



national  
**RIGHT TO LIFE**  
NEWS

November 2017







# national **RIGHT TO LIFE** NEWS

## Giving through #Giving Tuesday assists National Right to Life to save unborn lives

By Dave Andrusko

It's always a great joy to talk with National Right to Life's Jacki Ragan who has a hand in everything from State Organizational Development to NRLC social media fingerprint to NRLC's annual convention, the three day pro-life educational gathering of the year.

But Jacki also manages to find time to help NRLC become very much involved in what has come to be known as #GivingTuesday. This provides pro-lifers and those not familiar with National Right to Life the opportunity to donate to the



most effective single-issue pro-life organization in the world.

She provided me with some background about a movement (to quote NRLC's Rai Rojas) that "celebrates and supports giving."

Thanksgiving Day has morphed it more than a one-day celebration of family and friends. It is also now a time that precedes "Black Friday"--traditionally a huge shopping day immediately after Thanksgiving--- and "Cyber Monday"--the Monday after

*See "Giving," page 24*

## National Right to Life Applauds Pro-life Provision in House-passed Tax bill

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

On November 16, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which contains a new pro-life provision.

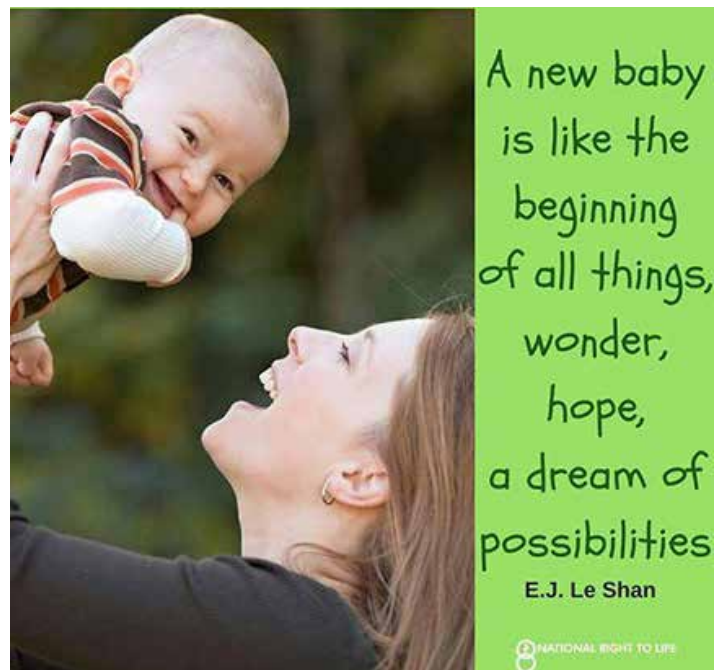
Under the provision, parents will be permitted to name unborn children as beneficiaries of 529 College Savings Plans, and be able to start saving for their unborn child's education before the baby is born. This would be the first time the

unborn child has been written into the tax code.

The National Right to Life Committee supports this provision because it recognizes, in at least one area of law, that unborn children are people.

Additionally, National Right to Life worked to ensure that the House bill restored the long-existing adoption tax credit,

*See "Applauds," page 24*



# Editorials

## The Pro-Life Movement and a season of Thanksgiving

The November digital edition of **National Right to Life News** came out Tuesday, November 21, two days before Thanksgiving. As always, the “pro-life newspaper of record” is an up-to-the-minute compilation of the stories that are most important to the pro-life community. Please read the issue in its entirety and pass its contents along to pro-life family and friends.

Last year Carol Tobias, NRLC’s president, wrote a wonderful column--“Bountiful Blessings on Thanksgiving”--that I would like to use as a jumping off point for this editorial. In her thoughtful remarks, Carol listed some of the primary reasons she was thankful as well as the principal reasons all pro-lifers should be filled with hope and encouragement. Those reasons are as strong today as they were a year ago (<http://bit.ly/2zT10Qz>).

Speaking for myself, the reason I am most thankful and which inspires the greatest hope are the people of our Movement. I do not travel as much as I used to, so the most prevalent way I communicate with grassroots pro-lifers is at NRLC’s annual convention (which next year will be in Kansas June 28-30) and through the email responses to the monthly **NRL News** and to the Monday through Saturday **NRL News Today**.

Through those one-on-one in-person conversations and the electronic back-and-forths, I see people genuinely inspired by life, grateful for life, and resolute in bringing to pass their vision for an America that will one day be abortion-free.

Something I’ve thought about a lot recently. You might argue that nothing better illustrates the contrasting worldviews that animate

*See “Season,” page 31*



## A testimony to the power of faith and to the “26th victim,” an unborn child

On November 8, we posted a story under the headline, “A tally of 26 murder victims that includes ‘space for one more’—an unborn child.”

I wrote about the awful slaughter of parishioners at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Sheriffs found the bodies of 22 of the victims in the church “but by their reasoning,” wrote Laurie Goodstein of the *New York Times*, “one more victim died there — inside the womb of Crystal Holcombe, who was killed in the pews along with three of her five children.”

The story was not primarily about the carnage. It was essentially Goodstein rounding up a veteran pro-abortionist to grouse about Unborn Victims of Violence laws variations of which are on the books in 38 states. Goodstein correctly reminded her readers that the federal law recognizing unborn children as second victims passed in 2004 after a five-year-long battle.

If the *Times* story was a low point, the high point probably was

a touching, tender story that ran last week in the *Washington Post*: “Family that lost 10 members in Texas church massacre remembered,” by Eva Ruth Moravec.

I dropped Ms. Moravec a line to tell her that her story simultaneously broke my heart and raised my spirits.

Here is her lead:

**FLORESVILLE, Tex. — Thousands of mourners said goodbye and celebrated the lives of an extended family that lost 10 of its members nearly two weeks ago in a mass shooting inside their small-town Texas church.**

**Colorful caskets contained the bodies of three generations of the Holcombe family, from an unborn child and a 1-year-old to the church’s 60-year-old associate pastor. Mourners overfilled an event center**

*See “Spirit,” page 32*



## From the President Carol Tobias

# Abortion: No Limits Allowed, and Proud of it



The debate over abortion has been raging since at least 1967, when Colorado became the first state to expand legalization of abortion.

And yet, after 50 years and more than 60 million dead babies, this country is still not comfortable talking about abortion. It's not a topic at the family dinner table. "Well, Susie, what did you do today?" "Oh, I went to Planned Parenthood and got an abortion." Or "I took my friend to the abortion clinic." Any woman who is considering abortion knows that someone-- a family member, a friend, co-worker, or neighbor--would tell her not to do it.

Why is that? Why do we have that deep-seated discomfort about abortion? Because everyone has that still small voice telling us that we're talking about the life of a small, innocent human being.

For many years, political leaders who supported abortion would say they were "personally opposed" to abortion, which was code for "but I'm not going to do anything to stop it." Then Bill Clinton came along and said abortion should be "safe, legal, and rare." To show you his sincerity as President, he did everything he could to expand the abortion death toll, both in this country and overseas.

But that raised the question-- if there is nothing wrong with abortion and it should be legal for anyone who wants one, **why** should it be rare?

That kind of thinking, that type of reluctance hurts the pro-abortion cause. So groups like Planned Parenthood and NARAL needed to challenge the idea that abortion is bad; they needed to "remove the stigma." Thus came various campaigns

like "Shout Your Abortion," encouraging women to brag about their abortion, and, of course, the so-called "war on women." If you think unborn children should be protected, if you think there should be any limits on abortion, you are (supposedly) anti-woman.

Why won't the abortion industry acknowledge that there are complications and side-effects from abortion; that women have psychological and emotional problems after the abortion; that her risk of breast cancer increases after having an induced abortion?

Why do they not want to recognize the wisdom in bringing parents into the decision-making process when a minor girl is pregnant and considering abortion?

Why are ultrasounds and pregnancy resource centers such a threat to their industry?

**Because every time a woman chooses life rather than abortion, every time there are limits placed on abortion, it implicitly or explicitly signals there is something wrong with the procedure.**

During the 2016 presidential campaign, it was not until the last debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump that there finally was a discussion about the candidates' positions on abortion. The moderator pointed out that Clinton had voted to keep partial-birth abortion legal. She defended her position, saying the decision belongs to the woman.

In response, Trump stated, "Well, I think it's terrible. If you go with what Hillary is saying, in the ninth month, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby. Now, you can say that that's OK and Hillary can say that that's OK. But it's not OK with me, because based on what she's saying, and based on where she's going, and where she's been, you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb in the ninth month on the final day. And that's not acceptable."

Clinton supporters went berserk. They were practically screaming, "That doesn't happen! Abortions don't happen that late in

pregnancy." They couldn't deny that Clinton actually does support abortion throughout all nine months because she does. And if they admitted that abortion shouldn't be legal, even late in pregnancy, their argument fails. If it's okay and necessary to protect an unborn child at any time (even very late in pregnancy), then abortion is not the simple risk-free expulsion of "fetal matter."

If there is one tiny crack in that position, if the unborn child is given any credibility, any humanity at all, their position falls apart.

Many know the story about the little Dutch boy who saw a crack in the dike that, if unchecked, could weaken the entire wall and a flood of water would destroy his town. He spent the night in a cold rain, holding his finger in that crack and was hailed the next morning as a hero for saving the town.

In the case of abortion, we want cracks, the more, the better. Think of abortion as the dike and opposition to legal abortion as the water seeking to overwhelm it. Planned Parenthood, NARAL, EMILY's List, and the entire abortion industry like to think they are the heroes holding their finger in the dike, trying to hold back the flood of pro-life activism that threatens to overwhelm them.

However, according to [www.dutchgenealogy.nl](http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl), the story is fiction and most Dutch people have never heard it. But as the website says, "...there's another twist to the story. Not even the Little Dutch Boy could have saved the town. You see, when a dike is about to break, a finger just does not cut it. Dikes don't typically leak—they weaken until whole sections are washed away. No finger will help when that happens."

Try as they might to buttress a firm wall of unlimited abortion on demand, the abortion industry will not succeed. Whole sections of that wall are washing away as pro-lifers elect candidates, enact laws, educate fellow citizens, and give pregnant women alternatives to abortion.

The babies **will** win!

# Free will, moral agency, and abortion

By Paul Stark

Nancy Pelosi, the U.S. House minority leader, often invokes God and free will when asked about her opposition to any legal limits on abortion. “We are all endowed with a free will and a responsibility to answer for our actions,” she has explained. “And ... women should have that opportunity to exercise their free will.”

Religious defenders of abortion often make this kind of argument. They appeal to choice or to the moral agency of women. “Choice is a God-given right,” says the Rev. Carlton Veazey, former president of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. He says he believes in “the moral agency of individuals” and their “right to make moral choices.”

Willie Parker, a prominent abortion practitioner, says that the freedom to choose abortion is actually divine. “The part of you that’s like God is the part that makes a choice,” he writes.

“That’s what’s sacred.”

