national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

July 2017

Connie Yates and Chris Gard in a desperate battle to save their son Charlie Gard

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In major turnabout American neurologist is now examining Charlie Gard

Dr. Michio Hirano had testified 11% to 56% chance of clinically meaningful improvement" in muscular function

By Dave Andrusko

As *National Right to Life News* posts its July edition this afternoon, American neurologist Michio Hirano is in London to examine little Charlie Gard, the 11-month-old boy at the center of a global struggle over his parents' resolute determination to buck a famed children's hospital conclusion that Charlie ought to be "allowed to die with dignity."

Connie Yates and Chris Yard counter that there is reason to believe an experimental therapy created by Dr. Hirano can ameliorate his condition which they readily concede is grave. Columbia University Medical Center, the hospital where Dr. Hirano is chief at the Division of Neuromuscular Disorders, had previously offered to treat Charlie with what is called nucleoside therapy.

Dr. Hirano is being joined by a doctor from the Vatican

See "Turnabout," page 22

National Right to Life supports Better Care Reconciliation Act

Nation's largest pro-life group urges Senate debate next week

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of state right-to-life organizations, supports H.R. 1628, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, and urges the Senate to vote to begin debate on this bill next week. The Better Care Reconciliation Act reduces the devastating impact on life brought by the abortion-subsidizing and abortion-expanding provisions of the Obama Health Care Law.

The Better Care Reconciliation Act contains several essential elements that mark a substantial improvement from the Obama Health Care Law.

The bill creates a "State Stability and Innovation Program" which will bring

See "Supports," page 37

Pro-life Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)
Photo Credit: Associated Press

Editorials

The remarkable ordeal of Charlie Gard's parents pits ordinary people against institutional power

Ten days ago there seem to be no chance that the parents of 11-month-old Charlie Gard would be allowed to exercise their parental rights to take their seriously ill child to the United States where the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center had agreed to treat Charlie with an experimental therapy that showed some promise in ameliorating related mitochondrial diseases.

Talk about a stacked deck. The Great Ormond Street Hospital in London is a renowned children's hospital. The consensus was that death was in Charlie's "best interest," for an assortment of reasons including the greatly disputed charge that Charlie was in pain and that he does not have a life "worth living."

On top of that the presiding judge, Justice Nicholas Francis, made it crystal-clear that it would be the judiciary--namely him--who will make the final decision on Charlie's fate. The parents were very much worthy of sympathy, he wrote, but after all they were blinded by love (my characterization but I think a very accurate one).

If that weren't enough Justice Francis grew impatient with the hoi polloi who did not reflexively accept his conclusion that nucleoside therapy offered Charlie no chance for improvement. On top of all that, it was impossible to miss that Francis' growing impatience was stirred by a sense of cultural elitism.

An American doctor initially identified only as "Dr. I" testified last Thursday by videoconferencing. He had the audacity to suggest Charlie could benefit from nucleoside therapy, which he had pioneered. Justice Francis wrote dismissively

> **Dr. I. who has not had the opportunity of examining Charlie, and who operates in what has been referred to as a slightly different culture in the United States where anything would be tried …**

(All the experts are unnamed, thanks to Justice Francis' gag order –they call it something nicer in Great Britain. He relented last Friday.)

Justice Francis all but says that there goes those cowboys over in the United States: they'll go to **any** extreme to save an infant

See "Reflections," page 23

"Friends," evergreen content, and the beauty of the pro-life message

Last week an engaging groups of teenagers came to National Right to Life. I was one of the staff who had the chance to speak with them, which is always a treat for me.

Truth be told, I was surprised by several of their responses and what triggered them.

The topic of little Charlie Gard came up and the wonderful adult who had brought the kids to NRLC asked who knows who Jennifer Aniston is? (She was about to say how much Charlie's mother looks like Aniston.)

I smiled and almost laughed outloud. What 16-17 year old kid would possibly know Jennifer Aniston who first came to fame in the 1990s? And I said pretty much that.

With one voice, they said not so. They **all** knew about the show in which Aniston was one of the stars– "Friends "–and watched it.

In case you aren't familiar with "Friends," it was an incredibly popular television series that ran on NBC for ten seasons, from 1994 to 2004. One young man, probably wondering how a duffus like me could edit *NRL News Today*, said "Netflix?" As in "you do know that Netflix runs programming that goes back decades and decades and decades, don't you?"

And then someone else chimed in that "Friends" is one of those forever series, the kind of evergreen watching that speaks a universal language–friendship–that will resonate as long as people are people.

That instantly triggered in my mind the universality of the language pro-lifers speak, words and themes and sentiments that resonate even when people believe in "choice."

I mentioned in my talk the speech delivered by O. Carter Snead at the banquet that concluded NRLC's fabulous annual convention. Prof. Snead spoke of the attractivness of the pro-life message–that it is aesthetically pleasing, morally cohesive, and reflects radical hospitality.

See "Friends," page 34

From the President
Carol Tobias

Authors and Artists Impact Life

The pro-life movement has, for years, been blessed with many thoughtful and creative ways to spread the pro-life message through books, music, and many forms of art. The proliferation of such messaging is helping to reach new audiences in many different ways.

One of the first books published (1971) was "Handbook on Abortion" by Dr. Jack and Barbara Willke. This in-depth book was a must-have for pro-lifers. In layman's terms, it described the development of the unborn child and abortion procedures, and gave samples of how to answer pro-abortion arguments. Few pro-life speakers went anywhere without that book.

After several reprintings, including in several languages, the Willkes published a successor book, titled "ABORTION Questions and Answers."

In subsequent years, there's been an outpouring of books on many subjects, from scholarly examinations of the unconstitutional basis for the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe* and *Doe* decisions to very personal accounts of abortion and raising children with severe disabilities to fiction, music, and art.

For example, back in the 1980s, National Right to Life News editor, Dave Andrusko, edited four books of essays written by NRLC staff. There were books about abortion in general and a human life amendment to the Constitution, in particular.

As the right-to-life movement grew and women who had abortions started coming forward to talk about their experiences, many books were written by the women explaining their situation at the time of the abortion and how that decision affected them.

In recent years, we have seen books from parents who share their joys and heartaches in raising children born with disabilities.

Brandon and Brittany Buell's son, Jaxon, was born with microhydraencephaly and a brain just one fifth of the size of a typical brain. Jaxon turns three in August and, as his parents say, is "teaching the world about life."

Lacey Buchanan is caring for a son born with part of his face missing. Although six-year-old Christian has had many surgeries to address the various problems, he has no eyes.

Both families share the challenges of caring for children with difficult circumstances. Their books, "Don't Blink" and "Through the Eyes of Hope," respectively, give encouragement to other parents who may be undergoing a similar experience and, for the rest of us, reinforce the belief that all children are special and all children need to be loved and protected.

Sheryl Crosier chronicles her family's heartbreak as doctors refused to treat her son, Simon, born with Trisomy 18. The book, "I'm Not a Syndrome—My Name is Simon" was written to warn us about secret decisions made in hospitals and doctors' offices that disregard the wishes of a child's parents. Simon died three months after being born, when doctors issued a DNR order without telling Simon's parents.

What I find interesting now is the number of pro-life books written as fiction but with the obvious purpose of making the reader seriously think about what abortion is and what damage it is inflicting on American culture.

Although based on a true event, "An Accidental Life" by Pamela Binnings Ewen, pulls back the curtain on the abortion industry's dirty secret—babies who survive abortion abandoned and left to die.

Cindy Brunk's work, "Love Will," uses a car accident to bring together several families in a hospital whose lives are connected by one woman's courageous decision not to abort her child. What if she had not chosen life for her baby those many years ago?

In "I'm Not Real," author Ty Tenbow intertwines the stories of couples on earth, their abortion decisions, and a love-filled "adoption" center where children are loved and cared for by guardian Big Al.

Music can reach people in many different ways. Those who attended NRL Conventions in past years had the pleasure of hearing Jaime Thietten perform her moving song, "My Chance," which brings attention to the emotional trauma often felt by women who have experienced abortion.

"Let Them Live" was written by a father-son writing team of Ronald and Nicholas Owen. Performed by Melodie Joy and John K Brown, the song affirms the sanctity of life at every stage of development.

I have long enjoyed "I Knew You," the beautiful painting of Shannon Wirrenga. There are many pro-life artists contributing to the culture through the use of their varied talents, from paintings and chalk drawings to sculpture. Pro-life artists are finding and encouraging each other through means such as the Facebook page, "Pro-life Artists Unite."

The many ways being used to change hearts and minds, whether it is a book, a song, or other forms of art, enrich the pro-life movement by reaching into various segments of society in new and different ways. The few books and artistry mentioned here just barely scratch the surface.

I willingly acknowledge that I am not an "artsy-craftsy" type of person so I appreciate the work of those who are. And I am grateful that so many are using their gifts and talents to promote the preciousness of every human life.

Amendment to repeal D.C.'s dangerous assisted suicide law adopted

By Jennifer Popik, J.D. Federal Legislative Director

Late in the evening Thursday, during the committee mark-up of the Commerce, Justice and Science and Financial Services appropriations bill, Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), a medical doctor, brought an amendment that would repeal D.C.'s dangerous assisted suicide law.

The amendment was adopted by a vote of 28-24.

The amendment now becomes part of the larger appropriations package.

The timing on this amendment was particularly crucial because the law has not yet been fully implemented. Although the so-called Death with Dignity Act became law in DC on February 18, 2017, it is not set to take effect until October 1.

According to a May 23, 2017 article in the *Washington Post* titled, "D.C. Assisted Suicide Law Could Be Blocked Under Trump's Budget," there is already effort underway now, despite the October 1 start date, to get guidelines in place for physicians.

Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)

Since its inception, the pro-life movement has been as concerned with protecting the lives of older people and people with disabilities as it has been dedicated to protecting unborn children from abortion. Therefore, NRLC has always vigorously opposed legalizing assisted suicide and strongly supports the amendment from Rep. Harris.

Five states (California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont) and D.C. permit the dangerous practice of allowing physicians to write lethal prescriptions to certain groups of persons living with serious illness.

Where legal, as is the case with the D.C. law, assisted suicide laws permit insurance companies to pay for the lethal doses. Moreover, nothing in the law prevents insurance companies from promoting the relatively inexpensive drugs.

Apart from the danger of permitting insurers to recommend suicide drugs to seriously ill patients, the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997, Pub. L. No. 105-12 (Apr. 30, 1997), which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, strictly forbids the District from using funds for purposes related to assisted suicide.

While the D.C. law was promoted as "merely" providing another end of life "option," this law can become a vehicle to push the medically vulnerable into an early death.

The legal definition of terminal illness used in D.C. will sweep in vast groups of people who could otherwise live for many years with continued treatment. Additionally, there is no requirement that patients be screened for depression or other treatable mental illness.

National Right to Life strongly supports inclusion of this provision in the final budget.

More detailed discussion of the threat to life that assisted suicide poses can be found at nrlc.org/medethics/directkilling.

Walk with me: A post-abortion journey

By Dave Andrusko

Life gets in the way, but I try as often as I can to carve out time one night during the week to meet with members of my adult Sunday school class. Most of the time, our gatherings are just fun times to get to know each other better.

Recently, however, one of my class asked if I could meet with them for morning coffee. I did, not having a clue what they wanted to discuss one-on-one.

When we got together a few days later, one look at their face told me this would going to be serious. They wanted to talk about their sister's abortion.

This is not the first time I have talked with someone about an abortion, theirs or someone close to them. That took place in the late 1970s when over wine and cheese a young woman told me about her multiple abortions, largely (I'm guessing) to see how I would respond. She knew I was very pro-life.

She dropped the fact of her abortions so casually it threw me off-balance. Schooled in how to debate the abortion issue I was new to dealing one-on-one with something who'd actually **had** an abortion, or, in her case, three. I can only hope

and pray what I said was of help to her.

I say all that because that conversation of a couple of weeks back reminded me not only of my first experience navigating the minefield of trying to help a post-abortion woman (or man), but of something I once read and then commented on in this space.

It appeared at postabortionwalk.blogspot.com. The headline was "Postabortion journey, walk with me: A story of hope and healing after abortion."

See "Walk," page 24

A look back at NRL 2017, a look ahead to NRL 2018

By Jacki Ragan, Convention Director

For those of you who were able to be with us in Milwaukee June 29-July 1, a sincere thank you for doing whatever you had to do in order to attend the 47th annual National Right to Life Convention.

The three days were packed with amazing speakers, dynamic speakers, speakers who had inspirational pro-life messages to share with the grassroots movement.

We at National Right to Life understand that it can be expensive and sometimes difficult to raise the funds to attend the convention. We do our best to keep the cost as low as possible, knowing that you are there, on a tight budget, to learn as much as possible, and then carry that information back to your local community and share it with other pro-lifers.

There is nothing quite like being there in person. You not only have the ability to hear from and learn from some of the greatest pro-life speakers available--from the likes of Ben Shapiro and David Daleiden and Ann McElhinney and Ryan Bomberger, to name just three-- but you can also visit the exhibits.

The takeaway that I hear most often is how attendees so appreciate the ability to meet and talk with other pro-life activists from across the nation and share ideas, discuss what works and what doesn't, and make life-long friends.

If you were not able to be at the convention, we do have CDs available for every session and hope you will utilize those. Ordering information will be available soon at Nationalrighttolifenews.org about how to order CDs for the sessions you can't miss. Go to pages 15 and 16 to see a complete list of all the CDs and MP3s.

Finally, next year, Overland Park, Kansas -- fly into the Kansas City Airport or drive -- we have free parking available. The dates are June 28, 29 and 30, 2018.

It may seem a long ways away, but time will fly. Keep a close watch on www.nrlconvention.com for more information.

Thanks again for being there, or even wanting to be there. Keep doing what you are doing.

We **are** making a difference. And we need your involvement to be a part of making that difference.

See ya next year in the beautiful Heartland of Kansas!

Don't forget to purchase your NRLC Convention CDs and MP3s

By Dave Andrusko

If you were at NRLC 2017 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I don't have to tell you that those three days were among the best any grassroots pro-life activist could asked for. Consider….

NRLC 2017 hosted 66 workshops, five general sessions a Friday morning Prayer Breakfast, and a Saturday evening closing Banquet. And that doesn't even count 14 teen workshops where the next generation of pro-life leaders sharpened their skills and deepened their commitment to unborn children and their mothers.

On pages 16 and 17, you will find a complete list of all these resources. You can purchase an entire set or choose among the workshops, the general sessions, the Prayer Breakfast, and the banquet.

Once you've perused the list, be sure to alert your pro-life friends and family. They, too, will likely want to be "part of the action" that took place June 29-July 1.

When you go online to www.nrlconvention.com, you can order either CDs or MP3s. An individual CD is $8.00 and an individual MP3 is $5.00. A complete set of CDs is $400.00.

We know that only a tiny fraction of the millions of prolifers can attend National Right to Life's annual convention. That is why the convention goes to such lengths to make sure you have the next best thing to physically being present in Milwaukee.

Please take a look at the available CDs and MP3s on pages 16 and 17 and place your order at nrlconvention.com.

