



national
RIGHT TO LIFE
NEWS

February 2019

**NEW YORK GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO
SIGNS ABORTION BILL ALLOWING
KILLING OF UNBORN BABIES UP UNTIL
BIRTH**





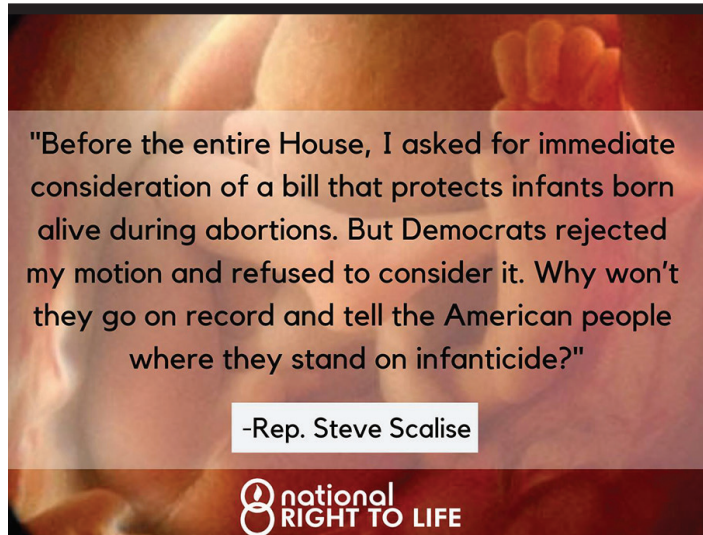
national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Pro-life members of Congress act in response to state efforts to radically expand abortion

By Jennifer Popik, J.D. Director of Federal Legislation

Amidst the public outcry stemming from the extreme abortion agenda being promoted in several states, pro-life Members of Congress are urgently renewing their effort to end abortions late in pregnancy and are calling to increase protections for babies who survive abortions.

The widely-criticized “Reproductive Health Act” was signed into New York law late last month by Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D). Among other provisions, the law repealed protections for infants born



“Before the entire House, I asked for immediate consideration of a bill that protects infants born alive during abortions. But Democrats rejected my motion and refused to consider it. Why won’t they go on record and tell the American people where they stand on infanticide?”

-Rep. Steve Scalise



alive during an attempted abortion. Previously, New York law stipulated that a second physician be present to care for a child 20 weeks or older born alive during an abortion.

Adding to the mix was embroiled Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D). Speaking about a now-stalled measure in the Virginia legislature, Northam indicated during a radio interview that, in his view, an infant born alive during an

See “Congress,” page 24

Elections really do have Consequences: Beware abortion laws like New York’s may be coming to your state

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Last year, 183 Democratic Congressmen voted **against** providing care to babies who survive abortion. So far this year, Democrats have blocked action on the Born Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act in both Houses of Congress. Unbelievable.

After events of the last month, if you ever thought there are no consequences to elections, I’m

sure you don’t any longer!

For over a decade, New York State Right to Life fought against the “Reproductive Health Act,” educating the public and the electorate of its immense dangers. As far back as 2008, I joined them to lobby against the RHA.

See “Elections,” page 28



Editorials

What pro-lifers took away from President Trump's very pro-life State of the Union Address

On February 5, a week ago Tuesday, President Trump delivered his third State of the Union (SOTU) address. While the usual suspects lambasted him with phony baloney “fact checking,” the public overwhelmingly approved. A whopping 76% either had a very positive reaction (59%) or somewhat positive reaction (17%).

My favorite attempt to pigeonhole and diminish the President was actually a study that came out last Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. These deep thinkers told us (according to an *Associated Press* story) that “Trump so far has averaged a 44 on a 1 to 100 scale for analytical thinking. The average presidential score was 90.”

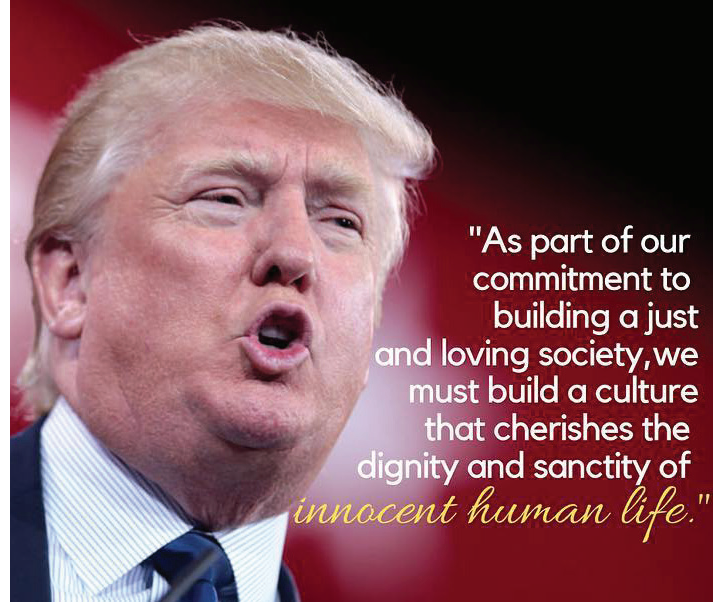
But “When it comes to speaking with confidence, or what the researchers also call clout,” *AP* science reporter Seth Borenstein tells us, “Trump tops all the presidents with an 89 rating, far above the average of 64.”

You can't make this stuff up.

From a pro-life perspective, what would you have most wanted President Trump to say to the 46.8 million people Nielsen estimated tuned in to the President's address? For me, two things.

First, using New York and Virginia as examples, definitively illustrate how far into the fever swamp of abortion on demand Democrats have marched. President Trump rightly went after embattled pro-abortion Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam who “basically stated he would execute a baby after birth” and called on Congress to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. (More below.)

Second, remind us of a lesson we cannot be reminded enough about: “All children — born and unborn — are made in the holy image of God.”



Here are four takeaways.

*If President Trump's SOTU speech was so good it would have made the Gettysburg Address seem like someone reading the Yellow Pages, the Legacy Media would still have hated him and despised its content. They reflexively dismissed his intentions and bashed every assertion literally seconds after he made them by

See “Trump,” page 35

Democrats reach new depths in commitment to abortion on demand and infanticide

Democrats and the mainstream media (but I repeat myself, to borrow from radio host Chris Plante) went ballistic over President Trump's comments on the life issues in his February 5 State of the Union address. To listen to them, President Trump had unfairly characterized the blasé indifference to infanticide Va. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) displayed in a radio interview. In fact, the President was 100% on the mark.

The embattled Northam tried to give cover to a state Delegate who admitted she had proposed a bill that allowed abortion through “40 weeks.” Naturally Northam began by totally misrepresenting the reason most late-term abortions are performed—“severe deformities”—then said if the baby survived, he or she would be kept “comfortable.”

To make matters even worse (if possible), Northam, a pediatric neurologist, added, “*the infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired. And then a discussion would*

ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

“Abortion until birth-- and beyond” is now the calling card of many state and virtually all congressional Democrats. Am I exaggerating? Not at all.

In Congress, pro-lifers in the House and Senate are trying to get unanimous consent to move forward on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. If enacted, the bill would extend federal legal protection to babies who are born alive during an abortion. However, House and Senate Democrats objected, stalling the bill.

I've been in Washington, DC since 1981, so I am not naïve about how ruthlessly committed Democrats are to unfettered abortion. Occasionally, like now, however, I am stunned how resolute they are that the baby who survives an abortion be neglected-- that is, get dead the way the child was supposed to be in the first place.

See “Optimism,” page 38

From the President Carol Tobias



The Abortion Goal is Clear: abortion throughout pregnancy...and beyond

Pro-abortion President Bill Clinton frequently said abortion should be “safe, legal, and rare.” Whether you believe he was the least bit sincere, that was his way to finesse the abortion issue.

But beginning with enactment of New York’s “Reproductive Health Act,” it is clear that the rabid abortion advocates controlling the Democratic party and its allies no longer feel the need to pretend.

America is finally seeing the true face of the abortion industry and getting a close look at their end game—abortion for any reason for all nine months of pregnancy... and then some.

By combining the framework of *Roe v Wade* and the definition of “health” in the accompanying *Doe v Bolton* decision, the practical effect of the Supreme Court’s 1973 decisions was to legalize abortion for any reason for all nine months of pregnancy. States were allowed to put some limits on abortion after viability, although the “health” escape clause always made enforcement problematic.

But the public is completely unaware that the Abortion Industry challenges every piece of protective legislation and is bound and determined to eliminate any “limitation” on abortion up until the moment of birth. ... and beyond.

So it was not just pro-lifers who were shocked and outraged at the blatantly anti-life bill passed in New York and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The new law not only allows abortion up to birth, but it allows infanticide by letting babies that miraculously survive abortion

be abandoned to die. Moreover, the law no longer requires that the abortionist be a doctor, and it removes criminal penalties on all forms of abortion, including those caused by an attack on a pregnant woman!

And already prosecution against one man for killing an unborn baby along with the baby’s mother was called off when the district attorney belatedly acknowledged that the new law had eliminated the law that allowed prosecutors to charge the man in the death of the baby.

Virginia just had similar legislation introduced. During a subcommittee hearing, state Rep. Kathy Tran (D) [acknowledge](#) that her bill would allow abortion up to the moment of birth (including when the woman is “dilating”). These bills are also being considered in Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Mexico.

The pro-abortion governor, Ralph Northam, defended Tran. He added ominously that if a baby survives—and if she has “severe” disabilities (meaning what?) or is not “viable” (decided by the abortionist), the baby need only be made “comfortable.”

With President Donald Trump committed to appointing federal judges and justices who will interpret the Constitution according to its text, abortion supporters have gone on a nationwide offense to defend the right to kill unborn babies of any age. And when Republicans and/or pro-lifers criticize them for their extremism, they are accused of “seizing” on the issue, as if there was no substance to a fight to prevent abortion up until birth...and beyond.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, the final debate between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton featured a very revealing discussion on abortion. Chris Wallace, the moderator, pointed out that Clinton, as a United States senator, had voted to keep partial-birth abortion legal (which she did not deny.) She defended her position,

saying the decision belongs to the woman. In response, Donald Trump stated,

"Well, I think it's terrible. If you go with what Hillary is saying, in the ninth month, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby.

"Now, you can say that that's OK and Hillary can say that that's OK. But it's not OK with me, because based on what she's saying, and based on where she's going, and where she's been, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb in the ninth month on the final day. And that's not acceptable."

Hillary's supporters, echoed by many in the “mainstream media,” immediately denounced his comments. They insisted that late abortions are very rare (they aren’t) and accused him of making up an extreme statement just to pull in pro-life voters. Guess what? Abortions up to the time a woman is “dilating” is now the Democrats’ position. Hillary was ahead of her time.

With the introduction of no-limits legislation in various states, proponents are finally making clear their radically out-of-the-mainstream position on abortion.

Use this opportunity to educate your community about the stunning goal of the abortion industry. They do not want, and will not settle for, anything less than unlimited abortion on demand throughout pregnancy...and beyond.

Make sure the people you talk to understand that voting for candidates who call themselves “pro-choice” is a vote to not just continue, but expand, the killing.

It puts the likes of Nancy Pelosi and Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Tran and Ralph Northam in charge.

And more babies will die.

Why we refuse to be New York

By Melissa Ohden

Editor's note. The name of Melissa Ohden is very familiar to pro-lifers. The survivor of a 1977 saline infusion abortion, Melissa has shared her testimony around the world. She has spoken at many NRLC conventions and written a number of stories for NRL News Today. She wrote this at my request.

In late January, to the cheers of state Democratic officeholders, New York expanded the “right” to abortion up to birth and removed legal protection for babies who survive abortions. It is no exaggeration to say the “Reproductive Health Act” represents a watershed in the 46 years since *Roe v. Wade* was handed down.

As if the legislation itself wasn't barbaric enough, there was the celebration of its passage. The cheers, the smiles, and the order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to light the One Trade Tower in pink—the fact that you can now legally end the life of your child at any point, for any reason, is somehow cause for gleeful celebration?

It's easy to sit back and be grateful that you don't live there, that Cuomo is not your governor, that your state is far better off than New York. But I think we need to face an uncomfortable truth.

What would happen if we were to collectively hold up a mirror and see our reflections? Would we have to acknowledge that our country is more like New York than we'd care to admit?

Whatever the answer is, we don't **have** to be.

In 1973, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* forever changed our nation. In the ensuing years,

we've ended the lives of an estimated 60 million children in our country.

Add into those 60 million lost lives the hundreds of millions of lives impacted: the women who had the abortions, the men who were involved or maybe didn't involve themselves at all, which led to the abortion, the

how far we have slid.

Initially, people were told the unborn child was not yet human—that “it's” merely a clump of cells, a blob of tissue, a product of conception.

However the science of human development and the technology of ultrasound show unborn children moving and

is comparable to the number who identify as pro-choice, the reality is that the abortion industry, pro-choice legislators, and the mainstream media that support unlimited abortion have created an environment where New York is seen by many as a cause for to cheer not a reason to grieve.

On January 28th, Virginia Democrat state Delegate Kathy Tran proposed the “Repeal Act” that she freely admitted would allow abortions up until the point of birth. Although this bill was defeated in subcommittee, it is just the latest in a rash of similar legislation being introduced across the country.

If that wasn't gruesome and heartless enough, Gov. Northam defended Del. Tran. In the process, he told a radio audience that should a baby survive an abortion, she/he should be made “comfortable.” What about resuscitation? “If that's what the mother and the family desired. And then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

That struck home. I'm the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion forty-one years ago. It's an absolute miracle that I survived. Left to the tender mercies of Del. Tran and Gov. Northam, I would not be alive today.

All is not lost, however. I've been encouraged by the response of people across the country who are taking notice of what's been happening in the last few weeks.

Referring to the comments of Del. Tran and Gov. Northam,



Melissa Ohden

doctors, the nurses, the abortion clinic workers, extended family members—so many lives have been forever altered by the “choice” to end an unborn life.

Laws like that passed in New York and copycat measures proposed (or in the works) in Virginia and three other states say something most of us who rather not face.

Our entire country has been forever changed, whether we talk about our personal experiences with abortion or not.

The intrinsic value and dignity of life has been overlooked, diminished, forgotten. Misleading rhetoric has clouded the foundational truth that we all deserve the protection of the law. Consider

responding in their mother's womb. No “blob of tissue” does that.

Faced with 4-color ultrasounds, the pro-abortion argument placed even emphasis on “women's rights,” and attempted to morph the destruction of preborn life into an example of “reproductive healthcare.”

Abortion isn't healthcare. Pregnancy isn't a disease.

We are a nation that prides itself on its successes and the great example we are to the rest of the world in so many areas. Yet we are one of just seven countries that allow abortion without restriction at the national level.

Although the number of people who identify as pro-life

See “Refuse,” page 6

Authorities cannot charge man who murdered pregnant girlfriend for her baby's death, thanks to Andrew Cuomo's new abortion law

By Dave Andrusko

The inviolate rule among pro-abortionists is to deny up and down what their proposals clearly allow and then hide hoping things will all blow over when the truth comes out.

New York's recently passed "Reproductive Health Act," passed to the cheers of pro-abortion Democrats, is horrible on every count, including: authorizing abortion on demand through birth; establishing abortion as a "fundamental right"; allowing any health care practitioner to perform an abortion as long as they act in "good faith"; and repealing protections against illegal abortion, such as criminal acts of violence against a pregnant mother and her child.

But it is the latter that is now in the news (at least in the *New York Post*) —and pro-abortion Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who vigorously promoted and then signed the RHA into law is nowhere to be seen.

