



national **RIGHT TO LIFE** NEWS

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“Do you want to see some more?” Reflections on the impact of CMP’s six undercover Planned Parenthood videos

By Dave Andrusko

By the time you read this story, the Center for Medical Progress may have already released a seventh uncover video in which its investigators interview a high ranking Planned Parenthood official. Anyone who has watched parts of even one understand why each video begins with this disclaimer: “Some viewers may find this content disturbing.”

This warning was important for videos one through four and video six. But it was absolutely imperative for video five whose

images I cannot erase from my mind.

For those who may not be up to watching medical



assistants handling laboratory “specimens”—the body parts from babies aborted in the early to late second trimester—you

can read the full transcript at centerformedicalprogress.org.

Where to begin? First, you will read everywhere in the media that number five was “like previous videos,” supposedly “highly edited.” Compare the video and the transcript and decide for yourself. (Hint: the video does not leave misleading impressions, which is what the news account are intended for you to come away believing.)

See “Reflections,” page 38

2016 Presidential Candidates on Defunding Abortion Providers: Do you know where they stand?

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Following the release of undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood’s trafficking of baby parts procured from their lucrative abortion business, pro-life Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) introduced S. 1881, a bill which would end all federal funding of the nation’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, with the money being given instead to other women’s health service providers.

On August 3, 2015, U.S. Senators voted 53-46 to

advance this bill. Sixty votes were needed for advancement. Two Democrats voted to advance the legislation, which was opposed by a single Republican. One pro-life senator was absent and another pro-life senator changed his vote to “no” at the last minute so that he could later ask for reconsideration.

One of the individuals pictured is likely to be elected President in 2016. In light

See “Candidates,” page 32



National Right to Life Academy Students and Summer Interns with pro-life Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ).

Editorials

July 14, the day everything changed

While it would be an exaggeration to say, even rhetorically, that it was the day the world was turned upside down, it is not an overstatement in the least to state that the politics of abortion were forever altered.

It was on Tuesday July 14 that the Center for Medical Progress unveiled a shocking, stomach-turning undercover video where investigators, posing as “tissue” procurers, talked with Deborah Nucatola, senior director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA).

The setting was nothing short of surreal. The CMP investigators met for lunch with Dr. Nucatola at a restaurant in Los Angeles.

Between bites of salad and sips of red wine, she talked about livers (“and always as many intact livers as possible”), lungs (“Yesterday was the first time [a buyer said a client] wanted lungs”), and brains (“The kind of rate-limiting step of the procedure is the calvarium, the head is basically the biggest part. Most of the other stuff can come out intact”).

But Dr. Nucatola was just getting warmed up. Here is a quote from the video which captures perfectly Dr. Nucatola’s soul-numbing attitude and total insensitivity to what she is saying—and about whom. The context is how to get the baby’s body parts out intact, and what Planned Parenthood is willing to do to get around the obstacles posed by the “big issue”—the brain:

[Y]ou’re just kind of cognizant of where you put your graspers, you try to intentionally go above and below the thorax, so that, you know, we’ve been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I’m not gonna crush that part, I’m gonna basically crush below, I’m gonna crush above, and I’m gonna see if I can get it all intact. And with the calvarium [the skull], in general, some people will actually try to change the presentation so that it’s not vertex [head first], because



when it’s vertex presentation you never have enough dilation at the beginning of the case, unless you have real, huge amounts of dilation to deliver an intact calvarium.

What to do? They convert to a breech—feet first—delivery!

How can you tell the dynamics have fundamentally changed? Here are just four illustrations.

#1. Senate Democrats were able to filibuster a bill that would end all federal funding of PPFA, the nation’s largest abortion provider, and its affiliates. The vote to advance S. 1881 was 53 to 46. (60 votes were needed to “invoke cloture”)

However, 55 current senators actually support advancing the bill. One pro-life senator was absent, and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) switched his vote to opposition only so that he would be eligible to enter a motion to reconsider, as he promptly did.

See “July 14,” page 39

“It is a baby, and dead”

In a course of 20 or 30 or even forty years of commitment, veteran pro-lifers could be forgiven if they thought they’d seen it all. And, in a limited sense, maybe we had, but surely not the American public.

They were innocent of abortion’s utter brutality, naïve about the viciousness that permeates the death peddler known as Planned Parenthood, and patsies for the soulless inanity that abortion is about “choice.” But not anymore.

Many hundreds of people, including me, have striven in vain to convey why the six undercover videos recorded by The Center for Medical Progress have created such a whirlwind of controversy, and in the course shifted the abortion debate off its customary axis.

It is not enough to cite what can only be described as macabre: high ranking Planned Parenthood officials blasély conversing about hearts and lungs and livers and skulls and how best to fiddle around with the abortion technique so as to harvest these organs intact. A kind of morally inverted “waste not, want not.” That stirs

revulsion, but what we are witnessing goes far beyond that.

Early on, Ross Douthat, a columnist for the *New York Times*, offered remarkable insights in “Looking Away From Abortion.” Douthat was especially astute in debunking the false parallelism that PPFA and all abortionists trot out: all surgery is bloody and abortion is surgery so if no one gets upset by removing a gall bladder, why get upset by removing an unborn baby in parts—or intact?

Pro-abortionists tell us, “It’s unsettling, yes, but just because it’s gross doesn’t prove it’s wrong.” Douthat responded

Which is true, but in this case not really true enough. Because real knowledge isn’t purely theoretical; it’s the fruit of experience, recognition, imagination, life itself.

And the problem these videos create for Planned Parenthood isn’t just a generalized queasiness at surgery and blood.

See “Dead,” page 44



From the President Carol Tobias

It's Time to Hug a Baby

The pro-life movement and most of the country have been horrified by the videos released by the Center for Medical Progress. They show various highly-placed Planned Parenthood officials discussing how they can secure and preserve intact body parts from unborn babies aborted in their facilities, then haggling over the price of those parts.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) immediately tried to discredit the videos. They insisted the videos had been “heavily edited,” despite the fact that the full video and transcript was easily obtainable. PPFA hired a high-powered PR firm to do damage control and there were veiled threats made to television stations to not show the videos.

There was also, of course, the expected defense of PPFA from the Obama administration, with White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest attacking the videos while admitting that no one in the White House had watched them. Hillary Clinton, currently the leading contender in the Democratic primary for president, told a reporter in New Hampshire that the videos were disturbing but quickly got back in line, defending PPFA.

A little more mystifying was the defense of Planned Parenthood by unions such as the AFL-CIO and the Services

Employees International Union (SEIU). They most likely did so because Democratic leaders and allies like the unions don't want to see a powerhouse like PPFA taken down just as the presidential election is heating up.

When the U.S. Senate tried to vote to defund PPFA, 44 Senate

found that 53% of the public had not even heard about the videos.

I'm sure you have talked about it, emailed links from NRL News Today stories about the videos to your family and friends, posted information on your Facebook page and other outlets. But we need to do

she wrote, “Even for those who support abortion rights, there is a stomach-churning aspect to the surreptitiously taped conversations with Planned Parenthood officials — the coldblooded discussion, between bites of salad and sips of red wine, of “less crunchy” techniques to obtain specimens, and the precise placement of “graspers” to avoid having to “crush” a valuable body part. If you hear this and fail to squirm, there is something wrong with you.”

In his column entitled, “I Don't Know if I'm Pro-Choice After Planned Parenthood Videos,” columnist Ruben Navarrette, Jr., started out, “For the last 30 years, I've supported abortion rights. This year may be different.”

There are a lot of people re-thinking abortion and their support of PPFA. We need to take every opportunity we can to reach them now.

What can we do? National Right to Life will mount a nationwide grassroots campaign to educate Americans on the atrocities committed by PPFA which kills hundreds of thousands of babies every year and traffics in their body parts.

National Right to Life is unique among pro-life groups in that we work at three levels—national, state, and local. With our dedicated 50 state affiliates and 3,000 chapters, we are able to penetrate into local communities like no other group can. We can get the



Carol and her niece Myla

Democrats used the filibuster to block the vote, leaving the abortion giant still the beneficiary of a *half-billion dollars* of our tax dollars.

And to no one's surprise, most in the “mainstream” media refused to air the videos or discuss them. Consequently, a few weeks after this all started, a Monmouth University poll

more. We need to make sure that **everyone** knows what Planned Parenthood does to innocent unborn children.

The videos have touched hearts, and hopefully opened some minds, about what is happening to our unborn children. At the same time Ruth Marcus defended PPFA in her Washington Post column,

Planned Parenthood's School for Scandal

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

Maybe you noticed it before, but with this latest batch of undercover videos, you're starting to get a really good look at exactly how it is that Planned Parenthood deals with scandal.

Showing remorse, re-examining its commitments, or giving serious thought to getting out the lucrative abortion business? Of course not. What you get is diversion, defiance, and a full-scale effort to shift the blame and (of course) change the subject.

Oh, there was PPFA President Cecile Richards' "apology" for the "tone" of Dr. Deborah Nucatola's remarks (though it was never specified what made Planned Parenthood's medical director's remarks insensitive or repellent). But there was not the slightest questioning of Planned Parenthood's purposes, its practices, or giving up its place as America's biggest abortion chain.

Instead, what we've seen is a textbook case of damage control, an effort to weather the storm, the playing out of a plan to get through the next few days and weeks and come out the other side fairly intact and fully operational.

Play the victim. What do you do when you're caught on camera casually talking about aborting "seventeen weekers," using "less crunchy" techniques so you can obtain intact hearts, livers, lungs, and joking about getting Lamborghinis for your efforts?

Why, you play the victim. It's not what you said, it's those nasty folks who recorded what you said!

Planned Parenthood called the people who exposed Planned

Parenthood's own barbarity "Extremists who oppose Planned Parenthood's mission and services are making outrageous and completely false claims. They are engaged in a fraud, and other claims they've made have been discredited and disproven." (PPFA Statement 8/4/15)

Planned Parenthood goes further in that statement and says that "... the latest tape shows an extremely offensive intrusion and lack of respect for

If anyone is showing "a total lack of compassion and dignity," it would seem to be Planned Parenthood, who joke about fetal parts in a glass dish on a light table and haggle over procurement prices for intact fetuses over a few glasses of red wine.

Dispute what no one can deny. Even though people can read or see for themselves the disturbingly casual and flippant way employees treat and talk

People saw for themselves, in context, every time Planned Parenthood staffers talked about reimbursement, adjusting procedures to obtain more "intact specimens," looking for fetal hearts and lungs and livers and brains in collection dishes. As they culled one baby's remains, the PPFA official randomly called "And another boy!"

Read through the full transcripts and you won't find portions where Planned



women, with footage of medical tissue in a lab. These extremists show a total lack of compassion and dignity for women's most personal medical decisions."

So far, it isn't the least bit clear how what CMP did constitutes "an extremely offensive intrusion and lack of respect for women." To call this offensive or disrespectful would seem to turn on recognizing the humanity of the unborn child, or the special bond between a mother and her offspring, neither of which Planned Parenthood customarily grants.

about the tiny bodies and body parts of babies they've just killed in their clinics, Planned Parenthood tries to tell people that somehow there is other "unedited" tape that presents a different and somehow exculpatory picture.

The complaint about "edited videos" was one that Planned Parenthood would repeat and many in the news media would pick up over the next few weeks. One problem. CMP made the full videos and transcripts available from the beginning.

Planned Parenthood employees talk tenderly about the children whose bodies they've just ripped apart, where they speak solemnly about the tragedy of lives lost, where they question the morality of taking unborn lives at ten, twenty weeks gestation, harvesting their organs, and getting paid for it. Nope, none of those hints of humanity were "edited out."

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Washington Post Fact Checker gives “Three Pinocchios” to Planned Parenthood’s “3%” assertion

By Dave Andrusko

I recently read a terrific post with this spot-on headline, “There’s no cover for Planned Parenthood anymore.” The reference was to the deeply disturbing truths unveiled by a series of six undercover videos filmed by the Center for Medical Progress, which

for the trees. Here’s the gist of her column with representative quotes.

The nub of the problem is that Planned Parenthood has a convoluted way of making it seem that its abortion “services” represent only a miniscule percentage of the

or how extensive the service or procedure is.

Yee gives the 3% claim “three Pinocchios.” Pinocchios refer to how deceptive an assertion is, with four Pinocchios representing the highest degree of distortion. Three Pinocchios

handful of Planned Parenthood clinics offer on-site prenatal services, making it clear that “parenthood” is not one of the organization’s real priorities.

Two other points. First, in a February 2011, factsheet entitled “Planned Parenthood by the Numbers,” PPFA repeats the claim that 3% of its “health services” are abortions. But it also admits that the percentage of its clients receiving “abortion services” is actually 12%. That means that not one in every 33 women, but nearly one out of every **eight** women walking through the door of a Planned Parenthood clinic has an abortion.

Second, PPFA’s focus on prenatal “services” rather than prenatal clients makes it even harder to get a precise calculation of the percentage of pregnant women getting abortions. Yee writes

The 2013 [annual PPFA] report does not identify the number of prenatal clients, but Planned Parenthood numbers from 2009 give us an idea of how these numbers can differ. Planned Parenthood reported 7,021 prenatal clients in 2009, but also reported in its 2010 annual report that it provided 40,489 prenatal services in 2009.

Planned Parenthood clinics also refer pregnant patients to outside providers for prenatal services. A spokeswoman recently

See “Pinocchios,” page 25



has caused “cracks” in the “edifice.”

But it could have included a myriad of other examples of how Planned Parenthood is in deep, deep trouble. On August 3, for example, *NRL News Today* wrote about the hit PPFA’s public image has taken. All of a sudden PPFA doesn’t seem quite so invincible.

And then, lo and behold, in last Wednesday’s *Washington Post*, the newspaper’s Fact Checker dissected one of PPFA’s most egregiously misleading claims. The headline? “For Planned Parenthood abortion stats, ‘3 percent’ and ‘94 percent’ are both misleading.”

Frankly, I was stunned. For years, Dr. Randall K. O’Bannon has written what seems like scores of stories debunking the notion that abortion is an insignificant, tiny “service” provided by the good-hearted folks at Planned Parenthood. But now.....

You could easily quibble with a thing or two in Michelle Ye Hee Yee’s analysis but you don’t want to miss the forest

“health services” it provides—the aforementioned 3%. That and its unwillingness to provide a detailed breakdown of its “clients, referrals and sources of revenues” leaves the public in the dark.

Yee goes through a series of steps to reach this conclusion (which Dr. O’Bannon has documented in even greater detail):

The 3 percent figure that Planned Parenthood uses is misleading, comparing abortion services to every other service that it provides. The organization treats each service — pregnancy test, STD test, abortion, birth control — equally. Yet there are obvious difference between a surgical (or even medical) abortion, and offering a urine (or even blood) pregnancy test. These services are not all comparable in how much they cost

means (according to the *Post*) that a statement has “Significant factual error and/or obvious contradictions.”

Yee (perhaps to seem “balanced”) concludes that a conclusion drawn by another pro-life organization—“In 2013, abortions made up 94% of Planned Parenthood’s pregnancy services”—is also misleading.

Yee admits that the math does work when one is talking about those service, which by definition, involve pregnant women: 327,653 abortions, 18,684 prenatal services, and 1,880 adoption referrals to other agencies. “Using this measure, abortions do account for 94 percent of the combined three categories,” Yee concludes.

But her conclusion that this is “misleading” is at least partly (if not principally) because “we don’t know how many pregnant women Planned Parenthood serves every year or how many they refer to private providers for prenatal care, because the organization does not report that information.” Only a

Five states have now cut funding to Planned Parenthood

By Dave Andrusko

And then there were five.

In rapid succession, Utah and Arkansas last week became the fourth and fifth states to defund Planned Parenthood.

On Friday pro-life Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson “moved to cut the state’s funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and ordered the Department of Human Services to sever its Medicaid contract with the abortion provider,” *Reuters* reported.

Referring to the six undercover videos brought to the public’s attention by the Center for Medical Progress, Gov. Hutchinson said

‘It is apparent that after recent revelations on the actions of Planned Parenthood, that this organization does not represent the values of the people of our state and Arkansas is better served by terminating any and all existing contracts with them.’

Also on Friday Utah Gov. Gary Herbert instructed the Utah Department of Health to “stop distributing federal funds to the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah,” *Deseret News* reported.

Utah Department of Health spokesperson Tom Hudachko

told the newspaper that the department’s contracts allow for the department to terminate the agreement provided there is a 30 day written notice.

Senate President Wayne



*Louisiana Pro-life Gov.
Bobby Jindal*

Niederhauser said he supported the governor’s decision, anticipating that the issue of Planned Parenthood funding would come up in the next legislative session. According to *Deseret News* reporter Daphne Chen

‘I know there would be efforts to prohibit that. The governor is obviously one step ahead of us,’

Niederhauser said.

He said other groups should be getting the federal dollars available.

‘I wouldn’t support any more money going to Planned Parenthood. I think we ought to be looking at other organizations that are qualified,’ Niederhauser said.

