life. My adoptive parents carried me in their hearts long before they held me in their hands.

And, of course, my birthmother carried me in the womb and later carried me in her heart, believing for three decades that I had died in the saline infusion abortion forced upon her at the age of 19.

As I recently reflected upon my life, my ministry and my book, I suddenly came to the realization that there’s yet another meaning associated with the title, and it involves everyone in the pro-life and pregnancy help community. I bet you weren’t expecting that, were you?

It hit me like a ton of bricks just a few days after my book was released. Through the selfless efforts of pregnancy help people, there are thousands upon thousands of children who can write a similarly titled book: *You Carried Me*.

I envision that some of their acknowledgements to their mothers might read like this:

- Despite the pressure that you were facing from friends and family to abort, you carried me;
- Despite the circumstances under which

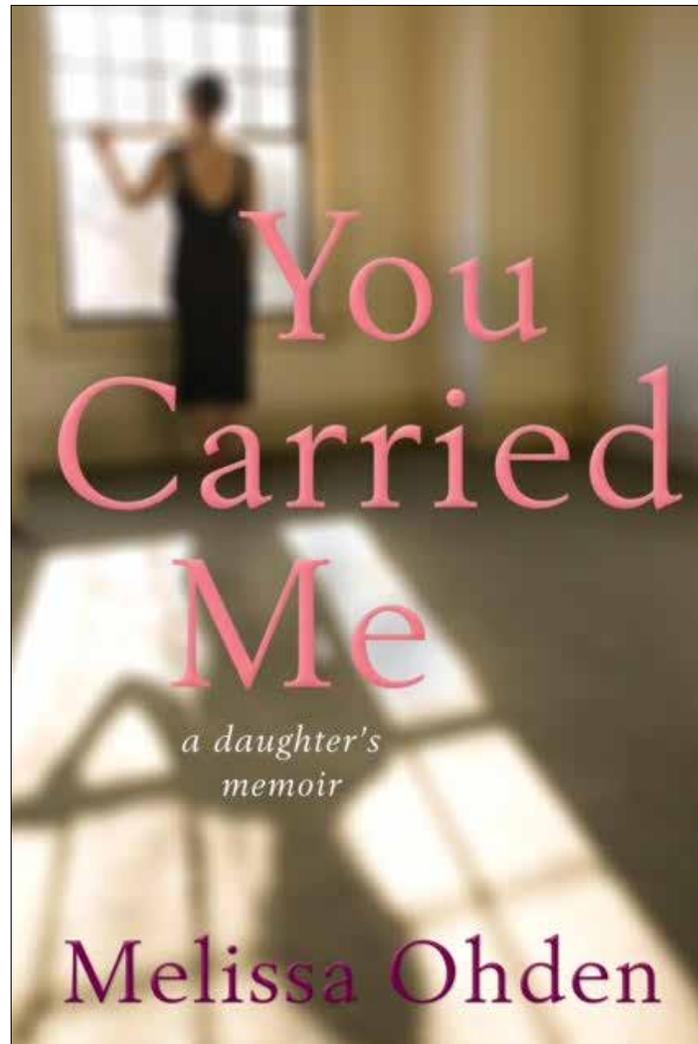
I was conceived, you carried me;

- Despite being faced with the decision to choose between your

house, disowned by your family, you carried me;

- Despite the lack of resources that you had,

with health issues that would likely limit or end my life, you carried me.



education or career and me, you carried me;

- Despite being told that in order to keep my biological father in your life, you had to abort me, you carried me;
- Despite being told that you would be kicked out of your

how you feared being able to provide for me, you carried me;

- Despite the pain you would face in placing me in the arms of my adoptive parents instead of holding me in your own, you carried me;
- Despite being told that I would be born

As you go about your daily work with women, men and their preborn children, this list could go on and on. You witness firsthand how women are faced with what may seem insurmountable circumstances.

But with your support, the information and education you provide, the ultrasounds and medical care, the resources you provide to her or help her find, she is able to carry her child—whether she chooses to parent or make an adoption plan.

As the saying goes, “everyone has a story.”

But without the pro-life pregnancy help community’s day-in, day-out commitment to the women, men and children in your local communities and across our nation, there would be far fewer of these stories.

There would be far fewer children alive to write them. There would be far fewer women we could celebrate for their strength, love, and selflessness, and far fewer men to commend for their steadfast support and commitment to fatherhood.

You Carried Me. Three little words have never meant so much.

Melissa Ohden is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion. She is an internationally recognized pro-life activist. Melissa is the Founder and Director of The Abortion Survivors Network.

Find out more about her book, *You Carried Me: A Daughter's Memoir*, at www.plough.com/en/topics/life/relationships/you-carried-me

Guttmacher reports abortions well under one million in 2013 and 2014

Lowest abortion total since 1974

By Dave Andrusko

We published the digital January edition of *National Right to Life News* just prior to the release of the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute’s long awaited new report on the number of abortions. We’ve subsequently written about it extensively at *National Right to Life News Today* but the bottom line is such wonderful news (unless you are Guttmacher), we’d like to remind you that there were 926,200 abortions in 2014, the lowest figure of babies lost since 1974!

Compare that with 1990 when there 1.6 million abortions and the incredible impact of your legislative, educational, and political efforts is undeniable. Even Guttmacher concedes “the wave of abortion restrictions passed at the state level over the last five years could also have contributed to the decline by making it more difficult for women to access needed services in highly restrictive states,” according to Rachel Jones and Jenna Jerman.

Here are just a few highlights from the report:

- **There were 32,500 fewer abortions in 2014 than in 2013: 926,000 versus 958,200. The latest figure is a 12.5% drop from 2011 when Guttmacher reported 1.06 million abortions.**

- **“The decrease was spread nationwide; in only six states did abortions increase over the three-year span,” according to David Cray of the *Associated Press*.**

Columbia, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Florida,” Cray reports. “The lowest rates were in Wyoming, Mississippi and

hailed? Leave it to Guttmacher, the Abortion Industry’s think-tank, to find reasons for gloom.

For one thing, “Restricting access to abortion may force women to delay the procedure or carry unwanted pregnancies to term,” Megan Donovan, Guttmacher senior policy manager told Cray.

Thus the bevy of studies ground out by pro-abortionists to “prove” that for women “denied” the chance to abort their baby, it is just this side of a disaster. NRLC Director of Education, Dr. Randall K. O’Bannon, has debunked that assertion on numerous occasions.

For another, according to Guttmacher, “When unable to access abortion services in the face of restrictive laws, some women may turn to self-induced abortion.” This is even more bogus, as we have spelled out repeatedly.

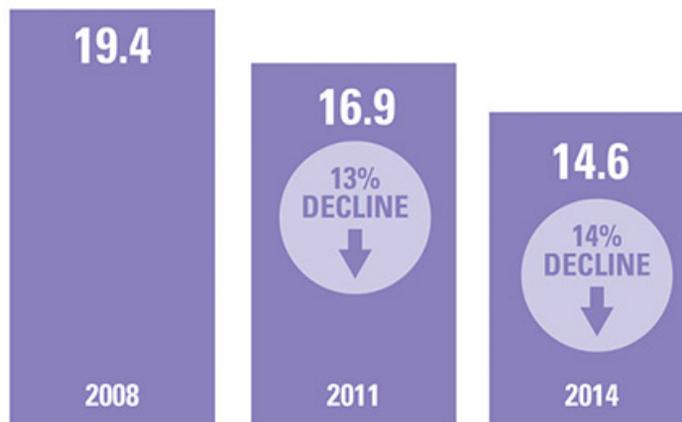
As Dr. O’Bannon has explained, if there is an increase, the far more likely explanation is the relentless promotion of self-abortions by the abortion lobby and top researchers.

To the reminder of the world that resides outside the pro-abortion orbit, the Guttmacher report is exceedingly welcomed news. The ongoing reduction in the number of abortions a testimony to your persistence and a reminder that there are many, many babies whose lives we have yet to save.

Steady Drop

The U.S. abortion rate has declined significantly in recent years.

Abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44



Source: Guttmacher Institute.

www.guttmacher.org

- **As you would expect, the abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women ages 15-44) was the lowest since 1973: 14.6/1,000.**
- **“The highest abortion rates were in the District of**

South Dakota, states that had only one abortion clinic operating in 2014.”

So, how can an abortion number that has dropped by roughly 43% since 1990—where 673,800 fewer unborn babies are dying—not be universally

Reflections on President Reagan on what would have been his 106th birthday

By Dave Andrusko

“My administration is dedicated to the preservation of America as a free land, and there is no cause more important for preserving that freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have meaning.”
— President Ronald Reagan.

February 6 would have been the 106th birthday of Pro-life President Ronald Reagan! Each year on the anniversary, for reasons I cannot explain, I always recall where I was the day he was shot. At the time I was working as a volunteer for a state affiliate of National Right to Life and actually heard about the shooting while I was in the car.

