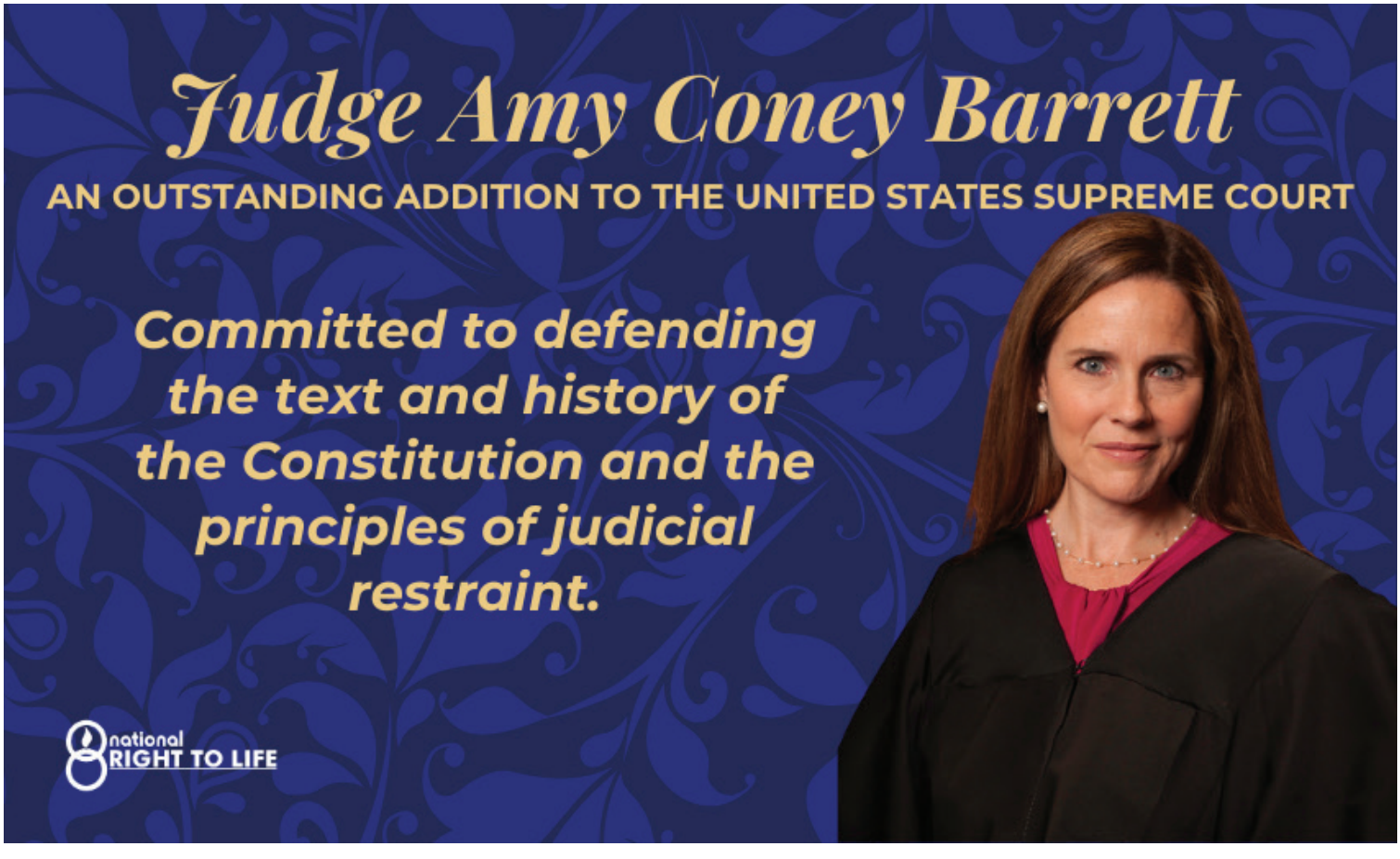
national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

October 2020



national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

21 days until November 3. What do we know? A great deal!

By Dave Andrusko

As we head into the last three weeks of the most consequential election in many decades, what we need to remember above all is there is nothing—**nothing**— the media defenders of Joe Biden wouldn't do to help drag the pro-abortion former Vice President across the finish line.

There will be an occasional exception to the relentless pro-Biden hype. *CNN's* Jake Tapper actually confronted Biden campaign coordinator Kate Bedingfield on Sunday, both on the nonsensical claim that nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett was "unconstitutional" and about Mr. Biden's response to a reporter's question on packing the Supreme Court that "voters do not deserve an answer on this."

But otherwise, the media elite are channeling the technique Biden used in the first presidential debate against pro-life President Donald Trump: Attribute to him what, in fact, is true about Biden.

It helped to have a compliant Chris Wallace as moderator. But even Wallace's ears should have perked up when Biden—who takes entire days at a time off—had the chutzpah to tell President to "get out of his bunker." This, of course, is diametrically opposed to what Biden and his legion of media enablers otherwise say 24 hours a day: President Trump is out and about too much.

Here are some headlines and follow up information:

*"The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Monday shows that 49% of Likely U.S. Voters approve of President Trump's job performance. Fifty percent (50%) disapprove."

*"The Commission on Presidential Debates on Friday

See "November 3," page 35

Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Opening Statement before Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Members of the Committee: I am honored and humbled to appear before you as a nominee for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

I thank the President for entrusting me with this profound responsibility, as well as for the graciousness that he and the First Lady have shown my family throughout this process.

I thank Senator Young for introducing me, as he did at my hearing to serve on the Seventh Circuit. I thank Senator Braun for his generous support. And I am especially grateful to former Dean Patty O'Hara of Notre Dame Law School. She hired me as a professor nearly 20 years ago and has been a mentor, colleague, and friend ever since.

I thank the Members of this Committee—and your other colleagues in the Senate—who have taken the time to meet with me since my nomination.

See "Statement," page 42

Judge Amy Coney Barrett

Editorials

2016 all over again: Media tells us Trump can't win

As of today, just 21 days until the November 3rd General Election. If you listen to the usual media suspects, we are supposed to be depressed, despondent, and dejected because pro-life President Donald Trump is behind both in the national polls and in most of the top "Battleground States"— Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, and Arizona.

The very same people who lectured us in 2016 on the inevitability of President Hillary Clinton are pronouncing with even more certainty that Joe Biden will be our 46th President.

In other words, like Punxsutawney Phil, Joe Biden will emerge late on the first Tuesday in November, not see his shadow [defeat], and announce that Spring will arrive in just 78 days--January 20, 2021, Inauguration Day.

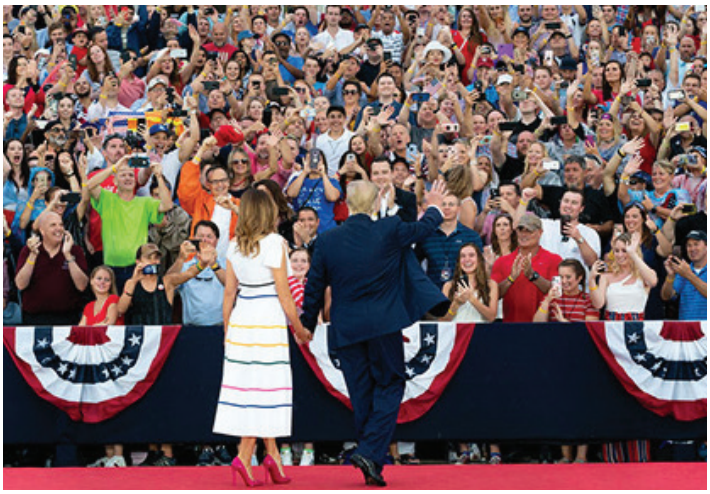
Would I rather that President Trump be ahead? Of course. But that has never been the question, nor is it the question now.

The real question is whether Trump supporters will allow the Media Elites, academia, and Hollywood to persuade us all is lost.

Just consider the Big Picture and not get lost in the talking points the media reiterate with tiresome regularity.

(By the way, I understand the argument from those commentators who don't necessarily hate President Trump--but don't like him--that in spite of various good numbers [see below], Mr. Trump's personality is so polarizing it will turn off enough people to cost him the election. I just disagree for many reasons, including those below.)

*James Carville is famous for his quip, "It's the economy, stupid."As Monmouth University put it last Tuesday (in the least possible positive way for the President) "Biden lags Trump on



being trusted more to create jobs and strengthen the economy by 39% to 44%."

Adds Kevin McCullough, who writes, "In the past four months he's produced the fastest job growth in history at just shy of 12 million jobs created, with more than half of those lost only months before due to the virus and ensuing lockdowns."

Note: Gallup's "most recent survey found a clear majority of registered voters (56%) saying they are better off now than they were four years ago, while 32% said they are worse off."

See "2016," page 21

The attacks on Judge Barrett should concern "those who value our First Amendment right to religious freedom"

During the first presidential debate, pro-abortion former vice president Joe Biden was smart enough not to personally attack Judge Amy Coney Barrett, President Trump's nominee to sit on the Supreme Court. "I'm not opposed to the justice, she seems like a very fine person," he said. Which is politically smart, for Judge Barrett is a woman of astounding accomplishments. Instead he fell back on the Democrats' talking point--that the vacancy should not be filled now but by the next President.

President Trump had a wonderful response: "I'm not elected for three years."

Rachel Campos-Duffy summarized the bind pro-abortionists ("feminists," or otherwise) find themselves in: "Feminists have an Amy Coney Barrett problem: Since Barrett cannot be attacked on merit, Democrats are in a pickle."

That notwithstanding, the race to the bottom to smear Judge Barrett is off and running, as this headline illustrates: "Barrett tied to faith group ex-members say subjugates women"

It's not even a well-executed hit job (nor were subsequent smears). Find some disgruntled former members from years back and imply this says something about a woman who, in addition to being the mother of seven, is an appeals court judge, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, has clerked for a Supreme Court Justice, and while a student "earned a full academic scholarship, served as the executive editor of the Law Review, graduated first in her class and received the law school's award for the best record of scholarship and achievement," to quote President Trump.

Prior to the hearings, which began yesterday, as Judge Barrett met with numerous Senators, defenders of fair play were asking what is going on?! Here are two headlines:

***"The disgusting war on Amy Coney Barrett's family"–** *Nicole Russell*

***"The Left's Unhealthy Interest in Amy Coney Barrett's Adopted Kids"**—*Jason Riley*

See "Attacks," page 31

From the President
Carol Tobias

A Battle for the Soul of America

Impeachment headlines. A president caught in a bitter public feud with his own Congress. A resurgence of populism. A game-changing new form of media. A chief executive aiming fake news accusations at the national press. War and terrorism in the Middle East. A booming economy, with historically low unemployment. The FBI on the trail of a major presidential candidate regarding a possible Russian conspiracy.

Sound familiar?

"The year was 1948."

So begins the introduction to *Dewey Defeats Truman, The 1948 Election and the Battle for America's Soul*, a new book by New York Times bestselling author, A.J. Baime.

As we all know, Thomas Dewey was thought to be a sure winner--an early newspaper headline actually declared "Dewey defeats Truman"--until Harry Truman came out on top.

President Harry Truman was running for re-election after his ascension to the presidency following the death of FDR. His hard-charging (and even exhausting) whistle-stop campaign across the nation drew large and enthusiastic crowds about which the press drastically under-reported. The media made a big deal about high-profile members of Truman's party defecting to other candidates.

Baime writes, "Truman saw the inner workings of the media as a conspiracy to favor one candidate over another using what amounted to fake news."

In a speech in New York City, Truman declared, "90 percent of the press is against us; 90 percent of the radio commentators are against us; and the only way you can find out the truth is for me to come out and tell you what the truth is."

Thomas Dewey, then governor of New York, refused to discuss numerous issues because he wanted to keep his options open after the election. Does that also sound familiar? We've heard Joe Biden taking that same tack as he refuses to discuss court-packing, the end to the filibuster, and changes to the Electoral College.

Polls had consistently shown Dewey as the leading candidate. So much so that pollster Elmo Roper stopped polling several weeks before the election because Dewey was "as good as elected."

Even before Election Day, Dewey was receiving letters and telegrams congratulating him on his victory.

We don't know what the outcome of the 2020 election will be. The Truman-Dewey campaign, with all its striking similarities, isn't meant to be a predictor of the 2020 outcome, but it does tell us that the campaign isn't over until the very end.

Early this year, with the economy soaring and low unemployment, President Trump had a rock-solid chance of being re-elected, in spite of the baseless impeachment proceedings. Then COVID-19 hit.

The economy suffered as companies folded and the number of employees who lost their jobs increased. Campaign tactics changed and President Trump had to scale back the rallies that brought together tens of thousands of energized supporters in large arenas.

Likewise, President Trump's campaign itself was upended when he, and White House and campaign staff members, contracted the coronavirus.

Polls are certainly looking rough for our current president, and I remind myself that they were wrong in 2016 as well. Will they be wrong again? I believe they will be.

In 2016, there were voters who weren't sure about Donald Trump's abilities, but they were willing to give him a chance. After four years, his campaign can certainly declare, "Promises Made, Promises Kept."

That is especially true for his promises to the pro-life community. The Trump administration has prevented the use of tax dollars from paying for or promoting abortion in foreign aid and the Title X family planning program.

This administration has defended and protected the conscience rights of health care personnel, so they are not forced to choose between participating in abortion and euthanasia or losing their job.

President Trump has expressed his support for legislation to protect unborn children who can feel pain from late abortions. He issued an executive order to protect vulnerable newborn babies, babies born with disabilities, and babies born alive following an abortion, ensuring that their right to life is defended to the greatest extent of the law.

President Trump has nominated one-fourth of all judges on the Supreme Court, federal circuit and district courts. These judges are overwhelmingly likely to make decisions based on the text of the Constitution as opposed to many we've seen basically legislating from the bench.

In 1948, Dewey was leading in every national poll; the media, the "establishment" and the "money people" were with him as well. But Truman was triumphant.

We, too, are engaged in a battle for the soul of America. In the waning days of the campaign, we must do everything we can to get out the pro-life vote. Unborn children are counting on us.

For us, the lessons of 1948 go beyond surprising past parallels. They tell us that hard work matters for a great cause we believe in, anything can happen, and four more years of a pro-life administration are within our reach.

Media Ready to Call the Election for Biden Despite Reality on the Ground

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Even casual mainstream media viewers will notice an ongoing narrative that "the elections are all over for Republicans!" This has been the dominant theme for weeks but as we approach November 3, this insistence has only grown louder.

This could not be further from the truth.

The supposed authorities on public opinion in the media, which also assured everyone that Hillary Clinton would win the presidency in 2016, are all but certain that Joe Biden will beat President Trump. The *FiveThirtyEight* blog at the New York Times, which gave Trump a 29% chance of winning in 2016, is even more bullish on behalf of Democrats this time around. They have Trump with just a 14% chance.

The media elites, which have long been in the tank for Biden, have completely dismissed the prospect of the "hidden Trump voter" and deemphasized polls that show President Trump more than competitive in the key "Battleground states."

The hidden (or "silent") Trump voters are Americans who may be unwilling to disclose their pick to a pollster but will be voting for President Trump. And yet, there is solid research which suggests that these voters do, in fact, exist and may make all the difference-- https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/514664-hidden-trump-voters-could-have-big-november-impact

According to CloudResearch:

> **"11.7% of Republicans say they would not report their true opinions about their preferred presidential candidate on telephone polls. In contrast, just 5.4% of Democrats say they'd be reluctant to share their true voting intentions — roughly half the number of Republicans reluctant to tell the truth on phone polls."**

Given the current "cancel culture," as it is called, this should not be surprising. Americans have seen what the cost of vocalizing their beliefs can be.

Nicholas Sandmann, a teenage Trump supporter attending the 2019 March for Life, was relentlessly attacked by the press and on social media. He

filed a defamation suit against major media outlets. (*CNN* and the *Washington Post* have already decided to settle out of court while other cases are still in progress.)

Even with this considered, Trump and down-ballot Republicans are still running competitive races. A poll released October 6th from Suffolk University/USA Today of likely voters in the critical battleground of Florida has Trump at 47.2% to Biden's 47%. Within that same poll, 54% said they were better off than they were four years ago, versus just 26% who say the opposite. An InsiderAdvantage poll conducted in the same period found Trump leading by 3%.

Comparing Trump's current numbers with where he was at this point in 2016, we're seeing some similar trends. The Real Clear Politics average over battleground states (Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin) is virtually the same as 2016. (Trump is currently doing 0.2% better than 2016's spread.)

Many election models may also have errors if they assume the 2020 electorate will look exactly like 2016's and do not factor in changes to voter registration. Some go so far as to compare the turnout in 2008 for President Obama.

However, even *NBC News* conceded that "Trump is winning the voter registration battle against Biden in key states."

In Pennsylvania, Republicans have shrunk the traditional Democrat registration advantage by more than 130,000 new voters (according to the Pennsylvania Secretary of State's office). Trump won Pennsylvania in 2016 by about 44,500 votes.

Eugene Tauber of *The Morning Call* reports that "A year ago the Democrats held about 9.5% registration lead with more than 4 million registrants compared to 3.2 million Republicans." He adds, "The Democratic lead as of October 5 is down to 8.1%, with almost 4.2 million Democrats and 3.5 million Republicans among the state's 8.9 million registered voters."

NBC News also note similar trends in the battlegrounds of Arizona and North Carolina.

With respect to the Sunshine State, *NBC News* reported that, "In Florida, Republicans added a net 195,652 registered voters between this March's presidential primary and the end of August, while Democrats added 98,362 and other voters increased 69,848."

Then there is the "on the ground" campaigns of the rivals. For example, the get-out-the-vote operations of both campaigns are vastly different this year. While the Trump campaign points to millions of voter contacts through proven methods like canvassing, the Biden campaign has moved nearly entirely online. Biden's strategy has begun to worry some of his own staffers and Democratic officials.

This is particularly evident in Michigan, a state Trump narrowly won in 2016. A TIME reporter labeled it an "invisible digital campaign" and wrote,

> **"When I ask Biden campaign staffers and Democratic Party officials how many people they have on the ground in Michigan, one reply stuck out: 'What do you mean by 'on the ground?'"**

Left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore said it is

> **"actually worse than Hillary. At least there was a ground game, even though she didn't show up. There were Hillary offices in many towns, there were door-to-door campaigns."**

As has been said before, the only poll that truly matters is on Election Day. *Your vote may make all the difference in a close race.*

From the presidency, to the Senate, to the House and all the way down the ballot, you have opportunities to elect candidates who will stand up for unborn children and their mothers. And the stakes have never been higher. For more information on voting and candidates, see www.nrlvictoryfund.org.

The pro-abortion left attacks adoption

By Ryan Scott Bomberger

I'm completely biased. I'll let you know that up front. It's not an implicit bias; it's an explicit bias.

I wouldn't be who I am without adoption. I may not even be alive today had my birthmom not chosen to be stronger than abortion. Though I was conceived in rape, I was adopted in love. So I'll defend this loving act of justice with everything I am. As an adoptive father (two of my kiddos were adopted), I understand it in a way most don't, especially the ones demonizing it.

Boston University Professor and everything-is-racist author, Ibram X. Kendi, decided to attack Judge Amy Coney Barrett because she committed a cardinal sin against the self-proclaimed "antiracist." She selflessly engaged in one of the most powerful acts of racial reconciliation—bringing children of a different "race" into her heart and home and loving them because they deserve to be loved. What kind of world is "antiracist" when we're only permitted to love those, as family members, with the same blood and same hue of skin?