Utah and Arkansas will join Alabama, Louisiana, and New Hampshire, as *NRL News Today* has previously reported.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal was the first to announce that his state had “terminate[d] Planned Parenthood’s Medicaid provider agreement.” Referencing those same shocking videos released by the Center for Medical Progress, Gov. Jindal said

‘In recent weeks, it has been shocking to see reports of the alleged activities taking place at Planned Parenthood facilities across the country. Planned Parenthood does not represent the values of the people of Louisiana and shows a fundamental disrespect for human life. It has become clear that this is not

an organization that is worthy of receiving public assistance from the state.’

New Hampshire was next. Its Executive Council voted 3-2 to deny contracts to two Planned Parenthood offices in the Granite state. “A contract for \$253,900 with the Planned Parenthood of NNE [Northern New England] in Claremont was denied, as was a contract for \$385,000 with the organization’s Manchester office,” according to *New Hampshire Union Leader* reporter Dave Solomon.

Then Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley announced the state would cut Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood. He said

‘The deplorable practices at Planned Parenthood have been exposed to Americans, and I have decided to stop any association with the organization in Alabama. As a doctor and Alabama’s governor, the issue of human life, from conception to birth and beyond, is extremely important. I respect human life and do not want Alabama to be associated with an organization that does not.’

It’s Time to Hug a Baby *From page 3*

message to tens of millions of people and urge them to help us stop tax dollars from fattening the coffers of any abortion provider.

And what powerful image can we use to get our message out? Babies, of course!

I challenge all our readers to take the “hug a baby” challenge. Post a picture of yourself holding a baby on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and any other outlet you have access to.

Slogans? How about “You can’t put a price on my baby” or “Love, No Matter What” or “Life is Priceless.” Do you have a sonogram photo of your unborn child or grandchild? Use that and say “Planned Parenthood didn’t get this baby” or “Planned Parenthood can’t have this baby’s parts.” **For anything you do, please add the hashtag “cantputapriceonlife”.**

And when you take the

Hug a Baby challenge, send a contribution to National Right to Life to help our nationwide campaign to educate on Planned Parenthood.

We’ll use flyers, radio ads, bulletin inserts, and many other ways that we can get information about Planned Parenthood into the hands of people who will care—once they know.

Babies represent life, love, happiness, optimism, innocence,

goodness, and the future. Whereas Planned Parenthood brings death to more than 330,000 unborn children every year and darkness to the lives of their mothers, let’s put before America the happy smiling faces of babies who need us to be their voices.

You will hear more about this campaign in the next few days. Start taking those photos and get ready to show the world that “You Can’t Put a Price on Life.”

Planned Parenthood's School for Scandal

From page 4

Planned Parenthood would rather you edit those details from your memory.

Marshal the media and your political allies. When Planned Parenthood comes under fire, it's usually only a matter of time before their friends in media and Congress trot out to defend their reputation. Like automatons, they repeat the same talking points, using whatever tools they have at their disposal to ensure that the abortion group stays happy and well funded.

A few examples should suffice. *The Houston Chronicle*,

contributor" to the *Austin American-Statesman* (who just also happens to have worked for Planned Parenthood at one point), classed the videos as "hoaxes" and said that the "easily debunked and obviously edited videos ... proved nothing more than Planned Parenthood executives eat salad and drink wine."

Dismissing all the details about haggling over costs, the possibility of changing abortion methods to get more "intact" specimens, and cavalier attitudes displayed by clinic workers dissecting newly aborted babies, Stanford

releases, failed on 8/3/15 because of a filibuster. All but two Democrats voted against it, keeping the legislation from moving forward.

Democrats in the House were among those urging that the Justice Department investigate, not Planned Parenthood, but CMP! Attorney General Loretta Lynch said she would "review all of the information and determine what the appropriate steps moving forward would be" (*Politico*, 7/23/15).

President Obama's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has gone even further. On

reporters posing as a buyer asks an interesting question about how well they are prepared to address the legal issues surrounding reimbursement for the delivery of fetal tissue. The answer given by Savita Ginde, the medical director for Planned Parenthood's Rocky Mountain affiliate, is most revealing.

Ginde: We've got it figured out, that he knows that—because we talked to him in the beginning, we were like, we don't want to get called on, you know, selling fetal parts across states....

A few seconds later she says, **"I'm confident that our lawyers, legal will make sure that we're not put in that situation."**

Obvious from this discussion and from earlier conversations with Drs. Deborah Nucatola and Mary Gatter is that the medical directors have been briefed by Planned Parenthood as to the letter of the law.

It is remarkable that Planned Parenthood is so seriously concerned about the legal issues, but shows little sensitivity whatsoever to the deeper moral issue.

Their long-cultured habit of ignoring of the unborn child's humanity blinds them to the horror and revulsion experienced by the general public when they see staffers at Planned Parenthood so flippantly and casually examining the body parts of just dismembered children, working out deals to transfer

See "Scandal," page 45



referring in its 8/12/15 editorial to "the current video scam" and the "obsession with defunding Planned Parenthood." It attributes the uproar, again, to "a series of surreptitiously recorded, heavily edited videos." They claim that nothing in the transcripts released "so far" indicates that Planned Parenthood has done anything illegal. As if legality were the only problem.

Democratic strategist Jason Stanford, a "regular

says "What we know now is nothing new: Sometimes Planned Parenthood clients donate fetal tissue for research, and Planned Parenthood gets reimbursed for expenses" (*Ad Express & Daily Iowegian*, 8/9/15)

The politicians Planned Parenthood helped put in office showed they could be counted on in a crisis. A vote to defund Planned Parenthood in the Senate, scheduled in the wake of the recent video

Wednesday, August 12, 2015, an HHS spokesman revealed that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a federal agency, had been in contact with officials in Louisiana and Alabama, warning them their efforts to defund Planned Parenthood may be illegal (*Reuters*, 8/12/15).

Have your lawyers find and exploit every legal loophole.

At about eight minutes into the fourth video, one of the

New Mexico Court of Appeals overturns ruling that allowed assisted suicide

By Dave Andrusko

In January 2014, Bernalillo County District Court Judge Nan Nash struck the decades-old New Mexico law which protected the state's citizens from assisted suicide.

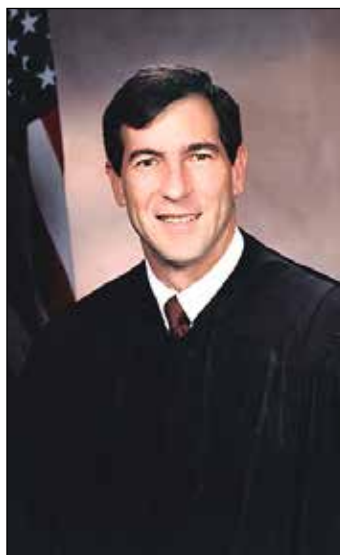
Ruling in a lawsuit brought by the ACLU of New Mexico and Compassion & Choices, Judge Nash concluded that killing a terminally ill patient with that person's consent is a "fundamental right" under the state constitution.

Last Tuesday, in a 142-page ruling, the New Mexico Court of Appeals handed the "right to die" movement a stinging defeat when it held that Judge Nash had erred in concluding that "aid in dying is a fundamental liberty interest."

"We are not persuaded by Plaintiffs' position that a modern desire to hasten death under the rubric of medical privacy can be inferred to take priority over the express fundamental interest in life," it concluded. "Any development of the importance that society may eventually attribute to dying with autonomy and dignity remains inferential and secondary to life..."

Judge Timothy Garcia added, "At its core, aid in dying challenges the longstanding and historic interest in the protection of life until its natural

end as well as the equally longstanding prohibition against assisting another in hastening that process." Further, "This treasured right to life is not only considered sacred under the common law



Judge Timothy Garcia

but is also recognized as an inalienable right, even for those condemned to death."

The court split 2-1 with Judge Miles Hanisee joining Judge Garcia and Judge Linda Vanzi dissenting. Each wrote a separate opinion.

Judge Nash's ruling was especially dangerous because "it provided for no 'safeguards' whatever, not even a written and witnessed consent by the

victim," according to Jennifer Popik, JD, of NRLC's Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics. "Nor does it even require that the victim be an adult. A doctor may kill a 'mentally-competent, terminally ill' minor without the consent of or even notice to the child's parent."

The underlying lawsuit was filed in 2012 by two physicians at the University of New Mexico Hospital – Dr. Katherine Morris and Dr. Aroop Mangalik. They were subsequently joined by patient Aja Riggs, who had been diagnosed with uterine cancer. (Riggs' cancer is in remission.)

The plaintiffs wanted the courts to declare "that a state law banning assisted suicide did not apply to physicians who prescribe lethal doses of medication to the terminally ill," according to the Associated Press.

Garcia relied heavily on *Glucksberg v. Washington*, a unanimous 1997 U.S. Supreme Court decision. According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, Garcia said "it was the only case to directly answer the question 'whether aid in dying is a constitutional right, fundamental or otherwise.'"

"Despite its share of criticism over the years ... no court, federal or state, has held that

the concept of death ... is rooted within the protections of bodily integrity under the constitution," Garcia wrote.

The *Journal's* Scott Sandlin wrote that in Hanisee's concurring opinion,

he said the state Constitution incorporated "no right – fundamental or otherwise – to legal narcotics medically prescribed for the sole purpose of causing the immediate death of a patient." He also said a different branch of government "is vastly better suited to consider and resolve the lawfulness of aid in dying in New Mexico than is the judiciary."

In her dissent, Judge Vanzi argued that "Other choices and decisions central to personal autonomy have long enjoyed the status of constitutionally protected liberty interests." She added that the New Mexico state Constitution's due process clause "affords New Mexico citizens a fundamental, or at least important, liberty right to aid in dying from a willing physician."

Outraged by the Planned Parenthood Videos? Hillary Is Not Your Candidate

By Andrew Bair

Hillary Clinton has a trust problem. A recent nationwide Quinnipiac poll found 57% of respondents did not consider the former Secretary of State and presidential candidate to be “honest,” compared to just 37% who found her “trustworthy”

Reinforcing the impression the majority of Americans has about Clinton is her flip-flop on the shocking undercover videos of Planned Parenthood associates harvesting and trafficking the body parts of aborted babies.

In an interview with the *Union Leader*, Clinton said of the videos, “I have seen pictures from them and I obviously find them disturbing.”

Yet days later, Clinton released a video message urging her backers to “support and stand with Planned Parenthood.” She was so “disturbed” by Planned Parenthood officials offering to use “less crunchy” abortion methods in order to harvest intact organs that she demanded Planned Parenthood retain 100% of its federal funding?

That’s not the reaction of someone who is genuinely disturbed by the practices seen on the videos.

Will Clinton at least support a Congressional probe into the “disturbing” practices by Planned Parenthood exposed in the videos from the Center for Medical Progress? Surely, when serious questions surround an organization receiving hundreds of millions of federal dollars, the organization should be asked to explain.

Clinton’s abortion advocacy is no secret. Her commitment to abortion on demand is

longstanding and unwavering. It extends more than two decades of her time in public life.

Even so, Clinton made sure to reassure her pro-abortion allies that nothing had changed—thus



Pro-abortion Hillary Clinton

the YouTube video. They know as president she will oppose any and all pro-life legislation, nominate only pro-abortion judges, and stand firm on funding for abortion providers.

Abortion advocates know that during the campaign, no matter how Clinton may seem to ever-so-slightly hedge her support for abortion on demand, she shares their dedication to legal abortion without limits and, if elected, her administration’s policy will reflect that.

In the same interview with the *Union Leader*, Clinton repeated the hackneyed claim that abortion should be “safe, legal, and rare.” Time and time again, Clinton falls back on it to make her position abortion sound reasonable. It’s dishonest, but it sounds

soothing and “reasonable” to those who don’t know that her policies demonstrate a completely opposite view.

Does someone who wants to reduce abortions insist on

not. It’s just another example of dishonesty on the part of Hillary Clinton.

Clinton has yet to support any meaningful limit on abortion. As a U.S. senator, she even voted against the federal ban on partial-birth abortions!

Why should abortion proponents want abortion to be rare? Jessica DeBalzo, in an article for the pro-abortion blog RH Reality Check argues, “...There is no need to suggest that abortion be rare. To say so implies a value judgment, promoting the idea that abortion is somehow distasteful or immoral and should be avoided.”

Another RH Reality Check writer Aimee Thorne-Thomsen wonders, “Do we dare admit that increasing the number of abortions might be not only good for women’s health, but also moral and just?”

In one of her first speeches as a 2016 presidential candidate, Clinton lamented, “Far too many women are denied access to reproductive health care (aka abortion).”

She also noted that expanding access to reproductive health care remains among “the unfinished business of the 21st century.” That certainly does not sound like someone who wants to make abortion rare.

The Planned Parenthood videos have put the brutal reality of abortion front and center for the entire nation to see. Americans are horrified by what happens to unborn babies at the hands of the abortion industry.

funding abortion providers; especially the nation’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, whose market share of the abortion industry grows by the year?

Clinton also opposes the Hyde Amendment, which has had a huge impact in reducing abortions. By conservative estimates, the Hyde Amendment has saved over one million babies from abortion.

The pro-abortion movement jettisoned the “rare” portion of the “safe, legal, and rare” abortion defense years ago. In 2012, the Democratic Party officially eliminated it from the language of their platform.

Does she really oppose her political party and the views of her supporters in the pro-abortion movement? Of course

Couple suffers miscarriage after pregnancy announcement goes viral

By Nancy Flanders

Just one day after their pregnancy surprise video went viral, YouTube couple Sam and Nia turned the camera back on to share their heartbreak over losing their baby. The miscarriage came as a complete shock to the couple who were beyond thrilled to learn they were expecting child number three.

Their adorable pregnancy announcement video was different from any other since Sam was the one who told Nia she was pregnant.

He snuck a sample of her urine onto a pregnancy test and could hardly believe his eyes when the test showed two little lines signifying a positive result. The sweetness continued as he was so excited to be the one to tell his wife she was pregnant instead of the usual vice versa.

But within days, their joy turned to grief as Nia experienced her first miscarriage, and the couple felt the pain of losing a baby.

Then Sam and Nia decided to use their pain to do God's work and reach out to other parents struggling with the same grief of child loss through

know that women felt that way."

Nia told viewers that the hardest part was the feeling of emptiness and knowing that her

This little baby has already made a big difference to millions of people, too. Over 12 million have viewed the couple's first video, and after only three days, their heartbeat video has garnered nearly three million.

After they lost the baby, Sam and Nia both held their two children, and Nia describes feeling her daughter's heartbeat as she slept and thinking about how a similar heartbeat was once inside her womb.

Sam and Nia

note that this is the first time they have truly grieved together and the experience has brought them closer. They say they mourn along with all other parents suffering miscarriages, and that they will continue to try for more children and grow their family.

Editor's note. This appeared at liveactionnews.org and is reprinted with permission.



miscarriage.

"We were so happy. And we were just laughing [...] We were just so overjoyed. And it was like a huge celebration. And then it just, bam, it just hit us like a bomb," Nia said in the video called Our Baby Had a Heartbeat. "And those of you who have experienced miscarriage before, I can relate now. I have felt my womb empty out. I never, ever, ever

baby is gone.

"I just hope this video continues to be a way for God to shine His light to the world through us," said Sam. "This is a time when, especially the U.S., needs that light and God knew that, and this video is just getting so big. [...] this baby came along, made us happier than we can remember. [...] She came and made the biggest difference in our lives."

The day after the debate over Planned Parenthood funding: Some thoughts

By Dave Andrusko

The most important takeaway from the August 3 Senate vote on S. 1881 is not—repeat not—that the Democrats were able to block a bill that would end all federal funding of the nation’s largest abortion provider. While unfortunate, the inability of pro-lifers in the Senate to get 60 votes to “invoke cloture” (move the bill forward) is a mere bump in the road. Here’s what really matters.

#1. The vote was 53 to 46. But one pro-lifer was absent and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) switched his vote to opposition only so that he would be eligible to enter a motion to reconsider. So the real number is 55. Four years ago only 42 senators voted for the cutoff. Think about that for a second because

#2. That huge jump is primarily a reflection of your work at helping elect pro-life senators and the shock and horror engendered by the first four undercover videos filmed by the Center for Medical Progress. As ghastly and revolting as they were, there are many more to come. The

fifth video shows Planned Parenthood at its worst—so far. If anyone was genuinely on the fence—in or out of the U.S. Senate—this could well be the tipping point.

#3. Defenders of Planned Parenthood went to the attic and dusted off the old reliables. For



Pro-life Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), sponsor of S.1881

example, that pro-life Senate Republicans were pandering to the “most extreme anti-choicers”; that without Planned Parenthood massive numbers of women would not receive needed health care, and (of course); that there were more

important issues to occupy the Senate’s time.

From the viewpoint of PPFA’s most ardent supporters, you do what you have to even if it defies reason. But....

Only “extreme anti-choicers” grow nauseous watching and listening to leading PPFA executives paw through intact

variation on the “too big to fail” idea and is misleading from beginning to end.

And, honestly, is a discussion over infrastructure spending of more lasting significance than what a blatantly politicized organization—PPFA—can get away with because of almost uniform support by Democrats?

There are many others, here’s just one.

#4. In the most gentlemanly fashion, pro-life Sen. James Lankford (R-Ok.) refused to be browbeaten by the shrill and tiresome “war on women” mantra, or by the haughty declaration that no father ever has a voice in what happens to his unborn children.