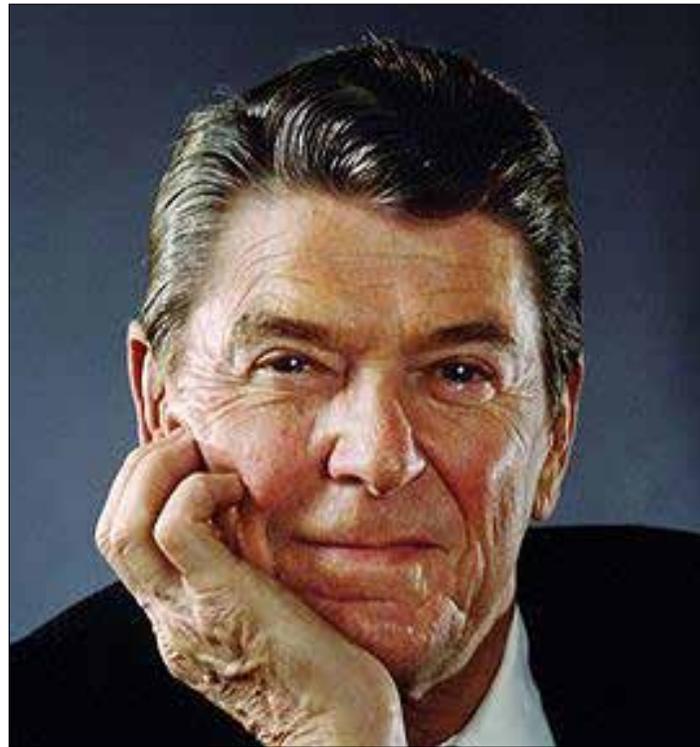
I recall the range of emotions I felt as if it had happened yesterday. President Reagan survived and the cause for which we all work so hard benefitted enormously. The following is what I wrote on the occasion of President Reagan’s 100th birthday.

~~~~~  
For pro-lifers of a certain age, President Ronald Reagan will always be first in our hearts. It is possible to exaggerate his pro-life accomplishments, although that would be difficult. It is possible to overstate what a boost to our morale his presidency represented, although I greatly doubt it.

However it would be impossible to overstate the extent to which

our 40th President altered the trajectory of the abortion discussion.

What is often underappreciated is the late President’s keen peripheral vision. Not content to merely look straight ahead, he clearly saw that if the abortion



*Pro-life President Ronald Reagan*

ethos was not contained, it inextricably would seek out new categories of victims.

To the left, were the very young, born less than perfect. To the right were the medically dependent elderly.

President Reagan took office almost eight years to the day after the Supreme Court unleashed the abortion juggernaut in its grotesque *Roe v. Wade* decision.

President Reagan’s administration began the journey that you and I are on

today—a journey that recalls us from out of the darkness and into the light.

Among pro-lifers, President Reagan may best be remembered for writing a small but pivotal book: “Abortion and the Conscience of a Nation.” In 1983 it was a scandal (in media

concerns not just the unborn child, it concerns every one of us.”

President Reagan observed very early on in “Abortion and the Conscience of a Nation”

**“The real question today is not when human life begins [medical science has already answered that question], but, What is the value of human life? The abortionist who reassembles the arms and legs of a tiny baby to make sure all its parts have been torn from its mother’s body can hardly doubt whether it is a human being. The real question for him and for all of us is whether that tiny human life has a God-given right to be protected by the law—the same right we have.”**

Perhaps most shocking of all to the hostile media, President Reagan unapologetically linked abortion to its evil twin—infanticide. This was not a mere intellectual exercise but reflected a real life-and-death case that had drawn national attention.

In 1982 the public learned that the anti-life virus had jumped from the preborn to the child born with imperfections.

“We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life—the unborn—without diminishing the value of all human life,” he wrote. “We saw

circles) that a Presidential first—a book penned while in office—would be “wasted” decrying abortion, a practice as ensconced in our national life as pro-abortion bias was in the journalistic establishment.

President Reagan knew otherwise. He understood that intellectually, jurisprudentially, and morally we had dug ourselves into a deep hole.

Getting out of it required posing the right question in a spirit that we are all in this together. As he put it, “Abortion

# A Chilling Account of Kermit Gosnell, “America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer”

By Maria Gallagher

I will never forget my first introduction to mass murderer Kermit Gosnell.

The introduction did not come by means of a face-to-face meeting, but rather via cyberspace, where I learned of a drug raid at the abortionist’s “Women’s Medical Society,” which the Philadelphia District Attorney would come to describe as a “House of Horrors.”

I recall printing out the shocking story, bringing it to the attention of my boss and saying, “This is something you need to know about.”

Despite the fact that a grand jury believed he may have killed hundreds of full-term or near-full-term babies in cold blood, Gosnell is not necessarily a household name—even within the confines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he plied his grisly trade for decades.

The latest effort to inform the public about the despicable deeds of the disgraced abortionist is the best-selling book, *Gosnell: The Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer*.

The book is the brainchild of investigative journalists Ann McElhinney and Phelim McAleer, a husband-and-wife team who have also produced a forthcoming movie about the sordid tale of Gosnell’s horrific killing spree.

Gosnell ultimately was convicted of three counts of first-degree murder for killing three full-term babies by delivering them alive and then “snipping” their spinal cords. He also was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter

in the death of a female immigrant patient, Karnamaya Mongar.

Investigators believed that he had killed hundreds—if not thousands—of viable babies with the “snipping” method

knew everything relevant about the ghastly case.

That was—until I read the book *Gosnell*.

For instance, I did not realize that a Pennsylvania Health Department official actually

following the abortion, Gosnell “comes back with torn surgical gloves, his hands covered in blood and proceeds to eat teriyaki salmon with chopsticks” in front of those conducting the raid.

And yes—it gets worse.

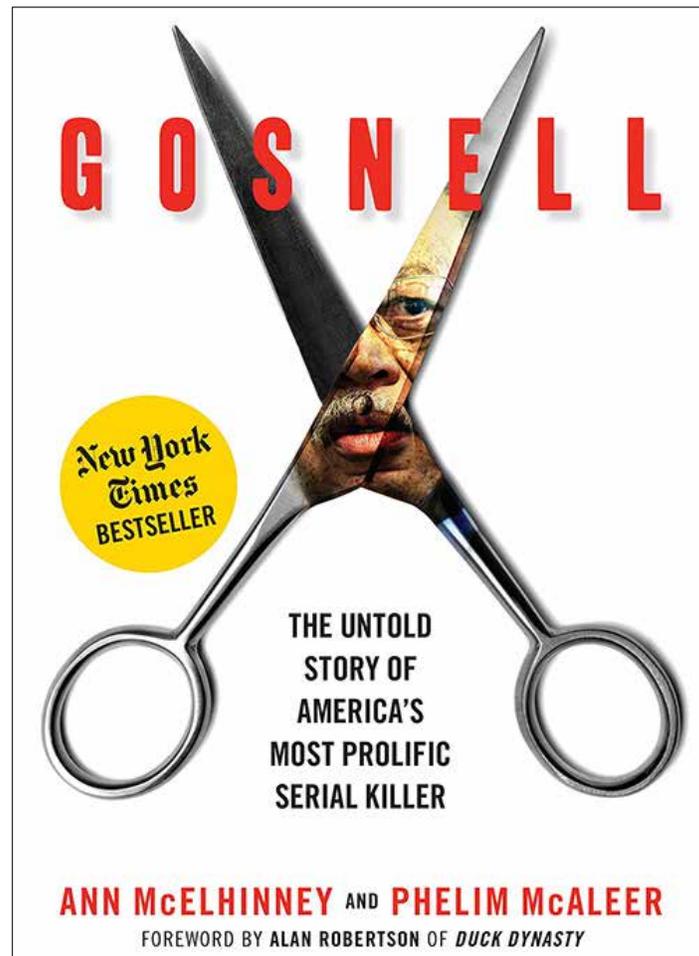
While Gosnell was dining, a cat came in, drawn by the smell of food. Gosnell told the detective, “See that cat? He’s killed two hundred mice in this clinic.”

Despite his bizarre dining habits and the atrocious conditions within his abortion facility (there were women everyone, moaning in pain), the writers note that Gosnell received patient referrals from several nearby states—and “from as far away as Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.”

That was because he was willing to do late-term abortions—as it turns out, even later than Pennsylvania law allows. (The legal limit for abortions in the state is 24 weeks’ gestation—a bill just approved by the state Senate would lower the limit to 20 weeks.)

Strange too—chilling, really—is the fact that numerous state bureaucrats had been informed of deficiencies and even deaths at the hands of Gosnell and “had decided to do absolutely nothing.”

The grand jury noted that because of the pro-abortion political stands of former Governors Tom Ridge and Ed Rendell, abortion facilities went uninspected in Pennsylvania



and had slain multiple women through botched abortions. But criminal charges could be brought in only a handful of cases because Gosnell destroyed so many records.

He is now in prison serving consecutive life sentences for his monstrous crimes.

As someone who lives in Pennsylvania, had read the grand jury report, and who had followed the trial, I thought I

permitted Gosnell to perform an abortion *while his facility was undergoing a raid!* (It was an investigation into prescription drug-dealing that led to the discovery of the deplorable conditions inside the 3801 Lancaster Ave. abortion center.)

Apparently, nothing could stop his bloody business—even the people taxpayers pay to protect us.

According to the authors,

See “Gosnell,” page 38

# Select Congressional Panel Releases Report on Planned Parenthood and Fetal Tissue, Part One

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

*Editor's note. This was the first of a three-part series that ran in NRL News Today. Part One offers a thorough overview of what the special Select Investigative Panel of the Energy and Commerce Committee found in its Final Report released in early January about the involvement of Planned Parenthood in harvesting fetal tissue from aborted babies. Parts Two and Three can be read at [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org).*

In the summer of 2015, the nation was transfixed when an undercover journalist released videos showing employees of Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion promoter and performer, callously haggling over fees for processing tissue harvested from aborted babies. The images—literal and what lingered in the viewer's mind—were riveting and nauseous.

Many questions were raised, including whether the companies involved profited from harvesting fetal brains, hearts, livers, and the like, and whether abortion techniques were altered in order to obtain the best fetal tissue.

While Planned Parenthood convinced many of its friends in the media to ignore that story, telling reporters the videos were “heavily edited,” people who had seen the footage knew what they had seen and wanted answers.

Heeding the public's call, Congress launched several investigations. One of those, the special Select Investigative Panel of the Energy and Commerce Committee, after

months of testimony and research, officially released its Final Report at the turn of the year, made it accessible to the public the first week in January.

The panel uncovered a great deal of new information about fetal tissue research, the fetal tissue business, and the unsavory relationships which exist between abortions clinics, tissue brokers, and researchers at some of the nation's top universities (see Parts Two and Three). One key new finding was that multiple affiliates of Planned Parenthood had lengthy and extensive relationships with fetal tissue brokers from which the panel says both financially benefitted.

## The nature of the investigation and evidence

Though the undercover videos by the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) provided the impetus for Congress's interest, the select committee only used them as a starting point to launch a much wider investigation into the complex web of relationships between abortion clinics, tissue brokers, and university researchers. The final product is therefore not just an analysis of the CMP videos but the result of research, interviews, forensic financial analysis, uncovered documents, and the public and private testimony of experts and involved individuals.

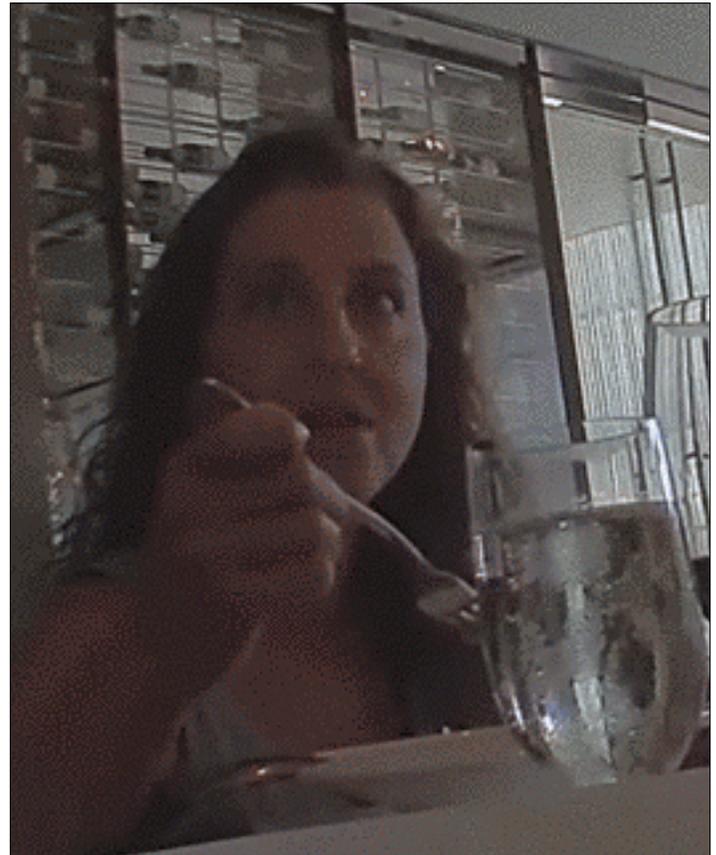
What quickly becomes clear is that this was not a few rogue abortionists toying with the unanticipated opportunity of selling tissue under the table for personal profit. These were key affiliate leaders considering what they thought might be a

better offer from a new buyer for a practice that had been going on at several Planned Parenthood clinics and affiliates for a number of years.

Records of transactions uncovered by the committee

2013 (“Final Report “of the Select Investigative Panel of the Energy & Commerce Committee, December 30, 2016, hereafter referred to as “SPR,” p. 330).

The dispute between pro-life



*Deborah Nucatola, senior director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America*

show payments of at least \$613,788 to nine Planned Parenthood clinics in California for fetal tissue provided by Stem Express, ABR (Advanced Bioscience Resources), and Novogenix from 2010 to 2015, when the CMP videos first surfaced. This was not all back-ended either. There were payments of \$81,895 in 2010 and totals over \$100,000 for each year 2011 through

Republicans on the panel, who authored the main report, and pro-abortion Democrats, many who have received support from Planned Parenthood's political action committees in the past, is not specifically over the amounts that changed hands, but over whether these hefty sums represent profits

*See “Report,” page 34*

# Pennsylvania Senate Committee Votes to Ban Brutal Dismemberment Abortions

HARRISBURG, Pa. —A ban on the brutal practice of dismemberment abortions has been approved by the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee.

The measure, Senate Bill 3, would make it illegal to cause “the death of an unborn child by means of dismembering the unborn child and extracting the unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments.”

Under the measure, the legal limit for abortions in Pennsylvania would also change from six months’ to five months’ gestation, reflecting

the fact that modern technology has been able to save babies at ever-earlier stages of development.

“Tearing a baby limb by limb from a mother’s womb is a cruel and unconscionable practice that should be banned,” said Maria Gallagher, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, an affiliate of National Right to Life. “A statewide poll found that an overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians—61 percent—support a dismemberment ban in the Keystone State. While both women and men approved of the ban, the level of support was actually

higher among women—64 percent of PA women want to see an end to brutal dismemberment abortions

in the Commonwealth,” Gallagher added.

Senate Bill 3, which is sponsored by state Senator Michele Brooks (Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Warren Counties), provides exceptions for the mother’s life or for the “substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the woman.”

“So many women have come to me, asking when we will see an end to the heinous practice of dismemberment abortions in Pennsylvania. They are calling on the full Pennsylvania Senate to take the compassionate and just action of passing this much-needed legislation,” Gallagher said.



*Pennsylvania State Senator Michele Brooks*

## “Life is winning again in America” VP Pence tells March for Life

*From page 6*

thousands who stand with us in marches like this all across the nation, life is winning again in America. That is evident in the election of pro-life majorities in the Congress of the United States of America. But it is no more evident in any way than in the historic election of a president who stands for a stronger America, a more prosperous America, and a president who I proudly say stands for the right to life, President Donald Trump. President Trump actually asked me to be here with you today. He asked me to thank you for your support – to thank you for your stand for life and for your

compassion for the women and children of America.

....