This moral agency argument, however, is a bizarre *non sequitur*. Our free will—our ability to make choices—doesn’t mean that every choice

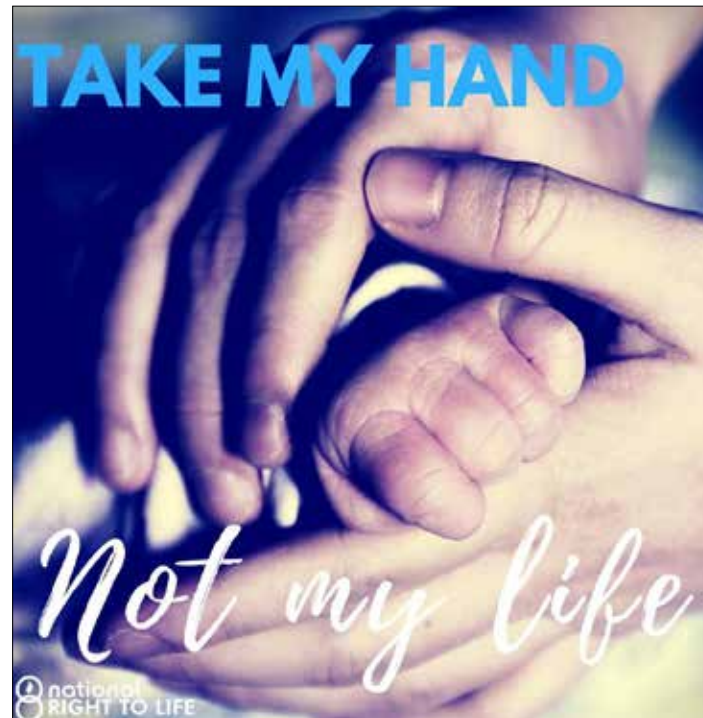
we make is good or morally acceptable. Some choices aren’t. Choices to mistreat other human beings, for example, are not good choices.

Nor does our free will mean

that every act we choose should be permitted by law. That would be (literally) anarchy. Some acts should not be permitted. Most of us, for example, think that society should not allow acts that harm innocent people, violate basic human rights, or seriously undermine the common good.

Pelosi, Veazey, and Parker (like virtually everyone else) are definitely not anarchists. They agree that the law should prohibit certain harmful actions that people sometimes use their free will to pursue. Merely appealing to free will, therefore, doesn’t justify anything. It does nothing to show why abortion is morally permissible or why it should be permitted under the law.

The question isn’t whether we are free moral agents. We are. The question is whether using our agency to kill human beings *in utero* is a just thing to do. (It’s not.)



# Top 10 Pro-Life Reasons to Give Thanks this Thanksgiving

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

A bounty of blessings has been bestowed on our nation and on the pro-life movement in 2017. Here is a list of the top 10 pro-life reasons to give thanks this Thanksgiving:

1. We have a pro-life President and Vice-President who have honored the sanctity of human life not only in their words but in their deeds.

2. For the first time ever, the Vice-President and a high-ranking counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway, addressed the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January.

3. As a result of the President's Executive Order, taxpayer dollars cannot be used for organizations that perform or promote abortions overseas.

4. A strict constructionist, Justice Neil Gorsuch, now sits on the U.S. Supreme Court.

5. Many leading figures in the Trump Administration are pro-life and are pursuing policies that respect the dignity of human life.

6. Research indicates the Millennial Generation of young adults is far

resource centers far outnumber abortion facilities nationwide. And the gap grows

enlightening minds and changing hearts throughout the country with



more pro-life than young people of generations past.

7. Pro-life women such as Rep. Diane Black (R-Tn) and Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) are making a real impact on Capitol Hill and on the nation at large.

8. Pro-life pregnancy

wider every year.

9. Taxpayers continue to oppose the use of taxpayer money to fund abortion, despite Planned Parenthood's relentless public relations campaign.

10. Chapters and affiliates of National Right to Life are

life-saving and life-changing information.

In 2017, the pro-life side has been winning, one mind and one heart at a time. Chances are great that pro-life momentum will continue into the new year!

And these are just ten reasons to give thanks this Thanksgiving.



# 40 years to life for woman who murdered nearly nine-month-pregnant friend and cut baby out of her womb

By Dave Andrusko

Back in November 2015 we first reported on then 22-year-old Ashleigh Wade who had murdered Angelikque Sutton, her nearly nine-month-pregnant friend and then used a paring knife to cut her baby out of her womb in a crude caesarianlike maneuver. Miraculously her baby girl, named Jenasis, survived.

Ms. Sutton had stopped by Wade's home to pick up baby items on her way to her wedding ceremony.

After being convicted on second degree murder and kidnapping convictions in October, Wade was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison on November 15. *People Magazine* reported

**During the trial, Assistant District Attorney Meredith Holtzman told the jury that Wade faked a pregnancy in 2015 when she lured her friend, Angelikque Sutton, to her home. When Sutton arrived, Wade slashed her in the face and neck, cutting her larynx so that she couldn't scream. Although**

**Sutton fought back, she bled to death.**

**S u b s e q u e n t l y , Holtzman told the jury, Wade took a paring knife to Sutton's abdomen and cut out her uterus, removing the baby. ...**

**Holtzman told the jury that Wade wrapped up the**



*Ashleigh Wade, left, was convicted of second degree murder and kidnapping in the death her nine-months-pregnant friend Angelikque Sutton. Wade cut Sutton's baby out from her womb. Photo: Facebook*

**newborn and fed her a bottle of formula. She then told her boyfriend that she'd just had a baby — but that she'd done a bad thing.**

The testimony was so graphic, so unsettling that one juror passed out.

During the trial, Wade-- whose ruse had been to pretend to be pregnant -- testified she'd reconnected with her childhood friend Sutton on social media. "Police said at the time that Wade was taken into custody screaming that the child was hers," *CBS New York* reported.

Court Justice Margaret Clancy said "Jenasis will tragically be scarred by her birth."

**"Where is my mommy? How did she die? When did she die? Her birth will be forever tainted."**

Clancy called the attack "calculated, cunning and brutal," and dismissed defense attorney Amy Attias' repeated assertions Wade suffers from mental health issues.

"These actions were not impulsive, they were carefully planned and researched," the judge hissed. "The cutting of the uterus with precision shows she studied how to research and kill Angelikque."

For her part, Wade cried hysterically. "I'm so, so sorry," she said. "No words can say how sorry I am. I'm sorry for hurting so many people. I wish I knew why."

Now two years old, Jenasis lives with her father.

"In her apartment, police say they discovered a knife and placenta."

*ABC7* Chicago reported that before handing down her sentence Bronx Supreme

# Capitol Hill newspaper reports FBI seeking Senate documents, “signaling possible probe into sale of fetal tissue”

By Dave Andrusko

On November 13, *The Hill* newspaper reported that the FBI has requested “unredacted documents” obtained from abortion providers by the Senate Judiciary Committee, “signaling agents may be investigating whether Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers illegally sold fetal tissue and body parts, according to sources familiar with the document request.” Unredacted means that no sections have been removed or censored or obscured.

“The advent of a criminal investigation into abortion providers would mark a major escalation in a controversy ignited by undercover videotapes made by an anti-abortion group back in 2015,” reporter John Solomon wrote.

Last December Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa.) “referred Planned Parenthood and several other abortion providers to the FBI for investigation after a lengthy probe into the transfers of fetal tissue,” Solomon explained.

At the time Grassley said “his committee had uncovered enough evidence in its final investigative report to show abortion providers had transferred tissue and body parts from aborted fetuses to firms for use in research by charging dollar amounts above their actual costs,” Solomon reported.

In a statement released by the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 13, 2016, Grassley said, “I don’t take lightly making a criminal referral. But, the seeming disregard for the law by these entities



*Pro-Life Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)*

has been fueled by decades of utter failure by the Justice Department to enforce it. He added, “And, unless there is a renewed commitment by everyone involved against commercializing the trade in aborted fetal body parts for profit, then the problem is likely to continue.”

The statement continued, “Grassley’s referral follows the completion of a Senate Judiciary Committee majority staff analysis of more than 20,000 pages of documents provided voluntarily by the organizations and companies involved. While the impetus

for the investigation was the release of a series of videos regarding transfers of fetal tissue by the Center for Medical Progress, the committee’s analysis and findings are based strictly on the documents obtained independently from tissue procurement companies and Planned Parenthood.”

When the *Hill* story broke, the Justice Department declined comment. Sources told the *Hill* that “Grassley staff is working to comply with the FBI’s document request in compliance with Senate rules,” Solomon reported.

Planned Parenthood denied everything.

“These accusations are baseless, and a part of a widely discredited attempt to end access to reproductive health care at Planned Parenthood,” said Dana Singiser, Vice President of Government Affairs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. “Planned Parenthood has never, and would never, profit while facilitating its patients’ choice to donate fetal tissue for use in important medical research.”

According to the story, “The Senate probe and a similar investigation by the House were prompted by the public release in 2015 of several undercover videos from an anti-abortion group showing abortion providers or fetal

tissue firms discussing how they took money for aborted fetuses.” This is a reference to the Center for Medical Progress, led by David Daleiden, which did extensive undercover investigation of abortion clinics, companies that traffic in fetal tissue and organs, and universities which use the



*David Daleiden*

harvested organs and tissues in research.

“The Senate committee conducted interviews and gathered documents on its own as part of an investigation triggered by the videos,” Solomon continued. “It is that information, including the unredacted documents Senate Judiciary gathered from abortion providers and fetal tissue firms, that was requested by the FBI, the sources said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.”



# One-hour-old “Baby Hope” left in Safe Haven Box, doing well

*For a busy volunteer fire volunteer fire department  
“this one call made their year”*

By Dave Andrusko

It’s a good thing perseverance won out at the Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department in La Porte County, Indiana. According to Marcella Raymond of *WGN-TV*, there had taken a big fight to get a Safe Haven Baby Box installed. When it went in in April 2016, it was only the second such device in the nation, according to a post on the La Porte County Sheriff’s Office.

Lo and behold about 10:30 the night of November 7, the box’s silent alarm went off and the fire chief’s pager buzzed. (“The boxes are equipped with alarms that notify local officials when a baby is placed inside,” Raymond reported. .... “They are designed to be a warm and secure environment until officials arrive.”)

Since no baby had ever been place in the Safe Haven Baby Box, Chief Mick Pawlik thought it might be a false alarm, triggered by someone placing a cat or a dog in the heated box.

But nonetheless Chief Pawlik arrived at the station within five minutes.

“So I open it up and that baby just looked me right in the eyes,” Pawlik said. “Now the

baby is quiet, calm, checked her out real quick inside of the box.” The baby was so young—maybe an hour old—she was still covered in blood.

“When this box was installed, we hoped that it would never be used yet were thankful that it exists for cases just like the one Tuesday night,” Pawlik told the



He called 911, then rode with the child to the hospital in an ambulance, *The Tampa Bay Times* reported.

*Times*. “We are grateful that the mother had this option and made this choice and we remain concerned for her health.”

Appropriately the volunteers named her “Baby Hope.”

Assistant Chief Warren Smith added, “I would really like to thank the mother who did this for doing the right thing,” according to Raymond. “She stepped up to the plate and did the right thing. She turned the baby into the Baby box instead of us finding the baby in a ditch or woods. We hear so many horrible stories.”

**For a busy volunteer department that responds to nearly 1,200 calls annually, this one call made their year. They felt like proud papas.**

“Until you’re a firefighter, cop, medic and see all the bad stuff that we see. I’m elated for once we see something good,” Pawlik said.

Baby Hope is at the hospital now and soon, Indiana Child and Family Services will find her a home. Police said the infant appears healthy and in good condition.

# “Hug of Life” helps twins born 13 weeks premature survive

## *Special bond” still working 2 ½ years later*

By Dave Andrusko

We have nurses in our family and the stories my sisters have told us about critically ill children and the resourcefulness and staying power of families are probably the most moving first-person accounts I’ve ever heard.

So I was not really surprised when I read that when two very premature twins—Ava and Austin Jayson—were struggling to breathe in their separate incubators weeks after their births at 27 weeks, their mother Krystina suggested they be put in the same incubator.

The *Daily Mail’s* Lucy Laing calls what followed the “hug of life.” As soon as they were put together, they “immediately placed their arms around each other. From that moment, their oxygen levels started to shoot up and their conditions improved dramatically,” Laing writes.

“It really was a miracle,” Mrs. Lake-Jayson, 29, said. “They had been apart since they were born prematurely. It was as if they knew they were together again and they were pulling each other through.”

“It was wonderful to see,” Mrs. Lake-Jayson told the *Daily Mail*. “They just couldn’t stop staring at each other. They really improved from that moment on.”