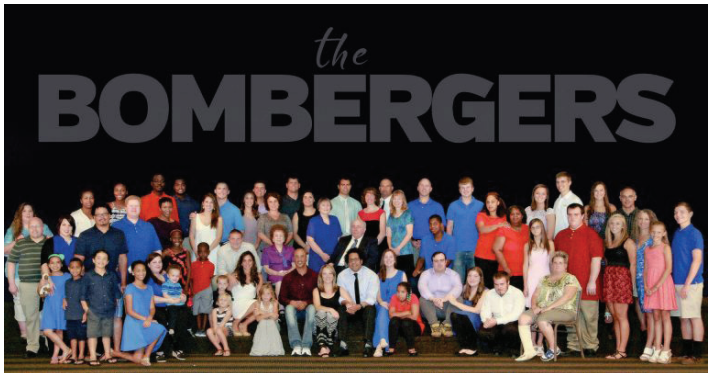
In Virginia my marriage would've been illegal a few decades ago. But "progressives", ever since my wife and I stepped into the public spotlight with The Radiance Foundation, have constantly derided me as not being "black enough" because my wife is white. (Funny, someone should've let Frederick Douglass know that his second wife, who was white, cancelled his "blackness.") Isn't this what so many fought and died for? To be seen as equal and to love one another regardless of the hue of our skin? Loving vs. Virginia ended those racist anti-miscegenation laws, but apparently many "antiracist" leftists want to dictate, with blatant racism, what are acceptable family relationships.

Would Kendi have said any of this if Judge Barrett and her husband were black? The attackers wouldn't dare challenge the motivation for adoption or the "circumstances" surrounding it.

Kendi tweeted this bile: "Some White colonizers 'adopted' Black children. They 'civilized' these 'savage' children in the 'superior' ways of White people, while using them as props in their lifelong pictures of denial, while cutting the biological parents of these children out of the picture of humanity."

Hateful and clueless.

I guess we're all props in this family photo.



Kendi goes on to accuse white people of having a "savior complex."

My parents had three biological and adopted 10 children, nine of us black or "biracial." They didn't have a savior complex. They had a love reflex. And that love was born out of pain and brokenness. My mom grew up in a trailer

home with an alcoholic father. At the age of five, her parents separated and placed her into a children's home for one year. It was a devastating time for a 5 year old. I guess she was "privileged" to experience such loss. It was there that her heart for adoption was sparked and her passion to love the "unwanted" changed her life—and countless others'—forever.

My white dad loved those that other men abandoned. He sacrificed his entire life so that all thirteen of his children could experience our God-given purpose.

Let's talk about the racialization of adoption. It didn't start with naive Kendi (who, by the way, hasn't adopted any black children but can only vilify white people who do). Never mind extensive longitudinal studies confirm that transracial adoption is overwhelmingly a positive experience for the adoptee.

In 1972, the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) issued a despicable racist decree regarding the placement of black children in white families. The manifesto claimed, in part: "The National Association of Black Social Workers has taken a vehement stand against the placement of black children in white homes for any reason. We affirm the inviolable position of

See "Adoption," page 24

Why 'Pro-Life Evangelicals for Biden' are not really pro-life nor is their agenda 'biblically balanced'

The number of problems with what this group stands for is staggering.

By Jonathon Van Maren

A group of prominent evangelical leaders has just launched a statement on behalf of a "movement" they are referring to as "Pro-Life Evangelicals for Biden." With signatories including Richard Mouw, president emeritus of Fuller Seminary; Jerusha Duford, Billy Graham's granddaughter; and John Huffman, the board chair emeritus of *Christianity Today*, the statement calls on evangelicals who oppose the destruction of pre-born babies in the womb to vote for someone who has committed to an expansion of abortion rights unprecedented in American history.

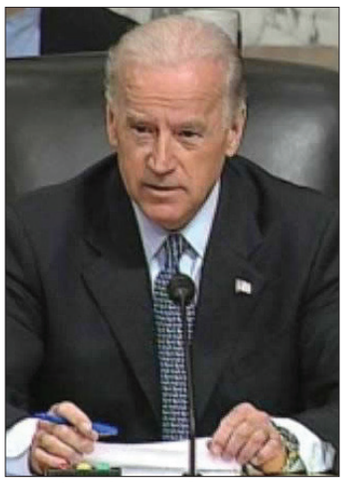
The statement begins with a cursory repudiation of Biden's position: "As pro-life evangelicals, we disagree with Vice President Biden and the Democratic platform on the issue of abortion." However: "We believe a biblically shaped commitment to the sanctity of life compels us to a consistent ethic of life that affirms the sanctity of human life from beginning to end."

For this reason, the signatories posit, abortion should not be a primary concern since "[m] any things that good political decisions could change destroy persons created in the image of God and violate the sanctity of human life. Poverty kills millions every year. So does lack of healthcare and smoking. Racism kills. Unless we quickly make major changes, devastating climate change will kill tens of millions. Poverty, lack of accessible health care services, smoking, racism and climate change are all pro-life issues."

The signatories then insinuate that "Democratic proposals" would reduce the abortion rate (Dr. Michael New effectively debunked the deceit that abortion rates go down due to Democratic presidents last month), and explain that according to the National Association of Evangelicals' official public policy document: "'Faithful evangelical civic engagement and witness must champion a biblically balanced agenda.' Therefore we oppose 'one issue' political thinking because it lack biblical balance…For these reasons, we believe that on balance, Joe Biden's policies are more consistent with the biblically shaped ethic of life than those of Donald Trump. Therefore, even as we continue to urge different policies on abortion, we urge evangelicals to elect Joe Biden as president."

The number of problems with this statement is staggering. To start, the signatories confuse intrinsic evils—like intentionally dismembering a developing human being in the womb—with contingent evils. The entire statement also reveals that regardless of what they are attempting to convey, the signatories simply do not take abortion seriously and do not actually present abortion for what it is. If abortion is the direct and intentional destruction of a vulnerable and helpless human being created in God's image, what could possibly excuse voting for someone who supports that act?

For example, these evangelicals state that not to vote for Biden over his support for destroying babies in the womb (as well as his commitment to repeal the Hyde Amendment, which has saved 2.4 million lives thus far) is essentially legalistic and not "biblically balanced." But to understand the extent to which these evangelicals are dismissing the value of the pre-born, ask yourself this: Would they apply the same standard to any other group? What if the Democratic Party was committed to alleviating poverty, fighting climate change, pacifism, and a laundry list of other policies—



Pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden

but supported the killing of a minority group as well?

Would the same justifications apply? If the Democratic Platform supported killing indigenous people, or African Americans, or immigrants the way they support killing pre-born children in the womb, would we be told that "on balance," they were still more pro-life than the party who opposed killing those people? Would we be told that it was morally permissible to vote for the party that supported decapitating one subset of the population at will because that party was really opposed to smoking and pollution and were in favor of improving economic conditions to the point that many people wouldn't feel the need to kill other people anymore? I suspect not. I suspect that this is a position that only applies to the killing of the pre-born—which says a lot about what the signatories of this statement think about the pre-born. I've held the corpses of dead babies in my hands, and I've looked them in the face—and I can't pretend that voting for someone who advocated for the right to kill those children is a moral option. It simply is not.

It is also extremely revealing that the signatories of this statement actually posit a moral equivalence between abortion and smoking or climate change. This is just transparent nonsense, and shows a genuine lack of understanding about what abortion really is. I would encourage those claiming this moral equivalence to go online and watch a video of an abortion procedure. It will disabuse you of such notions very quickly. It should also banish the idea that we can vote for someone who believes it is a social good that older human beings have the right to kill younger human beings in a grotesque and barbaric fashion because that person has a few other policies that we like.

It is sadly ironic that this statement from "pro-life evangelicals" comes out just as Joe Biden has announced that if Amy Coney Barrett is confirmed to the Supreme Court and *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, he'll enshrine Roe in statute and make it "the law of the land." But hey—Biden doesn't like poverty. Let that distract your attention from the corpses of 65 million dead babies that litter this land as a result of Roe—and vote for the man who promises it will never end on his watch.

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

Evaluating false claims that it makes no difference whether pro-life laws are passed or strict constitutionalists are nominated to sit on the Supreme Court

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. & Dave Andrusko

Every four years during a presidential election cycle, it shows up like clockwork. Some concerned pro-lifer writes to NRLC that abortions go up or down, independent of which party holds the White House, or even go so far as to claim they go down when there are Democrat Presidents.

To make things worse, they argue that since *Roe* is still the law of the land, it makes no difference who is appointed to the Supreme Court. (Try making that latter point to the entirety of Senate Democrats who are desperate to keep Judge Amy Coney Barrett off the High Court.)

This is related to but differs from the "seamless garment" argument that abortion is important but only one of many issues. This assertion argues that having a Democrat in the White House may actually be good for unborn babies or at least have a neutral effect.

In the end, however, more careful analysis validates common sense: the best way to protect unborn children is to elect a pro-life president.

The Role of Law

We are not saying, of course, that there are no other factors involved. Who would ever ignore the importance of women-helping centers, or the enormous impact of ultrasounds in vividly proving the humanity of the unborn child?

But there is a clear correspondence between the passage and application of legislation and the shape of the abortion curve.

Roe & Doe

There had been moves—some successful--to loosen state abortion limits in the late 1960s. But it was clear that the expansiveness of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions simultaneously quashed any and all state abortion limits and legalizing abortion throughout the entirety of pregnancy for any reason, caught almost everyone off guard.

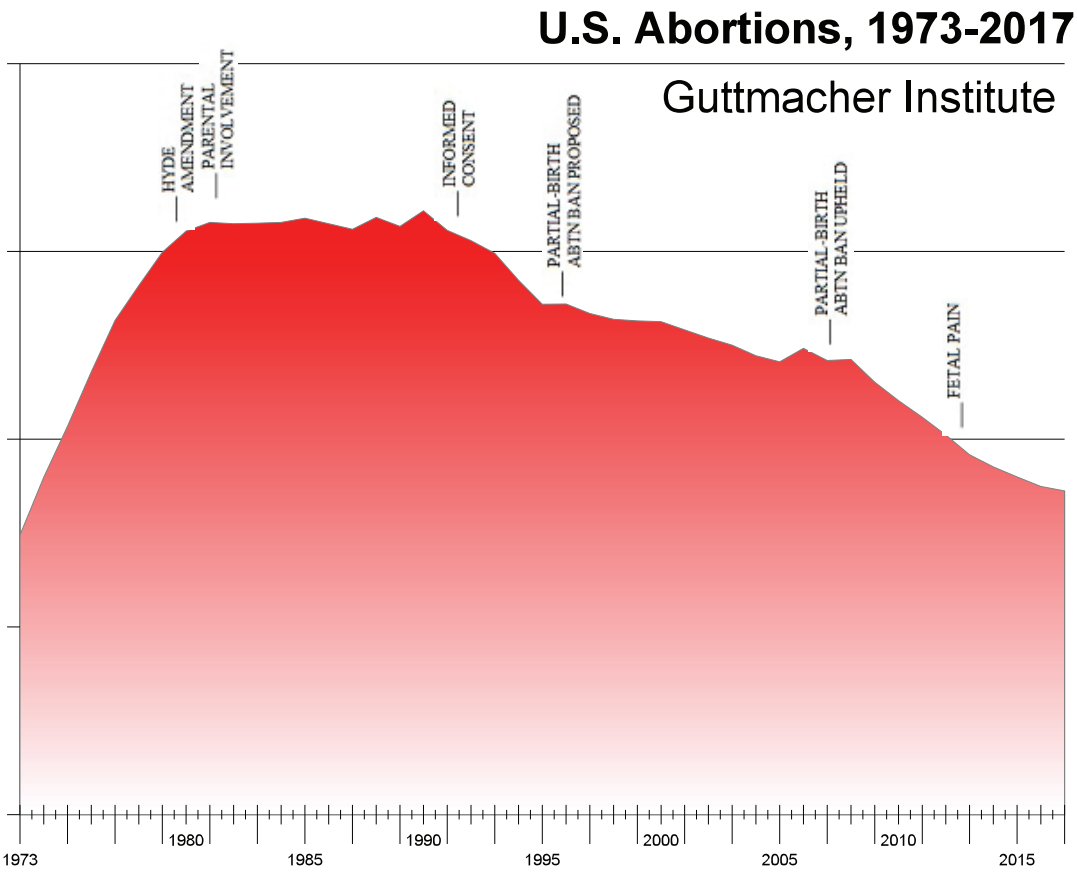
Without any legal limitations and the political parties scrambling to develop and come to terms with their positions, abortions skyrocketed in the early years following *Roe* and *Doe*.

In those first few years, there was some hope there might be a quick bipartisan legislative fix such as a constitutional amendment. Despite some heroic efforts, this was not to be. The hurdles—2/3rds approval in the Senate, ratification in three-quarters of the states—were too high.

Hyde Amendment

The first piece of legislation that had a major pro-life impact was the Hyde Amendment, barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except when necessary to save the life of the mother. Passed in 1976 with bipartisan support, it did not go into effect until 1980 with the Supreme Court's *Harris v McRae* decision.

It has been estimated that some 300,000 abortions a year (and rising) were performed using taxpayer funds before the Hyde Amendment went into effect. Though the precise form has varied, sometimes adding exceptions for rape and incest, the Hyde amendment has been renewed every year since. Though some states have picked up funding, the federal government has paid for only a handful of abortions under the law.



See "Claims," page 36

Priorities at the Polls: US Bishops "give priority to upholding and defending our brothers' and sisters' most basic right—to live"

By Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann

Editor's note. Archbishop Naumann is Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

As Catholics approach the polls, we are asked to weigh many important issues. The U.S. bishops have reaffirmed that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." While they did warn us not to "dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty," they did give priority to upholding and defending our brothers' and sisters' most basic right—to live.

Abortion tragically ends someone's life when he or she is most vulnerable and most in need of loving protection. Abortion is an intrinsic evil, meaning that it is never permitted or morally justified, regardless of individual circumstances or intentions. The personal and societal consequences of attacks against human life, whether at its earliest stages or at its final stages, are all the more serious because most often they are "carried out in the very heart of and with the complicity of the family—the family which by its nature is called to be the 'sanctuary of life.'" This is the place where a person should be most loved, cherished, and protected.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

Catholics are called to defend human life wherever it is threatened and stand up for human dignity wherever it is violated. The enormous number of human lives destroyed by abortion is one factor that elevates its importance. The most recent available data indicates over 2,000 children per day die from abortion in the United States. Since abortion was legalized in 1973, over 61 million children have been killed—and untold numbers of women and men suffer in the aftermath.

The tragedy of abortion is also distinct in that it is currently legal to directly and intentionally take the life of an innocent human being. Current laws in our country fail to protect the lives of unborn children. Our highest Court does not recognize children in their mothers' wombs as persons and claims that abortion is a constitutional right. Further, many political leaders work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right.

People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil, especially when it is occurring on a massive scale, implemented in law and funded, in some instances, by the government. As believers and citizens inspired by the Gospel and guided by the shepherds of our Church, we must do what we can to end violence in the womb, to ensure that unborn children are fully recognized and protected by our laws, and to support mothers and fathers in embracing life.

What were the major takeaways for pro-lifers from the first presidential debate?

By Dave Andrusko

Whew, a lot has happened since the first time pro-life President Donald Trump and pro-abortion Joe Biden debated in Cleveland, Ohio. For starters, The Commission on Presidential Debates cancelled the second debate. Presumably, what would have been the third debate—in Nashville on October 22 –is still on and will be the final debate.

Quick flash polls are just that—a snapshot in time. Having said that, consider this from Gary Bauer written the following day:

> **The post-debate snap polls were predictable. CNN viewers declared Biden the winner. Breitbart's snap poll declared Trump the winner. But here's one poll that may deserve a second look: Viewers on the Spanish language station Telemundo said Trump won by a landslide – 66% to 34%.**

This latter number may be, in the end, the far more important index. As we've discussed for months, pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden's support in the Latino community is spotty. For example, a recent *Washington Post/ABC News* poll found that 39% of Hispanic registered voters in Florida supported President Trump.

By way of background to the debate, Biden gave an interview to the editorial board of the *New York Times* which I had missed until last week. His support for abortion was clear and unambiguous even as his phony baloney excuse for flipping on the Hyde Amendment was fuzzy, if not downright contradictory.

The debate was not *Fox News'* Chris Wallace's finest hour. The questions, which he chose, gave Biden a huge advantage. Even more important, Wallace misrepresented what the President had said on a very sensitive topic and over and over and over allowed Biden to slide out of uncomfortable positions by failing to ask obvious follow up questions.

For example, Biden said

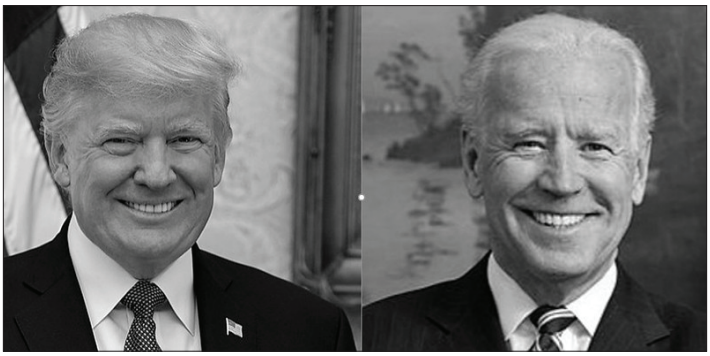
> **The party is me. Right now, I am the Democratic Party. …I am the Democratic Party right now. … The platform of the Democratic Party is what I, in fact, approved of, what I approved of.**

But Wallace didn't ask about what that platform said about abortion, a huge oversight, because—as he has throughout the campaign—Biden portrayed himself as Mr. Middle-Of-The-Road.

There is nothing about the abortion plank of the Democrat Party's platform that is middle-of-the-road. NRL President Carol Tobias has said, "The Democratic Party and its leadership want abortion at any time, anywhere, and under any circumstances." By announcing to the world that he had approved of the platform, "it means that Joe Biden wants abortion at any time, anywhere, and under any circumstances."

The Republican Party platform is staunchly pro-life. It concludes with this 100% accurate critique of the Democrats' position:

> **The Democratic Party is extreme on abortion. Democrats' almost limitless support for abortion, and their strident opposition to even the most basic restrictions on abortion, put them dramatically out of step with the American people. Because of their opposition to simple abortion clinic safety procedures, support for taxpayer-funded abortion, and rejection of pregnancy resource centers that provide abortion alternatives, the old Clinton mantra of "safe, legal, and rare" has been reduced to just "legal." We are proud to be the party that protects human life and offers real solutions for women.**



To be fair, Wallace did ask a probing question about proposals by Democrats to pack the Supreme Court with additional justices if they win control of the Senate in November. But, again, Wallace allowed Biden to evade the question that Biden has refused to answer, because he knows the American public doesn't support it:

> **Mr. Vice President, if Senate Republicans, we were talking originally about the Supreme Court here, if Senate Republicans go ahead and confirm Justice Barrett there has been talk about ending the filibuster or even packing the court, adding to the nine justices there. You call this a distraction by the President. But, in fact, it wasn't brought up by the President. It was brought up by some of your Democratic colleagues in the Congress. So my question to you is, you have refused in the past to talk about it, are you willing to tell the American tonight whether or not you will support either ending the filibuster or packing the court?**

When Biden filibustered, President Trump asked him the same question (and others in the same vein). Biden was not going to answer and said so at the end of that segment:

> **I'm not going to answer the question.**

Please read the President's column on page 3 along with stories on pages 1,2, 12-13, 15, 18, 31, and 40 for more about the election.