He is the father of two daughters. I am the father of three daughters and a son. Like us, all fathers need to rise up to take a stand on behalf of the lives of their unborn children.

hearts and livers and lungs and brains? Really?

Only PPFA can provide basic health care? As was pointed out repeatedly, PPFA refers for mammograms, it does not (with perhaps one or two exceptions) actually perform them. It’s a

The Senate vote is the first of many steps in the journey to de-fund an organization whose viciousness toward unborn children is matched only by its willingness to traffic in their body parts.

Video has “parted the veil of antiseptic tidiness behind which the abortion industry has for so long operated”

By Dave Andrusko

When the controversy over the undercover videos taken of various Planned Parenthood officials first began, a colleague at work told me about a brief but powerful commentary delivered by *Fox News* Senior Political Analyst Brit Hume. He told me Mr. Hume’s commentary on Brett Baier’s “Special Report” captured the sheer horror and casual brutality on display in an undercover video of a meeting between a senior Planned Parenthood official and two investigators from the Center for Medical Progress and placed the revelations in their larger context.

He was right. Here is what Mr. Hume said [www.foxnews.com/on-air/special-report-brett-baier/videos#p/86927/v/4364599552001]:

Whatever comes of the revelations about Planned Parenthood and its participation in the traffic in fetal body parts, those revelations will have achieved one

thing: they have parted the veil of antiseptic tidiness behind which the abortion industry has for so long operated. The sight of a senior Planned

bare the essentially brutal nature of abortion. Let’s be blunt: abortion involves the extraction and killing of a human life, which within

that are pulled from a mother’s womb and crushed with forceps.

Oh, but oh-so-carefully, lest body parts that could later be sold are preserved. This gruesome procedure shows the extent to which we, as a people, have been anesthetized by the estimated 55 million—fifty-five million—abortions performed since the Supreme Court “discovered” a constitutional right to that procedure 42 years ago.

Will we as a nation not someday look upon that decision and what it has done to us, not to mention the 55 million, with horror and regret? One can only hope we will.

Editor’s note. The total number of abortion deaths is over 57 million.



Parenthood official, and a doctor to boot, discussing the market for fetal body parts in between bites of salad and sips of wine was stomach-turning.

That’s because it laid

a couple of weeks of pregnancy has a beating heart. Five weeks in, its hands and legs begin to grow. It is these tiny creatures, and too often ones that are far more developed,

Judges reject lawsuit against California law banning assisted suicide

By Dave Andrusko

On July 27, San Diego Superior Court Judge Gregory Pollack dismissed a lawsuit challenging California's law against assisted suicide (Penal Code 401). His decision will be appealed by the

old law for virtually the exact same reasons.

Judge Pollack had written, "To the extent that Penal Code 401 unfairly blocks the wishes of certain persons affected by

decision that still stands where a court in the U.S. has found that there's a fundamental right to physician assisted suicide," said Darrell Spence, Calif. Deputy Attorney General.

Judge Ernest Goldsmith agreed.

"This is extraordinary relief that would have enormous, far-reaching, life and death implications," Goldsmith said.

There were many interesting twists to the coverage of Judge Pollack's decision.

There was the element of surprise. Many pro-assisted suicide proponents assumed that the power of Brittany Maynard's story would be so overwhelming that many states would change their laws—and this was reflected in the news stories.

"Among victories for advocates, the California Medical Association dropped its opposition to aid-in-dying legislation earlier this year, and the Canadian Supreme Court recently ruled it legal as well," wrote Lisa Schencker of *Modern Health Care*. "But change, so far, has been slow going despite lawmakers in more than 20 states introducing

legalization bills this year." She added, "Opponents of the practice, including the American Medical Association, say it's incompatible with doctors' roles as healers, could be difficult to control and poses risks to vulnerable individuals."

Also, even though the key to defeating SB128, a proposed bill in the California legislature this last session, was the opposition of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the disability rights community, stories repeatedly avoided mentioning their role altogether to focus on the Catholic Church's opposition.

Lead plaintiffs' attorney John Kappos issued a statement, laced with typically inflammatory language: "We are hopeful an appeals court will recognize the rights of terminally ill adults like Christy O'Donnell, who are facing horrific suffering at the end of their lives that no medication can alleviate, to have the option of medical aid in dying."

"We're very pleased to see the judge's ruling," said Marilyn Golden, a senior policy analyst with the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund. "Where assisted suicide is legal some people's lives are lost without their consent through mistakes and abuse."



Judge Gregory Pollack

plaintiffs whose lead plaintiff is Christy O'Donnell.

"You're asking this court to make a new law," Judge Pollack said. "If a new law is made it should be by the Legislature or by a ballot initiative." He added that it was not as if he personally felt the current situation was ideal but that it was not for him to overturn the law.

Then, on August 14, San Francisco Judge Ernest Goldsmith rejected a second challenge to the state's 141-year-

it, rather than this court nixing the law as unconstitutional, the legislature ought to be fixing the law so that the legitimate needs of terminally-ill patients and their physicians are recognized, respected and protected."

According to *ABC7 News*, both the Attorney General's Office and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office argued this was a decision for the legislature, not the courts.

"Technically, there's no court at least no court

Miracle baby with rare medical condition gets superhero cape for bravery

By Christina Martin

Jude Peters is an adorable one-year-old boy living with a disease called rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata (RCDP), a rare and fatal form of dwarfism.

Parents Hannah and Sully Peters refused to abort Jude even when doctors pressured them to “terminate and try again.” In an interview with FOX News, Jude’s mother said doctors expected that he would only live a few weeks.

“They told me that he might not be compatible with life outside of the womb,” Hannah Peters said. “Then when he was born, they sent him home on hospice and said he wouldn’t make it a few weeks.”

Jude’s parents Hannah and Sullivan have done an amazing job of sharing the story of their precious son with the world. Their Facebook page, Praying for Jude Sullivan Peters, has close to 29,000 likes, and Hannah’s Instagram has over 19,000 followers. People across the globe have fallen in love with brave little Jude Peters.

Recently Jude received a beautiful cape from Tiny Superheroes, a company that makes superhero capes for children battling illnesses. The children who received the capes are suffering from serious conditions, such as cancer, autism,

epilepsy, and heart defects. The tiny cape bearing the child’s first initial is a symbol of their courage and strength.

When Jude received his cape, his father asked their Facebook friends to share a super power they believe Jude has. Amber Tessner Chapman was one of many who said, “Jude’s super power is being able to make anyone smile.”

Robyn Walshaw said, “Jude has many super powers, some we probably don’t even know about! The biggest is all the

love he attracts! We can’t help but love this tiny man even if we don’t know him.”

Arleth Torres Santacruz believes, “Jude’s super powers include: being super cute, being a fighter, being a warrior and somehow finding his way into everyone’s heart!”

Hannah recently shared on social media that she knew Jude was going to impact the world before he was born. She said:

I was told Jude would speak to the nations before he was

born. I didn’t know exactly what that would look like until now. I didn’t realize the impact my child could have on people all over the world.

His story hasn’t just brought hope, faith and joy to my life, but to people all over who have never even had the chance to meet him face to face. The countless testimonies we receive from strangers telling us how Jude’s story has brought healing and hope has been such a wonderful blessing to us.

Since the beginning of our journey with Jude, it has been my prayer that The Lord would receive glory, people would be filled with hope and faith in him and that maybe even amongst our greatest battles, our story could speak life, healing, hope and truth. I am blessed and honored that this precious gift has been placed in my hands. Jude’s story is a constant inspiration to us all! May his life be a reminder that a single child’s bravery – and the bravery of his mom and dad – has the potential to touch hearts around the world.



Editor’s note. This appeared at <http://liveactionnews.org/one-year-old-jude-peters-gets-superhero-cape-bravery-battling-rare-disease/#more-66435> and is reprinted with permission.

No better barometer for judging a candidate than the pro-life issue

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

Ever since the heinous crimes of abortionist and convicted murderer Kermit Gosnell first came to light, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has deservedly been under special scrutiny with regard to how it deals with the abortion industry.

A grand jury surmised that Gosnell had killed hundreds of full-term babies, but he was ultimately convicted of the deaths of three, along with the death of 41-year-old Karnamaya Mongar who died when Gosnell's untrained assistants administered four doses of anesthesia.

The grand jury made it clear in its report that pro-abortion politics—specifically the pro-abortion stands of former Governors Tom Ridge and Ed Rendell—had given rise to a culture in which abortion facilities were not inspected, lawsuits against abortionists were ignored, and gross violations of law and human decency went unchallenged.

But pro-abortion politicians have been imploding in Pennsylvania. In 2014, 100 percent of the pro-life legislative candidates endorsed by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee won their offices. But it goes beyond winning electorally.

Pro-abortion Attorney General Kathleen Kane—once

hailed as a possible future U.S. Senate candidate, or perhaps even a Presidential candidate—has been charged with multiple crimes stemming from allegations that she leaked



information from a grand jury in an effort to silence her critics.

A headline in the hometown Harrisburg newspaper, the *Patriot-News*, is especially telling: “It’s such a blow to women.”

But the fact of the matter is that Kane’s policy stands themselves were a blow to women.

She was a vocal opponent of pro-life legislation. She had the full support of the radical pro-abortion PAC known as EMILY’s List.

In 2013, the President of EMILY’s List told the *Washington Post*, “We were proud to support her in her race for Attorney General because she is a rising star – and she has the experience and

guts a person needs to take a spot on the presidential ticket in 2020 or 2024.”

The rising star is crashing and burning, and Democratic leaders worry her fall from

grace could affect the electoral chances of Pennsylvania Democrats in 2016.

More recently legislative leaders had asked Kane to investigate Planned Parenthood after undercover videos showed Planned Parenthood doctors callously discussing the harvesting of baby body parts. Kane seemed uninterested.

Pro-lifers also worried that, if pro-life legislation were to be passed at the state level, Kane would refuse to defend the law, since she had a habit of picking and choosing which laws she was willing to enforce.

As a reporter, before I joined the pro-life movement, I puzzled over the primacy of the pro-life issue in the votes cast by many Americans.

Our nation faced so many problems—unemployment, the cost of living, national security issues, education. Why make pro-life the top concern?

I came to realize that there is no better barometer for judging a candidate than the pro-life issue. For if an office holder is willing to advocate for laws that will not protect our most vulnerable citizens, how can we reasonably expect that politician to deal justly and ethically with the other issues that might come to his or her desk?

Without the right to life, the other rights we as Americans hold dear are meaningless. It is not that pro-life candidates are perfect, or that they won’t make mistakes. But they demonstrate a basic character trait that is essential for public service: a profound concern for the common good and a deep and abiding respect for innocent human life.

Pennsylvania is one of those swing states that will once again be in play in the Presidential contest in 2016. It is too soon to say what impact the “Kane effect” could have on the Presidential race in the Keystone State.

But pro-abortion candidates such as Hillary Clinton may have good reason to worry. After all, her husband campaigned for Kane.

Arthur Caplan vs. Marco Rubio on Abortion

By Ramesh Ponnuru

Medical ethicist Arthur Caplan criticizes Senator Rubio and other “conceptionists,” i.e., people who believe that human lives begin at conception.

Argument one:

So is Rubio right? Does science show that life begins at conception? Science supports no such view. Let’s start with the



Arthur Caplan

gnarly matter of what is conception. Science offers no bright line. Neither do Rubio and those in his camp.

Is conception when a sperm reaches an egg, when it penetrates the

shell of an egg, when genetic recombination begins, when a new genome is formed, or, when a functioning new genome is formed? Science is not a guide in this conceptual thicket so much as it is a stark reminder that nature rarely has clean boundaries.

This is pointless pedantry from Caplan. Induced abortions take place after all of these events. When they take place, a living human organism exists. The point of the procedure is to change that state of affairs. (For that matter, all the events Caplan mentions take place before there is a blastocyst that could be used for stem-cell research.)

Argument two:

For those trying to invoke science in defense of conceptionalism things only get worse.

Those who say life begins at conception base their claim on the assertion that every human life begins with conception. That

is true. But what they fail to acknowledge is that conception does not always create a life.

More pedantry. The key phrase here is, “That is true.” Yes, the meeting of sperm



Sen. Marco Rubio

and egg often fails to result in a new organism—that is, an entity that integrates its own organic functioning and directs its own development. Often it does create such an organism. In such cases, the organism’s life begins at fertilization—just as pro-lifers say. This is when things have gotten “worse” for our case?

Argument three:

Many scientists and doctors endorse the view of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which stated in 1981 that the existence of human life at conception is a question to which science can provide no answer.

What the NAS was rejecting was the claim that science can determine when a human organism becomes a person, that is, a being with moral worth and rights and a claim to protection. It is of course true that science cannot answer that question. It remains open to the Caplans of the world to define certain human organisms as human non-persons. Science can, however, answer whether the human embryo is a living human organism and when its life began—which is exactly what Rubio is saying science tells us.

Editor’s note. This appeared at nationalreview.com and is reprinted with permission.

What science tells us about the unborn

By Paul Stark

Before deciding how we ought to treat the unborn—a moral question—we must first be clear about what the unborn is. This is a scientific question, and it is answered with clarity by the science of human embryology.

When sperm fertilizes egg

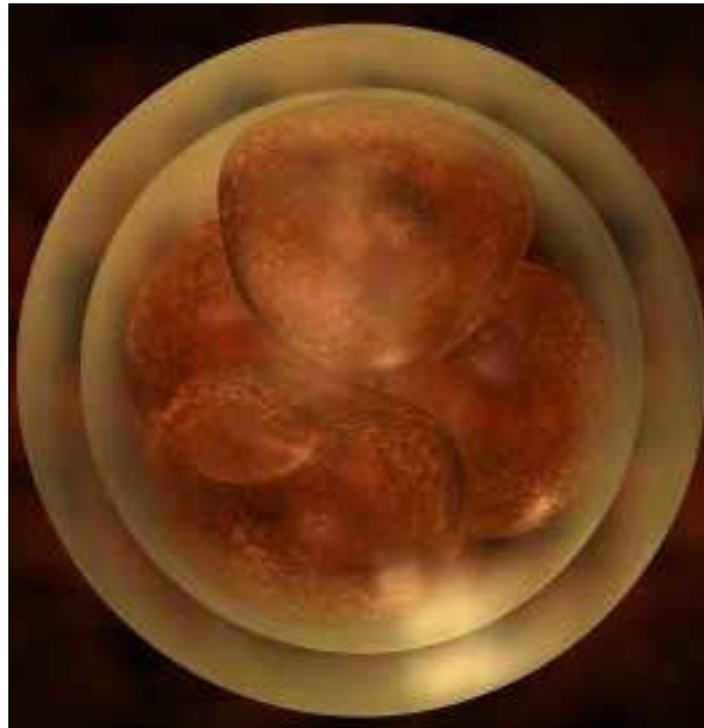
The facts of reproduction are straightforward. Upon completion of the fertilization process, sperm and egg have ceased to exist (this is why “fertilized egg” is an inaccurate term); what exists is a single cell with 46 chromosomes (23 from each parent) that is called a zygote. The coming into existence of the zygote is the point of conception—the beginning of the life of a new human organism. The terms zygote, embryo and fetus all refer to developmental stages in the life of a human being.

Four features of the unborn

Four features of the unborn (i.e., the human zygote, embryo or fetus) are relevant to his or her status as a human being. First, the unborn is living. She meets all the biological criteria for life: metabolism, cellular reproduction and reaction to stimuli. Moreover, she is clearly growing, and dead things (of course) don’t grow.

Second, the unborn is human. She possesses a human genetic signature that proves this beyond any doubt. She is also the offspring of human parents, and we know that humans can only beget humans (they cannot beget dogs or cats, for instance). The unborn may not seem to “look” human (at least in her earlier stages), but in fact she looks exactly like a human at that level of human development. Living things do

not become something different as they grow and mature; rather, they develop the way that they do precisely because of the kind of being they already are.



Third, the unborn is genetically and functionally distinct from (though dependent on and resting inside of) the pregnant woman. Her growth and maturation is internally directed, and her DNA is unique and different from that of any other cell in the woman’s body. She develops her own arms, legs, brain, central nervous system, etc. To say that a fetus is a part of the pregnant woman’s body is to say that the woman has four arms and four legs, and that about half of pregnant women have penises.

A whole organism

Fourth, the unborn is a whole or complete (though immature) organism. That is,

she is not a mere part of another living thing, but is her own organism—an entity whose parts work together in a self-integrated fashion to bring the

leading scientists, who could be cited here ad nauseam. In *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, perhaps the most widely used embryology text, Keith L. Moore and T.V.N. Persaud explain: “Human development begins at fertilization when a male gamete or sperm (spermatozoon) unites with a female gamete or oocyte (ovum) to form a single cell—a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual.”

Langman’s *Embryology* notes, “The development of a human begins with fertilization, a process by which the spermatozoon from the male and the oocyte from the female unite to give rise to a new organism, the zygote.”

Adds Dr. Micheline Matthews-Roth of Harvard Medical School, “It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception, when egg and sperm join to form the zygote, and this developing human always is a member of our species in all stages of its life.”

In 1981 a U.S. Senate judiciary subcommittee heard expert testimony on the question of when life begins. The official subcommittee report reached this conclusion:

“Physicians, biologists, and other scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being—a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in

whole to maturity. Her genetic information is fully present at conception, determining to a large extent her physical characteristics (including sex, eye color, skin color, bone structure, etc.); she needs only a suitable environment and nutrition to develop herself through the different stages of human life.