So why the sudden drastic improvement? The changes

could be a twist on how prolonged skin-to-skin contact with a parent can improve a premature baby’s heart rate

parents of twins believe in what has become known as the ‘rescuing hug’.”

The origin of “rescuing hugs



*Ava and Austin Jayson were not breathing when they were born at 27 weeks and had to be placed in incubators after being resuscitated.*

and breathing. It may be, Laing writes, that “The comfort of physical closeness can work wonders not yet understood by experts.”

Laing says there is no scientific explanation, “although many

dates back to 1995, when twin girls Brielle and Kyrie Jackson were born 12 weeks prematurely in Massachusetts, in the US,” according to Laing.

**Kyrie thrived but Brielle had breathing**

**and heart-rate problems and went into a critical condition.**

**Medical staff feared she would die until a nurse suggested putting the siblings into the same incubator. Brielle snuggled up to her sister and within minutes her blood-oxygen readings had improved. Both were eventually discharged healthy.**

In May 2015 when Ava born at just 2lb, 1oz and Austin just 3oz heavier, it was to be expected that there might be complications but also that gradual improvements would occur. However nothing of significance took place for eight weeks until the twins were put together.

They finally went home in September 2015 where Ava later suffered a problem with her heart that required 11 blood transfusions. “Fortunately, she pulled through,” Laing reported. And the twins’ continue to improve.

**But once again, the special bond between the twins has helped her make considerable strides back to health.**

**‘Being with Austin helped Ava enormously,’ said Mrs. Lake-Jayson.**



# The campaign to censor pro-life outlets is not only scary but profoundly un-American

By Dave Andrusko

There are many indices by which you can tell pro-abortionists are trembling with fear. Of late *NRL News Today* has posted multiple stories about one very, **very** dangerous measurement: either attempting to force pro-life women helping centers into posting pro-abortion propaganda or persuading powerful social media outlets such as Facebook of the moral imperative to censor pro-life news and views.

Recently *Life News* posted a superb response to one of the most bizarre, evidence free, stream-of-consciousness nonsensical op-eds I have ever read. It ran [where else?] in the *New York Times*.

*Life News* does a fine job debunking many of the multiple strands of pro-abortion hysteria on display in a piece by Rossalyn Warren. I'd like to go wider and deeper in this and a subsequent story for it is truly a scary op-ed.

You can't miss the charge: it's in the headline—"Facebook Is Ignoring Anti-Abortion Fake News." Bear in mind as we go along just stating that something is fake news in the absence of documenting is a quintessential example of fake news. It is made even more bogus when the allegation's underpinning—scanty as it may be—is flat-out wrong.

And it gets deadly serious—demagogic, actually—when to disagree with Ms. Warren gets you placed in the same category as foreign nations who are charged with trying to manipulate the outcome of the last presidential election. It's all of a piece—"fake news."

Wow!

There is lots about how Facebook is trying to ensure that this doesn't happen again. Warren's self-appointed task is to persuade Facebook to go after us. Here is the key paragraph and it is unbelievably dangerous:

**Now Facebook and its fact-checking partners say its focus is "on the worst of the worst, on the clear hoaxes spread by spammers for their own gain." Simply put, without increased pressure, Facebook's technical efforts and its human efforts, like fact-checkers' trawling through flagged content, make it likely that the company, in the months to come, will be seeking out only the "obvious" flags of fake news stories and not the misinformation that is fueled by real people with no financial incentive. That is why those of us who are concerned by the misinformation around reproductive rights need to make ourselves heard.**

Warren has segued from alleged foreign interference in our elections and "obvious" fake news to insisting that media giants like Facebook squeeze out what pro-lifers say simply because pro-abortionists label it false news. Verdict first, evidence later. Or, in this case, no evidence is required to dismiss out of hand

as "misinformation" whatever pro-lifers say.

As readers approach the very end of Warren's op-ed,

**profit from ads. It's to convince readers of their viewpoint: that abortion is morally**



they might notice there's been only one allusion to American pro-lifers and supposed "fake news." It's a reference to a story that talked about Hillary Clinton and partial-birth abortions and describes—accurately—what happens to the baby.

We're told the "procedure" is banned in the U.S. which is true, as if that somehow invalidates what the writer said. But the point is that it is banned no thanks to Hillary Clinton who voted against a ban on this gruesome technique while a Senator from New York!

Warren tells us that pro-lifers aren't out to make money from this "spamming." No, our motivation is worse: it is "ideological."

**Anti-abortion, anti-science content isn't being written by spammers hoping to make money, but by ordinary people who are driven by religious or political beliefs. Their aim isn't to**

**wrong, that autism is caused by vaccines or that climate change isn't real.**

What an all-purpose slur. Name-calling in lieu of an argument and reflexive character assassination in the place of an honest debate over issues.

This is not exactly new—it isn't new at all—for pro-abortionists. But this blatant misrepresentation has now made its way into "mainstream" journalism's bloodstream. They don't have to pretend to address what we say fairly because it's beneath contempt, indeed, as Warren argues, is reminiscent of foreign propaganda stealthily trying to corrupt American elections.

Just imagine if Hillary Clinton were President. This would be **exactly** how she would view pro-lifers. The difference would be she would have all the levers of the government at her disposal to come down on us.

# #Giving Tuesday — Help us save the most vulnerable

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely-recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving.



The idea for Giving Tuesday was first announced in October 2012 as an opportunity for Christmas shoppers to stop and reflect on how donating to non-profit organizations during the holiday season could positively impact the lives of others. #GivingTuesday, now in its 6th year, has become a catalyst for consumers to become partners in many life-saving ventures.

And what greater undertaking in which to participate than of truly saving lives. That is why your donation on #GivingTuesday to the National Right to Life Committee is so important.

The National Right to Life Committee is the largest and longest established pro-life organization in America. As the late and great Congressman Henry Hyde famously said, “National Right to Life is the flagship of the pro-life movement.” His sentiment still holds



true. NRLC’s dedicated staff works day in and day out, each and every day to ensure that LIFE is at the forefront of every aspect of American life through education, legislation, and electioneering.

The following are but a few examples of National Right to Life’s single-minded commitment to LIFE and why your support on #GivingTuesday is so crucial.

Every year the National Right to Life Committee hosts one of the preeminent pro-life gatherings in the country at the annual NRLC Convention. This year’s convention features an all-star lineup of speakers and nearly 100 workshops. Speakers included Ben Shapiro, David Daleiden, Ann McElhinney, Ryan Bomberger, and a screening of *Gosnell: The Movie*.

The annual National Right to Life Academy is a fun, fast-paced, and intense five-week academic summer course for pro-life college students eager to put their pro-life passion to work and the opportunity to earn three college credits.



*From left to right: Randall K. O’Bannon, Ph.D., Destiny Smith from Rhode Island, Emily Barnhill from South Carolina, Conor Clement from Nevada, Carol Tobias, National Right to Life President*

Few organizations are more sought after to help write, promote, and lobby for pro-life legislation than National Right to Life. We have been a part of almost every successful pro-life effort in Congress and in a majority of state legislatures.



*(Left to right) Fe Vinoya of Stand with Nurses, Rep. Chris Smith, NRLC Legislative Director Jennifer Popik, JD, and Gabriela Weigel, JD, Legal Fellow at Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics.*



# Help us fight for life on #GivingTuesday

She is floating in a darkened womb. She hears her mother's heart's every beat. At 22 weeks old, her own heart beats strong – it's beating fast and she continues to grow. She's alive, full of promise and hope – we fight for her right to life.

His mother looks down at him and brushes the hair back from his forehead. The soft, rhythmic sound of the ventilator interrupts her thoughts. She looks up at the cardiac monitor and smiles – his heart also beats strong. He's alive and his mother hopes – we fight for his right to life.

The flowers on her nightstand have wilted in the week since her 86th birthday. She doesn't always remember specifics and sometimes she gets confused, but she knows enough to refuse the Do Not Resuscitate order the nurses at the home are insisting she sign. She's healthy, she's alive – and we fight for her right to life.

The accident took his ability to walk but not his drive. He pushed himself across a wooden stage to accept his college diploma, he "danced" at his daughter's

wedding in a light-weight aluminum wheelchair, and at his retirement party his family gifted him the latest motorized version. But now he worries about insurance denying needed surgery because of his

disability. He has a beautiful retirement ahead, he's alive – and we fight for his right to life.

On #GivingTuesday, when you donate to National Right to Life you allow us

to vigorously fight for the rights of people who want to live, who deserve to live. When you donate to our #GivingTuesday campaign you are giving the best gift of all – the gift of life.

help us save the most vulnerable

give the gift of  
LIFE

#GivingTuesday - Nov 28, 2017  
nrlc.org

# Sandra Bullock to star as “Abortion Queen” Wendy Davis in upcoming movie

By Texas Right to Life

Just when you thought Wendy Davis was out of the spotlight at long last, Hollywood decided to drag her back into the limelight for an anti-Life biopic. Sandra Bullock is slated to star as Texas’s infamous “Abortion Queen” in the film. According to *Deadline Hollywood*, Bullock will remain attached to the script as long as the project acquires a director she likes. The working title of the film is *Let Her Speak* and will tell the story of Davis’s meteoric rise from teen mom to the most recognizable anti-Life politician in Texas.

Davis gained national notoriety after a filibuster, in her signature pink sneakers, temporarily delayed the passage of life-saving Pro-Life legislation in 2013. Davis tried to capitalize on her five minutes of fame by running for governor of Texas in 2014, but she lost to Pro-Life Governor Greg Abbott in a landslide. Her radical abortion stance directly contributed to her embarrassing loss in the gubernatorial race. Texas voters rejected her radical abortion stance, which included support

for gruesome and barbaric late-term abortions. The majority of Texans and the majority of Americans do not endorse the horrific practice of late-term abortion and do not want tax dollars going to businesses that commit abortions. Davis, anti-

thwarted GOP leaders’ plans to enact one of the country’s most restrictive anti-choice laws, but resulted in the most far-reaching Supreme Court victory for reproductive rights in a generation.” Overblown anti-Life fanfare such as



*Wendy Davis (left) and Sandra Bullock*

Life opponent of the life-saving fetal pain bill and cheerleader for Planned Parenthood, lost the election because voters do not agree with her radical stance.

Despite the fact that NBC already tried to create a show about Davis’s short-lived, anti-Life political career, much is being made of the upcoming film now in early stages of development. *Deadline* gushes that Davis’s “stamina not only

this requires a fact check. Davis’s filibuster was not a stand for “women’s health,” “reproductive rights,” or any other euphemistic anti-Life rhetoric. Davis’s filibuster was of a bill that would protect babies at five months’ gestation, the stage at which they undeniably feel the unimaginable pain of being torn and crushed to death in an abortion. Davis’s stand was for elective abortion, no

matter what, for the killing of preborn babies at any stage of development.

The filibuster did not successfully delay the Senate vote on the life-saving 20-week ban. However, an unruly mob of abortion supporters, who later chanted “Hail Satan,” drowned out the Senate vote before the midnight deadline. Pro-Life Governor Rick Perry called a Second Special Session, and the legislation passed as the historic Pro-Life Omnibus Bill of 2013, House Bill 2.

Claims that Davis’s theatrics led to a Supreme Court “victory” for anti-Lifers are also inaccurate. In June, 2016, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down two provisions of House Bill 2, which raised the health and safety standards of abortion mills in Texas. Notably, the abortion industry never challenged the provision of House Bill 2 that protects pain-cable preborn babies from being killed by the violence of abortion. Despite the relentless self-promotion of Texas’s “Abortion Queen,” the most important Pro-Life protections of the 2013 Legislative Session not only passed but still stand as law.