National Right to Life Convention a great success at "Keeping Tomorrow Alive"

By Heather Weininger, Executive Director, Wisconsin Right to Life

The 47th Right to Life National Convention is in the books, and all of us at Wisconsin Right to Life are glad to have had a chance to host this premier pro-life event whose slogan was "Keeping Tomorrow Alive."

Since then, I've taken some time to absorb all that happened June 29-July 1 here in Milwaukee. Here's what I've personally concluded: this year's speakers were the best we have ever seen!

As the Convention kicked off Thursday morning, we were proud to hear from our very own Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. Her strong commitment to the protection of life is truly genuine, and can be seen in how she is raising her two daughters, and how she lives her everyday life.

Plus, her enthusiasm is contagious! The Lt. Governor, after showcasing the many pro-life accomplishments of Wisconsin, exclaimed that we "are the activists of science" to universal applause from the crowd. Her address was an awesome reminder that the reason we succeed is because we have the truth on our side.

Wisconsin's own Attorney General Brad Schimel followed with another terrific--and very personal--pro-life speech.

Just like Lt. Governor Kleefisch, AG Schimel's passion for the right to life is authentic and genuine. He shared with the crowd not only his tireless defense of pro-life laws, but also his and his wife's journey to parenthood through adoption.

Trust me, there was hardly a dry eye in the room after hearing him share the story of a birthmother's courageous fight to ensure the Schimels first daughter was spared from abortion. He shares the same admiration we all have for the brave women and girls who fight against the culture of death to give their children a chance at life.

Heather Weininger, Executive Director of Wisconsin Right to Life, and David Daleiden, who heads the Center for Medical Progress and who was a General Session Speaker at NRL 2017.

As expected, author and commentator Ben Shapiro's speech was fantastic. He outlined every major objection to the pro-life position and just demolished each and every argument.

After his speech I had a chance to meet with a long-time friend of Wisconsin Right to Life and heard that his children had come to convention just to hear Ben Shapiro. They left saying they felt even more pro-life after hearing him. It is amazing to see the next generation of the pro-life movement feel so empowered after being armed with the facts!

David Daleiden's talk was an equally exciting experience. To hear, first-hand, Mr. Daleiden's efforts to expose the truth about Planned Parenthood's role in the trafficking of baby body parts was riveting. In his speech and in his work as the head of the Center for Medical Progress, he tore away the curtain to uncover the truth about the abortion industry. His continued fight against censorship and bullying encourages use to hold up the torch and keep working to end this grisly trade of the bodies of innocent children.

Finally, it's no secret that I'm a huge fan of our great governor, Scott Walker. Gov. Walker's address had many attendees approaching me afterwards to tell me how jealous they were of our pro-life governor and how much they wish they had a leader like him in their state!

I get it – Governor Walker is a true hero to the pro-life movement in Wisconsin, and we need a lot more leaders like him. He fights continuously for the most vulnerable, and we are delighted that others get to see how much he is an advocate for the right to life.

Looking ahead, next year's NRLC convention is in Overland Park, Kansas, June 28, 29, and 30. My hope is that everyone who attended National Right to Life Convention this year asks one other person to come with them next year.

From general session speakers to countless break-out workshops, there is so much to learn and share.

Together, we can expand our networks, inspire one another, and continue our work in the most important fight of our lifetime.

Together, we are "Keeping Tomorrow Alive. "

NRL 2017 and "Live Tweet to Win!"

By Rai Rojas

That's what the Flyers and the posters at this year's Annual National Right to Life Convention said. Live Tweet to Win! We announced it during General Sessions; the eye-catching and colorful flyer was part of the registration bag given to every attendee. The Flyers were also prominently placed on different booths and pin boards around the Milwaukee Hyatt Regency in Downtown Milwaukee.

(Psst. The story of who won is fascinating. It's down a ways in this post.)

The concept of the contest was simple, tweet a comment during a general session or workshop using the #NRLC2017 hashtag and your tweet was placed in a drawing. On the final day of the Convention, and after the last workshop ended, a random drawing would determine the winner.

Bryce "Fish" Fisher (on the left) and Alexander J. Hostetler

The prize bag included: an autographed copy of Ben Shapiro's new book *Say It's So*; an autographed copy of *Gosnell – The Untold Story of America's Most Prolific Serial Killer* by Ann McElhinney; an autographed copy of Ryan Bomberger's book *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong*; an autographed copy of Wesley J. Smith's new book, *Culture of Death*.

The gift basket also included full audio CDs of the Convention's opening day's sessions including Ben Shapiro, David Daleiden, and The Gosnell presentation by Ann McElhinney.

The winning tweet was a picture posted by Bryce "Fish" Fisher of himself with Ben Shapiro and Fish's friend Alexander J. Hostetler, both of DeWitt, Michigan.

Two 18-year-old young men winning four autographed books written by international newsmakers, and several CDs highlighting the worst that the pro-abortion side has to offer is something of great value to any of us in the pro-life movement. When I exchanged emails with Fish (it's Bryce's preferred sobriquet), he explained how he came about to be at the National Right to Life Convention.

Several weeks before the event, Bryce heard on one of Ben Shapiro's wildly popular podcasts that he was going to be at the National Right to Life Convention in Milwaukee. Fish and his buddy Alexander knew they had to get there. With severely limited funds, they made a budget, and they made a plan.

After paying for each of their registrations, they planned on getting a ride from DeWitt, on the eastern side of Michigan, to Muskegon on the west – a little over 100 miles away. They'd get dropped off at Muskegon and take a 3-hour ferry across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee. They couldn't afford the prices of the rooms at the Convention venue, so they rented a small room in a "budget hotel" near the Milwaukee airport.

At this point, they were registered for the convention and had an inexpensive room on the other side of town. Almost 8 **miles** away from the convention to be a bit more precise. They knew going into this that the only method of transportation they could afford was bipedal.

That's right – their plan required they wake up at 5:30 AM and walk the 2 ½ hours to the Convention site. They attended workshops, general sessions, had their picture taken with Ben Shapiro, showed up at the evening session and then walked back to their hotel. Always tired, sometimes hungry, sometimes thirsty – they never got back until after midnight after walking the

See "Tweet," page 29

No taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood

The reality that Planned Parenthood's clients are leaving in droves should be telling to policy makers.

By Mike Fichter

Editor's note. Mr. Fichter is President and CEO of Indiana Right to Life. This appeared in the Indianapolis Star.

There's something ironic about giving a "lifetime" achievement award to the head of Indiana's largest abortion business. Yet Betty Cockrum, outgoing executive of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK), will have at least two "Lifetime Achievement" awards for her mantle from organizations sad to see her go.

Cockrum retired after 15 years with Planned Parenthood. With all the praises being directed her way, we wondered: is Planned Parenthood in Indiana a stronger organization today?

We reviewed the last 10 years of fiscal year reports, publicly-available on Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky's website. (Planned Parenthood of Indiana acquired Kentucky in 2013).

Supporters of Planned Parenthood should be troubled by what we found.

From 2007 to 2016, total patient visits to Cockrum's Planned Parenthood dropped by 180,000 visits, or 60 percent. In 2007, Planned Parenthood of Indiana had 97,900 unduplicated patients. In 2016, unduplicated patients dropped to only 51,100 in both Indiana and Kentucky.

Nearly half of PPINK's client base has left them.

In 2007, one could argue Planned Parenthood cared about sexual disease testing and preventative care. That year Planned Parenthood of Indiana did 50,100 pap tests, 41,500 chlamydia tests, 41,600 gonorrhea tests and 7,200 HIV tests.

Ten years later, pap tests fell 90 percent to just 5,300 tests. Chlamydia and gonorrhea tests were down 40 percent while HIV tests were down 14 percent.

Betty Cockrum, the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky

Can you guess what isn't down? Abortions. Over 10 years, Planned Parenthood managed to increase abortions in the Hoosier state by 5 percent, even while abortions are on the decline on the state and national levels.

Planned Parenthood averages more than 5,100 abortions a year in Indiana. While every other procedure category declined from 2007 to 2016, Planned Parenthood continued to convince women to end their pregnancies.

You know who is likely not troubled by these numbers? Anyone who stands with Planned Parenthood purely on their passionate advocacy for abortion.

Planned Parenthood's new business model doesn't have them getting bogged down with non-abortion services. If a location isn't profiting, it's easy to shut it down. Since 2007, Planned Parenthood has closed 18 of 35 locations in Indiana. Unsurprisingly, none of the shuttered locations did abortions.

PPINK will tell you they shut down 18 sites for financial reasons. But revenue to the abortion business has stayed pretty constant over 10 years, ranging between $13.7 and $16.6 million. They have plenty of money to operate sites in rural areas of Indiana, like Scott County where HIV rates skyrocketed, if only they wanted. But it's easier for Planned Parenthood to focus on abortion and blame Mike Pence for an HIV outbreak.

Planned Parenthood loves to argue they need taxpayer funds because women will have nowhere else to go if they are defunded. Do they really think their dwindling 51,100 patients in Indiana and Kentucky will miss them? Taxpayers don't need to be subsidizing a business that only sees .005 percent of the states' population.

Indiana has more than 3,600 federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, Medicaid providers and Title V clinics, located throughout the state's 92 counties. Women get better preventative care and more comprehensive care at non-Planned Parenthood facilities.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky's new CEO has her work cut out for her. She somehow has to keep up the façade that Planned Parenthood cares about women's health and needs taxpayer funding. The reality that Planned Parenthood's clients are leaving in droves should be telling to policy makers. Planned Parenthood's focus is abortion.

Traitor Joe

Has Senator Manchin betrayed the babies?

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

A traitor is defined as one who "betrays a friend, country or principle" or defined as a "sellout to the enemy."

Has Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) sold out to the enemy?

Are Manchin's votes to support using taxpayer funds for the nation's largest abortion provider a betrayal of his former pro-life views?

Is Manchin pandering to both sides of the abortion issue?

Let's explore these questions.

West Virginia's Senator Joe Manchin has long claimed to be pro-life. What is his voting record in the 115th Congress? A dismal 33%.

Sen. Manchin consistently votes to allow hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider that performs 900 abortions every single day.

Manchin's response to this? "Not one dime of that money goes for abortion."

We don't care Senator.

Money is fungible. Planned Parenthood receives more than a million dollars ***a day*** in federal dollars. They can use that money to build more buildings, hire more staff and do more advertising. As a result, more little girls walk through their doors seeking abortions.

By voting against defunding Planned Parenthood, Sen. Manchin is keeping money from actual health care providers who will offer comprehensive health care for more women and girls, closer to home.

Depending on the pundit, Manchin's 2018 re-election race is considered a tossup, lean, and likely. Polling indicates West Virginia's pro-life Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Congressman Evan Jenkins are already in striking distance.

West Virginia is a solidly pro-life state. In 2016, President Trump carried the Mountain State 69% to 27% -- that's an advantage of 42 points! Democrats ignore pro-lifers at their political peril, and not just in West Virginia.

In April, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez decided that the DNC would only support candidates who support an extreme abortion agenda calling for unrestricted abortion for any reason – including late abortions after 20 weeks and taxpayer funding of abortion.

This will cause problems for Democrats that will cause them to lose elections across the nation.

In many areas of the country, Democratic candidates must have pro-life votes in order to win, however they also must appease the pro-abortion masters of the Democratic Party, including Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and EMILY's List.

The most ridiculous evidence of this recently took place when Sen. Manchin appeared in a picture holding a Planned Parenthood sign that read, "I stand with Planned Parenthood."

Sen. Manchin later appeared in a picture with a pro-life group holding a sign that read, "We don't need Planned Parenthood."

Which is it, Joe?

There are similar situations in other parts of the country where Democratic senators must have pro-life votes to win, including Indiana (Sen. Joe Donnelly), Pennsylvania (Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.), and North Dakota (Sen. Heidi Heitkamp).

"The pro-abortion side cannot match the infrastructure and grassroots base of National Right to Life and its 3,000 chapters and state affiliates, which can respond quickly anywhere in the country," said National Right to Life President Carol Tobias. "With this latest pro-abortion litmus test for Democratic candidates, the Democratic Party will continue to lose elections."

National Right to Life will not allow pro-abortion candidates to hide. We will expose their extreme views of unlimited abortion and using taxpayer funding of abortion on demand.

With the help of pro-lifers across the nation, we will battle tirelessly to expose the true positions of candidates on life.

We will expose the traitors in our midst.

Six conclusions that followed an all important pro-life win in Georgia

By Dave Andrusko

This screenshot, taken by a deputy assistant to President Trump on the National Security Council staff, shows a decidedly unhappy (and virulently anti-Donald Trump) CNN panel pondering the meaning of it all now after pro-life Republican Karen Handel beat pro-abortion Democrat Jon Ossoff. The verdict in closely watched special election to fill Georgia's 6th congressional district, a seat left vacant when pro-life Rep. Tom Price became Secretary of Health and Human Services, sent ripples through the political universe.

Let me suggest six conclusions about the most expensive congressional race in history and what it may portend.

#1. First and foremost it means that pro-life Republicans are 4 for 4 in the special elections to replace pro-lifers President Trump chose to fill important places in his Administration and one for one in a mayoral race. In addition to Handel's 4 point victory, National Right to Life-endorsed candidates won in Kansas' 4th congressional district, Omaha's mayoral election, Montana's at-large special election, and South Carolina's 5th congressional district.

For reasons we needn't go into here, Planned Parenthood and NARAL especially zeroed in on Handel. Defeating this super-engaged pro-abortion duo is especially sweet.

#2. There was a lot of talk that Handel was not a super candidate, almost as much talk about the fact that Ossoff didn't even live in the 6th CD. One (the latter) is true. One (the former) is not.

As the *Washington Post* (surprisingly) acknowledged in one of its stories, "Handel, 55, has been a fixture of local politics for 15 years. She chaired the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, served as Georgia secretary of state and narrowly lost GOP primaries to become governor in 2010 and then senator in 2014. She had the baggage that comes with being a career politician, but her deep roots and relationships certainly helped far more than they hurt. She was a known commodity who came into the race with high name identification." Ossoff was best known (besides for being a carpetbagger) for raising boatloads of money.

Just weeks before the election Ossoff was ahead by 7 points in some polls. Handel closed fast and clearly had the momentum. From 7 down to winning by four–pretty impressive, wouldn't you say?

#3. For a day or two, the media narrative was not exclusively about divisions within the Republican Party, real and imaginary. Not to coin a phrase, but the Democratic Party is in the midst of a full-blown identity crisis. The hatred of the even-more-to-the-Left Left is truly frightening. That hatred is almost as intense for the Democratic "Establishment" as it is for President Trump.

They believe they need (to borrow from another *Post* story written election night) more "warriors" than "priests."

In English that means to display even a modicum of civility is to be a traitor to the "Resistance." They are not pleased that Ossoff didn't push enough "hot buttons" hard enough or often enough.

To paraphrase a very famous saying from the 1960s, they believe "Extremism in defense of raw political power is no vice. Moderation in pursuit of revenge is no virtue."

#4. Democrats truly were all in. Trailers full of money, political advertisements, professions of a sophisticated "ground game," vows that Ossoff's victory would be proof positive that Republicans in general, President Trump in particular are in a death spiral. No wonder the mood of CNN's panel ran from frustration to near-despair.

