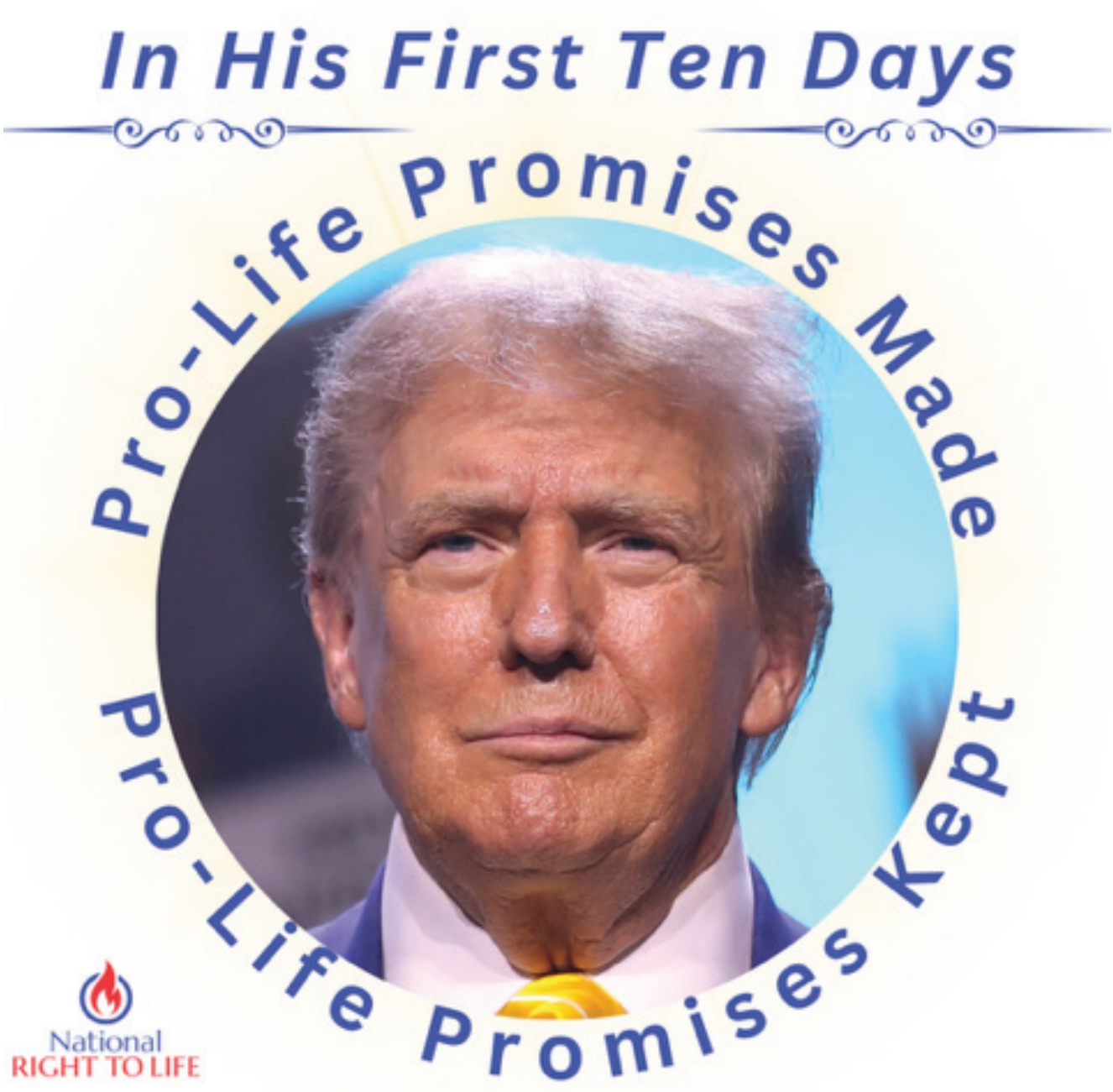
National RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

February 2025



National RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

"I want you to look around at the tens of thousands of Americans, and I want you to remember, you are not alone."

By Dave Andrusko

To give you a sense that you were almost there for the 52nd anniversary of the March for Life in Washington DC, I published the full remarks and link to the speeches of many of the terrific lineup of speakers over at https://nrlc.org/nrlnewstoday. Here, all in one place, I'm going to give you small samples of the thoughts of the Republican leadership who rallied the crowd on January 24th.

"In my second term, we will again stand proudly for families and for life. We will protect the historic gains we have made and stopped the radical Democrat push for a federal right to unlimited abortion on demand up to the moment of birth, and even after birth: Think of that, after birth; and some people want that, can you believe it? We will work to offer a loving hand to new mothers and young families, and we will support adoption and foster care. We will protect women and vulnerable children."

"Now, as you all know, the event theme this year is

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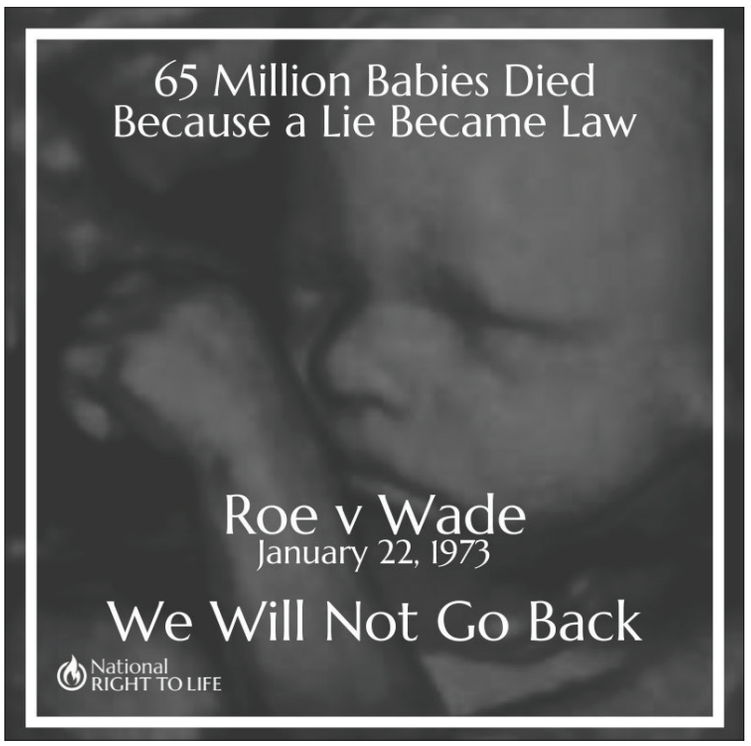
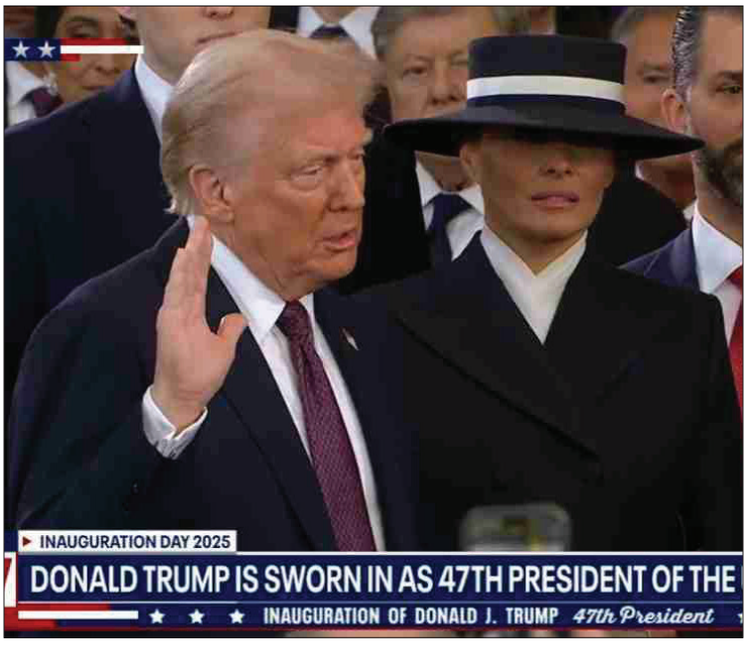


We March as a solemn remembrance for those who never had the chance to take their first breath

By Raimundo Rojas, Outreach & Events Director

For more than three decades, I've joined hundreds of thousands of others in Washington, D.C., for the March for Life. Since my first march in 1988, the streets have been filled with stories—some spoken aloud, some carried quietly in the hearts of those who walk beside me.

Over the years, I've met women marching to honor the babies they courageously chose to keep and men seeking healing for the lives they regret helping to end. I've met families holding signs for siblings or grandchildren they'll never meet and young people who march with hope for a future where every life is cherished. Each conversation and each step taken has been a reminder that this movement isn't just about laws or policies—it's about people, love, and the sacred value of life itself.



These are the reasons I continue to march year after year. This list is not remotely exhaustive, but it reflects some of the stories I've heard over 30 years on the icy cold streets of Washington, DC.

To remember the lives lost. With over 65 million lives ended since *Roe v. Wade*, each step taken is a solemn remembrance for those who never had the chance to take their first breath.

To honor mothers who chose life. Pro-lifers march to celebrate

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Editorials

Unborn Children do not "Come From Away" but are the littlest Americans

Sunday night, my wife and I joined our oldest daughter at a performance that I will never forget if for no other reason than we were so close to the stage we could have been cast standbys. The show was *Come From Away* which played on Broadway for 11 years with 1,669 regular performances before closing in 2022 and going on tour.

It's a musical about a deadly tragedy: the attacks of September 11, 2001. It was released on September 10, 2021, just one day short of the 20th anniversary of the attacks.

How could you possibly make a musical about a terror attack which cost over 3,000 lives at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania? Let's see.

Here's how Gillian Russo outlines the musical:

> *Welcome to the Rock! The Rock — that is, the island of Newfoundland in Canada — has come to New York with Come From Away. The musical tells a true story that has become something of a legend: how, on 9/11, the residents of the small town Gander welcomed thousands of airplane passengers into their town on a moment's notice, building lasting connections with them in the week that they stayed there. Come From Away has itself become a*

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"The men and women of the pro-life movement proclaim that the right to life isn't earned and it isn't particular to any group—it is a God-given right to us all."

Like many Americans I was nearly transfixed by the Senate confirmation hearings for women and men President Trump wants in his cabinet. One of the many hearings before the Senate Intelligence Committee, chaired by pro-life Senator Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas). He was, as always, the epitome of fairness and dignity.

Probably because my brain was in overdrive (that happens when I get just a few hours' sleep), that brought to mind Sen. Cotton's speech delivered at the 2021 Banquet which closed the 50th National Right to Life Convention.

In Sen. Cotton's powerful speech, he spoke of the ordeal their son Daniel went through after initially seeming to be fine when delivered prematurely,

"We kept a near-constant vigil in that NICU for almost two weeks," he said.

Their doctors "guided by God, were able to save Daniel's life. And to save so many other lives just like him. Yet so many of those young children would have had no recognition and no protection under our laws until the moment of their premature birth."

When I read his speech for maybe a third time, it reminded me of the introduction to "The Road we must travel: A Personal Guide for Your Journey." It is an extended metaphor about how life and the way we navigate it today—I'm thinking GPS—is so different from "the paper roadmaps earlier generations used to fold, crease, scribble on, repair with Scotch tape and

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From the President
Carol Tobias

What a Difference a Day Makes

Recent events made me think of the opening lines of a song written 90 years ago:

What a difference a day makes.
24 little hours brought the sun and
the flowers where there used to be rain.

Those "24 little hours" occurred on January 20 when Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States of America. That one day turned a dreary four-year period of torrential rain into bright sunshine and glorious flowers for preborn babies and their moms.

The "rain" was a steady, nonstop approach by the Biden-Harris administration, pouring millions of dollars into making abortion as easy and readily accessible as possible. They employed multiple federal departments and agencies—"whole-of-government" —to advance the killing of our innocent unborn brothers and sisters.

Not only did the administration push abortion, it worked diligently to prevent or stop any pro-life efforts, at a state or national level, to protect the babies and help their mothers.