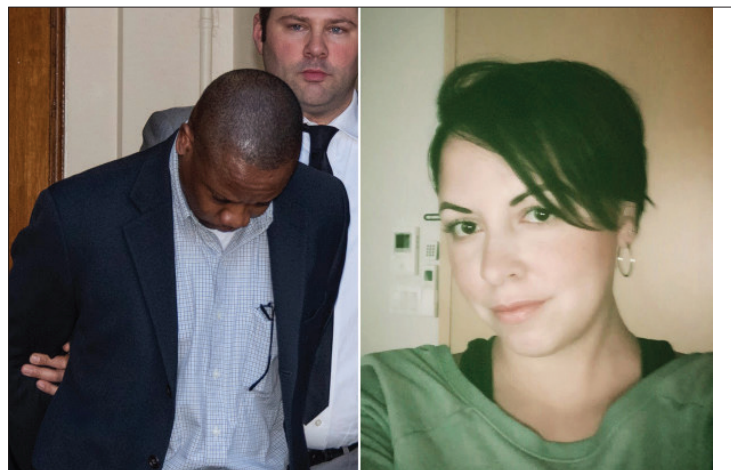
Jennifer Irigoyen was five months pregnant when she was stabbed multiple times in the abdomen. "He's going to kill the baby!" she reportedly screamed as her attacker repeatedly plunged a knife into her abdomen.

Here are lead paragraphs of a story that ran under the headline, "Accused murderer spared abortion charge thanks to Cuomo's new law," by Natalie Musumeci and Carl Campanile.

Prosecutors initially included a charge of abortion against the Queens man arrested

Friday in his pregnant girlfriend's murder — but rescinded it because of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's new Reproductive Health Act.

Queens District Attorney Richard



*Anthony Hobson and Jennifer Irigoyen
Dennis A. Clark/Facebook*

Brown sent out a press release saying Anthony Hobson, 48, would be charged with second-degree abortion as well as murder in Sunday's fatal stabbing of Jennifer Irigoyen, 35.

But a DA spokeswoman later told The Post that the abortion charge "was repealed by the Legislature, and this is the law as it exists today."

Cuomo signed the RHA into law on Jan. 22, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

The law removes abortion from the state's criminal code and puts it into public health law.

Hobson turned himself in Friday and was charged with murder, authorities said.

"The Rego Park man was ordered held without bail on charges of second-degree murder, tampering with physical evidence and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon over the death of Jennifer Irigoyen, 35," according to the *New York Post*.

What can we say about this ghastly double murder?

*Gov. Cuomo's popularity has sunk to an all time low. The Democrat & Chronicle reported today

The Democratic governor's favorability rating fell to 43 percent with 50 percent viewing him unfavorably, down from 51 percent to 43

percent last month, the lowest figures Siena recorded since Cuomo took office in 2011, the Albany-area polling institute said.

His job-performance rating also fell significantly: 35 percent said he was doing an "excellent" or "good" job, compared to 64 percent who said "fair" or "poor". Last month, it was 43 percent and 56 percent, respectively.

"Now, for the first time ever, half of New Yorkers view Andrew Cuomo unfavorably. It's his lowest favorability rating ever and his lowest-ever job performance as governor," Steven Greenberg, a Siena College poll spokesman, said in a statement.

"And it is a dramatic drop in both ratings from last month."

The RHA itself still have majority support. Note, however, the Siena College poll was taken February 4-7, before the murders of Irigoyen and her baby.

*The RHA has been becoming a rallying cry for proliferators and a warning to other states contemplating similar abortion on demand laws that

See "Murdered," page 17

Congresswoman Lesko Introduces the *Save Our Children Act* to Ban Dismemberment Abortion

By Jennifer Popik, Director of Federal Legislation

The National Right to Life Committee commends Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) for her leadership in introducing the *Save Our Children Act* to ban dismemberment abortions.

“We thank Congresswoman Lesko for her advocacy in advancing this dismemberment abortion ban,” said National Right to Life President Carol Tobias. “We believe this law has the power to change how the public views the gruesome reality of abortion in the United States,” she added. “Before the first trimester ends, the unborn child has a beating heart, brain waves, and every organ system in place. Dismemberment abortions occur after this living baby has reached these developmental milestones.”

This vital pro-life legislation would prohibit the performance of dismemberment abortion. The *Save Our Children Act*

is based on a model state bill proposed by National Right to Life, which has been



Rep. Debbie Lesko

enacted in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia. More

states are expected to consider this high priority legislation in 2019.

The *Save Our Children Act* defines “dismemberment abortion” as “knowingly dismembering a living unborn child and extracting such unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments that, through the convergence of two rigid levers, slice, crush or grasp a portion of the unborn child’s body in order to cut or rip it off . . .”

This definition largely overlaps with what those in the abortion trade currently refer to as “dilation and evacuation” or “dilation and extraction” (D&E) abortions. The method is commonly used starting at about 14 weeks of pregnancy and extending into the third trimester.

The *Save Our Children Act* allows performance of a dismemberment abortion if necessary to save a mother’s life. The bill also says that it does not limit abortions performed in cases of rape or incest, if performed by a method other than dismemberment abortion.

A medical illustration of a D&E dismemberment abortion is available at nrlc.org.

In his dissent in the 2000 case of *Stenberg v. Carhart*, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote regarding D&E abortion: “The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off.”

Why we refuse to be New York

From page 4

President Trump said, “This is going to lift up the whole pro-life movement like maybe it’s never been lifted up before,” adding, “I think this will very much lift up the issue because people have never thought of it in those terms.”

True, there are states such as New York and Virginia and

Vermont and New Mexico where (to legislators at least) unborn life is cheap. But we are a nation full of individuals, organizations, legislators, and even members of the media who believe that life is an intrinsic right that should be protected and respected as such.

That would include all the

thousands and thousands of pro-lifers who are reading this post.

We have the opportunity to look upon New York and not just say, “How horrible,” but rather “No more! Never again!”

We have the opportunity to use our experiences and raise our collective voices that value

life to let the abortion industry and those who push their agenda know that they don’t speak for us and they don’t represent the entirety of our nation.

I refuse to be New York.

I will work so that our country looks nothing like it.

And I know you will likewise work untiringly.

Equality and abortion are mutually exclusive

By Paul Stark Communications Associate, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

Our culture deeply values equality. Our culture also practices industrial-scale abortion. Supporters of abortion typically see no contradiction between these two things.

Planned Parenthood, for example, says it wants to “[establish] a society where every individual is treated equally under the law.” New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a leading champion of no-limits abortion, vigorously touts his commitment to “equality” and “equal rights.”

Of course, Cuomo and Planned Parenthood don’t accept equal rights for unborn children. But they think other individuals (such as you, the reader of this article, and me, the author) are morally equal. Most people who favor abortion think the same.

This raises a very serious problem, however, one that few abortion defenders recognize. Can abortion and equality actually coexist? Let me explain why they cannot.

How abortion undermines equality

Consider the idea that abortion is morally permissible—that it’s okay to kill human embryos and fetuses *in utero*. The most intellectually tenable justification for this view (the justification sophisticated abortion advocates usually, but not always, put forward) is that unborn humans don’t have human rights or don’t deserve the same respect as other members of our species.

If unborn human beings don’t have rights, though, then the criterion for having rights must be something other than being human—it must be something that unborn humans don’t have.

Maybe it’s a particular size or appearance. Maybe it’s self-awareness, sentience, or other mental functions, as pro-choice philosophers argue. Maybe it’s a lack of dependence on

have a stronger right to life and some people have a weaker right to life. There’s no such thing as moral equality. It’s a myth. Some of us, on this view, just matter more than others.



someone else, as the U.S. Supreme Court has suggested.

Here’s the problem: All of these traits vary in degree. They are a sliding scale. No two people are exactly the same. Some people are bigger and some people are smaller. Some people are more intelligent and some people are less intelligent. Some people rely completely on caregivers and some people need little help from others.

If sliding-scale characteristics are the basis for our value, then people who have more of those characteristics are more valuable than people who have less. If those attributes confer a right to life, then some people

Our society, therefore, should “abandon the idea of the equal value of all humans,” explains pro-choice ethicist and Princeton professor Peter Singer, “replacing that with a more graduated view in which moral status depends on some aspects of cognitive ability.”

It turns out that, if unborn children don’t have rights, then *none of us* are equal.

How equality undermines abortion

Consider, on the other hand, the idea of equality—that people (such as you and me) are equal in a fundamental moral sense. We have equal value and

equal basic rights, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status. Most of us truly believe this.

If we are morally equal, though, then we must share something in common that is the basis for our equality, as Josh Brahm of the Equal Rights Institute points out. There must be something about us that is the same. What could that be?

It can’t be our looks, or our mental acuity, or our athletic ability, or our creativity, or our emotional intelligence. It can’t be our moral character. It can’t be how others feel about us. We differ from each other in all of those ways. In fact, we seem to differ from each other in every way except one.

The only thing we share, and share equally, is the *kind of being* we are. We are equally *human*. As the philosopher Boethius classically put it, human beings have a “rational nature.” This human nature—this common humanity—is the only basis for our equality.

But unborn children are also human beings. They are the same kind of being as us, albeit at an earlier developmental stage. They share, then, in our equal value and equal rights. And that means that killing them through abortion is unjust.

They can’t both be true

This is the dilemma abortion defenders face. The idea that abortion is permissible entails that people aren’t equal. The idea that people are equal entails that abortion is a grave human rights violation.

So which is it? Abortion or equality? They can’t both be true. They are mutually exclusive.

Pro-lifers on the move in states to pass protective laws and thwart pro-abortion proposals

By Ingrid Duran, Director, Department of State Legislation

The 2019 Legislative session started on a terrible note when New York enacted its Abortion-Until-Birth law, the so-called “Reproductive Health Act.” In spite of pro-abortion protests to the contrary, in truth the RHA: legalizes abortion throughout the entire pregnancy;

Planned Parenthood’s dream bill.

The Commonwealth of Virginia also offered up its own version—Delegate Kathy Tran’s “Repeal Bill”---similar to New York’s, but I am happy to report that the bill has failed to pass out of committee. There

Protection Act which protects babies that are capable of feeling pain at about 20 weeks from abortion is currently in effect in 15 states. The bill has already been introduced in six states this session: Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, and Washington.

Some states are also introducing life-saving legislation giving women information on the possibility of reversing the intended effects of a chemical abortion. The Abortion Pill Reversal Informed Consent is currently the law in five states. This addition to informed consent legislation is being introduced in 4 states: Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, and North Dakota.

Just last week, Idaho passed a state partial-birth abortion ban in their Senate State Affairs Committee.

Partial-Birth Abortions are a horrific type of abortions typically performed late in pregnancy where the abortionist punctures the base of the skull of the mostly delivered unborn child with surgical scissors, vacuums her brains out, and delivers a dead baby. While Congress passed and the United States Supreme Court upheld the federal ban, Idaho wanted to amend their statute to be consistent with the language upheld by the High Court. It is expected to pass the Idaho Senate this week.

These ominous developments in places such as New York upset but do not deter pro-lifers. When there is such a wanton disregard for innocent human lives, the people react by wanting to become a voice for the voiceless.



establishes the state’s policy of favoring the willful taking of a human life as a “fundamental right”; authorizes health professionals other than doctors to perform abortions; repeals New York’s born alive law that would protect unborn babies who survive abortions; and removes the felony crime of intentionally targeting a pregnancy in an assault. It was

are, however, other ominous pro-abortion bills in Vermont, New Mexico, and Rhode Island that pro-lifers are battling against.

However as awful as these laws, and proposed laws, are, for every extreme pro-abortion legislative proposal, there are at least five great pro-life bills. For instance, NRLC’s own Pain-Capable Unborn Child

Another NRLC priority piece of legislation is the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, currently on the books in ten states. This law protects unborn children from the brutality of being torn apart, limb by limb, by dismemberment abortion. This has been introduced in 5 states: Indiana, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Washington.

Supreme Court puts Louisiana admitting privileges law on hold

On a 5-4 vote Court grants procedural stay

Justices Kavanaugh and Gorsuch Would Have Allowed the Law to Go Into Effect

On February 7 the U.S. Supreme Court granted a Shreveport, Louisiana abortion facility's emergency stay request, further delaying Louisiana's attempt to enforce Act 620. The 2014 law requires abortion physicians to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Thursday's order from the high court means the law will be stayed pending full briefing on the question of whether the Supreme Court should grant certiorari for a full review of the case.

Attorneys for the Shreveport abortion facility asked the Supreme Court to issue the emergency stay in January, just days before the law was set to take effect. The stay comes after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the law last fall, then refused the abortion industry's attempt to have the full court rehear the case. The abortion attorneys have indicated their intention

to file a petition for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking the Supreme Court's full review of the law.

"While we are disappointed the Unsafe Abortion Protection Act will not go into law immediately, we do look forward to the potential of the law going into effect later this year after the Court either denies the petition for certiorari, or upon a ruling in Louisiana's favor after full briefing on the merits," Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director for Louisiana Right to Life, said. "The abortion industry, over the past four decades, has fought against every common-sense health standard. This is just another example of the extreme lengths the abortion industry pursues to protect abortion-on-demand."

Dorinda Bordlee of Bioethics Defense Fund and a consulting attorney to Louisiana Right to Life explained, "While the

Texas law, like the Louisiana law, required physicians at abortion facilities to have



Louisiana State Rep. Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe), who authored the admitting privileges law.

admitting privileges at a local hospital, the Texas law also required abortion facilities

to meet strict ambulatory surgical center requirements. Louisiana's law does not include the ambulatory surgical center requirement, and the facts of Louisiana's different geography and demographics necessitate a different result."

Rep. Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe), a Louisiana attorney who authored the admitting privileges law, stated: "We encourage the Supreme Court to either deny the abortion industry's petition, or, if certiorari is granted, that the Court overturn, alter, or clarify the Hellerstedt decision, allowing a state to enforce its duly enacted laws aimed at protecting the health and safety of its citizens. Abortion has known medical risks, and the women of this state who are often coerced into abortion deserve to have the same standard of care required for other surgical procedures."

Why we share our stories of surviving abortions

By Melissa Ohden

*Editor's note. As most of our readers know, in 1977 Melissa survived a saline infusion abortion. She has written many times for **NRL News** and **NRL News Today** and appeared numerous times at NRLC's annual convention. After seeing her on *Fox & Friends*, I asked her to write about her experience.*

This past weekend, Claire Culwell, one of two twins who survived an abortion, and Josiah Presley, a curettage abortion survivor, joined me on

interview, you can't help but wonder about the impact you had. Although we'll never know precisely, most of the time we get some feedback. And this was certainly case with *Fox & Friends*.

Before I had even left the studio, there were two emails sitting in my inbox from abortion survivors. They'd been watching the show and were grateful to learn that they weren't alone. Two more have contacted me since then.

This is **why** we share our stories. Not only to educate and

survivors' stories are front and center in our culture. People are craving hope and truth. When legislators in places like New York and Virginia and Vermont continue to push the abortion boundaries past birth and into infanticide, our nation must be confronted with the faces and names of those who have been victimized.

To be honest I am frequently frustrated with the mainstream media's lack of coverage of pro-life issues, so I can't help but think this set of interviews may be historic. Not only

Congress for the first time back in 2015, after a long, and strife-filled hearing, I had that same bounce in my step as I burst forth from the Dirksen Building into the blazing September sunshine. That bounce came from being heard, from standing boldly, no matter how much I was shaking on the inside, and from knowing that after that experience, no matter what else happened thereafter, **I had made a difference.**

With proponents of abortion up to and beyond birth on the prowl, maybe you're feet are dragging, at least a bit. It's been forty-six years, and here we are, facing some of the most horrific expansion of abortion ever.

"Evil often triumphs, but never conquers" Fr. Joseph Roux once said. It doesn't ultimate conquer because people of faith, along with other people of good will, keep the faith.

Please keep picking one foot up after the other. It doesn't sound glamorous and it isn't. Battling evil is hard, hard work. But someday, sooner than we think, you'll feel that bounce in your step returning just like mine has.

The bounce comes not from winning the battle—that is always a day to day proposition—as much as it does from refusing to cede the day to the forces of darkness.

There is a saying about evil whose author is unknown which may tell us a lot about where we are and who we are: "Fairy tales are more than true, not because the evil people exist, but because they can never win."