#5. Of course the results of any one election can be over-interpreted. What else is new? Had Ossoff won, do you think the *Post* and the *New York Times* and the networks would have said, "Hey, no big deal, it's just one election"? Of course not.

But writing on the *Post's* PostPartisan blog, the GOP's Ed Rogers was on to something.

"By any measure, the victory proves the Republican political machine is alive and working well," he said. "If anything this race proves Republicans have no reason to be defensive as a result of Obamacare's demise, it shows Republicans have nothing to hide from in the age of Trump and it signifies that nothing about the current faux-scandal-ridden environment has produced a downdraft for Republicans."

In other words, Republicans needed to be reminded of a truth. The Democrats and their legion of supporters in Hollywood and the Establishment Media have one goal–and have since the hour Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton: to delegitimize his administration which requires in part that Trump supporters and even Republicans who are not his biggest fans to believe the media narrative that all is (already!) lost. Finally

#6. Rogers spoke a truth that even some Democrats (more after Ossoff's defeat)

See "Georgia," page 34

California AG Follows Through on Threat, Re-Files Charges vs. Undercover Investigators

By Jay Hobbs

As previously threatened, California's Attorney General is continuing his crusade to defend the abortion industry against incriminating information, filing new charges against undercover reporters David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt of the Center for Medical Progress.

First reported by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed the new charges after a June 21 decision where a judge suspended 14 of 15 charges Becerra had filed against Daleiden and Merritt.

This time, Becerra is coming after Daleiden and Merritt on more specific invasion of privacy charges, accusing the pair of illegally recording conversations where high-ranking officials—including Planned Parenthood's Director of Medical Services—were caught on camera a bartering over the price of body parts harvested from aborted babies.

The *Chronicle's* Bob Egelko reports:

> **Last month, Superior Court Judge Christopher Hite dismissed the charges, saying prosecutors had failed to specify which video recordings were made illegally. He refused, however, to dismiss a charge that the pair conspired to violate privacy rights.**
>
> **Becerra's office has now refiled the charges, with numerical identifications for each video. Prosecutors say they have given defense lawyers the names of each person whose conversation was recorded, under court orders to keep the names confidential.**

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra

In many of the recorded conversations, abortionists openly admitted to altering their abortion procedures to procure a more intact body part from an aborted baby, even if that alteration put a woman undergoing an abortion into harm's way. That violates federal laws protecting women from predatory abortion profiteers.

Yet, Becerra—a recipient of campaign funds from Planned Parenthood as recently as 2014—is ignoring the evidence that Daleiden and Merritt stacked up their three-year investigation, and instead coming after them based on California's law requiring both parties to consent to a conversation before it is recorded.

As several commentators have noted since Becerra first announced the original charges in March, California has a very recent history of overlooking its two-party consent recording laws for undercover investigations exposing animal cruelty in poultry farms throughout the state. Responding to the initial felony charges Becerra filed against Daleiden and Merritt, the Los Angeles Times ran an op-ed calling his actions, "a disturbing overreach."

Daleiden and Merritt—who outlasted a similar witch-hunt last summer in Texas—are scheduled to be arraigned July 17 in the Superior Court of San Francisco.

California's state-funded vendetta against the pro-life activists comes at a time when the state is also on the verge of defending before the U.S. Supreme Court a 2015 law that forces 200 community-funded pro-life pregnancy centers and medical clinics to advertise for taxpayer-funded abortions.

Similar attempts to chill free speech from pro-life centers has failed in Austin (TX), New York City, Baltimore (MD) and Montgomery County, Md., where taxpayers were on the hook for $375,000 in attorney's fees after the County was turned away in its quest to force pro-lifers to post signage specifying which services—namely, abortion—they did not offer.

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

Judge Orrick holds attorneys for pro-life investigators in contempt

By Cassy Fiano

On July 11, U.S. District Court Judge William Orrick ruled that attorneys Steve Cooley and Brentford Ferreira, who represent David Daleiden of The Center for Medical Progress, violated Orrick's injunction against releasing any new videos. Judge Orrick is holding them in contempt after links to the videos appeared on the attorneys' website.

The judge had threatened to hold Daleiden in contempt in May after an undercover video from a National Abortion Federation conference was released. In it, Planned Parenthood executives and abortionists can be seen joking, laughing, and discussing abortion procedures. There were also discussions about "financial incentives" for the body parts of babies being aborted.

Cooley and Ferreira pointed out that the footage was legally released on their website:

[Calif.] Attorney General Xavier Becerra has entered this footage into the public record by filing a public criminal proceeding based on it. The preliminary injunction obtained by NAF in a federal civil suit cannot bind this State criminal proceeding. (In fact, the SF Superior Court is now releasing certified copies of the court filings to the public with the links to the videos.)

David Daleiden

Yet, Orrick still ordered that it be taken down, and the video was swiftly removed from YouTube. Nearly two years ago, in July of 2015, Orrick granted an injunction after the National Abortion Federation (NAF) filed a restraining order to block the release of any videos that were taken at the NAF conference where abortionists, abortion facility owners, and abortion staff congregate.

It took mere hours for Orrick to grant the injunction after the National Abortion Federation filed the lawsuit. He then extended the ban, even though journalists frequently use the methods employed by Daleiden and The Center for Medical Progress.

Orrick's actions have been seen by many First Amendment supporters as an egregious attack on free speech. Even the U.S. Reporters' Committee filed a "friend of the Court" submission opposing the restraining order.

Nevertheless, Orrick has been steadfast in protecting the abortion industry. The judge is alleged to have a personal bias and close associations with both Planned Parenthood and NAF.

The Center for Medical Progress responded on Facebook before the contempt hearing for Daleiden's attorneys, alleging baseless persecution and corruption.

Still, Orrick claims that there was "no possible excuse" for the actions of Steve Cooley and Brentford Ferreira.

"With respect to the criminal defense counsel, they do not get to decide whether they can violate the preliminary injunction," he said. Daleiden himself is still facing a possible contempt ruling, and Orrick ruled on Tuesday that Daleiden is liable for costs related to the contempt charges against his attorneys.

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

Remembering the "Artist" who performed the story of her abortion: "I think She was a She"

By Dave Andrusko

As we continue to reflect back on the remarkable NRL 2017 convention, one refrain will be how many speakers drummed home the same ironic point: there is nothing we can write or say or describe that better discredits the anti-life forces than their own words.

I like to say (way too often) that "you can't make this stuff up." And if we were talking about the 99.9% of the population that finds what PPFA officials say when they think they are exclusively among friends to be disgusting, that would be true.

The convention was opened by the irrepressible Ben Shapiro who in his remarks debunking the most "popular" pro-abortion arguments, beginning with Leyla Josephine.

Who, you might ask, is Leyla Josephine? She is a "spoken word and performance artist" best known to pro-lifers for a remarkable performance in cognitive dissonance known as the poem "I think She was a She."

Her "slam poem" (as it is called) carries the logic of "I am not ashamed of my abortion" to its logical endpoint. Consider its predecessors.

NRL News Today has covered a plethora of stratagems, including killing your kid and uploading the video of his/her final minutes to the Internet. More than one reader wrote back that this is so obscene it can aptly be described as pornographic.

What else? Entire movies joking about offing your kid—"Obvious Child"—indeed turning the child's death into a rite of passage in which the "obvious child" (the "too-young-to-be-a-mother" mother) becomes a more caring, adult-like figure by dispatching the bothersome product of conception to the great waste pile in the sky.

Not being ashamed of your abortion is at its root an evasion of adult responsibility. Thus, the child-like woman of"

Leyla Josephine

Obvious Child" cannot be held responsible for her behavior. (Not, as the director and lead actress of this "romantic comedy" would hasten to add, that there is anything to be "responsible" for in an abortion.)

There are many others but (thanks to Alanna Vagianos of the *Huffington Post*) we were alerted that the not being ashamed mantra may have reached *reductio ad absurdum* status.

If you wish to, you can listen and watch Josephine. Be forewarned there are a couple of obligatory cuss words.

What can we say?

Her performance is not just the same tedious self-congratulatory, I-sure-am-proud anthem that we read or, in this case, hear—although it certainly is that. In "I think She was a She, "Josephine "recounts the abortion she had as a teenager and the cultural shame she's been constantly confronted with ever since," according to Vagianos.

Josephine rhythms about all the wonderful things her kid—whom she in convinced in the first verse is a girl only to take it back later—would have become. Everything Josephine was and much more, including being tougher. And, Josephine tells us, she would have been the kind of mother who "protect[ed] her from the dark."

And "She could have been born." Pause. "I would have made sure that there was space on the walls to measure her height as she grew."

Problem is she came "at the wrong time."

Just after she tells us the first of multiple times that "I am not ashamed," Josephine makes one of the most remarkable pro-abortion statements in the long, self-exculpatory history of justifications for violence. Read carefully:

> *"But I would have supported her right to choose, to choose a life for herself, a path for herself; I would have died for that right like she died for mine."*

Pardon?

As a "spoken word and performance artist," Josephine spins off metaphors that liken her post-abortive self to steel and the act of tearing her child apart to chopping down a cherry tree. How poetic. How wonderfully it distances herself from her own actions.

As so often is the case, this pro-abortionist is oblivious to the irony of what she says.

We are told over and over that it is her body (that is, Josephine's body. Her baby's body evidently didn't really exist). Aborting a helpless baby relieves her of the burden of caring for a child and pulls double duty as a defiant political statement.

Ben Johnson asks

> **"What kind of parent asks his son or daughter to die for the "right" to abortion? Parents are supposed to be the one who sacrificially care for their children, who forsake their own comfort, who do whatever is necessary – even die – to keep their children safe, healthy, and well. Josephine's blithe, 'Sorry, but you came at the wrong time' sounds as hollow as a gangland assassin's apology to the family caught in the crossfire of a drive-by shooting. Abortion severs the love that God, or Mother Nature, or evolution, or whatever you choose to believe in placed within every pregnant woman to link the mother to her child."**

See "Artist," page 31

NRL 2017 and "the Battle Before Us"

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Editor's note. These remarks were part of a Friday General Session at NRLC's annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The theme of today's general session is "The Battle Before Us."

According to Sun Tzu, a general and military strategist from ancient China who wrote "The Art of War," winning the many smaller battles leads to ultimately winning the war.

And Sun Tzu claimed, "Great results can be achieved with small forces."

Sun Tzu believed in using three-man teams to get the job done. Most great armies still use his strategy – winning at the smallest element – to get the job done.

So, when you're at your chapter meeting planning your strategy for winning in 2018, you're actually practicing a winning strategy developed thousands of years ago.

Sun Tzu also said, "Let your plans be dark and impenetrable as night and when you move, fall like a thunderbolt."

National Right to Life's strategy to inform voters in a targeted way just before the election does just that. Again, a winning strategy!

In order to assess our situation, it's important to look at the lay of the land to determine where our battlegrounds are in 2018.

In 2018, there are 33 U.S. Senate seats up for election: 25 Democrat seats and 8 Republican seats.

Ten of those states have a Democratic incumbent that Donald Trump won: Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

President Trump won five of those ten states by 20 or more percentage points.

Where are the Senate battlegrounds likely to be in 2018?

Let's look at our best pro-life opportunities to replace current pro-abortion seats.

Florida

Florida Senator Bill Nelson has a solid pro-abortion voting record, even voting to allow partial-birth abortions to continue.

This race is currently considered tilt or lean Democrat. Those rankings will likely improve if pro-life Governor Rick Scott, who is term-limited and has won statewide, runs for the seat against Nelson.

Senator Nelson only won with 52% of the vote in 2012.

Indiana

In Indiana, Senator Joe Donnelly, who claims to be pro-life, has a 33% pro-life voting record. In my book, he's voting 67% pro-abortion.

Trump won Indiana 57% to 38% and it's ranked by pundits as a tossup to lean Democrat. It's a great pickup opportunity.

Michigan

Michigan's Senator Debbie Stabenow, an EMILY's List candidate so she's extremely pro-abortion, won in 2012 with 55% of the vote. Most of you know EMILY's List as the pro-abortion PAC that supports women Democrat candidates who support unlimited abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion, a position held by only a small percentage of voters.

Just this week, former Supreme Court Justice Robert Young announced he's going to run against Stabenow.

Young is pro-life and was supported by Michigan RTL in his three elections to the court. Media reports claim he is quote "popular among conservatives and loathed by Democrats" end quote – for his judicial rulings.

Sometimes you've just gotta love candidates who are "loathed"!

Missouri

In Missouri, pro-abortion Senator Claire McCaskill's race is ranked tossup to lean Democrat. President Trump won Missouri 57% to 38%.

McCaskill is also an EMILY's List candidate, and is so pro-abortion she is a cosponsor of S.510 – the "Women's Health Protection Act" more accurately called the "Abortion without Limits Until Birth Act".

If enacted, S.510 would nullify virtually all limits on abortion nationwide.

Montana

Montana's pro-abortion Senator Jon Tester has voted pro-abortion on every occasion. His race is considered tilt, lean or likely Democrat, depending on which political pundit I read.

President Trump won Montana by more than 20 points.

North Dakota

In North Dakota, pro-abortion Senator Heidi Heitkamp has

See "Battle," page 15

NRL 2017 and "the Battle Before Us,"

From page 14

a solid pro-abortion voting record, even voting against legislation to protect unborn children from abortion who can feel pain. She narrowly won in 2012 by fewer than 3,000 votes – less than 1% of the votes cast.

President Trump won in North Dakota 64% to 28%. The race is ranked tossup to likely Democrat.

Ohio

In Ohio, pro-abortion Senator Sherrod Brown has a long history of voting against pro-life legislation. He even voted against the partial-birth abortion ban every chance he had.

President Trump won in Ohio 52% to 44%. The race is ranked lean Democrat.

Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, Senator Bob Casey has a 0% pro-life voting record in the current 115th Congress. Many of you may remember the strong pro-life position his dad took while governor of Pennsylvania.

Senator Casey is not his father.

While he claims to be pro-life, his actions speak louder than his words. He consistently votes to continue government funding for Planned Parenthood, and he is even a cosponsor of S.210, a bill to nullify the pro-life Mexico City Policy.

The race is ranked lean to likely Democrat.

Virginia

In Virginia, pro-abortion Senator Tim Kaine has a 0% pro-life voting record. While he won in 2012 with only 49% of the vote, it will be a difficult race to win.

As a cosponsor of the "Abortion without Limits Until Birth Act", his position on life does not reflect Virginia voter values. Currently, the race is ranked likely Democratic.

West Virginia

West Virginia's Senator Joe Manchin claims to be pro-life, however his voting record in the 115th Congress is a dismal 33%. Manchin consistently votes to allow funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider that performs 900 abortions every single day.

Manchin claims "not one dime of that money goes for abortion".

We don't care Senator. Money is fungible. Planned Parenthood receives more than a million dollars a day. They can use that money to build more buildings, hire more staff and do more advertising, then more little girls walk through their doors and she pays for it, or her boyfriend or aunt pays for it.

By voting against defunding Planned Parenthood, Senator Manchin is keeping money from actual health care providers who will offer comprehensive health care for more women, closer to home.