Protecting Premature Babies and Abortion Survivors

By Nancy Valko

On September 25, 2020, President Donald Trump signed an "Executive Order on Protecting Vulnerable Newborn and Infant Children" that states:

> **"Every infant born alive, no matter the circumstances of his or her birth, has the same dignity and the same rights as every other individual and is entitled to the same protections under Federal law. "**

This executive order came after Speaker NancyPelosi and House Democrats refused to allow a vote on the "Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" over 80 times.

ELLIOT AND EMERY

The new executive order protects not only babies who survive abortions but also those babies born prematurely like twins Emery and Elliot who were denied medical treatment after being born at 22 weeks and 5 days. This, despite a doctor's prior assurances and despite the parents' desperate pleas for treatment after the boys were born.

In an interview, the twins' mother Amanda told me that the doctors predicted the babies would be stillborn or die shortly after birth because of their prematurity. However, the doctors were wrong: one of the boys lived for 45 minutes and the other for 2.5 hours.

Amanda and Shaun Finnefrock, the twins' parents, have been active ever since their boys' deaths in 2017, advocating for "equal protection, equal treatment, the equal opportunity for survival — whether they survived an abortion or their mothers wanted them to live, like I did mine."

They have been working on an Elliot and Emery's Law for their home state of Ohio to protect other prematurely born babies.

Unfortunately, a 2015 University of Iowa study found that infants born at 22 weeks received potential lifesaving treatment at fewer than one in four hospitals. Almost all hospitals, the researchers found, will treat infants born at 25 weeks, but there is substantial variation among hospitals on whether they actively treat infants born at 23 or 24 weeks.

One obstacle is the fear that premature babies will be at an increased risk of disability as a result of the prematurity. But it is impossible to know at birth if the newborn will have disabilities because of prematurity.

The good news is that studies are now finding that the majority of premature babies born at 22 weeks survive if given care.

CONCLUSION

When I started my nursing career over 50 years ago, babies more than three months premature routinely died because of breathing problems. But when ventilators and especially surfactant to protect the babies' lungs were developed, "preemies" started to be saved at earlier and earlier stages with good results.

But most importantly, this progress was made because of the willingness of both parents and doctors to try to save these babies that made all the difference.

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

Success and motherhood: What Amy Coney Barrett's nomination means to me

By Danielle White

I would love to say that I was watching live when Amy Coney Barrett delivered her speech accepting President Trump's nomination for her to fill the vacant Supreme Court seat. But I was not. As a mother of three kids under the age of five, I am pretty sure I was mediating an argument over the Buzz Lightyear toy, or negotiating with my three-year-old how many bites of green beans it takes to be "done," or maybe I was advocating on behalf of my one-year-old, who just got birthday toys that her siblings are convinced are theirs for the taking.

Mediating, negotiating, advocating – incidentally, three lawyer skills that translate quite well to raising small humans.

Anyway, I was not watching live. But I did not miss it. When my three angels were snuggled up, asleep in their beds, I tuned in to hear what Justice – er, Judge (sorry, Freudian slip) Barrett said. And I listened a couple times.

This nomination means a lot to me. It is not just momentous for the potential shift it represents in the Court, though I would be remiss to gloss over the tremendous impact that a Justice Barrett could have on our nation's highest Court. As she emphasized in her acceptance speech, Barrett is an originalist in the mold of Justice Scalia. She believes that a judge's job is to read the law as it is written, and not "legislate from the bench" or stretch the interpretation of the law to make it fit her own policy preferences.

Since the constitution never utters the word "abortion" or the "privacy" notion on which our abortion cases are founded, a judge with an originalist judicial philosophy is certainly a cause for hope for the only group of persons in this nation who are systematically deprived of their most basic right – simply to be alive. Judge Barrett has the potential to make a serious impact on the way cases are decided.

Yet, there is something personal about this nomination. To me, Judge Barrett represents something deeper, an affirmation of an idea around which I have, at least to some extent, built my life: that women can be both great moms and extraordinarily successful in their careers and other endeavors. That women need not choose between their children and their aspirations. That motherhood is anything but a waste of women's talents and need not be an impediment to her success, but actually a complement.

My life as a mom of small kids and as General Counsel for Heartbeat has meant many things! Several years ago, I traveled to Washington DC to attend a Supreme Court oral argument in a case for which I was privileged to submit an amicus brief. The very next day, I was home, rocking my sweet daughter to sleep and snuggling her close. These days, especially in the era of COVID, it is not unusual for me to attend Zoom meetings with a toddler on my lap and the Five Little Ducks video on my spare screen to keep her quiet.

It is not always easy – sometimes I am up long after the kids go to bed, working to put the finishing touches on a contract or trying to get my email down to a dull roar.

But it is so worth it, and I am not alone! One does not have to look far (in the pro-life movement in particular) to see tons of rock star moms who stand alongside mothers whose situations may be challenging, offering support, encouragement, and resources. Or advocating for other babies while taking care of her own.

And we watch in bewilderment as the pro-abortion side, the group that claims to be all about women's empowerment, proclaims that women "need" abortion so that they can be successful in life. **This is the least empowering message.** We watch in frustration while the media refers to abortion as "women's rights," ignoring the fact that the majority of pro-lifers are, in fact, women. But most of all, we watch in sadness when prominent members of our culture proclaim that they had abortions so that they could be successful.

The pregnancy help movement in particular is the mission field that works to support those in challenging pregnancy situations, because **we know that women's futures don't end where their babies' lives begin.**

And for me, the change on our nation's highest Court from Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Amy Coney Barrett is a tangible example of that. Barrett was not wrong when she credited the late Justice Ginsburg for her contributions to improving the lives of women in this country. But her legacy will be forever stained by her belief that women's success depended on the right to end the lives of their unborn children. She only got it partially right: Success for women, but at the cost of motherhood.

As the first Supreme Court justice ever to serve while her children are still school-aged, ACB represents those of us who refuse to believe we must pit our children against our careers.

Success *and* motherhood. That's progress.

So take heart, Amy. There is a caravan of minivan moms who are inspired by your achievements and empowered to embrace the challenges that working motherhood presents – and all, as you so poignantly remarked, without any reasonable amount of sleep.

Editor's note: Danielle White, Esq., is General Counsel for Heartbeat International, which manages Pregnancy Help News. This article first appeared on Heartbeat's website.

ENOUGH With Fraudulent Biden 'Town Halls' on TV

By Tim Graham

Beware the carefully scripted puffball "town halls" that have been organized by CNN and NBC to help Joe Biden's campaign. As Biden makes a virtue out of having tiny, underpopulated "campaign events" for the TV cameras, these provide the fraudulent illusion of Biden engaging with undecided voters. The questions are toothless and are designed to promote answers that impress the audience as thoughtful and measured.

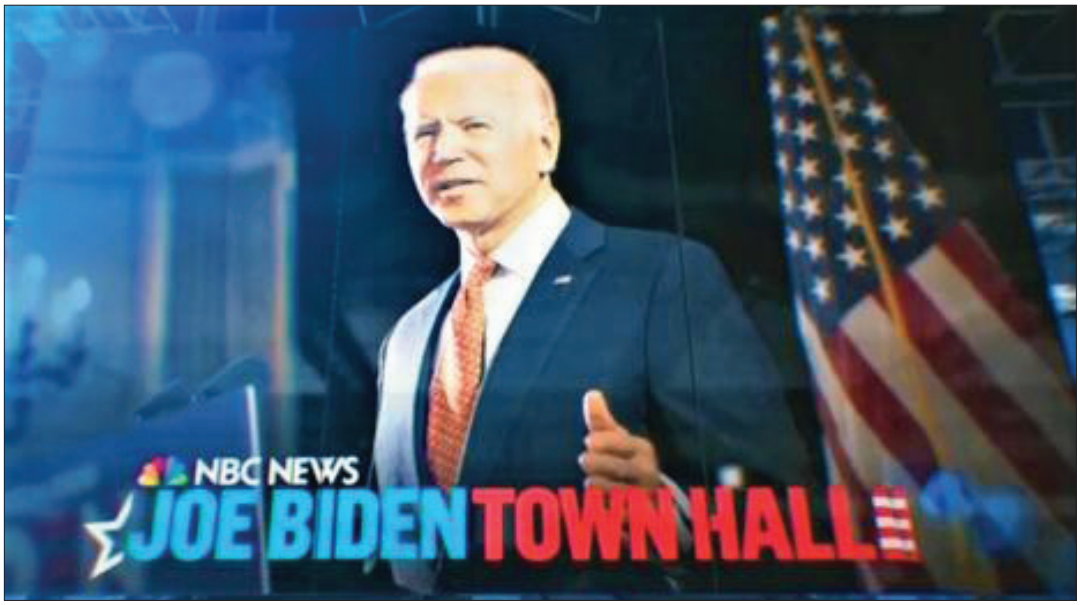
The first words out of NBC anchorman Lester Holt's mouth on October 5 were "Good evening, everyone. Welcome to tonight's town hall where we are surrounded by dozens of undecided voters." Listening to the questions disqualifies that claim.

For example, Holt presented Ingrid Gilliam-Alexander as "undecided but leaning toward Biden." She insisted Trump was "bullying" Biden at the debate, and "I'm worried that it knocked you off your game. How do I know that you're able to forcefully lead this country moving forward when being faced with unforeseen challenges and other bullies?"

Surprise! On her LinkedIn page, the questioner posted video under the hashtag "#joebiden2020."

Or try this Holt introduction: "Our next question from Cassidy Brown in Orlando. Voted for the first time in 2016." Brown's question? "My youngest sister is in high school right now. And I knew whenever I was graduating high school and entering college that I wanted to obtain my degree and start a career before starting a family. Having access to birth control and safe reproductive health care was imperative in making that true for me. So considering the new Supreme Court nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, what are your particular plans to protect women's reproductive rights in the U.S.?"

Or try Michelle Cruz Marrero, presented by Holt as someone who "used to be a registered Republican, but voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016." She professed "As a mother of a police officer, and the wife of a retired police officer, served 28 years, the term defunding the police is of concern and troubling…With that being said, I would like to know what you and your administration's policies in reforming the police, how those will come about, how — how they will be best handled to insure police officer safety and the public citizens' safety as well."



That sounds like a Planned Parenthood questionnaire, not an "undecided voter." Sure enough, on her publicly available Facebook page, Brown posted a meme in 2019 from "VOTE PROCHOICE" and a protest sign that reads "You're pro-life until the baby is – poor, transgender, black, gay, Mexican, disabled, sick, etc."

This is ironic since the "right to choose" is often reserved for eliminating disabled or sick babies. (Consult Gov. Ralph Northam's remarks on after-birth procedures.)

It turns out that Michelle Cruz Marrero can be easily found on Facebook with "Cubanos con Biden." She's no undecided voter. After the event, she wrote: "Biden was eloquent and I hope that this clarified all questions regarding the false narrative of 'defunding the police' and that he seeks to reform the police and make it a better place for all of us to live in."

The valentine continued: "He is intelligent. He is elegant. He is poised and he has a plan. He does not dismiss COVID and the future of our country rests on this election and a vote for Trump is a vote for insanity. This country needs Biden. We need Biden…. He will save America and he will restore the country we had before this monster took over."

The proper description for this NBC "News" event is an "infomercial." Holt was selling Joe Biden like Larry King hawks Omega XL diet supplements and Prostagenix prostate pills. Can we expect more of the same at the October 15 "town hall" debate, with a much larger audience?

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

An election critical to the fate of precious preborn children and their mothers

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

She was a student in nursing school when she learned first-hand about the tragic reality of . It was 1973, and the infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision had led to the legalization of abortion around the country.

She reacted in horror as she was forced to participate in the abortion of a baby of six months gestation. "I cried for weeks…I was sick to my stomach," she says today. The post-abortion trauma led her mother to insist that the nursing school stop forcing her to take part in abortions. The school relented, but the image of that aborted baby haunts her to this day.

Now a retired nurse, the woman, whom I'll call Vicki, is eager to see Roe v. Wade overturned and thrown into the ash heap of history. She is actively lobbying her lawmakers and looking for ways to advocate for life in her community.

Vicki is just one of the individuals across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who have been energized in 2020. Despite the physical restrictions and limitations imposed by state government officials in the wake of the pandemic, they are determined to work on behalf of pregnant women and their babies.

They also see this election as critical to the fate of precious preborn children and their mothers. They are aware of the President's staunch pro-life record, and outraged by Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden's complete embrace of the abortion on demand agenda.

And they are heartened by the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, whose judicial philosophy—molded by her mentor, the late Justice Antonin Scalia—insists on remaining true to the U.S. Constitution.

Nowhere in that esteemed founding document does a so-called "right to abortion" appear. It was invented by a Supreme Court of decades past, a court which could not even agree on when life begins. Since then, ultrasound technology has opened up a window to the womb, showing the humanity of the preborn child.

For Vicki, now is the time to step out in faith to proclaim the truth about the sanctity of innocent human life. She has plenty of company in the Keystone State, with volunteers working overtime to achieve victory in November.

An Amazing Video of a Living, First Trimester Unborn Baby

By Nancy Valko

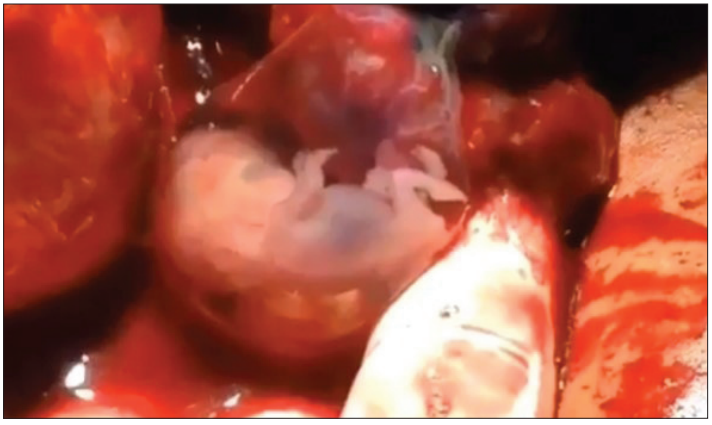
Recently, I saw an amazing on the Nurses&Midwives4Life Ireland Facebook page showing a living, first trimester baby on a surgical field. The baby was moving its' tiny head and limbs remarkably like a newborn baby. The image was both beautiful and heartbreaking since this little one could not survive.

The Speak Life video is covered with a warning that "This video may be sensitive to some people" and posted by Jonathan Van Maren, communications director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, with the caption "This 8-second video of a first-trimester baby tells you everything you need to know about how wrong abortion is."

I investigated further and it seems that the unborn baby was about 8 weeks old and that he or she had been removed after an ectopic pregnancy in which the unborn baby develops outside the womb.

Ectopic pregnancies can be life-threatening to both mother and child when the unborn baby develops in one of the Fallopian tubes leading to the womb, although there have been some rare cases where a baby develops in the abdomen and survives.

Several years ago, I had an elderly patient who told me how her unborn baby survived decades ago when the doctors did not know that the baby was in the abdomen during her uneventful pregnancy until labor began. That is unlikely today since ultrasound images are routine during pregnancy.



A picture is worth a thousand words

Although the baby in the video could not survive after he or she was removed, the video itself is powerful evidence that abortion takes the life of a real human person even in the first trimester.

Most abortions are performed in the first trimester when women and the public are often told by organizations like Planned Parenthood that the unborn baby is just a "clump of cells." In the first trimester, most babies are aborted by either vacuum suction which destroys the little person or by medical abortion using pills to first disrupt the attachment of the unborn baby to the mother and then expel the baby. However, abortion reversal is possible after the first set of pills.

Women who have abortions rarely see their baby after a first trimester abortion but it has happened, especially with medical abortion. This can be very traumatic to the woman. Contrast the look of the deceased first trimester unborn baby in the article titled "She took the abortion pill, then saw her 7-week-old baby" with the living first trimester unborn baby in the video.

Conclusion

Years ago, my late daughter Marie became unexpectedly pregnant and found out that the unborn baby was growing in one of her Fallopian tubes rather than her womb. She had to have emergency surgery when the tube ruptured.

Afterwards, the surgeon showed me the picture he had taken (unasked) during the surgery to remove the then deceased baby, my grandchild. The picture was personally so sad to see but I was comforted that the surgeon cared enough to take a picture of this tiny person.

After so many years and so many experiences as a nurse and volunteer in the pro-life movement, I believe that all women should be given the opportunity to know the truth about their unborn baby's humanity as part of informed consent before abortion.

And I believe the rest of us should also have the opportunity to learn the same truth before we support legalized abortion.

This video of a living, first trimester unborn baby speaks louder than mere words.

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

Vice Presidential debate provides unmistakably clear contrasts on abortion

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

In response to a question during the October 7th vice presidential debate, Vice President Mike Pence strongly reaffirmed the Trump/Pence Administration's stance on protecting the right to life of the most vulnerable among us:

> **I couldn't be more proud to serve as vice president to a president who stands without apology for the sanctity of human life. I'm pro-life—I don't apologize for it.**

The Trump/Pence Administration supports the right to life.

Mr. Pence continued:

> **And this is another one of those cases where there is such a dramatic contrast. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris support taxpayer funding of abortion all the way up to the moment of birth, late-term abortion, they want to increase funding to Planned Parenthood of America. Now, for our part…we'll continue to stand strong for the right to life.**

The team of Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris does not support the right to life.

In fact, even before the debate the stark contrast was clear to the media. *ABC News* reporter Alexandra Svokos wrote:

> **Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris are set to face off on Wednesday in a debate bound to display their drastically opposing views on the issue…**

Svokos continues by providing an overview of each vice-presidential candidate's—and their respective campaign's position—on the abortion issue by looking at their history and the policies they each have supported. Of Vice President Mike Pence, she wrote in part:

> **Vice President Mike Pence has spoken openly about his Christian faith and its influence on his politics. He is a frequent speaker at March for Life in Washington, D.C. In speeches there, he has quoted the Bible and said that the 1973 Supreme Court "turned its back on the unalienable right to life" with its *Roe* ruling.**

Of Senator Kamala Harris, Svokos noted the Senator's extremism on the issue by pointing to Senator Harris' "Reproductive Rights Act":

> **As a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, Harris proposed a unique plan to protect abortion rights and access. Modeling it on the Voting Rights Act, her proposed plan would require states get federal approval to enact restrictive laws, in what's known as a pre-clearance requirement.**
>
> **"When elected, I'm going to put in place and require that states that have a history of passing legislation that is designed to prevent or limit a woman's access to reproductive health care, that those laws have to come before my Department of Justice for a review and approval," she explained in May 2019 in an MSNBC town hall, "and until we determine that they are constitutional, they will not take effect."**

Svokos is one of only a handful of reporters to recently report on the "Reproductive Rights Act" that Sen. Harris made a cornerstone of her ill-fated presidential campaign. But it is no secret that Sen. Harris has been unequivocal in her support of abortion on demand—and pro-abortion groups have lined up behind her and Joe Biden.