Fox & Friends for not one, but two segments. We shared our stories of survival, adoption, the impact of love and forgiveness, and, yes, our thoughts on the recent rash of aggressively anti-life legislation sweeping the nation.

When you speak at any event or participate in any media

hopefully motivate those who attend events that we speak at or who watch television shows like *Fox & Friends* or listen to radio shows, but also to break down the walls of loneliness that so many survivors experience.

From the response that we've received, it's well past time that

because the three of us appeared together, but also because *Fox* simply covered the issue of survivors at all.

Leaving Rockefeller Plaza after that first day of the broadcast with *Fox*, I recognized a familiar bounce in my step.

When I testified before

NRLC's 6th annual "State of Abortion in America, 2019": Part Two

By Dave Andrusko

Last week *NRL News Today* offered a two-part overview of NRLC's brand new "State of Abortion in America, 2019." This 60-page synopsis is produced by expert staff at National Right to Life.

In Part One, we offered a summary.

In Part Two, we get more specific and into more depth.

Let's begin with NRLC President Carol Tobias introduction where she concludes

This sixth annual "State of Abortion in the United States" is not just a snapshot of where we are as the nation, but also a blueprint for how we move forward to build a culture that values life and respects mothers and their children.

The six sections in the report are

- **United States Abortion Numbers**
- **Planned Parenthood**
- **More Abortion, Less Care**
- **Federal Policy & Abortion State Laws**
- **Abortion Synopsis of U.S. Supreme Court Cases**
- **The Presidential Record on Life**

"United States Abortion numbers" begins by making clear something that is perpetually confused. There are two primary sources for determining the number of abortions: the Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) and the Guttmacher Institute. While both show a welcomed decrease in the number of abortions, the CDC (by the limitations of its recording system) shows many fewer abortions. Guttmacher, far more pro-active, produces

the likelihood that a pregnant woman chooses to abort rather than going on to give birth to her baby. The CDC's most recent abortion ratio showed that for 2015, there were 188 abortions for every thousand live births. That figure has

dropped by nearly half from what it was in 1984, when the CDC recorded a high of 364.1 abortions for every 1,000 live births.

latest annual report, released just before the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, reaffirms that its commitment to abortion is as strong as ever. Powerful, politically connected Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards has stepped down, replaced by Leana Wen, a highly credentialed doctor with an actual background in public health. But nothing in Planned Parenthood's 2017-2018 Annual Report gives indication of any change in direction or agenda. The killing of unborn children is still at the center of its business (as Wen reassured the world in a tweet sent out in early January). All signs in the annual report point to defending and expanding its "core mission"—abortion.

In its latest annual report, PPFA reported performing 332,757 abortions in 2017, which was an increase of over 10,000 from the 321,592 it did in 2016. This is the second most abortions Planned Parenthood has ever performed in a single year. Its bottom line grew to a whopping in \$1.6651 billion in revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. At the same time, PPFA provided fewer and fewer genuine health services (such as manual breast exams). The reality behind PPFA's polished image is fewer patients, more money. So much for "women's health."

"Federal Policy & Abortion" is a fascinating read. It not only discusses what took place in the last Congress, it looks ahead to

THE
STATE OF
ABORTION
IN THE UNITED STATES
JANUARY 2019



much more accurate figures. For 2014, the last year for which Guttmacher has recorded totals, the number of abortions had dropped to 926,000 abortions!

Significantly, it's not just the number of abortions that have decreased. So, too, have abortion rates and abortion ratios. Both have dropped to levels not seen since *Roe* legalized abortion nationwide in 1973. The CDC's **abortion rate** is the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. In 1973 the abortion rate was 14 per thousand women aged 15-44. In 2015 it was 11.8.

The CDC's abortion ratio measures the number of abortions for every 1,000 reported live births. What does this tell us? It's an indication of

dropped by nearly half from what it was in 1984, when the CDC recorded a high of 364.1 abortions for every 1,000 live births.

"Planned Parenthood: More Abortion, Less Care" draws on many sources but primarily PPFA's annual reports. PPFA is (to put it mildly) the largest abortion provider and is so large and so powerful and so willing to close financially unproductive clinics its abortion numbers have either been stable or gone up slightly in spite of the huge decline in the number of abortions. As NRLC's report explains, "Planned Parenthood has gone through some big changes this past year, but its

See "Abortion," page 18

On Abortion, Extremism Has Become Mainstream in the Democratic Party

Gone are the days when Democrats sought to make abortion “safe, legal, and rare.”

By Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fl.)

Editor’s note. This was originally posted at The Stream and reposted on the Senator’s webpage.

I never thought I would see the day America had government officials who openly support legal infanticide. But Democrats in New York and Virginia have made it clear that, on the issue of life, extremism has become mainstream in the Democratic Party. Gone are the days when Democrats sought to make abortion “safe, legal, and rare.”

Democrats are now the party of abortion on demand and at any point in a pregnancy. Their haste to rush left has led them to such an extreme position on abortion that they now openly advocate for it even up to the moment prior to delivery.

Barbaric Legislation

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo recently signed legislation that legalizes abortion not just at the point a fetus is viable outside the womb, but right up until delivery. As egregious as this law is, it pales in comparison to efforts in Virginia that sparked outrage across the country.

Virginia House Democrats recently proposed barbaric legislation that would repeal all restrictions on third-trimester abortions. The repeals include the requirement that two physicians certify that a third-trimester abortion is necessary to prevent the woman’s death

or impairment of her mental or physical health. Appallingly, the legislation would allow abortion even at the very end of pregnancy just as a woman



Sen. Marco Rubio

is going into labor.

During a radio interview, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam defended the proposed abortion bill and has now come under fire for casually discussing how the law would permit an infant to die on the table shortly after birth.

Shockingly, Governor Northam and Virginia House Democrats don’t see anything wrong with this horrifying scenario. Instead, they argue they are simply “protecting

a woman’s constitutional right” because she requested an abortion moments prior to delivering a child.

“If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen,” said Northam. “The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

Governor Northam made an ill-fated attempt to clarify his comments that this would only happen if the infant had an abnormality, but he only succeeded in confirming his original intent. For those on the left who would seek to justify their radical abortion agenda due to a child’s “abnormality,” I would urge them to listen to the arguments by John Franklin Stephens and reconsider trading the lives of the unborn for the votes of radicals who would.

The Extremism of Third-Trimester Abortion and Infanticide

The definition of infanticide is “the crime of killing a child within a year of birth,” and every year local news outlets report heart-wrenching stories about newborn babies left to die by mothers who didn’t want them. Allowing a baby, born just moments prior, to die on a table because the mother requested an abortion is nothing short of infanticide. Sadly, Virginia

Democrats have a new message for any mother thinking about killing their baby after birth: request an abortion just before the baby is delivered and suffer no consequences..

In a June 2018 Gallup poll, just 13 percent of Americans supported abortions in the third-trimester. I hope Virginia Democrats will come to their senses and reverse course on openly supporting legal infanticide. Ending the life of a child minutes before birth is un-American and I urge all Americans to denounce this kind of extremism — including my friends on the left.

As a policymaker who is staunchly pro-life, I recognize that this debate puts two rights in conflict with one another: the right of women to control their bodies, and the right of every unborn child to live. For me, I will always err on the side of life. We must do everything we can to give every human a chance at life. Thankfully, this belief is still alive and well within the Republican Party.

[Last] month, thousands of Americans participated in the 46th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.. This event is directly responsible for the progress we have made in protecting the sanctity of life. I am proud to join pro-life supporters who march for those who have no voice. I will continue to pray that the right to life for every human will one day be respected.

Pro-life Virginians Make Their Voices Heard in Richmond at “Commonwealth Rally for Life”

By Virginia Society for Human Life (VSHL)

Approximately 1,000 people made the long trip to Richmond, the state capital, to share their outrage that Democratic leaders in the Commonwealth have shown their true intentions— to pass radical and extremist pro-abortion bills that would wipe out any and all protective pro-life laws from Virginia.

The “Commonwealth Rally for Life” was a resounding success.

The rally was triggered by the exposure of those goals, beginning when recorded testimony about Del. Kathy Tran’s bill in the House went viral. Tran acknowledged that her “Repeal Bill” would

legalize abortion “all the way up to 40 weeks.” On a subsequent radio program, Gov. Ralph Northam calmly discussed killing a baby who had survived an abortion performed (as Del. Tran acknowledged) as late as when the mother is “dilating.”

Organizers used social media to connect to Virginians of every region and background, faith, and politics. The common thread was the rejection of the radical agenda of pro-abortion Democrats and the support of pro-life Republicans who stepped up to defeat all of the

pro-abortion bills this session.

Speakers included leaders of various groups, such as the Virginia Society for Human Life, religious leaders, and members of both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates. VSHL President, Olivia Gans Turner, reminded the crowd that we are the people of Virginia and we are the voice of the voiceless unborn who

forward a radical pro-abortion culture,” she added.

Gans Turner called on the members of the General Assembly to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and other bills to prevent abortions late in pregnancy.

Gans Turner was among several speakers who shared their own abortion experiences.

She lived for three days but was a blessing to her parents.

In light of the abortion-on-demand proposals coming from state Democrats, the future of the General Assembly and Executive Offices was a key focus. Virginia has critical elections this coming November. Pro-life Republicans control the Senate and the House of Delegates by a single vote.

Pro-lifers must take back solid control this November.

“Pro-abortion Virginia Democrats believe they are within striking distance of their goal,” Gans Turner urged the Rally goers to remember. “



must be protected under the law.

“The whole nation, and even the President, are talking about Virginia and New York,” she said. “The eyes of America are on us now. We must stand up and speak for those who are always forgotten in these debates—unborn children.

“The outcry we are hearing now points clearly to the disgust that most Virginians and Americans have toward these attempts to strip America of every hard-won pro-life protective law, and push

They all spoke to the fact that abortion never solves the problems of a complex pregnancy situation. Others shared stories of life-affirming alternatives such as adoption and the pregnancy help that pro-lifers provided at a time of great need.

State Sen. William Stanley shared the poignant story of his own daughter Grace’s brief life. After a poor prenatal diagnosis, the Stanleys were told to abort their daughter.

They refused. Grace was born and was a fighter.

They think that the people of Virginia will be persuaded to support their agenda to become another New York with no pro-life laws on the books! We must prove them wrong in November!”

In spite of many new very public distractions, the rally attendees left committed to making sure that no one in Virginia will be allowed to forget what was attempted this session.

The real issue in the Commonwealth is abortion on demand.

NRLC tells Congress it “strongly opposed to adding the 1972 ERA language to the U.S. Constitution”

Could invalidate any limits whatever on abortion

Editor’s note. The following correspondence was sent February 6, 2019.

Dear Member of Congress:

In March, 1972, Congress approved a joint resolution, H.J. Res. 208, which proposed that the so-called “Equal Rights Amendment” be added to the U.S. Constitution if three-quarters of the state legislatures ratified it within seven years – i.e., by March 22, 1979. Because only 35 states ratified by that deadline, the amendment died. In 1983, the leadership of the House of Representatives – then Democratic – attempted to again send identical language to the states – but the start-over resolution was defeated on the floor of the House (November 15, 1983).

Now, Congresswoman Speier has introduced a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 38) that purports to remove the deadline that was contained in 1972 H.J. Res. 208, based on the odd notion that passing such a resolution could somehow revive the long-expired ERA. Moreover, she proposes that this may be accomplished by simple majority votes in Congress, not the two-thirds votes that were required for approval of H.J. Res. 208 in 1972.

National Right to Life is strongly opposed to adding the 1972 ERA language to the U.S. Constitution, because it would provide a powerful legal weapon with which to challenge virtually any limits on abortion, and to require unlimited government funding of abortion. Therefore, we intend to include any House roll call on

H.J. Res. 38 in our scorecard of key pro-life votes of the 116th Congress.

Moreover, H.J. Res. 38 is insupportable on constitutional grounds. While Congress is under no obligation to include a deadline when it proposes a constitutional amendment to the states, Congress did so in 1972, and then approved the package by the required two-thirds votes. Of the 35 states that ratified the ERA before the 1979 deadline, 24 explicitly referred to the deadline in their instruments of ratification.

Both in Congress and in some of the early ratifying states, far too little consideration was given to some of the likely substantive legal effects of the 1972 ERA language, which have become better understood in the intervening years. State ERAs adopted by a number of states, containing language virtually identical to the proposed federal ERA, have been employed by pro-abortion advocacy groups in a manner that jeopardizes virtually all pro-life laws and policies.

Consider, for example, what occurred in New Mexico, which in 1973 adopted a state ERA (“Equality of rights under law shall not be denied on account of the sex of any person”) virtually identical to the proposed federal language. Subsequently, the state affiliates of Planned Parenthood and NARAL relied on this state ERA in a legal attack on the state version of the “Hyde Amendment,” prohibiting Medicaid funding of elective abortions. In its 1998 ruling in *NM Right to Choose / NARAL v. Johnson*, No. 1999-NMSC-

005, the New Mexico Supreme Court agreed that the state ERA required the state to fund abortions performed by medical professionals, since procedures

and Education Fund. The doctrine that the ERA language invalidates limitations on tax-funded abortion was also supported in briefs filed by the



sought by men (e.g., prostate surgery) are funded. Writing for the unanimous New Mexico Supreme Court, Justice Pamela Minzner wrote that “there is no comparable restriction on medically necessary services relating to physical characteristics or conditions that are unique to men. Indeed, we can find no provision in the Department’s regulations that disfavor any comparable, medically necessary procedure unique to the male anatomy . . . [the restriction on funding abortions] undoubtedly singles out for less favorable treatment a gender-linked condition that is unique to women.”

It should be noted that the New Mexico Supreme Court based its ruling solely on the state ERA, and that the ERA/abortion equation was urged upon the court in briefs submitted by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, the ACLU, the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, and the NOW Legal Defense

state Women’s Bar Association, Public Health Association, and League of Women Voters. A lawsuit in Connecticut used similar arguments and achieved the same result – tax-funded abortion.

Moreover, on January 16, 2019, the Women’s Law Project and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) filed a lawsuit (*Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*) arguing that the Pennsylvania ERA (which contains language functionally the same as the federal proposal) must be construed to invalidate the state’s limitations on Medicaid funding of abortion – using arguments that, by extension, would apply also to other limits on abortion. The

See “ERA,” page 31

The two Cuomos and the Democrat Party's descent into abortion madness

By Dave Andrusko

No one involved in American politics since the 1980s would ever confuse Mario Cuomo, who was thrice governor of New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s, with his son, Andrew Cuomo, who has been governor of New York since 2011.

Both were/are pro-abortion. Mario Cuomo fine-tuned the “personally opposed” argument to an almost perfect pitch. But he went much further. He cleared the way for pro-



Pro-abortion Mario Cuomo

abortion Catholics politicians, most of whom were Democrats, by insisting that for them to publicly oppose abortion was akin to imposing Catholic thinking on the American people. The onus was on Catholic politicians who sought to save the babies to prove their commitment to democracy.

His arguments sounded profound (he was very smart) but weren't, as the late great Rep. Henry Hyde exposed in his book, “For Every Idle Silence.”

Andrew Cuomo makes up in volume what he lacks in intellectual firepower. While both Cuomos had tempers Mario was quick-witted

enough to follow his barbs with pretend humility. Andrew just shouts, bullies, and preens like an adolescent with too many muscles.

Why do I bring this up now? For two reasons.

First, to illustrate how far down the slippery Democratic Party has raced.

When he died January 1, 2015, Mario Cuomo was venerated by pro-abortionists for having cleared the way. *First Things* Editor R.R. Reno told the *National Catholic Register's* Joan Frawley Desmond that Cuomo's argument—that in the absence of a clear-cut consensus “legal interdicting of all abortions by either the federal government or the individual states is not a plausible possibility and, even if it could be obtained, it wouldn't work”—had the impact of “empowering abortion rights advocates to silence what remained of Catholic dissent in the Democratic Party. Bob Casey could be prohibited from speaking to the 1992 Democratic convention in large part because Cuomo had provided the ‘official’ Catholic Democratic pro-abortion position.”