Manchin's race is considered tossup, lean and likely by different pundits.

President Trump won the state 69% to 27% – that's 42 points!

Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, pro-abortion Senator Tammy Baldwin has a 0% pro-life voting record.

She won in 2012 with 50% of the vote, and Trump won Wisconsin in 2016 with 48%.

An EMILY's List candidate, Baldwin is a cosponsor of the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act" and has voted against the life issue on every occasion in Congress, even voting to allow partial-birth abortions to continue and to use taxpayer funds to pay for abortion.

This race is considered tilt, lean and likely Democrat by pundits.

As in every battle, we also need to protect ground we have won.

Two Republican senate seats are currently considered vulnerable in 2018.

Arizona

In Arizona, pro-life Senator Jeff Flake, a freshman, was elected in 2012 with 49.2% of the vote. Trump won the state with 50% of the vote.

Senator Flake has a 100% pro-life voting record scored by National Right to Life. This race is considered "lean Republican" by political pundits.

Nevada

Nevada's Senate race is also considered lean Republican.

In 2012, pro-life Senator Dean Heller, who has a 100% pro-life voting record, defeated a pro-abortion EMILY's List candidate, 46% to 45%.

House of Representatives

So what is the status of the United States House of Representatives?

I recently read that the DCCC is trying to motivate their troops by saying the House is in play next year. Democrats need 24 House seats to take over leadership.

Democrats need 24 House seats to take over leadership. What happens then can be summed up in two words:

Nancy Pelosi.

With Nancy Pelosi in control of the gavel, pro-life legislation would be blocked and children's lives would be at stake.

Political pundits claimed this year's special elections would be an indicator of what is to come in 2018.

To get an idea how that has been working out for them, look at CNN's response to pro-life Karen Handel's win over pro-abortion Jon Ossoff in Georgia's 6th congressional district.

The election in Georgia's sixth congressional district was touted by many to be a bellwether race for the 2018 elections.

Jon Ossoff supported abortion on demand and lost.

Karen Handel's position on life reflects the true values of Georgia's voters and she won.

The win in Georgia marked the fifth of five 2017 elections in which the pro-life candidate endorsed by National Right to Life won. Elections in Kansas' 4th congressional district, Omaha's mayoral election, Montana's at-large special election, and South Carolina's 5th congressional district in which pro-life Republican Ralph Norman defeated pro-abortion Democrat Archie Parnell were clear-cut pro-life/pro-abortion contests.

In each of these five elections the Republican was pro-life and opposed using tax dollars to pay for abortion, while the Democrat candidate supported unlimited abortion, and supported using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion on demand.

In each of these races, the National Right to Life Victory

See "Battle," page 35

Convention 2017

General Sessions

___**GS1 –** How to Debunk The Most Common Pro-Abortion Arguments – Ben Shapiro
___**GS2** – Defeating Planned Parenthood's Abortion Empire – David Daleiden
___**GS3** – Gosnell ~ America's Greatest Serial Killer – Ann McElhinney
___**GS4** – The Battle Before Us – Carol Tobias, David O'Steen Ph.D., Karen Cross,
___**GS5** – How to Prevent an Assisted Suicide Roe vs Wade – Congressman James Sensenbrenner
___**PB** – The Courage of Pro-Life Factivists – Ryan Bomberger
___**BQ** – Keeping Tomorrow Alive – Prof. O. Carter Snead, J.D.

Workshops

___**1** – Major Gift Fund-Raising: What Happens When Roe Goes? – Brian Cusack
___**2** – Parliamentary Procedure Basics – Senator Michelle Fischbach
___**3** – Recent Legal Developments in Abortion, Religious Freedom and Campaign Finance – James Bopp, Jr., J.D.
___**4** – Assisted Suicide Battles Rage in Nearly Every State ~ Is Yours Next? – Scott Fischbach, Mary Hahn Beerworth
___**5** – Surviving Unplanned Pregnancies – Honorable Lynda Bell, Ingrid Duran
___**6** – Making Media Work for You – Cheryl Ciamarra, Derrick Jones Pamela Rucinski
___**7** – Fundraising: Direct Mail, Telemarketing, and Prospecting: The Importance of Growing your base of Support – Kevin Allen, Don Parker
___**8** – Using Effective Presentations to Inform the Public and Expand Your Base – Leo LaLonde
___**9** – The Rise of DIY Abortions – Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., Raimundo Rojas
___**10** – Working with the Press: It's All About Relationships – Michele Arocha Allen, Derrick Jones
___**11** – Essential Elements for Successful Elections in 2018 – Karen Cross, Darla St. Martin, David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.
___**12** – The Battle Against Simon's Law: How Dirty Tricks Lost to Smart Negotiations – Kathy Ostrowski
___**13** – Using the Web to Attract New Members, Inform the Public, and Raise Money for Your Pro-Life Organization – Scott Fischbach, Luis Zaffirini, Raimundo Rojas
___**14** – The Myth of the "Unwanted Child: Special Needs Adoption" – Joleigh Little
___**15** – How Planned Parenthood is Fighting to Save its Abortion Empire – Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D.
___**16** – Federal Health Care Reform and the Pro-Life Movement – Jennifer Popik J.D.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE

___**17** – Are You a Persuasive Pro-Lifer? Tips for Changing Hearts and Minds – Benjamin Clapper
___**18** – Meet NRLC Leaders – Executive Cmmt. Of NRLC, David O'Steen, Ph.D., Darla St. Martin
___**19** – Major Gift Fund-Raising: What Happens When Roe Goes? – Brian Cusack
___**20** – What is Driving Abortion Numbers Down? – Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D.
___**21** – IRS and Non-Profit Compliance – James Bopp, Jr., J.D.
___**22** – Terri's Legacy: Building a Network that Will Save Lives – Bobby Schindler
___**23** – Providing Support and Leadership in Churches – Rev. Frank Pavone, Ernest Ohloff, Marie Bowen
___**24** – Abortion Prevention and Healing: A Right Brain Solution for a Left Brain Problem – Greg Hasek, MA/MFT LPC, LMHC
___**25** – How to Establish a College Pro-Life Scholarship Training Program In Your State – Doreen Shierk, Veronica Arnold Smithers
___**26** – Adult Stem Cells – Saving Lives Now – David Prentice, Ph.D.
___**27** – Social Media for Right to Life Groups – Everything You Need to Know – Raimundo Rojas
___**28** – Down Syndrome – What Prenatal Testing Won't Tell You – Eileen Haupt
___**29** – Overcoming Apathy and Pro-Abortion Opposition in All Denominations – Marie Bowen, Rev. Kirk Van der Swaagh
___**30** – Digital Warfare – Waging a War for the Unborn Through Digital Advertising – Kurt Filla, Patrick McGee
___**32** – Academic Freedom and the Life Issues: Assistance for Pro-Life Students Facing a Hostile College or University Environment – Dr. Jeff Koloze
___**33** – "Advanced Care Planning" – Helping You to Enforce Your Wishes Or Nudging You to Accept Premature Death? – Jennifer Popik, J.D.
___**34** – The Organization of American States: Working to Keep the Culture Of Death Out of the Americas – Raimundo Rojas, Scott Fischbach
___**35** – Beyond Assisted Suicide: Are We Prepared? How "Civilized People" Kill the Culture of Death – Brian Johnston
___**36** – I Had an Abortion! What Do You Say Next? – Greg Hasek, Olivia Turner, Rachel Benda
___**37** – Abortion and Breast Cancer: New Reviews Shows Much Stronger Link in South Asia – Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, Joel Brind, Ph.D.
___**38** – Communicate, Convert, and Commit: The Art of Pro-Life Persuasion – Raimundo Rojas, Lori Kehoe, Dave Andrusko
___**39** – Electing Pro-Life Women to Office – Senator Michelle Fischbach, J.D., Honorable Lynda Bell
___**40** – Aborted Baby Body Parts and Ethical Research – Maria Feeney, Ph.D., Kathleen Schmainda, Ph.D., Tara Sander Lee, Ph.D.
___**41** – Be the Revolution! Why Grassroots Organizing is the Power To the Pro-Life Movement – Chelsea Shields, Scott Fischbach
___**42** – Abortion, A Death in All Our Families – Olivia Turner, Rachel Benda, Karen Cross
___**43** – Pro-Life Concerns about Girl Scouts – Ann Saladin
___**44** – Impacting the Present and Building the Future: How to Impact High School Campuses – Alexandria Seghers, Krista Corbello
___**45** – Branding: An Important Way to Grow Visibility, Membership, and Your Donor Base No Matter What Your Group's Size – Amy Gehrke, Philip Alexander
___**46** – The Pro-Life Movement and Congress: 2017 – Jennifer Popik, J.D.
___**47** – Abortion Worldwide Report: 1 Century, 100 Countries, 1 Billion Babies – Thomas Jacobson
___**48** – Social Media: Basic Skills for Pro-Life Activists – Chelsea Shields, Raimundo Rojas
___**49** – A Father's Perspective – Foundations for Cherishing Every Life And Supporting Those with Special Needs – Brandon Buell, Joey Papa
___**50** – 2017: Do's and Don'ts for Effective Pro-Life Lobbying: Legislators' Perspectives – Rep. Cody Horlacher
___**51** – The Escalating Struggle at the UN to Prevent the Establishment Of Abortion as a Fundamental Human Right Worldwide, Part 1 – Jeanne E. Head, R.N., Raimundo Rojas, Francois Bouda
___**52** – When They Say…You Say – Olivia Turner
___**53** – Making the Pro-Life Argument from the Secular Perspective – Kelsey Hazzard
___**54** – Grassroots Lobbing 101: The Basics – Ingrid Duran, Kathy Ostrowski, Karen Cross, Chelsea Shields
___**55** – Immigrant Mother, Hostile Family, Aborted Sibling, Absent Father, How (and why) I Survived – Kirsta Corbello
___**56** – By the Numbers: Understanding Abortion Polling Data – David O'Steen, Ph.D.
___**57** – The Escalating Struggle at the UN to Prevent the Establishment Of Abortion as a Fundamental Human Right Worldwide, Part 2 – Jeanne E. Head, R.N., Raimundo Rojas, Francois Bouda
___**58** – Religious Outreach: Establishing a Pro-Life Presence in Community Churches – Ernest L. Ohlhoff
___**59** – Raising Money to Build Strong, Healthy, Active Chapters – Kevin and Michele Allen
___**60** – Organizing a Successful Latino Outreach – Raimundo Rojas
___**61** – The Why and How of Mobilizing the Grassroots – Chet and Pam Rucinski
___**62** – The Church, The Media, and The State – Rev. Frank Pavone, Ernest L. Ohlhoff

Milwaukee, WI June 29 – July 1

___**63** – List Development and Maintenance: Learning and Utilizing The Basics – Andrew Sabak, Marjorie Higgins
___**64** – Dying of Thirst! Medicine's Intentional Killing Through Dehydration And How to Protect the Vulnerable – Brian Johnston
___**65** – Making the Most of Your Press Outreach: Advanced Tips and Tricks – Jessica Rodgers, Tatiana Bergman
___**66** – Final Round of the Oratory Contest – Hon. Michelle Fischback

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National Teens for Life Convention

__**T1** – History Repeating – Derrick Jones
__**T2** – Lessons of Life and Hope from Terri Schiavo – Bobby Schindler
__**T3** – Social Justice Begins in the Womb: Story of a Street Thug Turned Pro-Life Activist – Bryan Kemper
__**T4** – Apologetics and Being Pro-life – Isaac Fleming
__**T5** – Weird Science – David Prentice, Ph.D.
__**T6** – When They Say…You Say – Olivia Turner
__**T7** – Do No Harm: Be Empowered To Counter a Culture of Death – Wesley Smith, J.D.
__**T8** – Planned UNParenthood: A Look at the Nation's Largest Abortion Provider – Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D.
__**T9** – Generating Energy: Getting Your Peers Motivated and Involved – Raimundo Rojas
__**T10** – A Visit from NRLC President – Carol Tobias
__**T11** – Relax…It's only an Extra Chromosome – Eileen Haupt
__**T12** – Understanding the WHY of Right to Life – Brian Johnston
__**T13** – Abortion: An American Horror Story – Lori Kehoe
__**T14** – What's Next? – Joleigh Little, Derrick Jones

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How one pro-abortionist reported on NRL 2017

By Dave Andrusko

Truth be told, I am fascinated by what dedicated pro-abortion sites say about National Right to Life in general, our annual convention (which took place June 29-July1) in particular.

More often than you might think they get the story right–only to interpret what they "see" in a way that you can only come to when you look through whatever the opposite of rose-tinted glasses might be.

For example, here's Amy Littlefield's take on NRL 2017 which took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The headline is "The Anti-Choice Embrace of Trump Is Complete: Dispatch From the National Right to Life Convention."

For starters, wouldn't you think that single-issue pro-lifers would "embrace" President Trump? He's already accomplished a great deal, beginning with the (successful) nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch, his expansion of the Mexico City policy, his promise to sign pro-life legislation, and filling his cabinet with pro-lifers?

Of course. But to Littlefield of **Rewire News**, that's not enough. We are suppose to comment/have a position on issues that are not our province.

Rewire's field of interest ranges from A-Z–and that's **their** business. **Our** business is protecting unborn babies, babies born with disabilities, the medically fragile, and helping mothers make life-affirming decisions.

Naturally, Littlefield was overjoyed when

> **On the final day of the National Right to Life Convention, the handmaids arrived.**
>
> **They milled around the lobby of the hotel in downtown Milwaukee, clad in red habits and white caps; their faces veiled, they spoke only to tell passersby, and "Blessed be the fruit."**
>
> **The protest on Saturday capped a three-day event featuring sessions that may not have seemed out of place in Margaret Atwood's misogynist dystopia…**

The "handmaids" are part of "The Handmaids Tale," a hysterical novel (even by pro-abortion standards) written by Atwood, which conjures up a patriarchal theocracy in which women are essentially breeders.

One of my colleagues saw some of the "handmaids" take off their hoods. At least one was a man. The irony was hard to miss.

Just one other note. Littlefield wrote, "Addressing the convention Friday, [David] Daleiden was greeted with thunderous applause and standing ovations, hailed by mistress of ceremonies Pam Rucinski as 'one of the heroes of our time.'"

Well, yes, the man behind the Center for Medical Progress **is** a pro-life hero. Thanks to the undercover videos taken by CMP, the public has been exposed not to the picture-perfect portrait of Planned Parenthood, but to the hideous truth of what the nation's largest abortion provider does to 330,000 unborn babies each and every year.

There's more to her story which we addressed at NRL News Today [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2017/07/pro-abortionists-read-their-own-biases-into-their-coverage-of-nrl-2017/#.WWKJcdQrJko].

How the Golden Rule helps us recognize the dignity of unborn children

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

Why should we care about the fate of unborn children who are at risk of death through abortion? Why do they matter?

Many people don't care. After all, unborn children are small and largely hidden from view. They look (at their earliest stages) different from us. They don't have the sophisticated cognitive functions that we do. They can't speak for themselves.

Worse, many people feel like (or think they could feel like) they have a self-interest in the destruction of unborn children. Abortion, people think, makes life easier. That's why it happens.