NARAL Pro-Choice America gave Sen. Harris a rating of 100 percent.

Planned Parenthood has dedicated a page on its website touting "Nine Reasons to Love Kamala Harris" including this:

> **Biden's selection of Harris makes it clear that in the White House, their administration would not only protect reproductive rights — but also advance and expand them.**

The vice-presidential debates gave the candidates an opportunity to expand on their position on abortion. Vice President Pence made a clear statement in support of the right to life. Sen. Harris refused to tell the truth about abortion or the Biden/Harris plan to expand abortion on demand. And, like Biden, she refused to say whether she supported packing the Supreme Court with additional justices.

Sen. Harris may have tried to hide her extreme position on abortion from everyday Americans but her record and her words speak for themselves.

Post-abortive woman writes of the need for Godly discernment and "respect for the life inside you that started at conception"

By Holly Gatling, Executive Director, South Carolina Citizens for Life

Receiving anonymous letters addressed to the South Carolina Citizens for Life office usually is not a pleasant experience.

One postcard I keep tacked to the bulletin board begins, "I am really disgusted at the constant commercial concerning abortion 'dismemberment'. Who wants to keep hearing those words while trying to relax in the evening?"

She (or maybe he) goes on and on bashing the South in tiny cursive writing, a veritable Russian novel on a 4x5 postcard.

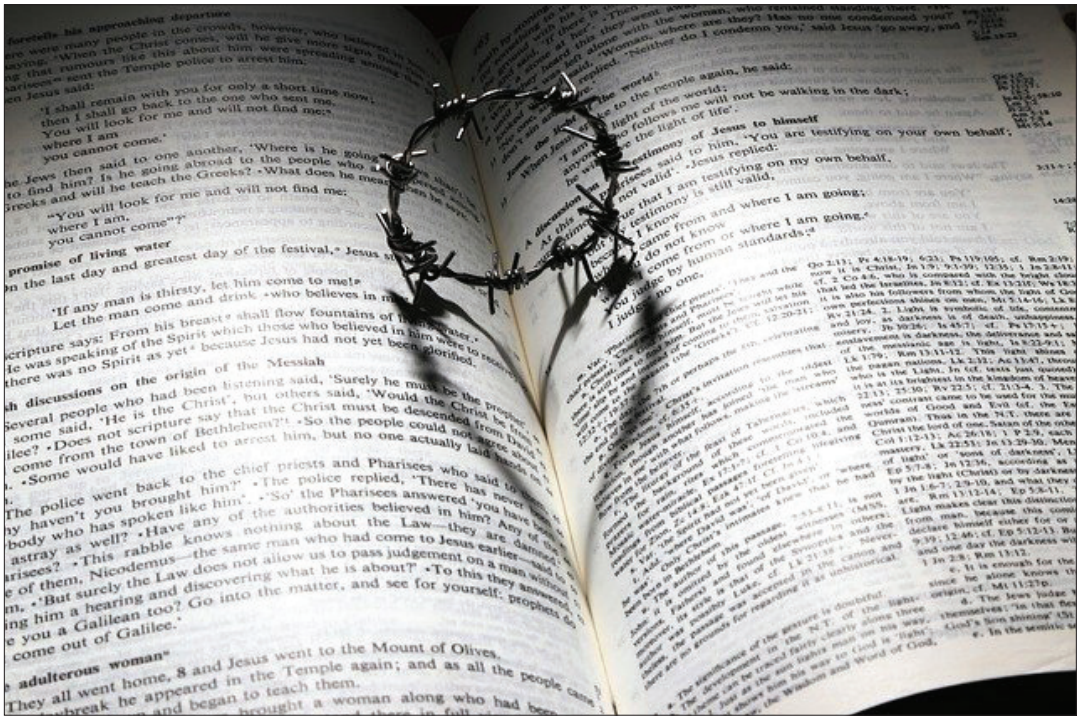
Recently, however, we received a very different kind of anonymous letter, one that contained a $100 bill and a testimonial from a woman suffering for years from her past abortions.

Permit me to share salient parts of this beautiful letter with the readers of *National Right to Life News.* It is the best way I can think of to honor this wonderful person and her desire to spread her pro-life message far and wide by unusual means.

First, she writes a cover page to the letter assuring us we have her permission to "read it, use it, copy it, give it to a struggling woman or even throw it away if you chose."

No way will I every throw away this treasure of a letter.

She makes it very clear why she is writing anonymously. "I am not someone who can give speeches so my hope is to shed light on a relatable subject to a struggling woman being confronted with a difficult choice." Her ultimate goal is to influence any woman contemplating abortion to choose life for her baby.



The writer had two abortions in her youth in the 1970s when, she writes, abortion "truly was considered a non-issue morally and ethically. An abortion was an easy, convenient and affordable answer to my condition."

After describing a teen marriage that ended in divorce, the writer goes on to describe her descent into a dissolute lifestyle. "I broke almost every single one of God's commandments … including murder. Writing that word, to this day, makes my face flush with shame and my stomach ache with sorrow."

Ultimately, the writer says, "I found a Savior in Jesus Christ who not only forgives but forgets. Unfortunately, because I am not Him, I cannot forget." And that is why she hopes her letter will reach others who might hear her story and make a different decision for the child within.

"God only knows who might be growing in you," she says. "All the great leaders and visionaries had a mom. All the average people who maybe weren't famous but enhanced the world just by being average, they too had a mom. All the people that developed cures or invented new technology, they had to have a mom."

She ends the letter with an eloquent plea. "Please consider your choice and I will be praying for all women to choose love, Godly discernment, and respect for the life inside you that started at conception."

She signed the letter "Walking in His Footsteps, A Friend for Life."

HHS Office for Civil Rights to investigate Ohio hospital for leaving 22-week twins to die

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser

An Ohio hospital has come under investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services, accusead of denying two premature infants medical care, allowing them to die instead. It's a glimmer of hope for justice that is long overdue.

In 2017, Amanda Finnefrock went to the hospital, pregnant with twins. She was experiencing bleeding, and was scared for her sons. Unfortunately, it was still early in the pregnancy, and Finnefrock was told that unless her sons were born after 22 weeks and five days gestation, the hospital would make no attempt to save them. Three days later, the boys were born — at exactly 22 weeks and five days gestation. Despite their earlier promise, hospital staff did nothing to help the boys, even though they were born breathing, and lived long after their birth without any aid.

Since the deaths of her sons, Finnefrock has been working to ensure that no mother has to endure what she did. Alex Azar, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, released a statement this month singling out Riverside Methodist Hospital for violating the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) in Finnefrock's case. Azar also said the HHS Office for Civil Rights will be investigating further to ensure no other civil rights violations took place.

Finnefrock's first son, Emery, was born without any hospital staff present. Finnefrock held him against her chest as he moved. Through tears, Finnefrock can be heard in a video pleading, "You guys are gonna save him, right? Promise me they're gonna save him… look at him. Please save him!" You can see this in the video below:

Despite Finnefrock's pleas, hospital staff did nothing. Emery was wrapped in a blanket, placed underneath a lamp, and abandoned. Despite the lack of any medical care whatsoever, Emery lived for 45 minutes after his birth.

Finnefrock's second son, Elliott, was born larger than his brother. Like Emery, Elliott was moving — but he was also *crying*, which means his lungs were functioning, and he showed more promising signs of potential survival. But staff still did nothing to save his life. Elliott lived for *over two hours* after birth, with Finnefrock holding him, crying, "Mommy tried. Mommy tried."

In the attending notes, the hospital acknowledged that the boys were born at 22 weeks and five days.

The attending doctor's notes regarding the births of Emery and Elliot.

"Though I repeatedly asked staff to help or assess my babies, I was told they were born too young. But there is no documentation to prove they were born too young," Finnefrock said in a statement. "In fact, I had been told previously they would not help if the babies were born before 22 weeks and [five] days. Documentation shows I was admitted at 22 weeks [two] days and the babies born at 22 weeks [five] days. Nevertheless, when I begged for help, they refused. I was discharged with instructions for care after stillbirth. But Emery and Elliot were not stillborn. They were born alive and died as Riverside Methodist Hospital staff denied my pleas for help."

"I am so thankful to finally have acknowledgement from our government that what Riverside Methodist Hospital did is wrong," Finnefrock said in a statement given to pro-life group Created Equal. "I am praying that they are held accountable for what they have done to my beautiful sons and everything they put our family through. I also hope that with this new Executive Order by the president, babies all around the country will be saved no matter the circumstances. They all have value and worth."

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

Pro-abortion Joe Biden's very revealing conversation with the editorial board of the *New York Times*

By Dave Andrusko

I don't know exactly how I missed it, but pro-abortion Joe Biden and the editorial board of the *New York Times* sat down in January in a mutual back-scratching enterprise. The transcript is full of references to laughter and, obviously, Biden was among friends and comrades.

The former vice president was remarkably candid about abortion. So this is very much exploring.

Here's the way Lauren Kelley began the abortion section:

Lauren Kelley: I have a different topic for you. Mr. Vice President, I'd love to ask you about reproductive rights.

Joe Biden: Yes.

LK: So I think it's fair to say that this is a pretty extraordinary moment for reproductive rights. They're more threatened than they probably have been since Roe v. Wade was passed.

JB. I agree.

LK: There are a lot of people who question whether you will go on the offensive for reproductive rights as much as is going to be necessary with Roe v. Wade under threat, given the fact that, while you are pro-choice certainly, you switched your position on Hyde only just recently. For instance, you also originally argued for greater exemptions to the contraception mandate in Obamacare. So I think there's some concern out there ——

There then ensues a lengthy back and forth in which Biden insists he hadn't backpedaled. He essentially says that everyone supported the Hyde Amendment at one time or another but now—**now**—he understands how unfair that was/is his support for an amendment that has saved over 2 million lives.

Note, this turnabout—from support to opposition—occurred in 2019. In fact, it was one day after he reiterated his support—and the usual suspects went ballistic—that Biden had his Road to Damascus in reverse experience. Suddenly, he saw—and embraced—the darkness.

A few minutes later, the topic of the Supreme Court came up:

Nick Fox: I was kind of curious what kind of person? What are you looking for in the Supreme Court?

Joe Biden: They have to have an expansive view of the Constitution. Recognize the right to privacy, unenumerated rights that exist in the Constitution. Not the Federalist Society view that if it's not listed, it doesn't exist. And they have to be, they acknowledge the unenumerated rights and a right to privacy in the Constitution, and the "penumbra" [laws] and the Ninth Amendment, then in fact that means I know they will in fact support Roe v. Wade. They'll support a woman's right to choose and a whole range of other things that relate to individual personal rights. That is critical. I've written about it extensively. I've written law review articles about it.

When I defeated Bork, I was able to provide a woman's right for a generation because had he won, it would have been over.

Pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden

Two points. First, humble as ever, Mr. Biden takes "credit" for defeating Judge Robert Bork in 1987. In fact, Bork was "borked" by a number of pro-abortionists–led by the late Ted Kennedy–whose vitriolic attack set the template–not by Biden. [According to Merriam-Webster, "to Bork" means "to attack or defeat (a nominee or candidate for public office) unfairly through an organized campaign of harsh public criticism or vilification." The *Wall Street Journal* put it more frankly: "The borking of Robert Bork taught special-interest groups that they could demonize judicial nominees based solely on their worldview. Worse, character assassination proved an effective tactic, nearly sinking Justice Clarence Thomas's appointment four years later."]

Prior to Kennedy's hysterics, Biden, who was the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, had said that if President Reagan nominated Bork, "I'd have to vote for him," according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Second, Biden's answer about finding "unenumerated" rights is music to the ears of abortion proponents and others who are enamored with a "living Constitution." If what you want can be found not in the text of the Constitution but hidden in "penumbras" and "emanations," then you can read any "right" you wish into the Constitution. Easy peasy.

If you have 10 minutes sometime, do read the entire folksy exchange between Mr. Biden and the editorial page of the *New York Times*--www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/01/17/opinion/joe-biden-nytimes-interview.html

‘She is a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials, and unyielding loyalty to the Constitution.’

President Trump’s Rose Garden speech nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to sit on Supreme Court

I stand before you today to fulfill one of my highest and most important duties under the United States Constitution: the nomination of a Supreme Court Justice. This is my third such nomination after Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh. And it is a very proud moment indeed. Over the past week, our nation has mourned the loss of a true American legend. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a legal giant and a pioneer for women.

Her extraordinary life and legacy will inspire Americans for generations to come. Now we gather in the Rose Garden to continue our never-ending task of ensuring equal justice and preserving the impartial rule of law.

Today, it is my honor to nominate one of our nation’s most brilliant and gifted legal minds to the Supreme Court. She is a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials, and unyielding loyalty to the Constitution. Judge Amy Coney Barrett. We’re also joined by Amy’s husband, Jesse. Thank you, Jesse, very much. And their seven beautiful children. Congratulations to you all. Very special day. With us as well are the first lady, along with Vice President Mike Pence and his amazing wife, Karen. Thank you very much.

Judge Barrett is a graduate of Rhodes College and the University of Notre Dame Law School. At Notre Dame, she earned a full academic scholarship, served as the executive editor of the Law Review, graduated first in her class and received the law school’s award for the best record of scholarship and Maureen. And a great secretary of labor [Eugene Scalia]. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Secretary Very good genes in that family, I will say, very good genes.

achievement. Upon graduation, she became a clerk for Judge Lawrence Silberman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Amy then received one of the highest honors a young lawyer could have serving as a clerk on the Supreme Court for Justice Antonin Scalia.

A very highly respected law professor at Notre Dame wrote to Justice Scalia with a one sentence recommendation: “Amy Coney is the best student I ever had.” That’s pretty good. Justice Scalia hired her shortly thereafter, and we are honored to have his wonderful wife,

Before joining the bench, Judge Barrett spent 15 years as a professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School. She was renowned for her scholarship, celebrated by her colleagues and beloved by her students. Three times she was selected at Notre Dame “Distinguished Professor of the Year.” When I nominated Judge Barrett to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 2017, every law clerk from her time at the Supreme Court endorsed her and endorsed her nomination, writing, “We are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Yet we write to support the nomination of Professor Barrett to be a Circuit Judge. Professor Barrett is a woman of remarkable intellect and character. She is eminently qualified for the job.”

And I can tell you, I did that, too. I looked and I studied. And you are very eminently qualified for this job. You are going to be fantastic, really fantastic.

The entire Notre Dame law facility and faculty, everybody, everybody at that school also got so many letters, also wrote letters of support of Amy’s nomination to the 7th Circuit. They wrote, in effect, despite our differences, we unanimously agree that our constitutional system depends upon an independent judiciary staffed by talented people devoted to the fair and impartial administration of the rule of law. And we unanimously agree that Amy is such a person. For the last three years, Judge Barrett has served with immense distinction on the federal bench.

Amy is more than a stellar scholar and judge. She’s also a profoundly devoted mother. Her family is a core part of who Amy is. She opened her home and her heart and adopted two beautiful children from Haiti. Her incredible bond with her youngest child, a son with Down syndrome, is a true inspiration. If confirmed, Justice Barrett will make history as the first

See “Achievement,” page 29

The threat posed by Judge Barrett: Abortion doesn't equal equality, equality doesn't equal abortion

By Dave Andrusko

The discussion/debate/argument over the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court would be high stakes even if the only consideration was that (if confirmed) she would replace an icon of the pro-abortion left, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. But when President Trump formally announced he had selected Judge Barrett, it opened the door to the kind of first principles conversation pro-abortionists genuinely fear—and with good reason!

Of course, for them, first and foremost is the preservation of *Roe v. Wade*, a talisman of the secular pro-abortion left. After all, hadn't the linchpin of the 1992 *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* been the declaration, "The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives"?

Abortion=Equality, Equality=Abortion.

Judge Barrett, incredibly accomplished, is a standing rebuke core principle of pro-abortion feminists, which is why the opposition to her will be as vicious in its own way as what pro-abortionists tried to do to now-Justice Kavanaugh. She is, as President Trump said when he announced her nomination, "a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials, and unyielding loyalty to the Constitution."

Here is a quote from one of Judge Barrett's countless admirers, followed by some representative comments found in various news accounts:

"She represented the women I go to church with, while also representing the professors I had in graduate school," she [Ruth Malhotra] said. "She seemed to be the whole package." This appeared, in of all places, in a wholly sympathetic profile that appeared in the *New York Times*. Ruth Graham went on to write

> **But for many conservative Christian women, the thrill of the nomination is more personal. Judge Barrett, for them, is a new kind of icon — one they have not seen before in American cultural and political life: a woman who is both unabashedly ambitious and deeply religious, who has excelled at the heights of a demanding profession even as she speaks openly about prioritizing her conservative Catholic faith and family. Judge Barrett has seven children, including two children adopted from Haiti and a young son with Down syndrome.**

John Stonestreet, of Breakpoint, put it this way:

> **More specifically, Barrett represents a new kind of feminism; one that doesn't come at the expense of children; that doesn't require rejecting the inherent goodness of a women's procreative nature. Barrett's career has been built on her judicial genius, while fully embracing who she is as a woman, a wife, and a mom."**

When your opponent is as formidable as Judge Barrett is, it drives pro-abortionists off the deep end. My favorite —in the sense of being most telling— came from a man.

Writing for Slate, which truly has gone bonkers, Mark Joseph Stern listed some of her incredible accomplishments but dismissed them as nothing more than following a "playbook." To state the obvious, if a judge Stern liked did half of what he acknowledges Judge Barrett has already accomplished, he wouldn't be talking about "checking off boxes" but raving about his candidate being a truly worthy successor to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Tucker Carlson unloaded on Judge Barrett's critics.

> **"Even though on some level, Democrats understand rationally that it's a very bad idea to attack a woman for her family or religious faith, they can't help themselves. So they're doing it. Amy Coney Barrett represents everything that made this a great country. Therefore, they despise her."**

His conclusion is memorable:

> **"And precisely because Democrats know that Amy Coney Barrett's life refutes the lies they have pushed on the rest of us for decades, they must destroy her personally. They have no choice. Her happiness — her family's happiness — is evidence that they are frauds.'**

2016 all over again: Media tells us Trump can't win

From page 2

Put those statements together and after all we've gone through as a nation, this is nothing short of astonishing.

What about agreeing with the candidates on issues? 49% said they agreed with Trump on the issues versus 46% who agreed with Biden, according to Gallup.

What else?

Democrats rely on winning 90%-95% of the votes of Black Americans to carry the day. Depending on the poll, President Trump has the support of 18% to 25% of African Americans. When the demographic is Black men, the percentage is as high as low to mid 30%.

The biggest surprise of 2020 may well be President Trump's strong support among Latinos. *The Hill* had his support among Latinos at 37% while the Quinnipiac University poll, no friend of the President, found that 36% of Hispanics say they would vote for (or, if undecided, lean toward) President Trump. I suspect the fact is the number might be even higher.

In two Battleground states, a recent *Washington Post/ ABC News* poll found that 39% of Hispanics in Florida say they would vote for/lean toward voting for President Trump while 34% of Hispanics in Arizona said they would vote for/lean toward voting for President Trump.

Looking ahead to the next debate, scheduled for later this month, during a Toledo, Ohio, drive-in rally Monday, Mr. Biden said, "We have to come together, that's what I'm running," adding, "I'm running as a proud Democrat for the Senate."