But the "24 little hours" of January 20 brought a bevy of executive orders by President Trump aimed at reversing the anti-life policies of the Biden-Harris administration.

*Trump reinforced the Hyde Amendment so that our tax dollars could not be used to fund abortions in the US. The Hyde Amendment is conservatively estimated to have saved two million lives.

*Trump reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy so that our tax dollars are not given to international organizations that promote and/or perform abortions in other countries.

*Trump initiated the Geneva Consensus Declaration. This group of countries works together to present a united front, fighting back against pro-abortion pressure from the United Nations. Biden withdrew our name from the document and Trump put the US back in.

*Trump pardoned pro-lifers who had been imprisoned by the Biden administration for their peaceful presence outside abortion facilities while violent pro-abortion attacks on pregnancy centers and other pro-life groups went unpunished.

*The White House issued an official statement in support of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in Congress. "The Administration strongly supports H.R. 21 the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and applauds the House for its efforts to protect the most vulnerable and prevent infanticide."

*The Department of Defense issued a new policy, assuring that tax dollars would not be used to pay travel expenses for members of the military to obtain an abortion.

*Vice President JD Vance was present, and spoke at, the annual March for Life rally on January 25. He said

> *"The excitement, the passion, the unwavering conviction that every single person here on the National Mall clearly feels, it is deeply moving to me, and means more to President Trump and I than I could possibly say. ...The task of our movement is to protect innocent life, it's to defend the unborn. And it's also to be pro-family and pro-life in the fullest sense of that word possible."*

*President Trump provided an extremely encouraging and uplifting pre-recorded message, declaring,

> *"In my second term, we will again stand proudly for families and for life. We will protect the historic gains we have made and stop the radical Democrat push for a federal right to unlimited abortion on demand up to the moment of birth… We will work to offer a loving hand to new mothers and young families, and we will support adoption and foster care. We will protect women and vulnerable children.*
>
> *To all of the very special people marching today in this bitter cold, I know your hearts are warm and your spirits are strong because your mission is just very, very pure: to forge a society that welcomes and protects every child as a beautiful gift from the hand of our Creator.*
>
> *Thank you for never losing hope and never giving up. Thank you for your tremendous support. God bless you, and God bless America."*

President Trump has surrounded himself with men and women who believe that every human life, born and unborn, is precious.

Everything that has already been done is welcome and will truly make a difference. But while the future definitely looks brighter at the federal level--and we may sit back and take a big sigh of relief--there is still much to do.

As we have already seen with the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, getting pro-life measures passed in Congress will still be difficult.

While the House of Representatives voted to pass the bill, a motion to bring the bill to the floor for a vote failed to get the necessary 60 votes in the Senate to overcome a filibuster. **Every Democrat senator voted against even allowing a vote on the bill.**

Recognizing that most women want support rather than an abortion, we help to defend the lives of babies by helping their mothers. Many in Washington, as well as state legislatures, are looking for ways to provide information and/or support for moms and couples so they aren't pushed into believing that killing their baby is the best or only solution to a temporary situation.

Much of the legislative action will be at the state level, as states work to protect or strengthen their pro-life laws. But we also have several states who have to work against, or work around if possible, a radically pro-abortion state government--legislatures, governors, and attorneys general.

As always, we need to continue our educational work. Our mission is to help more people to understand the value of human life and to realize that every abortion ends the life of an innocent member of the human family.

It's true that rain clouds still hover over this great nation, But it's no less true that we've been given a great opportunity to plant and nurture more flowers.

Rest in peace, Geline Williams: A trailblazer, a champion, and a friend to all who cherish the gift of life

By Dave Andrusko

On January 12, sadly the pro-life movement lost one of its founders. Mrs. Geline Bowman Williams was chair of the NRLC board of directors for many years in addition to her many, many civic duties including being the Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, and her abiding commitment to her church.

"Her deep faith and dedication to others earned her the Benemerenti Medal, the highest papal honor for a Catholic layperson, bestowed upon her by Pope John Paul II in 1985," wrote Rai Rojas, NRLC director of outreach.

I'm reposting such warm observations from those who were mentored by Mrs. Williams and others who would fortunate enough to work alongside the "mother of the pro-life effort in Virginia."

"National Right to Life mourns the loss of a beloved pro-life leader," Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life said. "The impact Geline had on the founding of the pro-life movement and the work to protect women and their unborn babies cannot be overstated."

"Geline's journey as a pro-life advocate began in 1967, when she and her husband, Alex, founded the Virginia Society for Human Life, the nation's first state-level pro-life organization," wrote Rojas. "Their early efforts provided the foundation for what would become a robust movement to protect unborn children and their mothers from the violence of abortion."

Her welcome "was as gracious and warm as the lady herself, a true Southern lady who I would come to learn was the epitome of determination, wisdom, strength, kindness and true compassion for every individual," remember Olivia Gans Turner, president of the Virginia Society for Human Life. "Along with her steadfast and equally dedicated husband, Alex, at her side, Geline presented the teamwork that had played such a vital part in the establishment of the pro-life movement we know today."

My first introduction to Geline was at a spirited meeting of the board in 1981. My wife, Lisa, and me, had just been hired at National Right to Life. We'd packed a moving van with our belongings and stopped in Wisconsin to attend a board meeting on our way to Washington, D.C.

From that first meeting, through her more than three decades of service as chair of the board, I was often awed at what can only be described as her presence. Calm but always in command, Geline was a model of graciousness and servant leadership.

We will all miss her, a woman who (in Rai's words) was "a trailblazer, a champion, and a friend to all who cherish the gift of life."

"Even If"

By Myrna Maloney Flynn, President, Massachusetts Citizens for Life

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear . . . – 1 John 4:18

The anger of one million women leapt off the TV screen. Eight years ago, during President Trump's first inauguration, news coverage featured protest after protest, from coast to coast, in big cities and small towns. Their friends and relatives on social media, equally indignant, added to the hyperbolic, near-hysteric, calls for resistance and warnings about the end to "reproductive freedom" and quickly silenced the rest of us.

The women's appearances and tones varied slightly according to their respective geographic region but shared one defining characteristic: rage.

That January, I was living in Northampton and working at Smith College. Speaking on behalf of the unborn has never been a comfortable thing to do in Massachusetts. But as a pro-lifer on that campus in 2017, when the rapidly-spreading Women's March appeared to be taking over the planet, day-to-day life was downright stifling, lonely, and fearful.

I sat in church that Sunday, January 22, reflecting on the dark anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the dystopian TV scenes from the day before, some in my own community. Millions of babies killed and millions of infuriated women whose anger, I realized, stemmed from their own fears, however irrational.

I stared at a stained-glass window. One moment I felt helpless under the weight of things, and the next, struck, seemingly out of nowhere, with a totally foreign motivation to do what the women were doing: march!

"You're going to D.C. for the March for Life . . . alone?!" My family was flummoxed. "What if you get attacked? What if you get lost or trampled? What if you get arrested?"

I saw somewhere on social media recently that this "what if" question is itself based in fear. Switch it up a bit and you have a declaration rooted in faith and indicative of love.

Even if.

"Well, I think that even if . . ."

I recall being uncharacteristically defiant in '17, mostly toward my OK-with-the-status-quo-self. I was fed up with who I had allowed myself to become, a person who looked the other way, merely voted pro-life, and who sat silent instead of calling out injustice — flagging evil — with integrity.

"**Even if** I get yelled at or spit on . . .

"**Even if** I am called names . . .

"**Even if** people disassociate with me . . ."

It was the "even if" of pro-life love that, I now realize, propelled me to my first March for Life (and my subsequent vocation). Along Constitution Avenue, I did not feel at all alone while surrounded by scores of people to whom "even if" also made perfect sense, because it is, of course, the ceaselessly beating heart of our movement.

Even if it's freezing.

Even if it's crowded.

Even if most media outlets won't pay attention – we keep marching!

Even if they keep finding new ways to end human life.

Even if the numbers aren't going down as fast as they should be.

Even if abortionists keep denying reality – we keep fearlessly fighting for life!

Even if we must gently correct our friends, offer uncomfortable statistics to family or share stories of abortion survivors – we will find courage to speak!

Even if we have to boost our monthly donations to our favorite 52-year-old pro-life Massachusetts nonprofit – we will find those few extra dollars!

Even if it takes us another 5, 10, or 20 years to make abortion unthinkable, even if they try to censor us again, and again, and again, we will keep loving women in need and working to save the lives of their precious unborn children.

And even if Blue Beacon Hill casts shadows that makes saving those lives seem impossible, we will keep moving toward the victory that's imminent when truth is on our side. Because as President Donald Trump said in his second inaugural address on Monday, "In America, the impossible is what we do best."

Thanks to our friends in the legislature, Massachusetts Citizens for Life initiated four bills as the new legislative session got underway. We are so grateful to sponsors and cosponsors including Representatives Dave DeCoste (R), Jeffrey Turco (D), Colleen Garry (D), Alyson Sullivan (R), Joseph McKenna (R), Paul Frost (R), John Gaskey (R) and Kelly Pease (R). We'll let you know who else signs on and when you can send written testimonies or testify at committee hearings.

Nearly 3,400 hundred MCFL constituents submitted testimonies during the last session – which, as you may recall, concluded without any anti-life bills becoming law! So, even if it seems useless to speak on behalf of those who cannot, know that every voice – your voice – makes a difference.

With sincere thanks for your ongoing support…

President Trump has been in office only 16 days. What a huge difference it's made to the cause of unborn children.

By Laura Echevarria, Director of Communications and Press Secretary

There is something deeply satisfying about writing press releases or statements in support of White House policies instead of denouncing them.

For four years, preborn babies were under a never-ending and aggressive pro-abortion onslaught from the Biden administration. During Joe Biden's first year in office, National Right to Life released approximately 110 press releases and statements—that's a rate of nearly one every three days. A majority of the releases were related to pro-abortion policies of the Biden administration: from reversing President Trump's Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance program to changes in Title X funding that allowed taxpayer-funding of abortion, the tide was relentless.

Women and their preborn babies were the victims of a pro-abortion blitz, and it seemed as if the abortion industry was getting everything on its wish list.

For four years, the pro-life movement was on the defensive. Pushing forward and passing protective legislation in Congress was nearly impossible, but the pro-life movement was poised to protect long-standing laws and policies such as the Hyde Amendment. While it often felt like the futile labor of Sisyphus pushing his boulder up the hill, we stayed at it.

Today, President Trump has been in office less than three weeks, and we've been very busy. The communications department has responded to executive orders and Congressional votes advancing pro-life legislation. The change has been fast—but in a good way. President Trump's nominees for agency positions are either committed and well-known pro-life advocates or they have agreed to abide by the administration's pro-life policies.

What a change. NRL President Carol Tobias's headline for her column catches the significance in just six words: "What a Difference a Day Makes."

But we will not rest on a victory at the ballot box. Our Movement is too smart for that.

We are still facing state-by-state battles in the legislatures, and we need to educate the average American about the truth of abortion. Loud, pro-abortion voices still dominate the legacy media and the entertainment industry.

But our strength is you.

We need your help now, more than ever before. If you are not active in a local right-to-life chapter, reach out to find out where one is near you. If there isn't one, see what you need to do to start one.

Volunteer at a local pregnancy center or offer to buy clothing or diapers for a new mom in need. Not all of us are called to lobby legislators or speak before hundreds, but I believe we are all asked to do something.

As President Trump moves forward in protecting life and state legislators work to protect life, we need to support those efforts by challenging misinformation and outright lies in the media that come from the abortion industry and its huge cadre of media sympathizers.

If you are a writer, perhaps you can write a letter to the editor for your local paper to challenge a pro-abortion news story or send an email to the local news station questioning, for example, their use of pro-abortion studies supporting chemical abortions.

Please remember there are no "little tasks" in the fight for life. Rick Warren put it this way: "There will always be more people willing to do 'great' things for God than there are people willing to do the little things. The race to be a leader is crowded, but the field is wide open for those willing to be servants."

Whatever you can do to help, know that National Right to Life stands firm in our work and mission to protect lives and we are excited to see what can be accomplished in the next four years.