“At 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue we are in the promise-keeping business. That’s why on Monday President Trump reinstated the Mexico City Policy to prevent foreign aid from funding organizations that promote abortion worldwide. That’s why this administration will work with the Congress to end taxpayer funding of abortion and abortion providers, and we will devote those resources to health care services for women across America. And that’s why next week, President Donald

Trump will announce a Supreme Court nominee who will uphold the God-given liberties enshrined in our Constitution.

....

“I have long believed a society can be judged by how we care for our most vulnerable: the aged, the infirm, the disabled and the unborn.

....

“Life is winning through the steady advance of science that illuminates when life begins more and more every day. Life is winning through the generosity of millions of adopted families who open their hearts and homes to children in need. Life is winning through the compassion

of caregivers and volunteers at crisis pregnancy centers and faith-based organization who minister to women in the cities and towns across this country. And life is winning through the quiet councils between mothers and daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters, between friends across kitchen tables and over coffee at college campuses. The truth is being told. Compassion is overcoming convenience and hope is defeating despair. In a word: life is winning in America because of all of you.”

What a glorious day it was for Life!

# Americans agree: We don't want to fund abortions abroad

By Carol Tobias, President, National Right to Life

*Editor's note. This appeared January 27 in **The Hill**.*

This past Monday, pro-life President Donald Trump made it abundantly clear the United States will no longer use taxpayer dollars to support organizations that promote the killing of unborn children in developing nations.

I congratulate White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer for explaining to reporters the underpinnings of that change: that funneling tax dollars overseas to organizations that perform or promote abortions “is contrary to the values of this president.”

The president's action illustrates, he said, “not just to the folks here in this country, but around the world, what a value we place on life.”

I heartily applaud the first of what we at National Right to Life expect to be many pro-life decisions from a pro-life administration.

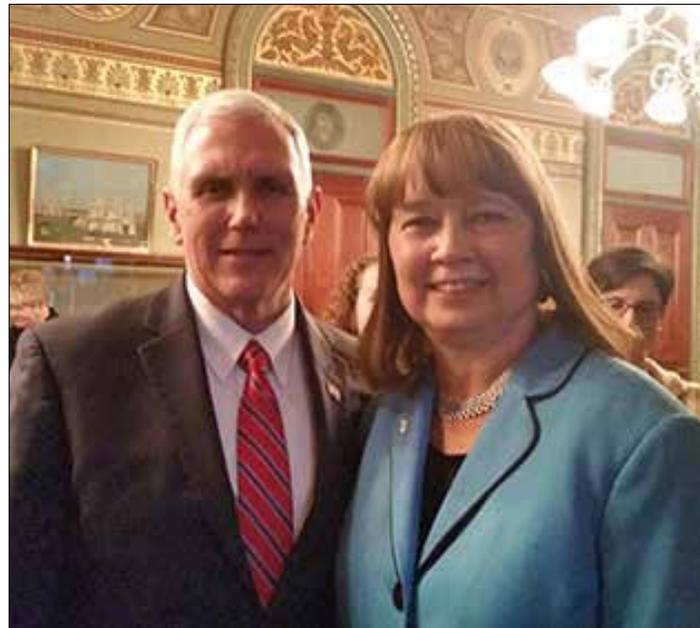
The Mexico City Policy was implemented in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan, kept in place by President George H.W. Bush, rescinded by President Bill Clinton, and again put in place by President George W. Bush until rescinded by President Obama in 2009.

And because it is an often-ignored truth, it is important to know the Mexico City Policy does not impact the level of funding available. Rather, it sets a standard grantees must meet in order to be eligible for U.S. taxpayer funding.

When a group declines to accept funds because of the

policy, those funds are directed to another group willing to avoid abortion-promoting activities.

President Trump's position is supported by an overwhelming percentage of Americans. A Marist poll, conducted in December, found that 83 percent “oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries.” A whopping



*Pro-life Vice President Mike Pence and NRLC President Carol Tobias*

73 percent of those who self-identify as “pro-choice” oppose using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries.

I am proud of America. We are a country second to none in showing compassion to the less fortunate. However, I do not want the United States sending the message to other nations that their children are not valuable; that we think the people of that country would be better off if more of their children were never born.

When previous pro-life presidents adopted the Mexico City Policy, most family-planning groups complied with the policy and continued to receive U.S. funds.

However, groups that refuse to distinguish between abortion and family planning (“reproductive rights are indivisible,” as they say), such

in other countries, undermining the religious and cultural values important to those countries.

It's not hard to imagine how Americans would react if another country funded efforts to change laws here.

President Trump's decision should be seen in light of the House of Representatives vote this week in favor of the No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act. As Rep. Chris Smith, co-chair of the House Pro-Life Caucus, explained, President Trump's memorandum

“Demonstrates that the Trump Administration is committed to a consistent, government-wide policy: taxpayer dollars should not fund abortion or the abortion industry—either domestically or internationally.”

Maternal and infant mortality remain serious problems in the developing world, which the United States has and should continue to address in life-affirming ways. But ending the lives of unborn children is not a solution to maternal and infant mortality — abortion is infant mortality. Real solutions involve improving genuine health care for both women and their little ones.

Under the Mexico City Policy, the United States will continue to provide funds to help impoverished countries.

If organizations such as International Planned Parenthood are truly concerned with providing healthcare to women in other countries, they can do so — with U.S. taxpayer dollars — as long as they agree not to perform or promote abortion.

as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), refused to accept the money. Apparently, abortion is more important to them than other “services” they offer.

One restriction of the Mexico City Policy is that organizations receiving U.S. funds may not lobby governments of other countries about abortion. Both IPPF and PPFA have openly worked to change pro-life laws

# The AMA should stand firm against assisted suicide

By Jennifer Popik, JD, Director, NRLC Department of Medical Ethics

There are conflicting reports about whether the American Medical Association (AMA) is considering abandoning its longtime position in opposition to physician-assisted suicide and going “neutral.” It is important to realize how vital it is that the AMA not change.

The AMA’s longtime stance has been, in part:

*Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks. Instead of engaging in assisted suicide, physicians must aggressively respond to the needs of patients at the end of life. Physicians: (a) Should not abandon a patient once it is determined that cure is impossible. (b) Must respect patient autonomy. (c) Must provide good communication and emotional support. (d) Must provide appropriate comfort care and adequate pain control. -AMA Principles of Medical Ethics: I,IV”*

Both the national AMA and state medical societies’ opposition to assisted suicide have been instrumental in stopping the spread of these dangerous laws. In fact, when the Vermont and California medical societies took neutral positions, it was a major stumbling block to the efforts

in the legislature to block legalization.

Assisting suicide is now legal in California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and

FAR less than many treatments, only a few hundreds of dollars.

- Oregon is proof that general suicides rise

caregiver can pick up the lethal drugs and administer them without the patient’s knowledge



Vermont, and the practice may have some legal protection in the state of Montana. Additionally, assisted suicide is set to take effect shortly in the District of Columbia, absent action by Congress.

**It is more important now than ever for the AMA to keep its strong position.**

Did you know that in states where assisted suicide is legal?

- Doctors have the power to write lethal prescriptions and even suggest suicide as an “option.”
- There is nothing in the law prohibiting insurance companies from paying for lethal drugs costing

dramatically once assisted suicide is promoted as a “good.”

- A family member could die from taking lethal drugs and relatives wouldn’t know about it until he/she is dead because no family notification is required in advance.
- Assisted suicide is a recipe for elder and disability abuse because it can put lethal drugs in the hands of abusers.
- A relative who is an heir to the patient’s estate or an abusive

or consent. There is no oversight and no witnesses are required once the lethal drugs leave the pharmacy.

While such laws are promoted as providing an “option,” they create an environment in which assisted suicide may become the cheap and “easy” solution to serious illness, pushing the medically vulnerable into early deaths.

The AMA is a critical component and MUST retain its opposition to assisted suicide.

Share these concerns with Bette Crigger, PhD, CEJA’s Secretary, Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, American Medical Association at [bette.crigger@ama-assn.org](mailto:bette.crigger@ama-assn.org)

# Obama does serious harm but no human rights abuse need be forever

By Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

*Editor's note. The following are Rep. Chris Smith's full remarks that were shortened for delivery at the January 27 March for Life because there were so many pro-life congressmen and congresswomen who wanted to speak.*

Ex-President Obama—the abortion president—did serious harm.

No human rights abuse, however, need be forever.

So, our challenge today is to pray, fast, and tenaciously work to protect women and children from the violence of abortion.

Growing numbers of Americans are shocked to learn that the methods of abortion include dismemberment of a child's fragile body including decapitation and drugs like RU486 that starve the baby to death prior to his or her forced expulsion from the womb.

The billion-dollar abortion industry cleverly markets the cheap sophistry of choice and reproductive rights while going to extraordinary lengths to ignore, trivialize, and cover-up the battered baby-victim in the womb.

Abortion violence must be replaced with compassion and empathy for women and respect for defenseless children in the womb.

You and I are part of the greatest human rights struggle on earth.

You and I recognize and enthusiastically accept our duty to protect the weakest and most vulnerable and to tangibly assist women in crisis.

You and I are profoundly thankful that President Trump and Vice-President Pence are already accomplishing amazing things including reinstatement

and expansion of the Ronald Reagan Mexico City Policy. This new Trump human rights policy ensures that U.S. taxpayer funds to foreign non-government organizations (NGOs) do not perform or promote abortions worldwide.

Unborn children and their

You and I also know that at long last, America needs to hear—I mean **really** hear—the courageous women who are “silent no more”—post-abortive women who have found hope, inner peace, and reconciliation after their abortion but today admonish

lives. More than twenty peer-reviewed studies show that more than two million people are alive today because of Hyde.

Two million people who would have been aborted instead survived because public funds were unavailable to effectuate their violent demise while their mothers benefitted from prenatal healthcare and support.

Earlier this week, the Marist Poll found that a supermajority of Americans—61%—are against public funding of abortion.

Next up, defunding Planned Parenthood.

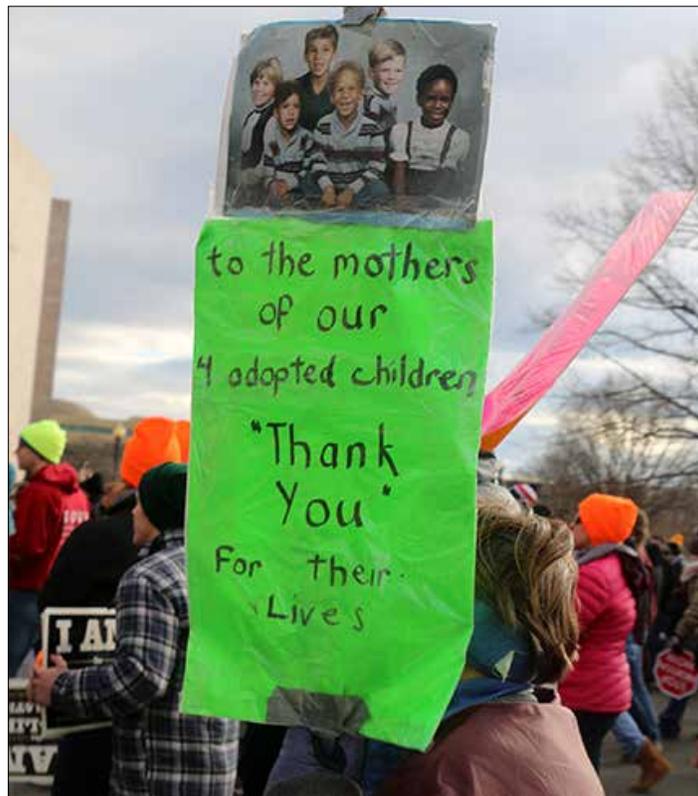
Planned Parenthood destroys an unborn child every two minutes and has killed over seven million babies since 1973—a number more than the entire population of the state of Massachusetts or more than ten times the entire population of Washington DC.

Undercover videos have exposed Planned Parenthood leaders gleefully talking about procuring children's organs for a price.

The most dangerous place in America today for an unborn baby girl or boy is in a Planned Parenthood facility.

Someday future generations of Americans will look back and wonder how and why such a seemingly enlightened society could have permitted over 60 million to be exterminated by abortion, often with government enabling and subsidy.

But history and generations of survivors will note that you stood your ground, you pushed back, and you endured any and every sacrifice, any and every smear, so that the least of these might live.



mothers everywhere, including in the developing world, are of infinite value so who and what the American taxpayer subsidizes with billions of foreign aid grant dollars matters a great deal.

The Trump executive order will also end taxpayer funding to organizations like the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) for its ongoing support of coercive population control including forced abortion in China—anti-women, anti-child policies that constitute massive crimes against humanity.

society to reject the false solution of abortion.

Under the extraordinary leadership of Speaker Paul Ryan, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Whip Steve Scalise and Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rogers, the House on Tuesday passed HR7—the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion—to make the Hyde Amendment and other riders permanent and to ensure that Obamacare (until repealed) conforms to Hyde.

The Hyde Amendment saves

# Struggling woman with dementia euthanised in Netherlands

*Relatives had to hold her down so that the doctor could give the lethal injection.*

By Michael Cook

A Dutch doctor has been rebuked by a Regional Review Committee after she gave a lethal injection to a demented patient who appeared to be struggling to stop the procedure.

The incident emerged when the Regional Review Committee released euthanasia case reports on January 1. This was Verdict 2016-85.

Here is what happened. An 80-year-old woman with dementia entered a nursing home because her husband