Finally, there is a bedrock foundation of support for President Trump among pro-lifers and people of faith, particularly those who attend church. This coalition is crucial to his re-election and they know with 100% certainty he is a President who has kept his promises on opposing abortion and supporting religious freedom and the right of conscience.

That is why the Biden campaign has conjured up "Evangelicals for Biden" and "Catholics for Biden" in an attempt to pick up a tiny percentage of voters who would not otherwise give a man who believes in abortion demand (paid for by the public) and packing the Supreme Court which he admits by refusing to answer the question the time of day.

If ever—**ever**—there has been a choice on abortion and right of conscience, it is between pro-life President Donald Trump and pro-abortion Joe Biden.

Chrissy Teigen shares heartbreaking loss of baby boy: 'Darkest of days'

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser

Model Chrissy Teigen and her husband, singer John Legend, have lost their baby boy late in pregnancy, sharing the news in an emotional series of social media posts.

Last month, Teigen shared that she had been placed on bed rest due to problems with her placenta. Shortly after, she was hospital due to bleeding, but their son — whom they named Jack — seemed to be healthy and thriving. "So I feel really good, the baby's so healthy. Growing stronger than Luna or Miles. He moves a lot, so much earlier than they ever did," she said on social media. "He's so strong and I'm just so excited for him because he's so wonderful and just the strongest little dude. I can't wait for him."

Just under one month ago, Teigen posted video of her receiving an ultrasound on her Instagram page, shown above.

Tragically, despite the best efforts of doctors to save him, Jack passed away. Teigen shared the news in a heart-wrenching post on Instagram, accompanied by black and white photos from the hospital. "We are shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before," she wrote. "We were never able to stop the bleeding and give our baby the fluids he needed, despite bags and bags of blood transfusions. It just wasn't enough."

Teigen further explained that typically, they don't name their children until they've left the hospital. But in this case, they had a feeling that their son's name was Jack. "So he will always be Jack to us," she said. "Jack worked so hard to be a part of our little family, and he will be, forever."

"To our Jack – I'm so sorry that the first few moments of your life were met with so many complications, that we couldn't give you the home you needed to survive. We will always love you," she continued, adding, "We are so grateful for the life we have, for our wonderful babies Luna and Miles, for all the amazing things we've been able to experience. But everyday can't be full of sunshine. On this darkest of days, we will grieve, we will cry our eyes out. But we will hug and love each other harder and get through it."

via Facebook

Their photos show Teigen with tears streaming down her face in the hospital, seemingly receiving an epidural, and clutching hands with Legend. The last photo showed Teigen cradling Jack, while Legend leaned close, grief evident on her face. She also spoke about her heartache on Twitter, writing about how surreal it felt to leave the hospital without Jack.

Celebrities quickly made sure to support the couple with well-wishes and prayers. Some have criticized Teigen and Legend for being so public about their loss, but other women have stated how much Teigen's openness has meant to them. "We share because they lived and it's the only way to remember," one mother said in response to Teigen's detractors. "We say their names. We love them and carry them in our hearts."

"As a woman who lost a baby at 27 weeks, I completely agree," one woman tweeted. "This happens a lot and often in silence, cause no one knows what to do or say. My thoughts are with John and Chrissy. Thank you for sharing your grief and helping others."

"To those who think [Chrissy Teigen] shouldn't post about her miscarriage: she is normalizing what is kept in secret by women who believe they're somehow responsible for such a tragedy," another woman said. "Thank you, Chrissy. My first of four was 32 years ago. It still hurts."

According to the CDC, 1 in 100 pregnancies will end in stillbirth, while 1 in 10 babies are born prematurely. Teigen's and Legend's loss is heartbreaking, but it's far from rare. Too many families go through similar pain in silence, when the lives of these children deserve to be honored and remembered.

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

Information is power, Abortion Pill Rescue gives hope

By Kim Hayes

At age 25 Kristina thought she might be pregnant. And since she was still figuring out her life, she felt she was too young to take on the responsibility of being a mom. The man she was dating had been informed he couldn't have kids. Both of these thoughts led her to Planned Parenthood, facing reality alone.

Kristina's intention that day was simply to triple check that she was pregnant. This left her with mere seconds to decide whether to accept the abortion pill as the clinic's offering of a solution.

"In that moment I told them I wasn't ready," said Kristina. "So, I took the first pill immediately and was given additional medication to take in the next 24 hours."

This being Kristina's first pregnancy she found herself crying a lot. Both her best friend and her mom wanted her to continue the pregnancy.

"I was nervous and didn't feel ready," stated Kristina. "I didn't think anyone else would be able to help me."

The baby's father would not believe she was carrying his baby and so even to this day Kristina does not have his support.

It has been almost five years since Kristina began this journey, and as she recalls what happened the day after visiting Planned Parenthood, she expresses a lot of gratitude.

"My mom is the real reason I ended up having my son," recalled Kristina. "The day after visiting the clinic, I went to work preparing myself fearfully for the next pills to come. I told my mom. She was devastated."

"I got thinking, maybe this was the wrong decision," Kristina said. "I texted my mom and right away she started looking up information. She called me frantically telling me to go straight to the ER and that she found a woman who has a reversal plan."

"I had no faith that this was going to work," she continued. "I went to one ER, they blatantly told me they never heard of such a thing and didn't know how to help me."

Christian and Kristina
Photo: Kristina/Rights reserved

Kristina was asked to wait in the waiting area, which she did for two hours before deciding to go to another hospital.

"I went to another ER where the woman said she had been a doctor for 30 years and never heard of this," recounted Kristina.

Kristina encouraged the doctor to get on the phone with the abortion pill reversal (APR) hotline, which connects to the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN).

"She would not listen to me. I looked it up myself and showed her the information online. She took my phone and said she would be right back," reported Kristina.

The staff did their own research. Kristina recalled watching the doctor sit side by side with another doctor for about 45 minutes.

"Finally, the doctor said, 'Well I can't promise this will work, but I will prescribe you the progesterone and I really hope for the best,' said Kristina.

"In that moment she saved my baby. And my life!" she exclaimed.

Kristina additionally credits her APRN nurse, "who wholeheartedly shares this information to save babies around the world, my baby was also saved!"

The APRN is managed by Heartbeat International and made up of approximately 900 rescue providers and centers who facilitate Abortion Pill Rescue®.

Heartbeat's APR information details the treatment protocol utilizing progesterone to counteract the effects of the first abortion pill. This medication has been available at least since the 1950's as a treatment to stop miscarriages.

Kristina had what she describes as a perfect pregnancy and the delivery went great.

"Once I realized I could keep him and save him, from that moment on I was a mom and I put my son first," said Kristina.

Today Christian is a healthy four-year-old. Kristina's thought that she would do this on her own was correct, but the fear that she couldn't handle it was wrong.

"Single parenting is hard. But it is worth it," said Kristina. "I have a whole new life."

"Every couple of months are different, but it is beautiful," she said. "He is the most amazing thing in the world. Not always easy, but well worth it, that's for sure."

"Christian is smart and funny and kind. Of course, a bit crazy but that comes with being four," stated Kristina. "I am just beyond blessed. Words could never describe the love and life this reversal has given me."

"Thank you to the doctor who created this, and all the people who work to provide this information," she said. "They are truly angels."

Reflecting back on making such a decision, Kristina said, "Nobody is ever ready. If you can be the person who has nothing or even everything to give, when it comes down to it, this (parenting) is natural and beautiful and you learn as you go."

Statistics show that more than 1,000 lives have been saved to date through the APRN. The impact of Abortion Pill Rescue and the hope it offers is real, and the real-life stories of women like Kristina bring those statistics to life.

Editor's note: Heartbeat International manages the Abortion Pill Rescue Network and Pregnancy Help News where this story appeared.

No greater form of discrimination than snuffing out a life in a mother's womb

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

The precious value of people with Down syndrome is once again the focus of conversation in the corridors of the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania State Senator Scott Martin

State Senator Scott Martin, who has been a champion of people with intellectual disabilities, plans to introduce a resolution marking October 2020 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month" in the Keystone State.

The Senator notes that Down syndrome is a common genetic condition in which an individual has an extra copy of chromosome 21. According to figures from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 1 in every 707 births results in an individual born with Down syndrome.

It has been estimated that a quarter of a million people with Down syndrome currently live in the United States. However, the number would be much higher, were it not for tremendous pressure to abort such pregnancies. Tragically, the vast majority of babies with a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome are aborted.

Senator Martin states, "Thanks in part to early intervention, therapies, quality education and proper support, these individuals have been given the opportunity and proven that they can adapt and thrive."

Previously, Senator Martin was a supporter of House Bill 321, which would have banned the abortion of preborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. The bill passed both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the state Senate, but was vetoed by pro-abortion Governor Tom Wolf, a former clinic escort for Planned Parenthood.

People with Down syndrome contribute greatly to their communities, families, schools, and workplaces. They should not be treated as second-class citizens, nor should they be subject to discrimination.

And there is no greater form of discrimination than to have one's life snuffed out in a mother's womb.

The pro-abortion left attacks adoption

From page 5

black children in black families where they belong physically, psychologically and culturally in order that they receive the total sense of themselves and develop a sound projection of their future."

People don't own others simply because of the color of their skin. That's called slavery.

That NABSW decree has led to repeated failures of kinship care (a form of foster care that keeps children with next of kin instead of placing for adoption), according to a 2008 Government Accountability Office report. It has increased the time that black children, particularly, languish in foster care. What's been preserved then? What cultural element is more important than a child being loved by a mom and dad and having permanence?

Planned Parenthood aborts adoption for profit. When moms and dads choose to parent their child, or make an adoption plan, that brings in zero revenue for the $2 billion abortion giant. In a "Tool for Educators" factsheet, the leading abortion chain had this to say about adoption: "The psychological responses to abortion are far less serious than those experienced by women bringing their unwanted pregnancy to term and relinquishing the child for adoption."

Ka-ching!

The ACLU and Lambda Legal are actively trying to shut down faith-based adoption agencies. (There's nothing quite like two radically pro-abortion groups feigning to care about any child who's escaped the violence of abortion.) They've succeeded in their anti-adoption efforts in numerous places across the country. Catholic Charities was shut down in Boston, Illinois and Philadelphia by these LGBT activist groups. In New York, these special interests groups and unelected bureaucrats are working to force New Hope Family Services to close for their "radical" practice of placing vulnerable children with a married mother and father. Alliance Defending Freedom is fighting to keep kids first.

And so am I.

The pro-abortion Left constantly demonizes adoption. That same political force is falsely casting pro-lifers (like my brown self) as racists, white evangelicals and Catholics as white supremacists who are privileged and fragile, and "transracially" adopted children as victims. The only fragility that matters is that of vulnerable children who need the rescue that foster care can temporarily offer or the love that adoption can bring for a lifetime.

The Day the FDA Abandoned the First Principle of Medical Ethics

September 28 was the 20th Anniversary of the Abortion Pill Mifepristone's Approval

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

The first principle of medical ethics is "primum non nocere" – "first, do no harm." It is a reminder that at a patient's most physically vulnerable moment, a doctor must take care with all his sharp tools and skills not to do anything to make things worse.

On September 28th, 2000, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under pressure from the outgoing Clinton administration, approved the abortifacient RU-486 (or mifepristone) for sale in the United States, opening the door to chemical (pill-induced) abortion.

In doing so, it only made a bad situation worse. And the lethal damage has continued for two decades.

Ostensibly, the FDA approval was because American women needed a newer, safer abortion option, though more than a million a year were obtaining surgical abortions at clinics all across the country from private "providers" such as Planned Parenthood.

But the numbers of abortions at these clinics was falling, clinics were closing, and abortionists were quitting the business. Women weren't satisfied with their product, finding surgical abortions cold, mechanical, and abrupt. They didn't like the cutting, the scraping, the violation of the self as they sat exposed on an operating table while instruments cut and machines sucked life out of their wombs.

Mifepristone, advocates promised, would give them a new way to market their product, as something safer, simpler, that could be done in the "privacy of their own homes." That might bring in customers who found surgical abortion problematic.

Though chemical abortions turned out to be neither safe nor simple, that didn't matter to the merchants of death. They were able to attract new customers and convince a few new doctors to try the new pills.

In spite of all the assurances, every "successful" chemical abortion involved considerable pain and extensive bleeding, more than one might expect from a surgical abortion. Pain and cramps were intense, often requiring analgesics or even opioids, along with spells of nausea or vomiting. Bleeding could be copious and would often last for days or even weeks. Those horrible side effects were usually not advertised.

Nor were the numbers of women hospitalized, the number requiring transfusions, or the two dozen or more women who died of undiscovered ruptured ectopic pregnancies, rare bacterial infections, or simply bled to death. Those truths were unspoken by advocates,

Along with the FDA, the sponsors and promoters of the abortion pill (now called "medication abortion") saw hints of these harms in trials of the drug but pushed forward anyway. The health and safety of women were not going to stand in the way of the pro-abortion cause of "increasing access."

Despite getting full approval of the drug and even being allowed to continue sales of the drug when news of deaths and injuries began to surface, abortion pill advocates pushed further. With another Democrat supportive of their agenda in the White House, they pushed the FDA to loosen what limited restrictions it had in place for the drug.

The FDA, at behest of the drug's sponsor and supporters, altered dosages to make chemical abortions cheaper (and more profitable for clinics), reduced the number of required visits to the clinic where women's use and health could be monitored, and allowed women to take these drugs later in pregnancy. They did this even knowing that this meant reduced effectiveness and the possibility of increased complications.

Even this did not satisfy abortion pill advocates, who finally made their intentions known. They seek to be able to bypass the clinics altogether and allow women to order and take these dangerous pills at home without ever having to see a doctor in person.

This would enable abortion advocates to promote and sell their product in places where there were no abortion clinics, relieving the problem of an abortionist shortage in communities where they were not wanted. That change also meant that women would obtain the pills and face complications in places where there might not be doctors qualified to treat them. This, too, did not trouble advocates. The cause must go

See "FDA," page 38

Judge Barrett, a woman of incredible talent and accomplishment, will face unyielding opposition by pro-abortion Senate Democrats

By Leticia Velasquez, Co-founder of KIDS (Keep Infants with Down Syndrome)

Yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee began hearings on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to sit on the United States Supreme Court. Those hearings could well be the worst weeks of her life. Why?

In addition to the fair questions regarding her career as an attorney, an award-winning Professor of Law at University of Notre Dame, and most recently, as a judge on the Seventh Circuit Court, her personal life will be given the kind of intense scrutiny that was conspicuously absent in 1993 when President Clinton nominated Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg to replace Justice retiring Justice Byron White.

But how far will "intense scrutiny" go? In 2018, it took the form of an all-out campaign of character assassination when Judge (now Justice) Bret Kavanaugh was nominated to replace the retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

So, what could be controversial about the life of a wife and mother of seven children, who has practiced law and her Catholic faith with distinction throughout her life? What character traits as displayed in her life choices could cause Democrats to vote against her nomination?

After all, not only are Judge Amy Coney Barrett and her husband, Jesse, raising seven happy children, she has been wildly successful. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Rhodes College in Tennessee and a *summa cum laude* graduate of Notre Dame Law School, where she graduated first in her class. Judge Barrett clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia. Her list of professional credentials tell us (as President Trump said), "she is a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials, and unyielding loyalty to the Constitution."

This destroys the feminist narrative that, in order to succeed, a woman must have access to abortion. Ironically, Justice Ginsburg, the late champion of abortion, had one baby while in Law School and another while beginning her career in law.

Judge Barrett's faith is the real problem. She not only believes, but lives her Catholicism joyfully. This caused Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Sen. Diane Feinstein to say disparagingly of Judge Barrett during her confirmation hearing for an appointment to the Seventh Circuit appointment that "The dogma lives loudly within you and that's of concern."

Last Spring, at an event hosted by the Constitutional Studies Department at the University of Notre Dame Judge Barrett shared a difficult decision she and her husband made in their marriage. They had been trying to adopt her second child from Haiti for two years, and because of a devastating earthquake, the adoption suddenly became possible.

Yet, newly pregnant, Amy thought twice about accepting a new son into her family. After a heart to heart with her husband Jesse, she went on a walk to think. "I can distinctly remember throwing on my long winter heavy coat, walking up to the cemetery, and sitting on one of the benches, and just thinking two things," Barrett said. "Well, if life is really hard, at least it's short, looking at all the graves. And then I thought, but in context, when you think about the value of people and the value of life and what's really most important, what you can pour yourself into, that raising children and bringing John Peter home were the things of the greatest value that I can do right then, rather than even teaching, being a law professor, which I was at the time. That was what was really most important."

She said "yes" to adopting their son John Peter, from Haiti.

Judge Barrett then faced another challenge. Pregnant in her forties, this meant there was a great possibility of having a child with Down syndrome. Already juggling a demanding career and six children, many women would consider whether to abort when Benjamin was prenatally diagnosed with trisomy 21.

But not Amy. Benjamin was seen as another child to love and to include into a generous family.

"We weren't expecting it and we didn't know what it would mean," Barrett added. "It has been challenging. There are definitely hard things about it. . . . I think I've learned so many lessons about myself, about what's important in my life. Every night before bed, our three youngest children John Peter, Liam, and Juliet have to say one thing they're grateful for, and I would say that six out of seven nights, they all say Benjamin. There are obvious difficulties, and the therapies we have to do, and trying to teach him to communicate, things that are really hard. But I think that the effect that it has on my other children, what it teaches Jesse and me about unselfish love, it's really valuable."

Like Judge Barrett, I was teaching at a college when my daughter with Down syndrome was born. I thought I could never work again. While those who parent children with special needs have a lot to learn, and many accommodations to make, as the TV sitcom in the nineties, featuring a character with Down syndrome, said, "Life Goes On."

Seven years into Benjamin's life, his mother has been given the once in a lifetime opportunity to join the highest Court in the land and be one of the most powerful human beings on earth.

Incomprehensively, to those predisposed to oppose her nomination, Judge Barrett's selfless and balanced handling of the many challenges of her family life, will not be seen as a strength, but a liability. It says far more about our values as a society when an incredible woman of deep faith is seen as a "threat."

Epidemic of abortions targeting children with Down syndrome for elimination "is a crisis," Missouri Solicitor General tells appeals court

By Dave Andrusko

On September 24, a three judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit heard the Missouri Solicitor General defend "Missouri Stands For the Unborn Act," passed in 2019, described by Missouri Right to Life as "groundbreaking legislation that will save lives and set the standard for pro-life legislation nationwide."

The hearing on HB 126, which took place via videoconferencing, came one day after a different three judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit heard pro and con arguments on an injunction halting enforcement of three 2019 pro-life Arkansas laws.

Reporting for *Courthouse News* ("Missouri Defends Abortion Restriction as Way to Save Children With Down Syndrome"), Joe Harris extensively quoted Missouri State Solicitor General John Sauer who told the panel, "A radical reduction in the number of the class of people with Down syndrome would inflict an incalculable loss in our society."

Sauer also told Circuit Judges Kelly, Wollman, and Stras, "People with Down syndrome are literally one generation away from complete elimination."

Planned Parenthood attorney Claudia Hammerman maintained that HB 126 is incompatible with the 1992 *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* decision.

HB 126 includes

- A ban on abortions when the unborn child has been diagnosed with Down syndrome.
- Tiered prohibitions of most abortions of unborn children at eight, 14, 18 and 20 weeks gestational age.

Sauer challenged how opponents of the law were interpreting *Casey*, Harris reported.