Thus, the unborn is a distinct, living and whole human organism—a full-fledged member of the species *Homo sapiens*, like you and me, only at a much earlier stage in her development. She is a human being.

Affirmed by textbooks, scientists

This fact is confirmed by embryology textbooks and

See “Science,” page 43

“Law not only reflects culture; it shapes and reshapes it. That’s why Christians can’t avoid political engagement”

By Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Editor’s note. The following is from the Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Here’s a simple exercise in basic reasoning. On a spectrum of bad things to do, theft is bad, assault is worse and murder is worst. There’s a similar



Archbishop Charles Chaput

texture of ill will connecting all three crimes, but only a very confused conscience would equate thieving and homicide. Both are serious matters. But there is no equivalence. The deliberate killing of innocent life is a uniquely wicked act. No amount of contextualizing or deflecting our attention to other issues can obscure that.

This is precisely why Cardinal John O’Connor, Bishop James McHugh and others pressed so hard for the passage of the U.S. bishops’ 1998 pastoral letter, *Living the Gospel of Life*. As Cardinal Joseph Bernardin once wisely noted, Catholic social teaching is a seamless garment of respect for human life, from conception to natural death. It makes no sense to champion

the cause of unborn children if we ignore their basic needs once they’re born. Thus it’s no surprise that – year in and year out – nearly all Catholic dioceses in the United States, including Philadelphia, devote far more time, personnel and material resources to providing social services to the poor and education to young people than to opposing abortion.

But of course, children need to survive the womb before they can have needs like food, shelter, immigration counseling and good health care. Humanity’s priority right – the one that undergirds all other rights – is the right to life. As the American bishops wrote in 1998:

“Opposition to abortion and euthanasia does not excuse indifference to those who suffer from poverty, violence and injustice. Any politics of human life must work to resist the violence of war and the scandal of capital punishment. Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care . . . But being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any

claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ — then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right — the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of building our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but lull the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights” (22).

A case is sometimes made that abortion is mainly a cultural and moral issue, and politics is a poor solution to the problem. The curious thing is that some of the same voices that argue against political action on the abortion issue seem quite comfortable urging vigorous political engagement on issues like health care, homelessness and the environment. In practice, politics is the application of moral conviction to public discourse and the process of lawmaking. Law not

only constrains and defends; it also teaches and forms. Law not only reflects culture; it shapes and reshapes it. That’s why Christians can’t avoid political engagement. Politics is never the main content of Christian faith. It can never provide perfect solutions. But no Christian can avoid the duty to work for more justice and charity in our life as a nation, a task that inescapably involves politics. Thus the recent Senate vote to defund Planned Parenthood was not only right and timely, but necessary. And the failure of that measure involves a public failure of character by every Catholic senator who voted against it.

Memory is important: Two years ago Kermit Gosnell was stripped of his medical license and convicted of murdering three infants born alive from abortion procedures. He operated a Philadelphia abortion center that more closely resembled a butcher shop than a medical clinic. His clinic environment was uglier than the pleasant restaurants and offices captured on recent Center for Medical Progress (CMP) undercover videos. Those videos show a face of Planned Parenthood – senior staffers chatting blithely about the dismemberment and sale of fetal body parts – that can only be called repugnant. But it’s not surprising: If aborted children are simply lumps of potentially useful (and profitable) tissue, what’s the problem?

Pro-abortionists can't understand the outrage at PPFA videos

By Luis Zaffirini

Based on the responses from abortion advocates to the six videos from The Center Medical Progress, the only conclusion you can draw is that they take Pro-Life people for idiots. And, strange as that might sound, that's good news. While they're busy underestimating us (and "us" keeps growing), many Americans are getting a glimpse of the inner workings of the abortion industry and finding it very ugly and very shocking.

Underestimation is the abortion advocate's stock-in-trade. They function by underestimating the value of human life and by habitually underestimating the capacity of civilized society to function without the option of killing its unborn children. And they truly believe that we fail to see this.

Here's an example of the pro-abortion attitude toward the videos which comes from a Patheos blogger: "Since most viewers of CMP's video will never bother to look into the facts, they'll just believe whatever [expletive] they're fed."

Read that statement: People generally (but pro-lifers specifically) are ignorant, mentally lazy, and invite being told what to think.

Take as another example a YouTube video by an abortion proponent. They take serious issue with the idea that anyone

would call what abortionists are tearing apart and selling off as "baby" parts.

I won't bother linking to it because it's simply an attack rather than an argument, and I don't want to give the maker the satisfaction of any exposure. But consider what this abortion rights supporter says:

"It's really hard for those of us with two brain cells to rub

Besides, she says, let's be medically accurate and call it what it is: a "fetus," aka "products of conception."

The key line in this apologia is: "There is no reason a conversation about products of conception requires more or less reverence than one about a kidney or a biopsy specimen."

This is not a new argument. Pro-abortion Rep. Lynn

engages in exactly that type of emotional appeal when she insists that "[t]he goal of these attacks is to get Planned Parenthood to stop providing care." As if to be Pro-Life is to be against caring.

Ms. Richards and other abortion apologists take us all for fools if they think that they can belittle the genuine outrage people feel when confronted with the utter disrespect for human life callously on display.

And they must certainly think us idiots if they expect us to treat human life at any stage with the moral equivalence of a ruptured appendix or swollen tonsils.

The role of medical technology is the care for human lives, not the abuse of lives considered by some to be expendable. And "care" certainly isn't a utilitarian justification for

using intact baby body organs however one sees fit and based on an arbitrary determination of who is and who isn't human enough to count.

Unfortunately, there have been countless times in human history when civilized people were able to dehumanize whole categories of victims. Legalized abortion is one of those instances.

The arguments from Planned Parenthood and its defenders to justify harvesting hearts and brains and livers and lungs proves that.



together to understand why this is even a thing, because, first of all, Planned Parenthood is not [expletive] selling baby parts, you idiots."

For a less profane response, I would encourage you to read a brief article on *New Republic* by a blogger and OB/GYN.

She insists that any revulsion viewers feel toward the manner in which Planned Parenthood employees pick through the organs of tiny human bodies is just the general squeamishness folks feel toward a gory image they're unused to seeing.

Woolsey of California expressed as much in 2009 when she compared an unborn human being to tonsils.

The pro-abortion bottom line is this: Get over it! All you crazy pro-lifers are doing is making an appeal to emotion by replacing the word fetus with baby to get a reaction. Planned Parenthood agreed when they said the CMP videos "clearly aim...to create revulsion at the process of collecting fetal tissue."

But it is Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards who

President Obama condemns harvesting organs in Africa, has nothing to say about harvesting baby body organs in America

By Dave Andrusko

I don't think it's a state secret that President Obama's ego is (shall we say) secure which may account for what seems to the outsider (that would be me) a stunning lack of awareness of context when he says various truly remarkable things.

A friend at National Right to Life passed along a column written by the ever-intelligent, ever-vigilant Mollie Hemingway of *The Federalist*. She is writing about a Q & A President Obama had August 3 with up and coming leaders in Africa in which the young people brought up various "atrocities" they wanted Obama to talk to various heads of state about so that these practices could be brought to an end.

Here's Ms. Hemingway's lead:

President Barack Obama told a group of young African leaders on Monday that harvesting organs from humans that are killed as part of an African ritual was "craziness" and a "cruel" tradition that needed to stop. He warned of dehumanizing marginal groups of humans and of the problems that arise when "you are not able to see someone else as a human being."

And, as I am forced to reiterate more and more often these days when pro-lifers cite what pro-abortionists actually say, she

is not making this up. This is what Obama said in response to a question at the Young African Leaders Initiative [YALI].

(Hemingway was kind enough to transcribe part of what the President said, from an hour-long video posted on YouTube by the White House.)

"Persons with albinism in

tomfoolery, that's craziness. It's cruel."

Mr. Obama went on to say

"Young people, you can lead the way and set a good example. But it requires some courage because the old thinking, people will push back at you



President Obama at the Young African Leaders Initiative meeting in Washington, DC

Africa are being killed and their body parts harvested for ritual purposes," a young woman from Kenya said. Naturally, President Obama harshly condemned the behavior, observing "the idea that a society would visit violence on people because of pigmentation — that's not a tradition that is worth preserving. That's

and if you don't have convictions and the courage to be able stand up for what you think is right, then cruelty will perpetuate itself ...If there's one thing I want YALI leaders to come out with is that notion of you are strong by taking care

of the people who are vulnerable, by looking after the minority, looking after the disabled, looking after the vulnerable. You're not strong by putting people down, you're strong by lifting them up. That's the measure of a leader."

All of this in the context of the President distinguishing between good traditions—which should be honored and preserved—and bad traditions, which should not be.

At the risk of stating the superabundantly obvious...

#1. Would it be okay if they just killed people with albinism but didn't harvest their organs? Of course not!

Likewise, killing hapless, defenseless unborn babies is a hideous betrayal of human rights. But descending into the pit to harvest their organs—to look for new experiments so that not any fetal tissue or organ is "wasted"—is the very definition of uncivilized. It is literally beyond the pale even for the Planned Parenthood set.

#2. The President rightly underscores our greater understanding of and support of people with physical and intellectual disabilities. But unborn babies with a whole range of disabilities are killed because of those disabilities. I wonder if in the tons of experiments using intact fetal

NRLC Asks U.S. House Members to Co-Sponsor Bill to Prevent Obama Administration Paying Doctors To Ask Seniors if They Really Want Life-Saving Health Care

Editor's note. The following letter was sent July 29 to Members of Congress.

Dear Member of Congress:

On July 8, 2015, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (to take effect January 1, 2016) to pay doctors for "advance care planning" in Medicare. Although many advance care planning proponents give lip service to honoring individual preferences, in practice its pervasive focus is to 'nudge' patients to agree to forego life-saving treatment and even assisted feeding through the use of unbalanced, distorted, and even inaccurate information. Advance care planning is openly promoted as a means of slashing health care spending.

Congressman Steve King has introduced a bill, H.R. 3251, that would prevent Medicare from paying for these new and potentially biased advance care planning sessions. Advance care planning refers to counseling potential patients on deciding when to accept or reject life-preserving medical treatment and advising on legal documents embodying that decision.

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the nationwide federation of state right-to-life organizations, urges you to do everything you can to advance this legislation, including adding your name as a cosponsor if you have not already done so. NRLC is regularly updating our affiliates nationwide on the status of the cosponsorship drive.

Far from opposing the concept of advance directives concerning treatment, the National Right to Life Committee provides a 'Will to Live' version on www.nrlc.org

and supports alternatives that provide truly informed consent to decisions about medical treatment. But we must fight the tax funding and promotion of advance care planning counseling that cannot be adequately monitored for bias and that typically is less about discovering and applying patients' own wishes than about pushing them to accept premature death.



The Powell Center recently released a report entitled "The Bias Against Life-Preserving Treatment in Advance Care Planning," available at <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/advanceplanningbias2015.pdf>.

The report cites a 2013 Health Affairs article entitled "Decision Aids: When 'Nudging' Patients to Make A Particular Choice Is More Ethical Than Balanced, Nondirective Content," which gave this advice on how to get people with prostate cancer to agree not to have costly

surgery:

[I]f incontinence and impotence are presented as plainly stated—that is, with no detailed description of these risks—men with early-stage prostate cancer may be swayed toward the option of surgery. If instead those possible effects of surgery are presented vividly via personal stories, men may be swayed away from the surgery option.

people to agree that a low "quality of life" is not worth living.

The Powell Center report notes that providers of advance care planning materials to health insurers frequently tout the money it saves them. For example, to implement an advance care planning program Aetna hired the "Center to Advance Palliative Care," which proudly reported that the result of its efforts was an average reduction of more than \$12,000 annually in benefits for senior citizens covered by the insurance company.

The Powell Center report concludes, "Significant safeguards would need to be incorporated in any governmental program promoting . . . advance care planning in order for [it] to be truly protective of the values and intent of patients, and to ensure they are not pressured into rejecting treatment against their wishes...all in the name of cost-savings." The proposed rule would give a blank check to use tax funds for advance care planning without any safeguards against the widespread bias against choosing life-saving that is tragically so pervasive.

Thank you for your consideration of our request that you co-sponsor this vital legislation.

Respectfully,

David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Burke J. Balch, J.D.
Director, Powell Center
for Medical Ethics

Jennifer Popik, J.D.
Senior Legislative Counsel
for Medical Ethics

The Powell Center report gives multiple examples of advance care planning materials in widespread use that violate the principle of informed consent by selectively presenting facts in a distorted and unbalanced manner to "nudge" unwary patients to reject cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), IV fluids, and medically assisted feeding. Other advance care planning materials, it documents, describe disabilities and illnesses in an inaccurately repugnant way so as to induce

How PPFA manipulates women into “donating” their babies’ organs

By Dave Andrusko

We’ve written many, many times about the shocking hidden-camera videos in which two undercover investigators are shown discussing with high ranking PPFA officials how these supposed “procurers” of fetal tissue could work with Planned Parenthood affiliates to harvest intact baby body parts.

I would also like to talk about a key component that has not received nearly the attention it deserves: how/why women consent to “donating” their baby’s body parts. I’ll focus on the first video.

In a statement issued at the time by Planned Parenthood spokesman Eric Ferrero, we were told,

At several of our health centers, we help patients who want to donate tissue for scientific research, and we do this just like every other high-quality health-care provider does — with full, appropriate consent from patients and under the highest ethical and legal standards.

“Full appropriate consent from patients.” Watching the video in which Deborah Nucatola, senior director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, talked to two undercover investigators using a hidden camera, what do we learn about “consent”?

This issue is touched on in several places but elaborated at length in the following response from Dr. Nucatola. (“Novogenix” is evidently a small company that harvests

the organs of aborted babies.)

But the interesting thing, I’ll tell you is some people consent, some people don’t. The funny thing is the second day, when that patient actually comes back for their procedure [her late abortion], when they’re waiting, what often happens is, Novogenix will talk to people who haven’t consented, and they usually do once someone has the time and energy to sit and have the conversation with them. So, she ends up picking up several more specimens, just from being there and speaking. ...The seeds have been planted, they thought about it for twenty four hours, now there’s somebody else—they’re sitting there, waiting, they’ve got nothing else to do, it’s not like one on top of the next, on top of the next. So, I think it’s always beneficial, if you have somebody who that’s just what they do...

So is this “Full appropriate consent from patients”? You’ve asked her once and she said no. The laminaria is placed in her cervix to dilate it sufficiently to allow a late abortion, the delivery of a large, dead baby.

Now, a full day later, the woman’s anxiety at unimaginatively high levels, she is asked again. What Dr. Nucatola doesn’t say in this excerpt is something she talks

about over and over and over again in their discussion at lunch [!]

And that is how to persuade the women, the larger public—and themselves?—that some “good” can come out of killing

them to do “this extra bit of good,” in what they do. And I think patients respond most to knowing the types of outcomes that I might contribute to, so, for



Dr. Deborah Nucatola

a helpless unborn child. Watch the blatant manipulation of emotions.

She tells the investigators that there are women who come in “asking about it [‘donation’] from the start.”

But the others, I mean, honestly, there’s not going to be one thing that works for every patient, Every patient experiences a whole wide range of emotions about the experience in general, and so you don’t know where they’re coming from there. But I think every one of them is happy to know that there’s a possibility for

example, Alzheimer’s research, Parkinson’s research. ...But, um, I actually think it’s an easier conversation to have, than just consenting them for the procedure [the abortion] in general.”

Having been fed the line that if a woman donates organs from her baby it might contribute to a cure for Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s—“I think most of these patients have some experience with at least one of these conditions or another”—Dr. Nucatola says, “Most patients are very motivated.”

These people really are utterly shameless.

PolitiFact's abortion "fact-checking" is really political hackery

By Calvin Freiburger

When we last checked PolitiHack's... er... PolitiFact's "fact-checking" on abortion, we found they were actually cherry-picking numbers to falsely deny that the country's opinion on abortion has been souring. Sadly, a review of their reporting on presidential candidates and abortion since then shows that facts still take a backseat to the agenda.

Most recently, they rated "Half-True" Marco Rubio's debate statement that "The idea that a minor... cannot get a tattoo without parental consent — but can get an abortion without parental consent — is just mind-shattering for the vast majority of Americans." After reviewing the laws of each state, they concluded Rubio only "has a good argument for about 11 states" (even though they come close to admitting that the judicial bypass provisions of 37 states render their parental requirements essentially meaningless).

But whatever the numbers amount to is beside the point. PolitiFact's headline statement presents "A minor cannot get a tattoo without parental consent but can get an abortion without parental consent" as a complete statement by Rubio when in reality the words immediately preceding and following it make clear he wasn't even claiming that was the case everywhere, but only criticizing the hypocrisy of the viewpoint. That's not a half-false statement; it's a statement with zero falsehood.

Earlier, they called Rubio's claim to have "never said that or advocated that" abortion laws make exceptions for rape or incest "Mostly False" because he's supported bills with such exceptions before. As the senator himself explained, that's nonsense because supporting a bill that only gets you part of

what you want isn't the same as actively opposing the rest of what you want. PolitiFact includes Rubio's explanation and admits that "we could find no evidence that Rubio has generally favored those types of exceptions, and we couldn't find him specifically advocating for them."