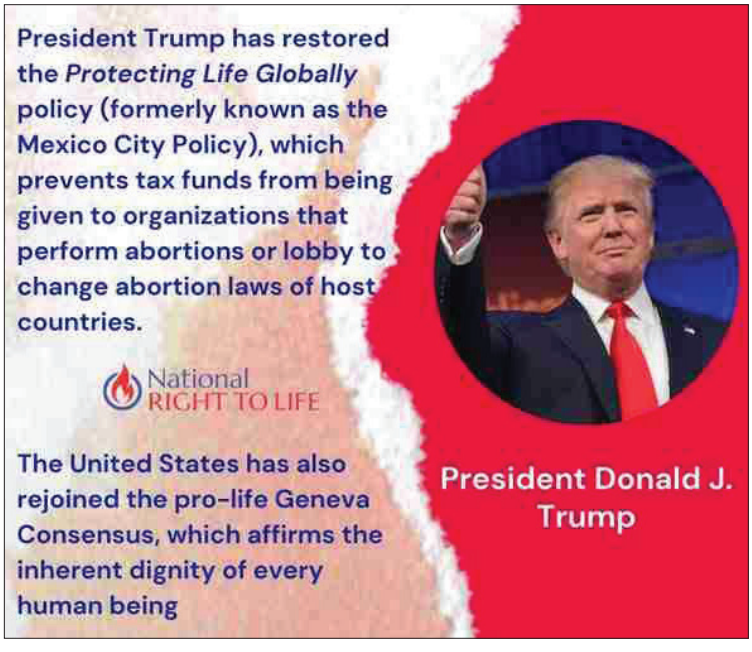
President Trump's pro-life executive orders signify that the United States is once again leading the charge to protect the most vulnerable among us at home and abroad

By Raimundo Rojas, Outreach & Events Director

In a powerful move to restore pro-life values on the international stage, President Donald Trump has reinstated the *Protecting Life Globally* policy (formerly known as the Mexico City Policy) and announced the United States' reentry into the Geneva Consensus Declaration. These decisions signify a renewed commitment to protecting life at all stages, both domestically and abroad, and mark a sharp departure from the abortion-friendly policies of the previous administration.

The *Protecting Life Globally* policy ensures that U.S. foreign aid will not fund organizations that perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning. Originally introduced by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, this policy has been reinstated by every Republican administration since, and President Trump has expanded its scope during his tenure. By reinstating and strengthening this policy, Trump has made it unequivocally clear that American taxpayer dollars will no longer subsidize the abortion industry overseas.

President Trump has also underscored his administration's staunch enforcement of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions domestically. The Hyde Amendment has been a cornerstone of U.S. pro-life policy since its enactment in 1976, and Trump's unwavering support for it has provided an additional safeguard against the misuse of taxpayer dollars for abortion-related activities. Together with the *Protecting Life Globally* policy, these measures reinforce America's commitment to protecting life at every stage and in every corner of the world.



Rejoining the Geneva Consensus Declaration further solidifies this commitment. Co-founded by the United States in 2020 under President Trump, the Declaration is a coalition of more than 30 countries united in affirming the inherent dignity of every human being, the importance of women's health without endorsing abortion, and the sovereignty of nations to protect life through their own laws. Under the Biden administration, the U.S. abandoned its leadership role in this pro-life alliance, leaving behind a global partnership that champions the sanctity of life and opposes abortion as a means of family planning.

Pro-life leaders have praised these actions as necessary and urgent. Scott Fischbach, Executive Director of National Right to Life, remarked, "The *Protecting Life Globally* policy and the Hyde Amendment are critical tools in ensuring that taxpayer dollars are never used to fund the destruction of innocent human life. President Trump's leadership is a bold step forward in restoring America's role as a global defender of the unborn."

By reinstating the *Protecting Life Globally* policy, the Trump administration has cut off funding to groups like Planned Parenthood's international affiliates and Marie Stopes International, both of which have actively promoted abortion in developing nations. Instead, U.S. foreign aid will be redirected to life-affirming programs that focus on maternal and child health, nutrition, and ethical family planning.

President Trump also took decisive action when he revoked the Biden-era policy that forced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund travel for service members' abortions. The Biden policy, implemented under the guise of "healthcare access," was nothing more than a taxpayer-funded pipeline for abortion, forcing Americans to subsidize the destruction of unborn lives under the banner of veteran services. By signing this executive order, President Trump has ensured that the VA stays true to its mission—caring for those who have served, not facilitating the taking of innocent lives.

The pro-life movement sees these actions as victories that extend far beyond America's borders. Through policies like the Hyde Amendment and the *Protecting Life Globally* policy, the United States is once again leading the charge to protect the most vulnerable among us.

These steps, combined with rejoining the Geneva Consensus, send a clear message to the world: America stands for life, dignity, and the protection of all human beings, born and unborn.

"If there was a medical mistake that actually protected a life, what happens?" Senate debates the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

By Dave Andrusko

On January 22, the U.S. Senate voted on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Although a majority of the Senate—52-47–voted to advance the measure, the legislation fell short of the 60 votes needed to overcome the filibuster of the unified bloc of pro-abortion Democrats. On January 23, the House passed the bill with 217 Republican votes in favor and one lone Democrat.

Since then, we've reposted at *National Right to Life News Today* many of the pro-life speeches, alternating between the Senate and House. In this instance, we are reposting the eloquent comments of Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma.

In just a few moments, this body will vote on a bill that actually doesn't limit abortion at all. It doesn't slow down one abortion. It doesn't stop one woman from choosing to have an abortion. It doesn't have a nationwide ban on abortion. In fact, this is a bill about what happens after an abortion.

What is unique about this bill is it is asking a pretty simple question that seems like it would be a common ground issue for us, if there is, in this case, a medical mistake that didn't take a life, we normally think about a medical mistake that takes a life. But in this case, if there was a medical mistake that actually protected a life, what happens?

This doesn't limit one single abortion in America, though many people in this body know me well enough to know I would love to protect more children in America. This bill just asks a simple question: If an abortion is botched and the child is delivered instead of destroyed in the womb and the child is alive and viable on the table, what happens next?

Current medical practice is everyone in the room just backs away, and you allow the child to die on the table. I don't think that is what most Americans would want. I think most Americans would say: Hey, I have got boundaries on the issue of abortion and definitely fully born is a boundary.

Now, it has been interesting, I have listened to the debate yesterday and today from my Democratic colleagues, many of them friends, we have a real disagreement on this. This is not extreme—as I have heard it described, an extreme, rightwing proposal about abortion.

Sen. James Lankford

I just don't think if I pulled 100 people off the street and said: "Hey, if a child is alive and screaming on the table after birth, what do you think we should do?" I bet 100 out of 100 of them would say we should probably give them medical care. I just don't think that is extreme or out of the main thought in America.

I think that is just who Americans are. We are compassionate people; that when we see a baby and look in their face, we don't say ignore them; we say let's provide some care.

I have heard some of my colleagues say that we should respect the rights of women in this. By the way, I think one of those women should be that little girl that is born who is lying on the table right there crying. I think she should get some compassion and respect as well because a decision is being made at this point about what to do. And it is not a theory.

Several of my colleagues yesterday have used terms during this debate like this is "myth-based fearmongering." That was my favorite one. "Republicans are talking about stories that do not happen" was also expressed by another one of my colleagues.

This one was just a little more blunt. One of my colleagues just came to the floor and said: "Republicans are lying." Well, here is what really happened. Let me give you a status.

This doesn't happen very often at all. Thankfully, this is rare, but the CDC does some tracking, and there are, quite frankly, only eight States in America that actually keep track of this; that if there is a botched abortion, the child is actually delivered fully alive. There are only eight States that do it. Most States say don't. In fact, what is interesting is we tried to be able to track which States actually keep track of this and have some kind of instruction of what to do on healthcare on it. A few States do; many States don't. In fact, some States, like Minnesota, literally voted recently: We used to track reporting, but we don't even want to know any more if this occurs. Don't tell us if it occurs.

Of the few States, just 8, that actually track this, over a several-year period, there were 277 cases like this where a child was actually delivered and was alive after a botched abortion.

Now, again, that is not many, but we know from eight States in that short time period, that that is occurring.

So, again, I go back to the basic question: What do we want to do about that? Do we want to just ignore that or do we have a thought about what should happen to that child?

Some of my colleagues have said this only occurs if there is a pregnancy complication and the child was already going to die or there was a fatal medical condition that was actually occurring. Well, actually, that is not true in this bill. This bill is about a viable child that was delivered late term that is now on the table alive.

I have also heard that this is going to have this massive overreach for

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Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Enforces Overwhelmingly Popular Demand to Stop Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

Editor's note. This appeared on January 25 at whitehouse.gov.

ENFORCING THE HYDE AMENDMENT:

On Friday, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to end the use of Federal taxpayer dollars to fund or promote elective abortion.

- The Order recognizes that, for nearly five decades, Congress has enacted the Hyde Amendment and a series of additional laws to protect taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortion. Contrary to this longstanding commonsense policy, the previous administration embedded federal funding of elective abortion in a wide variety of government programs.
- To restore this longstanding policy, the Order rescinds two executive orders from President Biden that violate the Hyde Amendment:
  - Executive Order 14076 imposed a whole-of-government effort to promote and fund abortion and to politicize enforcement of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act.
  - Federal statutes protecting access to emergency medical care for pregnant women under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and protecting personal health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) remain in full effect.
  - Executive Order 14079 recategorized abortion as "healthcare" in order to provide taxpayer funding for elective abortions. This included using Medicaid funding to pay for travel costs for elective abortions.

ENDING FEDERAL FUNDING OF ABORTION OVERSEAS:

President Donald J. Trump also signed a Presidential Memorandum reinstating the Mexico City Policy to stop the use of federal taxpayer dollars for abortion overseas.

- The President's policy from 2017 is reinstated to ensure that no U.S. taxpayer money supports foreign organizations that perform or actively promote abortion in other nations.
- The first Trump Administration also extended this policy to global health assistance. A 2020 report by the United States Agency for International Development found that this life-affirming policy in no way diminished women's health around the world.

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS FROM FUNDING ABORTION:

For the first time in nearly fifty years, President Trump returned the issue of life to a vote of the people, from within the States.

- *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 597 U.S. 215 (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned the power to regulate issues of life and safety to the people. Three of the justices deciding the case were appointed by President Trump.
- Federal overreach and taxpayer dollars will no longer force violations of faith and conscience or impede the ability of states to determine life policies through a vote of the people.
- For example, under President Biden, the Department of Defense reimbursed abortion-related travel expenses, the Department of Veterans Affairs allowed hospitals to provide abortions, and the Department of Health and Human Services paid for abortions for illegal immigrants.

PRESIDENT TRUMP PROMISED AND DELIVERED:

President Trump promised to protect and defend a vote of the people, from within the states, on the issue of life. Today's executive actions build on the long list of accomplishments from the first Trump Administration to support the sanctity of every human life and prevent taxpayer funding of abortion. Select highlights of the first Trump Administration's work include:

Pro-life President Donald J. Trump

- Reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy, ensuring that taxpayer money is not used to fund abortion globally.
- Issued a rule preventing Title X taxpayer

See *Fact Sheet,* Page 14

New Fact Sheets Show *Roe*, *Dobbs* Impact on the Number of Abortions in the U.S.

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

People who have visited our website over the years may be familiar with a fact sheet which regularly gave a tally of the lives lost to abortion in American since the *Roe v. Wade decision* of 1973. Last year we estimated there had been more than 65 million abortions over the last fifty years.

But we haven't added to that total this year. And that particular fact sheet hasn't been updated.

Let us explain why and tell you all about our two new fact sheets on abortion statistics.

Counting abortion in the past

For decades, National Right to Life relied on data collected from two basic sources: the Guttmacher Institute, at one time a special research affiliate of abortion giant Planned Parenthood, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which published official government statistics.

The CDC relied on reports from state health departments and regularly published figures every year. Guttmacher conducted intensive surveys of all identified abortion "providers" and put these together in a report appearing every two or three years.