U.S. Circuit Judge Jane L. Kelly, the only judge in the Eighth Circuit appointed by a Democratic president—Barack Obama—questioned Sauer on how the state's restrictions on Down syndrome abortions would square with Casey.

"Casey did not decide whether a state may prohibit an abortion for a discriminatory reason," Sauer said.

Tracking the argument made by Planned Parenthood's Hammerman, Judge Kelly also questioned if HB 126 "interfered with a women's right to a pre-viability abortion."

"I believe *Casey* says the state cannot present a substantial obstacle to a woman's decision to bear or (abort) a child," Sauer said. "It does not say there is right to bear or (abort) a particular child, a child with preferable characteristics. There's nothing anywhere in *Casey* that says you have a right to a child with these particular characteristics."

According to Harris, when Judge Stras asked "if there was any consideration given to other disabilities and why just Down syndrome," Sauer said there is nothing in the legislative record mentioning other diseases. But he noted

"I'm not aware of anything like the evidence we have of any other class of people on the brink of elimination like the evidence we have in this case," Sauer said.

The state's attorney pointed out abortion rates for children with Down syndrome in Denmark, South Korea and the United Kingdom approach 90%. Sauer said the United States' numbers are somewhere between 67 and 93%.

Sauer added,

"The epidemic of abortion targeting children with Down syndrome for elimination fully because of their disability, not for any other reason, is a crisis."

Surprise visit from Lara Trump gives pregnancy center encouragement in its work

By Lisa Bourne

A North Carolina pregnancy help center got a surprise visit in October from Lara Trump, giving the ministry a refreshing boost in its life-affirming work.

Trump visited the HELP Pregnancy Center in Monroe, NC, toured the center, visiting with a client and her baby, learning more about the work performed by pregnancy help centers, and praying with the center's staff and volunteers.

Trump's visit gave the center a chance to celebrate its work, but also further educate the president's daughter-in-law and others, and the center personnel are grateful for the out-of-the blue affirmation of their ministry.

"It was a great day," Executive Director and founder Tara Quinn told *Pregnancy Help News*.

Trump loved the baby models at the pregnancy help medical clinic, Quinn said, as well as the ultrasound room, and she learned all about the center's mobile ultrasound unit, which is available to serve women six days a week outside the local abortion facility.

She also met a client, Tessa, and her baby. Tessa was able to share with Trump how the impact the center has had in her life, helping her during her pregnancy and since, with material items, pregnancy and parenting classes.

Trump connected easily with Tessa, Quinn said, Trump herself the mother of young children. Tessa shared how she enjoyed the center's Bible study.

Quinn said Trump was very personable, engaging and genuine, and showed that she really cared about the people who perform pregnancy help work and the clients they serve.

"It was just a precious time," stated Quinn.

Another ministry that collaborates with the HELP Pregnancy Center, A Cause for Tea, served refreshments, and Quinn said they had a high tea.

"It was great," she said, a board member commending her and the staff for preparing so well with little time.

Lara Trump visits HELP Pregnancy Center in Monroe, NC
Photo: HELP Pregnancy Center

The center staff and volunteers offered to pray for Trump and her family, Quinn said, and for their defense of the unborn – something they already regularly do. Quinn said Trump and her group were happy for the offer of prayer.

"We stepped into our prayer chapel," Quinn said, "and I told her, 'This is the room where we pray for you,' and you could just tell that this was to her heart."

While Lara Trump is an advisor to Donald Trump's campaign, which has highlighted the president's pro-life record and her visit part of that, Quinn said the discussion during the visit was not focused on politics.

"We were just sharing our embrace of the sanctity of human life," said Quinn. "It was a breath of fresh air."

HELP Pregnancy Center offers free and confidential pregnancy, parenting, adoption and abortion education, along with free pregnancy tests, confidential peer counseling, limited ultrasounds and Bible study classes. The center also offers Abortion Pill Rescue® and mobile ultrasound services.

In 2018 the mobile unit was able to travel to meet a mom who had taken the abortion pill and experienced regret, and who was having difficulty getting to the pregnancy medical clinic, so she could start the abortion pill reversal process and save her baby.

Last year twin babies were saved through APR offered by the center, which is one of more than 900 rescue providers in the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN). To date more than 1,000 babies have been saved through the APRN.

HELP Pregnancy Center had 24 hours' notice from the Secret Service about Lara Trump's Tuesday visit, and had to keep the news close to the chest, with extensive security checks the day before and the morning of the visit.

Taking part in the event were North Carolina State Representative Dean Arp (Rep) a longtime supporter of the ministry and whose wife Anne is a former volunteer, Katrina Pierson, an advisor to Lara Trump, and commentators Diamond and Silk.

The center's Office Administrator Lisa concurred with Quinn that Trump seemed to have a heart for pregnancy help work.

The center staff and volunteers were humbled and honored that they were chosen and able to share about their work, she said.

"It meant so much to have that happen," she said.

Trump seemed pleasantly surprised at the extent of the services provided by the HELP Pregnancy Center, she said.

"We explained that we don't just say, 'Don't have an abortion, have your baby, and have a nice life,'" said Lisa. "We really come alongside our clients."

"I think it gave her a pretty good understanding of what pregnancy resource centers are about," she said. "It's not just a pregnancy test and an ultrasound."

See "Surprise," page 38

Colorado to vote on banning abortion at 22 weeks in November

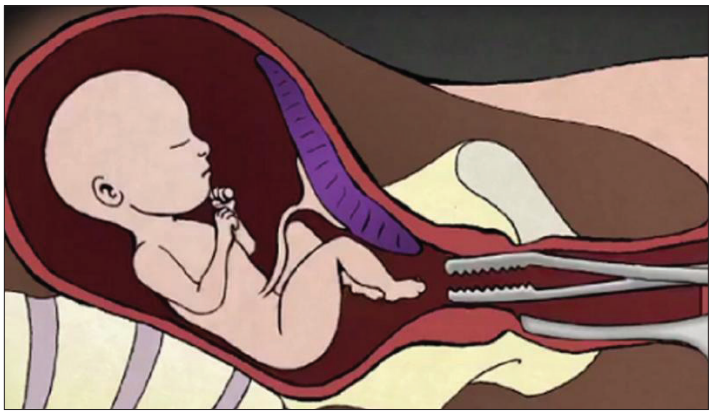
If enacted, Prop. 115 would stop an estimated 400 late-term abortions per year in Colorado

By Calvin Freiburger

COLORADO–In less than a month, Colorado residents will vote on a ballot initiative that will decide whether to ban abortions at 22 weeks, without the input of the state's Democrat governor or legislature.

Proposition 115, spearheaded by the pro-life "Due Date Too Late" campaign, secured enough signatures to appear on the November ballot back in March. It would ban all abortions past 22 weeks, with the only exception being to save a mother's life. Abortionists who violate the law would be fined up to $5,000 and/or lose their medical licenses for three years.

If enacted, Prop. 115 would stop an estimated 400 late-term abortions per year in Colorado, according to the campaign, which adds that "most of these abortions are performed on normal fetuses. One abortion rights activist admitted that abortions for fetal anomaly 'make up a small minority of later abortions.'"



"I think it's the human rights issue of our lifetime," Due Date Too Late organizer Giuliana Day told the Associated Press.

Opponents of the initiative include Planned Parenthood, the so-called American Civil Liberties Union, and notorious Denver abortionist Warren Hern, who called legislative "interference" with abortion "not acceptable."

In the past, Hern has admitted that real doctors "disdain" abortionists, and in 2018 was taken to court for leaving part of a baby's skull inside a patient.

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

'She is a woman of unparalleled achievement...'

From page 19

mother of school-aged children ever to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

To her children, Emma, Vivian, Tess, John Peter, Liam, Juliet, and Benjamin: Thank you for sharing your incredible mom with our country. Thank you very much. Amy Coney Barrett will decide cases based on the text of the Constitution, as written. As Amy has said, being a judge takes courage. You are not there to decide cases as you may prefer. You are there to do your duty and to follow the law wherever it may take you.

That is exactly what Judge Barrett will do on the U.S. Supreme Court. I want to thank the members of the Senate. We have so many of them here today.

Thank you very much. I see you in the audience and you're so proud. But I want to thank you for your commitment and to providing a fair and timely hearing.

I know it will be that.

Judge Barrett was confirmed to the circuit court three years ago by a bipartisan vote. Her qualifications are unsurpassed, unsurpassed, and her record is beyond reproach. This should be a straightforward and prompt confirmation. Should be very easy. Good luck. It's going to be very quick. I'm sure it'll be extremely noncontroversial. We said that the last time, didn't we?

Well, thank you all very much. And thank you for being here. I further urge all members of the other side of the aisle to provide Judge Barrett with the respectful and dignified hearing that she deserves and frankly, that our country deserves. I urge lawmakers and members of the media to refrain from personal or partisan attacks. And the stakes for our country are incredibly high. Rulings that the Supreme Court will issue in the coming years will decide the survival of our Second Amendment, our religious liberty, our public safety, and so much more. To maintain security, liberty and prosperity, we must preserve our priceless heritage of a nation of laws. And there is no one better to do that than Amy Coney Barrett. Law and Order is the foundation of the American system of justice.

No matter the issue, no matter the case before her, I am supremely confident that Judge Barrett will issue rulings based solely upon a fair reading of the law. She will defend the sacred principle of equal justice for citizens of every race, color, religion and creed. Congratulations again to Judge Barrett. I know that you will make our country very, very proud.

WaPo hit job on Judge Barrett. Could anything be more predictable?

By Dave Andrusko

Some people whose political IQ I consider to be very high have floated the proposition that Democrats may not go to DEFCON 1 in an attempt to defeat the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Really?

How quickly we forget.

Does anyone not have nightmares when they recall the offensive pro-abortion Democrats launched against Judge (now Justice) Brett Kavanaugh? It made the orchestrated attack on Justice Clarence Thomas look like a friendly game of touch football. Were it not for Justice Kavanaugh's enormous courage and the steadfast support of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer might have prevailed.

Sometimes there **are** items that "everyone knows." In this case Judge Barrett's credential as a judge and professor "are unsurpassed," as President Trump said in nominating her. You could say the same for her as a wife and mother.

But none of this matters as the confirmation hearings began yesterday. As you'd expect, the *Washington Post* published a major hit piece October 5 about the Catholic charismatic group of which she and her husband, Jesse, are members.

According to Emma Brown, Jon Swaine, and Michelle Boorstein, "Barrett's ties" to the "People of Praise" is expected to come up this week and subsequently. You betcha. You can almost hear the knives being sharpened.

Mollie Hemingway co-authored "Justice on Trial: The Kavanaugh Confirmation and the Future of the Supreme Court," the definitive book on the Kavanaugh nomination ordeal. She tweeted in response

Democrats are laundering their (admittedly weak) anti-religious smear of Amy Coney Barrett through Emma Brown, the same reporter they used to launch their massive and media-coordinated anti-Kavanaugh operation that so many Americans found so despicable.

And this vituperative *WaPo* broadside came none too soon for pro-abortion Democrats and their allies at places such as the *Washington Post*. Here's a tweet from Morning Consult:

NEW: Support for the Senate's confirmation of @realDonaldTrump's #SCOTUS nominee has grown since the Sept. 26 announcement, as more voters side with the @Senate GOP's push to confirm her as soon as possible, regardless of who wins the election.

The first line of the story reads, "Democrats are losing the Supreme Court messaging war, new polling indicates, with support for Judge Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation trending in the GOP's direction."

46% say the Senate should confirm her to 31% who said she shouldn't be confirmed—"up 9 percentage points since President Donald Trump announced her nomination on Sept. 26 — as more voters say the chamber should consider her elevation to the high court as soon as possible, regardless of who wins next month's election."

Another important takeaway from the poll of roughly 2,000 registered voters:

The numbers mark an even larger shift from polling conducted before Barrett's nomination, when half of voters said the winner of the presidential election should get to pick Ruth Bader Ginsburg's replacement and 37 percent said Trump should get to make the pick, regardless of the outcome in November. That poll did not mention Barrett's name.

None of this will matter to pro-abortion Senate Democrats and their allies in the Abortion Industry and the major media.

Hats off to Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham who are not allowing the obstruction of Senate Democrats to stop yesterday's opening of confirmation hearings.

The attacks on Judge Barrett should concern "those who value our First Amendment right to religious freedom"

From page 2

Remember when hauling the children of famous people into the public arena was supposed to be off-limits? No more. Not to pro-abortion Democrats.

To reiterate, because her legal mind is razor-sharp, Judge Barrett has to be attacked on other grounds—one of which is her adopted children. Another is her Catholic faith, which pro-abortion Democrats are trying to wheedle into the conversation without being too obvious.

Here's a good example. "Amy Coney Barrett's Catholicism Is Controversial But May Not Be Confirmation Issue"—NPR's Tom Gjelten informs us

> ***If Amy Coney Barrett is confirmed as the new Supreme Court justice, she will be one of six Catholics on the bench. She would be joined by an Episcopalian who was raised as a Catholic. and two Jewish justices.***
>
> ***Never before has the Court been so dominated by one religious denomination, a fact that could conceivably be raised during Barrett's confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, scheduled to begin on Oct. 12.***
>
> ***"It's legitimate for senators to be concerned about whether the court is reflecting the diversity of faith in the United States," says Marci Hamilton, an expert on religion and law at the University of Pennsylvania.***

But, darn, that may not come up. After all, Catholics are not a monolith. Justices Thomas and Sotomayor are both Catholics and they agree on the time of day but not much else.

So how can pro-abortion Democrats attack Judge Barrett's Catholic faith? Gjelten has the answer:

> ***If Amy Coney Barrett's religious beliefs were to be raised during her confirmation hearings, it would presumably be because her Catholic faith appears to be of unusual intensity and character.***

So, it's okay to go after her, if she takes her faith seriously. Got it?

Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., the archbishop emeritus of Philadelphia, responded perfectly in an article that appeared in "First Things":

> ***If you're photographed piously with your rosary beads at prayer—even better. The cultural loyalty of many Catholic voters to a once heavily Catholic, working-class party dies hard, no matter how different that party is today. As an elected official, you may even get an award from a major Catholic institution. But if you're the kind of Catholic who seeks to discipline his or her life around Catholic beliefs regarding marriage and family, religious freedom, sex, and abortion—well, that's a different matter, as Democratic Congressman Dan Lipinski discovered when his own party dumped him in a primary earlier this year. In Bill Maher's immortal words, a woman like Amy Coney Barrett, whatever her professional credentials, is just "a [expletive] nut."***

What makes Archbishop Chaput's essay so important is that what is going on right now in the campaign against Judge Barrett is a harbinger of things to come, and not just for Catholics:

> ***Today's hostility toward those who support Catholic teaching should concern every practicing Catholic—and anyone who values the First Amendment. If attacks on belief are an acceptable standard by which to impugn judicial nominees today, then tomorrow they'll be used on the rest of us who uphold the teachings of our faith. What's been playing out in Senate confirmation hearings and public debates over judicial nominees is a harbinger of future attacks on the Church herself and on any Catholic who holds with her enduring moral witness. Over the past decade, we've already seen the Catholic Church— and many of her ministries and institutions—targeted specifically for matters of belief.***
>
> ***Those who value our First Amendment right to religious freedom should realize that tests about belief are attacks on religious liberty. And positioning dissenting Catholics as "mainstream Americans" and believing Catholics as "extremists"—now a common and thoroughly dishonest culture war technique—is a particular affront to the free exercise of religion. It puts the rights of far more Americans at risk than will ever be nominated for the court.***

Why are abortion activists Kamala Harris, Hillary Clinton 'deeply sorry' over Chrissy Teigen's miscarriage?

In Planned Parenthood facilities, babies just like Chrissy Teigen's son don't get blood transfusions.

By Jonathon Van Maren

On October 1, celebrity model Chrissy Teigen posted a heartbreaking photograph to Instagram. In the photo, she is sitting on the edge of a hospital bed, wrapped in a blanket, her face seized with grief. Her caption explained that she and her husband John Legend had lost their pre-born son, whom they named Jack. "We are shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before. We were never able to stop the bleeding and give our baby the fluids he needed, despite bags and bags of blood transfusions. It just wasn't enough."

She and her husband, she wrote, were mourning their son: "Jack worked so hard to be a part of our little family, and he will be, forever. To our Jack — I'm so sorry that the first few moments of your life were met with so many complications, that we couldn't give you the home you needed to survive. We will always love you." Another heartbreaking photo shows Teigen and Legend cradling their deceased son.

The internet response was, for once, free of the ugliness that generally characterizes social media. But for many pro-lifers, it was impossible not to notice that the very same people currently campaigning for the right to end the lives of pre-born children the same age as little Jack suddenly forgot that according to their ideology, Jack was not a person. Jack's life ended at twenty weeks gestation at a time when Democrats from New York to New Jersey are expanding abortion rights to allow people to abort children the same age as Jack was when he passed.

Hillary Clinton offered her condolences, stating that she was "so deeply sorry to hear of this loss." Abortion activist and vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris also chimed in, stating that she and her husband "are deeply sorry for your loss." And in a moment of supreme chutzpah, Planned Parenthood tweeted: "We're so sorry to hear that Chrissy Teigen and John Legend lost their son, and we admire them for sharing their story."

Planned Parenthood would have *just as much admiration* if Teigen and Legend had aborted Jack at twenty weeks at one of Planned Parenthood's facilities and shared that story. Whether you're mourning a loss or shouting your abortion, Planned Parenthood is here for you. It's part of the P.R. that allows the company to continue making a killing.

This is not an attempt to make a personal tragedy political. It is simply to point out that our culture, our elites, pro-abortion politicians, even the abortion industry — everyone *knows* that Jack was a baby boy, not a clump of cells. That is why condolences from abortion extremists like Clinton and Harris came so easily: because those condolences were sincere, because Clinton and Harris *know* that the baby in the womb is a baby. Despite that knowledge, they defend the right to have children like Jack killed in the womb.

In Planned Parenthood facilities, baby boys and girls just like Jack don't get blood transfusions. They get pulled apart with forceps, and the abortionist "deflates" their heads to ensure that they are born dead. Hillary Clinton knows this. Kamala Harris knows this. The abortionists at Planned Parenthood know this. *Everybody knows this, and everybody supports it anyway.* Everyone has seen a sonogram, or an ultrasound. When people say they are expecting, nobody asks them what they are expecting. That's because *everybody knows*. And if they say they don't, ask them one question: *What do you think the baby on the last ultrasound you saw would look like once the abortionist is done with him?*

The public and universal affirmation of Jack's value and humanity has been a beautiful thing. This affirmation reveals something ugly and sinister about our culture's support for abortion. It means that Planned Parenthood, Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris, and the rest of the abortion activists offering their condolences for the loss of this little boy know that when they advocate for abortion to be legal for children like Jack, they know what they are doing. They know. And they do not care.

We should not forget that.

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

"Factcheckers" furiously running interference for Biden/Harris

By Dave Andrusko

It's a question that is asked more and more and more these days: who fact checks the Factcheckers?

Talk about assuming the high moral ground. We are assured that Politifact, Snopes, and the *Washington Post's* Factchecker (to name just three prominent examples) are unbiased investigators, titans of non-partisanship, who merely match the "facts" up against what someone (often a politician) says. Or, as Glenn Kessler modestly tells us, the *Post's*" Fact Checker" represents "The Truth Behind The Rhetoric."