Mario Cuomo opened a convenient line of defense for pro-abortionists that lingers to this day. If right policy coincides with the values of a given religious community, it should be, by definition, suspect. That this is specious, on the one hand, and irrelevant on the other (people of faith oppose murder and bank robbery—should laws again those crimes be in the docket?) gets lost in the shuffle.

Yet here was at least a pretense that abortion was a “tragedy,” a “last resort.” Abortion in general, let alone late, late, late term abortion was not female “empowerment,” but a difficult choice, reluctantly made.

None of those cautionary



*Pro-abortion Andrew Cuomo
Photo: Pat Arnow*

notes, however insincere, exists anymore among Democrats. Abortion until birth? But, of course! Optional whether you treat a baby who survives an abortion? Naturally. Surely you wouldn't want to treat an abortion survivor as you would any other child delivered prematurely. The baby was supposed to be dead.

I can't imagine had he been governor today, Mario Cuomo would have ordered (as his son did) the One World Trade Center to be bathed in pink to “celebrate” the passage of the Reproductive Health Act which obliterated what minimal protections still existed in New York. As pro-life Vice President Mike Pence reminded us in an op-ed in *National Review*:

After all, at the base of the same One World Trade Center that

was bathed in pink last week to mark the passage of New York's law, is the September 11th memorial. There, the names of all who died in the horrific terrorist attacks 18 years ago are etched in stone — including the eleven unborn children we lost along with their expectant mothers.

Beyond the descent of a once great party into madness, the second reason I bring up the Cuomos is I happened upon an essay Mario Cuomo wrote in 1986 for the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* titled, “Abraham Lincoln and Our ‘Unfinished Work’.” It is a reference to a famous passage near the conclusion of in the Gettysburg address:

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that, government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Here's the paragraph from Mario Cuomo's essay I would like you to ponder:

Lincoln came to believe that the great promise of the founding fathers was one that had only begun to be realized with the founding

See “Cuomos,” page 21

Marking a Pro-Life Legislative Milestone in Pennsylvania: 1989 “Abortion Control Act.”

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

History is being celebrated this year in Pennsylvania, as pro-life activists mark the 30th anniversary of the passage of the landmark “Abortion Control Act.”

The result of much research and planning, this trailblazing piece of legislation was tailor-made with the U.S. Supreme Court in mind. Legislators drafted the bill believing that it could be upheld by the High Court—a prediction which largely came to pass.

In the end, in a case known as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Supreme Court struck only the spousal notification portion of the law, a provision which had stated that a spouse be notified before an abortion could take place. But the rest of the law stood—and it has stood the test of time.

The life-saving legislation provided for informed consent, meaning a woman had to be told the risks of abortion and apprised of alternatives to abortion before an abortion could take place. It also provided for parental consent,

meaning that one parent had to give permission before an abortion occurred. The law not be aborted if the mother wanted a boy (and vice-versa). At a time when sex selection



also included a 24 hour waiting period for abortions, allowing women time to reflect and to discuss their decision with family and other confidantes before an abortion took place.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act banned sex selection abortions, meaning that a baby girl could

abortions remain an important gender equality issue, the 1989 Abortion Control Act definitely seems ahead of its time.

Legal challenges prevented the Abortion Control Act from taking effect until 1994. But once the law kicked in, abortion totals plummeted by the thousands in Pennsylvania.

It is estimated that more than 150,000 lives have been saved in the Keystone State as a result of this ground-breaking law.

In addition, the Abortion Control Act paved the path for other states to pass similar legislation. A flurry of new protections for preborn children and their mothers followed, ushering in a golden era of state legislation on the pro-life front.

Pennsylvanians had hoped that the Abortion Control Act would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling which struck abortion laws in all 50 states. While that dream might have been delayed, the law did help to propel the pro-life movement forward, both legislatively and educationally speaking.

Pennsylvania recently recorded its lowest abortion total ever—a testament to the power of a pro-life law, enacted a generation ago. The Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act was an historic achievement which has made the Keystone State a better place to live.

Authorities cannot charge man who murdered pregnant girlfriend

From page 5

also remove the possibility of prosecuting men who kill unborn children when they attack their pregnant mothers.

*In a letter to the New York Times, Kathleen M. Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities, New York State Catholic Conference, wrote

The charges filed against the perpetrator included second degree murder for the killing of the mother and second degree abortion for the

intentional targeting of her baby. But, on the same day, the District Attorney was compelled to drop the abortion charge because that crime no longer exists. It was purged from our laws by the so-called “Reproductive Health Act” championed by the Governor and passed by the Democratically-controlled legislature in January.

In the Senate, Republicans offered an amendment to maintain the felony crime of intentionally targeting a pregnancy in an assault, but the Democrats voted it down. They knew exactly what they were doing by moving abortion from the criminal code to the public health law: they were doing Planned

Parenthood’s bidding. Now families like those grieving for Jennifer and her unborn child can never have complete justice, because prosecutors have lost a vital tool with which to secure it. This is a shameful and grossly unfair consequence of extreme pro-abortion advocacy and lawmaking. Voters should remember it.

The mesmerizing impact of revealing what is Hidden in the Womb

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

Late one night last week, a friend sent me a Facebook message. Too tired to read it, I waited until the following morning to view it. I was astounded.

What my friend had sent me was a video of a 4D ultrasound. Granted, it is not the first time I have seen such a video. But the image was mesmerizing nonetheless.

I could see one preborn baby jumping around with abandon. In another clip, a baby looked like he was waving. I saw a baby yawn and suck his thumb. What I saw, in short, was a human being showing off his humanity.

A video such as this can revolutionize the world. It provides a window into the



hidden, amazing world of the preborn child. It is both informative and entertaining,

and helps us to form a connection to a child that we might not otherwise have.

Technology can save the precious child in the womb. If every mother could see such a video in a supportive, loving atmosphere, how many more would choose life for their children?

Do yourself a favor and watch this incredible video. Then share it on social media.

On a bitterly cold winter's day, it will warm your heart and show you why the unborn child is worth fighting for

NRLC's 6th annual "State of Abortion in America, 2019"

From page 12

the current 116th Congress and provides historical background (the "Judicial Federalization of Abortion Policy"). During the discussion, there is a very useful explanation of several of the most prominent recent Supreme Court abortion decisions, such as *Gonzales v. Carhart* and *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*. There is a helpful summary of current high priority legislative initiatives, such as a ban on the dismemberment of living unborn children, as well as an explanation of congressional funding bans, attempts to provide protection to unborn babies who survive abortions, and federal conscience protection laws.

"State Laws & Abortion" provides a great summary of state laws enacted by

NRLC's state affiliates, such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Act. Among the most recent legislative initiatives, are laws requiring that information be made available to women that should they change their minds half-way through a chemical abortion, there is a realistic possibility of saving their baby. The Supreme Court is contemplating whether to review Indiana's "Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act," intended to prevent eugenic abortions. As NRLC explains, "With a new legislation session underway, it is not surprising that editorials boards and articles are popping up with increased frequency attempting to frighten the public and intimidate legislators. Roe was

built on a foundation of lies. Those same lies, and many new ones, have been used to erect a protective wall around Roe. But commonsense protective laws that National Right to Life has promoted for decades is slowly chipping away at those lies. Those laws include the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, The Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, Ultrasound laws, Informed Consent laws, Parental Involvement laws, and Unborn Victims of Violence laws, among so many others."

"Synopsis of U.S. Supreme Court Cases." If you haven't brushed up recently on what the Supreme Court decided in its various abortion cases, this is the section for you. It starts with Roe and Doe in 1973

and carries the reader through the 2007 *Gonzales v. Carhart* decision which upheld the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act ending with the 2016 *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* decision which gutted some provisions (but not all) of a Texas law passed in 2013.

"The Presidential Record on Life." A great way to end "The State of Abortion in America, 2019." Even a once-over will prove the immense difference it makes who is the White House.

Be sure to pass "The State of Abortion in America, 2019" along to your pro-life family and friends.

Va. Delegate Tran, Va. Gov. Northam, and the reality of fetal pain

By Dave Andrusko

It would be difficult to exaggerate this one. Va. State Del. Kathy Tran's abortion-on-demand through labor proposal has galvanized the pro-life community and forced the anti-life forces into their most creative misdirection, distortion, and out and out lies in many a year.

In case you somehow missed it, Del. Tran, previously most famous for breast feeding her baby on the floor of the Va. House of Delegates, readily conceded in response to questions by Del. Todd Gilbert that her "Repeal Act" would allow abortion up until the moment of birth.

Northam, now mired in a separate scandal, went on the number one rated radio show in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and shocked almost everyone not on the payroll of the abortion industry. He feigned that his support for Tran's unlimited abortion bill was about babies with "severe deformities" and/or "not viable." But Northam went even further. He calmly responded it's up to the mother and the abortionist to decide if a baby who survives an abortion is to be resuscitated.

But it shouldn't be lost in the understandable and correct outrage over limitless abortion and infanticide that we are talking about huge babies who have already passed most developmental milestones.

THESE ARE PAIN-CAPABLE CHILDREN.

Whenever the issue is raised, the news industry seeks out "experts" to assure them proliferators are just pumping out "junk science" (although I'm guessing even the hardest of the hard core might have trouble believing nearly full-term babies won't experience unbelievable pain and agony

while undergoing an abortion).

For example, take 2018 when Senate Democrats successfully prevented Republicans from cutting off a filibuster of the federal Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. (Sixty votes were needed to "invoke cloture" in order that there could be an up or down vote.)

At the time I hadn't noticed but evidently Maggie Fox of *NBC News* had read twitter posts from a "doctor" and had decided to interview him after the Senate vote.

Fox can be a very perceptive reporter, but is out of her element when she wanders into politics. For example, "the doctor just explained late-term abortion—on Twitter" is the virtually omnipresent Dr. Daniel Grossman.

Grossman is not some ordinary M.D. He is a nearly full-time abortion apologist who composes such convoluted half-truths it takes five times as much space to rebut them as for him to compose them.

For example, he tells Fox **"I really feel like it's important for policymakers, legislators, to use the best available scientific evidence when they are making policy related to health. I also think it's important for them to listen to the patients that are affected by this healthcare and neither of those things were done related to this recent bill."**

Small problem. Everything—everything—he told Fox is wrong. Demonstrably wrong. Wrong in the sense of being debunked years ago.

For instance, using data from the pro-abortion Guttmacher

Institute, we've already posted many times that Guttmacher fully understand that the reasons women have "late abortions" are not (as Grossman says)

for many reasons...



including a late diagnosis of a severe fetal abnormality that means it would not survive after birth, or be in severe pain.

Women may also need an abortion to save their lives.

"Many reasons," yes, but reasons having to do with relationship problems, having other children, suffering from depression, or denying to themselves they are pregnant/putting off a decision.

But the principal gaffe—and it is colossal—is his breezy assurance that "Research has shown a fetus does not yet have the capacity to experience pain until at least the third trimester, and unlikely until birth."

Birth?! Yikes. This is so over-the-top, so at odds with research as to be almost laughable. Grossman is presumably relying on the infamous (and nearly 14 year old) study in *JAMA* authored by pro-abortion activists, a canard

which NRLC, among others, demolished.

But you kind of understand why Grossman says this nonsense when he adds, "There is some data to suggest that

the fetus is kind of in a semi-anesthetized state throughout all of the pregnancy and that all of the perceptions are blunted."

He's probably referring to a 2010 "Fetal Awareness" paper issued by Britain's Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (RCOG). As one neurologist said of the notion that the unborn child is not fully awake, "This belief has not been a topic on the radar screen of fetal pain discussions in recent years, and appears to come out of left field. It is hard to avoid the impression that the authors view this new proposal as a kind of scientific trump card."

As so it goes. Grossman was and is sloppy and Fox can't be bothered to even alert her readers to Grossman's status as an abortionist and abortion apologist (or even correctly identify Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell as a Republican, not a Democrat).

Say this for the likes of Grossman and Fox. They keep us busy correcting their errors and omissions.

Is Abortion Really the Best We Can do for Women?

By Nancy Valko

As a nurse and a mother myself, it was awful to read about the newest and most radical abortion law voted in by just signed by New York governor Andrew Cuomo. The vote on this law was even met with a standing ovation in the New York legislature.

This bill would not only legalize abortions UP TO BIRTH but also revokes the requirement for medical care that must be provided afterwards if the baby survives an abortion attempt. Now, Rhode Island is poised to do the same thing.

The “right to abortion” is a central tenet of the “Women’s Rights” movement and most mainstream media complies by constantly insisting that women want and need abortion. Planned Parenthood and even Oprah Winfrey promote women to “Shout Your Abortion” to show that abortion is empowering and even necessary to women’s success.

But is this true?

“EMPOWERING WOMEN AND DEFENDING LIFE: AN INSEPARABLE CALL TO ACTION”

This is the title of a powerful article by a woman who started working at a crisis pregnancy center after she had received help there in the past when she was pregnant and money was tight.

As the anonymous author writes in FemCatholic:

“What I hadn’t realized was that, in situations of unplanned, crisis, or unwanted pregnancies, the staff set out not only to save the life of an unborn child or give women access to

free pregnancy tests and resources (as important as those things are); the counselors want to give women hope, confidence, and the ability to look within and see their own strength. In short, they want to empower every woman they encounter.

My interviewer described to me

can continue meeting with a counselor regularly throughout her pregnancy for support, resources, and caring community.” (All emphasis in original)

The author also writes about her other experiences:

“I have worked at two different maternity

face of even seemingly impossible situations.” (All emphasis in original)

Her message is both simple and profound:

“How can we, women who are passionate about empowering other women, begin to change the conversation, to advance true liberation for women in unplanned pregnancies?”

WHAT ABOUT THE “WORST CASE” SCENARIO WHEN THE UNBORN BABY IS DOOMED TO DIE?

In the latest Gallup poll on abortion, 67% of the people polled approve abortion “When the child would be born with a life-threatening illness.” (Of course, sometimes that diagnosis proves to be wrong.)

But is abortion really the best answer for these distressed parents?

The answer is no, according to a recent article in The Public Discourse titled “Do Women Regret Giving Birth When the Baby is Doomed to Die?” by Professor Christopher Kaczor of Loyola Marymount University.

Professor Kaczor cites a 2018 article from the Journal of Clinical Ethics titled “‘I Would Do It All Over Again’: Cherishing Time and the Absence of Regret in Continuing a Pregnancy after a Life-Limiting Diagnosis” that found:

“Absence of regret was articulated in 97.5

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the approach that counselors took in that initial appointment. She stressed that the goal of the appointment is never to convince the woman one way or another. Instead, counselors provide each woman with information regarding all options, and work to help her realize that she has the strength to do hard things, to be courageous in the face of this difficult situation, and to assure her that there are people ready to love and support her. If the woman chooses to she

homes, and have seen firsthand the freedom that women experience when they discover and engage their strength, gifts, passions, and sheer willpower. It is incredible to watch these empowered women getting and staying sober or clean, finishing or going back to school, applying for jobs, dreaming about their futures with hope rather than despair. Women are capable of amazing things! I honestly believe one of our greatest feminine gifts is the ability to carry on in the

Abortion worker tells how they broke waiting period laws

By Sarah Terzo

One former abortion worker said in a webcast:

“Often times what would happen was patients would come in and say, “Oh, yeah, I did speak with someone. I don’t have my paperwork and we wouldn’t have their paperwork, but my regional director would say something to the effect of, “Well, can you show me in your cell phone where you had a phone call from a private number? Or show me in your cell phone where you have a phone call from an unlisted number or a 1-800 number, and we’ll just say that that was the phone call, and

we just forgot to put it in the system.

So often times, we really didn’t have 72-hour

the patient was truly adamant that she really wanted to have her abortion, if she came

were not directly told to do this, but what we were told was, the number of abortion patients that we say that day is the number of 72 hour consents you should have at the end of the business day.

So basically, without saying it we were being told to forge, that we saw 35 patients, but we only had 30 consents, you need to make up those other five so you would have the correct number at the end of the day.”



informed consent, but we would still go ahead and see the patient.