# What do Senators Manchin, Casey, and Donnelly have in common?

*A need to deceive pro-life voters to win in 2018*

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

In the face of dismal voting records, Democratic Senators Joe Manchin (W.Va.), Joe Donnelly (Ind.) and Bob Casey, Jr. (Pa.) still claim to be pro-life. In the current 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, Joe Manchin and Joe Donnelly both have 25% pro-life voting records as scored by National Right to Life, and Bob Casey's pro-life record in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress is even bleaker – 0%.

Bob Casey, Jr. is certainly not his father. The late Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey was a

In other words, Senators Casey, Donnelly, and Manchin must deceive pro-life voters in order to win re-election in 2018.

To deceive someone is defined as “to persuade someone that something false is the truth, or to keep the truth hidden from someone for your own advantage.”

A deceptive person is also defined as one who is dishonest, wily, deceptive, fraudulent, and insincere. Someone who is dishonest is also unreliable –

funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider that performs 900 abortions every single day.

The Senators' attitudes? They insist not one dime of that money directly goes for abortion.

### **We don't care, Senators.**

Money is fungible. Planned Parenthood receives more than a million dollars *a day* in federal dollars. They can use that money to build more of their mega-abortion clinics, hire more

would only support candidates who support an extreme abortion agenda calling for unrestricted abortion for any reason – including late abortions after 20 weeks when the unborn child is capable of experiencing pain, and taxpayer funding of abortion.

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

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

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

Which is it, Joe?

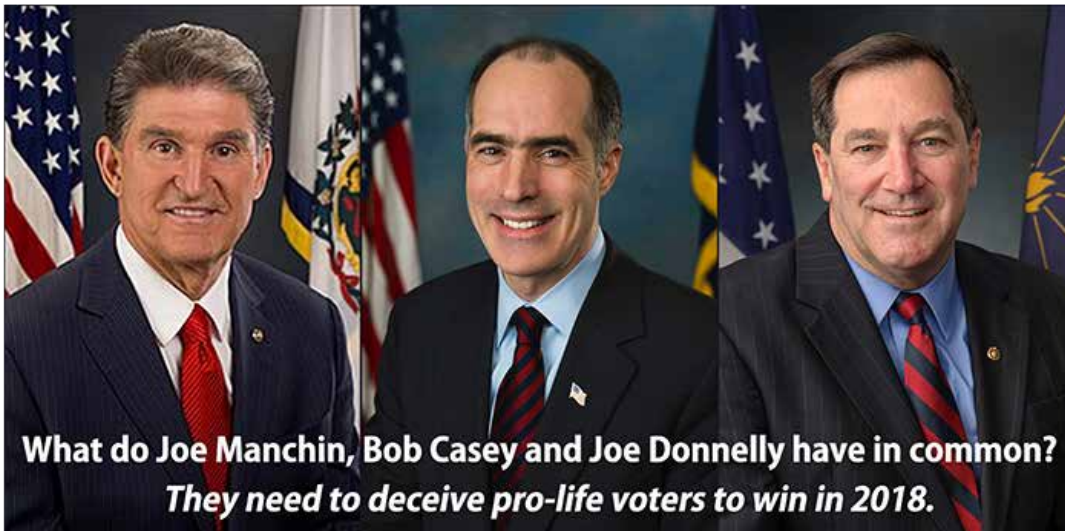
The babies cannot afford to have unreliable Senators representing them. The babies won't simply lose an election – they stand to lose their lives.

National Right to Life will not allow pro-abortion candidates to hide. We will expose their extreme views of unlimited abortion and using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion on demand. And we will expose those who claim to be “pro-life” – yet **vote** pro-abortion – putting babies' lives at risk.

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

We will expose the deceivers in our midst.

Look for election updates in future editions of [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org).



stalwart pro-life Democrat, who put his beliefs into action, even at the risk of alienating his ever-growing pro-abortion Democratic Party.

In many areas of the country, Democratic candidates know they must have pro-life votes in order to win. However they also must appease the pro-abortion political action committees which set the tune for the Democratic Party. These include Planned Parenthood – the nation's largest abortion provider, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and EMILY's List.

someone who can't be trusted with their votes.

*Are Senators Casey's, Donnelly's, and Manchin's votes to use taxpayer funds for the nation's largest abortion provider a betrayal of their stated pro-life views?\_*

*Are Senators Casey, Donnelly, and Manchin pandering to both sides of the abortion issue?*

Let's explore these questions.

Senators Casey, Donnelly and Manchin have long claimed to be pro-life, yet they consistently vote to allow hundreds of millions of dollars in federal

staff and do more advertising. As a result, more little girls walk through their doors.

By voting to continue government funding of Planned Parenthood, these Senators are keeping money from actual health care providers who will offer comprehensive health care for more women and girls, closer to home.

### **Democrats ignore pro-lifers at their political peril.**

In April, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez declared that the DNC

# ‘Who decides?’ Hillary Clinton’s abortion sophistry

By Paul Stark

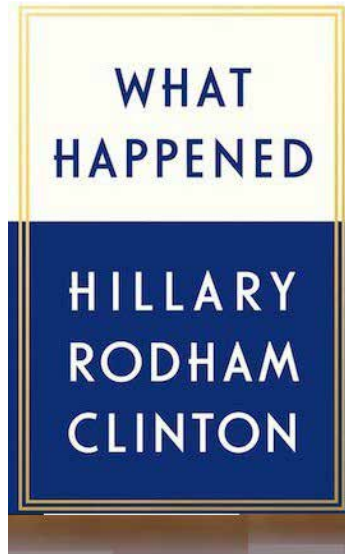
In her book *What Happened*, Hillary Clinton recycles a decades-old slogan in defense of abortion:

**As I see it, the issue comes down to the question: Who decides? We can debate the morality of abortion forever ... but at the end of the day, who decides whether a woman gets or stays pregnant? A Congressman who has never met her? A judge who has spoken with her for maybe a few minutes? Or should the woman be able to make this momentous decision about her life, her body, her future, for herself? Someone’s got to decide. I say let women decide.**

Everyone agrees, though, that there are many things the law should not “let people decide” to do. It should not permit injustice, for example. Clinton would never say something like this:

**As I see it, the issue of infant abandonment comes down to the**

**question: Who decides? We can debate the morality of infanticide forever ... but at the end of the day, who decides whether parents have to keep a**



**baby? A Congressman who has never met them? A judge who has spoken with them for maybe a few minutes? Or should the parents be able to make this momentous decision about their lives and their futures for**

**themselves? Someone’s got to decide. I say let parents decide.**

Infants are valuable human beings who have a right to life. That’s why society should



protect them from infanticide. If human embryos and fetuses also have human rights, then justice and equality require protection for them too.

So do unborn human beings count? Is abortion unjust? That’s the issue. To show that abortion should be permitted—to show that we should “let

women decide”—one must show that abortion, unlike infanticide, is not the sort of act that the law should guard against. Clinton doesn’t do that. She offers no justification for her view at all.

Like the more recent slogan “trust women,” “who decides?” seems to purport to be a substantial argument (indeed, Clinton says it is what “the issue [of abortion] comes down to”). But an argument is a set of reasons in support of a conclusion, and asking the question “who decides?” provides no reasons. It is simply a framing of language in a way that makes a particular viewpoint more attractive than it would otherwise be.

The best term for this kind of rhetoric is *sophistry*.

Some ancient Greeks, called sophists, are said to have used their rhetorical skills to trick others into believing false things. As Socrates and Plato showed, these sophists’ language, though superficially plausible, did not withstand rational scrutiny.

Hillary Clinton’s rhetoric does not hold up either. No one should ever fall for it.



# Archbishop Naumann succeeds Cardinal Dolan as head of Bishops committee on pro-life activities

By Dave Andrusko

Unborn babies have no more powerful and effective and long-standing champion than the Catholic church. We especially look to the US Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities to set an activist tone.

In a wonderful victory for unborn babies, the bishops have elected Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, as chairman of the conference's committee on pro-life activities. He succeeds another pro-life champion, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York.

National Right to Life and several of our state affiliates have a long-standing relationship with Archbishop Naumann. If you've met him even once, you don't forget him. Blessed with a great sense of humor, he is a no-nonsense pro-lifer who is not afraid of speaking truth to pro-abortion candidates.

His selection, as NRLC President Carol Tobias said, "speaks to the importance the bishops place on keeping the life issues at the forefront of our national dialogue."

Here's how the *Catholic News Agency* described him:

**Archbishop Naumann who was already a member of the pro-life committee, has challenged pro-choice Catholic politicians, spearheaded efforts to restrict abortion in**

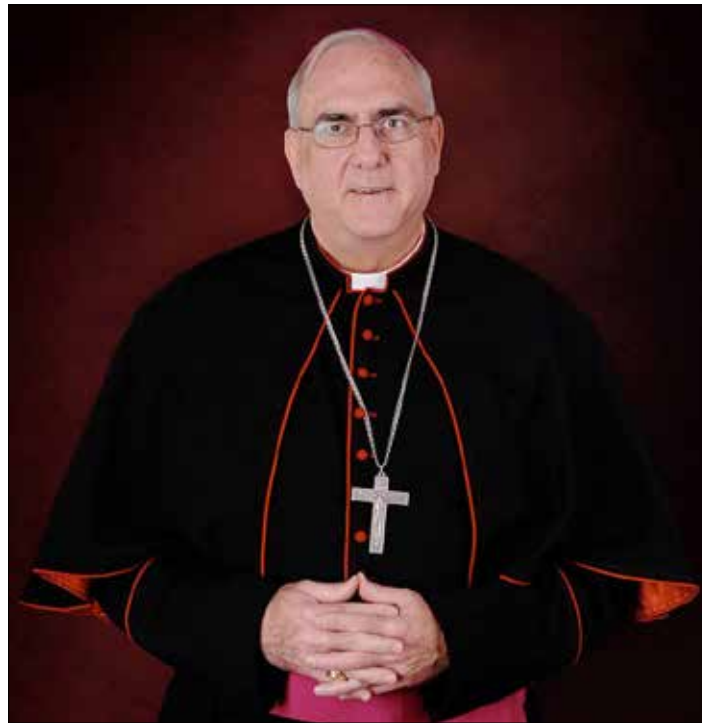
**Kansas, and prioritized abortion in his teaching ministry.**

**As a young priest, Naumann oversaw the pro-life office**

**homes for mothers and children.**

Yes, and much more.

Most recently I remember the column he wrote in 2016



*Archbishop Joseph Naumann*

**of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Under his leadership, the archdiocese began the Project Rachel ministry, a post-abortion healing ministry of the kind [the late John Cardinal] O'Connor championed. Naumann worked to support pregnancy centers and**

for the Archdiocese newspaper, the *Leaven*. The headline gave you an idea where he was headed: "our choices end where another's more fundamental right begins."

Archbishop Naumann was none too happy with pro-abortion vice presidential candidate Sen. Tim Kaine who during a debate had "mentioned proudly that he is a graduate of Rockhurst High

School, crediting the Jesuits with instilling within him a desire for public service and a commitment to advocate for the poor. I wish that was the end of the story."

He continued

**It was painful to listen to Senator Kaine repeat the same tired and contorted reasoning to profess his personal opposition to abortion while justifying his commitment to keep it legal. He said all the usual made-for-modern-media sound bites: It is not proper to impose his religious beliefs upon all Americans. He trusts women to make good reproductive choices. And when all else fails, there is always: Do we really want to criminalize and fill our jails with post-abortive women.**

I won't quote any further. Archbishop Nauman's column is a must-read because we've had, have now, and will always have candidates for office who will hide their abortion advocacy in the garb of being "personally opposed."

NRLC is so pleased, as is the entire pro-life community, that Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann is the new chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

# Pro-abort *NYTimes* columnist laments “The Worrisome Future of Abortion Rights”

By Dave Andrusko

As her new book, *Just a Journalist* makes unapologetically clear, former New York Times Supreme Court reporter Linda Greenhouse never let anything as arcane, so out-of-date as impartiality get in the way of advancing the cause of abortion during her long, long career as a powerful reporter.