She was unhappy in the nursing home and wandered the corridors at night. After seven weeks of this, the nursing home doctor decided that she must be suffering unbearably. Based on her previous statements, the doctor decided that euthanasia was appropriate.

With members of her family in attendance, the doctor approached to give her a lethal injection. The woman was agitated, so the doctor slipped a sedative into her coffee. This

members to hold her down so that she could continue with the injection. The woman died soon afterwards.

The review committee said the doctor acted in good faith, but that she had erred in several respects. First, she was deceptive when she drugged the woman's coffee. Second, she should have stopped when the woman started to resist. Third, the wording of the advance directive was not clear enough and did not authorise the doctor to perform euthanasia.

The Committee recommended that the case should go to court to clarify whether the doctor acted properly.

Outside of the Netherlands, news of this case was received with consternation because coercion had been involved. Wrestling your mother to the mattress so that the doctor can give her a lethal injection is not the serene death eulogised by supporters of euthanasia.

And what about respect for her autonomy? Nobody respected the woman's wish to live at home when it was clear and unambiguous. But they did "respect" her wish to be killed, when it was not. It's a peculiar interpretation of autonomy which honours a wish to die but not a wish to live.

This was just one of many, many cases which raise disturbing questions about the euthanasia of patients with psychiatric disorders.

Verdict 2016-18, for instance, involved a very cranky man

with early Alzheimer's. The dementia clause in his advance directive was hand-written. By him? It is not clear how the doctors established that it was by his own hand. But they saw "no reasonable alternative".

Verdict 2014-28 involved a man in his 50s who had suffered from burn-out for 20 years, with recurrent depression. He was gloomy, had problems with his eyesight and was increasingly dependent. He asked his doctor and his psychiatrist for euthanasia and they refused. He then applied to the Levensindekliniek (end of life clinic) and their staff signed all the papers and euthanised him.

None of the reports are available in English. It would be very valuable if they were. The only cases reported in the Anglophone world are those which have shocked even the Dutch media for whom euthanasia has become just another billboard on the cultural landscape. Normally they seem to be desperately sad stories of people without strong family connections. For some reason, the Verdicts suppress descriptions of the family connections — a sign, perhaps, of the hyper-individualism in which the euthanasia ethic thrives.

*Editor's note. Michael Cook is editor of MercatorNet. This is reposted with permission.*



could no longer care for her. When the woman was still lucid she expressed two wishes: (a) not to go into a "home for demented elderly" and (b) to be euthanised "when I myself find it the right time."

did not work, so she gave her an injection. With all these drugs, the woman dosed off.

But when the needle for the lethal injection appeared, she started to struggle. The doctor had to ask the family

# Hawaii joins states forcing Pregnancy Help Centers to promote abortion

By Jay Hobbs

Add Hawaii to a growing list of U.S. states seeking to force pro-life pregnancy help centers to promote abortion. Twin bills were introduced in the both houses of the legislature last week calling for the organizations to post signage referring clients to state-covered abortions.

Mirroring a 2015 California law that compels pregnancy centers providing free ultrasound to post signage referring their patients to state-funded abortion clinics—a law which is likely on its way to the Supreme Court as early as this spring—Hawaii’s proposed legislation brings the list to four states around the U.S. that are cracking down on pregnancy help centers via mandated signage laws.

Like the law in California, which has only been enforced in the city of Los Angeles as part of an ongoing crusade against alternatives to the abortion industry, the Hawaii bills also hold the threat of a \$500 fine for first-time offenses, plus \$1,000 per additional infraction.

Echoing the arguments made against California’s law, the so-called “Reproductive FACT Act,” as well as Illinois’ 2016 bill gutting its Healthcare Right of Conscience Act, pro-lifers in Hawaii are saying the legislation violates the First Amendment’s guarantees of religious liberty and free speech by forcing them to promote or refer for abortions.

“Women are smart and deserve the opportunity to be informed regarding pregnancy

decisions including the choice [to] carry the preborn to term and to parent,” Joy Wright, executive director of Malama Pregnancy Center of Maui,



*Hawaii joins growing list of states cracking down on pregnancy help centers' free speech.*

said. “Pregnancy centers do not charge for their services and clearly relay that they do not perform or refer clients for abortions.”

At the center of the law is a mandated disclaimer that pregnancy centers would be required to post at their facilities as well as online, which reads:

**“Hawaii has public programs that provide immediate free or low-cost access to comprehensive family planning services including all FDA-approved methods of contraception, prenatal care, and abortion for eligible women. To determine whether you qualify, contact the appropriate Med-QUEST division eligibility office.”**

While a hearing on the house bill, HB663, is set to be followed up by a House Health Committee hearing Feb. 7, no date has been set for a

post signage either declaring the services they do not offer or referring patients—even indirectly—to abortion providers have been struck down in New York City, Austin (TX), Baltimore (MD) and Montgomery County (MD). The latter cost taxpayers \$330,000 in attorney’s fees.

“This is another shameless attempt by the well-funded abortion industry to leverage the coercive power of the state on behalf of its own interests,” said Jor-El Godsey, president of Heartbeat International, a worldwide network of 2,100 pregnancy help affiliates. “It’s clear that some, even within the Hawaiian legislature, see the promotion of abortion as an absolute good—even if it costs citizens their free speech and women their choice in the midst of an unexpected pregnancy.”

Though Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands has not yet to make a public statement on the legislation itself, the abortion giant’s regional affiliate is currently suing a pregnancy center in Idaho for trying to reach patients in a shared parking lot.

Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America and other pro-abortion groups endorsed the California law and have been major drivers in attacks on pregnancy help at the state level in Illinois and Connecticut as well.

senate committee meeting for SB501. One of just six U.S. states with Democratic control of both legislative houses and the governorship, Hawaii becomes the third of those states—along with California and Connecticut—to leverage its pro-abortion agenda against pro-life pregnancy centers.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals—the most frequently reversed appeals court in the U.S.—upheld California’s law in October. But a judge in Illinois placed a temporary injunction on that state’s 2016 change to its Healthcare Right of Conscience Act, which would force pro-life medical professionals to refer their patients to local abortion clinics.

Past attempts by local authorities to compel pro-life pregnancy centers to

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

# 2018 U.S. Senate Elections

*From page 1*

- In North Dakota pro-abortion Sen. Heidi Heitkamp faces an uphill battle if she is challenged by pro-life Rep. Kevin Cramer. President Trump carried North Dakota by 36 points.
- In West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin will likely face a strong challenge by either pro-life Rep. Evan Jenkins or pro-life state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. West Virginia voted 69%-27% for Trump, a whopping 42 point difference.
- In Missouri potential challengers against pro-abortion Sen. Claire McCaskill are pro-life Reps. Vicky Hartzler and Ann Wagner.

Three Senate Democrat seats considered “tilt Democrat” are:

- In Wisconsin, there are two pro-life challengers whose names are mentioned as possible challengers to pro-abortion Sen. Tammy Baldwin. They are Rep. Sean Duffy or state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald. Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton 47%-46%, and pro-life Senator Ron Johnson came from behind to win his seat with 51% of the vote.
- In Florida, pro-abortion Sen. Bill Nelson, who has a

dismal 0% pro-life record since 2001, may face a strong challenge by pro-life Gov. Rick Scott, who is term-limited in 2016.

- In Montana, where in 2012 pro-abortion Sen. Jon Tester, who

record during this Senate term.

- In Virginia, pro-abortion Sen. Tim Kaine has a 0% pro-life voting record.

As noted above, six of the eight pro-life Republican senators running for re-election in 2018 are considered “Safe

senators who may become vulnerable. For instance:

- In Michigan. When President Trump defeated Clinton 47.5%-47.3%, it demonstrated that Republicans can win statewide. Pro-abortion Sen. Debbie Stabenow could be vulnerable if a strong challenger emerges from the Republican primary. Michigan’s attorney general and the Lt. Governor are considering a 2018 Senate run.



has a 0% pro-life voting record during his tenure in the Senate, only won 49% of the vote. President Trump carried the state, winning 57% of the vote.

There are other potential pro-life pickups against incumbent pro-abortion Democrats, depending on who the challenger is:

- In Ohio, pro-abortion Sen. Sherrod Brown will be running in a state that voted for President Trump, 52%-44%.
- In Pennsylvania, pro-abortion Sen. Bob Casey has a dismal 22% pro-life voting

Republican.” The two potential “pro-life protects” who could face pro-abortion Democrats, are:

- In Nevada, pro-life Sen. Dean Heller may face pro-abortion freshman Rep. Ruben Kihuen.
- In Arizona, pro-life Sen. Jeff Flake may be challenged by pro-abortion Rep. Kyrsten Sinema.

However both Nevada and Arizona are “likely Republican” seats.

These ratings will fluctuate, depending on who the challengers are, or whether there’s an open seat because an incumbent retires.

In addition, there are other pro-abortion Democratic

Likewise, in Massachusetts and Minnesota. If strong pro-life candidates emerge from the Republican primary elections, pro-abortion Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar could face tough re-elections. In a recent poll, 46% of Massachusetts voters said someone other than Warren should be elected, with 10% more undecided. Trump lost in Minnesota by only 1.5 points.

It’s critical that strong pro-life challengers make it through the Republican primary elections. We need a really big win in the Senate next year to reach a filibuster-proof 60-vote majority.

Historically, big Senate swings go against the sitting president’s party. However the opposite happened in 1934, when Franklin D. Roosevelt’s party gained ten Senate seats. Fortunately, there’s a “new normal.”

It’s easy to think that the next federal election is in two years. Keep in mind, November 6, 2018, IS NEXT YEAR!!!

The 2018 election will be here before you know it.

# NRLC's invaluable "State of Abortion in U.S."

*How to quickly get up to speed? Read National Right to Life 4th annual "State of Abortion in the United States" report*

By Dave Andrusko

Each year about this time, National Right to Life releases an in-depth, across-the-board summary of where we are on the abortion issue in a report NRLC calls simply, "The State of Abortion in the United States."

And so it is that National Right to Life Committee, the

carefully explains how and why a majority of people continue to oppose *Roe v. Wade's* abortion-for-any-reason doctrine.

"The right-to-life movement continues to see evidence that our efforts to educate our nation about the unborn child's humanity and our efforts to enact protective pro-life legislation

**National Right to Life News** and still not do the report justice. The following are several highlights of the report which can be read at [www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2017.pdf](http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2017.pdf)

We begin with the immensely encouraging drop in the number of abortions. We do so because save babies is the most direct illustration of how pro-life education, legislation, and political outreach are making a difference.

On January 17, the Guttmacher Institute, once a special research affiliate of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, released its latest study confirming trends previously reported by the CDC. In the Guttmacher study, researchers found a 12.5% drop in the annual number of abortions between 2011 and 2014, and similar substantial drops in the abortion rate and abortion ratio.

In 2013, for the first time first time since 1974, the number of abortions performed in the United States dropped below one million—958,200. In 2014, the decline continued to 926,190 abortions.

Even better news, longer term, is that abortion rates and ratios, which measure the general frequency of abortion and the likelihood that a pregnant woman will abort, are down to levels below what they were in 1973, when *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* first made abortion on demand the law of the land.

Then the report provides a keen overview of the state of

public opinion and of the evil empire—Planned Parenthood.