There were even other times where

from far away, traveled a far distance and had a hotel room, there were many instances where we knew – we

Sarah Terzo, “Former abortion worker: We ‘often’ skirted the law on waiting periods” *Live Action News* November 27, 2018

The two Cuomos and the Democrat Party’s descent

From page 16

fathers themselves. He understood that from the beginning it was a promise that would have to be fulfilled in degrees. Its embrace would have to be widened over the years, step-by-step, sometimes painfully, until finally it included everyone.

That was his dream. That was his vision. That was his mission.

With it, he defined for himself and for us, the soul of our unique experiment of government: the belief that the promise of the Declaration of Independence — the promise of equality and opportunity — cannot be considered kept, until it includes everyone. For him, that was the unifying

principle of our democracy. Without it, we had no nation worth fighting for. With it, we had no limit to the good we might achieve.

The Declaration of Independence’s “promise of equality and opportunity,” Cuomo argues, “cannot be considered kept, until it includes everyone.”

Everyone includes every one, including the littlest Americans.

But try saying this to Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer and Kathy Tran and Ralph Northam. You might as well be speaking in ancient Greek.

Today’s Democrat Party has ruthlessly extirpated respect for unborn life, lock, stock, and barrel. Instead its leaders and wannabe leaders compete to be the most in thrall to NARAL and Planned Parenthood and EMILY’s List.

A sad, sad day.

Illinois governor signs executive order solidifying taxpayer-funded abortions

By Bridget Sielicki

In an effort to make Illinois the “most progressive state in the nation,” Governor JB Pritzker has signed an executive order that ensures the enforcement of HB 40, now known as Public Act 100-0538. That act stipulates that the state must provide taxpayer-funded abortion to its employees and Medicaid recipients. Marking the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion throughout the United States, Pritzker gathered with other pro-abortion supporters at Planned Parenthood of Illinois to sign the order. In a press release, Gov. Pritzker stated:

On the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I’m proud to declare under my administration, the State of Illinois will be the most progressive state in the nation when it comes to guaranteeing the right

to choose for every single woman. Thanks to the courageous advocates across our state, HB 40 is the law



*Pro-abortion Illinois Gov.
J.B. Pritzker
Photo: Chi Hack Night*

of the land. I was proud to stand with you in that fight, because a right is only a right if it can be exercised by everyone.

And today, I’m proud to sign an executive order that will further protect and expand the right to choose in Illinois – and that will fully implement all the provisions of HB 40.

Under the governor’s order, the Department of Central Management Services must review all state employee group health insurance plans and identify those which may not be currently supporting abortion. The department is then to present recommendations that would bring all plans into compliance within 60 days.

HB 40 was originally signed into law in September 2017 by Pritzker’s predecessor, pro-abortion Republican Governor Bruce Rauner, a strident supporter of Planned Parenthood. The law allows for state tax funds to be used for

abortion and it keeps abortion legal in the state should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned.

With the passage of the law, Illinois taxpayers paid for nearly four times as many abortions in the first six months of 2018 than for the same time period in 2017. At the time, State Rep. Peter Breen blamed these results on the legalization of taxpayer-funded abortions. “By the time this program gets ramped up, these numbers are going to be ten times what these preliminary numbers are,” Breen predicted.

With the passage of Gov. Pritzker’s executive order ensuring that all state health insurance plans support abortion, these ominous predictions are now more likely to become a reality.

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

“We don’t make them pay a single cent, unlike places like Planned Parenthood.”

A Crisis Pregnancy Center volunteer speaks out

By Sarah Terzo

A woman who works at a crisis pregnancy center wrote:

“I started volunteering at my local secular crisis pregnancy center in the greater Seattle area, for 6 hours a week, in early September. It’s been several months and I already feel like I have learned a lot, not only about how to fold baby clothes into bundles or how to take clients in, but also about humanity and charity, and how misogynistic, classist, and racist the pro-choice attack on these centers is.

“To start off with, we provide all services for free. They are for low-income pregnant and parenting women. We have free baby clothes, toddler clothes, shoes, maternity clothes, pregnancy tests, breast pumps, nursing bras, diapers, baby wipes, bottles, baby/toddler dishes, formula, food, toys, books, car seats, strollers, cribs, cradles, jumpers, and any other pieces of furniture or big toys when we get them. I have seen pretty much anything you can think of that deals with pregnancy or parenting, come into the clinic. We also give referrals to various social services, such as WIC.....

“We don’t make them pay a single cent, unlike places like Planned Parenthood. So we

truly offer purely free items for struggling families. Taking clinics like this away from all the people we have serviced, or trying to make it harder for

it just tries to eliminate it for you.

“It takes a ton of privilege to be able to tell people that because you want every clinic that helps women to

minorities is racist and an injustice. They need help being able to afford these supplies and abortion clinics certainly aren’t going to help them. Higher



Here is a picture of a room in a crisis pregnancy center that is filled with clothes to give to expectant mothers and poor parents.

us to provide these free items, is a gross attack on lower class people, especially since places like Planned Parenthood don’t bother to give any of these baby/toddler/maternity items to needy women. In fact you won’t find baby clothes or diapers or strollers or anything like that at any abortion clinic. Planned Parenthood doesn’t help you plan your parenthood at all,

provide abortions, poor women aren’t allowed to have free baby supplies...

“There is a lot of racial diversity in our clients as well. I have seen various people from all across the race and religion spectrum. People who are Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Muslim, Ukrainian, Egyptian, Arabic, African American, and so on and so forth. To take away free supplies from all these various

rates of infant mortality due to systematic racism mean that every affordable baby supply is truly needed for a person of color. It is a privileged position to take that away.”

Kristin Monahan, “What I Learned from Volunteering at a Crisis Pregnancy Center” Secular Pro-Life Blog DECEMBER 18, 2018

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

Pro-life members of Congress act in response to state efforts to radically expand abortion

From page 1

attempted abortion wouldn't necessarily be entitled to immediate treatment. This is tantamount to infanticide.

With several similar measures pushing through New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maryland, the response from Congress was decisive and swift.

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) took to the floor on February 4, 2019, to call for unanimous consent to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection

to protect babies born alive during an abortion. Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) announced that, after 30 legislative days, he will file a discharge petition on H.R.962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO). A discharge petition is a tool that the minority can use to force a vote in the House of Representatives if it is signed by a majority of members in the

in this congress, to consider the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Sponsored by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and strongly backed by NRLC, the act would protect unborn children who are capable of feeling pain, defined in the bill as beginning at 20 weeks fetal age, with certain exceptions. The bill also contains certain protections for babies who may be born alive in abortions performed under the exception clauses.

The bill contains extensive congressional findings that by 20 weeks fetal age, if not earlier, the unborn child is capable of experiencing great pain when subjected to a dismemberment abortion or killed by other late abortion techniques. These bills are based on model legislation developed by National Right to Life in 2010, and since enacted in 16 states. For more information on this issue, see *National Right to Life News Today*. The House companion bill is H.R. 784, sponsored by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ).

Background on the need for the Born Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act

In 2002, Congress approved, without a dissenting vote, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (BAIPA), subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush and codified as 1 U.S.C. §8. This important law states that "every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development" is a "person" for all federal law purposes.

The BAIPA was a response to troubling indications, well summarized in the House Judiciary Committee's excellent 2001 report on the legislation, that some abortion providers and pro-abortion

activists did not regard infants born alive during abortion procedures as legal persons – especially if the infants were deemed to be "pre-viable" (i.e., have limited life expectancy due to prematurity). Such a mindset puts a substantial number of live-born infant persons in jeopardy of gross neglect or overt violence. Live birth, as defined in 1 U.S.C. §8, may occur a month before "viability." BAIPA made it crystal clear that life expectancy is entirely irrelevant for purposes of legal personhood.

However, in the years since 1 U.S.C. §8 was enacted, evidence has surfaced that BAIPA did not stop what it intended to stop. There have been multiple examples of abortion providers who do not regard babies born alive during abortions as persons, and do not provide them with the types of care that would be provided to premature infants who are born spontaneously. In some cases, such born-alive infants are even subjected to overt acts of deadly violence.

In other words there is a need to explicitly spell out the level of medical care that must be provided to babies born alive in an attempted abortion.

In 2013, Dr. Kermit Gosnell of Philadelphia was convicted under state law of multiple homicides of such born-alive infants, but such a prosecution and conviction is uncommon. In some jurisdictions, local authorities seem reluctant to investigate reports of infants born alive during abortions, or to bring appropriate indictments even in cases in which the publicly reported evidence of gross neglect or overt lethal acts seems strong.

"I'm asking all Senators to come to the floor of the U.S. Senate and declare they are against infanticide."

Senator Ben Sasse
January 31, 2019



Act (S. 311). If enacted, the bill would extend federal legal protection to babies who are born alive during an abortion.

Democrat Patty Murray of Washington State objected, stalling the legislation for now.

Numerous Republicans took to the floor and gave passionate appeals to pass this legislation which were reposted in *National Right to Life News Today*. While Republicans control the Senate, they are short of the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster on a bill.

The pro-life House members, while navigating a chamber controlled by pro-abortion Nancy Pelosi and a Democrat majority, are also working hard

House (218).

On Wednesday February 6th, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) asked for unanimous consent for the House to consider H.R. 962. On Thursday February 7th, this request was made by Whip Scalise. On Friday February 8th, this request was made by Rep. Wagner.

On Monday February 10th, Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) made the request.

House Democrats have objected each time. These requests are expected to continue every legislative day for the foreseeable future.

In addition, there is again the desire in the U.S. Senate, later

See "Congress," page 25

Mother of two children with Down syndrome speaks: “Down syndrome is a beautiful journey we had never planned on”

By Sarah Terzo

Ashley Engele is a mom of two whose oldest child has Down syndrome, found out she was pregnant with her third baby, who also had down syndrome. She never considered abortion. Her first child, Rilynn, is now 4 1/2 years old. She writes:

“Rilynn is just like any other precocious 4-year-old girl. She goes to preschool, loves Trolls, Barbie dolls and her “typical” younger sister. They are best friends, they love each other fiercely, and also have the classic sibling rivalry. We fight over what outfit she’s going to wear, or how she’s going to wear her hair for the day. Most of all, she loves other kids and babies.

We know how when we’re having a bad day, one smile from Rilynn can completely turn it around.

We know the extra-squishy hugs that turn

our hearts into mush.

We know that when her cute little hands reach out and touch your cheek, you

know she doesn’t lack personality. She can make even the grumpiest or angriest people smile and win



instantly feel better.

We know how she is changing the perception of those with Down syndrome, one person at a time.

If you’ve ever met our daughter, you

their hearts over in an instant.

You see, Down syndrome has shown us a whole new world, a whole new deeper level of love, compassion, and patience.”

After her third child was diagnosed in utero:

“Down syndrome is a beautiful journey we had never planned on, but would never dream of leaving because we know what it’s like. We treasure our experiences at face value, we slow down and enjoy the little moments in life, we celebrate every single milestone (big or small), and most of all, we celebrate life, because our lives are better with Down syndrome in it.”

ASHLEY ENGELE, “Woman expecting 2nd baby with Down syndrome opens up about her experience,” *ABC News* Oct 30, 2017.

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

Pro-life members of Congress act in response to state efforts to radically expand abortion

From page 24

Public concern was increased by a series of hidden-camera videos released by the Center for Medical Progress, in which various persons described events and practices within certain Planned Parenthood abortion clinics that, at the very least, raise questions about whether it is generally recognized among abortion-clinic personnel that a born-

alive baby is a legal “person,” whether before or after “viability.” Other passages raise similar questions regarding some persons who operate firms that obtain and sell baby body parts, obtained from abortion clinics.

National Right to Life believes that it is time for Congress to act decisively to put the entire abortion industry

on notice that when they treat a born-alive human person as medical waste, as a source for organ harvesting, or as a creature who may be subjected to lethal violence with impunity, they will do so at grave legal peril. S.311 would enact an explicit requirement that a baby born alive during an abortion must be afforded “the same degree” of care that would

apply “to any other child born alive at the same gestational age,” including transportation to a hospital.

This language does not dictate bona fide medical judgments nor require futile measures, but rather, requires that babies born alive during abortions are treated in the same manner as those who are spontaneously born prematurely.

British abortion boss: Extreme New York bill “is what many of us have been campaigning for in the UK”

Ann Furedi shocked the panellists on Loose Women when she defended late-term and gender selective abortion

BPAS boss Ann Furedi praised late-term abortion

By SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

People across the world have been shocked at the passing of an extreme new abortion bill in New York, which removes abortion from penal law, and allows it up to birth in some cases. This has been compounded by some American politicians defending abortion at the very moment of birth, and even infanticide.

What they are asking British politicians to support

SPUC has been warning that what politicians in New York have done is very much what the abortion lobby here is attempting to achieve. Now, that has been confirmed beyond all possible doubt – from the mouth of Britain’s top abortion provider.

Writing in Spiked online, Ann Furedi, chief executive of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), praises the horrific new law in New York as “a breakthrough for choice.” She goes on to say (emphasis ours):

“New York State has just signed into law an abortion-rights bill that is close to what many of us have been campaigning for in the UK. The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) removes the need for a doctor to perform some abortions, and takes abortion out of the criminal code, making it a public-health issue.

This is pretty much what the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, and other pro-choice organisations that are supporting

the #WeTrustWomen campaign, have been asking British politicians to support.”

She is referring to the



Ann Furedi shocked the panellists on Loose Women when she defended late-term and gender selective abortion

campaign to decriminalise abortion – to remove it from the criminal law.

“Safe” abortion

Ms Furedi (who has openly said that abortion should be allowed up to birth, including because the baby’s a girl) then defends allowing healthcare workers other than doctors providing abortions, saying, “Abortion is safe and nurses and midwives are well placed to provide it.”

(When describing abortion as “safe” she does not mention the doctor who was recently struck off for endangering women’s lives at a BPAS clinic, or the 11 women who were transferred for emergency hospital treatment after suffering serious injuries in a three-month period at the same clinic.)

Late-term abortion “obvious and humane”

However, Ms Furedi saves her highest praise for the aspect of the New York law which has sparked the most

of the mother is at risk – a notoriously slippery criterion – but correctly says, “In Britain, since 1990, the law has allowed for abortion without time limit when a pregnancy is affected by a serious abnormality.”

Ms Furedi says the “numbers are tiny” for these types of abortions. But a recent parliamentary question revealed that nearly 15,000 babies that were over 20 weeks gestation have died by abortion in the last five years, and a casual look at the abortion statistics shows that the majority are not for “serious abnormalities”, however the term is defined.

This “obvious and humane” provision has led to heartbreaking stories of babies being born alive during abortions and left to die.

A timely warning

Ann Furedi sums up her philosophy, saying, “abortion should never be a crime when a woman believes that ending her own pregnancy is the right thing to do.”

The RHA in New York has rightly caused outrage. However, it also serves as a reminder that the provision that has sparked the most heated debate – late-term abortions – already happens on a large scale here in the UK.

As the other provisions in the bill, Ann Furedi and her allies in Parliament have made it clear that they are determined to go to any lengths (including hijacking a domestic abuse bill) to impose an equally extreme abortion regime here.