In a sane world, this would be enough for a "True" rating, or at least "Mostly True." But when



your job is fact-wrecking rather than fact-checking, it adds up to "Mostly False" because "Rubio's claim has an element of truth, but it leaves out important details." The most charitable possible response to this is that they're being petty about the semantic differences between "advocate" and "accept," and that whether one amounts to the other is a value judgment beyond the scope of empirically-based fact-checking. Feel charitable toward PolitiFact's motives? Given their track record on the subject, me neither.

On August 7, they examined Hillary Clinton's claim that Scott Walker "left women across the state stranded with nowhere else to turn" for medical care by defunding Planned Parenthood. PolitiFact noted that the reductions in PP's state funding led to the closure of several locations, but admitted that the Wisconsin budget still

allocated the money for use by other providers. (They missed, however, alternate providers of low-income care in the communities where Planned Parenthoods closed, like my hometown of Fond du Lac.)

And yet, Clinton's attack gets a "Half True" because Walker supposedly reduced women's options, but she "goes too far" in saying Wisconsin women have "nowhere" to seek care.

This is one of the more insidious ways PolitiFact's bias sneaks in even while they're ostensibly criticizing a Democrat. They marked down Rubio's statements for not conforming to an absolute that he never posited, yet here Clinton is making an absolute claim—"nowhere"—and they're not judging it like one. If somebody alleges that low-income women's health care is completely gone in a state, and it is not, in fact, completely gone, that allegation isn't "Half True" or "partially accurate." It's false.

While we might still disagree, there would at least be a defensible consistency to keeping Rubio's tattoo claim "Half True" yet demoting Clinton's "nowhere" to "False," or keeping Clinton's the same and upgrading Rubio to "True." But that might hurt their efforts to make Republicans look worse and Democrats better.

Finally, last month PolitiFact criticized as "Mostly False" Walker's claim that the "odds are pretty high" that someone who sees an ultrasound will opt against abortion. They argued that while "some evidence" backs Walker, "no independent studies" do so, and the "latest academic study we found shows that nearly all women who are more certain about their decision proceed with an abortion even after seeing the ultrasound."

Funny, they missed a few things, namely that the study they're talking about was sponsored by Planned Parenthood and the data collected by the abortion giant's personnel at a single one of their facilities. And if they went looking for more "independent studies," it's funny that they missed this one, in which Mark Gius of Quinnipiac University concluded that "ultrasound laws had a very significant and negative effect on the abortion decision."

Now, to be fairer to PolitiFact than they've been to us, we should acknowledge that they sometimes get it unconditionally right, like when they awarded Harry Reid a "Pants on Fire" for claiming Planned Parenthood is "the only health care" available to "about 30 percent of women," or admitting the Family Foundation was right that America "is one of only seven nations that allows elective abortions after 20 weeks post-fertilization."

But the occasional outbreak of honesty, over less-contentious claims the narrative can afford to sacrifice, does not ultimately outweigh a pattern of deliberate and partisan deceit.

Editor's note. This appeared at liveactionnews.org and is reprinted with permission.

Unborn baby saved by pioneering in utero surgery

By Dave Andrusko

The doctors advised Michelle Cannon, from Doncaster, England, to abort her 22-week-old unborn daughter, already named Faith.

Fluid was building up in her baby's chest and crushing her lungs, a symptom of a very, very rare condition known as hydrops. It "occurs in around one in 15,000 pregnancies," according to Sophie Borland, Health Correspondent for the *Daily Mail*. "Only about a third of babies survive, with many others aborted."

But abortion—"termination"—was not an option for the 31-year-old Cannon, already the mother of two daughters.

"There was no way we were going to give up on her," Cannon told Borland. "I burst into tears when I was told the news. But one thing was for certain, we were adamant we were going to keep this baby."

Faith was too premature to survive delivery, but Miss Cannon refused to abandon hope. She did hours of online research and came across "in-womb surgery."

Last fall, Cannon and her

partner approached doctors at the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals maternity unit. The risk was obvious: in utero surgery could

potentially cause a miscarriage or trigger a premature labor, and "consultant obstetrician Mr. Roobin Jokhi had never

performed the procedure," Borland notes.

But the doctor agreed it could be the only chance of saving the baby.

During the half-hour operation, carried out under a local anesthetic, a tiny tube was placed in Faith's chest, allowing the fluid to drain into Miss Cannon's stomach.

"Faith was also given an injection to reduce her movement and limit any pain," Borland writes. "After a few weeks the fluid had receded and her lungs inflated — meaning they could work properly when she was born."

While Faith arrived slightly ahead of schedule—38 weeks—she weighed 8lb 4oz. Five months later she is "healthy and developing well." Borland ends her story on this happy and encouraging note:

"When she is older we will tell her all about her miracle operation while she was still in mummy's womb," said Miss Cannon.

"We're just so happy and grateful to have her in our lives."



Michelle and Faith Cannon

Washington Post Fact Checker gives "Three Pinocchios" to Planned Parenthood's "3%" assertion

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told PolitiFact that the organization does not record the number of such referrals. (However, Planned Parenthood made this information public long ago. Annual report figures from 1996 and 1997 show the number and type of procedures that were referred out in those years.)

Yee also addresses the "total non-government health services revenue" that comes from doing abortions. She says that using

prices for abortion published on Planned Parenthood's national or affiliate websites and multiplying that by the number of abortions they report, one can obtain figures anywhere from 15 percent to 55 percent of the organization's annual non-government health services revenues.

But because PPFA lacks "transparency," Yee says, you cannot know for certain what percent is derived from abortions.

But, as Dr. O'Bannon has written, abortions provide at

least \$150 million in annual revenues." And this is without even considering the higher cost of chemical abortions or later surgical abortions that many Planned Parenthood clinics advertise and perform," he explains.

(The huge amount of governmental money PPFA rakes in is a separate topic.)

Yee also gives Three Pinocchios to the 94% assertion.

Yee concludes

While Planned Parenthood has no

legal obligation to make its data more public, it is unfortunate that the public has limited access to data about the organization. Planned Parenthood could end the speculation—and Pinocchios—by providing a more transparent breakdown of its clients, referrals and sources of revenues.

Fat chance of that.

Will corporate giving to Planned Parenthood change in light of new videos?

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

By this point, having read *NRL News Today's* coverage, you are aware of what the undercover videos filmed by the Center for Medical Progress have revealed about how Planned Parenthood secures intact baby body organs. It is both shocking and revolting.

So you might be asking yourself, "Why would any company ever even consider supporting a group like Planned Parenthood?" Or "How could anyone not know that Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider and promoter?"

Good questions.

But for still too many people, Planned Parenthood is still just some charitable organization that provides poor people with cancer screenings, breast exams, and helps them plan their families. They may even imagine PPFA helps women deal with infertility. Why "parenthood" is right there in their name!

They don't know that the group is responsible for close to a third of all abortions performed in the U.S., or that their share of the country's abortions has been steadily growing and that they have been building new clinics while others have been closing and the overall number of abortions (thankfully!) declining.

And a lot of it thanks to donations from big corporate

donors like them. About 30% of Planned Parenthood's revenues for its latest fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or \$391.8 million, came from "private contributions and bequests." We are told that this category includes foundation grants, corporate contributions, as well

babies, and charges hundreds of dollars for the "service" is put on the same par as groups which save babies' lives or perform some genuine service for the poor, the sick, or disabled.

It only becomes harder to make the case that folks like Planned Parenthood do not

may simply run in some of the same elite social circles, so that contributions are expected. The company's national office may have little knowledge of the "community activities" in which their branch is involved.

Sometimes, it may be the tycoon who owns the company, or his personal foundation (built with funds he got from company stocks or profits) that is doing the giving, rather than the company itself. Some of Planned Parenthood's biggest financial backers are



as private giving.

Now it's true that there are levels of contributions, whether or not there are levels of culpability.

Some companies give directly with large corporate gifts. They may specify that these gifts are only to be used for cancer screenings or sex education programs in poor public schools. But that simply means that Planned Parenthood can now plow more of their clinic revenues into expanding their abortion operations instead of having to use it to cover other programs or expenses.

Sometimes, it's simply because a company has a matching gifts program, in which they agree to match the personal giving of any employee to any officially recognized 501c 3 charity.

The problem here, obviously, is that a group which kills

belong on the list of respectable, legitimate charities when our own federal, state, and local governments fund the group to the tune of more than half a billion dollars a year!

Pro-lifers who know Planned Parenthood know it is responsible for millions of abortions since *Roe v. Wade* and are not surprised by the latest revelations. But they are a real wake-up call for many in corporate America who always thought they were just giving to help poor women get mammograms (which few if any Planned Parenthood do) or help fight "teen pregnancy."

There are some other categories of giving that are murkier but no less disturbing. The head of a company's branch office may have a personal relationship with someone at the local Planned Parenthood affiliate, or they

billionaires who've made their fortunes buying and selling corporations and stocks from a very broad cross section of American industries and service companies.

Identifying the abortion position of a broadly held public company is difficult, outside any official policies adopted by the corporate board or donations by the corporate office.

So what's a responsible pro-lifer to do?

First, be on the watch for any announcement of large corporate gifts to groups such as Planned Parenthood. That may involve not only watching the news, checking the newspaper for officials attending or being recognized at the opening of Planned Parenthood's latest

U.S. Senate defunding vote & lessons from Kansas

By Kathy Ostrowski, Legislative Director, Kansans for Life

On August 3, the U.S. Senate fell seven votes shy of the 60 votes needed to defund the nation's largest abortion business—Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and its affiliates.

The good news is that 55 Senators support S. 1881—one pro-life Senator was absent and another changed his vote to opposition only so that he would be eligible to enter a motion to reconsider. This greatly surpasses the 42 Senate votes garnered to defund PPFA in April 2011. And in that



Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Ks.) voted to defund Planned Parenthood

consideration, it shows the importance of defeating pro-abortion politicians.

The incentive for the introduction of S. 1881 were four undercover videos released in July by the Center for Medical Progress that shined a bright light on abortionists' discussions about dismemberment of living unborn children and trafficking in baby body parts. A fifth and

six video were subsequently released.

S. 1881 would strip taxpayer support of PPFA and makes the funds available to other eligible entities to provide women's health care services, notably Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). This is a similar mechanism to how Kansas provides true health care using federal funding.

Passed first in 2007 as an amendment to the state budget, Kansas Title X funds were prioritized to go first to full service hospitals and clinics, and secondarily to private full-service facilities. There was no reference to abortion or Planned Parenthood, just the state's intention to best serve state health interests.

Planned Parenthood did not qualify for the 1/3 million dollars at stake and so the provision was deleted annually by pro-abortion Govs. Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson.

Planned Parenthood filed a legal challenge after the proviso was signed into law in 2011 by pro-life governor Sam Brownback. After extended litigation, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the provision in 2014.

There are several instructive takeaways from the vote on defunding PPFA.

- Contrary to opponents misstatements, S. 1881 did not “end healthcare” for women, but indeed

would have “ended corporate welfare” to PPFA in the form of \$528 million annual



Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) voted to defund Planned Parenthood

government funds.

- Compared with the number of PPFA affiliates, there are 13 times as many full-service public health facilities across the nation that are well-deserving of taxpayer support.
- There is no equivalence between PPFA, where nearly one of every eight clients are sold abortions, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that provide all kinds of healthcare to all ages—without any abortions.
- PPFA likes to tout its

cancer screenings. But for breast cancer, they only provide a manual palpation and referrals to other facilities for mammograms, as they don't have those machines or technicians.

In the discussions leading up to the Senate vote on S. 1881, many misleading statements were bandied by opponents, including the threat that the loss of Planned Parenthood as a contraceptive provider would overly burden the FQHC network and lead to a rise in abortions. But this has not occurred in Kansas.

After losing eligibility for Title X money, Planned Parenthood of Kansas Mid-Missouri kept two Kansas sites open and closed one location in Hays, which had been financially in the red for years. A request to the state Health department verifies that Kansas has 15 FQHCs and 3 satellite clinics, with more opening soon.

And the threat of increased abortions? Not in Kansas, with the annual abortion total continuing to decrease.

It is encouraging that more citizens are beginning to see, like Kansans, that the government has no business subsidizing the killing industry of Planned Parenthood.

“Choose life. You’re never going to regret it.” Teen mother explains her difficult choice

By Lauren Enriquez

In a moving video, a young mother shares the story of finding herself pregnant at just sixteen years old. Darby explains taking the at-home pregnancy test and being in a state of disbelief, almost as if the positive test were a joke. She shares:

“I didn’t really believe it was real still. You’re kind of, ‘haha, this is funny, good joke.’ But then I went into the doctor’s office to get the official ‘yes, you are for sure pregnant.’ That was when the tears kind of came flooding in and the emotions were suddenly heightened.”

Darby knew she had three options: parenting, adoption, and abortion. Her doctor told her that she had seen many women who ended up regretting their abortions, but not once have I ever met a single mother who has ever regretted having their

baby. Darby didn’t know what to do. After a few weeks she was leaning towards abortion, and she was inclined to believe

the lies of the abortion industry, which said her baby was just a mass of cells and not a human.

But Darby ultimately decided

against abortion and chose life for her son.

“It’s pretty amazing that you can love someone so little, so much. I just can’t imagine not having him here with me today, and what I would be doing if he wasn’t in my life right now. I think I’d be very lost and wondering this November, ‘where was my baby?’ Life is a wonderful gift. We can never take it for granted or put ourselves in a position where we can be the controllers of life.”

Choose life. You’re never going to regret it.

Editor’s note. You can watch the video at <http://www.faithit.com/young-pregnant-woman-choose-life-abortion-womens-rights/#.UrMQjAkWx2A>.facebook.



Will corporate giving to Planned Parenthood change in light of new videos?

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abortion mega-clinic, but also paying close attention to corporate reports.

Second, if you have any reason for concern at all, contact the company directly, preferably in writing. Express your concern and your position and find out what level of involvement they have, if any, with groups like Planned Parenthood, groups doing medical research using embryonic stem cells, or supporting pro-abortion

political candidates.

Now is a good time to do this with Planned Parenthood a lot in the news. Make sure they know that Planned Parenthood is America’s largest abortion chain, performing more than 330,000 abortions a year. Refer to the latest videos to illustrate just how callous and nonchalant these Planned Parenthood officials are about the destruction of human life and dissection of babies for

medical experiments.

Third, if and when you get an answer, share a copy of that letter with us at NRLC.

These companies have given to Planned Parenthood and gotten away with it because either the company didn’t know what Planned Parenthood did or didn’t believe the public cared.

For too long, they’ve believed the mainstream media has told them (and is still telling them). As we’ve discussed at length,

too many politicians and media outlets simply echo Planned Parenthood’s talking points which are intended to take the public’s eye off of PPFA’s deep involvement in extracting intact baby body parts and delivering them to middlemen who pass them along to medical “researchers.”

A massive outcry of customers and stock holders has the potential to be a real eye-opener for these corporations.

New Hampshire Executive Council rejects \$638,000 in contracts for Planned Parenthood

By Dave Andrusko

In what was described by the *New Hampshire Union Leader* newspaper as a “polite but passionate” debate, on August 5 the Executive Council voted 3-2 to deny contracts to two Planned Parenthood offices in the Granite state.

a contract for \$385,000 with the organization’s Manchester office,” according to reporter Dave Solomon.

The action followed close on the heels of Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal’s announcement that the state had ended its

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and we need a real investigation,” said David Wheeler.

“The argument is going to be made by Planned Parenthood of Northern New England that ‘We don’t do that,’” said Joe Kenney, “but they are part of the same organization, and I think it’s extremely inhumane, astonishing and quite frightening that the national Planned Parenthood is actually collecting these fetal body parts ... New Hampshire should step up and push back.”

The third vote was cast by Chris Sununu, who has consistently described himself as an abortion rights supporter. He said he had received more than 1,000 phone calls on the issue, including “some from pro-choice women, urging him to vote down the contract in light of the videos, which he called ‘disgusting and horrific,’” Solomon reported.

Gov. Maggie Hassan acknowledged, Solomon noted, that

“the tone and dispassion of the

(Planned Parenthood) employees speaking on those tapes was offensive and unacceptable, and will be addressed,” but said there was no grounds for a criminal investigation of the Northern New England branch as requested by Wheeler.

The chair of state Republican Party had a very different view. “The appalling videos showing Planned Parenthood executives discussing the sale of human body parts have raised serious and legitimate concerns,” Jennifer Horn said. “Instead of calling for an investigation of Planned Parenthood’s potentially criminal activity, Governor Hassan has turned a blind eye to this controversy and tried to give more taxpayer dollars to this scandal-plagued organization.”



David Wheeler
(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

At the same meeting, the Executive Council approved contracts for three other health service providers.

“A contract for \$253,900 with the Planned Parenthood of NNE [Northern New England] in Claremont was denied, as was

Medicaid contract with Planned Parenthood.

The majority cited revelations in a series of videos released by the Center for Medical Progress as a reason to cut the funding.