This isn't a problem unique to the unborn. Human societies often have trouble giving consideration to individuals or groups who seem very different from us, or whom we have a practical self-interest in exploiting or killing. And that moral blindness has led to great injustice.

The Golden Rule, I think, can help us see clearly. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It's a piece of moral wisdom expressed in numerous ethical and religious traditions stretching back to antiquity. "What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others," said Confucius. "Love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus taught.

The Golden Rule reorients our moral thinking by putting ourselves in someone else's shoes. It directs our concern to others who matter just as much as we do. It tests the consistency of our actions to ensure we do not mistreat other people.

Crucially, application of the Golden Rule requires that we imagine ourselves in the place of someone else. In the case of unborn children, however, we only need a basic understanding of human biological development. That's because each of us was once, in fact, an unborn child.

"The truth … that you are the same individual living being as the fetus from which you developed is a matter of observation and scientific data," writes philosopher Christopher Kaczor. "You now, you at ten years old, you at ten days following birth, you ten days after conception and you at all stages of your life in between stand in bodily continuity."

I was once an adolescent, and before that I was a child, and before that an infant, and a fetus, and an embryo. To have killed the embryo I once was, therefore, would have been to kill me.

Here's how the Golden Rule applies to abortion:

- Would I want to be killed by abortion? No. So I should not kill others by abortion.
- Are social and economic difficulties a good justification for killing me? No. So they are not a good justification for killing unborn children either.
- Would I want other people to value and defend my unborn life? Yes. So I should value and defend the lives of others who have not yet been born.

Some people think that we didn't really count when we were unborn children. We didn't yet have the abilities or characteristics that make us valuable and confer on us a right to life.

But this is a false and dangerous understanding of human value. My value is not contingent on how old I am, or how smart I am, or how independent I am, or what I look like. I don't matter less when I become disabled and dependent on caregivers. I'm not worth more when I learn calculus. I don't lose my right to live when I experience dementia and lack self-awareness and rationality.

I have my fundamental worth, rather, simply because I am what I am. That's why I have that value at all times of my life. I had value as an unborn child because that unborn child was me.

The beauty of the Golden Rule is that it takes our own self-interest and extends it to everybody else. Just as I don't want to be valued for my size or appearance, I should not value others for those characteristics. Just as I don't want to be intentionally killed, so I should not intentionally kill anyone else. Just as I deserve the protection of society, so I should work to protect others.

Why, then, should we care about unborn children? Because we care about *ourselves*. Why do unborn children matter? They matter because *we* matter.

Reflections on the BMA's vote to 'decriminalize' abortion – ten key observations

By Peter Saunders

Editor's note. Dr. Saunders is a former general surgeon and CEO of Christian Medical Fellowship, a UK-based organization with 4,500 UK doctors and 1,000 medical students as members.

On June 27 delegates at the BMA annual representative meeting (ARM) voted to support the decriminalization of abortion. The opposition speakers spoke with grace, eloquence, and courage but were unable to sway the meeting.

Many people may be surprised to know that abortion is still illegal in Britain. After all, there have been over 8 million abortions in Britain since the Abortion Act came into being 50 years ago in 1967.

Department of Health figures for England and Wales released last month show that there were 190,406 abortions in 2016 and that 98% of these were carried out on mental health grounds. The Abortion Act was intended to be restrictive, allowing abortion only in limited circumstances, but its provisions have been very liberally interpreted by doctors so that now one in every five pregnancies ends in abortion.

So in practice, although abortion is still technically illegal, the law is widely flouted. But, nonetheless, abortion remains illegal under the Offences Against the Person Act (OAPA). The clue as to why this law exists is the name – it's based on the idea that the baby in the womb is a person who deserves legal protection along with the mother; in other words, that both lives matter. Every abortion stops a human heart beating and that is why abortion has been treated as legally different from any other medical procedure. It takes a human life.

Here are ten observations on the vote to legalize all abortion.

1. This change was brought about by a very small number of doctors. The BMA, Britain's medical trade union, currently has 156,000 doctors and 19,000 medical students as members. That's a total of 175,000. Only 500 members, however, attended the annual representative meeting and the five parts of the six-part motion supporting decriminalization [the other part was non-controversial] were backed by fewer than half of these. There were also a significant number of abstentions which were not recorded as the electronic voting devices only gave 'yes' and 'no' options leaving delegates to wave cards to abstain. Between 155 and 180 people voted in favor of each decriminalization clause.

This is about 0.1% or one thousandth of the total membership of BMA. Given that those who attend trade union meetings tend to be more socially liberal in their outlook the vote can hardly be taken as representative. It is striking that over 1,500 doctors and medical students signed an open letter in just six days leading up to the vote calling on the BMA to reject the motion. This vote is reminiscent of a small number of members moving the BMA neutral on assisted suicide back in 2005. That vote produced similar outrage and was actually overturned a year later.

2. The BMA has betrayed its own ethics and turned its back on 2,500 years of history. The Hippocratic Oath (400 BC), which all doctors used to take on graduation, gives a blanket prohibition on all abortion: 'I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest such counsel, nor in like manner will I give a woman a pessary to produce abortion.' It is somewhat ironic that just 70 years ago in 1947 the BMA called abortion 'the greatest crime.'

The Declaration of Geneva (1948), which the BMA once affirmed, declares 'I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception even against threat.' So by becoming abortion's greatest promoter and facilitator the medical profession in this country has betrayed its own historic position.

3. This vote was carefully stage-managed. Last year the same BMA meeting agreed to do some research into decriminalization of abortion and a 52 page briefing document was produced. This was purported to hold an objective centre ground but was heavily supportive of decriminalization and selective in its presentation. The document was 'discussed' in an almost unprecedented one-hour meeting immediately prior to the debate and one attendee remarked to me that after this they felt the vote was already a 'done deal.' It was very clear that some members of the BMA ethics committee who had contributed substantially to the report were heavily committed to decriminalization. One, Wendy Savage, claimed to have performed 10,000 abortions personally.

The debate was poorly informed and in fact actively misled. On two occasions, during the debate itself, incorrect information was given to delegates which would have affected their assessment of the issues. Several opposition delegates mentioned a ComRes poll which showed that only 1% of women wanted the abortion upper limit of 24 weeks to increase and 70% wanted to see a decrease to 20 weeks or below.

In order to undermine this poll one pro-abortion delegate, Emma Runswick, gave a 'point of information': 'The ComRes poll has been mentioned a number of times. I googled it and it had 2,008 people in it. 904 were men, more than 1,000 of these people were over 50, 24-34-year-olds 290 of them and no under 25s. Thank you.'

See "BMA," page 36

Twenty-five years later, why the Supreme Court's *Casey* decision is so wrong

By Paul Stark

The U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision made abortion legal nationwide in 1973. Fewer Americans know about the Court's *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* ruling, which reaffirmed but also significantly altered the *Roe* decision. Last month marked its 25th anniversary.

Casey adopted an "undue burden" standard that, although nebulous, led it to uphold certain modest abortion limitations that the Court had previously, in the years following *Roe*, disallowed. Many abortion-reducing state laws have been enacted as a result.

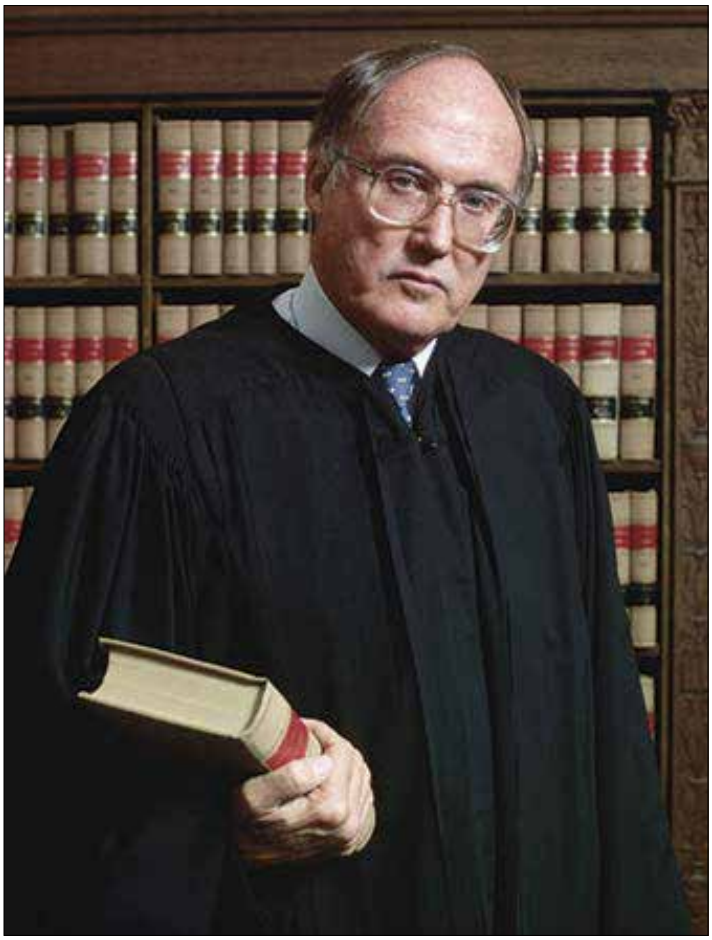
Nevertheless, the *Casey* Court, by a 5-4 margin, upheld what it considered the "essential holding" of *Roe*. Abortion must be legal for any reason prior to fetal viability, the Court affirmed, and it must be legal for at least "health" reasons, broadly defined, even after viability.

Roe was widely criticized—both by scholars who support legalized abortion and by those who oppose it—as a constitutionally ridiculous ruling. Almost 20 years later, could *Casey* come up with some better reasons for holding that there is a right to abortion in the Constitution?

Casey offered two reasons. First, it claimed (as *Roe* also did) that the "liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment ("nor shall any state deprive any person of … liberty … without due process of law") includes a right to abortion.

Why?

Well, that provision of the Constitution, the Court said, affords protection to "intimate and personal choices" such as the "decision whether to bear or beget a child." Grant that that's true. Why think there is a right to kill an already-existing human being by abortion? We are not, after all, talking about contraception or about sexual activity. We are not talking about the decision to procreate. We are talking about attacking and ending the life of another individual.



The late Chief Justice William Rehnquist

"The abortion decision," wrote Chief Justice William Rehnquist in dissent, "must therefore be recognized as … different in kind from the others that the Court has protected under the rubric of personal or family privacy and autonomy."

The Court briefly tried to distinguish abortion from the countless acts that are not protected liberties. The liberty to abort is "unique," the Court reasoned, because "[t]he mother who carries a child to full term is subject to anxieties, to physical constraints, to pain that only she must bear."

But the same is true of a breastfeeding single mother (among many other counterexamples). And killing human infants is not a constitutional right.

Almost unbelievably, the Court's "liberty" argument—the whole grounding for the claim that the Constitution mandates legalized abortion—has no more substance than that. "[A]fter more than 19 years of effort by some of the brightest (and most determined) legal minds in the country," quipped dissenting Justice Antonin Scalia, "the best the Court can do to explain how it is that the word 'liberty' must be thought to include the right to destroy human fetuses is to rattle off a collection of adjectives that simply decorate a value judgment and conceal a political choice."

The weakness of the first reason for upholding *Roe* meant that the Court leaned heavily on its second reason. Even if *Roe* was wrong, *Casey* argued, it should be reaffirmed because of stare decisis, the idea that judges should generally adhere to past decisions.

But stare decisis doesn't mean that decisions should never be overruled. The Court, indeed, has undone many mistaken and harmful rulings. So, to defend its adherence to *Roe*, *Casey* put forward criteria for determining whether a past error should stand. The Court then concluded, according to its new doctrine, that *Roe* must be reaffirmed.

That conclusion, however, is not supported by "conventional stare decisis principles," explained Chief Justice Rehnquist. In fact, the criteria cited by the Court, when applied

See "Casey," page 32

In major turnabout American neurologist is now examining Charlie Gard

From page 1

children's hospital. Later stories suggest a third doctor, from Spain, will also take part in the evaluation.

They will "have access to his [Charlie's] notes and clinical data, including medical images," the *Daily Mail* reported. Connie and Chris vigorously contested the hospital's desire to exclude Connie from being with the physicians but the presiding judge relented and included Charlie's mother when Connie agreed not to "disrupt" the evaluation.

A decision to disconnect Charlie's ventilator, which had seemed imminent last week, will now be postponed until at least July 25, said Justice Nicholas Francis, the presiding judge.

The family benefitted from worldwide attention, which had grown steadily over the course of their ordeal, but reached stratospheric heights when Pope Francis and President Trump both tweeted their support for 31-year-old Connie and 32-year-old Chris.

Charlie is very ill. He has an exceptionally rare and severely debilitating chromosomal condition – e n c e p h a l o m y o p a t h i c mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome (MDDS)–in which his cells cannot replenish essential energy. However a natural compound, orally administered, has shown some success as a treatment in the United States. Chris and Connie have been working feverishly since January to get their son to the U.S. to receive that alternative treatment.

Dr. Hirano's New York-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center and one other unnamed medical facility have offered to treat Charlie, either as an inpatient or by shipping the experimental nucleoside therapy drug to London's Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). Dr. Hirano specializes in myopathies and other neuromuscular diseases.

But GOSH insists that the therapy has only partially worked on a less devastating variant of Charlie's condition and would be pointless, if not also painful to Charlie--a charge hotly denied by Connie and Chris and at variance with Dr. Hirano's prediction.

Dr. Michio Hirano, a professor of neurology at New York's Columbia University Medical Center and chief at the Division of Neuromuscular Disorders

When he testified at last Thursday's hearing via videoconferencing, here is how *CNN* summarized his remarks:

> **On Thursday, Hirano told Justice Nicholas Francis that the baby's MRI scan did not necessarily indicate structural damage to the brain. He said there was an "11% to 56% chance of clinically meaningful improvement" in muscular function with the proposed treatment. Hirano added that keeping Charlie on a ventilator would not cause him harm because he did not seem to be in any significant pain.**

He added that he expected a "small but significant" improvement in Charlie's brain function.

The impact was to forcefully challenge the assessment made by the hospital to Justice Francis that the chances of improving Charlie's condition were "vanishingly small."

Perhaps, the most telling sentence in all the coverage came in the *CNN* story:

> **The Great Ormond Street Hospital told the court their position remains unchanged…**

GOSH could have unplugged Charlie's respirator and given him only palliative care beginning last week. However, thanks to a world-wide flurry of attention, on July 7 the hospital took the face-saving gesture of calling on Judge Francis to hold a hearing to consider what it called "fresh evidence" which the hospital made clear wasn't new in GOSH's opinion.

Justice Francis emphasized going in that last Thursday's proceeding would focus solely on **new** medical developments relevant to Charlie's current status. He was also not subtle: he didn't expect anything new. For emphasis, he added it would take something "dramatic and new" to make him change his mind.

There was also nothing subtle about intimations that Dr. Hirano was a kind of medical outlier. In fact, he has extraordinary credentials.