This already happens in the UK

She leaves out the fact that the RHA also allows third trimester abortions if the “life or health”

A point-by-point illustration of the partisan agenda of “fact checkers”

By Dave Andrusko

The Federalist’s David Harsanyi wrote a piece that appeared in the *New York Post* Friday—“Impartial” fact-checkers are revealing their partisanship against Trump”—that is precise, concise, and good advice for anyone who

York Times, handled last week’s State of the Union Address. We will not get into the specifics of the issue because they are outside our single-issue purview:

*Hyper nitpicking. President Trump was accused of lying for

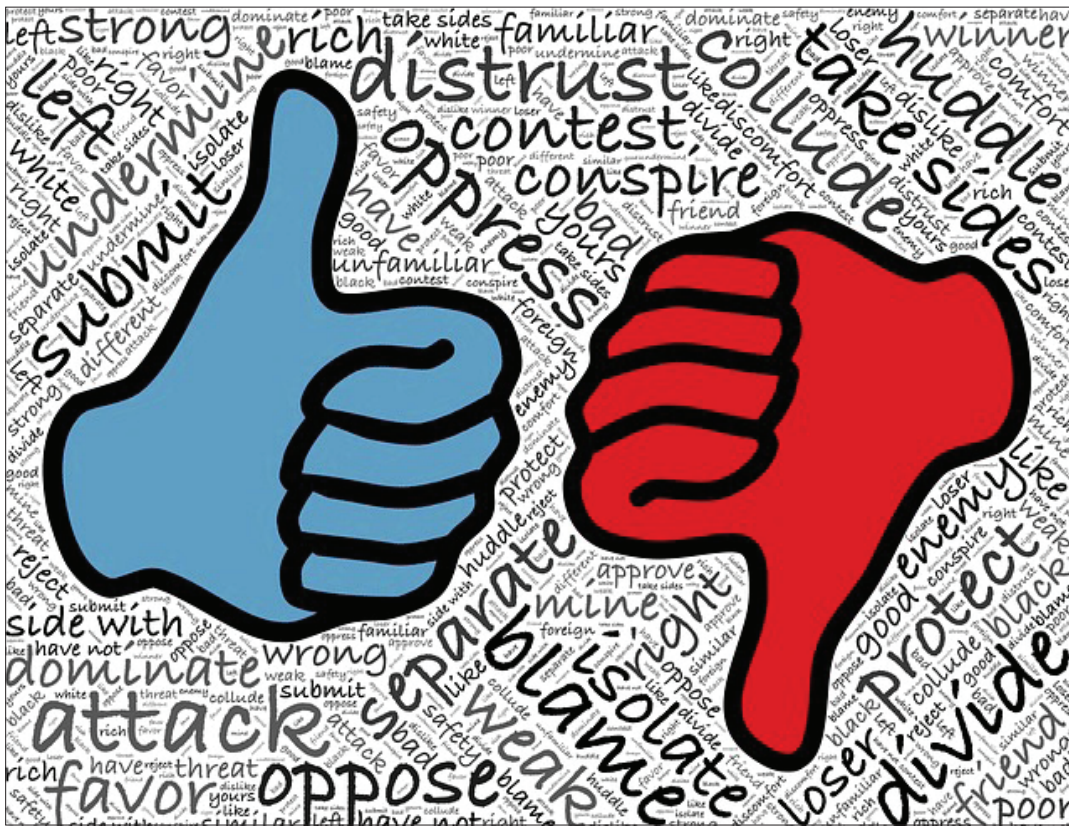
that is “false.” Why? Because the situation isn’t as bad as it was. Okay, but that doesn’t make the *Times’s* assessment correct and the President’s wrong. Moreover, as Harsanyi shrewdly points out, were it a topic in the *Times’s* wheelhouse,

that has absolutely nothing to do with his contention.” This has to do with a presidential tweet.

PBS recently went on forever and finally conceded the President had been accurate. But “After confirming that, yes, Trump had been precise in his assertion regarding their poll, *PBS* spends around 700 words taking Trump to task for failing to highlight other negative information in the poll”!! Harsanyi asks, “Will this be a new standard for all politicians?” (Answer. Only if they are prominent pro-life Republicans.)

*Lastly one that is in our purview: “Fact-checking meant to obscure actual facts.” Harsanyi uses Meg Kelly on the *Washington Post* but he could have used many others. Referring to the new radical abortion law in New York, Kelly flatly states, “Abortion legislation in New York wouldn’t do what Trump said.” In fact it does precisely what the President said it does. He could have added that a man who assaults or murders a pregnant woman whose unborn child dies can no longer be charged with a second separate offense. A few days after the speech, this is exactly what happened in New York and the man could not be prosecuted for the baby’s death.

Harsanyi’s conclusion is perfect: “The state of American fact-checking is dreadfully misleading.”



insists that by and large “fact checkers” are partisans with an agenda.

Here is a brief rundown of a terrific post that you should read in its entirety.

The topic is how many in the media, such as *Politico* and *CNN* and *NPR* and the *New*

York *Times*, handled last week’s State of the Union Address. We will not get into the specifics of the issue because they are outside our single-issue purview: Please.

*“Fact-checking subjective political assertions.” The President thinks a particular issue is a “national crisis.” The *New York Times* counters

that is “false.” Why? Because the situation isn’t as bad as it was. Okay, but that doesn’t make the *Times’s* assessment correct and the President’s wrong. Moreover, as Harsanyi shrewdly points out, were it a topic in the *Times’s* wheelhouse,

that has absolutely nothing to do with his contention.” This has to do with a presidential tweet. *PBS* recently went on forever and finally conceded the President had been accurate. But “After confirming that, yes, Trump had been precise in his assertion regarding their poll, *PBS* spends around 700 words taking Trump to task for failing to highlight other negative information in the poll”!! Harsanyi asks, “Will this be a new standard for all politicians?” (Answer. Only if they are prominent pro-life Republicans.)

Elections really do have Consequences

From page 1

The title of my speech that day? “Elections Have Consequences.”

The lone bulwark against the passage of the RHA was always the state Senate, controlled by Republicans. Sadly, following the 2018 elections, pro-abortion Democrats took control.

Now New York’s unborn children are more vulnerable than ever. To rounds of applause from his fellow pro-abortionists, New York Governor Cuomo signed the RHA into law. They even celebrated the ability to kill babies throughout pregnancy by lighting up the World Trade Center in pink! (I know it sounds like I am exaggerating. I only wish I were.)

What does it do?

- While they claimed RHA would merely “codify” *Roe*, the RHA goes far beyond *Roe*. It establishes abortion as a “fundamental right” and prevents “the enforcement of laws or regulations... that burden abortion access.” That includes laws the U.S. Supreme Court has already upheld as constitutional.
- The RHA “would mandate abortion-on-demand with no restrictions, up until birth, and even after birth, if a child is born during the course of an abortion (i.e., infanticide) by erasing born-alive protections already in New York law,” explained Christina Fadden, chair of New York State Right to Life.
- Any licensed health care practitioner

can now provide abortions – even nurses and mid-wives.

- Laws requiring a second physician to attend a late abortion (to provide care for a baby born alive) have

York where a man who killed his five-month pregnant girlfriend cannot be prosecuted for the baby’s death.

New York’s “Reproductive Health Act” is not healthy for the pregnant mother, and most

abortion even as the mother is giving birth to her child. Fortunately, pro-life delegates stood strong and defeated the legislation – for now.

“The hearing ... brought to light the diabolical plans behind pro-abortion delegates’ efforts to overturn all of Virginia’s



been repealed. They don’t even have to provide comfort care for the surviving infant.

- The RHA removed the criminal act of abortion from New York’s Penal Law. Why is this so important? It means criminal acts toward a pregnant woman resulting in the death of her unborn child – even if she wanted this child — will no longer allow prosecution under penal code. A case just took place in New

certainly not healthy for her unborn child.

Sadly, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Vermont’s legislatures are actively working to pass similar laws allowing for unrestricted abortion throughout pregnancy.

But there’s more to remind us that elections have consequences.

On January 28, 2019, Virginia pro-abortion state Delegate Kathy Tran (D), sponsor of “Abortion Without Limits Until Birth and Beyond” legislation (my title), admitted that her “Repeal Bill” would allow

protective laws,” reported Olivia Gans Turner, president of Virginia Society for Human Life.

She added, “If pro-abortion candidates do take control of the Virginia General Assembly next year, there will be no way to stop their deadly agenda. New York will not be the only place that enshrines abortion in the State Constitution.”

Virginia’s entire Assembly is up for election in 2019.

They have a one-vote pro-life margin in the House of Delegates. They have a one-vote pro-life margin in the state Senate.

Don’t be caught unawares. Elections have consequences.

Big Abortion and the Infantilization of Women

By Katie Franklin

A week ago Friday, the Democratic Party's abortion radicalism finally spilled over into an act of vandalism at a pro-life pregnancy help center in northern Virginia. There, on the center's signage, red spray paint told the lie the abortion lobby has peddled against pro-lifers for the last five decades: "You hate women."

Another message said, "Fake," and another said, "Jesus hates this sh#t."

The 24,000 women served by The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia would probably disagree. Not because they're partisan or religious or have any stake in the abortion debate, but because they've born witness to the love and compassion carried out by these Christian centers for the last 30 years.

And nothing says "hate" like free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and diapers, right?

The act of vandalism, committed in the wee hours of Friday morning, came just days after Virginia Delegate Kathy Tran's admission that her bill would allow abortions all the way through active labor. Although that bill was defeated, others in Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Mexico aim to follow the same path as the radical late-term abortion law signed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo last month. With the onslaught of such bills, the need for life-affirming pregnancy centers is all the more critical.

Yet Democrats and Big Abortion have hammered away at these safe havens for decades, running sham investigations and targeting centers with unconstitutional mandates, one of which was

struck down by the Supreme Court last summer. The smear campaign has stoked protests at centers and other acts of vandalism as well.

The ultimate impact of these efforts is to diminish women to a shriveled version of themselves, deceived into believing the lie of abortion.



Photo: Culpeper Town Councilman Jon Russell's Facebook

In their mad attempts to quash any and all pro-life efforts to serve pregnant women, the abortion lobby continues to vilify pregnancy centers, repackaging their charitable services as the deceptive tactics of "fake clinics" that are pretending to be abortion centers. Contrary to their "pro-woman" claims, the whole strategy infantilizes women, reducing them to passive actors who are too incompetent to know the difference between actual help and a profit-driven abortion outlet.

And the ongoing efforts to legalize abortion through all 40 weeks of pregnancy follow this same harmful narrative.

Consider this from a little-publicized moment in abortion advocacy last week when a Rhode Island political couple brought their seven-month-

old baby to the statehouse to push another late-term abortion law. Defending the barbaric measure, Stephanie Gonzalez, fiancée to Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, said:

Seven months ago, I gave birth to a little human ... I was very lucky though. I was

not living in poverty. I had access to health insurance. I felt comfortable where I was professionally. I wasn't a victim of inter-relationship rape or abuse. I had a supportive partner. I didn't have to worry about paying for child care.... Had my circumstances been different, I don't know that I would have made the same choice.

"What bothers me most about the anti-abortion argument is that we seem to assume ... that women just can't be trusted to make decisions for themselves and their bodies and therefore we must legislate for

them.... This is sexist ... insulting."

What is actually sexist and insulting is the notion that the only way to "help" a poor, jobless, and abused woman is through legalized third-trimester abortions—practical infanticide. Gonzalez' statement is the epitome of "privilege," an oft-decried boogeyman of the left. While her son may have been "lucky" enough not to be aborted (thank God), what a terrible fate for every other child whose mother didn't happen to live in the right zip code or have the right pedigree.

Abortion, of course, offers no long-term solutions to any of these challenges. It doesn't remove a woman from poverty and it doesn't erase her scars. It only removes a child and leaves more scars on her heart.

But pregnancy help centers do address these problems, working with women throughout all nine months of pregnancy and often years after. In 2017, these centers served nearly 2 million women, men, and children with free services, an estimated community cost savings of \$161 million.

Through parenting classes, material support, and community referrals, these centers empower women to be the mothers they were made to be.

The lie that pro-lifers "hate women" is no more than a three-word partisan quip made by those unwilling to offer the hope and light of true, life-affirming choice.

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

Robert Davi mourns the celebration of abortion

By Niamh Uí Bhriain

Editor's note. This appeared in the blog of the Irish Pro-Life organization Life Institute.

Like most people, I only know actor Robert Davi from big box-office hit movies such as James Bond, Die Hard, and the Goonies. I had never known him to take a stand on abortion, or comment on the issue at all, until last week when he posted a powerful two-minute video on Twitter after New York State legalised abortion until birth.

The genuine sadness and upset Davi felt was evident throughout his message.

“My dear brothers and sisters,” he began. “.. I cannot tell you how disturbed I am to hear that in New York State they passed the bill whereby you can abort babies up to nine months ... I don't understand what's happening to this country.”

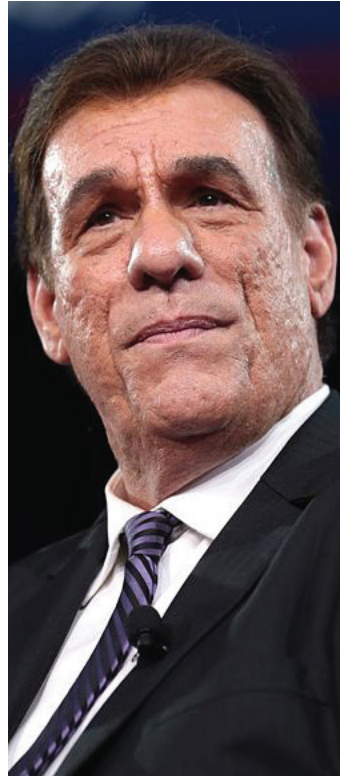
“I am grieving for these children, I am grieving for the women,” Davi said. “You really think you can rip a baby from the womb at nine month and it's okay?”

He was right to grieve. What happened in New York was particularly shocking and appalling. Abortion supporters, worried that the Supreme Court might swing pro-life under Donald Trump and overturn Roe v. Wade, passed what they boasted was the most “aggressive” abortion law in the country, allowing abortion in many cases up until the day the baby is born.

New York already has a horrifying abortion rate: in New York city one in every three babies are aborted. Now this law seeks to make that horrendous situation even worse.

The late-term abortions the State Senate approved will

involve almost unimaginable cruelty. As I previously described, the preborn baby



Robert Davi
Photo: Gage Skidmore

will be injected with potassium chloride, a solution so toxic, capable of inducing a death so painful and violent, that prisoners on death row are first given an anaesthetic and a paralytic before it is administered. There will be no pain relief given to preborn babies however.

Just as happened here in Ireland, the New York law – the “Reproductive Health Act” – also allows doctors to leave babies who survive abortion to suffer and die.

The law was described as “evil codified” [www.apnews.com/717d0e626d9547eaba4d279962433952] by *Associated Press* columnist Neal Larson. It's hard to argue with that summation.

Governor Andrew Cuomo, supposedly a Catholic, didn't just sign the law, he threw kisses to the crowd while he was doing it, and ordered the World Trade Center to be illuminated in pink to celebrate the moment.

Celebrating abortion seemed to be the order of the day. A video posted of the New York Senate showed abortion supporters and politicians whooping, applauding and cheering when the law was passed.

It reminded me of the frankly disgusting scenes in Dublin Castle last May, when a grinning Taoiseach [Prime Minister] and Minister for Health cheered on a mob who were gloating, shouting and dancing the conga to celebrate legalising abortion.

Abortion campaigners used to pretend they wanted abortion to be “safe, legal and rare”, and they used that language to sell it as a necessary procedure for difficult cases.

Now, it seems, abortion is a reason to party.

However, just as the antics of the Dublin Castle mob horrified many soft “Yes” voters in Ireland [to overturn Ireland's pro-life 8th Amendment to the Constitution], the raucous celebration of late-term abortion in New York also caused palpable unease across social media in the United States.

Professor Robert P. George echoed the feelings of tens of thousands of people posting on Facebook and Twitter when he said the “sheer inhumanity ... literally nauseated” him.

Then there were posts like this one which underscored the horror of it all.

“Where is the uproar?” asked Robert Davi, as he mourned what New York had done. The answer might be in how many people shared his sadness in seeing their fellow Americans cheering and stamping in support of late-term abortion.

It would make you weep for humanity, except that when people raucously celebrate killing preborn babies in the third trimester it is difficult to imagine what scrap of genuine humanity remains in their hollowed-out souls.