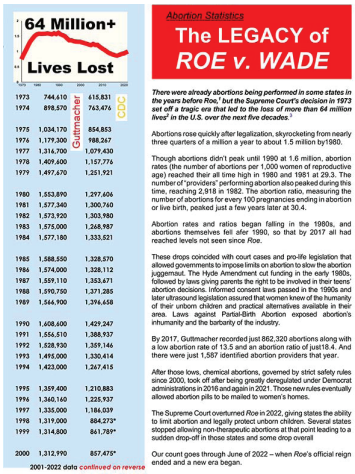
Numbers from Guttmacher were thought to be the most accurate because they surveyed providers directly and had numbers from every state. However, the CDC was still thought valuable, because it provided a standard format and allowed for yearly comparisons.

Dobbs altered the abortion landscape

The utility and accuracy of those reports changed dramatically in June of 2022 when the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision overturned *Roe*.

Many states with "trigger laws" immediately started protecting unborn children and, over the coming months, several other states limited the conditions under which abortion might be allowed.

This brought about the closure



of many clinics and prompted the abortion industry and abortion friendly states to promote (and sometimes fund) travel for pregnant women in pro-life states who were considering abortions.

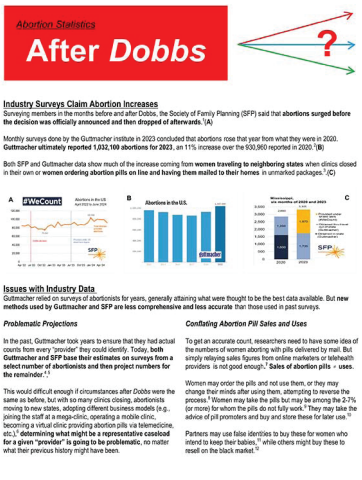
Counts taken shortly before and after the court's decision showed abortions dropped in a lot of these pro-life states right away, though some women still left and got abortion in neighboring states.

Additionally, due to safety rules watered down by the Biden administration, online mifepristone merchants began mailing abortion pills to the homes of many women even in states where their use was illegal.

Counting abortions becomes more difficult

All this made abortions harder to track and count. How do you get numbers or project caseloads for abortionists who quit or moved and changed addresses? What if they moved and then perhaps adopted a new business model, e.g., switching from private practice and joining a big megaclinic, operating out of a new mobile clinic, or only doing telemedicine?

Another complication. How do you count chemical abortions when hundreds or thousands of abortion pills are being ordered online or by phone and shipped in non-descript packages into the state? Even if you know how many sales there have been, how do you determine how many women actually used the pills mailed secretly to their homes and



"successfully" aborted or how many just bought and stored them in their medicine cabinets?

Trying to count in new ways

It was actually a trade group, the Society of Family Planning, which first decided to try to get a sense of how things changed after *Dobbs*. It collected data from its membership in a 'We Count" survey in the months just before and after the Supreme Court's decision. Their numbers showed a drop, particularly in pro-life states, just after *Dobbs*, but then showed overall national abortion levels appearing to return to "normal" in 2023.

Not to be outdone by the new upstart, the Guttmacher Institute put its usual exhaustive multi-year count aside and tried something similar to what SFP did. Guttmacher began to conduct a monthly spot survey of its own, getting reports from some of its top "providers," sampling some others, and projecting totals for the rest.

There was some variation between Guttmacher's and SFP's counts, but both appeared to show abortions returning to pre-*Dobbs* levels and then continuing to increase, driven by sponsored abortion travel and sales of chemical abortion.

Data show rising births

Reports of increasing abortions contradicted both anecdotal and statistical evidence showing thousands of additional births in states with new pro-life protections.

A research letter published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) in June of 2023 found laws passed in Texas in 2021 limiting abortion to early pregnancy resulted *in 9,799 additional* births, about 3% more than expected.

A 2024 study from the *Journal of Public Economics* found similar results in other states with new laws protecting unborn children. The authors concluded "states with abortion bans experienced an average increase in births of 2.3 percent relative to if no bans had been enforced."

Unless there was a sudden and overall increase in pregnancy in those states – something no study or data shows – it simply cannot be the case that both abortions and births surged at the same time. Someone is clearly in error.

Nailing down abortion statistics

It is against this historical backdrop and in the midst of this conflicting data that NRLC had to determine what to do with

See *Fact Sheets,* Page 41

Louisiana Grand Jury indicts New York abortionist for sending abortion pill to Louisiana minor

By Dave Andrusko

Grand jurors in West Baton Rouge Parish have indicted Dr. Margaret Carpenter, a New York abortionist, and her company, Nightingale Medical, PC, for prescribing an abortion pill online to a minor teenage girl in Port Allen, Louisiana.

Carpenter is co-director of the Abortion Coalition for Telemedicine (ACT). She is licensed to practice medicine in New York but not in Louisiana or Texas.

District Attorney Tony Clayton said a warrant was issued for the arrest of Carpenter. "The daughter wanted the pregnancy and had a reveal party planned," the district attorney said, according to *The Advocate*.

"The young child was told by the mother that she had to take the pill or else. The child took the pill was home alone… felt something happening to her body and began hemorrhaging, and the baby began to come out," Chris Nakamoto reported.

"It's the law of Louisiana. Gov. Landry, AG Liz Murrill, and our legislature has seen fit that abortions are illegal in this state," Clayton said. "Shipping an abortion pill from another state is equivalent to me of shipping fentanyl or any other type drug over here that ends up in the mouths and stomachs of our minor kids."

In 2023, New York passed a telemedicine abortion shield law, which the *New York Times* reports has been adopted in eight states. They have "become a significant avenue for providing access to abortion for women in states with bans without requiring them to leave their state," according to Pam Belluck and Emily Cochrane.

"We will not allow people to weaponize the law and undermine our providers' ability to deliver critical care," said Letitia James, New York Attorney General.

Louisiana Attorney General Murrill tweeted back

> **Respectfully, I don't think you should be the one to talk about "weaponizing the law." Since when is a coerced abortion healthcare?**

She added

> **"I have said it before and I will say it again: We will hold individuals accountable for breaking the law."**

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued Carpenter in December. "In this case, an out-of-state doctor violated the law and caused serious harm to this patient. This doctor prescribed abortion-inducing drugs — unauthorized, over telemedicine — causing her patient to end up in the hospital with serious complications," said Mr. Paxton.

Texas law requires doctors who treat residents to have a

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill

state medical license and bans physicians or medical suppliers from "providing any abortion-inducing drugs by courier, delivery, or mail service," said the attorney general's office.

"Unlike Friday's indictment in Louisiana, Carpenter faces no prison time if she's found to have violated Texas's civil statute," according to *The Washington Post's* Jonathan Edwards.

In a video posted on X, New York pro-abortion Gov. Kathy Hochul said, "I will never, under any circumstances, turn this doctor over to the state of Louisiana under any extradition request."

Clayton said he can't prosecute Carpenter if Hochul "won't extradite her but he encouraged the doctor to come to West Baton Rouge parish of her own volition to defend herself.

"Dr. Carpenter has a date with Louisiana justice," he said, "and she ought to fulfill it."

Sarah Zagorski, Communications Director for Louisiana Right to Life, said

> **"Louisiana Right to Life is deeply grieved by the harm Dr. Carpenter's actions caused in this young girl's life and the death of her unborn baby. It appears evident that the courageous minor had every intent of raising her baby as she had a reveal party planned. Now, instead of celebrating birthdays with her child, she's left with the grief from the death of her baby and the continued reminder of the abuse she experienced throughout the inevitably upcoming court process."**

Abortion is Not Love

By Amber Roseboom, President, Right to Life of Michigan

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and love is in the air, so *they* say.

Americans may spend as much as 26 billion dollars on Valentine's gifts this year, according to the National Retail Federation. That includes an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards, 250 million roses, and 36 million boxes of chocolates! Rom Coms, cards, candlelit dinners and chocolates, admittedly, are welcome treats. But it begs the question, what is love? We use the term loosely these days. I love pizza. I love traveling. I love...

St. Thomas Aquinas said, "To love is to will the good of the other." Love isn't about satisfying a need for ourselves. It is about seeking the good for the other person.

There is a reason 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is often read at weddings. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Self-sacrificing love brings true happiness.

Yet abortion advocates continue to peddle a lie that perverts truth and twists love into something destructive. Consider a few recent examples:

- According to a blog by the National Women's Law Center in Washington, DC, "Abortion actually is love. Abortion actually is compassion. Abortion actually is healing. Abortion actually is selfless."
- Or you could listen to a podcast "Dedicated to reclaiming the way we talk about abortion," entitled, "Abortion, with love."
- You could even order a T-shirt "Abortion is love," from the Avow Foundation for Abortion Access. They proudly proclaim that "abortion is an act of love for our communities, our families, and ourselves."

Of course, there is no question that *abortion is ending the life of the unborn child*.

Comedian Bill Maher said on his show, about abortion and pro-lifers, "I can respect the absolutist position. I really can. I scold the Left when they say, 'Oh, you know what, they just hate women, people who aren't pro-choice.' They don't hate women. They just made that up…They think it's murder and it kind of is. I'm just OK with that… That's my position on it…is that not your position if you're prochoice? (discussion continues) You said you're prochoice…that's your position too."

The crowd and his guests were largely silent.

In the prolife movement, we know love looks different.

Love is doing everything we can as a society to help women make a choice for life. This includes expanding prenatal and postnatal care, reaching deep into our communities with the truth about abortion, showing compassion to women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant in each and every instance, and connecting them to a local Pregnancy Resource Center to help provide the myriad of support they may need, including free medical care, clothing, food, confidential counseling and more.

Love is welcoming into our arms the post-abortive women seeking healing, mercy, and forgiveness and helping them find a future filled with new hope.

Our movement is woven together by countless stories of self-sacrificing love. For now, I want to tell you what practical love looks like from our vantage point at Right to Life of Michigan moving forward. We are:

- Expanding our reach in communities across the state, reaching people with the truth about abortion and the dangers they face in abortion clinics in Michigan today. Let's not forget that serious complications from abortion increased by 38% in **one year alone**, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Creating new, compelling educational materials that reach key demographics in our state, particularly young people.
- Expanding our reach in the digital space with more videos and content, reaching people exactly where they are -- online.
- Relaunching our "Life. The Other Choice" ad campaign to reach women and invite a choice for life now or in the future. Check out two of these ads, "Test" and "Presence," at https://rtl.org/videos/. Many of the ads end with a hotline, 1-800-712-HELP, to connect women to their local Pregnancy Resource Center.
- Protecting pro-life laws still on the books, like parental consent for abortion.
- Continuing to lead the fight against the growing threat of physician-assisted suicide.
- And so much more!

The present and future must be met with new strategies and tactics on behalf of the cause for life, and that's exactly what we're committed to doing!

Together, we can show Americans what true love is all about!

Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll continues to show a consistent majority of Americans support limits on abortion and overwhelming support for Pregnancy Resource Centers

By Dave Andrusko

Each year, around the time of the March for Life in January, the Knights of Columbus, in conjunction with the Marist Poll, produces a revealing poll that goes above and beyond asking the usual questions.

Released January 23, the Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll "show that 67% of Americans support placing legal limits on abortion, and that 60% support limiting abortions to at most the first three months of pregnancy." Not ideal but a long way from support for the Democrats' ideal—abortion without limit throughout pregnancy (and paid for with taxpayer dollars) and Democrats aggressive resistance to a law that would protect helpless babies born alive following a "failed" abortion.

For example, only 27% of the 1,387 adults surveyed in January agreed that an abortion "should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy."

There are additional results that reveal the public is decidedly on the side of life.

- *57% oppose using tax dollars to pay for abortion. That increases to 73% who oppose using tax dollars to support abortion services in other countries.
- *83% support the saintly work of pregnancy resource centers.
- * 82% responded to the question "When asked "Which statement comes closer to your view: It is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn, or it is necessary for laws to choose to protect one and not the other?"—by answering that laws can support both mother and baby.
- *62% say doctors, nurses, or other healthcare professionals who have religious objections to abortion but practice where abortion is legal, should not be legally required to perform abortions.
- *63% say that for women receiving the abortion pill, "an in-person visit with a healthcare professional should be required."