He has been a physician for over 30 years, according to his Columbia University Medical Center biography. He has been named one of America's Best Doctors, as well being an elected member of the American Neurological Association and elected fellow of the American Academy of Neurology.

Before completing his Master's Degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he received his BA from Harvard College. "At the Columbia University Medical

See "Turnabout," page 23

The remarkable ordeal of Charlie Gard's parents pits ordinary people against institutional power

From page 2

whose quality of life Justice Francis, the hospital, and the British Medical Establishment "know" is not worth living

Were they as sophisticated as the British elite is, they would understand that if Charlie was able to speak for himself, he would want to "die with dignity." To disagree is to be on the wrong side of "expertise."

Only the expertise proved not to be only on the side of Justice Francis and the London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, and the likes of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Others disagree.

The clear inference–when it is not stated flatly–in many media accounts was that when Dr. I. testified, he was grasping at straws. Prior to his testimony (via video conferencing), he had not been nearly as optimistic back in April.

However he had an answer, according to the *AP*:

> **"We have a much better understanding of the data," the doctor testified, saying the information has emerged in the time since Justices first rejected the parents' bid to take him to America.**

So there we were Thursday night. Where was this going? The hospital was in a big hurry to disconnect Charlie's ventilator and Judge Francis seconded that haste with comments such as "Time is not on our side."

These outstanding young orators took part in the 2017 NRLC Oratory Contest at the national convention in Milwaukee.

But, Jumping Jehoshaphat**,** by Friday, had the situation ever changed. We learned the identity of Dr. I and that he was coming over this week to examine the infant.

He is Michio Hirano, a neurologist at Columbia University Medical Center, who specializes in myopathies and other neuromuscular diseases. Dr. Hirano will "meet with his current immediate care team and other specialists, including a doctor from the Vatican children's hospital. Charlie's mother, Connie Yates, fought to attend and was given permission," according to the *Associated Press*.

The front page story in the July issue of *National Right to Life News* and the story on page 23 fill in many additional details about what is a riveting human interest story that pits ordinary people--Chris is a postman, Connie cares for adults with severe learning difficulties and disabilities--against enormous institutional power.

Pray that Justice Francis gives the results of Dr. Hirano's examination of Charlie--and what he learns from others with extensive firsthand experience, including Connie--a fair shake.

Pray also for Connie and Chris whose agony is indescribable.

In major turnabout American neurologist is now examining Charlie Gard

From page 22

Center (CUMC), he did his neurology residency training and a post-doctoral fellowship in neuromuscular genetics."

In addition to his work at CUMC, Dr. Hirano is "Director of the H. Houston Merritt Center for Muscular Dystrophy and Related Diseases."

Prior to Thursday's proceedings, Gard family spokesman, Alasdair Seton Marsden, told reporter that Connie and Chris are working under trying conditions "just to give Charlie a chance"…they feel strongly that, "if he's still fighting, we're still fighting."

According to an interview that morning with Mr. Marsden, the special compound that Charlie's parents want him to receive would merely be added to his feeding tube and medical advisors expect a 2-8 week timeline for seeing results. "It's an additive found in corn flakes, how controversial can that be?" remarked the interviewer.

Marsden said the couple was deeply grateful to CUMC's offers of aid and the support from President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence. He revealed that an Air Ambulance had been ready for weeks to usher the family overseas and that the new petition in support of Charlie was racing toward one million signatures.

Back in January, Chris and Connie started a GoFundMe campaign on Facebook (www.gofundme.com/please-help-to-save-charlies-life) with the intent of raising over $1,000,000 to pay for bringing Charlie to the United States.

Nearly 85,000 people from the UK and abroad, have already pledged money and the total is at least $1.7 million–and growing!

Between April and June, rulings from the European Court of Human Rights, and three UK courts, supported the "futile care" assertion of GOSH that Charlie's very "existence" there was "inhuman" and it was in his "best interests" that life-support be discontinued.

Thanks to Connie and Chris, President Trump and Pope Francis, and a worldwide army of supporters, the fight goes on.

Who, if not you and me?

By Dave Andrusko

Ellie Saul is a gifted writer, some of whose postings at bound4life.org she has happily allowed us to reprint.

I find her a delight for many reasons but first and foremost because her writings are bathed in a passionate concern for the unborn, the outpouring of a gentle spirit.

If you've been in this Movement as long as people like me have, there is always the danger that at some level you lose your edge of moral indignation. It wouldn't be accurate to say you become inured to the suffering of unborn children and the aftershocks so many women experience, or that you tacitly "accept" that abortion will be legal for a long, long time.

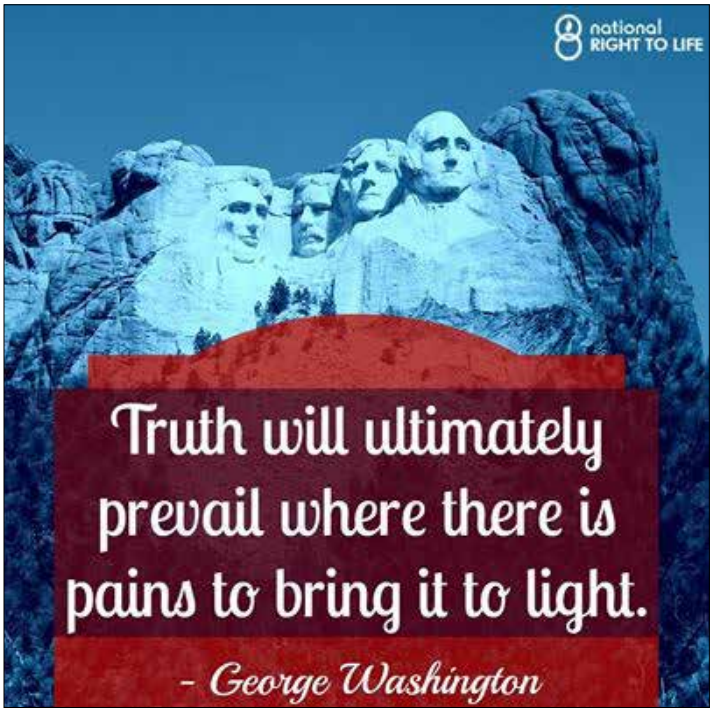
But you can (and I am speaking as a warning to myself here) become less furious at the inhumanity of abortion or less indignant that 59 million individual unborn babies have died since *Roe* unleashed the slaughter.

Note, please, I did not say angry. I said indignant and furious. Allow me to explain.

Indignant in the sense that abortion is a rip in the moral fabric that must be mended—that abortion is unworthy of us, a nation conceived in liberty–a mockery of all that we purport to stand for.

I understand furious can be taken as just another way of saying very angry. That's not what I mean.

For me, to be furious about abortion is to driven by a recognition that I may not have done everything I could have to help a young girl or woman find a peaceful, loving "win-win" solution. That my vision too often is straight ahead—that I lack the peripheral vision (or choose not to exercise it) to gaze on either side where desperate women would be seen hurting.



In other words, furious not at others but at me!

When Mrs. Saul once posted "Valley of Weeping," it reminded me that I need my heart pierced on a regular basis.

And that my prayer list must have room to add the unnamed women contemplating an abortion, convinced that the death of their children is their "only way out."

And that in every way I become the kind of approachable human being who can be turned to when these life-and-death decisions hang in the balance.

For if not me, who? If not us, who?

Walk with me: A post-abortion journey

From page 4

Bluntly she informs us, "At the tender age of 17 I walked across this bridge, alone, into Downtown Pittsburgh, with $300 in my pocket that my mother had given me to get an abortion." You could write volumes just unpacking that one sentence.

As you read the accounts of women reflecting back on a decision they would give anything to take back, often they are grappling with two convictions at war with each other: that God has forgiven them but their own inability to accept that forgiveness. Your heart goes out to them as they tip toe right up to full acceptance of that divine forgiveness but then retreat. At some level they are unable to believe that they can forgiven—or, perhaps more accurately to their way of thinking, should be forgiven.

When I first read the blog entry, it was on a 4th of July which turned out to be the one-year anniversary of when she "began this online journal of my journey." She told us of how so many people "stumbled" across her blog as they looked for information on a whole host of subjects.

Everything from those "looking for ultrasound pictures and how to tell male from female in utero, and down's syndrome in utero, and malformations in utero" to those "searching for ways to help a post abortive woman, preaching on abortion, and similar search phrases" to those having trouble conceiving.

As it happens the "odds were certainly against" her becoming pregnant, but she did—three times.

In this particular July 4th entry she began, "I'm not sure why I'm moved this morning to tell it, maybe because it's Independence Day and this will be another step toward my independence of the impact this story has on my life today."

Clearly, as you read subsequent entries, there are still steps to go.

But we can pray for her–and all the other women who suffer from the aftershocks of that tragic decision–that they will each one day feel fully independent.

Holding firm, moving forward, determined to win the battle before us

By Carol Tobias, President

Editor's note. These remarks from NRLC President Carol Tobias were part of a June 30 morning General Session at the annual National right to Life Convention entitled, "The Battle Before Us."

What is "The Battle Before Us"? To advance a culture of life in which innocent unborn human beings are protected from abortion and the medically vulnerable are defended against euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We can do that in four easy steps:

1. We elect pro-life candidates who pass good laws;
2. We elect pro-life presidents who put intelligent judges on the Supreme Court;
3. In the matter of abortion, we get a case before the Supreme Court so they have the opportunity to overturn *Roe v Wade*; and
4. We get state legislatures to protect innocent human life in every state.

Piece of cake, right?? We're done!

Okay. Maybe it's a little more complicated than that. But then again, it really isn't. We need to continue our efforts to change hearts and minds; we need to grow our movement and bring more and more people to understand that killing a defenseless little one doesn't solve any problem.

But if we want to stop abortion so that unborn children are protected, we need to change the law. And we do that by working hard for pro-life candidates, doing everything we can to win.

We know what to do but we do have some obstacles. For example, we have a major political party that has an official position of supporting unlimited abortion throughout pregnancy and tax funding of abortion.

Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel; NRL President Carol Tobias; General Session Speaker author Ben Shapiro; Heather Weininger, Wisconsin RTL executive director; and Chet Rucinski, an large member of the NRLC Executive Board.

We have the nation's largest abortion provider getting about half a $Billion from taxpayers. That's the same organization that spent $734,000 in a special congregational election in Georgia last week. But you know what? They still lost; because they don't have you.

Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, has been on a nationwide tour, trying to build support for continued tax funding of her organization. In one recent interview, she said, "The fundamental ability for women to participate in the workforce is the ability to access healthcare and decide when they can have children."

I think she's saying that women have to kill their children if they want a job or career. If that's the case, the so-called "women's movement" has failed.

The Atlantic magazine, on Tuesday, published an interview with Richards in which she stated, "It's more important than ever that we stand loud and proud for the ability of any woman—regardless of her income, her geography, her immigration status, her sexuality, her sexual orientation—to access the full range of reproductive health care."

She added, "We've got to pull the curtains back and be open and honest about this procedure that one in three women will have at some point in their lifetime, and their right to make that decision."

First of all, we know the 1 in 3 statistic is not accurate. Even the Washington Post gave two Pinocchios for that claim but, can you imagine, the head of Planned Parenthood saying, "We've got to pull the curtains back and be open and honest about this procedure …"

Yesterday, we heard from [citizen journalist] David Daleiden whose undercover videos did pull back the curtains to show us what they are doing. Planned Parenthood is trying its hardest to not only keep the curtain closed but it wants to put chains and huge padlocks and brick walls around that curtain to keep anybody from peeking behind it.

And if they're going to be loud and proud about abortion, why do they keep repeating the lie that abortion is only 3% of what they do?

Just a sidenote—Joss Whedon is a Hollywood filmmaker who produced a short film to encourage support for Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood actually tweeted this:

> **"If there's anything we've learned from Joss Whedon over the years, it's this—every single one of us has a hero inside; and it's our responsibility to use our superpowers to slay."**

2017 National Right to Life Essay Contest Winners

Editor's note. The following winning essays were written for the National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest. At the senior level, grades 10–12, Clare Marie Lindgren (Michigan) took first place, Aleka Neptune (Texas) won second, and Sarah Brown (Wisconsin) won third. At the junior level, grades 7–9, Ella Stockton (Texas) won first place, Madison Grace Leurs (Texas) won second, and Sophia Madsen (South Dakota) won third.

First Place Winner at the Senior Level

Why I Am Pro-Life

By Clare Marie Lindgren of Michigan
11th grade

Today, fewer and fewer people comprehend the important role that human dignity plays in the natural order of society. Modern culture, in many ways, tends to look at the human person as an object which is only good when useful or productive. The loss of this respect for human dignity has led many to question or disregard the reasons for protecting the life of the innocent and dependent. There are many reasons to be pro-life, but the primary ones concern a true understanding of life and death, the societal impact of disregard for human life, and the fundamental dignity of the human person.

To fully understand the importance and urgency of the pro-life cause one must have a true understanding of life and death. Although it mayseem obvious when life begins and ends, there are many people who falsely teach that life begins at some indefinite period after conception. However, it is a scientific fact that human life begins at conception and does not end until the heart stops beating and the brain ceases to function. The question of "quality of life" is a totally unrelated question; we are not to judge who should live or die, we are only to protect the lives of the living as best we can. Only when we understand this can we be truly pro-life.

Looking more broadly at the societal impact of disregard for human life, we see how devastating it is. When people are comfortable ignoring the slaughter of the defenseless, it will only be a matter of time until they begin to disregard human life at all stages. This leads society to become totally immune to every respect for the rights of others. The consequences of disregard for human life are destructive to every form of community.

While there are many convincing arguments that defend the right to life, the ultimate reason rests on the fundamental dignity of the human person. You don't have to be religious to recognize that humans are not just another species of animal fighting for self-preservation.

The fact of our rational nature entitles us to the rights that claim respect from our fellow human beings. The dignity of the human person dwells in everyone, at every time, with no exceptions.

A true understanding of life and death, the societal impact of disregard for human life, and the fundamental dignity of the human person are the principle reasons why I am pro-life. It is important to remember when arguing and presenting cases for the pro-life cause that these are not just clever words and concepts; they are the defense and protection of the rights of the innocent and most vulnerable in our society. Every human being has a fundamental right to life, for without it there can be no other rights.

See "Essay," page 27

2017 National Right to Life Essay Contest Winners

From page 26

First Place Winner at the Junior Level

A Letter For Life

By Ella Stockton of Texas
8th grade

Dear Mom,

You probably don't remember me and that's ok, but I am going to tell you who I am. I'm the child you never got to hold. I'm the child you didn't want or plan for in any way. Even though I don't know what you look like, I can picture myself holding your hand and gazing into your eyes while drifting off to sleep at night. I hope I wasn't a burden to you when you were pregnant with me. I know I caused you a lot of trouble. I understand how hard it would have been to care for a baby at sixteen years old. I am sure you have been through more hard times in your life than I can possibly imagine. You're probably busy with all the things that life has thrown at you, but I want to take a quick minute to say I forgive you. I know it was a hard decision. I also want to say …

Thank you.

I could tell you that a thousand times, but it would never compare to how I am in my heart. When you carried me in your body I know you could have taken the easy way out, but you didn't. Instead you gave me a gift that I could never earn, buy, or borrow. You gave me a gift that so many unborn never get. You gave me life.