She wrote opinion pieces masked as news stories and was proud of it. Nowadays she is formally ensconced as an opinion writer, so she is free to crank up the hysteria meter a few more notches.

Which brings us to “The Worrisome Future of Abortion Rights,” which recently appeared in the *Times*.

Its focus is the “Jane Doe” case in which the ACLU arguably lied to the Justice Department in order to facilitate the abortion of a 17-year-old undocumented, unaccompanied teenager from Central America. Greenhouse covers a ton of issues and to try to address even many of them would require twice as many words as her 2,454 word-long-essay. Here are four points.

#1. As we reported in *NRL News Today* the Trump administration filed documents stating that Jane Doe “is now seeking mental health treatment.” They have “asked a judge [a reference to U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan] to be freed from a gag order so the girl’s doctors, and any future sponsor who takes the girl from a government-run shelter, can be told of the abortion, saying it’s an important part of her history,” reported the *Washington Times*’ Alex Swoyer.

It was Judge Chutkan who on October 18 ordered the government to allow Jane Doe to proceed in having

So perhaps all of Greenhouse’s condescending remarks are off-base. Perhaps, as the Trump administration

**reason to want to transfer an unlawful immigrant minor to an immigration sponsor before the minor has an abortion. But consider the circumstances here. The minor is alone and without family or friends. She is in a U.S. Government detention facility in a country that, for her, is foreign. She is 17 years old. She is pregnant and has to make a major life decision. Is it really absurd for the United States to think that the minor should be transferred to her immigration sponsor – ordinarily a family member, relative, or friend – before she makes that decision?**

#2. Greenhouse tells us, “The abortion came after weeks of delay, after Jane Doe was forced to attend a counseling session at an anti-abortion ‘crisis pregnancy center’ and as the pregnancy was approaching the 20-week limit for a legal abortion in Texas.” Jane Doe was approximately 16 weeks pregnant.

“Approaching?” Please.

#3. Greenhouse writes, “Last week, he [Solicitor General Noel J. Francisco] filed a wildly improbable Supreme Court appeal, asking the justices to vacate as moot the appeals court’s decision and, while they’re at it, to impose



an abortion. It was Judge Chutkan who hours after the DC Court of Appeals ruling who ordered the government to “promptly and without delay” transport the teen to a Texas abortion provider. Jane Doe aborted the next day, October 25.

argued, it would have been in the girl’s best interests to find a sponsor prior to aborting.

As D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote in his dissent

**The majority seems to think that the United States has no good**

*See “Worrisome,” page 33*

# Supreme Court agrees to hear pro-life challenge to compelled pro-abortion speech

By Dave Andrusko

In late October, we wrote there was a growing sense that the Supreme Court would weigh in one of the most significant free speech (or in this compelled speech) cases of our time. That was confirmed November 13 when the *Los Angeles Times'* David Savage wrote, "The justices are to hear arguments in *NIFLA vs. Becerra* early next year and issue a ruling by late June." [Xavier Becerra is the pro-abortion state Attorney General.]

*National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra* is a challenge to a 2015 California state law—the state's so-called Reproductive FACT Act—that forces locally funded pro-life medical clinics to advertise taxpayer-funded abortions. The only known instances of the law's enforcement have occurred in Los Angeles, "where city attorney Mike Feuer has leveraged an obscure law that mandates current signage for local business to force pregnancy medical clinics to comply," according to *Pregnancy Help News's* Jay Hobbs.

Savage describes the fight as "a clash between the state's power to regulate the medical profession and the Constitution's protection for the freedom of speech." He wrote

**California lawmakers passed the disclosure law two years ago after concluding the more 200 pregnancy centers in the state sometimes**

**misled or confused women into believing they provided the full range of medical care, including abortions.**

With all due respect, this is hokey. The Alliance Defending Freedom describes the Act [AB 775] this way:

**AB 775 requires licensed medical centers that offer free, pro-life help**



**to pregnant women to post a disclosure saying that California provides free or low-cost abortion and contraception services. The disclosure must also include a phone number for a county office that refers women to Planned Parenthood and other abortionists. The law also forces unlicensed pregnancy centers to add large**

**disclosures about their non-medical status in all advertisements, even if they provide no medical services.**

Pro-abortionists are nothing if not persistent even though they lose and lose. As we have explained on many, many occasions, courts in Austin, Texas; Montgomery County, Maryland; Baltimore; and New York City have completely or

**to refer patients to abortion businesses upon request.**

"It is clear that the amended act targets the free speech rights of people who have a specific viewpoint," Judge Fredrick J. Kapala wrote in his order.

In a prior story, Savage noted that there are three separate appeals pending before the Supreme Court, including the one from the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. He quotes Jay Sekulow, counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, who wrote that at issue is whether

**"the state of California can compel nonprofit, faith-based, pro-life licensed medical facilities, against their religious convictions and identity, to advertise a government program that provides free or low-cost abortions."**

mostly invalidated similar laws.

Pro-lifers succeeded most recently in Illinois. As Hobbs explained

**In July a federal judge in Illinois handed down a major victory for religious conscience and free speech protection, granting a statewide preliminary injunction against a 2016 law change that would force pro-life medical providers**

Sekulow, who is appealing on behalf of the LivingWell Medical Clinic and two others, said the disclosure law violates "the principle that one cannot be conscripted into acting as a ventriloquist's dummy for a government message."

Aside from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, whose pro-abortion instincts run deep, judges are deeply suspicious of the motivation behind the laws and regulations and the infringement on free speech.



# What to Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion

*Editor's note. This is one in a series of articles that is part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2017-2018 Respect Life Program. This and many other resources can be found at [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife).*

More women and girls consider abortion than we may realize. They are our relatives and friends, our babysitters, teammates, people who work with us or for us, married or unmarried. Even if someone identifies as being pro-life, the shock of an unexpected pregnancy, the devastation of a difficult prenatal diagnosis, shame, pressures, or fears may influence her to consider abortion.

If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? The answer can be summed up in an old adage: We have two ears and one mouth, and should use them in that proportion.

Although the first instinct may be to convince her that abortion ends a baby's life, hearing facts is not the first thing she needs. Research shows that many women in a pregnancy crisis think, "This is the end of my life as I know it." To face the challenges before her, your friend needs to know you care about her for her own sake and she is not alone.

First listening to your friend will help build trust and facilitate openness. Eventually, when she knows you truly care about her and she trusts you, you can share the truth in love. You can share facts about abortion, her own intrinsic worth, and the practical help and support available so she

can choose life for herself and her baby.

A truly loving approach reflects St. Paul's description of love in his first letter to the Corinthians: "If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. ... Love is patient, love is kind" (1 Cor. 13:1,4).

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby?

Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™\*: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower.

## L Listen and Learn

First, prioritize listening over speaking. You don't have to worry about whether you may say something "wrong," and you don't need to have all the answers. Start by listening to her story.

Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. Do not interrupt, except to ask her to expound, when appropriate. For example: How did you feel when you first found out? Did you feel abandoned when he said that? What are your feelings now? What did you think about that? What do you think your parents will say or do? What value does that have for you? How does this relate to your religious beliefs? How important is that for you? In your heart of hearts, what do you really want to do?

Ask open-ended questions and statements like, "Tell me more..."

Interpret and confirm what

you think you are hearing: "Did I hear you say..."

Pay close attention to her body language. She may show



from gestures of discomfort or a lack of eye contact that what she is saying does not actually reflect her innermost feelings, values, or wants.

Listen for clues to her needs so you can later bring up helpful ways to address those needs. Listen for her strengths and resources so you can later reflect them back to her, building up her confidence and courage.

## O Open Options

When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, always in a loving and caring way. You might share about the reality of abortion and the wounds that typically result. You might

share experiences about having a baby, adoption, marriage, and how such things might apply in her situation. It's most helpful to keep the focus on her.

At the same time, avoid using the framework of adoption versus abortion. Research indicates that a woman with an unexpected, unwanted pregnancy often views all the possible outcomes of her pregnancy negatively: keeping her child, abortion, and adoption (which she tends to see as the worst of three "evils"). Research also "suggests that in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser." [1] It's better to first focus on encouraging her that she can carry this baby to term.

## V Vision and Value

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision she may never have had, or that may have dimmed). Help her value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. She is made in the image of God; as a woman, her maternity is a gift. Jesus loves her and even died for her.

Encourage her. Help her set and work towards goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure her there is always hope and she is not alone. She can make positive, life-giving choices. She can do it.

## E Extend and Empower

Provide practical help and support. Her local pregnancy help center [2] can offer consultation, lists of

*See "Friend," page 26*

# SHOCKING: BuzzFeed Finds Multiple Clinics Selling Fake Abortions

By Jay Hobbs

Though abortion advocates have tried for years to make the “fake abortion clinic” label stick to pro-life centers that offer women a life-saving alternative, an investigation by BuzzFeed News has actually identified as many as six bona fide fake abortion clinics in Mexico City.

It only took visits to 12 of Mexico City’s 55 abortion mills

As Avila writes:

**At two different clinics, a BuzzFeed News Mexico reporter was even shown a small spec on an ultrasound that she was told was the embryo confirming her pregnancy and then felt pressured by doctors to decide which abortion method she would**

**class exercise visited 12 private clinics in Mexico City and were offered unnecessary procedures by six of them.**

While the report—focusing on the only city where abortion is legal in Mexico—is shocking in and of itself, the occurrence of abortionists charging women

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stripped Patel of his medical license and closed down his abortion mill after Patel pled guilty to a litany of stunning charges that were set into motion when Pruitt’s office and the Oklahoma Medical Board responded to complaints from pro-life group Operation Rescue.

Abortion advocates at NARAL Pro-Choice America, ReproAction and Lady Parts Justice League—a group led by former comedienne Lizz Winstead—have persistently accused pro-life pregnancy centers of operating as “fake clinics.” That charge is refuted most fiercely by the 99 percent of all women who report a positive experience at the locally funded agencies where many have rescued their babies from abortion.

In reality, pregnancy centers offer women free services including ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, material aid and ongoing help for women targeted by the billion-dollar abortion industry. In addition to serving women who are at-risk for abortion, pregnancy centers also offer emotional and spiritual help for women and men who have experienced past abortions.

There are currently over 2,700 pregnancy centers and medical clinics in the U.S. and 4,000 around the world—including 108 in Mexico—according to Heartbeat International’s Worldwide Directory of Pregnancy Help.

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



for BuzzFeed—not exactly the paragon of journalistic zeal—to find six clinics selling fake abortions to unsuspecting women who weren’t even pregnant.

“Diagnosing” non-pregnant women with fake pregnancies, BuzzFeed reporter Yuriria Avila wrote that at least three abortion businesses in Mexico City were charging women as much as 4,900 pesos (or \$250) per fake abortion.

**like. No blood or urine tests were provided to confirm the pregnancy, the doctor’s just had the information provided by the reporter – her period was late and she saw a faint line on a home pregnancy test.**

**In addition to the BuzzFeed News Mexico investigation, a group of three psychology students doing a**

for futile (and physically impossible) procedures isn’t limited to Mexico.

In 2014, Nareshkumar Gandadal “Naresh” Patel was arrested in Oklahoma on eight charges of “fraud for prescribing abortion-inducing drugs to patients who are not pregnant,” according to a press release issued by then-Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt.

Pruitt, who now heads the

# Megachurch pastor expands on his previous answer whether abortion is a sin

By Dave Andrusko

I know Pastor Carl Lentz by reputation only. Having watched the initial furious backlash to his evasive answer to whether his church considered abortion a sin, I waited a day to see what I assumed would be a further comment.

Indeed, he did post a tweet and we offered some thoughts. The title was long and clumsy—"Some thoughts on a megachurch pastor's evasive comments about abortion and his further clarification"—but that was because I wanted to tell the reader what this was about and to be fair.