When commentators say, as they so frequently do, there has not been much change, they manage to miss in their "the more things change, the more they stay the same" approach that a majority of Americans continue to oppose the reasons more than 90% of all abortions are performed. And, of course, they avoid getting specific. Why? Because, as NRLC's report documents, there is widespread support for everything from parental involvement, to a ban on taxpayer funding of abortion, to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act—and everything in between.

As the report observes, if we combine the latest Marist poll, taken last December, with "the most recent Gallup poll, these results show that not only do Americans disagree with the abortion policy established by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe* and *Doe*, but they are becoming more willing to embrace the 'pro-life' than the 'pro-choice' label to describe their position."

That support for the pro-life position manifested itself in the last election:

**The Polling Company found that nearly half (49%) of voters said the abortion issue affected the way they voted. Fully 31% voted for pro-life candidates, compared**



THE  
**STATE OF**  
**ABORTION**  
IN THE UNITED STATES  
JANUARY 2017



federation of 50 state right-to-life affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters, has made available its fourth annual addition.

Take my word for it. The pro-life veteran and novice alike will benefit enormously from the insights contained in this fascinating 64-page overview.

Looked at broadly, the report: summarizes key legislative developments at the state and federal level; analyzes the data found in the CDC and Guttmacher reports which both show dramatic declines in the number of abortion, abortion rate, and abortion ratio; and

are having a tremendous impact in moving our nation away from *Roe* and *Doe's* deadly legacy," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

"Pro-life Americans made their voices heard last November," she continued. "We now have pro-life majorities in both houses of Congress and, with the Trump Administration, a White House dedicated to advancing pro-life policies that help mothers and their unborn children."

The report is so good we could easily take 64 pages of the February digital edition of

*See "Invaluable," page 39*

# Bill to reallocate state funding away from abortion providers in Iowa moving quickly

By Dave Andrusko

A bill to reallocate state taxpayer funding away from Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to federally qualified health centers and family planning organizations who do not provide abortion services passed a House subcommittee in Iowa on Monday.

Senate File 2 now moves to the House Human Resources Committee where it is likely to pass before moving onto the full House where it is also expected to pass.

Last week the Senate voted in favor of SF2 by a vote of 30-20, with all Republicans in support and all Democrats in opposition.

“Gov. Terry Branstad proposed similar legislation in his annual Condition of the State Address last month, and there is no doubt he will sign it if the House votes for final passage,” according to William Petroski of the *Des Moines Register*.

Senate File 2 would discontinue a federal Medicaid waiver on July 1 that provides millions of dollars in funding to family planning providers across the state,” reported Rod

Boshart. The bill “would create a new state-funded program that would exclude facilities that provide abortions from



Iowa Governor Terry Branstad

receiving the funds. To cover the new program, the state would shift money from a federal block grant that pays for child and family services”

For over an hour the three-member subcommittee heard from 23 witnesses, for and

against SF2. Opponents, such as Erin Davison-Rippey, an official with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, said the bill “will

family planning services,” Petroski reported.

In the past similar measures have passed the House but have been derailed in the Senate, controlled by Democrats. But as *NRL News Today* wrote following the November elections, due to the work of Iowa Right to Life’s PAC, pro-lifers won 17 of 19 state Senate races and 42 of 62 state House races!

Pro-life Republicans now control both houses and the governor’s office.

As Petrowski explained in another article the measure is fulfilling a promise.

Many Iowa Republicans seeking election last fall promised voters they would halt public funding to Planned Parenthood if they were elected. GOP lawmakers have repeatedly tried in recent years to block the appropriation of money for Planned Parenthood, but they had been stymied by Senate Democrats who held a majority. That political barrier was removed in November when Republicans won control of the Senate by ousting six Democratic incumbents while retaining a majority in the Iowa House.

be devastating to low-income women in Iowa.”

Supporters countered that “women will have access to 221 clinics statewide that will expand coverage to rural women who must now make long drives to urban areas for

# Adopted woman told by Pelosi she wants all women to be able to “chose”...to abort

By Dave Andrusko

A tip of the hat to PJ Media for airing portions of a Town Hall meeting held by pro-abortion House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.)

The video picks up with a young woman identified as Brianna Kristyn Roberts politely, gently, kindly making the following statement, followed by a question.

“I am part of the pro-life generation. I believe that abortion is not the answer for unplanned pregnancy.” [A sentence and a half in, Pelosi’s forced smile has already vanished and her tongue has started to brush over her upper teeth.]

**My birth mother was faced with a decision that many women today are facing. Without the means of properly raising a child, she chose the most ethical decision, and chose adoption. With her courageous and unselfish decision to make such an awesome decision, I now have the ability to thrive and succeed**

**in life. Don’t you think that everyone needs the ability to thrive and succeed in life?”**

A seasoned veteran, Pelosi stands and responds, “I certainly do, and I love the

Two quick points. First, no doubt Pelosi’s blood ran cold when the beautiful, poised, and articulate Ms. Roberts started her question with the statement, “I am part of the pro-life generation.” Nothing is more upsetting to the old pro-abortion

important issues facing the Congress, she responds, “Our children, our children, our children.”

This is almost a reflex on her part, an excuse to move away from what happens and to whom in an abortion, to switch



word you used: you said my mother chose. My mother chose. [Audience applauds.] And we want other people to have that opportunity to choose as well.”

feminist establishment than to be told their time has passed.

Second, after her first quote, noted above, Pelosi went on to say that whenever she is asked what are the three most

the topic to who are the “real” children—the ones who escaped Planned Parenthood’s clutches.

Kudos to Ms. Roberts, her birth mother, and the family who adopted her.

## Pro-abortionists floundering in their campaign to derail Judge Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court

*From page 4*

**for the views of all Americans.**

Two points. First, there is no nominee a Republican President could possibly make that would please the *New York Times*. Like Schumer, the Times has this imaginary creation of its own making—the judicial “mainstream”—which is composed entirely of judges liked by pro-abortion Democrats.

For example, according to *NBC News*, here is how Schumer responded to Rachel Maddox of *MSNBC*:

**Asked by Maddox whether he would seek to simply keep the seat open rather than confirm a nominee outside the mainstream, Schumer replied: “Absolutely.”**

**“We are not going to make it easy for them to pick a Supreme Court justice,” he said.**

**Suggesting that could be any nominee, he said: “It’s hard for me to imagine a nominee that Donald Trump would choose that would get Republican support that we [Democrats] could support.”**

Schumer is amazingly blunt: if Trump chooses someone Republicans like, Democrats won’t.

Second, are we to believe that had pro-abortion Hillary Clinton won, the *Times* would be counseling her to choose “a moderate candidate”? Please.

One other reason, among 50: Judge Gorsuch really

**Scalia’s career was to remind us of the differences between judges and legislators. To remind us that legislators may appeal to their own moral convictions and to claims about social utility to reshape the law as they think**

**backward, not forward, and looking to text, structure, and history to decide what a reasonable reader at the time of the events in question would have understood the law to be—not to decide cases based on their own moral convictions or the policy consequences they believe might serve society best.**



*Pro-abortion New York Senator Chuck Schumer*

does appreciate--and honor--that there are three branches of government. In a speech he delivered last year just after Justice Scalia’s passing, Gorsuch said

**I want to ... suggest that perhaps the great project of Justice**

**it should be in the future. But that judges should do none of these things in a democratic society. That judges should instead strive (if humanly and so imperfectly) to apply the law as it is, focusing**

In a piece he wrote for *USA Today* on the one-year anniversary of Justice Scalia’s death, Richard Wolf quoted Michael McConnell, who served alongside Judge Gorsuch on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals before becoming director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School: “He is unfailingly charming and collegial and will try to build bridges.”

His superior intellect, Gorsuch’s brilliance in writing opinions, his “civility and courtesy” (as one friend told Wolf), and his deep devotion to interpreting the law, not making it—no wonder pro-abortion Democrats are flailing in their campaign to undermine his nomination.

# “The Redemption has Begun”: Pregnancy Center Opens Next to Infamous Abortion Clinic

By Jay Hobbs

Starting last month, a woman seeking help in an unexpected pregnancy can go right next door to what investigators once tabbed a “House of Horrors” to find free life-affirming help, including an ultrasound, baby supplies, peer counseling and more in Philadelphia.

The clinic is operated by AlphaCare, a pro-life organization that has served women in the area since 1981, and marks a substantial milestone for a long-term vision held by the group’s leadership since the arrest and murder trial of abortion practitioner Kermit Gosnell starting in 2011.

For over 30 years leading up to his arrest, Gosnell operated a late-term abortion clinic at 3801 Lancaster Avenue in Philadelphia. His clinic was originally investigated as part of a pill mill probe, but authorities quickly realized the dilapidated and unsanitary conditions of his practice, which led to the botched abortion and death of at least one patient, Karnamaya Mongar.

Additionally, it was discovered that Gosnell had routinely delivered babies alive at his clinic and snipped their spinal cords with scissors, leading to three murder convictions in addition to an involuntary manslaughter conviction in Ms. Mongar’s death.

As Gosnell was arrested and tried, Karen Hess and Kim Bennett—AlphaCare’s executive director and nurse manager, respectively—were drawn to the idea of relocating their services from a mile away to, eventually, reclaiming and repurposing the building itself.

In June of 2015, that dream

came one major step closer to fulfillment when a friend of AlphaCare purchased the two addresses adjacent to Gosnell’s former flat-iron location, setting the stage for the January grand opening.

With an estimated 40,000 babies having lost their lives through Gosnell’s abortion practice from 1979 to 2011, one of AlphaCare’s main hopes in relocating has been to offer badly needed post-abortive services to the very women

pregnancy center bought and converted an abortion clinic formerly owned by notorious abortionist James Pendergraft in Ocala, Florida.

Former abortion clinics turned into life-affirming pregnancy centers in recent years include two in Iowa—including one former Planned Parenthood clinic—two in Miami, one in Toledo, Ohio, and a former flagship Planned Parenthood building in Bryan, Texas, that now houses both 40

the “heart of the center” and invited supporters to attend an open house Sunday, Jan. 22—the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

“Gosnell’s property is still mired in legal issues and not yet for sale. Nevertheless, the redemption has begun,” AlphaCare wrote in a Dec. 27 email. “Thanks to a tremendous outpouring of support and an incredible team of tradesmen, two row homes have been



*AlphaCare’s new ultrasound exam room opened its doors to patients on Jan. 3, 2017*

*Photo Courtesy: AlphaCare*

Gosnell exploited.

While Hess and Bennett have pitched the idea to donors and partners over the years, they’ve rallied around Isaiah 61—God’s promise to transform “ashes” into “beauty.” Hess and Bennett hope to one day purchase and renovate Gosnell’s former clinic just a wall away.

This August, a Christian social services agency that works closely with a local

Days for Life and a pregnancy help medical clinic.

Along the way, Hess and Bennett have led the way for AlphaCare’s rebranding (it was formerly called “Alpha Pregnancy Services”), as well as the addition of a mobile ultrasound unit in partnership with “Save the Storks.”

In an email to donors at the close of 2016, AlphaCare called the ultrasound exam room

transformed into a brand new office space complete with a state of the art computer network, burglar alarm, new furnishings and more.

**“The AlphaCare staff rejoices and praises the Lord for His provision.”**

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

# Cecile Richards says PPFA “never more popular” and “non-partisan”

By Dave Andrusko