However, a week after the scenes in New York, the Virginia House also debated a bill to allow abortion to the point of birth. The bill was voted down, but Ralph Northam, the Democrat Governor, caused widespread uproar and anger when he defended the bill's provisions, in particular when he argued that if a baby was born after a failed abortion “the infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

Abortion campaigners forget that the middle-ground voter doesn't believe in “shouting your abortion” or in celebrating it as a moral good. The support of those voters has only been gained by selling the false pretext that abortion is a sad but necessary evil.

The depraved scenes in New York and Dublin have shown the real mindset of abortion campaigners and their horrifying indifference to the child about to be killed. In letting the mask slip they have revealed themselves to the middle ground in a way that will yet lose them the war.

NRLC tells Congress it “strongly opposed to adding the 1972 ERA language to the U.S. Constitution”

From page 15

complaint argues that any previous contrary holdings are themselves “contrary to a modern understanding of the ways in which the denial of women’s reproductive autonomy is a form of sex discrimination . . .”

Once a court adopts the understanding that a law limiting abortion is by definition a form of discrimination based on sex, and therefore impermissible under an ERA, the same doctrine would invalidate virtually any limitation on abortion. For example, under this doctrine, the proposed federal ERA would invalidate the federal Hyde Amendment and all state restrictions on tax-funded abortions. **Likewise, it would nullify any federal or state restrictions even on partial-birth abortions or third-trimester abortions (since these too are sought only by women).** Also vulnerable would be federal and state “conscience laws,” which allow government-supported medical facilities and personnel — including religiously affiliated hospitals — to refuse to participate in abortions. Moreover, the ACLU’s “Reproductive Freedom Project” published a

booklet that encourages pro-abortion litigators to use state ERAs as legal weapons against state parental notification and parental consent laws.

When questioned about ERA-abortion lawsuits such as those in New Mexico, Connecticut, and now Pennsylvania, some ERA proponents observe that the U.S. Supreme Court has previously reviewed abortion-related restrictions under a due-process “privacy right” doctrine, and they remark that the federal ERA would not “change” these past “privacy” rulings. But this argument is transparently evasive, entirely begging the question. Obviously, past U.S. Supreme Court rulings on abortion issues have dealt only with the *current* U.S. Constitution — *without* the ERA’s absolute prohibition on abridgement of “rights . . . on account of sex.” **Whatever one thinks of the Supreme Court’s “privacy” doctrine, that doctrine is entirely irrelevant to the question of how limits on abortion will be analyzed by judges who are presented with new legal challenges that are based entirely on the new constitutional provision — the ERA.** The cases in brought in the states mentioned above

are among the evidences that leading ERA proponents — judges among them — believe that limits on abortion are facially invalid under an ERA.

ABORTION-NEUTRALIZATION OF ANY START-OVER ERA

Beginning in 1983, pro-life members of Congress have insisted that a simple “abortion-neutralization” clause must be added to any new ERA before it is sent out to the states. The proposed revision — which cannot be added to the already-fixed language of the 1972 ERA, but which could be added by Congress to any new (“start over”) ERA proposal — reads:

Nothing in this Article [the ERA] shall be construed to grant, secure, or deny any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof.

This proposed revision would simply make any new ERA itself neutral regarding abortion policy; it would not change the current legal status of abortion, nor would it permit the ERA itself to be employed for anti-abortion purposes. Tellingly, ERA proponents have adamantly refused to accept such an abortion-neutral revision. That refusal is one

major reason why neither house of Congress has voted on ERA since it was defeated on the House floor on November 15, 1983.

For the reasons described above, National Right to Life intends to score any roll call on House passage of H.J. Res. 38. In our communications with our members, supporters, and affiliates nationwide, a vote in favor of this resolution will be accurately characterized as a vote in favor of inserting language into the U.S. Constitution that could invalidate any limits whatever on abortion, including late abortions, and to require government funding of abortion without limitation.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas D. Johnson
Senior Policy Adviser



Jennifer Popik, J.D.
Legislative Director

For additional documentation on the ERA-abortion connection, or on the current status of the 1972 ERA, see the NRLC website at www.nrlc.org/federal/era, or contact the National Right to Life Federal Legislation Department at federallegislation@nrlc.org.

So why have pro-abortion Democrats gone off the deep end now?

By Dave Andrusko

“Some pro-choice purists have always been comfortable confessing, at least in private, that their highest priority is the right not to mother. Now they are, in effect, confessing it publicly, too. But this raises uncomfortable questions, most obviously: What sort of political party is willing to cheerfully advocate destroying infants even as they’re getting ready to be born?” — Megan McArdle, *Washington Post*

“With what Hillary is saying, in the ninth month, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby. Now you can say that that’s okay, and Hillary can say that that’s okay, but it’s not okay with me.” — Donald Trump, during third presidential debate with pro-abortion Hillary Clinton.

“Trump’s late-term abortion warning in 2016 debate against Clinton goes viral” — *Fox News* headline

To answer Ms. McArdle’s rhetorical question. While no “party” will publicly embrace “destroying infants even as they’re getting ready to be born,” bear in mind (a) individuals such as Democratic Va. State Del. Kathy Tran and presidential aspirant Hillary Clinton will matter-of-factly say, “sure”; and (b) **operationally**, Democrats already support killing unborn children up to birth and are neutral (if not worse) on whether you can fail to treat a baby who survives an abortion. You will see this in bills

proposed in state legislatures and in the Democratic response to congressional proposals such as the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Democrats will offer as many excuses as there are grains of sand on the beach, but they

explanations. (The all-purpose cover story is that the Supreme Court may/will overturn *Roe v. Wade*.)

*This is what pro-abortionists have always believed. We forget the bad old days when the craziest of the crazy pro-

feminists, gathered there to conference on how to best change Spain’s protective abortion laws.

At the height of the convention, two young pregnant women were taken into a conference room and aborted. The abortions were taped for posterity and at the next day’s general assembly the leading feminists of the day held up two glass jars containing the remains of the two aborted children.

The thunderous applause led to cheers and screams of delight as the two dead babies were displayed high above the heads of the speakers as if they were trophies. Those there report that the room shook from the stomping of feet and the chants that followed.

The Consequences of Roe v. Wade?

Over 60 million lives have been destroyed since 1973, or the equivalent of the population of these 18 states.



are, in this sense, just being “logical.”

The baby was **supposed** to be dead. Why spend time, money, and energy on trying to save a child who survived the abortionist’s onslaught?

But, why **now**? Why boldfaced, with limited pretense otherwise (see New York) declarations that you want abortion legalized until labor and excuse-mongering about caring for abortion survivors?

We could offer a hundred reasons. Here are just a few, my attempt to get to the core

abortion “feminists” glorified killing unborn child, seeing in the baby’s remains (and I do not exaggerate) a kind of demented secular sacrament.

Rai Rojas wrote this harrowing story us a few years back. It began

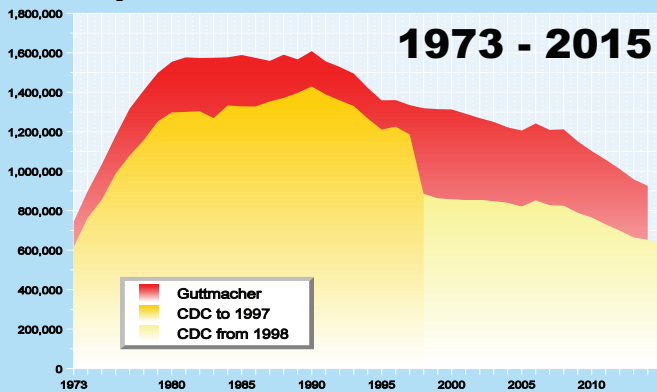
In the early days of November 1983, a conference was held in the beautiful old city of Barcelona, Spain. On this day, this majestic city facing the Mediterranean Sea was overtaken by thousands of Spanish

*There is in the rabidly pro-abortion mind an ability for disconnection and disassociation that is almost clinical. What, prior to her repeal every abortion law in Virginia bill, was Va. State Delegate Kathy Tran most famous for? Breastfeeding her daughter on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Why, she was asked by *NPR*? “I had a baby that was hungry and I needed to feed her.”

Reported Annual Abortions

1973 - 2015



1973	744,610	615,831
1974	898,570	763,476
1975	1,034,170	854,853
1976	1,179,300	988,267
1977	1,316,700	1,079,430
1978	1,409,600	1,157,776
1979	1,497,670	1,251,921
1980	1,553,890	1,297,606
1981	1,577,340	1,300,760
1982	1,573,920	1,303,980
1983	1,575,000	1,268,987
1984	1,577,180	1,333,521
1985	1,588,550	1,328,570
1986	1,574,000	1,328,112
1987	1,559,110	1,353,671
1988	1,590,750	1,371,285
1989	1,566,900	1,396,658
1990	1,608,600	1,429,247
1991	1,556,510	1,388,937
1992	1,528,930	1,359,146
1993	1,495,000	1,330,414
1994	1,423,000	1,267,415
1995	1,359,400	1,210,883
1996	1,360,160	1,225,937
1997	1,335,000	1,186,039
1998	1,319,000	884,273*
1999	1,314,800	861,789*
2000	1,312,990	857,475*
2001	1,291,000	853,485*
2002	1,269,000	854,122*
2003	1,250,000	848,163*
2004	1,222,100	839,226*
2005	1,206,200	820,151*
2006	1,242,200	846,181*
2007	1,209,640	827,609*
2008	1,212,350	825,564*
2009	1,151,600	789,116*
2010	1,102,670	765,651*
2011	1,058,490	730,322*
2012	1,011,000	699,202*
2013	958,700	664,435*
2014	926,190	652,639*
2015-18	906,308§	638,169*

Guttmacher

CDC

*excludes NH, CA and at least one other state

§ NRLC projection for calculation

ABORTION statistics

United States Data and Trends

Lowest Levels in Decades

There are two basic sources on abortion incidence in the United States:

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) publishes yearly, but relies on voluntary reports from state health departments (and New York City, Washington, D.C.). It has been missing data from California, New Hampshire, and at least one other state since 1998.
- The Guttmacher Institute (GI) contacts abortion clinics directly for data but does not survey every year.
- Because it surveys clinics directly and includes data from all fifty states, most researchers believe Guttmacher's numbers to be more reliable, though Guttmacher still believes there may be as much as a 5% undercount in its most recent figures.

Both the CDC and Guttmacher show significant recent drops and even larger drops over the last 25 years.

- Total abortions dropped 27.8% from 1998 to 2015 with the CDC, and fell 42.4% from 1990 to 2014 with GI.
- Total abortions fell below 1 million for the first time in 38 years for Guttmacher when it reported 958,700 for 2013. That dropped further to 926,190 in 2014.
- The **abortion rate** for 2014 for GI was 14.6 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44), half what it was in 1981 (29.3) and the lowest recorded since abortion was legalized in the U.S. in 1973.
- Guttmacher says there were 18.8 abortions for every 100 pregnancies ending in live birth or abortion in 2014, an **abortion ratio** lower than any since 1972.
- Guttmacher says that the number of abortion "providers" has dropped from a high of 2,918 in 1982 to 1,671 in 2014.
- Most of the reduction in abortions seen between 2008 and 2011 was in facilities performing a thousand or more abortions a year. A loss of 65 more such facilities from 2011 to 2014 was likely a big factor in the overall drop of 132,300 abortions seen in those three years.

The Consequences of *Roe v. Wade*

60,942,033

Total abortions since 1973

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2014, w/ projections of 906,308 for 2015-18, based on -2.05% drop seen by CDC from 2014 -15. GI has estimated possible undercounts of 3-5%, so an additional 3% is factored into the overall total. 1/19

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“Why Are You Pro-Life?” Part Two

By Dave Andrusko

Recently NRLC used its Facebook account to ask people to answer the seemingly simple question, “Why Are You Pro-Life?”

As you’d expect, the answers were delightful. Here are just a few samples of how kind, generous, and thoughtful pro-lifers are.

Melissa: Because my mother chose life for me a mere 8 months after Roe v. Wade and placed me for adoption. She loved me more than herself. She endured the pain of not getting to raise me at a time when closed adoption was the norm. She gave me the most precious gift of all, LIFE. Because of her, I get to be a daughter, granddaughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, wife, mother, friend.

Jennifer: My daughter Faith is what made me pro life. I had previously not really taken a side. My daughter was born with anencephaly and while we were given the option to terminate early at 20 weeks, we chose life for her. She lived for 18 hours.

Julie: Everyone’s life has value...A person’s rights shouldn’t override another’s rights- through their death. The inhumanity of abortion & the government’s total lack of seeing this genocide for what it is, is sickening.

Joe: Because the most fundamental human right is the right to life; all other rights are denied to any human who

has their right to life taken away.

Mary: Many reasons but mostly because we have One Life, One Chance. One human being should not take that one chance, One life from another. God gave us Life, we must respect it and Let the Babies

Holocaust but not see abortion is the exact same thing.

Terry: All human life has value, all human life is created by God, in His image, and ALL are created with a Purpose!

Jarrod: Because life is

America deserve better than abortion.

Emily: Because how much a person is wanted should not be the determining factor as to whether they are born or aborted. Life is our first, most basic, right.



Live! Adoption is just One Option!!!

Gary: I am pro life because it makes absolutely no sense to kill millions of innocent babies a year. I have four daughters and two grandchildren I just can not understand the need to kill them!! It shows poor judgement and lack of morals!!

Kathy: I don’t see how anyone can be horrified by the

amazing and precious.

Tim: Because taking an innocent life is wrong period.

Ollie: I believe in the dignity of the human person.

Bob: Every life matters. Each is a gift. We will never know the blessings they bring if we abort them.

Alex: Women, families, and

Matthew: I am Pro-Life and Proud! My parents were Pro-Life; my true friends are Pro-Life; my family in Pro-Life. My Wish is that more Americans were Pro-Life & Proud. Abortion is NOT health care. Abortion is killing innocent, unborn babies. THANKS MOM & DAD FOR THE GIFTS OF LIFE & LOVE!

Dawn: Because God is.

What pro-lifers took away from President Trump's very pro-life State of the Union Address

From page 2

“fact-checking” in real time. (For a wonderful in-depth analysis, go to <http://bit.ly/2DzC5RE>.)

Contrast this with POLITICO's real-time analysis of the Democrats' pointed response delivered by Stacey Abrams who narrowly lost her bid to become governor Georgia. Her attacks were not only reported uncritically, POLITICO, for good measure, also tacked on additional criticisms of the President.

Again, the media as megaphone for pro-abortion Democrats.

*Let me directly quote the President:

There could be no greater contrast to the beautiful image of a mother holding her infant child than the chilling displays our Nation saw in recent days. Lawmakers in New York cheered with delight upon the passage of legislation that would allow a baby to be ripped from the mother's womb moments before birth. These are living, feeling, beautiful babies who will never get the chance to share their love and dreams with the world. And then, we had the case of the Governor of Virginia where he basically stated he would execute a baby after birth.

To defend the dignity of every person, I am asking the Congress to pass legislation to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother's womb.

Let us work together to build a culture that cherishes innocent life. And let us reaffirm a fundamental truth: all children — born and unborn — are made in the holy image of God.

As I wrote the day following the State of the Union address, when President Trump began talking about New York, the camera panned to pro-abortion Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY). It would be unfair to say Schumer's immediate response was a smirk, although it was close. It would not be unfair to say his

Republicans and Democrats is impossible to ignore.

For a long time we have described Democrats as “The Party of Death.”

We didn't realize they were just getting started. They also are attempting to stall/prevent votes on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The Democrats want

miraculously survive abortions is “a measure of reproductive justice.”