What if—just asking—your newspaper has been on a journalistic jihad against one man, not only for the entirety of his administration, but before? What if you run an endless stream of attack stories, opinion pieces, and editorials accusing President Trump of everything but kidnapping the Lindberg baby?

What if your media columnist, in a pity-party explanation of how you bungled the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, concluded, "News organizations failed to understand the tear-it-all-down mood of large segments of the voting public, or the racism and sexism that often fueled it." Just guessing, but I think Margaret Sullivan is talking about us deplorables who voted for Donald Trump.

Given all that—and much, much more—should anyone really believe, when it comes to anything President Trump (or Vice President Mike Pence) says, your fact checking is worth a hill of beans?

The bone-in-the-throat for most of these Factcheckers is captured in this Washington Post headline: "Fact Checker: Pence falsely claims Biden wants abortion up to 'moment of birth.'" Heads up, there is nothing original in Salvador Rizzo's critique of this statement from Mr. Pence at last night's debate: "Joe Biden and Kamala Harris support taxpayer funding of abortion all the way up to the moment of birth, late-term abortion."

Channeling the Biden/Harris/Media consensus, Rizzo tells us flatly in his opening paragraph,

"Neither Biden nor Harris supports 'late-term abortion and infanticide.' They do not support funding abortion 'up to the moment of birth.'"

Here's how Rizzo comes to this conclusion. (He's has practice. He's written about this before):

> **Biden supports abortion rights and says he would codify in statute the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Roe v. Wade and related precedents, which generally limit abortions to the first 20 to 24 weeks of gestation.**

What "precedents" is Rizzo alluding to? *Roe's* companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, defined *Roe's* "health exception" as including "all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age — relevant to the wellbeing of the patient."

Even *PBS's* Frontline acknowledged this was "an expansive definition."

Rizzo immediately turns to the classic (and I do mean classic) dodge:

> **Most abortions are performed in the earlier stages of pregnancy. About 1 percent happen after the fetus reaches the point of viability. Trump and antiabortion advocates have claimed for months that Biden supports abortion "up until the moment of birth," a claim we have awarded Three Pinocchios.**
>
> **They argue that some laws and court decisions have opened loopholes that allow abortions to the very end of a pregnancy. Experts have told us abortions up to the moment of birth, what could be described as infanticide, are not happening in the United States.**

"One percent" would in the range of 9,000 abortions. As NRLC has explained repeatedly, the number is much more likely to be in the 11,000 to 13,000 range. And that is without knowing what is taking place in California.

Contrary to Rizzo, there are a handful of abortionists who annihilate unborn babies late into the third trimester. There aren't more, because you have to certain kind of human being to do that to a huge baby who months previously had reached viability. But no Supreme Court decision prevents them from taking the child's life.

A 2015 story in the *Daily Camera* talked about how infamous abortionist Warren Hern aborted a 35-week-old unborn baby. We read that Hern "rarely speaks of individual cases, but Hern has said he also performs late abortions for women who are not facing any grave medical outcome."

Next [and this is recycled from earlier "Fact Checks"]

> **Some Democrats support abortion rights, but that doesn't mean they support**

See "Factcheckers," page 39

Supreme Court holds off deciding case that suspended FDA rule on chemical abortions

By Dave Andrusko

When last we discussed District Judge Theodore Chuang's July 14 decision to suspend a FDA rule requiring a woman to have an in-person doctor's visit before undergoing a chemical abortion during the COVID-19 pandemic, 11 states had filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in support of the Trump Administration's motion for a stay of the district court's ruling.

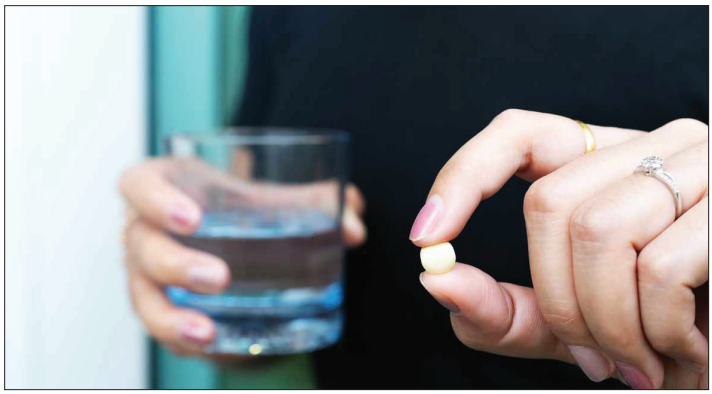
On October 8, the justices issued a one-page opinion essentially putting the case on hold. The justices wrote:

> **The Government argues that, at a minimum, the injunction is overly broad in scope, given that it applies nationwide and for an indefinite duration regardless of the improving conditions in any individual State. Without indicating this Court's views on the merits of the District Court's order or injunction, a more comprehensive record would aid this Court's review. The Court will therefore hold the Government's application in abeyance to permit the District Court to promptly consider a motion by the Government to dissolve, modify, or stay the injunction, including on the ground that relevant circumstances have changed. … The District Court should rule within 40 days of receiving the Government's submission.**

Justice Alito, joined by Justice Thomas, dissented and blasted Judge Chuang who

> **took it upon himself to overrule the FDA on a question of drug safety. Disregarding THE CHIEF JUSTICE's admonition against judicial second-guessing of officials with public health responsibilities, the judge concluded that requiring women seeking a medication abortion to pick up mifepristone in person during the COVID–19 pandemic constitutes an "undue burden" on the abortion right, and he therefore issued a nationwide injunction against enforcement of the FDA's requirement. The judge apparently was not troubled by the fact that those responsible for public health in Maryland thought it safe for women (and men) to leave the house and engage in numerous activities that present at least as much risk as visiting a clinic—such as indoor restaurant dining, visiting hair salons and barber shops, all sorts of retail establishments, gyms and other indoor exercise facilities, nail salons, youth sports events, and, the State's casinos. And the judge made the injunction applicable throughout the country, including in locales with very low infection rates and limited COVID–19 restrictions.**

The Trump Administration had asked the Supreme Court to reinstate the FDA protective measures as it appeals. In commenting on the 4th



Circuit's decision not to stay Judge Chung's decision, the Trump Administration wrote that "The Fourth Circuit necessarily would have rejected two settled principles in this Court's precedents:

> **first, that a regulatory requirement imposed on one abortion method is not unconstitutional when another safe abortion method remains readily available; and second, that merely incidental effects on abortion access do not render an otherwise valid law unconstitutional, especially when those effects are not caused by the government. Apart from the merits, the nationwide scope of the injunction independently warrants review. The circumstances here — in which a single district court, presented with a suit by a single physician and a handful of organizations, displaced the FDA's scientific judgment with respect to every medication abortion provider in the country — illustrate the problems with allowing district courts to award relief untethered to the established injuries of the specific plaintiffs before them.**

In their brief, filed in the 4th U.S. Court of Appeals, the 11 states argued that rules such as the requirement that mifepristone be dispensed only in a clinic, medical office, or hospital protects women's health and "are not unduly burdensome even in the current public health emergency."

"When a woman ingests mifepristone for the purpose of

See "Case," page 39

21 days until November 3. What do we know? A great deal!

From page 1

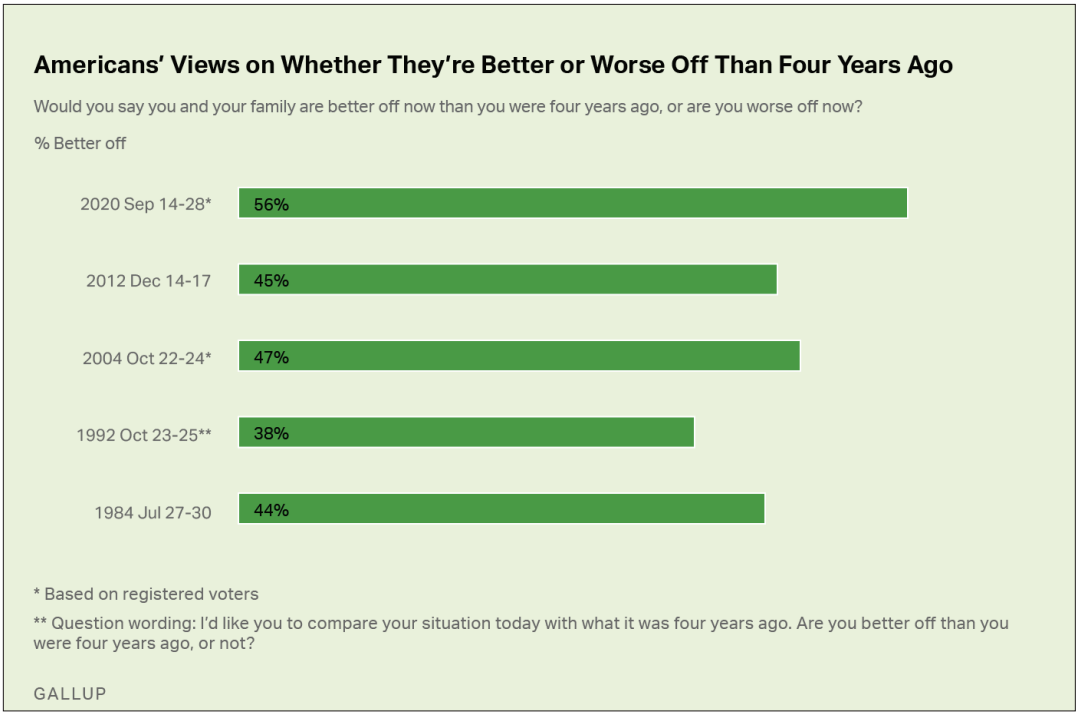
canceled the second debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. …" As of now what would have been the third debate, scheduled for October 22 in Nashville, is still on.

*"Poll: 56% Americans Say They Are Better Off Now Under Trump Than Four Years Ago Under Obama-Biden… Only 32 percent say they are worse off than four years ago"—*Matthew Boyles.* Byron York described this as "a jaw breaking number from Gallup."

*"You'll know my opinion on Court-packing when the election is over"—Joe Biden on Thursday.

*"What kind of prognostic factors can be observed? Polls don't measure the plethora of Trump signs and dearth of Biden signs seen when driving around town. What about Trump rallies with tens of thousands of attendees versus Biden "rallies" with a few dozen attendees, mostly media and Secret Service?

"What about voter enthusiasm? There were hundreds of Trump supporters driving their cars, trucks and motorcycles across blue state Colorado while the president was in the hospital battling COVID" — Brian C. Joondeph.



*"Republicans Are Spending $60 Million on a Digital Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign: The Republican National Committee has unleashed its biggest digital push to date to get voters to cast their ballots — even if it means by mail" — *New York Times*

*"With Less Than a Month Until the Election, Donald Trump Is Doing Better in Swing State Polls Than This Time in 2016"—Katherine Fung

And

*"An increasing number think neighbors support Trump. By an 11-point margin, more think their neighbors are for Trump than Biden. In August, that was a 5-point spread"—*Fox News*.

One of the very best predictors of the mood of the voters is how they respond to the question whether they are better off than they were four years before. Gallup told us last Thursday "During his presidential campaign in 1980, Ronald Reagan asked Americans, 'Are you better off today than you were four years ago?' Since then, this question has served as a key standard that sitting presidents running for reelection have been held to Gallup's most recent survey found a clear majority of registered voters (56%) saying they are better off now than they were four years ago, while 32% said they are worse off."

What I had not seen highlighted was this additional finding from Gallup: that 49% of respondents agreed with Trump on the issues to 46% for Biden. This (as Gallup prefaced the question), "Whether you agree or disagree with [Donald Trump/ Joe Biden] on the issues that matter most to you."

And while more found Biden "Likeable" [66% to 36% for Trump], more found Trump a "Strong and Decisive Leader" [56% to 46% for Biden].

With a lead in the national polls, Mr. Biden has long since put his campaign into cruise control. By Biden skipping virtually all appearances in the flesh and his campaign almost entirely foregoing door to door campaigning, this serves the dual purposes of fending off questions about Biden's staying power and ensuring that the Biden/Harris bubble is not disrupted by bad news when they meet real voters.

In light of Jake Tapper's impatient inquiry, it'll be interesting to see if Biden can hold off saying anything about whether he agrees with his party—that the Supreme Court ought to be stacked with additional pro-abortion justices, like cordwood. The number of justices hasn't changed since the middle of the 19th Century, so no wonder Biden (and running mate fellow pro-abortionist Sen. Kamala Harris) flatly refuse to state their position.

There are intangible tangibles, you might say, about any election. They can say a lot or very little. I subscribe to the latter interpretation having worked on campaigns for years before I came to National Right to Life.

For example, one measure of "Enthusiasm" is what people

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The 2016 Democrat party platform explicitly called for a repeal of the Hyde amendment and presidential candidate Joe Biden flip-flopped last year, announcing that he would endorse government funding of abortion.

The enactment of the Hyde Amendment corresponded with the sudden halt in the meteoric rise in abortions that occurred after *Roe,* leveling off increases that had been 6% or more a year before 1980. Notably, abortion rates and ratios, which had also jumped in the 70s, also declined throughout the 80s.

Parental Involvement

During that same time frame, the Supreme Court with *Bellotti v. Baird* (1979) and *HL v. Matheson* (1981), began to allow states to implement legislation requiring that the parents of minors consent to, or at least be informed about, their teen's intent to abort.

Twenty-four states enacted parental involvement legislation between 1981 and 1992. During this time frame, abortions to women aged 15-19, which had been nearly 445,000 in 1980, the year before President Reagan took office, had fallen fell almost 295,000 by 1992, President George H.W. Bush's last year in office.

Teen abortions and abortion rates have been on a steady fall since the mid-1980s and have accelerated downward as more and more states have passed similar legislation. By 2010, teen abortions and abortion rates were only about a third of what they were in 1980. over that 30-year span, this group alone accounted for nearly 64% of the drop in abortions.

How much was attributable to changes in the law and how much to larger changes in the culture we can't say definitively. But the timing and specific demographic impact do point to the laws having significant effect.

Informed Consent

The Supreme Court's *Casey* decision in 1992 opened the door to informed consent legislation, where a woman considering abortion would be given information on fetal development and told of abortion's risks and life preserving alternatives to abortion. Waiting periods to allow time reflection on the information were also allowed by that decision.

By 2018, twenty-eight states had effective informed consent statutes in place and twenty-nine had passed waiting periods.

Again, while absolute cause and effect are difficult to determine, it is interesting that abortions and abortion rates began some of their deepest and steadiest drops at this time. Guttmacher recorded 1,528,930 abortions in 1992 and an abortion rate of 25.7 abortions for every thousand women of reproductive age (15-44) as of July 1st that year. In 2017, after more than half the states had passed informed consent and waiting period legislation, the U.S. abortion rate dropped nearly half –to 13.5—and the number of abortions had decreased to 862,320—also a drop of almost half.

Though many of these laws were passed by the states during the Clinton administration, it must be made clear there was nothing Clinton did to encourage such legislation. Whatever impact this legislation had, he could not legitimately claim credit for it.

Partial-Birth Bans & Other Legislation

Another piece of legislation conspicuously situated on the timeline is the ban on Partial-Birth abortion. Though not allowed to go into effect until the Supreme Court ruled the federal ban constitutional in 2007 in *Gonzales v Carhart*, efforts to pass such bans at the state and federal level first appeared in the mid-1990s. Attempts to secure passage os such legislation through the early 2000s served to stimulate national discussion on the nature, morality, and legality of abortion.

Though directly affecting only a portion of the abortion being performed, that a "procedure" which sucked out the brains of a still-living unborn baby partially delivered was legally being done at all was a shock to many Americans.

How much the debate over this legislation is difficult to precisely determine. But note what Gallup reported: "It appears that partial-birth abortion became an important factor for Americans to consider when crystallizing their own positions on abortion"—that is, a large increase in the number of people who believed abortion should either be illegal in all circumstances or legal only in a few circumstances. Clearly, the intense debate helped contribute to the continuing drop in the number of abortion from the late 1990s forward.

Abortion advocates, while careful not to credit pro-life legislation as the main driver for recent drops, have lamented the recent surge of "more than 400 anti-abortion laws" (*Nation's Health*, September 2019) and admitted that recent clinic regulations and requirements on abortionists "played a role in shutting down abortion clinics in some states…" (*Guttmacher Policy Review*, 2019).

The Importance of Supreme Court Appointments

Precisely because of the way that law and legislation has affected public attitudes and behaviors towards abortion, the clearest way that presidents contribute to the rise or fall in the number of abortions is through appointments to the Supreme Court.

Abortion would not be legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any reason had not the Supreme Court, in a breathtaking show of raw judicial power, suddenly decreed it so on January 23, 1973.

The rulings in *Harris v. McRae* (1980), *Bellotti v. Baird* (1979), and *H.L. v. Matheson* (1981), the cases which allowed the first limits on abortion, were close calls.

Harris v. McRae, which held the Hyde Amendment and its limits on federal abortion funding constitutional, was decided by a 5-4 majority. *Bellotti* and *Matheson*, which

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first allowed parents to be involved in their minor child's abortion decisions, were both 6-3 decisions, with a couple of justices giving only limited support.

Rust v. Sullivan (1991), the case allowing the government to prohibit abortion counseling and referrals among recipients of its Title X family planning program, was similarly decided by another close 5-4 decision, this time with three new justices appointed by Reagan supplying the margin.

Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) was a mixed decision, with different majorities voting to both uphold *Roe* and allow informed consent legislation.

Yet without votes supplied by Reagan and George H.W. Bush appointees, states would not have been allowed to tell women of abortion's risks, the basics of fetal development, and life preserving alternatives to abortion.

By contrast Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and 1994, respectively, were dependable votes preserving the legality of abortion, no matter how extreme. Those two new justices supplied the margin needed to allow partial-birth abortions to continue in the court's 5-4 *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000) decision, the first case testing the constitutionality of that ban, in this case, a state law.

Seven years later, after two appointments by George W. Bush (John Roberts and Samuel Alito, both in 2005), the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision going the other way, held a federal ban on partial-birth abortion constitutional in *Gonzales v. Carhart* (2007).

Obama appointments in 2009 (Sonia Sotomayor) and 2010 (Elena Kagan) helped provide the margin in 2016's *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, a 5-3 decision disallowing the application of basic safety regulations on abortion clinics in Texas along with state requirements that abortionists have admitting privileges at local hospitals for any of their patients who might have complications.

Two new appointments by President Donald Trump--Neil Gorsuch (2017) and Brett Kavanaugh (2018)—merely replaced prior Republican appointees, and so were not enough to tilt the 5-4 balance of the court in *June Medial Services LLC v. Russo*, the 2020 case considering clinic regulations and required admitting privileges in Louisiana.

Shifting the court's balance is difficult and the opportunity is rare. Most recent appointments have been those allowing a president to replace a justice chosen by previous president of his own party, largely maintaining the status quo on the bench.

This is why Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to replace abortion stalwart Ruth Bader Ginsburg has the potential to alter the course of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on abortion for decades.

Which to also why pro-abortion Senate Democrats and the Abortion Industry are so determined to smear Judge Amy Coney Barrett at every turn.

Summary

The rise and fall of abortions appear to correspond most neatly with the implementation of laws limiting abortion's performance and promotion. Abortion rates began to fall once the federal government cut off funds with the Hyde Amendment in 1980, with teens leading the decline once the Supreme Court allowed states to pass parental involvement laws in the decades that followed.