I think my comments about what Pastor Lentz said on *The View* put his remarks in context and gave him the benefit of the doubt where he deserved it.

In his tweet, he said

**I do believe abortion is sinful. Our prayer is that we can continue to help and love those that deal with the pain of regret from personal choices, rather than cast further shame and guilt on those already carrying so much and create a church that can teach people how to form convictions based on God's word, that will be the driving force in all their decisions. I will continue to point people to Jesus, above all else, every opportunity I get. The story of God's redemptive grace, available to all, is the best news available.**

But I suspected this was not the last we'd hear from the pastor of the Manhattan branch of Hillsong church.

And sure enough Pastor

Lentz gave an interview to *RELEVANT* magazine. There is not a lot that was not in the lengthy tweet but not everyone saw the tweet and there was give and take with Cameron Strang, the interviewer.



Pastor Carl Lentz

By quoting generously from the interview, I hope to make it possible for every reader to make their own judgment.

As you may remember from our post, *The View* had cut right to the chase. Noting the church's massive appeal to Millennials, Sara Haines asked, "how do you address these sorts of things" ("social issues" such as abortion).

He tried to put the "social issues" in a larger context which prompted Joy Behar to ask/state, "So it's not a sin in your church to have an abortion?" A moment later when he does not respond directly, Behar asks again, "So it's not an open-and-shut case with you?"

"Some people would say it is," Pastor Lentz responded. "I think, to me, I'm trying to

teach people who Jesus is first, find out their story before I start picking and choosing what I think is sin in your life, I'd like to know your name. ... I mean, God's the judge. People have to live to their own convictions. That's such a broad question, to me, I'm going higher. I want to sit with somebody and say, 'What do you believe?'"

What's interesting about the *RELEVANT* responses (as I understand his comments which, as transcribed, can be a bit confusing) is that Pastor Lentz says he knew he'd be asked these sorts of hot button questions; that he "went in there prepared"; and that he intended to "keep the conversation moving, in particularly about abortion."

So what happened? The "fast-paced environment" is part of the answer. I think it's accurate to say that Pastor Lentz went on to tell Strang that the "specific" question on abortion from the unnamed co-host [Behar] came before he had been able to put his first answer in the context of Psalm 139.

This, of course, is one of David's most memorable psalms which includes verses pro-lifers always cite: "13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Moreover, Pastor Lentz went on, "the host who asked me the question is not a Christian, doesn't believe in God, doesn't believe what we believe and she asked me about sin. So I felt like a higher question would be 'Let's talk about who Jesus is before we go there.'"

**"My answer was, 'Before I tell you**

**about what I think sin is, I would like to know your name.' I still stand by that. I'm still gonna do that," he said. "It doesn't mean I'm not going to get to the truth; it doesn't mean that I don't have anything to say. My point is, 'You want go there, before we do, [I want to exercise] my right as a human to say: 'What's your name? Where are you from? Why did you get an abortion? Who is the other factor in this? Where were you raised?' Just so it will be more effective."**

Pastor Lentz also responded to critics who hammered him, beginning by asserting that a lot of those who did "don't know who we are."

As I noted at the beginning, a lot of pro-lifers were unhappy with Pastor Lentz, whose prominence in evangelical circles grows by the year. He did try to separate the sin (abortion) from the sinner (the woman), and to encourage churches not to "cast further shame and guilt on those already carrying so much."

I'm sure he knows now, if he didn't before, that most network hosts are not going to give him time to contextualize his answer on abortion.

He could say—and **should** say—abortion is sinful. He should also say our task as Christians is to love a woman in a crisis pregnancy in hopes that she doesn't make that tragically wrong decision, but if she does to continue to love and minister to her knowing that we serve a loving and forgiving God.



# Extreme preemie born at 1lb, 1oz “brings hope to everyone with premature babies,” Mom says

By Dave Andrusko

Whatever their motivations, many newspapers in Britain are mesmerized by babies who are born close to 24 weeks, the outermost limit (for the most part) at which unborn babies can be aborted. We’ve written dozens of stories based on accounts in the *Daily Mail*, the *Sun*, and the *Telegraph*.

Which brings us to Flynn Parry, one of Britain’s recent extreme preemies described as no bigger at birth than his mother’s hand. The *Sun* tells us Flynn “weighed just 1lb 1oz, the same as two hamsters, and was 11 inches long, much smaller than the average newborn length of 20 inches.”

The *Daily Mail* talks about Flynn as a “miracle baby who was born a week before the legal abortion limit of 24 weeks” and “believed to be one of Britain’s youngest ever premature children to survive.” Unity Blott writes

**Flynn Parry, now 15 months old, arrived 17 weeks early weighing just 1lb 1oz when his mother Hoda Ali was just 23 weeks pregnant.**

**Photos of the newborn in hospital show he was barely as big as his proud mother’s hand at just 11 in long, half the size**



**of the average newborn which measures around 20 inches.**

His mom amusingly described her son as “just so, so small. I thought he looked like an alien or a baby bird.”

Born that early, Flynn faced an uphill battle. To recreate the warm of his mother’s womb, they swaddled him in bubble wrap as soon as he was delivered.

Blott. “But, on February 13, 2016, after a 30-minute labour, her son arrived.” Her due date had been June 6.

His early arrival resulted in Flynn battling sepsis (“a potentially deadly form of blood poisoning”) and suffering two brain bleeds. There were other surgeries and other complications and it was not until Flynn was 10 weeks old that Hoda and his dad Owen were able to cuddle him.

Flynn went home June 16, 2016.

Even more good news. Blott writes, “Defying all odds, Flynn not only lived, he flourished – becoming a lively toddler, who now runs rings around his doting parents and has not experienced any developmental delays.”

Reflecting back, Hoda told Blott, “Walking out of hospital, we were so proud of our boy and everything he’d battled.

**“Flynn brings hope to everyone with premature babies, currently in hospital. You can get through it.”**

Of course when Hoda Ali was rushed to the hospital doctors did their level best to delay Flynn’s arrival. Hoda was “given steroids to strengthen her cervix and magnesium sulphate to halt labour,” according to the *Daily Mail*’s

# What do the Virginia election results really tell us and what is pro-abortion spin?

By Dave Andrusko

In late October Maria Gallagher prophetically quoted political analyst Larry J. Sabato who once said, “Every election is determined by the people who show up.” The point is both very simple and very profound: it’s the people who take the time to cast a vote who decide the outcomes.

On November 7 Democrats in Virginia, came out in force, something I saw foreshadowed by the size of the turnout at 9:00am in my own precinct in a “swing” county 20 miles from Washington, DC.

The result was a clean sweep of state-wide offices by pro-abortion Democrats over pro-life Republicans: Ralph Northam over Ed Gillespie for governor; Justin Fairfax won over Jill Vogel for Lt. Gov.; and incumbent Mark Herring over John Adams for Attorney General.

There will be—and already are—multiple explanations. For those of us pro-lifers who live in the Commonwealth of Virginia, we know we have our work cut out for us.

When you win, it’s only to be expected that you would extrapolate. Democrats who are oh for five in congressional races since Donald Trump became President assure us that the Virginia results (a) are the only ones that count, and (b) a sign of what is to come in the 2018 congressional races. Really? Let’s see.

As many have pointed out, Virginia is becoming closer and closer to a true blue state. As Marc Fisher of the *Washington Post* observed, “No Republican has won a statewide election in Virginia since 2009, and what

was long considered a swing state is now represented by two Democratic senators [and] has elected Democratic governors in four of the past five cycles.”



And although it gets brushed aside, there was a **brutal** Republican gubernatorial primary which left the loser embittered and threatening to do nothing to help the winner. Although he made supportive noises near the end of the campaign, it only makes sense that his supporters would have been less than enthusiastic about voting for Ed Gillespie. That was a big deal.

But the real extrapolation is that the Virginia outcome means the Democrats are poised to make major gains in 2018. This simply does not follow at all from what happened November 7. Why?

For starters, and by far most importantly, nothing last night showed that Democrats are able to remedy a fatal flaw—their inability to connect with rural voters and/or those without college educations. To quote Fisher (who wrote the most insightful, balanced analysis)

But others warned that the Virginia results may say little about Democratic appeal beyond the

hope and pause. He drew larger portions of the vote than Clinton did in every region of Virginia, outperforming her especially among young people and white women with college degrees, according to preliminary exit polls. But Northam failed to make gains in Democratic weak spots such as with rural and less-educated voters.

Fisher came back to that theme later in his analysis:

Even amid their evening of celebration, some Democrats worried that the Virginia victory would mask the fact that the party has still not found a way to connect with voters between the coasts.

Stanley Greenberg, a longtime Democratic campaign strategist, said Northam was “running as Hillary Clinton. It’s the Republicans who talk about the economy, not the Democrats.” Northam’s emphasis on Virginia’s economic success under Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) sent an alienating message to struggling working-class voters who live beyond the affluent suburbs, Greenberg said.

mostly coastal states where Clinton did well. “Everything’s coming down to geography,” said Dave “Mudcat” Saunders, a longtime Democratic political consultant in Virginia whose base in the state’s rural south went heavily for Gillespie.

“This is the triumph of Clintonism and the urban crescent strategy. The Democrats are just going after the heavily populated areas and the college graduates. All their wins tonight are in the new Virginia, where people moved to from out of state, and the party is saying the hell with the rest of the state.”

The shape of Northam’s victory gave Democrats both

## Giving through #Giving Tuesday assists National Right to Life to save unborn lives

*From page 1*

Thanksgiving when Americans who are spending record amounts online at Amazon can designate a charity to which Amazon will donate a percentage of the price of their online purchase. That can be accessed at smile.amazon.com.

That brings us to #Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday that follows Thanksgiving--this year, November 28. It has become that one day a year which focuses with laser-like intensity on giving to non-profits during the Christmas season. Now in its sixth year, the impact of #Giving Tuesday continues to grow in size and outreach.

The founders' description of #Giving Tuesday illustrates why NRLC is precisely the

kind of charitable organization you, your friends, and your contacts should be donating to. #Giving Tuesday, we read, is designed "to encourage

and amplify small acts of kindness."

Your donation may be small but it is an act of kindness that amplifies the outreach

of NRLC. National Right to Life educates, legislates, and helps to create the kind of environment where someday, God willing, abortion will be unthinkable.

You have two NRLC entities you can link to a week from today, November 28. The first is the NRL Committee at <http://bit.ly/2rt9Bkv>.

Or you could contribute to the NRL Educational Foundation at <http://bit.ly/2z4U5Qu>.

If you prefer, you can always call--202.626.8813--or mail your donation to

**National Right to Life**  
512 10th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004-1401

Thank you so much. And have a blessed Thanksgiving.



## National Right to Life Applauds Pro-life Provision in House-passed Tax bill

*From page 1*

and applauds House leadership for their effort.

Adoption affirms the unborn child's right to life, allowing each baby to enter the world as a blessing for another family. While in effect, the adoption tax credit has served as an effective

way to encourage adoption by easing the often steep financial expense that can be incurred by adopting a child.

The pro-life movement has long promoted adoption as an alternative for single mothers facing crisis pregnancy

situations, offering them a viable alternative to abortion. Keeping the adoption process easier for families who want to adopt can offer encouragement to those mothers considering adoption as an alternative.

The Senate will take up

their version of the tax bill following Thanksgiving. If passed, the Senate and House bill differences will be worked out in committee, with the goal of signing tax reform into law before Christmas.



# And the greatest of these is love

By Melissa Ohden

*Editor's note. Melissa is the survivor of a "failed" saline abortion in 1977. She speaks all over the world including at many National Right to Life Conventions. She has often written for NRL News Today.*

Truth. Legislation. Love. When I'm asked about the most important tools that we can utilize in the pro-life movement, these make up what I see as the three-legged stool.