Tip of the hat to Life News for alerting readers to an interview that Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards recently gave to Mika Brzezinski, co-host of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”

To her credit, Brzezinski was not a complete shill. When she asked, “How’s the outlook for Planned Parenthood?” Brzezinski couched it in the context of a Congress that seeks to reroute federal funding away from PPFA to full service health care providers who do not provide abortions.

Richards, who is paid more than a \$1 million in total compensation, responded as the CEO of the largest abortion provider (and \$1 billion+ “non-profit”) would: “Never been more popular.”

What would a viewer learn? Well, for starters that Planned Parenthood is “non-partisan,” according to Richards. Yes, she actually said this with a more-or-less straight face.

Well, how much did PPFA’s political arm dole out the last election cycle? An FEC report “Planned Parenthood Votes” filed for the last two years showed a whopping \$21,670, 777 in “Total Federal Disbursements.” To whom did it go? Don’t know.

But if you go to OpenSecrets.org’s breakdown of the Independent Expenditures for 2016, we learn

- **Total Independent Expenditures:**  
**\$14,046,338**



- **For Democrats:**  
**\$5,030,652**
- **For Republicans:**  
**\$1,728**
- **Against Republicans:**  
**\$9,062,593**
- **Against Democrats:**  
**\$6,670**

Brzezinski’s questions included no fastballs high and tight, but there was one hanging curve thrown over the middle of the plate. After one of Richards’ boilerplate

answers, Brzezinski asked **“But is that really what it’s all about? Are women, right now, in jeopardy of losing their health care, is that a fair assessment, or is**

**Planned Parenthood in jeopardy of losing its funding?”**

Richards was allowed to state, with no follow up query, that PPFA is incomparable, indispensable, and irreplaceable.

Finally, it went without saying, but Richards said it anyway, that the reduction in the number of abortions, abortion rate, and abortion ratio are all the product of Planned Parenthood’s marvelous work.

Even PPFA’s old in-house think-tank, Guttmacher, concedes some unspecified percentage is the result of the passage of pro-life (“anti-choice”) legislation.

The last question and answer went like this:

**Brzezinski:** **But you realize you have to cut a deal of some sort with this new administration in some way? Would you come to the table?**

**Richards:** **We’re always at the table. I mean we talk to everybody. I mean because Planned Parenthood, we’re non-partisan. We believe the most important thing is that women in this country get access to the health care that they need.**

Of course, this is preposterous. A “deal” could be cut quickly if PPFA got out of the abortion business which they insist is a tiny, tiny percentage of the “services” it offers (another falsehood).

Take five minutes and watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bsd2HxMHN60>.

## So busy torching the Trump Administration they don't realize their own house is on fire

*From page 2*

parents. Democrats wrote off Middle American last year and either don't believe they did, or are persuading themselves they are better off without the "flyover states."

Thus leading candidates to become chair of the Democratic Party all are singing off the same sheet of music: they lost because of "subpar organization and communication — not anything fundamental," to quote the *Washington Post's* James Hohmann. "It was

striking during a two-hour forum here in Charm City that not one of the 10 candidates for chairman suggested the party should moderate in response to last year's losses."

This ties back to the mobs harassing Republicans. Leading Democrats are ultra-confident these attacks can be converted into a Movement, or at least turned into greater turnout in 2018.

Hohmann, one of the few *Post* political reporters who

actually reports, notes that the mass protests "have added to their overconfidence that they'll easily win again in 2020." This overconfidence is fed daily by political reporters who confuse what they want to be with what is or what they fervently wish it to be.

One other item from that Democratic forum. There was a consensus, apparently, that Hillary Clinton lost "because she talked too much about Trump." Yet as Hohmann

keenly observes, "Ironically, every person who complained about how the party was too focused on attacking Trump in 2016 also tried to out-do the other candidates in promising to go after the new president."

Building a coalition on anger, one that is suffused with fear and bathed in loathing, is not a formula for regaining political parity. It is a recipe for disaster.



# Fake news, fake even-handedness, fake respect for democracy

*From page 2*

**bench, is at the very least premature. Democrats should at a minimum give him a chance to appear before the Senate, keeping in mind that the judicial “mainstream” is not composed exclusively of liberals.**

However, as the remainder of the editorial makes abundantly clear, the mainstream is “composed exclusively of liberals.”

For example, Judge Gorsuch defends religious liberties, which is not high on the *Post’s* agenda, at least not when it applies to people of faith who do not wish to be coerced into involvement in abortion.

The key paragraph, from our single-issue point of view, is

**As with many other Supreme Court nominees before him, the judge will no doubt be loath to discuss specific cases and take stands on issues the court is likely to hear, a defensible position that promotes judicial independence and the appearance of impartiality. Senators should nevertheless demand that Mr. Gorsuch describe his views on when it is appropriate to overturn standing court precedent. A preference for judicial Jacobinism would, indeed, put him outside the mainstream.**

nominee who wasn’t “loath to discuss specific cases and take stands on issues the court is likely to hear.” But, no matter.

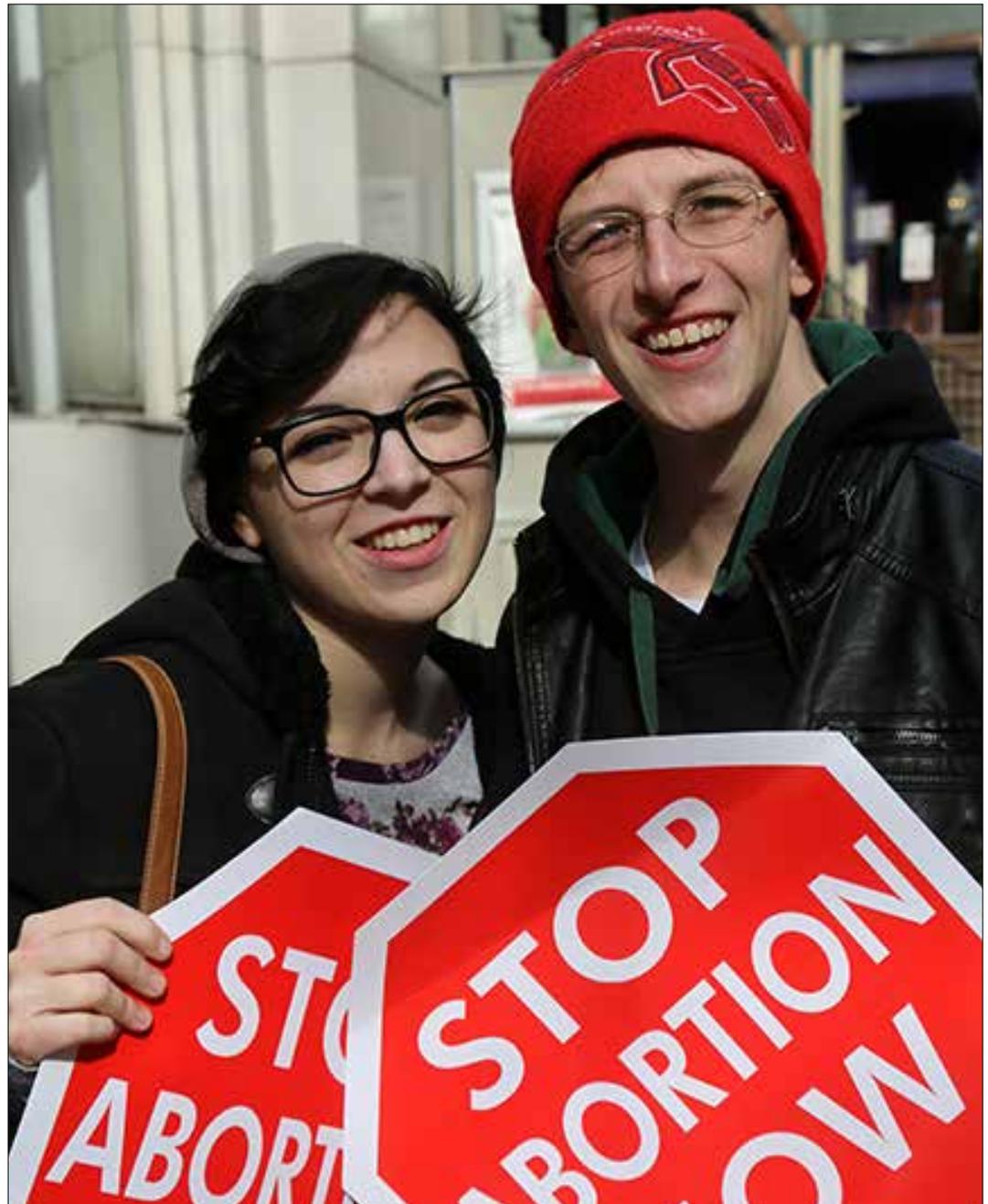
And, of course, “overturning standing court precedent” is just peachy with the *Post* if the precedent is not to their liking.

But if the precedent is a *Post* favorite, then to overturn it is “judicial Jacobinism,” which is hyperbolic even by the *Post’s* standards.

(By the way, if case you’ve forgotten your World History course, Jacobinism is “the

ideology of the most radical element of the French Revolution that instituted the Reign of Terror.”)

Fake news, fake even-handedness, fake respect for democracy.



*Jen Alvarez, vice president of the pro-life club at Mason, and Blake Allen, intern at National Right to Life, leaving the NRLC office as they prepare to March for Life.*

Just to be clear I don’t remember any Supreme Court

# The astonishing witness of totally “locked-in” patients Despite their terrible disability, they are satisfied with life

By Michael Cook

The craze for Marvel superheroes encourages us to think that just being human is too easy. We need to exceed the limitations of our frail bodies by adding superpowers – breathing underwater, eternal youth, colossal strength, regeneration, flying, spinning spider webs, and so on.

Of course, that’s just comic book stuff, but the same dynamic is at work in the Olympic goal of going “Faster, Higher, Stronger.” It’s a facet of the homage we pay to “autonomy,” a key value of contemporary Western culture.

If our autonomy is diminished, we are diminished as human beings. Our happiness is deemed to be proportionate to our autonomy.

But medicine offers a competing narrative – that less might sometimes be more.

Nothing illustrates this better than that rare condition, Locked-In Syndrome (LIS). Most people first learned of it after reading the international best-seller, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, or watching the film of the same name.

Jean-Dominique Bauby, the editor of the French edition of *Elle*, suffered a massive brain stem stroke while driving. When he woke up, he was completely paralyzed, apart from the upper eyelid of his left eye. But within two years he had written his book, which exudes a remarkable *joie de vivre*. He composed this by blinking when an assistant said a letter. Even in translation his prose was dazzling:

**“[M]y mind takes flight like a butterfly. There is so much to do. You can wander off in space or in time, set out for Tierra**

**del Fuego or for King Midas’s court. You can visit the woman you love, slide down beside her and stroke her still-sleeping face. You can build castles in Spain,**



*A totally locked-in patient who participated in the Swiss study*

**steal the Golden Fleece, discover Atlantis, realize your childhood dreams and adult ambitions.”**

Bauby’s condition, terrible as it may seem, is not the worst way of experiencing LIS. He seems to have had “classic LIS” and retained some eye movement. Other patients retain some voluntary movement. But then there is “total LIS” in which the patient is immobile, fully conscious and unable to communicate.

Until now. A paper published in *PLOS Biology* by a Swiss research group describes a computer interface that can decipher the thoughts of LIS patients.

Four patients with total LIS were able to respond “yes” or “no” merely by thinking the answers. A non-invasive brain-computer interface detected their responses by measuring

changes in blood oxygen levels in the brain.

The results have overturned previous theories that people with complete LIS lack the goal-directed thinking necessary to use a brain-computer interface

**satisfactory care at home, they found their quality of life acceptable.”**

This study marks a big step forward in communicating with people with LIS, but it is not the first to report that such patients are satisfied with their lives. A 2003 study in the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* of about 30 Americans with LIS found that about half had never considered euthanasia and half had considered it but rejected it.

The authors commented, “Clinicians may not appreciate that quality of life often equates with social, rather than physical interaction, and that the will to live is strong.”

Clearly, it is possible for people to reach deep within and find happiness even with the most severe disability imaginable – if they are supported by family and friends. What is important is not to project our own fear of total disability onto the patient.

As the authors of the American study wrote: “[We] call into question the assumption among some health care providers and policy makers that severe disability is intolerable. This prejudice is not inconsequential. Biased clinicians provide less aggressive medical treatment and/or influence family and friends (in ways not appropriate to the situation).”

In a sense, the experience of LIS patients raises important questions about autonomy? What if we don’t need autonomy to be happy? What if all we need is love?

*Editor’s note. This appeared at MercatorNet and is reposted with permission. Michael Cook is editor of MercatorNet.*

and are, therefore, incapable of communication. It could even mark the abolition of complete LIS as we now know it

Here is the interesting part.

Contrary to expectations, the question “Are you happy?” resulted in a consistent “yes” response from the four patients. It was repeated over weeks of questioning, so it was no fluke. The lead author, Niels Birbaumer, added:

**“We were initially surprised at the positive responses when we questioned the four completely locked-in patients about their quality of life. All four had accepted artificial ventilation in order to sustain their life, when breathing became impossible; thus, in a sense, they had already chosen to live. What we observed was that as long as they received**

# Kansas filing will buttress defense of ban on dismemberment abortions

By Kathy Ostrowski, Legislative Director, Kansans for Life

Citing a litany of compelling reasons, Kansans for Life filed an *amicus curiae* (literally, friend of the court) brief with the Kansas Supreme Court on Feb. 8.

The *amicus* brief defends the 2015 “Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act” and asks the Court to

- dissolve a district court injunction against the law, and
- deny the existence of any state constitutional “right” to abortion.

The Court will hold a hearing on the matter March 16 at 9am in the state capitol.

Shawnee District Court

Judge Larry Hendricks issued a temporary injunction on the first-in-the-nation ban in June of 2015, preventing the law from going into effect.

In its *amicus* brief, Kansans for Life argued the district court’s ruling is in direct conflict with the primacy of place given to the right to life in the Kansas Bill of Rights, which declares, “All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Second, the Act only limits the gruesome method of live dismemberment, not all second-trimester abortions. The same logic that upheld the partial-birth abortion ban

will also uphold a ban on the equally horrific shredding of still-alive unborn children.

The brief concludes saying, “There simply is no basis in the Kansas Bill of Rights for a ruling that requires the state to tolerate live dismemberment abortion – a ruling that affords unborn children less protection than afforded by state statute to the livestock in this state.”

On January 22, 2016, the Kansas Court of Appeals issued a split 7-7 decision about the district court ruling, which meant the block remained in effect. The State appealed that decision to the Kansas Supreme Court.

The Attorneys representing

Kansans for Life in court are Teresa Collett and Joe Patton. Teresa Collett graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She is a law professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and also authored ten other *amicus* briefs on pro-life issues including representing the Association of American Physicians & Surgeons et al., in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, 530 U.S. 914 (2000). Joe Patton obtained his Juris Doctorate at Washburn University School of Law, is the President of Kansans for Life, a founder of Kansans for Life, and Senior Partner in the law firm of Patton and Patton, Chartered.