I have a family who adopted me, and loves, treasures, forgives, and accepts me. I know I would never have had any of that if it wasn't for you making this hard decision.

Many people in our world take life for granted, but over the years I have realized that it doesn't matter whether you are a child, teenager, old person, young person, born, unborn, wanted, unwanted, abled, or disabled. All life matters. It matters to me and it matters to God.

When I thought of all the mothers like you who went through pain and trouble so that a child can have life, I can confidently stand here and say, "All life is beautiful and worth the right to life."

Love,
An adopted child

The Mother of All Movements

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

One thing that might surprise the editors of many women's magazines is to what extent the pro-life movement is a movement of mothers.

This is not to negate the incredible contributions of pro-life heroes of the male persuasion, such as former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania Rick Santorum…the late Congressman Henry Hyde… or current U.S. Congressman Chris Smith. Each of those men, through both legislation and language, has had a profound impact on the success of the pro-life cause at the national level.

And I do not mean to overlook the persuasive power of both men and women who are not parents but nonetheless are amazingly life-affirming… from the Sisters of Life to Lila Rose and Carol Tobias…and from Priests for Life to Pope Francis.

But I have yet to see a secular news report that credits mothers with spearheading many of the initiatives that save vulnerable lives, from the miraculous moment of conception to the tear-stained time of natural death.

Some of the mothers of the pro-life movement find time to devote to the cause of life amid the many demands of raising large families. Others balance pro-life work with family responsibilities and professional lives as attorneys, doctors, nurses, and business owners.

Some female leaders of the pro-life movement formed or grew their families through adoption. Some grieve children lost to accidents, illness, or miscarriage.

And there are some pro-life women today who lost their children to the tragedy of abortion. Most of them were pressured to have abortions they did not want. Others experienced a profound change of heart and mind about abortion after they began to grieve the children whose lives were taken at Planned Parenthood or another abortion facility.

Thus, when magazines that cater to a female clientele limit the definition of women's rights activists to those who support legal abortion, they are missing much of the story. Because so many women across the country believe passionately in protecting the life of the woman within the womb…and sparing women from the heartache of abortion.

When I was a little girl, my mother took a lunch break each day to watch a soap opera called "All My Children." Not actually knowing what the show was about, I envisioned that it revolved around one woman's descendants–and that every main character was one of the woman's children.

To those women who sacrifice their time to the pro-life movement, every child in danger of abortion is as precious to them as the children bonded to them by blood or adoption. These babies are, in spirit, all their children.

The mothers who march each January…who volunteer at pregnancy centers where all the services are free…who lead local chapters of National Right to Life…who devote their time and talent to serving as webmasters and legislative advocates…who serve in public office standing firmly on a right-to-life platform…power the pro-life movement.

The pro-life movement has always been, and will always be, deeply indebted to mothers. It is a movement born of a mother's heart, to save those just a heartbeat away from premature death.

Group from Louisiana Produce Powerful Pro-Life Videos

Video Project Called "Project Abortion: The Untold Story"

By Sandy Cunningham, Louisiana Right to Life Communications Director

A team of Central Louisiana pro-lifers have teamed up to produce a series of pro-life documentary segments called "Project Abortion: The Untold Story," and their most recent video focuses on actress Jennifer O'Neill.

Peter John Lemoine, Wilbur Gutierrez, and Dr. David Spence, with the help of Fr. Dan Cook and videographer and editor Spencer Lemoine, have produced an introduction and three segments of the documentary so far.

The idea for the documentary came about after a men's prayer group meeting at Lemoine's home in Cottonport in January 2016. Cook was speaking to the group, and near the end of the meeting he began to talk about abortion. Lemoine and Gutierrez were so touched by Cook's passion they decided to take action.

"God calls us to pursue causes far greater than ourselves," Lemoine said. "Abortion is the greatest humanitarian crisis of our generation, and only through education, advocacy, and compassion can we bring an end to this issue."

Gutierrez noted that Norma McCorvey, better known as Jane Roe of *Roe v. Wade*, was born in Simmesport, about 10 miles from Lemoine's home.

"The roots of the national debate were born right here in Central Louisiana," he said. "If it began here, it can end here."

Once they decided what platform they would use to get their message out, they chose to make several short segments instead of one lengthy film. Initially, they released two videos.

Recently a third segment was released featuring internationally acclaimed actress and model Jennifer O'Neill, who has a long list of credits to her name and possibly is best known for her role as Dorothy in the classic film "Summer of '42" and her three decades as a CoverGirl model. In the "Project Abortion" video O'Neill discusses the abortion she had and her post-abortion healing.

The videos have already been seen by tens of thousands of people and are being disseminated by pro-life organizations across the nation, including Priests for Life. Lemoine said that because O'Neill agreed to work with the group and tell her story, the videos will reach an even larger audience.

NRL 2017 and "Live Tweet to Win!"

From page 7

dangerously tough streets of Milwaukee. They woke the next day at 5:30 AM and did it all over again.

I asked Fish why suffer through all the difficulties and he said, "We heard about the convention through Ben Shapiro – we are both huge fans of him. We decided to come because abortion is an issue we both feel incredibly strongly about, and felt it was time for us to act on our pro-life beliefs and meet people who shared similar views."

Fish and Alexander are tall, cheerful, and you can't miss them. I recall seeing them walking around the convention, going in and out of workshops – they are 18 years old.

They humble me. And I'm not the least bit embarrassed to say their passion, drive, and commitment to the unborn moves me to tears. Fish's tweet with Shapiro shows two beaming kids next to one of their idols. Their winning was providential.

Fish and Alexander, two extraordinary young men, are the reason we win. As a seasoned veteran in this long fight for life- it does my heart good to know they (and countless others just like them) will be following in our footsteps.

Congratulations dudes.

Pew rehashes (and again garbles) latest abortion numbers

By Dave Andrusko

"Progressives," for all practical purposes uniformly pro-abortion, like to recycle Pew Research's reports on abortion which are universally misleading. That includes on the public's thoughts on reversing *Roe v. Wade* and the abortion views of younger Evangelicals.

The latest was made possible when Pew recently produced "On abortion, persistent divides between – and within – the two parties," written by Hannah Fingerhut.

The Daily Kos ran with it.

After matter of factly citing some of Pew's numbers, Kelly Macias cranked into overdrive:

> **It's truly curious how Republicans have become even more conservative over time and it looks like religion plays a huge role. Sadly, gains in technology, education and science don't seem to convince them that women should have autonomy over their own bodies. This wouldn't be problematic if they weren't so obsessed with trying to turn their beliefs into laws that not only prevent women from access to abortions but that drive maternal mortality rates up.**

So under-educated pro-life Republicans, deaf to the teachings of "technology, education and science," are obsessed with turning their religious beliefs into law, in the process driving up maternal mortality rates.

Whew. Quite a mouthful of meaningless pro-abortion platitudes.

Let's see what Pew says, which is largely a rehash of what it wrote in April 2016.

#1. Unlike Gallup, Pew merely asks people whether they say abortion should be legal in all/most cases, or illegal in all/most cases. That allows them to say that 57% say abortion should be legal in all/most cases.

As we have explained countless times, when (as Gallup does) you ask a more discerning set of questions, you typically find that a total of 55% who say abortion should be illegal in all circumstances (19%) or legal in only a few circumstances (36%) Everything else that followed in Fingerhut's analysis is colored by the way Pew frames the issue–most/all.

#2. No question there is a stark disagreement between the major parties.

> **By a wide margin (65% to 34%), Republicans say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. In 1995, Republicans were evenly divided (49% legal vs. 48% illegal).**

Views among Democrats have shown less change over the past two decades. Today, 75% of Democrats say abortion should be legal in at least most cases; in 1995, 64% favored legal abortion in all or most cases.

In case you missed it, that represents an increase of 16% in pro-life sentiment among Republicans compared to a 11% increase in pro-abortion sentiment among Democrats.

#3. Fingerhut writes

> **Among the public overall, there are no significant gender differences in views of whether abortion should be legal. Majorities of both men (55%) and women (59%) say it should be legal in at least most cases.**

The numbers are wrong (as noted, the pro-abortion sentiment is inflated by the way the question is asked), but the conclusion is correct: there is little difference between men's and women's views on abortion.

#4. Finally, Fingerhut writes

> **Among white evangelical Protestants, there continues to be staunch opposition to abortion in all or most cases. Seven-in-ten (70%) say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, while just 29% say it should be legal.**
>
> **By contrast, the religious "nones" – those who are religiously unaffiliated – show broad support for legal abortion in all or most cases.**

Clearly we need to bring more "nones" into the fold, which is where groups such as Secular Pro-Life, whose leader spoke at the recent NRLC Convention, are particularly helpful.

Going back for a second to Pew's misleading poll about overturning *Roe*, it is true that opinions haven't changed much when respondents are asked about overturning *Roe* "**completely**."

However that is decidedly **not** true about what may someday in the not so distant future be before the Supreme Court. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Act which says you can't abort kids capable of experiencing unfathomable amounts of pain as they are executed.

It has huge support among the public at large. A national poll taken the day of the November elections found widespread backing that extended across all demographic and geographic boundaries. For example

- Millennial voters
  78% support
- Women voters
  67% support
- African Americans
  70% support
- Hispanics
  57% support

Contrary to Pew, the public is very receptive to pro-life initiative after pro-life initiative.

The AP Stylebook and how the abortion issue is described

By Dave Andrusko

Let me offer just a few words about a couple of posts I've seen online regarding the *Associated Press'* influential stylebook and the abortion issue.

If I understand the criticism it is that the new *AP* Stylebook has changed "pro-life" to "anti-abortion" and "pro-abortion" (or "pro-choice") to "abortion rights."

First things first. Clearly the change is a huge tactical and rhetorical advantage for pro-abortionists.

We become nothing more than being against abortion (odd when you consider that we oppose infanticide and assisted suicide/euthanasia with equal fervor) while our opposition number is in favor of "rights."

Who can be against "rights" unless, of course, you are talking about the unborn child's right to life.

But the change was not made in 2017; it was before then. If I had more time, I could track down how far back *AP* made the switch. The damage is real, it is just not newly inflicted.

One other abortion-related

wordage (again I don't know when the admonition was offered). "Avoid abortionist, which connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions."

Really? The other side loves "abortion doctor."

Just as the *AP* believes "abortionist" connotes "clandestine" (presumably as in illegal), so, too, "doctor" (as in abortion doctor) connotes that when they slice and tear and rip helpless babies they are practicing real medicine.

Not to me.

Remembering the "Artist" who performed the story of her abortion: "I think She was a She"

From page 13

As the poem unfurls, so, too, does the banner of Josephine's considerable resentment and defiance.

"I am so sick of keeping these words contained; I am women now; I will not be tamed," she tells us, her anger mounting. In the world she envisions, stories like hers will be everywhere, including "next to the flyer for yoga for babies."

Josephine's "I am woman, hear me roar" is even more lame today than it was 40 years ago. But then there is this

I have determination that this
termination will still have a
form of creation.
It will not be wasted.
this is my body. this is my body.
this is my body.
I don't care about your
ignorant views
when I become a mother, it will
be when i choose.

Death is Life, War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, where is George Orwell when you need him?

Of course, Josephine **was** a mother, which she fully knows, just like she is ashamed, not matter how many times she says otherwise.

Why else bother to talk (had the baby been allowed to be born, that is) about how Josephine would have taught her all the things Josephine's mother taught her, taken her to museums, told her stories about her grandfather, been a good mother?

The stories of how women are "not ashamed" of their abortions not only grow more and more ludicrous, they become sadder and sadder and sadder.

Medical students' perspectives on euthanasia

By Xavier Symons

What do medical students think about euthanasia? A new article in the journal Chest discusses some of the concerns held by the next generation of US medical professionals. The authors of the paper, students from several of the leading medical schools in the country, express grave concerns about the normalisation of euthanasia in end-of-life care.

Commenting on new legislation introduced in US states such as Colorado, the authors remark:

> **The sum of these new laws and rulings strongly conveys the impression that once a person is eligible for hospice, his or her life may no longer have worth, and a "healthy" and "reasonable" thing to do is to request to end one's own life. We reject this proposed shift of the true purpose of medicine, and we reject the pressure to legitimize this shift through the involvement of medical professionals in an act fundamentally antithetical to our core ethical principles.**

Doctor-patient trust, the authors assert, is founded upon the notion that doctors "will commit to doing their best to heal and care for patients and will not intentionally kill those entrusted to their care". The students fear that PAS/E violates the fundamental bond of trust.

Indeed, the authors call upon doctors to return to the original meaning of euthanasia:

> **"In its first studies in the 19th century, "euthanasia" was originally defined as focusing on improving patients' quality of life and easing the process at the end of life, but never at the expense of promoting practices which could hasten a patient's death. We strongly implore our present and future colleagues to return to this original definition."**

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

Twenty-five years later, why the Supreme Court's *Casey* decision is so wrong

From page 21

consistently, would invalidate some of *Casey's* own holdings (*Casey*, ironically, reversed parts of Roe and subsequent abortion decisions) as well as some past Court reversals that were obviously correct.

> **"[W]hen it becomes clear that a prior constitutional interpretation is unsound," the chief justice noted in his response, "we are obliged to reexamine the question."**

The Court came up with one other reason to justify its stare decisis claim. Overruling *Roe*, *Casey* said, "would address error, if error there was, at the cost of both profound and unnecessary damage to the Court's legitimacy." *Casey's* reasoning went like this:

> **If a past decision about a controversial issue was mistaken, and if many people want the Court to correct the mistake, then the Court should refuse to correct the mistake because doing so would make it seem like the Court is "surrender[ing] to political pressure."**

Better to be wrong than to look bad. That's what the Court decided.

It's not hard to understand why legal scholar Michael Stokes Paulsen calls Casey "the worst constitutional decision of all time." Nothing proves how indefensible Roe v. Wade is like the Court's own attempt to defend it.

As Paulsen notes, though, it's not just legal errors that make a Court decision truly bad. It's the human consequences. Under the legal regime created by Roe, sustained by Casey, and persisting to this day, a whole class of innocent human beings is excluded from the basic protection of the law. Tens of millions of lives have been cut short.

Twenty-five years after Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the Supreme Court should finally follow the late Justice Scalia's advice. "We should get out of this area [of making abortion policy]," he concluded, "where we have no right to be, and where we do neither ourselves nor the country any good by remaining."

Editor's note. Mr. Stark is Communications Associate for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, NRLC's state affiliate.

Pro-Abortion Arguments Often Rest on Denying Science

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

It is the height of irony that while the abortion industry often dismisses pro-lifers as lacking the necessary medical expertise, such as having a medical degree, many pro-abortion arguments rest on denying science.

For instance, I have never heard the CEO of the nation's largest abortion operation, Planned Parenthood chief Cecile Richards, talk about the most basic milestones in the development of an unborn child's life that the layperson can learn in five minutes of research.

Such as …that a heartbeat can be detected at 24 days after conception...that brain waves are apparent 43 days post-conception...that at six weeks after conception an unborn child resembles a miniature doll with arms and legs clearly visible.