"The Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll once again shows that a majority of Americans support legal restrictions on abortion, and an overwhelming majority support pregnancy resource centers, which assist mothers and their children in greatest need," said Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

Senate debates the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

From Page 8

doctors; that they are going to be oppressed, and they are going to be afraid to practice on this.

Actually, the bill is pretty clear on this. This still gives the doctor the ability to use his or her professional judgment in the care that would normally be provided to a child that is born. That is it.

The doctor may look at it and say: This child is not going to make it. That is still a professional judgment that is there or they may have a professional judgment that the child will make it. And as I have mentioned on this floor before, there are adults walking around today that survived an abortion, like Melissa Ohden and other folks that I know personally.

So this is not something that just never occurs. So it doesn't limit abortion. It doesn't restrict doctors. It actually does happen—contrary to what some of my colleagues have said that this never happens, it actually does happen on this.

I have had colleagues that have said: Infanticide is already illegal. This is unnecessary so let's move on. This is unnecessary. Except we have also established the issue that, yes, taking the life of that child on the table, literally once that child is on the table crying, they can't reach down and take the life of that child.

That is Kermit Gosnell, horrific stuff. But just allowing them to slowly die, that is still protected. So that is not there. One of my colleagues came to this floor and made this statement:

At the center of this debate is whether we believe in the premise from the Declaration of Independence that all are created equal, that freedom belongs to everyone, and that women deserve to be treated as equal citizens.

I actually couldn't agree more with my colleague because that same Declaration of Independence, right next to that statement about everyone being created equal, also includes a simple little comment that says:

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

And our question on this particular bill is, when that child is born and she is crying on the table, does she have the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness or not? That is all this bill does. This bill should be a simple process to say this is not who we are as Americans.

As Americans, we respect the opportunity for life for that child that is fully delivered, and then we determine what we are going to do.

Just because a baby can't defend herself, doesn't mean she is disposable. It means she is vulnerable, and that means we as a nation should determine what we are going to do with the life of the most vulnerable.

I encourage a "yes" vote on this. This should be a bipartisan conversation where we speak from this body for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Full Text of President Trump Address to the March for Life 2025

In a video message, the 47th president promises to 'stand proudly for families and for life.'

Hello to everyone at the March for Life. It's a pleasure to speak to you from the beautiful Oval Office. That's where we are right now, the magnificent Oval Office. And thank you for turning out once again to show your extraordinary love and compassion for the unborn.

Each year, Americans of every age, color and background travel to our nation's capital by the tens of thousands to stand up for precious little babies who cannot stand up for themselves. I am proud to be the first president ever to have joined you in person.

As you know, this annual march started 52 years ago, on the first anniversary of the disastrous ruling known as Roe v. Wade. That unconstitutional decision took power away from the states and the voters, kicking off 50 years of division and anger. But thanks to your tireless work and devotion across five decades, that historic wrong was set right three years ago. I was so proud to be a participant.

Six courageous justices of the Supreme Court of the United States returned the issue to the state legislatures and to the people, where it belongs. It became a vote of the people.

In my second term, we will again stand proudly for families and for life. We will protect the historic gains we have made and stopped the radical Democrat push for a federal right to unlimited abortion on demand up to the moment of birth, and even after birth: Think of that, *after birth*; and some people want that, can you believe it? We will work to offer a loving hand to new mothers and young families, and we will support adoption and foster care. We will protect women and vulnerable children.

Pro-life President Donald Trump addresses the March for Life from the Oval Office

Under my leadership, a reformed Department of Justice will finally investigate the radical left attacks on churches and crisis-pregnancy centers, and we will bring perpetrators to justice. We will get them to justice, one way or the other. I will also end the weaponization of law enforcement against Americans of faith, and I'm releasing the Christians and pro-life activists who were persecuted by the Biden regime for praying and living out their faith. I just signed that document, and they're being released.

One such American was Paula Harlow. At 75 years old, Paula was sentenced to two years in prison, after praying outside of a clinic; that's why she was sentenced to two years. That's what happened under the Biden regime; in her sentencing, the judge mocked her Christian faith while her husband pleaded to be thrown in jail with his wife, fearing she would die alone behind bars.

This week it was my honor to grant a full and complete pardon to Paula and many others who were the victims of this horrific weaponization. Never again will religious persecution be allowed to happen in America.

To all of the very special people marching today in this bitter cold, I know your hearts are warm and your spirits are strong because your mission is just very, very pure: to forge a society that welcomes and protects every child as a beautiful gift from the hand of our Creator.

Thank you for never losing hope and never giving up. Thank you for your tremendous support. God bless you, and God bless America.

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Enforces Overwhelmingly Popular Demand to Stop Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

From Page 9

- funding from subsiding the abortion industry.
- Cut all funding to the United Nations Population Fund, which supports coercive abortion and forced sterilization.
- Signed legislation overturning the previous administration's regulation that prohibited states from defunding abortion facilities as part of their family planning programs.
- Fully enforced the separate payment requirement for abortion coverage in Obamacare exchange plans.
- Stopped the Federal funding of fetal tissue research.
- Worked to protect healthcare entities and individuals' conscience rights, ensuring that no medical professional is forced to participate in an abortion in violation of their beliefs.
- Issued an executive order reinforcing the requirement that all hospitals in the United States provide medical treatment or an emergency transfer for infants who are in need of emergency medical care—regardless of prematurity or disability.
- Led a coalition of countries to sign the Geneva Consensus Declaration, declaring that there is no international right to abortion and committing to protecting women's health.
- First president in history to attend the March for Life.

SAVE THE DATE

54TH ANNUAL NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONFERENCE

JUNE 20 - 21, 2025

Overland Park, Kansas

National RIGHT TO LIFE

Sexual abuser, 45, throws newborn's body in dumpster after impregnating teen girl

By Bridget Sielicki

A Tennessee man is behind bars after authorities say he threw a newborn baby in a dumpster. The baby, who was the child of a teen girl the man had allegedly raped, was found dead by responding officers.

According to the Memphis Police Department (MPD), on the morning of January 27, James Boothe Jr., 45, was driving the 16-year-old girl to the hospital to give birth, but the baby arrived en route. Instead of continuing the journey or calling for help, Boothe pulled over into a gas station, placed the baby in a bag, and threw the bag in a dumpster.

Authorities responded to the gas station after receiving a call about suspicious activity. Surveillance video provided by the owner of the gas station captured Boothe throwing a black trash bag into the dumpster; when it was recovered, the newborn's lifeless body was inside. Boothe was arrested the next day.

After the incident, the girl told MPD she and Boothe had been in a "relationship" for three years. Though he was initially held on a charge of abuse of a corpse, he may face additional charges in the coming days, including a charge of rape of a child. Authorities have yet to release any information as to exactly how or when the infant died. The girl was also taken to the hospital, where she was reportedly in non-critical condition.

According to *Fox13*, Boothe has an extensive criminal record, including a conviction of second-degree murder in 1995.

Following the incident, officials are reminding people of the state's safe haven law, which allows a parent to safely surrender an infant after birth if the parent feels unable to care for the child. In Tennessee, the mother can surrender a newborn up to two weeks after birth without facing charges. Designated safe haven facilities include hospitals and staffed fire stations, police departments, or emergency medical services facilities.

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

Fifty-two years after *Roe* decided, and two years after it was overturned, infamous abortionist retires

By Dave Andrusko

"While the public is constantly being told about pro-abortion campaigns to 'help' women find a way to abort their unborn children in light of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, it is nigh on impossible to read about how the thousands of pro-life organizations have lovingly responded. So it's doubly surprising to read 'Anti-abortion groups are getting more calls for help with unplanned pregnancies' both because it did not fit the tiresome pro-abortion narrative and because it was a largely sympathetic story from of all places, National Public Radio (NPR)." —"Post-Roe, Women-Helping Centers busier than ever"

"One of the country's most infamous late-term abortionists is retiring after 50 years. Warren Hern will step down from his position at the helm of Boulder Abortion Clinic, which he founded — though the facility will remain open to continue ending the lives of preborn human beings.

"Ms. Magazine ***reported*** *that Hern's official retirement date is today, January 22, 2025, exactly 50 years to the day that he opened his facility in Boulder, Colorado."*— "Warren Hern announces retirement after 50 years of committing late-term abortions"

How appropriate that the premier "late term" abortionist should announce his retirement effective on the anniversary of *Roe,* the decision gloriously overturned by *Dobbs*!

On many occasions, Warren Hern would be evasive. He did not suffer most reporters gladly. But sometimes, when pressed, Hern would blurt out the truth.

Check out this quote from *The Atlantic* story written by Elaine Godfrey

"A baby is a fetus until it is 'born alive,' he told me as I chewed my bucatini."

And

Hern "believes that the viability of a fetus is determined not by gestational age but by a woman's willingness to carry it."

Godfrey asked Hern if he would commit a late-term abortion on a healthy woman:

'So, if a pregnant woman with no health issues comes to the clinic, say, at 30 weeks, what would you do?' I asked Hern once.

The question irked him. 'Every pregnancy is a health issue!' he said.

Abortionist Warren Hern
Video screen still

'There's a certifiable risk of death from being pregnant, period.'

As Hern grudgingly told Godrey, at least half of the late term abortions he performed were on babies who did not have devastating diagnoses—AT LEAST HALF!

Cassy Fiano-Chesser of Live Action News summed up Hern perfectly:

Hern didn't commit late-term abortions out of compassion; he did so because it pays well and because he wanted to. He isn't a noble savior of women preventing them from dying horrible, preventable deaths. He has misanthropic views and believes pregnancy itself is a disease worthy of committing abortion, at any time in pregnancy. That isn't compassion, and it's not what women need or deserve.

Lies and distortions are the pro-abortion order of the day in Senate Confirmation Hearings

By Dave Andrusko

Candidly, the Senate grilling of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to be Secretary of Health and Services was a breathtaking collection of lies, distortions, and minimizing of the dangers of chemical abortion are breathtaking.

Compounded this shameful display was a shocking comment by pro-abortion Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse who described late-term abortion as nothing more than "childbirth gone wrong."

The Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists nailed it:

> *Let's be clear: induced abortion intentionally ends the life of a preborn child. This includes late-term abortions in the 2nd or 3rd trimester.*

And if that were not enough, there was the charge that pro-life laws imperil women's lives. As Dr. Ingrid Skop tweeted

> *No pro-life law prevents care for women experiencing a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or any pregnancy emergency. The fearmongering has to stop.*

Circling back, Dr. Skop destroys the mythology that chemical abortions—the "abortion pill"—are foolproof.

She wrote

> *Abortion drugs cause complications four times more often than surgical abortions and fail requiring surgery in at least 3-5% of cases, even when used as the FDA has directed. The real issue? The abortion lobby pushing these unsupervised, dangerous drugs at women's expense.*

Dr. Christina Francis and John Mize went into more depth in an op-ed for *The Federalist*:

> *The removal of Food and Drug Administration safety measures on the pill during Covid lockdowns, including the in-person visit and follow-up care requirement, has created significant risks for women, and pro-life groups are urging the reinstatement of critical safety measures.*

They wrote that "Abortion pills are not benign."

> *The FDA itself acknowledges severe risks, including hemorrhage, sepsis, and even death, with some 36 fatalities linked to the drug mifepristone. Tragically, these dangers are not theoretical. One tragic example is the death of Amber Nicole Thurman, a mother of twins, who died after taking abortion pills she obtained without a follow-up visit. Had REMS [Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies] protocols been in place, Amber's abortion facility could have identified and quickly treated the complications she suffered from the drug, and her life might have been saved.*

They added

> *By requiring medical oversight for abortion pills, the federal government would take a bipartisan step to protect women from avoidable harm. Reinstating REMS would not ban the abortion pill but ensure it is used with the same safety standards applied to other high-risk drugs. . . .*

Dr. Francis and Mize ended with excellent advice for all:

> *Protecting women's health should be a shared goal, regardless of one's position on abortion. Restoring FDA oversight of the abortion pill is a common-sense reform that pro-abortion and pro-life Americans alike should support.*

The Concentration of Canada's Euthanasia Providers Signals a Critical Juncture for Meaningful Policy Reform

By Dr. Yuriko Ryan

A new article published on January 10, 2025, in *The American Journal of Bioethics* examines the rapid increase in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) deaths in Canada.