# Baby girl undergoes life-saving surgery minutes after birth

## *Born with multiple organs protruding from her body*

By Dave Andrusko

There is not a word (at least in the stories I read) about what must have flashed through the minds of Mary and William Sargent of Wilmington, North Carolina, when they saw the results of a scan taken of their unborn baby at 19 weeks.

They had come to find out whether Mrs. Sargent was carrying a boy or a girl. But in the process the couple discovered that their baby suffered from an ultra-rare condition—gastroschisis—where babies are born with parts of their body protruding outside their abdominal wall, after they fail to develop properly in the womb.

The great news is that five months after Elliotte was born at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in North Carolina, following a 42-hour labor, she is healthy and at home, with no reason to believe she will require additional surgery.

And considering that Elliotte's stomach, bowels, fallopian tubes, and ovaries were outside her body, that is no small accomplishment.

What happened to her next warrants Mrs. Sargent's description: "She's my miracle" (1 baby in 3,000 suffers from this dangerous condition.)

Surgeons immediately performed a two-hour operation on Elliotte "to push some of her organs back in," according to the *Daily Mail's* James Draper, "but not all would fit."

Mrs. Sargent explained, "As soon as she was born she was popped in a see-through trash bag, so her organs weren't exposed to air."

However, Mrs. Sargent also

**On the 8th day, Elliotte underwent surgery to have the hole in her stomach stitched back up.**

**'Then, finally, I**

*The Mirror* ended its story on a wonderful note:

**"And in November she came home," smiled her mum. "It was wonderful,**



*Elliotte Sargent, now four and a half months old, is pictured with her parents (Photo: PA Real Life)*

told the *Daily Mirror*, "Before I even had a chance to hold her, she was whisked for surgery."

Draper explained what happened next:

**Over the next 12 days, the baby's bag was gradually shortened, as gravity took hold and her organs worked their way naturally back into her tiny, newborn body.**

**got to hold her,' Mrs Sargent added. 'It was an awesome moment. Completely wonderful.'**

Elliotte was in the hospital for 63 days. Doctors wanted to be sure she "she was drinking big gulps of milk and going to the toilet daily." Soon, "the tot, born weighing 6lb 2oz, weighed 8lb."

**walking out of hospital with her."**

Now, although she still has regular check-ups, Elliotte is recovering well and is unlikely to need further surgery.

"She's my miracle," Mary said. "I wouldn't be without her."

# Senate confirms Dr. Price as HHS secretary

By Dave Andrusko

It took another marathon session but on February 10, at 2:00 in the morning, the Senate finally confirmed Rep. Tom Price to be the new secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The vote, strictly along party lines (with one exception), was 52-47.

Rep. Price was the latest, but undoubtedly not the last, pro-life nominee to be put through the meat grinder by pro-abortion Senate Democrats.

As *NRL News Today* reported, Republicans had previously overcome a filibuster by a vote of 51-48, with not a single Democrat voting for the seven-term Congressman from Georgia's 6th Congressional District and orthopedic surgeon. Democrats expressed their opposition ahead of the vote in "apocalyptic terms," to quote the *Washington Post*.

Senate Republicans argued that Price was the best candidate to lead a department with 80,000 employees whose annual budget is close to \$1 trillion. Pro-life Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said that Rep. Price "can help bring stability to the health-care markets Obamacare

has harmed. He can bring relief to families that Obamacare has hurt."

Price will "have significant power with which to shape the regulations that help make the

make him invaluable to Trump as he looks to build support for an Obamacare replacement plan."

Pro-lifers admired Price for his outstanding record and for his passion.

Throughout his tenure in the United States House of Representatives, which began in 2005, Rep. Price compiled a 100% pro-life voting record. He is a co-sponsor of major pro-life legislation, including the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (which would protect from abortion unborn children at 20 weeks fetal age or later, who are capable of feeling pain), and the Health Care Conscience Rights Act (which would prevent any level of government from discriminating against health care providers who decline to participate in abortions, and would counter regulatory mandates that violate the religious or moral convictions of those who purchase or provide health insurance).

Rep. Price has also been a leader on healthcare, proposing reforms that would dismantle Obamacare's disastrous rationing mechanisms.



Rep. Tom Price

He added Price "doesn't just understand health-care policy as a policymaker, though he does deeply. He also understands it as a practicing physician."

health care system function," according to Tamar Hallerman. "His close relationship with Speaker Paul Ryan and other House Republicans will also

## Select Congressional Panel Releases Report on Planned Parenthood and Fetal Tissue, Part One

*From page 14*

on materials that cannot be legally sold, or simply the reimbursement of ordinary, allowable business expenses.

### Going back a few years

Many people fail to realize that Planned Parenthood has dealt with this issue before. In 2000, a March 8 installment of ABC News' 20/20 program uncovered a fetal tissue harvesting scheme that had been going on at Planned Parenthood's Overland Park, Kansas clinic for at least as far back as 1997. Then, like now, Planned Parenthood was not officially paid for the tissue, but for rent and other expenses related to the retrieval, preparation, and shipping of the tissue to researchers who paid a broker, handsomely, for the organs.

This is relevant because it was shortly after this exposure that Planned Parenthood's national office issued a written memorandum on April 4, 2001. It informed affiliates about federal laws governing the practice and advising them to take great care to follow applicable state laws as well.

Interestingly enough, Planned Parenthood redistributed that memorandum in January 2011 with a note from one of the key players, identified as "PP Witness #1." [1]

PP Witness #1 resent the memorandum to "remind" affiliates, who likely had experienced some turnover in the intervening years, about the federal law and "assure continuing compliance with the statutes" (SPR, p. 263).

Planned Parenthood noted that applicable federal laws

(PPFA cites 42 U.S.C. 274e, the National Organ Transplant Act, and 42 U.S.C. 289g-1, prohibitions regarding human fetal tissue from the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993) "forbid the payment or receipt of valuable consideration for fetal tissue. However, they permit 'reasonable payments associated with the transportation, implantation, processing, preservation, quality control, or storage' of fetal tissue."

In light of that, the national office's guidance memo informed affiliates wishing to participate in fetal tissue "donation" that there were two legal ways of doing this: 1) to donate the tissue outright, with no expectation of recovering any costs or reimbursement; or 2) to employ an independent auditor to conduct a "credible and good-faith analysis" of the actual costs the affiliate incurred in transporting, processing, preserving, implanting, storing the tissue and maintaining quality control, and, if the research involving the tissue was federally funded, the costs involved in removing the fetal tissue (SPR, p. 262)

However Planned Parenthood affiliates investigated by the Select Panel appear to have largely ignored their organization's own guidance. The clinics and affiliates investigated by the Panel did not donate the tissue outright, but had arrangements where they were paid fees per specimen. Though these were supposedly not direct payments ("valuable consideration") for the tissue, but reimbursement for expenses, these clinics

did not employ independent auditors to track and validate the actual costs.

### Damning Documents

To ascertain whether Planned Parenthood complied with the law or even its own guidance, the select panel sought financial records from Planned Parenthood and the tissue brokers multiple times. However no contemporaneous documents—records that were created during and available from that actual time frame—were available.

Planned Parenthood's lawyers indicated to the panel that the clinics did not keep or could not find such records and said that they did not do the independent audits. Stem Express refused to submit banking or accounting records to the committee, but the panel got access to invoices and bank accounts from other sources. The panel found that the tissue broker had shredding sprees whenever they were asked to produce more documents (SPR, pp. 139-140)

Eventually, Planned Parenthood produced what were supposed to be "good faith" estimates for its 2015 transactions, allocating costs to the categories mentioned in the law (e.g., transporting, processing, preserving, storing tissue, etc.). But the panel questioned these after the fact allotments and wondered what, if anything, Planned Parenthood contributed to the process that could be an actual legitimate, legally justifiable cost. (SPR, pp. 172, 337-347).

For example, was it reasonable for Planned Parenthood to

claim thousands of dollars in costs for "staff time" attending meetings, managing patient flow, interpreting consent forms, etc.? How did "general administrative and medical overhead" qualify as a reimbursable expense?

Some of these seemed particularly hard to justify, given that Stem Express had people onsite performing many of the consent and procurement tasks themselves (SPR Exhibit 8.23 and SPR, p. 161).

With perhaps a bit more credulity, Stem Express claimed expenses for processing, preserving, and storing the tissue. However the panel still found the costs they allocated for these excessive, given industry standards and the inventory involved (SPR, 157-161)

Both Planned Parenthood and Stem Express said, given their submitted costs, they actually lost money on the transactions, although they failed to give a reasonable explanation as to why they continued the program for a number of years and promoted it to clinics as a profitable venture (SPR, pp. 1, 143, 304)

If we tossed out Planned Parenthood's dubious "staff time" and "general administrative and medical overhead" expenses, and brought Stem Express' cost estimates into line with industry practices, both Planned Parenthood and Stem Express would have made considerable profits from their non-profit fetal tissue donation program.

*See "Report," page 35*

## Select Congressional Panel Releases Report on Planned Parenthood and Fetal Tissue, Part One

*From page 34*

According to records obtained by the investigative panel, Planned Parenthood affiliates in California are known to have received payments from Stem Express and other tissue brokers totaling \$613,788 from 2010-2015. No audit for those figures was made available, but four affiliates provided schedules listing costs (including the “staff time” and “general administrative” costs) that they said resulted in net losses for 2015 (SPR, pp. 330-332, Exhibit 8.23).

The panel found Stem Express’ own cost estimates suspicious. The company reported hours of management labor costs inconsistent with the number of samples they described, hours already counted twice, and failed to split costs such as mileage with maternal blood products obtained and transported at the same time. When corrected, for example, the 1/12/13 sale of a single fetal tissue sample to Baylor for \$460 would have generated a profit of at least \$108.50 (more if costs were split for maternal blood delivered at the same time) rather than a loss of \$35 (SPR, pp. 158159)

Again, sad stories of economic losses were also inconsistent with Stem Express publications touting profits and the continued participation of Planned Parenthood in and their interest in expansion of these programs.

All of this offers hard evidence to flesh out what the CMP videos made clear, no matter what exculpatory hedging was supposed to have taken place on the editing room floor. Stem Express was an

aggressive, lucrative for-profit enterprise. Planned Parenthood clinics were on the lookout for income opportunities from the “donation” of fetal tissue from aborted babies.

### Altering Methods

The panel also obtained additional information on the willingness of Planned Parenthood abortionists to alter their methods in order to obtain the best fetal tissue.

Many remember the statements of Planned

changing the presentation from vertex to breech, to allow more gradual dilation, to see if she could get intact parts, to “deliver an intact cavarium” (head). Those who have read NRL News Today recall Mary Gatter, the president of PP’s Medical Director’s Council saying she wanted doctors open to using “a less crunchy technique for more whole specimens.”

In subsequent interviews with panel staff, PP Witness #1 seems to be trying to avoid

tissue donation (SPR, pp. 358-9).

Interestingly enough, PP Witness #1 was the Planned Parenthood executive in charge of PPFA Manual of Medical Standards and Guidelines. That includes a guideline that “Notation signed by the clinician performing the abortion that . . . no substantive alteration in the timing of terminating the pregnancy or of the method used was made for the purpose of obtaining the blood and/or tissue.” PP Witness #1 admitted she had “never signed a statement to this effect,” even though she had indeed had been one of the clinicians performing abortions at Planned Parenthood.