“You can’t divorce what’s going on nationally from

“Law not only reflects culture; it shapes and reshapes it. That’s why Christians can’t avoid political engagement”

From page 19

Again, memory is important: Thirty years ago “pro-choice” groups tried a strategy of using the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act to shut down certain forms of pro-life witness. The strategy ultimately failed but – maybe it’s God’s sense of irony — the word “racket” very quickly

comes to mind in watching Planned Parenthood staff on the CMP videos.

I’ll close with a word of thanks to Ruben Navarette, Jr. Navarette is a veteran “pro-choice” voice, but his August 10 column at the Daily Beast is worth reading and sharing for its honest revulsion at the whole,

ugly, system-wide barbarism of Planned Parenthood’s fetal trafficking. And his column’s best lines come in quoting his pro-life wife:

“Those are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect

them. That’s what a man does. He protects children – his own children, and other children. That’s what it means to be a man.”

Amen.

Two abandoned newborns rescued, one from toilet, one from stroller

By Dave Andrusko

Earlier this month, two abandoned newborns, separated by thousands and thousands of miles, were rescued a day apart, one in China, one in Los Angeles.

into the drain,” he told the *Times*. “We could only see the baby’s feet from the side.” A policeman “slid his hand into the pipe to gently pull her out,” the newspaper reported.



An image supplied by Beijing Tianqiao Police shows an officer holding the baby at the toilet on August 2, 2015.

First, police in western Beijing, China found a baby girl, face down in a public toilet. They were alerted by a construction worker who caught the rescue on film.

Police officer Qian Feng, first on the scene, told the *Beijing Times* that he saw the child’s feet in the toilet pipe before he got down on the ground to pull the baby out.

“The baby’s head was pointing downwards and her whole body had already fallen

The baby is reported in stable condition as police search for her parents.

Then, in Los Angeles, a homeless man spotted what he thought was an empty baby stroller. Alex Diaz told police he returned later and saw the same stroller.

In Los Angeles a homeless man spotted what he thought was an empty baby stroller on Monday night. Alex Diaz told police he returned later and saw the same stroller.

“Something in me told me to check in it. I moved the blanket and there he was, a newborn baby boy,” Diaz told *NBC4*. “He seemed weak, like he couldn’t even move no more.”

The newborn, his umbilical cord still attached, had been left for more than a day near a church in South Los Angeles. Dr. Marc Futernick told

sense that the baby was found in time. But the baby was in a very dangerous situation.

California’s Safe Surrender law allows a mother to confidentially surrender a baby, without fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth.

“You can just drop the baby off at any fire station or hospital 24-7 and they will take care of



*A newborn still attached to his umbilical cord and left alone in a stroller near a church in South Los Angeles was in good condition Wednesday morning at a hospital. *NBC4 News**

NBC4 the baby was ill and dehydrated after arriving at the Dignity Health California Hospital with a low sugar level.

“All of those things were quickly corrected by the medical team, and the baby is doing well,” said Futernick. “It’s certainly lucky, in the

the baby,” Futernick said. “It would be ideal to give a little bit of information about the pregnancy and any medical information there may be about the baby.”

Authorities are asking for the public’s help in identifying the baby boy’s mother.

16 days later, *NYTimes* publishes critical “correction”

By Dave Andrusko

It took the *New York Times* 16 days to make a correction that could have been made in about 16 minutes. But to the *Times*' credit (sort of), the newspaper did offer what by its standards, was a fairly straightforward correction of a terribly misleading story.

NRL News wrote about the original July 20 story, “Planned Parenthood Tells Congress More Videos of Clinics Might Surface,” in the context of PPFA’s strategy to “kill the messenger.” (The Center for Medical Progress has released six agenda-shifting videos exposing PPFA’s trafficking in intact baby body parts.)

Reporter Jackie Calmes evidently swallowed whole PPFA’s assertion that were it not for complaints from the nation’s largest abortion provider, the public might not have seen the full, unedited version of the first video, an interview with Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, .

Here’s the correction:

An earlier version of this article referred incorrectly to the timing of the release of what they said was

a full-length, unedited video of a Planned Parenthood employee talking about how much clinics charge for specimens. While the full-length video of more than two hours took longer to download than the nearly nine-minute edited footage, the full video was in fact posted at the same time as the edited version. It is not the case that the full video

was released “after Planned Parenthood complained of selective, misleading editing.”

The significance of this misrepresentation is difficult to exaggerate. It helped establish the narrative—phony from the beginning but etched in stone for many media outlets—that CMP acted improperly, if not unethically, from the get-go.

And, although it technically was not required, the correction could/should also have gone one step further. In addition

to the full video released simultaneously, the CMP also released a full transcript.

Why is that important? You can read a transcript much faster than you watch a two and hour video and you can go back and forth to see if the shorter version played loose and fast with the truth.

In fact, the 8:51 video quite accurately conveyed what was said, as both the full video and the transcript make clear.

Please keep this in mind as you read the next wave of made-up allegations.

The New York Times

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

2016 Presidential Candidates on Defunding Abortion Providers: Do you know where they stand?

From page 4

of President Obama's threat to veto any bill that defunds Planned Parenthood, following is an overview of the 2016 presidential candidates' positions on the issue in alphabetical order.

Where do the 2016 presidential candidates for the Republican nomination stand on defunding abortion providers?

FORMER GOVERNOR JEB BUSH



Jeb Bush served as governor of Florida from 1998 until 2007.

Bush said the next president should defund Planned Parenthood. Governor Bush, in his own words:

This is a shocking and horrific reminder that we must do so much more to foster a culture of life in America.

We should, and the next president should defund Planned Parenthood.

As governor, Bush used his line-item veto to end funding for Planned Parenthood affiliates in Florida, and according to sources, the money never returned.

Here's my record: As governor of Florida

I defunded Planned Parenthood. I created a culture of life.

DR. BEN CARSON



Dr. Ben Carson is a retired, world-renowned neurosurgeon.

Dr. Carson, in his own words:

I, like many of you, was sickened when I saw the video of Dr. Deborah Nucatola of Planned Parenthood secretly video-taped discussing selling aborted baby parts. I was more than sickened, I was enraged.

Planned Parenthood and their enablers must be stopped from these barbaric practices.

After hearing President Obama's remarks last year, in which Obama defended Planned Parenthood, even saying "Thank you Planned Parenthood. God bless you," Carson said:

You wonder if he actually knows the history of Planned Parenthood and Margaret Sanger, who was trying to eliminate black people.

...If we cannot defund Planned Parenthood after this, we are lost.

GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE



Chris Christie was first elected as governor of New Jersey in 2009.

Governor Christie, in his own words:

I am proud to be a pro-life Republican. I believe that every life is an individual gift from God, and that no life is disposable.

I defunded Planned Parenthood in New Jersey six years ago. We've defunded it every year for the last six years.

Now, with the most recent revelation, there's even more reason not to fund Planned Parenthood.

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Tx.) has a 100% pro-life voting record since joining the U.S. Senate in 2013. Cruz voted to advance S. 1881.

Senator Cruz, in his own words:

Today's news regarding allegations that Planned Parenthood is possibly selling the body parts of the babies it has aborted is sickening. There is no place for taxpayer funding of organizations that profit from taking away innocent life, much less profiting off the bodies of the lives they have stolen. Congress should immediately begin an investigation of Planned Parenthood's activities regarding the sale and transfer of aborted body parts, including who is obtaining them and what they are used for. And it should renew efforts to fully defund Planned Parenthood to ensure that its morally bankrupt business receives not one penny of taxpayer money. I proudly stand on the side of life and remain committed to fighting for all innocent life to be valued and protected under the laws of this nation.

SENATOR TED CRUZ



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CARLY FIORINA



Carly Fiorina, formerly the C.E.O. of Hewlett Packard, ran a pro-life campaign for U.S. Senate from the state of California in 2010.

Fiorina, in her own words:

I am proudly pro-life. I believe that every human life has potential and that every human life is precious.

This latest news is tragic and outrageous. This isn't about 'choice.' It's about profiting on the death of the unborn while telling women it's about empowerment.

It doesn't matter whether you think you're pro-choice or pro-life. Every woman, every man has to look at these videos and think, what has gone wrong in our nation?

It is made even more terrible by the absolute deafening silence of the Democratic Party. Democrats have always fought for a policy that says it is not a life until it leaves the hospital. Hillary Clinton has fought to preserve that policy.

I would vote to defund Planned Parenthood.

If we are not prepared to stand up and fight over this, what are we prepared to stand up and fight over?

These Planned Parenthood videos have horrified Americans across the country—regardless of party affiliation or whether you are pro-life or pro-choice—and the pressure on Congress will be enormous. This is about the moral foundation of this nation. We have to ask every Democrat how can you continue to support taxpayer funding for an organization that decides how to kill a baby to best harvest its organs?

FORMER GOVERNOR JIM GILMORE



Jim Gilmore, former governor of Virginia (1998-2002), said,

As governor, I won't ask taxpayers to pay for abortions. I won't support late-term abortion.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), has a long pro-life voting record in Congress (U.S. House of Representatives 1995-2003, U.S. Senate 2003 to

date). He cosponsored S. 1881. Graham, in his own words:

I wholly support the defunding of Planned Parenthood today and in the future. As president,



I pledge I would never send a budget to Capitol Hill that contains a penny of funding for Planned Parenthood. ... We can kill their funding while maintaining a robust commitment to providing access to important preventive medicine and prenatal services.

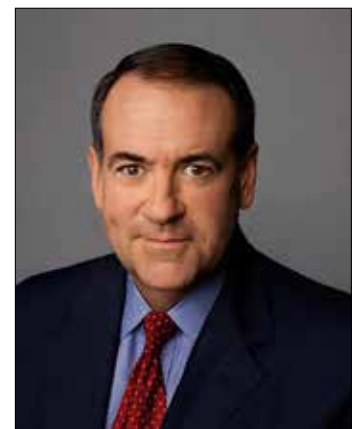
Organizations that harvest body parts from unborn children is neither planned parenthood nor right and should not receive any support from the federal government. I'm running for president to create a culture of respect for human life and look forward to not only eliminating funding for Planned Parenthood, but also ending abortions at 20 weeks when a child can feel pain. The United States is one of seven nations that allows such a practice and as president, I would make

sure we are no longer part of that club.

Graham tweeted:

Planned Parenthood is harvesting body parts from aborted babies. We must pass my Pain-Capable bill to stop these late term abortions.

FORMER GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE



Mike Huckabee, governor of Arkansas (1996-2007), tweeted:

Enough is enough. Stand with me as we fight to defund Planned Parenthood.

Huckabee vowed:

I will stand for the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception until the grave. Taking this unequivocal stand includes fighting to defund Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood has proven to be a repulsive, revolting, stomach-churning enterprise that should

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be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Destroying innocent human life and harvesting human organs is beyond barbaric – it is unimaginable immoral, grotesque, and evil. What makes America unique is our respect and sanctity of the value of every single human being. Planned Parenthood does not represent these values and deprives millions of children of their God-given right to life and liberty.

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL



Bobby Jindal was first elected governor of Louisiana in 2007. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2005 until 2008. While in the House, Jindal maintained a 100% pro-life voting record.

After seeing the videos, Governor Jindal opened a state investigation into Planned Parenthood and announced the state's termination of the medical provider agreement with Planned Parenthood, citing Planned Parenthood's "fundamental disrespect for human life."

Jindal also said:

The video of a senior

Planned Parenthood official at lunch, discussing a scheme to harvest and traffic human body parts between bites of her salad, sickened me. Even the most hardened liberal must feel some pang of conscience watching the callousness with which she discusses the dismemberment of defenseless babies.

How could anybody, regardless of political party, refuse to condemn such barbarism? I hope those who oppose efforts to encourage a culture of life watch this video. I hope it disrupts their ideology. And I hope it will compel them to protect the sanctity of life going forward.

Jindal also challenged the Democratic presidential candidates to return donations received from Planned Parenthood.

GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH



John Kasich served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1983-2001 and had a strong pro-life voting record. He was elected as governor of

Ohio in 2010.

Governor Kasich has signed many pro-life laws, including a law banning abortions after the point of viability in Ohio. According to NARAL Pro-Choice America, as governor, Kasich "has enacted 16 anti-abortion measures." He "stripped Planned Parenthood" funding by \$1.4 million, and "during Kasich's time in office, the number of abortion providers in the state has dropped from 16 to eight."

FORMER GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI



George Pataki served as governor of New York from 1995 until 2007. Pataki also served in the New York Assembly from 1985 until 1992, and in the New York state Senate from 1993 until 1995.

Pataki's record on life is mixed. As a member of the state Assembly, he voted against state funding of abortions. In 1990, he changed his position to "pro-choice" while running for the state Senate. As governor, Pataki supported government funding for abortions, yet recently said he would ban Planned Parenthood funding.

Pataki, in his own words:

...Roe v. Wade, it's been the law of the land for

42 years and I don't think we should continue to try to change it. But what we can do is defund Planned Parenthood.

SENATOR RAND PAUL



U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has maintained a 100% pro-life voting record since his term began in 2011. Sen. Paul voted to advance S. 1881.

He pledged to:

...do whatever I can to stop them and will introduce an amendment to pending Senate legislation to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding.

Senator Paul, tweeted:

Where are the hard-hitting questions for pro-abortion Democrats on their support for this kind of madness?

Where is the media storm over the selling of babies' body parts? It's time to defund Planned Parenthood.

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FORMER GOVERNOR RICK PERRY



Rick Perry served as governor of Texas (2000-2015).

Perry, in his own words:

The video showing a Planned Parenthood employee selling the body parts of aborted children is a disturbing reminder of the organization's penchant for profiting off the tragedy of a destroyed human life. It is because of stories like this that I signed legislation defunding Planned Parenthood in the state of Texas – to protect life and the health and safety of Texans.

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO



U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fl.) has maintained a 100% pro-life voting record since his term began in 2011. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Rubio served in the Florida

House from 2000 until 2008, where he rose to the office of Speaker. Rubio voted to advance S. 1881.

Rubio said:

I am sickened by the complete disregard for innocent unborn life evident at Planned Parenthood.

I'm proud that one of my first actions in the Senate was voting to defund this organization.

FORMER SENATOR RICK SANTORUM



Rick Santorum represented Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate from 1995 until 2007. Prior to that, Santorum served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1991 until 1995. He had a strong pro-life voting record in both the House and Senate.

Santorum, in his own words:

...always have been and always will be in favor of defunding Planned Parenthood and their destruction and now exploitation of human life.

I would have had a vote on the floor of the Senate, if I was the Senate leader, to defund Planned Parenthood and have a debate on it. As well as have hearings to see if there's any criminal activity or criminal investigation that should be pursued.

DONALD TRUMP



Donald Trump is a businessman, investor, author, and television personality.

Trump has given contradictory statements about defunding Planned Parenthood.

On July 14, 2015, Donald Trump told Dana Loesch, host of *The Blaze TV*, that he would "absolutely" defund Planned Parenthood:

It's disgusting and absolutely they should be defunded. I thought, you know, it's so cavalier and so horrible. I just thought it was incredible.

So anyway, the answer is, in my opinion, they should absolutely be defunded. In the case of Planned Parenthood you know – anybody that watched these various videos...I mean, it's very sad to watch it. It's very sad, and it wasn't even that – it was so bad and yet, you know, there was such a cavalier attitude that this woman, I guess she was a doctor or something... so cavalier. I thought it was a disgrace.

On August 11, 2015, Donald appeared *CNN's New Day*. He told Chris Cuomo

Well, the biggest problem I have with

Planned Parenthood is the abortion situation. I mean, it's like an abortion factory, frankly. You can't have it and you just shouldn't be funding it. And that should not be funded by the government. And I feel strongly about that and that's my biggest problem with Planned Parenthood, because, really, if you look at it and the work they do, it really has become heavily centered on abortion and you can't have that.

When asked about what Cuomo suggested was the non-abortion component of Planned Parenthood, Trump said

Here's what I would do if the time came: I would look at the individual things that they do and maybe some of the things are good and I know a lot of things are bad. The abortion aspect of it should not be funded by government. Absolutely.

Later he added,

"I would look at the good aspects of it and I would also look as I'm sure they do some things properly and good and good for women and I would look at that. I would look at other aspects, also."

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GOVERNOR SCOTT WALKER



Scott Walker became governor of Wisconsin in 2011. Previously, he was a state assemblyman.

Walker said:

This is absolutely horrifying and disgusting. Planned Parenthood and the Democrats who vote to fund this organization owe the American people an explanation for these heinous, and possibly illegal, actions.

Practices like this cannot be tolerated, which is why as governor, I defunded Planned Parenthood.

Where do the 2016 presidential candidates for the Democratic nomination stand on defunding abortion providers?

FORMER GOVERNOR LINCOLN CHAFEE



Lincoln Chafee served as governor of Rhode Island from 2010 until January, 2015, as an independent. Previously, he represented the state in the U.S. Senate from 1999 until 2007, as a Republican.

After the release of the undercover videos, Chafee tweeted:

I support Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has a long record of helping women .

HILLARY CLINTON



Hillary Clinton, first lady to President Bill Clinton, later served as a U.S. senator from New York from 2001 until 2009, when she was named secretary of state by President Obama. As a U.S. senator, Hillary Clinton maintained a 0% pro-life record, voting against the pro-life position on every vote.

In 2014, Clinton was awarded Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award.