Dr. Christopher Lyon, the lead author, witnessed a MAID death in BC; Dr. Trudo Lemmens is a member of the MAID Death Review Panel of the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, and Dr. Scott H.M. Kim along with Dr. Lemmens, were members of the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying.

The authors describe the rise of MAID deaths in Canada, suggesting it is influenced by policy rather than widespread societal acceptance. They argue that organizations such as the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers (CAMAP) and Dying with Dignity Canada (DWDC) have significantly influenced MAID policy, emphasizing access over patient safety and protection against premature death. This, according to the authors, has resulted in concerning cases and potential legal violations. They call for substantial reform, advocating for more transparent, evidence-based, and multi-perspective policymaking to ensure a safer and more ethical MAID system in Canada.

The key issues discussed in this article include:

Drivers for the Exponential increase in MAID deaths

Provider Concentration: A small group of clinicians are responsible for the majority of MAID deaths. The Fifth Annual Report on MAID 2023 (Canada, 2024) shows that practitioners who performed MAID 11 or more times in 2023 provided 66.4% of Track 1 (a requester's natural death is reasonably foreseeable) cases; and 58.4% of Track 2 (a requester's natural death is NOT reasonably foreseeable) cases. Some clinicians have made MAID their full-time practice, and the number of cases per provider has increased from 5.1 in 2019 to 7.2 in 2022.

Dr. Yuriko Ryan

Problematic Cases: There have been instances where individuals sought MAID due to lack of access to other resources, non-compliance with eligibility criteria, incomplete documentation, and clinicians refusing to cooperate with oversight bodies. A concerning number of unlawful MAID deaths have been reported.

Expansion of Eligibility: There is an active movement toward further expansions in MAID eligibility, including for mature minors and those with mental disorders. There are concerns that the focus is on facilitating access to MAID rather than protecting against premature death. Some cases suggest that individuals with mental illness, poverty, or lack of adequate support have received MAID.

Lack of Safeguards: The criteria for MAID, such as "serious and irremediable" conditions, have been interpreted flexibly, with heavy reliance on self-reporting. The MAID law does not require a high level of expertise for assessments.

Influence of Advocacy Groups: CAMAP and DWDC have played a disproportionate role in influencing MAID policy. CAMAP has close ties to DWDC, an expansionist advocacy group, and this has resulted in a conflict of interest that has been disregarded by the Canadian government.

CAMAP's Role and Influence:

Activist Ideology: CAMAP promotes an activist approach to MAID and has its origins in the leading global MAID advocacy organization, DWDC. CAMAP's bylaws require that more than half of its directors must be assessors or providers who have approved or provided MAID for at least five people each year.

Policy Influence: CAMAP has been consulted by Health Canada and has received public funds ($3M CAD) to develop a national training curriculum. CAMAP members' expertise appears to be based on informal accumulation of patient requests and deaths rather than formal training.

Guidance Documents: CAMAP's guidance documents have been geared toward expansion, with advice on how to circumvent requirements for those not approaching natural death. CAMAP advises clinicians to mention MAID to potentially eligible patients, which some consider a risk of coercion. The organization also suggests that the imminent loss of capacity can be seen as an "advanced state of irreversible decline."

Flaws in Canadian MAID Law:

Subjective Preferences: The irremediability is reduced to the subjective preference of the requester. The law allows the co-opting of the healthcare system for the delivery of ideologically driven deaths.

Lack of Medical Expertise: The majority of MAID delivery is by non-specialist family practitioners and nurse practitioners. The law allows a person with "expertise in the condition" to be consulted rather than requiring a specialist, explicitly to avoid barriers to access.

Prioritizing Access over Safety: The Canadian MAID law prioritizes access to MAID over safety measures. Some providers construct MAID in ideological terms, as 'social justice,' 'a crusade,' or 'empowering people.'

Conclusion:

The rapid increase in MAID deaths in Canada is not solely a reflection of widespread public support but is influenced by a small group of activists. The close relationship between CAMAP and DWDC, along with the government's reliance on these organizations, has led to an expansionist approach to MAID. There is a need for substantial review of MAID policy and practice. Reforms are urgently needed to insulate policy

See *Canada,* Page 24

North Dakota Supreme Court denies request to enforce pro-life law while state appeals an earlier decision that found it unconstitutional

By Dave Andrusko

On January 19, a divided North Dakota Supreme Court ignored a thoughtful and lengthy dissent to hold that the state may not enforce Senate Bill 2150, the state's strongly pro-life law, while the provision's constitutionality is under review.

"This is only a decision on the stay motion, not on the constitutional merits of the legislation," Attorney General Drew Wrigley said. "North Dakota will continue moving forward to fully litigate this matter before the state Supreme Court, where we intend to establish that the law passed by our legislature is clearly constitutional."

Three North Dakota Supreme Court justices—Daniel Crothers, Lisa Fair McEvers, Daniel Narum—refused to reinstate SB 2150 which South Central Judicial District Judge Bruce Romanick struck down in September 2024.

Judge Romanick wrote "The abortions statutes at issue in this case infringes on a woman's fundamental right to procreative autonomy and are not narrowly tailored to promote women's health or to protect unborn human life." He added, "The law as currently drafted takes away a woman's liberty and her right to pursue and obtain safety and happiness."

Chief Justice Jon Jensen and Justice Jerod Tufte vigorously dissented from the decision not to grant a stay. Reporter Mary Steurer wrote that Tufte

> **noted that when the North Dakota Supreme Court made its 2023 decision on the state's previous abortion law, it was at an early stage of the lawsuit. The court never made an "ultimate decision" as to the constitutionality of the law, Tufte wrote.**

Tufte also agreed with the state that Romanick's opinion contained significant legal errors that could undermine the district court ruling, and that the authors of the North Dakota Constitution did not have any intention of it being used to establish abortion rights.

Solicitor general Phil Axt provides the state's argument to North Dakota Supreme Court justices Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024. Contributed / North Dakota Supreme Court

In his dissent Justice Tufte further added

> **This Court's denial of a stay results in the statute being unenforceable during the pendency of the appeal. Our ultimate decision on this appeal has no date. The statute would be temporarily unenforceable but not repealed. The oral argument on the merits is months away. A decision in a weighty constitutional case may take several months after argument. For example, this Court did not decide a 2013 abortion case until thirteen months after the case was submitted to the Court.**
>
> **By declining to grant a stay, this Court leaves in place the district court's judgment, resulting in suspension of enforcement of the challenged statutes as if they were void for a period of at least several months.**
>
> **But courts don't turn statutes on and off or erase them from code books. This Court's power to preclude enforcement of a statute requires a declaration that it is in conflict with the constitution or was enacted in violation of required constitutional procedure. Denying a stay here has the effect of suspending enforcement of the statute until an uncertain future date when this Court renders final judgment on the merits. It is not clear whether a simple majority of three members of this Court has that power.**

Background

On April 23, 2023, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum signed Senate Bill 2150, a bill which sped through the House 76-14 and the Senate 42-5.

That prompted Sen. Janne Myrdal to tell reporters, "North Dakota has always been pro-life and believed in valuing the moms and children both" adding "We're pretty happy and grateful that the governor stands with that value."

However, The Red River Women's Clinic [RRWC], which had moved from Fargo to neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota, in 2022, sued attorney General Wrigley in July 2023 to prevent the protective law from taking effect.

In October 2023 Judge Romanick rejected a request from Attorney General Wrigley to allow the 2007 law take effect while the lawsuit went forward. In September 2024 he struck down the law and the state appealed.

On November 21, 2024, North Dakota Solicitor General Phil Axt outlined for the state's highest court where Judge Romanick's "legal analysis went wrong."

Axt "argued the district court has 'lost sight' of the state's interest in preserving life and said there is nowhere in the North Dakota Constitution that guarantees the right to an abortion."

Axt told the court "It's been clear since our territorial days that in order to justify killing another human being, there must be a threat of death or serious bodily injury."

Late-Term Abortionist's Shocking Statement About Concentration Camps

A comparison you wouldn't expect to hear coming from an abortion provider.

By Sarah Terzo

Dr. William Raushbaum was an American abortionist who did late-term abortions. He died in 2005 and committed abortions until shortly before his death. During his lifetime, he did over 20,000 abortions, many of them in the second or third trimester.

Not only did he commit many abortions at those late stages, but he also trained many other abortionists to do them. Many of the abortionists he taught to do late-term abortions are still doing them today. So, directly or indirectly, he was responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of babies.

But in an interview done early in his career, he made a shocking statement about the Nazis.

German pro-life activist Klaus Guenter Annen lost a case in the European Court of Human Rights. He was appealing an injunction placed on him that censored him for inflammatory speech against abortion.

Annen had described abortion as "aggravated murder" and compared it to the German Holocaust on his personal website. The government gave him an injunction for speech the court said "had not only been very serious but might also have incited hatred and aggression."

American pro-lifers who have compared abortion to the Holocaust have been subjected to extreme criticism. Still, as yet, no one has tried to ban pro-lifers from making the comparison.

Pro-lifers often point to the massive number of abortions when making this comparison, and the fact that preborn babies are so dehumanized.

However, in terms of the extreme suffering of the victims and the public indifference to rounding up people who were so clearly human beings (and often, neighbors, colleagues, and acquaintances) the Holocaust stands unmatched as a human atrocity.

It may surprise you, though, that one person who made the abortion/Nazi connection wasn't a pro-lifer, but a practicing abortionist.

Dr. William Rashbaum, now deceased, committed abortions for many years. He did both early and late-term abortions.

In an interview with a reporter from the New York Times Magazine that took place early in his abortion career, he said that each time he did an abortion, he was troubled by a fantasy, an image in his mind. He would think of the tiny preborn baby clinging to the walls of the uterus, desperately fighting the suction or the forceps as he pulled her from the womb.

The reporter asked Rashbaum how he dealt with this haunting image that intruded on his thoughts. How did he manage to do abortions despite this fantasy? Rashbaum replied: "Learned to live with it. Like people in concentration camps."

The reporter, perhaps taken aback by this statement, asked if Rashbaum really meant that metaphor. Rashbaum responded:

I think it's apt – destruction of life. Look! I'm a person, I'm entitled to my feelings. And my feelings are who gave me or anybody the right to terminate a pregnancy?

I'm entitled to that feeling, but I also have no right communicating it to the patient who desperately wants that abortion. I don't get paid for my feelings. I get paid for my skills…

I'll be frank. I began to do abortions in large numbers at the time of my divorce when I needed money. But I also believe in the woman's right to control their biological destiny.

I spent a lot of years learning to deliver babies. Sure, it sometimes hurts to end life instead of bringing it into the world.

Rashbaum freely admitted that he was destroying life. He knew he was killing. Yet this did not compel him to stop committing abortions. As of 2003 (over 20 years after the interview) he had done 20,000 of them.

It's interesting that an abortionist would see a connection between abortion clinics and concentration camps. Why did he make a career out of doing abortions despite the fact that he felt like a Nazi? And how could he continue doing them if he saw aborted babies as comparable to murdered Jewish people and other Nazi victims?

It may have been a combination of the amount of money he was able to make and a genuine belief he was helping women. Regardless, this abortionist clearly knew that he was killing babies.

One wonders what the European Court of Human Rights would have done if, instead of making the comparison himself, Annen had quoted Rashbaum on his website. Would the abortionist's words have been taken as inciting "hatred and aggression" towards himself and other abortionists?

Editor's note This appeared on Sarah's Substack and reposted here with permission.

World's most premature surviving baby, born at 21 weeks and one day, celebrates fourth birthday

By Right to Life UK

The most premature surviving baby ever, born 132 days early at just 21 weeks and one day, has celebrated his fourth birthday.

Tiny baby Curtis Zy-Keith Means weighed only 14.8 oz (420g) when he was born, and doctors gave him a less than 1% chance of survival.