And when science is inconvenient pro-abortion activists also quickly dismiss research showing the negative effect of abortion on women: the increase in depression, eating disorders, suicide attempts, and the increased likelihood of subsequent premature babies.

Abortion apologists fail to mention that an unborn child has a DNA separate from that of the mother and is often a different sex than the mother, indicating that the baby in the womb is a separate being.

Ultrasounds, once grainy black and white images, are now in 4 colors and show the baby in real-time. The abortion industry hides Ultrasound images which show preborn babies displaying the human characteristics of smiling, laughing, and crying. In fact, Big Abortion has tried to make Ultrasound the enemy, fighting common sense legislation ensuring that pregnant women have an opportunity to see their unborn baby's Ultrasound image.

While it is true that many come to the pro-life position as a result of a faith-based perspective, empirical scientific evidence actually lends great credence to the pro-life stand. To paraphrase C.S. Lewis, faith and science are like two blades of a scissors.

In the end, denying the humanity of the unborn child... turning a blind eye toward the psychological effects of abortion on the child's mother... and dismissing technology which shows the wonder of the preborn child on full display place abortion activists in the role of science deniers. Not only is the pro-life side pro-child and pro-woman, it is also pro-reason and pro-science.

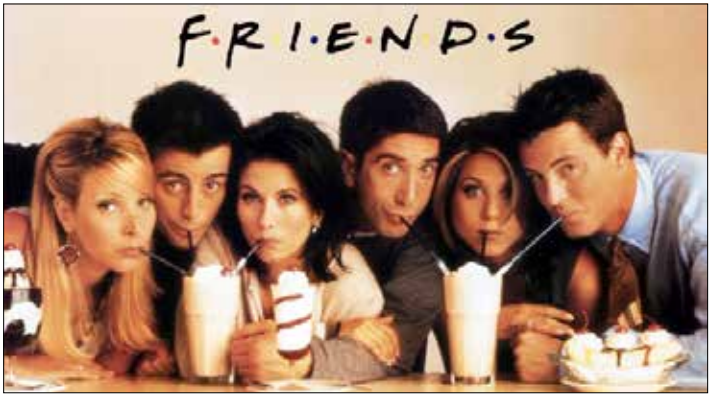
And that is why life is winning in America today.

"Friends," evergreen content, and the beauty of the pro-life message

From page 2

He once wrote something I kept and reflect upon often:

At bottom, the "life issues" involve the deepest and most fundamental public questions for a nation committed to liberty, equality, and justice. That is, the basic question in this context is who counts as a member of the human community entitled to moral concern and the basic protection of the law? Who counts as "one of us"? Equally important is the related question of who decides, and according to what sort of criteria? These are not narrow concerns commanding only the attention of a small number of highly motivated activists at the fringes of our society. Indeed, it is hard to imagine a public matter that is more important than this "question of membership."



Who counts? Who decides who counts? What criteria are used to bring you into the fold or exclude you? These are "the deepest and most fundamental public questions for a nation committed to liberty, equality, and justice."

Needless to add I came away with more from our time together than the high schoolers. I just hope they were half as blessed as I was.

Six conclusions that followed an all important pro-life win in Georgia

From page 10

are beginning to reluctantly acknowledge: "Democrats thought they were going to walk away from Tuesday's race victorious, but they have yet to produce a viable person-to-person message for their candidates to work with."

This is strikingly similar to what Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes concluded in *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign*.

Why was Clinton running for President for a second time? She had no rationale, no reason other than the self-serving notion that the public owed it to her. No wonder she was tone-deaf and arrogant.

According to Allen and Parnes, inside the campaign it became a kind of parlor joke among staff but became such an obvious crippling source of weakness that (to quote the book) "Clinton staffers began toying with the idea of seeing how 'Because it's her turn' might fly as a public rallying cry."

Yikes. It's "her turn"?!

That's where Democrats find themselves now. To be sure, tagging Ossoff to pro-abortion Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.) is a tried and true strategy. Outside of California and similar left-wing precincts, she is incredibly unpopular.

But add to this that "there is no there there"–Democrats have nothing to offer other than they despise Donald Trump, aka "Democracy Dies in Darkness" (to quote the Post's apocalyptic new motto–and you see why a few calmer heads in the party are asking that they at least consider going back to the drawing board. That idea, of course, will go nowhere.

Thanks to all the good voters of these four congressional districts and hats off to the National Right to Life Victory Fund which contacted thousands of identified pro-life voters in Georgia by mail, phone, and through social media with information about the enormous life-and-death differences between Karen Handel and Jon Ossoff.

NRL 2017 and "the Battle Before Us"

From page 15

Fund informed pro-life voters about the stark contrast between the candidates on life.

In April, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez decided that the DNC would only support candidates who support an extreme abortion agenda calling for unrestricted abortion for any reason – including late abortions after 20 weeks and taxpayer funding of abortion.

In many areas of the country, Democratic candidates must have pro-life votes in order to win, however they also must appease the pro-abortion masters of the Democratic Party, including Planned Parenthood – the nation's largest abortion provider, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and EMILY's List.

The National Right to Life Victory Fund contacted thousands of identified pro-life voters in Georgia by mail, phone, and through social media with information about the differences between pro-life Republican Karen Handel and pro-abortion Democrat Jon Ossoff.

Despite nearly $60 million spent in the most expensive congressional race in history, Handel prevailed 52% to 48%.

This points out the problem Democrats have that will continue to cause them to lose elections across the nation.

The most ridiculous evidence of this recently took place when West Virginia Democratic Senator Joe Manchin appeared in a picture holding a Planned Parenthood sign that read, "I stand with Planned Parenthood."

Manchin later appeared in a picture with a pro-life group holding a sign that read, "We don't need Planned Parenthood."

There are similar situations in other parts of the country where Democratic senators must have pro-life votes to win including Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly, Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey, and North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.

National Right to Life President Carol Tobias recently said,

> **"The pro-abortion side cannot match the infrastructure and grassroots base of National Right to Life and its 3,000 chapters and state affiliates, which can respond quickly anywhere in the country.**
>
> **With this latest pro-abortion litmus test for Democratic candidates, the Democratic Party will continue to lose elections."**

I began by talking about military strategies developed by Sun Tzu around 500 B.C. which are currently used by armies all over the world even today.

I'll close by looking at recent history: our Revolutionary War.

Thomas Paine, in *The Crisis*, wrote,

> **"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."**

So what is a summer soldier or sunshine patriot? Thomas Paine claims he is one who shrinks from the service of their country.

I believe it is someone with no backbone or resolve to do right – someone unwilling to sacrifice for the greater good.

Are pro-life voters summer soldiers or sunshine patriots?

Absolutely not!!

You selflessly devote yourselves to the unborn, and those who are vulnerable in our society.

I promise you that National Right to Life will not allow pro-abortion candidates to hide behind other issues. We will do our best to expose their extreme views of unlimited abortion and using taxpayer funding of abortion on demand.

Together will pro-lifers across the nation, with your help, we will battle tirelessly to expose the true positions of candidates on life.

I'll close with your marching orders.

When you leave this convention you'' be armed with the truth and equipped for battle.

Karen Cross, NRL Political Director, addressing the NRL 2017 convention. Listening were David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.,NRLC executive director, and Chelsea Shields, Wisconsin Legislative/PAC Director.

So what are your marching orders for 2018?

Enlist more troops.

Rally the troops.

Pray for those troops with battle fatigue.

And, finally, every battle has its heroes.

You are our heroes.

Some of you have been paving the way for decades, while others are here for your first training ready to pick up the baton.

Many say that "all elections is local."

That means we need you on the ground motivating the troops so that we can win these important battleground states.

As we continue to win these battles, we will one day win the war.

Reflections on the BMA's vote to 'decriminalize' abortion – ten key observations

From page 20

The obvious intention as to undermine the poll by implying that under 25s were not asked their views. The totals of 2,008 and 904 she quoted were actually correct but 186 of these were people aged 18-24. How Runswick missed this is hard to understand as these figures were all on the same page in the report. Another speaker, Coral Jones, responded to the point made in a prominent Canadian medical journal that Canada has become 'a haven for parents who would terminate female fetuses in favor of having sons' after decriminalizing abortion. Jones announced that she also had googled male/female ratios in Canada and found them to be one to one. She conveniently ignored the fact that these variations in ratios noted in the journal occurred only in certain ethnic subgroups. This disinformation had the effect of undermining the credibility of opposition speakers who were actually telling the truth.

4. There was huge confusion among delegates about abortion gestational limits. The most obvious, and perhaps, the only way of decriminalizing abortion would be to repeal section 58 and 59 of the OAPA, which makes carrying out abortions, or supplying drugs or equipment for that purpose, illegal. This would render the Abortion Act, with all its provisions including the 24 weeks gestation limit, null and void. The fall-back position would be then the Infant Life (Preservation) Act (1929), which makes it illegal to destroy a child 'capable of being born alive.'

The problem is that this Act defines this threshold as 28 weeks, although many babies born now as early as 23 to 24 weeks will survive with good neonatal care. So scrapping the relevant sections of the OAPA would leave us with a 28-week limit. If the ILPA were also to go it would make abortion legal for any and every reason right up to term. Delegates asked the chairman of the ethics committee, John Chisholm, to clarify this but the answer of 24 weeks was given with no legal justification or explanation. Later, after the vote had been taken there was an apology from the chair of the meeting about the confusion this created. As it is, the meeting referred the matter of 'viability' to the Royal College of obstetricians and gynecologists to seek their advice. But it was not clear how long that would take.

5. The decriminalization move was backed by a campaign run by abortion provider BPAS (British pregnancy advisory service). BPAS have specifically acknowledged that they campaign for removal of all gestation of time limits to abortion. Their CEO Ann Furedi stated categorically at the London launch of the campaign, 'I want to be very, very clear and blunt… There should be no legal upper limit.'

Abortion providers have a huge vested interest in decriminalization because it would mean far less accountability and scrutiny for them. It's fully understandable why they might seek this given the fact that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had to step in to protect women from potential harm at Marie Stopes abortion clinics last year. Their report showed doctors had been block-signing consent forms, babies had been left in open beds, women were left at risk of infection, staff were not trained in how to respond to deteriorating patients and post-surgery safety checks had been completed before the surgery started.

7. Regulation alone, which is what the BMA is seeking, pulls any legal teeth from abortion oversight. Regulation, as opposed to legislation, would effectively leave doctors regulating themselves. Given how current guidelines are already flouted, we could only expect more of the same. Doctors are not above the law and they should be held legally accountable. We know that abortion can be used to cover up sexual crimes like rape, pedophilia, sexual abuse and incest.

8. The BPAS campaign is titled 'We Trust Women' but there is no evidence that women are actually seeking a change in the law. A ComRes poll in May 2017 (see above) found that only 1% of women wanted to see the time limit for abortion extended above 24 weeks and that 70% wanted to see the abortion limit reduced to 20 weeks or below. 91% of women favored a total an explicit ban on sex-selective abortion. So women want the law to be stricter on the legality and regulation of abortion, not laxer.

This whole campaign has been based on the false premise that women who seek abortions are living under the constant shadow of arrest. This is simply not true. Prosecutions are exceptionally rare – in many years there have been none at all – and in the past two years there were just two convictions both in extreme and disturbing scenarios.

9. Decriminalisation will move Britain in a direction that has not worked in other countries. China and Canada are currently the only countries which have gone down this route and after two states in Australia did so, concerns about an increase in late abortions, abortion tourism and babies being born alive after abortion, led other Australian states not to follow suit.

10. The move at the BMA ARM has been cynically planned just ahead of a new private member's bill in the House of Commons. Earlier this year a 10-minute rule bill, tabled by Diane Johnson, attempted to decriminalize abortion. It passed by a slim majority but later ran out of parliamentary time. It is expected that this bill will return, quite possibly in the current private members' ballot. We'll know in just a few weeks' time.

It was noteworthy that the BMA made its decision to decriminalize abortion the very same week that the Minister of women and equalities, Justin Greening, agreed to fund abortions in England and Wales for women from Northern Ireland, where it is currently illegal. The move followed a threat to place the measure as an amendment to the Queen's speech, which could well have put the government itself at risk of a vote of no confidence at a very critical time in British history.

It's clear that there has been a huge cultural shift within Britain in attitudes towards abortion amongst the general population, but especially amongst doctors. Some doctors have already resigned from the BMA after the vote. I will not be doing so myself, because I believe it's best to try and fight these battles from within. Furthermore, I object to the doctors' trade union being hijacked by a small number of activists with extreme views to achieve their ideological and political goals.

This decision could be reversed, but unless we act quickly to prevent any ensuing

See "BMA," page 37

National Right to Life supports Better Care Reconciliation Act

From page 1

many changes to both the private market and to plans eligible for tax credits. The "State Stability and Innovation Program" contains protections wherein plans that utilize these important dollars cannot cover elective abortion.

"National Right to Life believes that this bill makes substantial progress towards reducing the amount of federal dollars flowing to plans that cover elective abortion," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. "Abortion is not healthcare, and the Senate has the chance to protect life by advancing this legislation."

National Right to Life also strongly supports the language in the bill that would block, for one year, most federal payments to affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). It would close the largest pipeline for federal funding of Planned Parenthood – Medicaid – and apply as well to the CHIP and the Title V and Title XX block grant programs, thus covering roughly 89% of all federal funds to Planned Parenthood.

The amounts denied to Planned Parenthood, in effect, are reallocated to community health centers. Over one-third of all abortions in the U.S. are performed at PPFA-affiliated facilities. For additional up-to-date information on the extent of Planned Parenthood's involvement in abortion, see: www.nrlc.org/communications/ppfamediabackground/

In addition, the Better Care Reconciliation Act retains employer-paid health insurance as a fully untaxed benefit. The Better Care Reconciliation Act also postpones the "Cadillac tax" which is designed to create a tax disincentive to suppress private, nongovernmental health care spending beyond a governmentally imposed limit. It is critical that Americans have access to quality life-saving healthcare to preserve their lives, care that will not be rationed more each year.

National Right to Life recognizes that additional changes may be made to the bill before it comes to a final vote and will carefully monitor to ensure that the essential elements listed above are retained, and no objectionable new components are added.

Reflections on the BMA's vote to 'decriminalize' abortion – ten key observations

From page 36

bill going through parliament, it may be too late. Regardless, doctors who respect human life before birth could easily overturn the decision by bringing opposing motions next year and ensuring that they turn up in sufficient numbers to win the vote. Whether this happens or not, time only will tell. However, I can't help thinking that the real blame lies with the bulk of the medical profession who have either capitulated to the new ethic or acquiesced in silence whilst allowing others steer the ship. The church has also been largely silent.

The aim of medicine is to prevent and treat illness. Abortion, the intentional taking of human life before birth, neither prevents nor treats any illness. Pregnancy is not a disease. Abortion runs contrary to the general strategy of medicine which is why it is against all historic codes of medical ethics.

When the OAPA was first passed in 1861 it was inconceivable that doctors would ever be involved in abortion. However, now they are leading the way in the destruction of innocent human life. It is not too late to stop this, but only if we have the collective will and courage to do so.

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