A big drop occurred in the 1990s once the court allowed states to pass informed consent legislation, assuring that women knew abortion's risks, realistic alternatives to abortion, and the development of their unborn child.

A ban on partial-birth abortion legislation, first attempted in the mid1990s, finally ruled constitutional in 2007, helped educate the public about the nature of abortion and the humanity of the unborn child, important information the abortion industry had never made clear to its clients.

In all these cases, the composition of the Court was key. Had it been different, those laws would not have been upheld, partial-birth abortion would be legal, women would not be told the truth about abortion, parents would not be informed about their minor child's abortion decisions, and the federal government would have been funding hundreds of thousands of abortions a year with taxpayer dollars.

And there would surely be thousands and thousands more abortions being performed every year in the United States—many more unborn lives would be snuffed out.

The bottom line is that is **does** matter—enormously—to the babies who is elected president.

The Day the FDA Abandoned the First Principle of Medical Ethics

From page 25

forward, more women must have ”access,” more babies must die.

So far, to its great credit, the FDA has resisted the efforts of advocates and their institutional and media allies to loosen regulations further. They want the pill to be prescribed and sold by webcam and over the internet by doctors and lower level clinicians whom the women have never actually met and who would not be available to help her if she began to hemorrhage or if her ectopic pregnancy ruptured or if she contracted a deadly infection from tissue from the aborted baby still in her uterus.

But the pressure of mifepristone's well placed, well heeled advocates is unrelenting. Twenty years after the FDA first approved the sale of mifepristone, backer keep pushing in the backrooms of the FDA, the halls of Congress, the courts, and in the courts of public opinion.

It's what they were after from the beginning. More abortions to more women in more locations than ever. In fact the goal is access as easy as one's own personal computer or smart phone, as near as one own house, one's own mailbox so as to be able to perform "Do-It-Yourself" abortions.

There is another part of the Hippocratic Oath that the approval of mifepristone specifically violated: "I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect." In case the intent wasn't clear, the oath further specifies, "Similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy. In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art."

The FDA may not have realized what it was getting itself in for when it compromised that first principle twenty years ago. But once medicine has given up the idea that its job is always and only to heal, and never to kill patients–that drugs can legally be used to kill unborn children and wantonly endanger their mothers–it has set itself up for a deeper and deeper descent into the dark abyss.

Twenty years. But it's not too late to reverse course, not so long as pro-lifers never give up—which they never will!

Surprise visit from Lara Trump gives pregnancy center encouragement in its work

From page 28

The center's Client Services Coordinator Wanda told *Pregnancy Help News* the visit from Trump was "awesome.'

"You talk about a whirlwind," she said. "But a good kind of whirlwind."

"It was truly from God because we've been under spiritual warfare," said Wanda.

The center has been getting nasty phone calls from abortion supporters, she said.

"We are doing the right thing," she said. "And Satan – he's worried."

Wanda held hands with Pierson, prayed with her and heard her personal pro-life testimony.

"They were very down to earth," she recalled. "You could tell they had a love for Christ, and they're everyday people like us."

Center staff shared how they help women no matter how they feel about their pregnancy.

"I think that makes us stand out," said Wanda. "We continue a relationship with these women."

She was grateful as well for the visit from Trump and her companions.

"All the darkness we've had," reflected Wanda. "God sent us a ray of sunshine yesterday."

Editor's note: Heartbeat International manages Pregnancy Help News, where this appeared and the Abortion Pill Rescue Network. Reposted with permission.

21 days until November 3. What do we know? A great deal!

From page 35

tell you. And that is important. But boots on the ground; people coming out at all hours of the day and night to a rally. That's people acting, not responding to a survey. As Mary Kay Linge wrote

> **As Ryan's boat joined at least 2,000 other watercraft for the Trump Law and Order Boat Parade, the same scene was playing out in dozens of harbors, rivers and lakes from the Jersey Shore to San Diego that Labor Day weekend.**
>
> **One week later, on Sept. 12, more than 16,000 cars, pickups, motorcycles and semis festooned with banners and bunting jammed Cincinnati's I-275 beltway in a convoy that looped through three states, one of several Trump car caravans being organized on Facebook. Meanwhile, an unknown fan in Norwell, Mass., stenciled "Trump 2020" in bright yellow letters across the travel lanes of busy Route 3 (Highway crews quickly painted over the message.)**
>
> **Public displays of exuberant affection for Trump have been building for months now. …**

There is one other component, of many I could mention. As *Newsweek's* Katherine Fung wrote last Wednesday, while President Trump is still behind, he is faring slightly better in Battleground states this time around than he did in 2016 at a similar junction. At that was before a new poll coming out of Arizona found the President up 48% to 44% for Mr. Biden.

As I will say right up through the Election Day, pay no attention to what the media is telling you. The President's campaign has done the grunt work for months and months and months. And, as the *New York Times* reported, the campaign is going all-out on the all-important Get Out The Vote.

This election is going down to the wire.

Supreme Court holds off deciding case that suspended FDA rule on chemical abortions

From page 34

aborting a fetus, she not only ends the life of her unborn child, but also undergoes significant risks to her own body," Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill said. "Federal and state laws require physical examinations and in-person dispensing of mifepristone to ensure that physicians check for contraindications and that women fully understand the risks."

In addition, more than 20 pro-life leaders, including NRL President Carol Tobias, have written to the head of the FDA urging Dr. Stephen Hahn "to protect American women and preborn children by removing the abortion pill (mifepristone) from the US market."

The letter thoroughly and systematically disputed the conclusion reached by Judge Chuang, an Obama appointee, that such self-administered abortions are safe.

For example,

> **This lethal drug that the FDA permits for killing innocent preborn children during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy is also highly dangerous for women. According to the FDA's adverse event reporting system, the abortion pill has resulted in over 4,000 reported adverse events since 2000, including 24 maternal deaths. Adverse events are notoriously underreported to the FDA, and as of 2016, the FDA only requires abortion pill manufacturers to report maternal deaths. Manufacturers gather this information from the prescribers, such as Planned Parenthood facilities. Yet, women who experience side effects like heavy bleeding, abdominal pain, or severe infections are likely to seek care at emergency rooms, not the abortion facilities where they received the pills. Since emergency rooms are not required to report abortion pill adverse events to the FDA, the true number of adverse events is impossible to assess.**

"Factcheckers" furiously running interference for Biden/Harris

From page 33

> **"extreme late-term abortions," experts told us. "That's like saying everyone who 'supports' the Second Amendment 'supports' school shootings," said Katie L. Watson, a professor at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.**

Did Rizzo not blush when he wrote "Some Democrats support abortion rights"? You can count the exceptions on the fingers of one hand. As for the idiotic school shooting comparison, Newsbusters' Tim Graham wrote

> **This is a "fact check"? People can support the Second Amendment and still oppose school shootings as a violent crime. Abortion supporters believe in killing the unborn as the precious right for women.**

Then there is this from our friendly *WaPo* Factchecker:

> **The Supreme Court's rulings in Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey say states may ban abortion after the fetus reaches viability, the point at which it can sustain life, which happens at or near the end of the second trimester. States with such bans must allow an exception "to preserve the life or health of the mother."**
>
> **These rulings don't force states to ban abortions. Some states don't have gestational-age restrictions, though most do. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 43 states have laws restricting abortion after the fetus reaches a certain gestational age.**

The end of the second trimester is 26 weeks. There is precious little public support for late term abortions in general, and certainly not at 26 weeks. Note also that Rizzo (in an oh-by-the-way fashion] sneaks in the exception "to preserve the life or health of the mother" without explaining that represents virtual carte blanche to abortion on demand.

Guttmacher is correct. There are seven states with no restrictions. One of them is Colorado. The abortion industry and the media are furiously fighting against a ballot initiative that , if passed, would ban abortions at 22 weeks, without the input of the state's Democrat governor or legislature.

"You're entitled to your own opinion, you're not entitled to your own facts," Mr. Pence said during last night's debate. Would that Mr. Rizzo only agreed.

What do the party platforms actually say about abortion? It's vitally important to know.

By Dave Andrusko

Editor's note. During the first presidential debate, pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden announced authoritatively, "The party is me. Right now, I am the Democratic Party. ...I am the Democratic Party right now. ...The platform of the Democratic Party is what I, in fact, approved of, what I approved of." More than ever, then, it's imperative to know what the Democrats' platform plank on abortion says—and contrast it with the diametrically opposed pro-life Republican platform plank on abortion.

Party platforms are rarely read outside activist circles. As one author put it, "Political parties' platforms – their statements of where they stand on issues – get little respect."

But they should, as Professor Emeritus Marjorie Hershey writes, because they "help you predict what the national government will actually do during the next four years."

Thus what the Republican Party and the Democrat Party have to say about abortion in 2020 is must reading for us. And they could not possibly be any more different.

Below is the entirety of the Republican platform on abortion—"The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Human Life "—and the Democrats'—"Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice."

They are best read without commentary from me or anyone else. Why? Simply because the platforms virtually speak for themselves.

As you read them, ask yourself what is their first language, their mother tongue, if you will? Once you compare and contrast, you will be struck by the stunning differences in language, lexicon, and love.

2020 Republican Party Platform on abortion
The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Human Life

The Constitution's guarantee that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth.

We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare. We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research, and we call on Congress to enact a ban on any sale of fetal body parts. In the meantime, we call on Congress to ban the practice of misleading women on so-called fetal harvesting consent forms, a fact revealed by a 2015 investigation. We will not fund or subsidize healthcare that includes abortion coverage.

We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life. We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from individuals with disabilities, newborns, the elderly, or the infirm, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We affirm our moral obligation to assist, rather than penalize, women who face an unplanned pregnancy. In order to encourage women who face an unplanned pregnancy to choose life, we support legislation that requires financial responsibility for the child be equally borne by both the mother and father upon conception until the child reaches adulthood. Failure to require a father to be equally responsible for a child places an inequitable burden on the mother, creating a financial and social hardship on both mother and child. We celebrate the millions of Americans who open their hearts, homes, and churches to mothers in need and women fleeing abuse. We thank and encourage providers of counseling, medical services, and adoption assistance for empowering women experiencing an unintended pregnancy to choose life. We support funding for ultrasounds and adoption assistance. We salute the many states that now protect women and girls through laws requiring informed consent, parental consent, waiting periods, and clinic regulation. We condemn the Supreme Court's activist decision in Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt striking down commonsense Texas laws providing for basic health and safety standards in abortion clinics.

We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for leading the effort to add enforcement to the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act by passing the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which imposes appropriate civil and criminal penalties on healthcare providers who fail to provide treatment and care to an infant who survives an abortion, including early induction delivery whether the death of the infant is intended. We strongly oppose infanticide. Over a dozen states have passed PainCapable Unborn Child Protection Acts prohibiting abortion after twenty weeks, the point at which current medical research shows that unborn babies can feel excruciating pain during abortions, and we call on Congress to enact the federal version. Not only is it good legislation, but it enjoys the support of a majority of the American people. We support state and federal efforts against the cruelest forms of abortion, especially dismemberment abortion procedures, in which unborn babies are literally torn apart limb from limb.

We call on Congress to ban sex-selection abortions and abortions based on disabilities — discrimination in its most lethal form. We oppose embryonic stem cell research. We oppose federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. We support adult stem cell research and urge the restoration of the national placental stem cell bank created by President George H.W. Bush but abolished by his Democrat successor, President Bill Clinton. We oppose federal funding for harvesting embryos and call for a ban on human cloning.

The Democratic Party is extreme on abortion. Democrats' almost limitless support for abortion, and their strident opposition to even the most basic restrictions on abortion, put them dramatically out of step with the American people. Because of their opposition to simple abortion clinic safety procedures, support for taxpayer-funded abortion, and rejection of pregnancy resource centers that provide abortion alternatives, the old Clinton mantra of "safe, legal, and rare" has been reduced to just "legal." We are proud to be the party that protects human life and offers real solutions for women.

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What do the party platforms actually say about abortion?

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2020 Democratic Party Platform on abortion
Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion. We will repeal the Title X domestic gag rule and restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood, which provides vital preventive and reproductive health care for millions of people, especially low-income people, and people of color, and LGBTQ+ people, including in underserved areas.

Democrats oppose and will fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to reproductive health and rights. We will repeal the Hyde Amendment, and protect and codify the right to reproductive freedom. We condemn acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients, and staff. We will address the discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive health care services, including those based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, income, disability, geography, and other factors. Democrats oppose restrictions on medication abortion care that are inconsistent with the most recent medical and scientific evidence and that do not protect public health.

We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care; medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family. We are proud to be the party of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits discrimination in health care on the basis of sex and requires insurers to cover prescription contraceptives at no cost. These efforts have significantly reduced teen and unintended pregnancies by making it easier to decide whether, when, and how to have a child.

We believe that a person's health should always come first. Democrats will protect the rights of all people to make personal health care decisions, and will reject the Trump Administration's use of broad exemptions to allow medical providers, employers, and others to discriminate.

Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Opening Statement before Senate Judiciary Committee

From page 1

It has been a privilege to meet you.

As I said when I was nominated to serve as a Justice, I am used to being in a group of nine—my family. Nothing is more important to me, and I am so proud to have them behind me.

My husband Jesse and I have been married for 21 years. He has been a selfless and wonderful partner at every step along the way. I once asked my sister, "Why do people say marriage is hard? I think it's easy." She said, "Maybe you should ask Jesse if he agrees." I decided not to take her advice. I know that I am far luckier in love than I deserve.

Jesse and I are parents to seven wonderful children. Emma is a sophomore in college who just might follow her parents into a career in the law. Vivian came to us from Haiti. When she arrived, she was so weak that we were told she might never walk or talk normally. She now deadlifts as much as the male athletes at our gym, and I assure you that she has no trouble talking. Tess is 16, and while she shares her parents' love for the liberal arts, she also has a math gene that seems to have skipped her parents' generation. John Peter joined us shortly after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and Jesse, who brought him home, still describes the shock on JP's face when he got off the plane in wintertime Chicago. Once that shock wore off, JP assumed the happy-go-lucky attitude that is still his signature trait. Liam is smart, strong, and kind, and to our delight, he still loves watching movies with Mom and Dad. Ten-year-old Juliet is already pursuing her goal of becoming an author by writing multiple essays and short stories, including one she recently submitted for publication. And our youngest—Benjamin, who has Down Syndrome—is the unanimous favorite of the family.

My own siblings are here, some in the hearing room and some nearby. Carrie, Megan, Eileen, Amanda, Vivian, and Michael are my oldest and dearest friends. We've seen each other through both the happy and hard parts of life, and I am so grateful that they are with me now.

My parents, Mike and Linda Coney, are watching from their New Orleans home. My father was a lawyer and my mother was a teacher, which explains how I ended up as a law professor. More important, my parents modeled for me and my six siblings a life of service, principle, faith, and love. I remember preparing for a grade-school spelling bee against a boy in my class. To boost my confidence, Dad sang, "Anything boys can do, girls can do better." At least as I remember it, I spelled my way to victory.

I received similar encouragement from the devoted teachers at St. Mary's Dominican, my all-girls high school in New Orleans. When I went to college, it never occurred to me that anyone would consider girls to be less capable than boys. My freshman year, I took a literature class filled with upperclassmen English majors. When I did my first presentation—on Breakfast at Tiffany's—I feared I had failed. But my professor filled me with confidence, became a mentor, and—when I graduated with a degree in English—gave me Truman Capote's collected works.

Although I considered graduate studies in English, I decided my passion forwords was better suited to deciphering statutes than novels. I was fortunate to havewonderful legal mentors—in particular, the judges for whom I clerked. The legendary Judge Laurence Silberman of the D.C. Circuit gave me my first job in the law and continues to teach me today. He was by my side during my Seventh Circuit hearing and investiture, and he is cheering me on from his living room now.

I also clerked for Justice Scalia, and like many law students, I felt like I knew the justice before I ever met him, because I had read so many of his colorful, accessible opinions. More than the style of his writing, though, it was the content of Justice Scalia's reasoning that shaped me.

His judicial philosophy was straightforward: A judge must apply the law as written, not as the judge wishes it were. Sometimes that approach meant reaching results that he did not like. But as he put it in one of his best known opinions, that is what it means to say we have a government of laws, not of men.

Justice Scalia taught me more than just law. He was devoted to his family, resolute in his beliefs, and fearless of criticism. And as I embarked on my own legal career, I resolved to maintain that same perspective. There is a tendency in our profession to treat the practice of law as all-consuming, while losing sight of everything else. But that makes for a shallow and unfulfilling life. I worked hard as a lawyer and a professor; I owed that to my clients, my students, and myself. But I never let the law define my identity or crowd out the rest of my life.

A similar principle applies to the role of courts. Courts have a vital responsibility to enforce the rule of law, which is critical to a free society. But courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in our public life. The policy decisions and value judgments of government must be made by the political branches elected by and accountable to the People. The public should not expect courts to do so, and courts should not try.

That is the approach I have strived to follow as a judge on the Seventh Circuit. In every case, I have carefully considered the arguments presented by the parties, discussed the issues with my colleagues on the court, and done my utmost to reach the result required by the law, whatever my own preferences might be. I try to remain mindful that, while my court decides thousands of cases a year, each case is the most important one to the parties involved. After all, cases are not like statutes, which are often named for their authors. Cases are named for the parties who stand to gain or lose in the real world, often through their liberty or livelihood.

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When I write an opinion resolving a case, I read every word from the perspective of the losing party. I ask myself how would I view the decision if one of my children was the party I was ruling against: Even though I would not like the result, would I understand that the decision was fairly reasoned and grounded in the law? That is the standard I set for myself in every case, and it is the standard I will follow as long as I am a judge on any court.

When the President offered this nomination, I was deeply honored. But it was not a position I had sought out, and I thought carefully before accepting. The confirmation process—and the work of serving on the Court if I am confirmed— requires sacrifices, particularly from my family. I chose to accept the nomination because I believe deeply in the rule of law and the place of the Supreme Court in our Nation. I believe Americans of all backgrounds deserve an independent Supreme Court that interprets our Constitution and laws as they are written. And I believe I can serve my country by playing that role.

I come before this Committee with humility about the responsibility I have been asked to undertake, and with appreciation for those who came before me. I was nine years old when Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to sit in this seat. She was a model of grace and dignity throughout her distinguished tenure on the Court. When I was 21 years old and just beginning my career, Ruth Bader Ginsburg sat in this seat. She told the Committee, "What has become of me could only happen in America." I have been nominated to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat, but no one will ever take her place. I will be forever grateful for the path she marked and the life she led.

If confirmed, it would be the honor of a lifetime to serve alongside the Chief Justice and seven Associate Justices. I admire them all and would consider each a valued colleague. And I might bring a few new perspectives to the bench. As the President noted when he announced my nomination, I would be the first mother of school-age children to serve on the Court. I would be the first Justice to join the Court from the Seventh Circuit in 45 years. And I would be the only sitting Justice who didn't attend law school at Harvard or Yale. I am confident that Notre Dame will hold its own, and maybe I could even teach them a thing or two about football.

As a final note, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the many Americans from all walks of life who have reached out with messages of support over the course of my nomination. I believe in the power of prayer, and it has been uplifting to hear that so many people are praying for me. I look forward to answering the Committee's questions over the coming days. And if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I pledge to faithfully and impartially discharge my duties to the American people as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Thank you.