He was born at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital in Alabama, USA, along with his twin sister C'Aysa, who sadly did not survive. After his unexpected early arrival, Curtis spent nine months in the neonatal intensive care unit at the hospital.

Curtis's mother Michelle fought for her babies

Brian Sims, a professor of pediatrics in the neonatology division at the University of Alabama Hospital, said "His birth was a complete shock".

"I was called by my obstetrical colleagues that Curtis's mom was in the labour and delivery and she was precipitously about to deliver, and they wanted me to go in and talk to her about the poor prognosis of babies being born at 21 weeks and one day".

"Mom's question to me was "Can we give my babies a chance?".

Professor Sims spoke about the chances of survival for babies born so prematurely: "Numbers show that babies born so young have little to no chances of survival", Sims said. "We typically advise for compassionate care in situations of such extremely preterm births. This allows the parents to hold their babies and cherish what little time they may have together".

Despite this, the doctor told Curtis's mum that they would take their lead from the babies and, if they responded to treatment, they would keep going.

"It was very stressful", Michelle said.

Whilst his little sister tragically did not make it, Curtis responded to treatment and showed signs of improvement.

Dr Colm Travers, assistant professor in the Division of Neonatology at the University of Alabama Birmingham Hospital, said "Initially Curtis was on a lot of breathing support and medications for his heart and lungs to keep him alive and then over the next several weeks we were able to decrease the amount of support and help that we were giving him".

"Then when he was about three months old we were able to finally take him off the ventilator, and eventually when he was about nine months old we were able to send him home just on a nasal cannula oxygen and also with feeds through a gastrostomy tube".

Dr Sims said "When Curtis was discharged, there was much excitement in the unit. Curtis was a special young man and there was something unique about him".

"[Michelle] made the first campaign for Curtis to be alive. She was a champion for her baby, she spoke up for her baby and I'm so thankful that we listened to her".

Record-breaking boy graduates after 275 days in the hospital

Despite the 1% chance of survival that he was given, after 275 days in hospital, Curtis graduated from the ward and was able to go home.

"Being able to finally take Curtis home and surprise my older children with their younger brother is a moment I will always remember", Michelle said. "It was a difficult journey, but I am grateful for the UAB team and their constant support. They took the time to educate me and made sure I knew what was happening every step of the way. They truly cared about my son and me".

Curtis is now thriving at four years old and holds the Guinness World Record for the youngest-ever premature baby to survive.

Michelle said that Curtis loves playing with his toys and watching Mickey Mouse, which is his favourite cartoon, as well as calling people up on his mother's phone. He now weighs 33lb (15kg).

Survival rates have improved for extremely premature babies

At 21 weeks and one day, Curtis is the most premature baby ever to survive.

A 2008 study looking at survival rates for a neonatal intensive care unit in London found that neonatal survival rates at 22 and 23 weeks gestation had improved over time. In 1981-85, no babies who were born at these gestational ages survived to discharge. However, by 1986-90, 19% did and this increased to 54% in the period 1996-2000.

In the decade to 2019 alone, the survival rate for extremely premature babies born at 23 weeks doubled, prompting new guidance from the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) that enables doctors to intervene to save premature babies from 22 weeks gestation. The previous clinical guidance, drafted in 2008, set the standard that babies who were born before 23 weeks gestation should not be resuscitated.

Spokesperson for Right To Life UK, Catherine Robinson, said

"How amazing to hear that Curtis is doing so well at four years old. The fact that the world's most premature baby was born only four years ago demonstrates how our medical technologies are improving all the time to provide these very tiny babies with the best chance of survival. What a beautiful outcome for little Curtis and his family."

Who bills for 'reproductive' services? Not pregnancy help: "Our work comes from the heart. No charge!"

By Patty Knap

The discussion of the possible defunding of taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood has highlighted the fact that pregnancy centers have operated for years without federal taxpayer subsidies.

Yet in spite of a staggering $700 million Planned Parenthood receives each year in taxpayer funding, the abortion giant continues to charge for everything, while most pregnancy centers charge for nothing.

The pregnancy help community knows fundraising is an ongoing effort, with various events planned throughout the year. From dinners, journals, raffles, walk-a-thons, auctions, garage sales, and baby bottle campaigns, to reaching out for local services including electricians, roofers, gardeners, repairmen for donated help, finding ways to cut costs and have services remain free is front and center.

Abortion centers rake in money for every "service" they offer, with abortions being their primary sale. They charge between $600 – $2000 for abortions, depending on the stage of pregnancy and what part of the country they're in.

And Planned Parenthood's pregnancy tests? They cost about $20-$25 in local pharmacies; some dollar stores now sell them for $1.25 or $1.50. Pregnancy centers routinely offer them for free. But Planned Parenthood, after buying them in huge quantities just like pregnancy centers do, charges over $100 in various parts of the U.S.

In talking to women at the pregnancy center where I serve, I learned that the Planned Parenthood nearest us now charges $140 for a pregnancy test, unless the client's insurance covers it.

With that kind of mark up, do they really need taxpayer funding?

Some may wonder, wouldn't it be easier to charge clients something to help offset the formidable operating expenses of rent, electricity, heat and A/C, furniture, computers, printers, pregnancy tests, literature, etc.? Donors themselves sometimes ask this question. What about just $25 for each client that comes in?

No, say those who work in pregnancy help.

Stefania Foxx, assistant director of Alpha Pregnancy Center in Schenectady, N.Y., explains why.

"First and foremost, we're able to get the information a girl needs in a moment of crisis. We're not limited to talking only about a certain choice," she said. "Because pregnancy centers aren't dependent on one choice over another, we can talk to them about the full reality of their situation, not just about a certain choice like the abortion centers do."

"We're here to help them," said Rosemary Woods of First Way Collingswood, N.J. "Everything is so expensive these days. We have people living in a tiny two room apartment with two kids. I'm not going to charge them for a pack of diapers."

The center has been there for 54 years.

"So, people in the community know about us, that we try to help pregnant moms and young parents," Woods said. "We talk to them about their baby, a unique little person. Sometimes they're surprised when they ask what they need to bring, and we say just a form of ID."

Volunteer Meg Malley helps out at Women First Pregnancy Options in Massapequa, N.Y. She says talking to young women in unplanned pregnancy involves calming them and building trust.

"These are acts of kindness," Malley said. "Kindness helps calm these girls. Our work comes from the heart. No charge!"

The fact that nearly all of the services provided by pregnancy centers are free for clients highlights the fact that pregnancy centers do not profit by the client's pregnancy decision and underscores the reality of who really is in it to serve women.

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

Monitoring the never-ending attempts by proponents to push dangerous and discriminatory assisted suicide laws

Dear Advocates,

I hope your 2025 has been treating you well so far! For those of us watching the legislative sessions, we are in full swing monitoring the never-ending attempts by proponents to push dangerous and discriminatory assisted suicide laws through the legislature. There are three states I immediately want to draw your attention to, and at the bottom of this message will be the full list of states with active legislation.

Delaware

You may recall that the Delaware legislature narrowly passed assisted suicide legislation last year before it was vetoed by Governor Carney. Unsurprisingly, proponents are once again pushing and the first committee hearing will be in the House Health and Human Development Committee next Wednesday, January 29th at 11:30am. If you live in Delaware, please join us. Testimony is allowed in-person, via Zoom, or in writing. You can also use this form to immediately contact your legislators and let them know you oppose assisted suicide.

Montana

Assisted suicide has been practiced in Montana since 2009, despite remaining against the law. The legal loophole that allows for patient consent to serve as a defense has impacted untold numbers of vulnerable Montanans. Next Thursday, January 30th at 8am, the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider SB 136 to clarify that patient consent cannot be used as a defense, thereby closing this dangerous loophole. If you live in Montana, you can testify in-person, via Zoom, or in writing. You can also use this form to immediately contact your legislators and let them know you oppose assisted suicide.

New Hampshire

Next Wednesday, January 29th at 1pm the assisted suicide bill is being heard before the House Judiciary Commitee. Last year, the assisted suicide bill narrowly passed the 400 member New Hampshire House. If you live in New Hampshire, please come testify in-person or submit written testimony. You can also use this form to immediately contact your legislators and let them know you oppose assisted suicide.

State Status Update

Bills to legalize assisted suicide:

Delaware: HB 140

Hearing on January 29th at 11:30am in the House Health and Human Development Committee

New York: A.136/S.138

New Hampshire: HB 254

Hearing on January 29th at 1pm in the House Judiciary Committee

Illinois: SB 9/HB1238

Massachusetts: SD.1665/HD.2540

Missouri: HB 453

Indiana : HB 1011

Arizona: HB 2243

Bills to expand assisted suicide

Vermont: H.75 – expanding current law by allowing "clinicians" and not just physicians to prescribe lethal drugs. This would include nurse practitioners and physician's assistants.

There has also been a proposed bill submitted in Connecticut, but no language attached to it yet.

And of course, a bill we support to remove consent as a defense to physician assisted suicide:

Montana: SB 210

Hearing on January 30th at 8am in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We do expect more bills to be introduced as the year continues, but with your continued advocacy, I know we can continue to have success across the country!

Thank you for your advocacy!

Jessica Rodgers, Coalitions Director, Patients' Rights Action Fund

The Concentration of Canada's Euthanasia Providers

From Page 19

development from the influence of minority views. The government should establish an independent and transparent public body more representative of clinical specialties and other stakeholder groups, as well as a public meta-regulator to provide oversight and standardization. Increased transparency is necessary for public accountability and patient safety.

What Can We Learn?

These findings are relevant to ongoing debates about assisted suicide and euthanasia globally. The Canadian example highlights the need for safeguards and transparent processes to prevent similar issues elsewhere. Policymakers, medical professionals, and the public should be aware of these risks when considering end-of-life options.

Dr. Yuriko Ryan is an ethicist with more than 25 years experience in health policy research and healthcare administration. She has a doctorate in bioethics and a Master's degree in gerontology from Simon Fraser University. She is also a certified healthcare ethics consultant through the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Dr. Ryan is a member of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Board.

Editor's note. This appeared on the webpage of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and is reposted with permission.

‘Savage monster’ pleads guilty to killing pregnant woman and her eight month old unborn baby

By Dave Andrusko

Two and a half years after being first charged, DeUndreá Holloway was sentenced to 60 years in prison for the decapitation murder of Liese Dodd, 22, and her nearly full-term unborn baby.

Holloway, 25, was sentenced in Madison County Circuit Court after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, intentional homicide of an unborn child, and concealment of a homicidal death.

“Prosecutors said Holloway was originally charged with two counts of murder, but during legal proceedings, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled an unborn child cannot be construed as a second murder victim for purposes of seeking a sentence of life in prison,” Jonathan Fong reported.

“For the family and loved ones of Liese, these types of issues have caused continued angst and uncertainty. This guilty conviction ends that,” Madison County State’s Attorney Thomas Haine said. “Our hope is that this conviction and sentence provide the family and loved ones some assurance and will be a step toward healing.”

Dodd was nearly eight months pregnant at the time of her death on June 9, 2022. Holloway decapitated Dodd and threw her head into a nearby dumpster; her body was later found by her mother, Heidi Noe.

Back in 2022, Alton police Chief Marcos Pulido described Holloway as a monster.

Liese Dodd
Alton Police Department

“What was observed, what was learned, what was found, is absolutely terrible,” the chief said in an emotional video describing the crime. “She was decapitated by a freaking savage monster,” according to Kim Bell of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Dodd’s mother, “worried that she hadn’t heard from her daughter, went to check on her before 1 p.m. The mother discovered the horrid scene at

Deundrea Holloway
Alton Police Department

Dodd’s apartment in the 3400 block of Bolivar Street in Alton,” Bell reported. “Dodd had recently moved into one of the apartments inside a house there.”

Noel told *KMOV* “that she had been checking on her daughter every day because of the tumultuous nature of her relationship with Holloway — and decided to head over to the apartment because ‘there was quite a time span that she hadn’t responded to me,’” Yaron Steinbuch of the *New York Post* reported.