Each leg, on its own, serves an important purpose. But they also work in a complementary way to strengthen and support each another, thereby furthering the fight for life.

As pro-lifers, we are armed with truth, and it's that truth that drives our labors on behalf of unborn children and their mothers. From understanding scientifically that life begins from the moment of conception, to knowing fetal development, to understanding fetal pain, here is truth that is open to any mind not already closed tight.

Certainly, the truth is also on our side in other ways that can't be seen in a lab or under a microscope. The testimonies of post-abortive men and women, abortion survivors, surviving siblings, and former abortion clinic workers tell the truth that abortion has devastating consequences that ripple across the generations.

Legislatively, one need only look at the daily news feed from

*National Right to Life Today* to see that every day we take strides forward day in the fight for life. Regarding the reality of fetal pain, even the *New York Times* [!] recently took grudging notice of Mary Spalding Balch

important leg of the three-legged stool. We could not speak the truth if we didn't love the preborn, their mothers and fathers, their entire families. We would not be nearly as motivated to make our culture

write legislation, but we can certainly contact legislators. We can share information with others about various bills thereby also supporting the second leg of the stool, truth.

We can provide others with scientifically-based information so that they understand the marvels of fetal development. You and I can help dispel the ugly myths that surround abortion and "unwanted children" (which is how I started my day today as I went through my emails).

The simplest, yet seemingly sometimes the hardest thing that we can do, is love. But speaking in love to someone who disagrees with us on the issue of abortion makes it possible to share the truth with them. Showing love to a girl or woman who is so distraught she contemplating abortion may save her and her baby. Giving love to someone who is post-abortive elps her understand there IS forgiveness.

While we may not be able to do something that relates to each leg of the three-legged stool of truth, legislation and love each day, we can most certainly do something that might seem insignificant.

I truly hope that you take advantage of your day because every effort on behalf of the little ones and their mothers—no matter how small—echoes with eternal significance.



*Melissa Ohden (right) and Lisa Andrusko, NRLC Yearbook Editor, at the 2013 National Right to Life Convention.*

and the legislative efforts that she has so effectively helped to shape as National Right to Life Director of State Legislation. (The truth that the unborn child can experience pain by the 20th week is, of course, based on science, that first leg of the three-legged stool again).

Truth and legislation, as we see, are essential and complementary tools in the pro-life movement.

What about love?

To me, love is the most

a nobler one if we didn't genuinely care about those around us, especially those we have never met. Without love, our message would be lacking in compassion, empathy, and understanding.

My challenge to each pro-lifer is the same one I make to myself: to consider how I have helped to further strengthen each leg of the three-legged stool of truth, legislation, and love.

We may not all be gifted to

## “You are your baby’s first home”

By Dave Andrusko

This will be a short post, not because the message isn’t important (just the opposite) but because it will resonate so thoroughly and so completely.

Sometimes I think I see all the best stuff when I’m on the treadmill at the gym. There I was one morning, huffing and puffing away, when an ad for First Response Pregnancy Tests came up.

It’s only 30 seconds long. The first two statements are the most relevant, although all the sentiments are very beautiful and very touching.

The ad begins with the husband lovingly kissing his wife’s swollen abdomen. Then the words

**You are your baby’s first home.... Your baby’s first protector.**

I have written about fetology

and the incredible bond between mother and unborn baby a million times. But I’ve never put it in more telling, more tender

was more sobering.

What are moms—and dads!—if not their child’s first protector? We can and should be their first

could be a greater betrayer of that sacred duty than to take our own child’s life?

A beautiful, thought-



terms than “You are your baby’s first home.”

That was the warm and fuzzy part (for me). “Your baby’s first protector.” That

educator, their first role model, their first caregiver.

But nothing exceeds, because nothing precedes, protecting them from harm. And what

provoking ad. Take 30 seconds to watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40DSeRkT-aY> and then please share it widely.

## What to Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion

*From page 19*

community resources, and ultrasound services. Consider keeping such lists of resources in your car, purse, or wallet. Help her plan next steps. What would help her? A call from you? How can you contact her?

Pray with her and for her and her baby. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is a way to bring Christ’s love at a crucial life-saving and life-defining moment. We are created to walk with and support one another; we don’t need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God’s message that resounds throughout time: “Do not fear:

I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10).

[1] Swope, Paul F., “Abortion: A Failure to Communicate.” *First Things*, April 1998. <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1998/04/004-abortion-a-failure-to-communicate>.

[2] Heartbeat International provides a directory of pregnancy services, which is accessible at [www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory](http://www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory) or at <https://optionline.org/>. You can learn about setting up parish-based support for women who are pregnant and need assistance by visiting

the websites for The Gabriel Project ([www.gabrielproject.us](http://www.gabrielproject.us)) and Elizabeth Ministry ([www.elizabethministry.com](http://www.elizabethministry.com)), which have chapters across the country. For more information about how you can help, or for information about help that may be available, such as pregnancy care centers, maternity homes, and other assistance, contact your local diocesan Respect Life office. A list of diocesan Respect Life Ministry offices can be found at [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/diocesan-pro-life-offices.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/diocesan-pro-life-offices.cfm).

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## #Giving Tuesday — Help us save the most vulnerable

*From page 11*

The highly anticipated annual National Right to Life Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school juniors and seniors to share their pro-life views with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest also seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views.



National Right to Life takes the fight for life all over the world. Whether it's at the United Nations in New York City, the annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva or Food Summit in Rome, NRLC is there defending the life ethic.



*Rai Rojas, NRLC's Non Governmental Organization's representative to the United Nations attending annual World Health Organization meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.*

Since the 2016 General Elections, National Right to Life's endorsed Congressional candidates have won 5 out of 5 special elections making NRLC's endorsement a much sought after tool in every pro-lifer's campaign.



*Karen Cross, NRL Political Director with Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan, David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., NRLC Co-Executive Director with Iowa Senator Joni Ernst, and Carol Tobias, NRLC President with Congressman Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip*

We are there for you. We are there for LIFE. With your continued support, you and National Right to Life will always have a seat at the table.



*David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., NRLC Co-Executive Director and Pro-life President Donald Trump*

**Give generously on #GivingTuesday**



# Cardinal Dolan, Dr. Moore decry second-class status of those whose conscience compels them not to be involved in abortion

By Dave Andrusko

An op-ed that ran recently in *USA Today* was an example of ecumenism at its best.

Appearing under the headline, “To be really pro-choice, you must protect each doctor’s choice to not perform abortions,” Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, eloquently made the case for passage of the “Conscience Protection Act of 2017.” Current federal law does not sufficiently protect the conscience rights of health care professionals and others.

Were such a law to have passed during the two terms of President Obama, we could have rested assured that he couldn’t veto it fast enough. Protecting the right of conscience was never big on the agenda of this hardcore pro-abortionist. But now pro-life Donald Trump is President.

The Conscience Protection Act of 2017 would uphold the conscience rights of health care providers, religious charities, and churches who are being forced to participate in or provide coverage for abortions. Pro-life members of the House and Senate held a press conference where we heard stories of nurses who have been forced, against their

religious beliefs, to participate in abortions. Their accounts were shocking.

As representatives of the nation’s two largest religious denominations, Cardinal Dolan, of the Archdiocese of New



*Timothy Cardinal Dolan*

York City and the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Dr. Moore teamed up to warn of the threats to religious liberties and to argue that there ought to be consensus that respects individual conscience on the abortion issue.

**[We] believe that the freedom to live by one’s deepest beliefs, without being forced by government to act against those beliefs, is our first freedom and a founding value of our**

**nation. That being the case, we find it hard to imagine how those who call themselves “pro-choice” could deny another the choice of following his or her conscience.**

**What has appalled us in recent years is an increasing and fierce attack on conscience rights. The movement that once called itself “pro-choice” has campaigned to force doctors, nurses, and hospitals to participate in abortion or leave**



*Dr. Russell Moore*

**the health care system — and to force all Americans to pay for abortions if they want any health coverage. This is a grave threat to**

**freedom of conscience. Forcing those who decline to participate in abortion — including medical professionals and health care entities — out of the marketplace helps no one and harms the common good.**

Put another way

**Even those who disagree with us on abortion should see that respecting the right to choose not to be involved in abortion is part of being “pro-choice.”**

They end their op-ed by reiterating their argument that “on one of our most divisive issues”—abortion—

**“we have an opportunity to unite across political, religious and regional divides to agree that those who respect the life of the unborn child have a right to act on that belief, that we are not second-class citizens. We hope members of Congress of both parties will take up this challenge and enact the Conscience Protection Act.**

# “Blessing” a Texas abortion clinic and what that says about pro-abortionists

By Dave Andrusko

The headline is one pro-abortionists would kill for (in a manner of speaking): “Religious Leaders Gather to Bless Texas Abortion Clinic.”

The clinic that these “religious leaders” blessed is the Whole Woman’s Health, in Ft. Worth Texas. Why pray for the staff of this particular killing factory?

“The clinic event comes one day after the final day of a trial challenging Texas’ D&E abortion ban,” The Texas Observer reported. “Whole Woman’s Health is a plaintiff.”

Whole Woman’s Health was also the plaintiff in the 2016 Supreme Court case of *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*. As you recall, the justices struck down commonsense measures to protect women’s health.

As Molly Hemingway of the *Federalist* shrewdly observed last year

**But just on the issue of regulatory oversight of clinics, the media are perpetuating a closed loop. The abortion corporations’ claim is that abortion clinics are safe and wonderful, but will somehow be forced to close if required to hold the same health and safety standards as other surgery centers.**

**They [the media] carry water for the abortion corporations, fighting any oversight of abortion-related practices. They**

**regulation of abortion clinics. Rinse, repeat.**

So, to be clear. Kentina Washington-Leapheart, director of programs for reproductive

**right’s] narrative isn’t the only narrative related to faith,” said Washington-Leapheart, a main organizer of the event. “Women seeking an abortion are largely women of faith. They’re not having an abortion in spite of their faith, it’s in many ways informing the decision they make. ... They have a God-given right to make decisions about their life.”**

The decision to annihilate their unborn child is “informed” by their faith? Really? I assume what she really means is “They have a God-given right to make decisions about their life.”

So, God is their co-pilot, so to speak, who tells them go ahead, make any decision you want, including killing the least powerful among us, I’m good with that?

It’s not just sanctimonious name-dropping, as irritating as that is. It is to turn the Biblical narrative on its head, attempting to co-opt the Author of Life, making Him a willing partner in the Culture of Death.

Even for these folks, accustomed to saying and doing the most dreadful things, this goes too far.

**smother-to-the-death any and all stories about unsafe and unsanitary conditions at health clinics. They mock voters who don’t get their marching orders from Planned Parenthood and other abortion corporations. They praise Supreme Court justices who run roughshod over the law to keep at bay any**

justice and sexuality education at the Religious Institute, led the staff in praying and in singing “Hallelujah” at an abortion clinic that not only fights any requirement to meet minimal safety standards but is representative of abortion clinics that rip apart huge, living unborn babies—including babies capable of feeling pain.

According to the *Observer* **“We’re trying [to] say [the extreme**



# Post-abortion syndrome and “disenfranchised grief”

By Dave Andrusko

Corrine Barraclough is a columnist for the *Daily Mail* of Australia. The title of a recent story flat-out grabbed me “The Secret Grief of Abortion.”

As did a kind of term-of-art mentioned later by a counselor who deals with traumas: “disenfranchised grief.” I looked up the term and it refers to grief that is not recognized by society. Examples range from the loss of a pet to moving from a home that is filled with meaning to suicide.

Another definition of disenfranchised grief is “when

**collecting unexplained self-destructive behaviour.**

**Here is one: for too long society and the medical profession have denied any negative aspects of abortion. That’s not helpful to those trying to navigate the aftermath of abortion.**

**Australia has a repeat abortion rate of 37 per cent. For those under 30 it is 50 per cent, according to Pregnancy**

But to acknowledge that there can a ghastly price to pay when we take a baby’s life—or encourage (or coerce) a woman to do so—is both the ultimate elephant in the room and something so terrible we must insist it doesn’t exist.