Clinton, following the revelation of the undercover videos, reiterated her support for Planned Parenthood. She remarked:

I think it is regrettable that Republicans are once again trying to undermine, even end those services that so many women have needed and taken advantage of. I think that it's another effort by the Republicans to try to limit the health care options of women and we should not let them succeed once again.

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FORMER GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



Martin O'Malley served as governor of Maryland from 2007 until January, 2015. He calls himself "pro-choice." In April 2014, O'Malley received Planned Parenthood of Maryland's Betty Tyler Award "for advancing reproductive rights in Maryland."

In July, while admitting he had not seen the videos,

O'Malley dismissed them, saying:

... I don't generally make a habit of responding to right-wing videos.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS



U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has maintained a solid pro-abortion voting record, voting against the pro-life position more than 100 times

in his federal legislative career (U.S. House of Representatives 1991-2007, U.S. Senate 2007 to date).

Sanders voted against S. 1881, the bill to ban federal funding of Planned Parenthood. His vote would allow federal funding of the abortion giant to continue.

Sanders admitted he had not seen the video, but had read accounts of it in the news. Referring to Planned Parenthood's president, he said:

Obviously, I think Cecile Richards apologized for the tone of that video. I think her apology was exactly right. I think that the staffer, the tone was terribly wrong.

FORMER SEN. JIM WEBB

Jim Webb served as a U.S.

senator from Virginia from 2007 to 2013. During that six-year term, he had a 0% record,



voting 19 of 19 times against the pro-life position.

Senator Webb supports the current policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason.

Look for updates in future *National Right to Life News* and *National Right to Life News Today*.



Reflections on the impact of CMP's six undercover Planned Parenthood videos

From page 1

So what is the setting? According to the CMP, what we see is “the Director of Research for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, Melissa Farrell, advertising the Texas Planned Parenthood branch’s track record of fetal tissue sales, including its ability to deliver fully intact fetuses.” The overwhelming bulk of the conversation is with Ms. Farrell.

According to the transcript Farrell says theirs is the second largest PPFA affiliate, behind only Mar Monte, California. Its research department is the largest in the United States. The Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast affiliate is what Dr. Randall K. O’ Bannon, NRLC’s director of education, calls a “mega” abortion clinic.

After they discuss how other PPFA affiliates “blast” the fetal cavity with water and in the process lose organs (or make them more difficult to find), Farrell says

Yeah. Yeah. And under the scope of where we probably have an edge over other organizations, is our organization has been doing research for many, many years. And we’ve had studies in which the company or the investigator has a specific need, for certain portions of the products of conception [the baby].

And we bake that into our contract [include it in the contract], and our protocol, that we follow this. And we deviate from our standard in order to do

that. So, you know, we can do it in a way that we’re still verifying that everything is there for the safety of the patient, but then we maintain the integrity of that sample. So yeah, that’s definitely something we can do. So as far as, this is our standard process, telling you then we can get creative about when and where and under what conditions can we interject something that is specific to the tissue needs.

Then the “buyer” from CMP asks if a researcher wanted an “18 to 22 week neural [brain] specimens, both hemispheres intact,” could the abortion clinic “adjust the procedure”?

Farrell: Yeah, I think we could do that. Some of it is really outside, some of it will be happenstance, because you know sometimes as the procedure’s happening, you know the procedure itself, for the removal, is generally standardized. And so just depending on the patient’s anatomy, how many weeks, where it’s placed in the uterus, we’re going to potentially have some that we’re going to be able to do more or less intact, and some that will not be.

Buyer: Right.

Farrell: But it’s something that we can look at and explore how we can make that

happen, so we can have a higher chance. It will probably require a little bit of input from the doctors. Because the doctors are the ones asking to, really be doing that, you know, when it matters, and the cases where it’s mattered and the physicians have needed an intact specimen.

Buyer: Right.

Farrell: So, we can make it happen. We just need to figure out how that we can do this under our project needs.

Farrell later informs the “buyer” about a researcher that wants “fetal tissue for [a] humanized mouse model”—specifically “120 samples” from babies aborted between 14 and 22 weeks.

What specifically do they want? Farrell replies,

Everything. CNS [Central Nervous System], brain, liver, thymus, kidney, spleen, femur, bone marrow, hematopoietic stem cells from 14-22 weeks.

The nonchalant discussions about not ‘wasting’ tissue and refrigerators and freezers and Fed Ex packages and “snot” (“I can’t do it, I could never be a respiratory therapist,” Farrell says) is ghastly enough. But in some ways the worse we hear prior to them actually going into the laboratory and handling the baby body parts are Farrell’s off-hand comments about how she chitchats with staff about finding “projects” for “tissue” that would otherwise go unutilized.

Farrell: It would be exciting too if you needed it dissected, because LaShonda and I are the most Curious George of the group. I know it’s sickening on some level, but it’s fun.

Buyer: Now, let’s think about it.

Farrell: No, it’s just that those of us who are into medicine and nursing, things that other people find gross, we enjoy. Obviously.

I will not go into more detail than necessary about the exchanges in the laboratory. The Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast personnel use tweezers to hold up large baby body parts as they fish around for and talk about kidneys and lungs and livers and eyes (“orbits”) and intestines and calvarium (skulls) and trachea and a “long bone.”

Near the end of their time in the lab, we learn Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast performs 30 second trimester abortions a week. How about babies who are 16-22 weeks old? “Forty or fifty, easy” per month, a nurse relies.

As the CMP investigators end their time, they are asked

You want to see some more or? You want me to rinse it for you and put it in a tray?

I think to myself, “No, thank you.” You might have perfected a state of total desensitization. I prefer to maintain my humanity.

(There are many, many stories about Planned Parenthood, beginning with the editorial on page two.)

July 14, the day everything changed

From page 2

What's different? On the most recent previous occasion when the Senate voted on whether to defund Planned Parenthood, on April 14, 2011, **only 42 senators voted for the cutoff.**

#2. PPFA's public image--largely pristine, courtesy of relentless propaganda made possible in part by countless millions of governmental and philanthropic dollars--took an enormous hit. Two recent polls show glimmers of the real damage.

A recent *NBC News-Wall Street Journal* poll showed that a total of 45% had a favorable opinion of PPFA as compared to a total of 30% who have a negative opinion-- a net favorability of 15%. There were almost as many "very negative" (22%) than there are "very positive" (26%) responses.

Monmouth University polled 1,203 adults between July 30 and August 2. Only 37% had a favorable opinion of PPFA versus 26% who had an unfavorable opinion--a net favorability of 11%. And this is when over half the public hadn't heard about the videos and another 21% only "a little"!

#3. Then there is PPFA's credibility even with its traditional media boosters. Two analyses conducted by the *Washington Post's* fact checkers gave two and three Pinocchios," respectively, to recent statements PPFA made. ("Pinocchios" refer to how deceptive an assertion is, with four Pinocchios representing the highest degree of distortion.)

The canard that "Three percent

of all Planned Parenthood health services are abortion services" received three Pinocchios which is given (according to the *Post*) when a statement has "Significant factual error and/or obvious contradictions." This bedrock deception allows PPFA to pretend that abortion is a pittance, a trivial part of its mission, rather than what it is: its core function--in practice and in its ideology-- and source of at least \$150 million in revenue each year.



#4. Hesitancy across the board, even among those who come to "right conclusion"--that for all the flaws revealed on the six CMP videos, PPFA is indispensable to women's health (more about that below). Ruth Marcus, a *Washington Post* columnist, and faithful spear carrier for PPFA admitted, "I have to admit that my first reaction to the Planned Parenthood videos was to cringe and try to avoid the topic. Even for those who support abortion rights, there is a stomach-churning aspect to the surreptitiously taped conversations with

Planned Parenthood officials — the coldblooded discussion, between bites of salad and sips of red wine, of 'less crunchy' techniques to obtain specimens, and the precise placement of 'graspers' to avoid having to "crush" a valuable body part. If you hear this and fail to squirm, there is something wrong with you."

But there is not "something wrong with you" when you spend the remainder of your column assuring your readers

that they must nonetheless stand with good old Planned Parenthood?!

We wrote at length about Ruben Navarrette, Jr., whose "pro-choice" convictions took root 30 years ago when he was in college. The headline to his confessional says it all: "I don't know if I'm Pro-choice after Planned Parenthood videos: I've supported abortion rights. This year may be different." He is not the only man to wonder if he may have "whimpered out" by adopting a "pro-choice" position.

Two more pieces of evidence that the tide is turning against

PPFA, although I could offer ten more, such as possible congressional probes.

First, the Senate debate over PPFA funding brought to the fore a truth that Planned Parenthood will anything to squelch: There are many other eligible health entities that provide women's health care services, notably Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). It is not PPFA or nothing.

And second what can only be described as clumsiness, an absence of the sure-footing PPFA President Cecile Richards has demonstrated. They put out phony polls that everyone who follows these issues know are all speed and no altitude, such as that everyone loves PPFA and that incumbent Republican candidates in swing states will cross Planned Parenthood at their peril.

And in Richard's "exclusive" with *ABC News'* George Stephanopoulos, it was amazing to see Stephanopoulos actually address many of the main issues that we can hope congressional probes will be allowed to investigate. If Richards can't count on her friends in the media to feed her a diet of softballs, what can she count on?

Planned Parenthood is on shaky ice. It doesn't have its usual refuges to hide in, its credibility is in question, and even Richards had to sort of apologize for Dr. Nucatola's "tone."

My guess is she will be apologizing for a great deal more over the next few months.

Inspections show three Florida clinics illegally performing second trimester abortions

By Dave Andrusko

In early August, Florida Gov. Rick Scott ordered the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to investigate all 16 Planned Parenthood clinics that perform abortions. Referring to the undercover videos released by the Center for Medical Progress, Gov. Scott said in a press release, “The videos coming out about Planned Parenthood are deeply troubling to say the least.”

“I asked AHCA Secretary Liz Dudek to begin immediately dispatching staff from their licensure office to evaluate the 16 Planned Parenthood offices in Florida that perform abortion procedures to ensure they are in full compliance with the law.

“If a Planned Parenthood office is not following the law, we will move



*Pro-life Florida Gov.
Rick Scott*

quickly to take legal and regulatory action against them. We hold our healthcare

organizations in Florida to the highest standards of safety and we expect them to fully comply with the law at all times.”

After inspections, three abortion clinics – in St. Petersburg, Fort Myers and Naples – were found to be performing second trimester abortions without a license to do so. A Pembroke Pines abortion clinic was also been cited for keeping improper records of its “disposal of fetal remains.”

Of the three clinics, AHCA spokesperson Shelisha Coleman said, “These facilities have been notified to immediately cease performing second trimester abortions.” She added, “The Agency may take additional actions against these facilities

including administrative sanctions.”

The *Miami Herald* reported that Planned Parenthood could be fined up to \$500 per violation.

The Pembroke Pines abortion clinic has up until mid-August to submit a plan to correct the violation.

But Planned Parenthood of Florida may not be out of the woods yet.

“The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is still reviewing a request by state Rep. Charles McBurney, R-Jacksonville, that they open a criminal investigation into any wrongdoing by the organization in Florida,” the *Miami Herald* reported. “The videotapes, I believe, give the reasonable suspicion that warrants an investigation,” McBurney said.”

President Obama condemns harvesting organs in Africa, has nothing to say about harvesting baby body organs in America

From page 21

organs if some of them “order” organs from babies who had various disabilities?

#3. The overarching point of the President’s remarks was the importance of new thinking—the importance of young people stepping forward to lift up their countries. Traditions that

single out and oppress women are examples the President specifically cited that must be jettisoned.

Could that, should that not be extended to unborn babies killed because they are female? Is that not the ultimate “bad” tradition?

Real leaders look after the needs of the disabled, the vulnerable, and minorities, the President said.

“You’re not strong by putting people down, you’re strong by lifting them up,” Mr. Obama said. “That’s the measure of a leader.”

Perhaps that’s one reason why, as best we can tell, the President has not seen any of the five videos released by the Center for Medical Progress. If he did, he would have to look at himself in the mirror and ponder his words.

It's Not Just Planned Parenthood

By Wesley J. Smith

Many were shocked by a video released by the pro-life organization, Center for Medical Progress, showing abortion doctor and Planned Parenthood executive, Deborah Nucatola, blithely discussing the selective placement of forceps during abortions so she could “crush” fetuses in such a way as to preserve organs for distribution.

Nucatola’s insouciant attitude—as she chomped down while chirpily explaining how Planned Parenthood affiliates charge \$30-100 for pre-ordered organs from a killed fetus, may put viewers off their own food. But no one should be surprised that killing fetuses for a living fosters utter callousness toward the value of unborn human life. After all, those who we would systematically kill, we must first dehumanize—whether in war, terrorism, or abortion.

This isn’t the first time that a Planned Parenthood representative has unintentionally revealed the gruesome face of Planned Parenthood and its utter indifference to pointed lethality.

Less than three years ago, a PP lobbyist testified in Florida against a bill requiring abortion doctors to save the lives of infants they inadvertently allowed to be born. Alisa Laport Snow, the lobbyist representing the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, testified in opposition to the bill, explaining to lawmakers that her organization believes the decision to kill an infant who survives a failed abortion should be between the mother and her abortion doctor. From the *Weekly Standard* story:

So, um, it is just really hard for me to even ask you this question because I’m almost in disbelief,” said Rep. Jim Boyd. “If a baby is born on a table as a result of a botched abortion, what would Planned Parenthood want to

have happen to that child that is struggling for life?”

“We believe that any decision that’s made should be left up to the woman, her family, and the physician,” said Planned Parenthood lobbyist Snow.

Make no mistake: *This* is Planned Parenthood. *This* is pro-abortion. Subsequent fence-



mending and semi-apologies about “tone” cannot hide that truth.

Planned Parenthood isn’t alone neither in being callously indifferent toward unborn human lives—nor in its radical pro-abortion beliefs bleeding into support for outright infanticide. Many in bioethics believe that unborn and newly born human beings do not possess the cognitive capacities to qualify as a “person”—and hence, abortion equals infanticide—and it is all just peachy keen. As just one example—many could be adduced—some readers might remember the article published in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* in 2011 arguing that infants can be killed at the will of parents because—as human “non-persons”—they have no greater value than fetuses. From, “After-Birth Abortion: Why Should the Baby Live?”

We argue that, when circumstances occur after birth such that they

would have justified abortion, what we call after-birth abortion should be permissible.

In spite of the oxymoron in the expression, we propose to call this practice ‘after-birth abortion’, rather than ‘infanticide’, to emphasise that the moral status of the individual killed is

comparable with that of a fetus (on which ‘abortions’ in the traditional sense are performed) rather than to that of a child. Therefore, we claim that killing a newborn could be ethically permissible in all the circumstances where abortion would be.

Killing fetuses and harvesting them has also served as a pretext to pay women to abort—even to wait longer in their pregnancy before termination. Thus, Jacob M. Appel wrote in the *Huffington Post*:

Since far more women have legal abortions each year in the United States than would be required to clear organ wait-lists, if only a small percentage of those women could be persuaded to carry their fetuses to the necessary point of development

for transplantation, society might realize significant public health benefits.

The government could even step into the marketplace itself to purchase fetal organs for patients on Medicare and Medicaid, ensuring that low-income individuals had equal access to such organs while keeping the “asking price” elevated... Someday, if we are fortunate, scientific research may make possible farms of artificial “wombs” breeding fetuses for their organs — or even the “miracle” of men raising fetuses in their abdomens.

That day remains far off. However, the prospect of fetal-adult organ transplantation is a much more realistic near-term possibility. A market in such organs might benefit both society and the women who choose to take advantage of it.

If one thinks that human beings can be categorized into the valuable (persons) and the disposable (non-persons—which also includes long-born people who have lost their “relevant mental capacities” due to injury, age, or illness), it is a baby step to thinking these humans should be strip mined for their valuable body parts.

Alas, Planned Parenthood is just the tip of the iceberg of an accelerating advocacy trend aimed at reducing our perception of the most helpless human to so many corn crops ripe for the harvest.

Editor’s note. This appeared on Wesley’s invaluable blog www.nationalreview.com/human-exceptionalism

When abortionists “are elevated to gods who may not be questioned or held accountable, society has officially gone off the rails”

By Dave Andrusko

Many people credit author, columnist, and television panelist Kirsten Powers with unlocking the logjam that prevented virtually any “mainstream” media coverage of the murder trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell.

It’s not like there was a flood of reporters who washed into Philadelphia after her “We’ve forgotten what belongs on Page

Medical Progress put online. There is a reference to the second, in which Dr. Mary Gatter casually discussed possibly using a “less crunchy [abortion] technique” to preserve intact baby organs.

But for the most part Powers’ column addresses the astonishingly stomach-churning comments of Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior

Powers writes,

This is stomach-turning stuff. But the problem here is not one of tone. It’s the crushing. It’s the organ harvesting of fetuses that abortion-rights activists want us to believe have no more moral value than a fingernail.

It’s the lie that these are not human beings worthy of protection. There is no nice way to talk about this. As my friend and former Obama White House staffer Michael Wear tweeted, “It should bother us as a society that we have use for aborted human organs, but not the baby that provides them.”