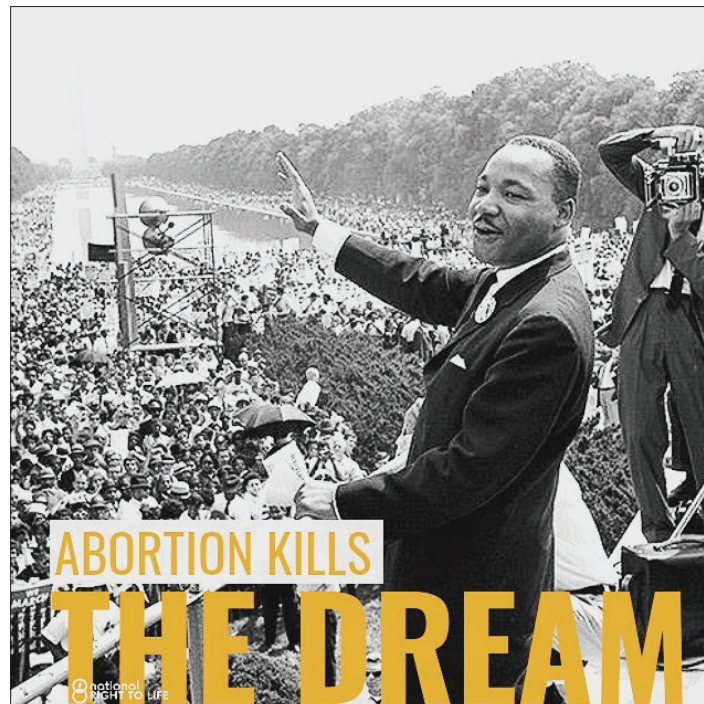
*To give you some idea of how hostile Democrats are to the President, Mr. Trump introduced ICE Special Agent Elvin Hernandez. Because of his work “and that of his colleagues, more than 300 women and girls have been rescued from horror and more than 1,500 sadistic traffickers have been put behind bars in the last year.”

Can anyone not applaud **this**?

A camera panned to pro-abortion mega-star, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), who paused, decided to conference with two colleagues of her own, and **then** stood to clap for Mr. Hernandez and his colleagues and the 300 women and girls saved from a horrendous fate. Finally

*As noted above the public very much approved of the SOTU. In writing about how “For the Second Year, CNN Discredits Own Poll Showing Positive SOTU Reaction,” Nicholas Fondacaro of *Newsbusters* explained, a total **76%** of the public polled by CNN either had a very positive response (59%) to the SOTU or a somewhat positive response (17%) Less than a quarter (23%) had a negative response to President Trump's remarks. These numbers were similar to those from *CBS News* which hates President Trump almost as much as *CNN*.

It was a great night for our pro-life President. A great night for our Movement. And a great night for the cause of unborn babies.



next move, was to comment in a whisper to a colleague, no doubt to tell him that this was untrue. Or, on second thought, Schumer could easily have said something like, “The Reproductive Health Act was a great victory for choice.”

When President called for Congress “to pass legislation to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother's womb,” Republicans stood and provided one of the loudest ovations of the night. Sometimes—and this was one of those times—the stark difference between

to make sure aborted babies who somehow survive are not treated. Wonderful people, are they not? (See Jennifer Popik's story on page one.)

What was Ms. Abrams counter? “America achieves a measure of reproductive justice in *Roe v. Wade*, but we must never forget, it is immoral to allow politicians to harm women and families to advance a political agenda.”

Think about that. To Democrats, saving fully developed unborn babies is “immoral.” To Democrats, not treating babies who

Is Abortion Really the Best We Can do for Women?

From page 20

percent of participants. Parents valued the baby as a part of their family and had opportunities to love, hold, meet, and cherish their child. Participants treasured the time together before and after the birth. Although emotionally difficult, parents articulated an empowering, transformative experience that lingers over time. (Emphasis added)

He also cites another study titled “We want what’s best for our baby: Prenatal Parenting of Babies with Lethal Conditions” from the *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health* that found:

“After the birth, and at the time of the baby’s death, parents expressed thankfulness that they were able to spend as much time with their baby as possible.”

In contrast, Professor Kaczor cites a meta-analysis [a statistical analysis that combines the results of multiple scientific studies] in a *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing* titled “The Travesty of Choosing after Positive Prenatal Diagnosis” as well as another study to state that:

“Couples experienced selective termination as

traumatic, regardless of the prenatal test revealing the fetal impairment or stage in

difficult situations. Unfortunately, doctors sometimes pressure women into getting

have come to the same conclusion: giving life rather than aborting is likely to lead to greater psychological benefit for women whose baby is doomed to die.



pregnancy in which the termination occurred.”

Professor Kaczor concludes from this:

“Women who receive a lethal fetal diagnosis deserve our compassion and support. Fortunately, organizations such as Caring to Term and Perinatal Hospice & Palliative Care provide information and support for these tremendously

abortions and do not share with them the information that is necessary to make an informed choice. Those who receive a lethal diagnosis deserve to know the truth that 97.5 percent of women who continue pregnancies when the baby is doomed to die have no regrets about doing so—and that abortion does not have similar outcomes. Numerous studies

CONCLUSION

Many years ago with my last child, I had abortion recommended to me by two different doctors but not because the baby had an adverse prenatal diagnosis. In my case, abortion was suggested because, due to my first husband’s severe psychosis, I would most likely wind up supporting my children alone.

The doctors’ prediction about my husband’s prognosis proved to be correct. But I was outraged that these doctors could even think about encouraging an abortion and adding more trauma to a difficult situation. And I was also outraged that they thought I was too powerless to raise 3 children on my own. I wasn’t.

Because of that experience, I now know the power of the simple phrase “I am here for you” and I have said it myself to other mothers, especially ones who were given an adverse prenatal diagnosis.

I know that choosing life is the ultimate victory!

Editor’s note. This appears on Nancy’s blog and is reposted with permission.

Was the Supreme Court's "Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt" decision based on sound research?

By Dave Andrusko

As we reported in multiple *NRL News Today* posts last week, the Supreme Court granted a Shreveport, Louisiana abortion facility's emergency stay request, which means, for now, Louisiana is again thwarted in its attempt to enforce Act 620. The 2014 law does no more than require that abortionists have admitting privileges at a local hospital if/when there are complications.

We focused on the obvious fact—obvious to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals—that the Louisiana law **does** differ substantially from Texas' 2014 law, HB 2, major parts of which the Supreme Court threw out in its 2016 *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, and therefore should be upheld. The question remains whether the High Court will go beyond issuing the emergency stay and grant certiorari for a full review of the case. The *New York Times* says, "The court is likely to hear a challenge to the law on the merits in its next term, which starts in October."

But there is the separate issue of how based in genuine research—as opposed to pro-abortion advocacy dressed up in academese—was the work the majority relied on in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* to come to the conclusion that HB 2 placed an "undue burden" on a woman's right to abortion.

So as part of this story, I am adding a story we first posted June 20, 2016 at *NRL News Today* that addressed that pivotal issue.

If you could work your way through Justice Stephen Breyer's 40 page majority

opinion, obliterating portions of Texas' HB 2, there are two inter-related conclusions that virtually leap off the page.

First, he comes close to charging Texas with bad faith in passing a law that requires abortion clinics to meet the



standards of ambulatory surgical centers and abortionists to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. (In a brief concurring opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said what Justice Breyer implied: "It is beyond rational belief that H.B. 2 could genuinely protect the health of women.")

Second, that the "data" Justice Breyer relied so heavily on represented the triumph of "science [or evidence] over ideology." Much of that data was generated by the Texas Policy Evaluation Project (TxPEP) and heavily promoted by Daniel Grossman, a rising star in pro-abortion circles.

Questioned by the *Associated Press* in a story that gushed over TxPEP in general, Grossman in particular, Grossman emailed, "It's very heartening to see that the Court really cared about the evidence and referenced a lot of high-quality studies in the ruling," adding modestly, "This

was a triumph of evidence over ideology."

Of course, if the mainstream media weren't so in the hip pocket of the Abortion Industry and its academic spear carriers, they might actually read those who have actually read

University of Texas at Austin a lot of money to set up a pro-abortion research center and enlist the services of Dr. Grossman, an abortion "expert" from the University of California at San Francisco, America's abortion training academy. One of Grossman's chief tasks was to develop "research" supporting their contention that Texas' 2013 law, HB 2, closed clinics, thereby placing an "undue burden" on women seeking abortion.

But most reporters and a majority of justices (with the conspicuous exception of Justice Alito) failed to ask some basic questions about the claims TxPEP was peddling. Yes, abortion clinics closed in Texas, but why? Was it because they were old, substandard clinics that were due to close anyway? Was it because of the provisions of HB 2 that were actually under court scrutiny, or because of other elements in the law that were not being challenged (such as the limits on chemical abortions)? Or was it because of other funding policies that Texas passed

what Grossman/TxPEP have written, such as Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, who heads NRLC's Department of Education and Research.

Earlier this week, Dr. O'Bannon talked at length with *Associated Press* reporter Paul Weber, pointing out some of the holes, leaps of logic, and unsupported inferences in the pro-abortion research. For his trouble, there was one quote from Dr. O'Bannon.

I asked him what he told Weber and for a summary of the four-part series he wrote about what the oral arguments in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* told us about the impact of HB 2.

The big-time backers of abortion [specifically the Susan T. Buffett Foundation, named for the wife of billionaire investor Warren Buffett who died in 2004] gave the

Democrats reach new depths in commitment to abortion on demand and infanticide

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Consider how far down the slippery slope Democrats have willfully come. In 2002, without a single dissenting vote, Congress approved the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (BAIPA), subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush and codified as 1 U.S.C. §8. Now, as Jennifer Popik, JD, NRLC's director of federal legislation, explains in a story that begins on page one, it's been a battle in both Houses of Congress to get unanimous consent for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Lacking that, pro-lifers will need to use a different mechanism to get a vote.

So why the need for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 4712)? Jennifer Popik lays the case out in detail in that page one story. Suffice it say among other reasons, things had gotten worse. Think Kermit Gosnell, for starters, who, according to prosecutors, killed hundreds of babies born alive.

When considering where the Democratic Party now is, you might say Hillary Clinton was the leader of the pack, the elected official who truly was "ahead of her time." No, I don't mean in her unyielding support for partial-birth abortion while a member of the Senate. She was just one of the pack. I'm referring rather to a brand of abortion extremism so toxic it makes your jaw hit the table.

In her famous third presidential debate with then-candidate Donald Trump, Clinton did not deny she had voted against the ban on partial-birth abortions while in the Senate. PBAs are a technique so violent I'm guessing there are only a handful of abortionists in the entire world

willing to puncture a mostly delivered child at the base of her skull and vacuum out her brains. But Clinton and her entourage took umbrage when Mr. Trump called them out for their abortion extremism.

As does the anti-life contingent today when they feint outrage when accused of

supporting what they support—abortion until birth and minimal-to-no care for a baby would survives an abortion.

We must call them out—each time and every time—for atrocities that in a saner time would shame every single pro-abortion Democrat.



“We have to stand up against this radical legislation to protect the rights of all infants. This is not a partisan issue, it is simply what is right to do.”

-Rep. Jackie Walorski on the House floor in support of the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act

So why have pro-abortion Democrats gone off the deep end now?

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But that baby girl was “wanted.” Thus, Tran fed her.

Gov. Northam was not about to back down from his soft-on-infanticide remarks on WTOP radio. His solution was to tout his credentials as a pediatric neurologist: “I have devoted my life to caring for children and insinuation otherwise is shameful and disgusting.”

*Without getting off our single-issue focus, let me state the super-abundantly obvious. Being very, very, very “progressive” is now the hallmark of House of Representatives Democrats. As Tran’s bill, and the support she received for it from fellow Virginia Democrats, extremism is now in the DNA of many-to-most younger Democrats. That they would be in favor of unlimited abortion and laissez

faire (at best) on infanticide is part of the package.

*It is (the worst possible) “symbol” of an increased number of female Democrats winning seats in state houses and Congress. They may agree on nothing else (actually, I’m guessing they agree on almost **everything** else) but they all agree they should salute the flag of “reproductive health care.” Although there might be a dissenter, here or there, there is no room for genuine disagreement.

They have uncritically accepted the mantra that the ability to “space” their children is what has allowed them to succeed. To challenge this secular article of faith is received the same way they would respond to hearing someone declare the earth is

flat. How could **anyone** be so ignorant?!

*President Trump is pro-life. What his administration has done in just two years is amazing. The response of pro-abortion Democrats who already hate him for multiple other reasons? Double-down, triple-down on support for “abortion rights.”

Take that, Donald Trump. One more...

*Presidential aspirations. You can bet your mortgage Hillary Clinton will run again. And the slew of pro-abortion Democrats who have already announced plans to run (not to mention all the others yet to make it formal) all worship at the same abortion-on-demand shrine.

Remember when then-candidate Trump called Clinton’s bluff? When he said

“With what Hillary is saying, in the ninth month, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby,” most of the media and all the Democrats cried foul.

The only thing more certain than a third run by Hillary Clinton is that the 2020 Democratic platform will promote abortion as the party has never boosted it before. And rather than crying foul, they will respond, “And proud of it!”

What to do? Organize, work, spread the truth.

Virginia’s elections are this November. If Democrats assume control of both houses, a bill at least as extreme as New York’s will be on the desk of Gov. Northam within weeks.

Forearmed is forewarned.

Was the Supreme Court’s “Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt” decision based on sound research?

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years earlier, that abortionists were retiring, or even that demand for abortion was dropping in Texas the way it was in most of the rest of the country?

I asked Dr. O’Bannon if it would be fair to say the majority in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* pretty much took Grossman’s claims at face value, accepting them

more or less as gospel.

Yes, but clearly not Justice Alito. He was very pointed and very specific in his questioning at the oral arguments. The attorney representing the abortion “providers” stumbled badly, failing to give substantive answers to his questions. In his dissent, Justice Alito “researched the

research.” He properly challenged claims about clinic capacity, travel times, and unproven assertions about the number, timing, and reasons the clinics closed.

Did Dr. O’Bannon not see a role for research in abortion-related cases?

Of course there is a role. Research is fine when it illuminates an

issue. But the research the majority relied upon in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* was crafted to protect the interests of the abortion industry with scant attention to the legitimate health and safety issues of Texas women, let alone unborn babies.

An “unfathomable” Senate debate: whether to treat babies born alive after a “failed” abortion

Editor’s note. On February 4 Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) asked the Senate for unanimous consent to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. If enacted, the bill would extend federal legal protection to babies who are born alive during an abortion. However, Senate Democrats, led by Patty Murray (D-WA), objected, stalling the bill for the time being. (The bill has also been stymied in the House.)

The following are the remarks delivered on the floor by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa). Along with other pro-life Republican senators, she spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. President, I rise today very, very disheartened, and I do want to thank the junior Senator from Nebraska [Ben. Sasse] for having this very difficult discussion on the floor of the Senate.

As my colleague from Nebraska was speaking, I felt a tightness in my chest. I am a mom. I have been through

childbirth, and I can’t imagine anyone taking my child, setting her aside, and then having a discussion on whether she



Sen. Joni Ernst

should live or die. I can’t imagine that. I can’t imagine, after having such a precious thing as a child brought into

the world, having these odious discussions of whether she should live. I can’t imagine putting a baby through that.

So I am disheartened and I am absolutely appalled by the debate we have in front of us—a debate I would have once considered unfathomable on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Many have often referred to this as the world’s greatest deliberative body, but let me be clear, folks. There is nothing great, there is nothing moral or even humane about the discussion we have before us today. Over the past week, we have witnessed the absolutely ugly truth about the far-reaching grasp of the abortion industry and its increasingly radicalized political agenda. Politicians have not only defended aborting a child while a woman is in labor but have gone so far as to support the termination of a child after his or her birth—a child—a baby.

Rationality, decency, and basic human compassion have fallen by the wayside.

Somehow this conversation has devolved so completely that a bill prohibiting the murder of children who are born alive—a bill that simply prohibits infanticide—has tonight been blocked on the floor of the Senate. We have moved beyond all common sense, and this body can no longer unanimously condemn murder. We face a moral crisis when this body refuses to acknowledge the repugnancy and savagery of infanticide.

This assault on human dignity cannot stand. I urge my colleagues to set aside their partisanship and, instead, defend the most basic values of compassion and decency that should define our society. We can and we must do better, folks.

Again, I thank the junior Senator from the great State of Nebraska for his leadership on this issue, and I call on my colleagues to bring this commonsense legislation to the Senate floor for a vote.