### Democrat Defenders

Supporters of Planned Parenthood on the since disbanded Select Investigative Panel tried to argue that none of the admissions amounted to a confession that anyone had actually changed from one surgical method to another. Small “adjustments” were made to technique for clinical reasons, they asserted, “always intended to achieve the women’s desired result as safely as possible” (Select Panel Democrats response “Setting the Record Straight,” hereafter “SRS,” pp. 62-3).

Democrats elicited testimony from PP Witness #1 that she hadn’t actually altered an abortion procedure and knew of no one who had. She also testified that neither she nor any of her colleagues had ever



Planned Parenthood abortionist and the organization’s senior director of clinical services Deborah Nucatola. In response to questions, she said she would “crush below...crush above,”

saying anything about changing “methods. She admitted only to “little changes” – “a change in instruments, a change in where they’re grasping the tissue” to increase the success of fetal

*See “Report,” page 36*

# Select Congressional Panel Releases Report on Planned Parenthood and Fetal Tissue, Part One

*From page 35*

relied on “illegal partial birth abortion procedures’ to obtain fetal tissue or for any other purpose.” In fact, she assured counsel that “all of Planned Parenthood colleagues have to document how they complied with the ban” (SRS, p. 63).

Though they joined panel Republicans in seeking financial records, Democrats on the panel appeared to have been satisfied with loose and limited explanations Planned Parenthood and Stem Express gave for their expenses (SRS, pp. 2, 46-7, 55-6).

Democrats took a great deal of time in their response to defend Planned Parenthood, the tissue brokers, and “life-saving” fetal tissue research. In response, the select panel went to great pains to point out the paucity of promising research with fetal tissue, saying that most modern medical researchers were investing their time

and money in other more promising projects (SPR, pp. 373-99).

## **What happens next**

The panel made multiple criminal and regulatory referrals to local district attorneys, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other federal agencies, asserting that, among other legal and regulatory violations, Stem Express and Planned Parenthood may have illegally profited from sale or transfer of fetal tissue for “valuable consideration” (SPR, Chapter 4).

Whether those charges will be pursued and if so, whether courts and judges will hold Planned Parenthood, Stem Express and the other tissue brokers accountable, will have to be seen.

But with a new pro-life administration joining a pro-life House and Senate, Congress may have the last word.

## **The Panel’s Recommendations**

Members of the Select Panel made a number of recommendations to address problems uncovered by the report. They called for enforcing laws already on the books on selling fetal tissue for profit and strengthening and clarifying language about “changing the method of abortion.”

The panel also recommended “Defunding Planned Parenthood and ensuring that grants no longer available to Planned Parenthood are awarded to healthcare providers that provide comprehensive preventive healthcare for their patients and that do not perform abortions (that are not covered by Medicaid under the Hyde Amendment)” (SPR, p. xlii, elaboration on p. 407).

Planned Parenthood has tried to tell the public “nothing to see here.” Speaking through their elected representatives,

Americans who saw those videos said “Not so fast.”

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In Parts Two and Three, we will look at some other troubling things uncovered by the select panel’s investigation – late abortion practices in America and the all-too-cozy relationship that exists between some of the country’s top universities and local abortion clinics.

[1] The select committee report never identifies this individual by name, indicating only that “[PP Witness #1] is an abortion provider in Los Angeles, California, an executive with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) who is in charge of the PPFA Manual of Medical Standard and Guidelines.

## Reflections on President Reagan on what would have been his 106th birthday

*From page 12*

tragic proof of this truism last year when the Indiana courts allowed the starvation death of ‘Baby Doe’ in Bloomington because the child had Down’s syndrome.”

The President came under a siege of criticism when his administration played a key role in the enactment of legislation to protect the right to life of babies born with disabilities. He shrugged the torrent off.

Twenty six years before Nebraska passed the historic “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” President Reagan boldly introduced the issue of fetal pain at the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters.

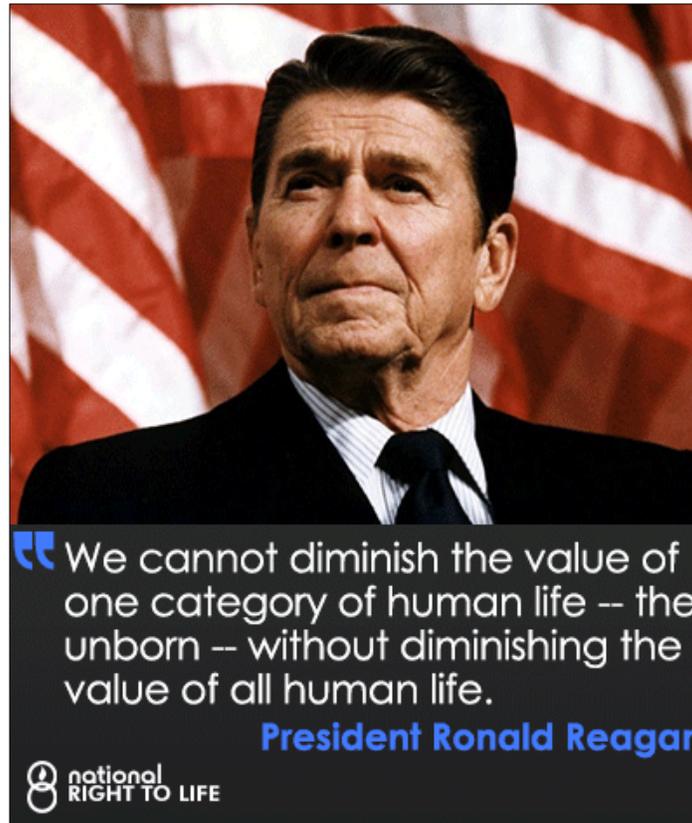
**“There’s another grim truth we should face up to: Medical science doctors confirm that when the lives of the unborn are snuffed out, they often feel pain, pain that is long and agonizing.”**

The President immediately came under a barrage of withering criticism. But a prestigious group of professors, including pain specialists and two past presidents of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, sent the President a letter expressing their strong agreement.

I could list dozens of examples of how this good and decent man called upon his fellow Americans to honor the

better angels of our nature. Or I could elaborate on policies, such as originating the “Mexico City Policy,” cutting off funds to what was then known as the United Nations Fund for

Pro-lifers are frequently the target of unfair criticism, demeaning caricatures, and deeply unwarranted assumptions about our motivation. But so, too, was



Population Activities because that agency violated U.S. law by participating in China’s compulsory abortion plan, or his support for legislation to challenge *Roe v. Wade*—to name just three.

Let me conclude with this commemoration of what would have been President Reagan’s 100th birthday.

President Reagan, and in a far more vicious manner. When we are under attack, it’s good to remember we are in very good company.

I will never forget that first time I heard the President say there are simple answers, but there are no easy answers. The answer to abortion? No! In thunder.

But the pro-abortionist will never run out of rationalizations why abortion is always and in every case “necessary.” This always has been and always will be a minority-of-a-minority opinion.

Moreover the consciences of a vast majority of Americans are pricked when they hear about abortionists such as Kermit Gosnell, charged with eight counts of murder. [Editor’s note. Gosnell was subsequently convicted of three counts of first-degree murder].

At some level they must be asking themselves what hath *Roe* wrought?

“This is not the first time our country has been divided by a Supreme Court decision that denied the value of certain human lives,” President Reagan wrote.

**“The Dred Scott decision of 1857 was not overturned in a day, or a year, or even a decade. . . . But the great majority of the American people have not yet made their voices heard, and we cannot expect them to — any more than the public voice arose against slavery — until the issue is clearly framed and presented.”**

That is our responsibility and our privilege in carrying on the legacy of President Ronald Reagan.

## A Chilling Account of Kermit Gosnell

From page 13

for more than 15 years. Hair and nail salons received more scrupulous attention than abortion centers in the Keystone State during those dark years.

Speaking of darkness, few film villains could top Gosnell in the category of eccentricity.

During a subsequent police search of his filthy and flea-ridden West Philadelphia house, Gosnell played Chopin on the piano surrounded by police who had donned hazmat suits.

In his 15-year-old daughter's room, police found a trunk with a semi-automatic pistol and more than \$240,000 in cash.

But the book *Gosnell* is not simply an unvarnished portrait of a crazy killer. It also deftly explores the impact of the Gosnell case on those who had front-row seats to the horror show as it was being played out in real time.

By McElhinney's and McAleer's account, the investigation and subsequent trial left an indelible mark on police and prosecutors alike. As they sought justice for those who had fallen victim to Gosnell's viciousness and violence, they ended up forming an unbreakable bond.

Two of the female prosecutors who were comrades in the fight for justice for Gosnell's victims became close friends. Ironically, one of them was pregnant with her fourth child when she was required to examine evidence which included the tiny bodies of the "forty-seven babies recovered from Gosnell's freezer."

The revolting revelations from Gosnell's abortion factory also led to an eye-opening epiphany for one officer.

"For (Philadelphia police

officer John) Taggart, learning the reality of abortion for the first time was shocking. 'Even if it's done right, it's barbaric,' he told us. 'I'm no holy roller, but if you see the way they actually have to do it, it's barbaric.'"

And then there is the courage of those who survived Gosnell's "snippings" to tell the tale to the grand jury. One of the most incredible moments during the grand jury probe occurred when a woman whom the authors call "Sandy" gave her testimony.

Sandy went to Gosnell for a second-trimester abortion, which was anticipated to be a two- or three-day process. On what would have been the first day of the procedure, Gosnell inserted the luminaria—pieces of seaweed to expand the cervix. At one point, Sandy asked Gosnell what would happen to the babies he aborted,

and he said, "We burn them."

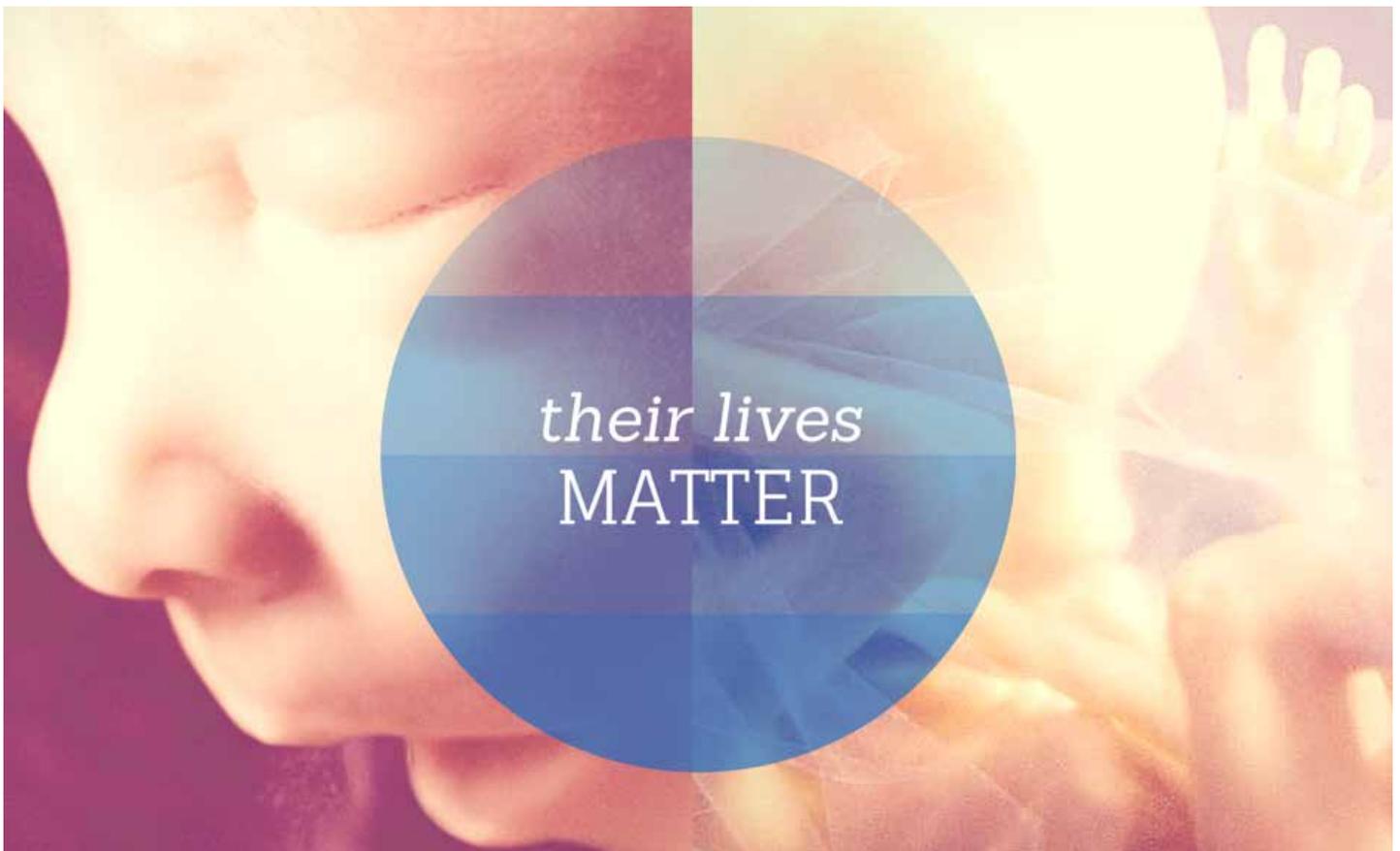
After she went home, Sandy became increasingly uneasy. Her cousin learned of her feelings and called Gosnell, telling him Sandy did not want to go through with the abortion

"Gosnell became very angry," the authors tell us. Gosnell said didn't do "reversals" and he was not going to give Sandy back the \$1,300 she had already paid in cash.

Sandy ended up going to the hospital at the University of Pennsylvania. An assistant district attorney asked her what transpired after that.

She said, "Oh, my baby started kindergarten today."

The authors note, "The grand jury burst into applause. The prosecutors believe that was the first time a Philadelphia grand jury had ever applauded testimony."



## NRLC's invaluable "State of Abortion in U.S."

From page 22

to just 18% who voted for candidates who oppose abortion. In total, pro-life candidates, including pro-life Republican presidential candidate Donald J. Trump, enjoyed a 13% advantage over their pro-abortion opponents.

Moreover, About 12% (56% times 21%) of those who voted for Trump said Supreme Court appointments were the most important factor, compared to about 8% for Hillary (41% times 21%), a little over a three point advantage

in one of the closest presidential elections of all time.

What about PPF? No one tracks Planned Parenthood the way NRLC does. According to the report, in

its most recent annual report, budget figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, show that Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) took in \$353.5 million in "private contributions and bequests." That on top of the \$553.7 million PPFA gets from taxpayers, and the \$309.2 million it receives

from customers in "non-government health services revenue." Planned Parenthood tells us that these private contributions represent 518,000 active individual contributors. However this masks the fact that there are a handful of donors providing a huge portion of the group's funding. Warren Buffett's foundation is by far the largest contributor—over \$70 million in one year alone

The report highlights the huge role played by the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, named for the multi-billionaire

investor Warren Buffett's late wife; George Soros and his Open Society Institute (OSI); and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

As I mentioned at the outset, we could go on and on and we'd still only scratch the surface. Let me conclude with a quick overview of state and federal legislation.

"The State of Abortion in the United States" helps the reader appreciate that so long as pro-abortion President Barack Obama occupied the White House, pro-life initiatives ran into an impenetrable fortress. But that did not at all mean that the legislative efforts lacked purpose.

They were dry runs, so to speak, for the day that the White House was in pro-life hands and both Houses of Congress were led by strong pro-life leaders—exactly the situation now.

By necessity, then, it would be in the states where pro-lifers would succeed. And so it has been. If I had a dollar for every pro-abortion lament about how "opponents of abortion rights are planning to push a raft of new rules and restrictions," I could retire several times over. They are--as they should be--very afraid of pro-lifers who have been "emboldened" by the election of pro-life President Donald Trump.

The report is chock-full of graphics and charts, showing the reader where we have struck gold. It is an extremely encouraging visual synopsis of what grassroots pro-lifers have accomplished--and there is no slowing down in 2017. As Ingrid Duran, NRLC's director of State Legislation, told the *Hill*, "It's definitely going to be a busy session."

You can read the report in an hour, two at the most. You couldn't possibly learn more, faster than with "The State of Abortion in the United States."

Science is clear:  
**LIFE** begins  
 way before birth.

 national  
 RIGHT TO LIFE