Powers wrote her column before the usual PPFA allies, such as the *New York Times*, kicked into full attack mode against the CMP. So the “usual defenders” of PPFA who “were nowhere to be found,” are now beginning to poke their heads up and spin, spin, spin a discussion of intact hearts, lungs, livers, and brains.

But, from the PPFA’s vantage point, some “defenders” are probably best avoided. Take abortionist Willie Parker. Here’s Powers’ magnificent conclusion:

Mississippi abortion doctor Willie Parker

— who was lauded by *Esquire* for his “abortion ministry” — ran with the trope that direct quotes from a Planned Parenthood doctor constitute a vicious attack, but went a step further: He compared Nucatola to Jesus. “It’s no secret that my frame of reference for the work that I do and in terms of generating compassion is related to my religious understanding and, in particular, my Christian religious understanding,” Parker told *Cosmopolitan* magazine. “I’m thinking about a strong parallel between what’s happening to my colleague (Nucatola) and the trial week of Jesus before he was crucified (as) he was marched from place to place, asked to answer allegations.”

When abortion doctors are elevated to gods who may not be questioned or held accountable, society has officially gone off the rails.



One” Column. But it is still true that her public shaming (no lesser word will do) of her colleagues did result in additional coverage of a trial that ended with Gosnell’s richly deserved sentence of three consecutive life sentences.

Her *USA Today* column —“Caught in stomach-turning video, all it [PPFA] can apologize for is the tone”— may or may not have such an event-altering result, but it is helpful in a different way.

Powers is writing primarily about the first undercover video that the Center for

director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in the first video, and PPFA President Cecile Richards all speed but no altitude YouTube rebuttal.

As you may recall, Richards offered a tepid “apology” for Dr. Nucatola’s “tone” but for nothing else. Indeed, Richards doubled (and tripled) down on PPFA’s overall wonderfulness and especially its ability **“to help women and families donate tissue for medical research when they wish to.”** (We’ve taken that canard apart numerous times including, on page 6.)

What science tells us about the unborn

From page 18

countless medical, biological, and scientific writings.”

The report also noted that “no witness [who testified before the subcommittee] raised any evidence to refute the biological fact that from the moment of conception there exists a distinct individual being who is alive and is of the human species. No witness challenged the scientific consensus that unborn children are ‘human beings,’ insofar as the term is used to mean living beings of the human species.”

Evidence is decisive

The evidence, then, shows that the unborn is a living organism of the human species from his or her beginning at conception. Thus, to kill the unborn by abortion or for embryo-destructive research is to kill a human being. This is not a moral claim about whether such killing is right or wrong, but a factual one, based on the scientific evidence of embryology.

Objections to this conclusion stem from scientific ignorance, confusion or misunderstanding. I consider common objections below.

Objection #1: ‘No one knows’

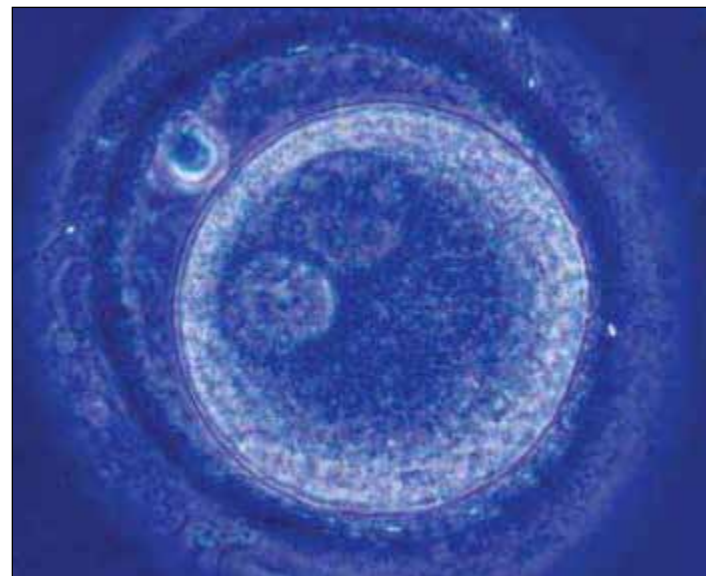
The claim that “no one knows when life begins” is so often repeated that it bears addressing. While there is indeed debate about when a human being becomes (if she isn’t by nature) valuable and deserving of full moral respect, the strictly biological matter is clear, as I explain above. The life of a human being, a living member of our species, begins at conception.

(Contrary to what many pro-choice advocates apparently believe, agnosticism regarding the unborn is actually a decisive

reason to refrain from killing her. A hunter does not shoot into the brush unless he is sure that his target is not a person.)

Objection #2: Potential of sperm and egg

Some say that if the unborn is a human being, then we must (absurdly) conclude that the sperm and egg are also human beings, for they also have the



potential to become a child, a teenager and eventually an adult.

This is bad biology. The sperm and egg are simply parts of larger organisms. When they unite they cease to be and something new comes into existence: the zygote, a whole organism with the active capacity to develop into a mature member of its species, given only a suitable environment and nutrition. Each of us was once a zygote, but none of us was ever a sperm or egg.

Objection #3: Somatic cells

Some people compare the zygote and embryo to regular somatic (body) cells, which are also human, living and possessing of a full genetic code. Since these cells are

not actual human beings—brushing skin cells off my arm is not the killing of hundreds of tiny humans—the zygote or embryo is not an actual human being either, the critic reasons.

But there is a crucial difference. The unborn is its own organism, not a mere part of another. The unborn from conception is a distinct and complete individual

whose parts work together in a coordinated fashion to develop the whole to maturity. That is not true of skin or other somatic cells, which function as mere parts of a larger organism.

Objection #4: Twinning

Defenders of embryo-destructive research sometimes say that because very early embryos can split into two distinct embryos—an event called twinning—the early embryo must not itself be a unitary individual. But the conclusion does not follow.

When a flatworm is cut in half, or when an organism is cloned via somatic cell nuclear transfer, a single organism gives rise to two distinct organisms. In both cases the

original entity is a unitary, self-integrating, whole individual. The scientific evidence shows that the embryo likewise functions as its own organism, from the zygote stage forward, regardless of whether twinning occurs.

Objection #5: Brain death

The irreversible cessation of brain activity is used as a criterion for the death of a human being, even though some of the body’s organs can live after brain death. For this reason, some advocates of embryo-destructive research claim that the life of a human being does not begin until the unborn develops a brain.

But brain death is accepted as a criterion only because it signals the end of the body’s ability to function as an integrated organism, for which the brain, in older humans, is essential. After brain death there is no longer a unitary organism. By contrast, the embryo from conception is a unitary organism, actively developing herself to the next stage of human life. The brain, at this earliest stage, is not yet necessary for her to function as such.

All, or only some?

Because the scientific facts are clear, the permissibility of taking unborn human life hinges on a moral question. Do all human beings merit full moral respect and protection, as you and I uncontroversially do—or only some?

Editor’s note. Paul Stark is Communications Associate for MCCL, National Right to Life’s state affiliate. The following originally ran in two separate issues of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) News

“It is a baby, and dead”

From page 2

It’s a very specific disgust, informed by reason and experience — the reasoning that notes that it’s precisely a fetus’s humanity that makes its organs valuable, and the experience of recognizing one’s own children, on the ultrasound monitor and after, as something more than just “products of conception” or tissue for.

As good as Douthat’s own observations were, I would not be giving proper credit if I didn’t thank him as well for beginning his *Times*’ column with an excerpt from a remarkable essay that appeared in a book by Dr. Richard Selzer published in 1976. In years past we wrote about a different essay in *Mortal Lessons: Notes On The Art Of Surgery* on several occasions.

What Selzer saw is as good an example of the shock of recognition as you will ever find.

After a garbage truck had left his neighborhood, Dr. Selzer found “a foreignness upon the pavement.” But the “it” is not an “it” at all, but fetal body parts which a hospital

“mixed up with the other debris” instead of being incinerated or interred. “It is not an everyday occurrence. Once in a lifetime, he [the hospital director] says.”

The bag containing the babies’ remains had fallen off the garbage truck and broken open. It was very important to the hospital director that Selzer understand what had happened—and to himself as well, it appears. He laid out that “aborted fetuses that weigh one pound or less are incinerated. Those weighing over one pound are buried at the city cemetery” Selzer wrote.

Why the need for the meticulous detail? Selzer speculates that it is an attempt to offer a rationale—an assurance—that

contrary to your lying eyes, the world has not gone crazy. The director’s explanations are to assure us so that

Now you see. It is orderly. It is sensible. The world is not mad. This is still a civilized society...

But Selzer had seen, in the only way that matters.

“All at once you step on something soft. You feel it with your foot. Even through your shoe you have the sense of something unusual, something marked by a special ‘give.’ It is a foreignness upon the pavement. Instinct pulls your foot away in an awkward little movement. You look down, and you see... a tiny naked body, its arms and legs flung apart, its head thrown back, its mouth agape, its face serious. A bird, you think, fallen from

its nest. But there is no nest here on Woodside, no bird so big. It is rubber, then. A model. A joke. Yes, that’s it, a joke. And you bend to see. Because you must. And it is no joke. Such a gray softness can be but one thing. It is a baby, and dead.

As he ponders what he has seen and heard—and what it means — Selzer concludes

But just this once, you know it isn’t [sane and sensible]. You saw, and you know.

It wasn’t until the fifth CMP video that we saw baby body parts. They were no longer “blobs of tissue” but sources of enormous revenue for the middle man who would sell them to researchers.

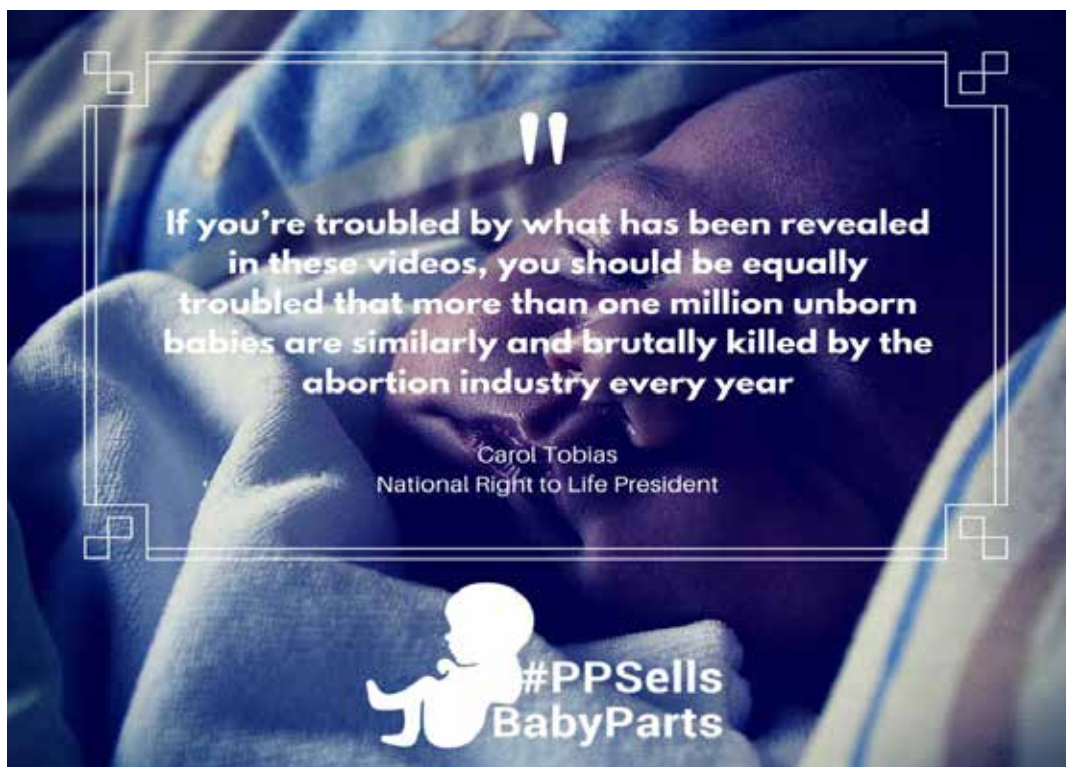
But in the first two videos, we did see into the heart of darkness.

As you listen to Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director for medical services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and Dr. Mary Gatter, president of the Medical Directors Council of PPFA, you might truly begin to understand for the very first time the banality of evil.

How behavior that almost defies imagination can be carried out on a mass scale by ordinary people so utterly desensitized that they can cheerfully talk over salad and red white wine about what they are doing to helpless unborn babies remains a mystery to the rest of us.

I am reminded of a line from Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*: “Darkness was cheap, and Scrooge liked it.” Only in this case the darkness pays rich dividends to the largest abortion provider in the world.

But at what price—not only to the millions of unborn babies and their mothers, but to the souls of those caught up the maw of the abortion industry’s machinery?



Planned Parenthood's School for Scandal

From page 8

the parts, gulping down wine while talking about aborting “17 weekers” and altering abortion procedures to get better, more intact, specimens.

If necessary, offer up a sacrificial scapegoat. So far, Planned Parenthood has apologized for the “tone” of some of its employees, but no one has lost their job. Yet, if past behavior is any indication, don’t expect any of the top talent, the abortionists or “medical directors” who spoke a little too freely, to get a pink slip. But any nurse, counselor, or low-level staffer who messed up (aka told the truth) could be gone. Publicly offered up as a token sacrificial lamb, PPFAs would suggest their departure is “proof” that the group has sufficiently dealt with the problem so that Planned Parenthood can quickly resume its business.

It is a pattern that has been repeated over and over.

When undercover videos recorded at Planned Parenthood clinics in Indiana in June of 2008 showed a counselor telling what she thought was a 13-year-old girl who claimed she was pregnant by an older man how she could get an abortion in surrounding states without parental consent, both of those employees lost their jobs, one fired, the other resigning. And then Planned Parenthood of Indiana announced that it had employees at its 35 clinics in the state retrained (*Indianapolis Star*, 12/20/08).

As far as we can tell, all the abortion clinics featured in these videos (and others) are still open, still in business, still doing abortions. A few employees are gone, but the

mill grinds on.

Shift the focus to your “good” works. Before you get too worked up over awful words and images from these latest videos, Planned Parenthood wants to make sure you know that abortion is really just a small part of their business and that they do lots of “cancer screenings.”

A recent article by Ashley Welch, of *CBS News*, helpfully titled “Abortion controversy overshadows Planned Parenthood health services” (8/7/15) buys into the diversion. After quoting several Republican leaders explaining why they support defunding, Welch says, “Though such rhetoric may leave the impression that abortion is Planned Parenthood’s primary focus, those procedures in fact account for only 3 percent of the services it provides per year, according to the organization’s annual report.”

Welch is not through: “The organization says the recent controversy has taken attention away from the many health care services it provides to both women and men that are not abortion-related.”

While NRLC has been deconstructing this misleading mathematical misdirection for years, a few news sources have finally started to question the claim (*National Review* 3/4/15, *Washington Post*, 8/12/15). The gist of the analysis is that Planned Parenthood can only obtain this 3% figure by counting every STD test, every packet of pills given out, and even a woman’s initial pregnancy test as a separate service, though these may all be bundled and sold together as

part of the abortion.

It also fails to take into account the relative price differential for these services, so that a \$500 abortion counts the same as a \$10 pregnancy test kit, downplaying the significance of abortion to Planned Parenthood’s bottom line.

Planned Parenthood would rather have people talk about their “cancer screenings,” though they do not want people to know that women can get these services at community centers which don’t sell abortions or be told that pap smears at Planned Parenthood are sent to outside labs. (And they virtually never do mammograms there at the clinics.)

What Planned Parenthood implicitly knows is that if people realize what the group really does, how it makes its money, and how callously it regards human life – just what the latest videos are exposing – they’ll be repulsed. And that could threaten their billion dollar empire, which is heavily subsidized by state governments and the federal government.

Planned Parenthood would rather have people look anywhere but at the cold, hard truth.

Keep on killing. In a scandal, all of Planned Parenthood’s tactics are calculated to buy it time, to minimize the damage, to give the appearance that something has been done, but above all else, to keep the clinics operating at full capacity.

PPFA tries to convince people that if they understand the whole “context,” they will understand that they did **not** see

what they thought they saw, or heard what they **thought** they heard. “Sure it’s repulsive,” they say, “but aren’t all medical procedures?”

As the videos make apparent, however, this isn’t just another surgery. It is the deliberate killing of human beings, a truth that Planned Parenthood employees probably have to work as hard to quash in themselves as they do in others.

Make it about those who expose their venal and callous insensitivity, not PPFAs’ grotesque behavior. They try to use the relationships they’ve nurtured over the years with the press and political leaders to make people question their own consciences when the evil is present right before their eyes.

Change the subject. Draw attention to other “positive” things they do, even if incompletely (referring out for mammograms, rather than performing them) or poorly. Look at that instead of the more than 300,000 babies a year they abort and then exploit.

And some people will buy it. Perhaps some have so hardened their hearts that they, like Planned Parenthood, don’t see the baby parts come from a baby, others because they simply ignore what Planned Parenthood, its media followers, and the politicians in Planned Parenthood’s pockets tell them to.

But Truth is a pesky thing. The scandal of what Planned Parenthood thinks, says, and does in those clinics finally getting out. No spin can change that reality.

Let’s hope that the more people know the truth, the better they will understand the truth.