Chia explained that “There is no one common way for post-abortion grief and trauma to present itself.”

**“After having an abortion, a mother may treat their children differently. Psychologists talk**

**having a new child in their presence. Women are feeling things they don’t understand.”**

Another counselor told Barraclough

**“Many remain unaware of the grief or trauma that can fester quietly for years, or the impact on children of women who had terminations. It’s creating a generation who can struggle to bond with their babies.”**



Post-abortion Art: Terry Pontikos

your heart is grieving but you can’t talk about or share your pain with others because it is considered unacceptable to others.”

What a perfect illustration of what so many women—and not a few men—endure after an abortion.

Barraclough begins by talking about the walls we build “to silence people in pain.”

**Complicated, intricate strands knot themselves around people’s throats as they try to walk through life**

**Outcome Unit Epidemiology Branch, Department of Human Services, SA Health.**

**At what emotional cost?**

**Client care manager at Abortion Grief Australia (AGA), Amy Chia, tells The Saturday Telegraph: “Abortion takes a toll on both men and women — people just don’t want to talk about it. At AGA we see vulnerable men and women constantly.”**

**about ‘good enough parenting’ as being what everyone needs to aim for.**

**“It means being present to the child to meet their physical and emotional needs in a realistic way. When you shut down pain, you shut down positive emotions.**

**“Some women who struggle with grief, loss and guilt after abortion may find it difficult to experience the joy of**

Men can suffer grievously as well—even more of an unpalatable truth.

Barraclough concludes her fine piece by asking what happens to win when this trauma surfaces years later? She has no answer, since she not want to be seen as taking a position on abortion. But there are places for women (and men) to turn to—pro-life helping organizations such as Rachel’s Vineyard “where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.”

But surely Barraclough is correct when she concludes

**The first step, surely, is giving this issue credence. Having heavily edited conversations to make sense of a narrative often means a silent elephant in the room. This is one of those times.**

**It is one of those crucial conversations that silence isn’t helping.**

**This is an Achilles heel in society — and it’s time to start.**



## The Pro-Life Movement and a season of Thanksgiving

*From page 2*

pro-lifers and pro-abortionists than how they react to natural disasters and the massive harm done to people.

Jay Hobbs wrote about the utter devastation Hurricane Mari wrought in Puerto Rico. Jay told us about Joseph Pardo who runs the woman-helping center Cree Women's Center along with his wife, Daisy, and all that they had done to "meet humanitarian needs that include access to food, clean water, safe shelter, hygiene resources and clothing through Cree Women Center's parent organization 'Love the Nation.'"

The same sort of assistance characterized women-helping groups in Texas who were there to help people rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

What was the Abortion Industry's response in Texas? We knew they were busy doing harm but it wasn't until last week that we learned just how extensive. "Whole Woman's Health's 'Stigma Relief Fund' had covered the total cost" of 85 abortions—"which would have been around \$50,620," according to Jackie

Wang of the *Dallas News*.

Whole Woman's Health was the successful plaintiff in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the Supreme Court

Amy Hagstrom Miller, founder and CEO of Whole Woman's Health, touted the fundraising her abortion clinic had done and for its

Hurricane Harvey caused untold millions in damage and was responsible for 82 deaths.

But Whole Woman's Health did them three better: 85 dead babies.

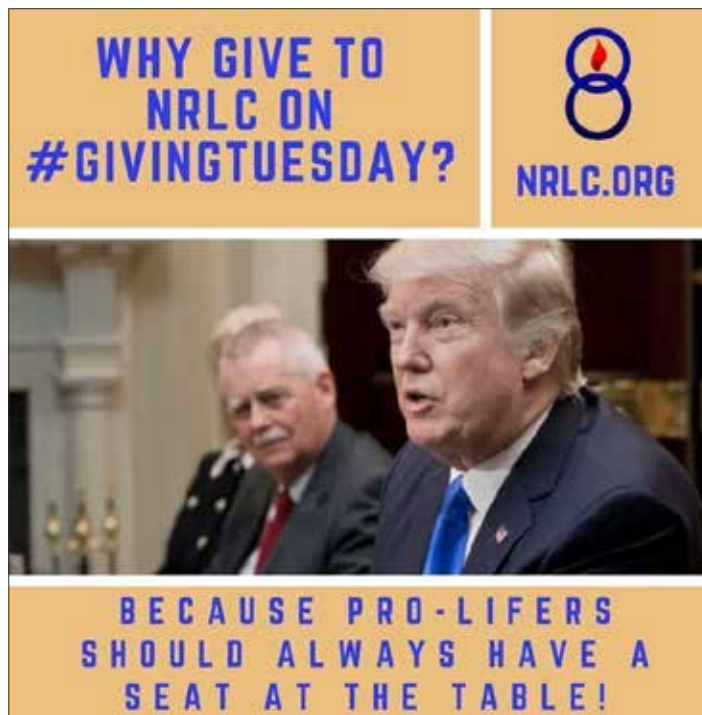
In the face of a natural disaster, the pro-life community rallies on behalf of life. In the same situation, the pro-abortion community congratulates itself that not even a hurricane can save unborn babies from their clutches.

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night [nor hurricanes] stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"—killing as many unborn babies as possible.

The contrast could not be more stark. Pro-lifers demonstrate the very best qualities, the kind that uplift and elevate the human spirit.

I am proud to be associated with you.

Happy Thanksgiving and don't forget #Giving Tuesday (November 28) where you can contribute to National Right to Life's invaluable work on behalf of the littlest Americans.



decision that struck down efforts to compel abortion clinics to meet minimal safety thresholds. You will know them by their deeds.

collaborative efforts with the Lilith Fund and other abortion groups to make sure no unborn baby lived who otherwise would have died.

## A testimony to the power of faith and to the “26th victim,” an unborn child

*From page 2*

**here, full of sorrow and of hope, knowing that the members of a deeply faithful family — who had been praising God when killed — were now home in heaven.**

None of the nonsensical critiques of “counting” an unborn child among the fatalities. Not once but twice she writes about the “unborn child.”

Also none of the condescending tone that can (hopefully inadvertently) creep into any story of people of faith facing an unexplainable, unimaginable horror. None of the hints that they are irredeemables who ought to know better—that death is the end.

I could write a lot more, but Ms. Moravec’s conclusion

speaks volumes and is far more eloquent:

**Many in the community have turned to their faith to help cope with their**



**losses, and the church decided not to hide the scene of the crime; instead leaders had it cleaned, painted and made into a standing memorial for those killed inside. White**

**chairs embossed with the names of those who died — along with single red roses — stand solemnly in a stark-white sanctuary.**

**The day of the shootings, Bryan Holcombe, the associate pastor, was filling in for the church’s pastor, Frank Pomeroy, who happened to be out of town that day;**

**Holcombe was on his way to the pulpit when he was killed. Both he and wife Karla, 58, taught their children to live their lives for the glory of God, friends and relatives said. Pomeroy buried his 14-year-old daughter Annabelle — who was killed in the attack — this week.**

**Bagpipers played “Amazing Grace” while pallbearers slowly rolled the caskets out to hearses that took the victims to a private burial. While many in attendance dabbed their eyes with tissues — individually bagged with a note from schoolchildren — some hummed along.**

## Pro-abort *NYTimes* columnist laments “The Worrisome Future of Abortion Rights”

*From page 17*

sanctions on Jane Doe’s A.C.L.U. attorneys for getting their client her abortion before the Trump administration could run to the Supreme Court with an emergency appeal.”

If what Francisco wrote is true, he was obliged to file the appeal.

The 29-page petition for review (signed by Francisco and Deputy Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall) asked the justices to vacate the D.C. Circuit’s ruling, which would mean that the decision would no longer serve as legal precedent. Why is that important? Jane Doe was just a pawn in the ACLU’s chess game, the objective of which is to open the way for any undocumented teenager who can make her way to the United States to abort.

Moreover, “the ACLU misled the United States as to the timing of Jane Doe’s abortion,” according to Justice Department spokesman Devin O’Malley

The petition specifically asserts

**The government planned to seek**

**an emergency stay from this Court before Ms. Doe could obtain an abortion. In light of counsel’s representations that no abortion would take place until October 26, the government informed this Court and respondent’s counsel that it would file an emergency application for a stay on the morning of October 25. Sometime later that evening, Ms. Doe’s appointment was changed so that instead of obtaining counseling at 7:30 a.m. on October 25, she would undergo an abortion at 4:15 a.m. that morning, just hours before the government planned to file its stay application. Respondent’s representatives did not notify the government or the shelter of the changed nature of the appointment.**

Hardly a trivial matter. And #4. Greenhouse quotes Judge Patricia Millett who wrote about not blocking “women and girls” who came to this country “without proper documentation” from “the exercise of a constitutional right [to abort].”

An unaccompanied minor entering illegally is the whole point, isn’t it? Here’s how Judge Karen L. Henderson, who along with Judge Kavanaugh had wanted to give the government time to find a sponsor, dissented from the full court of appeals decision. She wrote

**Does an alien minor who attempts to enter the United States eight weeks pregnant—and who is immediately apprehended and then in custody for 36 days between arriving and filing a federal suit—have a constitutional right to an elective abortion? .... [A]t least to me the answer is plainly— and easily— no. To conclude**

**otherwise rewards lawlessness and erases the fundamental difference between citizenship and illegal presence in our country. ...**

**Under my colleagues’ decision, it is difficult to imagine an alien minor anywhere in the world who will not have a constitutional right to an abortion in this country. Their action is at odds with Supreme Court precedent. It plows new and potentially dangerous ground.**

Which, of course, is the ACLU’s objective. Open the floodgates, and “plow new and potentially dangerous ground” in its never-ending crusade to multiple the number of dead unborn babies.



## What do the Virginia election results really tell us and what is pro-abortion spin?

*From page 23*

**“The Democratic elites mostly live in very dynamic metro areas, and they don’t wake up hungering for change,” said Greenberg, who was a pollster for President Bill Clinton and Al Gore and informally advised the Hillary Clinton campaign. “If you don’t give people some sense that you are going to make their lives economically better... then they are going to give more of an audience to the argument Trump and Gillespie made.”**

What else tells us that there isn’t a reason to draw broad nationwide conclusions from the results in Virginia? Virginia

was the only Southern state Clinton won in 2016. It is atypical in the extreme.

And, as Political Director Karen Cross has written multiple times, “In 2018, there are many opportunities to replace a pro-abortion United States Senator with a pro-life Senator.”

And none of this addresses something we’ve written about—the brewing fratricide battle within the Democratic Party over what happened in 2016, made even more volatile by former Democratic National Committee Chair Donna Brazile’s explosive new book. Brazile essentially argues the DNC sold its soul to the Clinton campaign in exchange for help with its enormous debt.

But she went much further, as this quote from a review in the

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* illustrates:

**“We had three Democratic parties: The party of Barack Obama, the party of Hillary Clinton, and this weak little vestige of a party led by [Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz] that was doing a very poor job getting people who were not president elected,” Brazile wrote, criticizing the former DNC chairwoman for incompetence. Her criticisms focused primarily on the three. She even wrote at one point, “[Obama] left it in debt. Hillary bailed it out so that she could control it, and Debbie went along with all of**

**this because she liked the power and perks of being a chair but not the responsibilities.”**

**Brazile accused Obama of caring “deeply about his image” and using the DNC to fund “his pollster and focus groups.” This was especially odd considering Obama was in his second term as president, so he was unable to run for the position again, she said.**

A bad night for pro-lifers in Virginia, clearly. But to jump from that—as pro-abortion Democrats and their media allies have already done—to conclude 2018 will be a banner year is to miss the forest for the trees.