Holloway was arrested by Gillespie police “in connection with an unrelated case — a bicycle theft 30 miles from the murder scene,” the Post-Dispatch reported.

“Holloway had no blood on his clothing nor anything that raised suspicions about something more sinister,” said Gillespie Police Chief Jared DePoppe. “Gillespie police booked Holloway into the Macoupin County Jail as a ‘John Doe,’ not knowing he was connected to anything in Alton. Only later did jail officials find out who he was,” Bell reported.

“Every murder is absolutely terrible. I will never take that away, but what happened to 22-year-old Liese Dodd… is beyond reprehensible,” Pulido said at the time. “It’s abominable. It is completely terrible what happened to her.”

In a panic, *NY Times* writes, "Powerless, Democrats Debate Just How Deep in the Wilderness They Are"

By Dave Andrusko

"Trump starts second term with higher approval than in 2017, poll shows: A Quinnipiac University poll put Trump 10 points ahead of his approval at the start of his first term. Besides Trump's job approval, the poll also brings ominous signs for a Democratic Party still trying to find its footing in the second Trump era"— Ali Bianco *Politico*

"*Powerless, Democrats Debate Just How Deep in the Wilderness They Are: Party leaders disagree sharply on how to interpret the losses that gave Republicans complete control of the federal government, with some calling for a reinvention and others a wait-and-see*."— Shane Goldmacher. *New York Times*

*"The Democrats' Governance Problem***:** *They're bad at it and getting worse."* —Ruy Teixeira, *Liberal Patriot*

Ed Morrissey of *Hot Air* carefully dissects the dilemma pro-abortion-to-the-core Democrats find themselves in. He quoted from the *Politico* article:

Just 31 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, while 57 percent have an unfavorable opinion, the lowest mark since Quinnipiac started asking that question.

In the opposite direction, Republicans have a new high in Quinnipiac surveys of 43 percent favorable. But they're still slightly underwater, with 45 percent having an unfavorable view.

The Quinnipiac survey itself says:

A majority of voters (54 percent) say they are generally optimistic about the next four years with Trump as president, while 42 percent are generally pessimistic.

He could have quoted from Goldmacher' story:

Democratic lawmakers, activists and strategists across the ideological spectrum are engaged in a fierce debate over how badly damaged the 2024 election left the party's brand, a consequential internal argument that is already shaping early efforts to rebuild. …

Democratic leaders are in sharp disagreement over how to interpret losses that not only returned Mr. Trump to power but also put Republicans in total control of the federal government. …

Democrats who share this bleaker outlook see statistical signs of the party's decline everywhere: Blue states are ceding population to red states. Voter registration figures are mostly headed in the wrong direction. More Americans are identifying with the G.O.P. than with Democrats. And Democrats lost ground last year among core constituencies including lower-income, Latino and younger voters as Mr. Trump swept every battleground state.

But Morrissey's conclusion is devastating and spot-on:

The real difference, which got magnified even before the inauguration, is that Trump projects leadership. For the past four years, voters could clearly see that Biden wasn't really in charge and couldn't handle the job, while Democrats spent years lying about what was obvious to everyone. Trump has spent the last several weeks making that contrast clear, and his sudden shift in positive favorability over the last two-plus months reflects that voters see and understand the difference, even if the Protection Racket Media wants to ignore it.

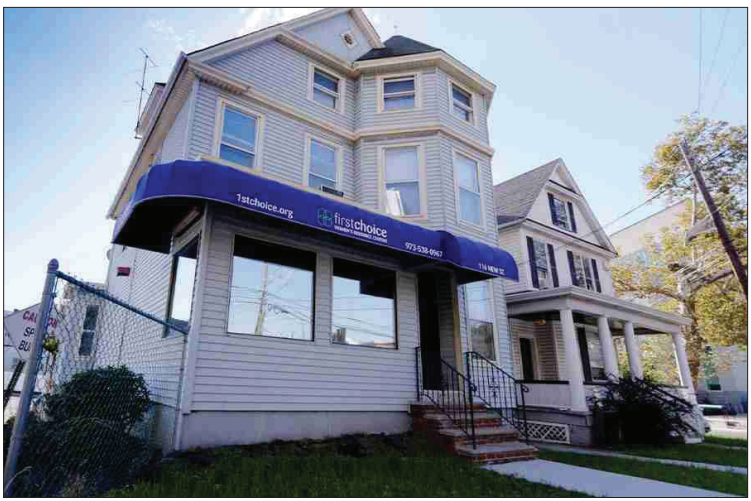
ADF attorneys representing First Choice Women's Resource Centers ask high court to allow lawsuit defending First Amendment rights to continue

WASHINGTON – Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing a faith-based, pro-life, medically licensed pregnancy center filed a petition January 22nd with the U.S. Supreme Court in *First Choice Women's Resource Centers v. Platkin*, asking the court to recognize its right to file a federal lawsuit against New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin over his unconstitutional investigation.

Platkin is targeting First Choice Women's Resource Centers because of its faith-based, pro-life views and demanding that it identify—by name—the donors behind nearly 5,000 donations and produce up to 10 years of its internal, confidential documents. The First Amendment protects donor identities from unjustified disclosure and prohibits a state official for retaliating against speech with which he disagrees. Thus, while First Choice responded to the subpoena and produced some 2,300 pages of documents, it filed suit in federal court to stop Platkin's attempt to obtain further documents.

Platkin responded by filing his own lawsuit against the pregnancy center in state court asking the court to compel First Choice to turn over First Amendment protected information. Because of Platkin's state-court filing, the lower federal courts said First Choice must pursue its *federal* claims in state court.

ADF filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking it to grant review of the case and hold that civil rights plaintiffs do not need to litigate first in state court but may bring federal claims—the same as any other person suffering constitutional injury at the hands of a state official.



"New Jersey's attorney general is targeting First Choice Women's Resource Centers—a ministry that provides free ultrasounds, baby clothes, and more to its community—simply because of its pro-life views," said ADF Senior Counsel Erin Hawley, vice president of the ADF Center for Life and Regulatory Practice. "The U.S. Constitution protects First Choice and its donors from unjustified demands for their identities and from government threats that attempt to shut down their speech because of its viewpoint."

"The First Amendment protects First Choice's right to freely speak about its beliefs, exercise its faith, associate with like-minded individuals and organizations, and continue to provide its free services in a caring and compassionate environment to people facing difficult pregnancy circumstances," Hawley added. "The lower courts have wrongly held that First Choice is relegated to state court to present its constitutional claims. That is inconsistent with civil rights law and with the First Amendment."

In their petition, ADF attorneys explain that, without the Court's intervention, individuals targeted by state investigative demands will be unable to raise their claims in federal court. The petition also highlights the hostility Platkin displayed against First Choice.

"New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin has made no secret of his hostility towards pregnancy centers," the brief explains. "He issued a consumer alert—drafted with the help of Planned Parenthood—complaining that such centers do not provide or refer for abortion. He also signed an open letter pledging to take legal action against pregnancy centers. The Attorney General made good on that pledge by issuing an invasive Subpoena to First Choice Women's Resource Centers, Inc., a collection of five medically licensed centers that offer free medical services and material support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Though the Attorney General could not identify a single complaint, he demanded that First Choice turn over years of sensitive internal information—including donor information about nearly 5,000 contributions."

Editor's note. This appeared at Alliance Defending Freedom and is reposted with permission.

Dismemberment Is Not an Act of Love

By Sarah Terzo

Sometimes when talking to pro-choice activists and reading what they write, one is reminded of George Orwell's novel *1984*.

Words have their opposite meanings; black is white, slavery is freedom, and abortion is a social good and moral choice instead of a brutal act that kills a baby and, quite often, scars a pregnant person.

Killing as an Act of Love

Gloria Feldt, former President of Planned Parenthood, says the following in her book *The War on Choice*:

> **I have spoken and read letters from hundreds of women about their experiences with abortion, and one thing I know is that abortion is almost always a profoundly moral choice.**
>
> **Women and men plan their families because they have respect and reverence for human life. Women who choose abortions do so because they love children…1**

A similar view was presented in a more recent book, Choice Words: Writers on Abortion, edited by Annie Finch. Choice Words is a collection of writings on abortion, including poetry, fiction, and memoirs.

In the introduction, Finch writes:

> **[T]he philosopher Soran Reader points out that mothers choose abortion as a loving act of caretaking, whether for existing children or for the child they choose not to have.**
>
> **That our current social structure surrounds abortion with the opposite stereotype shows the gulf between women and those who make the laws and precepts.2**

She is referring to Reader's article "Abortion, Killing, and Maternal Moral Authority" in the feminist journal *Hypatia*.

The Reality of Abortion

It is not an act of love to kill a baby, nor is it caring. And killing doesn't show "reverence for life" — it shows the opposite.

Choosing to give birth to a baby conceived in an unwanted pregnancy leads to a living, intact, usually healthy child. Abortion leads to a baby being starved of nutrients and oxygen by the abortion pill or torn apart and extracted in bloody pieces.

Statistics on when in pregnancy abortions are done are notoriously unreliable. Still, the Guttmacher Institute claims that most abortions take place after the sixth week of pregnancy (56%), with 36% taking place between weeks seven and nine, and just under 20% later. By eight weeks after conception, the baby already has fully developed hands and feet—hands and feet that are torn from her body in a suction abortion procedure.

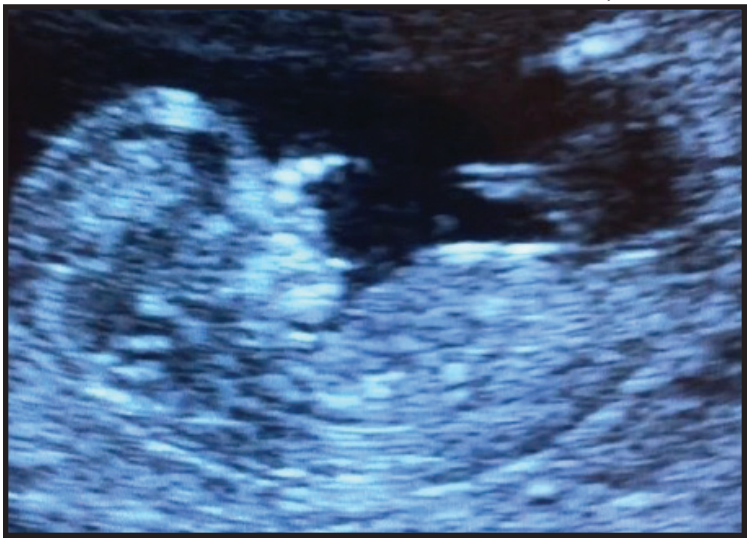
The abortion pill affects the uterine lining, and the baby starves and suffocates. Whether the child suffers, and how much, is unknown. But unquestionably, the child is killed and loses her entire future.

Nearly every abortion stops a beating heart, whether the baby "looks" like a baby or not.

A Former Abortion Worker Speaks

Former abortion worker Catherine Anthony Adair described first-trimester abortions as follows:

> **I was a medical assistant in the room for hundreds of abortions. I witnessed the baby being suctioned out of the uterus and watched blood and tissue work it's [sic] way through the tube into a metal bowl.**
>
> **The baby was dismembered during the process. The nurse would account for the baby parts and put it into a baggy, which I then put in a box with the other aborted babies. We then had to count them at the end of the day to ensure we had all of them to go to the lab.**



Dismemberment is not an act of love or kindness. Neither is killing. We don't murder our loved ones.

Criminals do not commit their violent crimes out of love and concern for either their victims or society as a whole. These statements seem so obvious that it's absurd to make them, yet we have to bring them up because of extreme comments from pro-choicers like Gloria Feldt, Annie Finch, and Soran Reader.

If a parent killed their born infant or young child by dismemberment, suffocation, or starvation, no one would accept the argument that they did it out of love.

Too many Americans are ignorant as to what abortion does to a baby. Perhaps on some intellectual level, they may be aware that abortion ends a life or potential life—but they have no idea how developed the babies are, or how brutal and bloody abortion really is.

They have not thought about the life of the child, the unseen victim who is growing within his mother's womb, secure and safe, with a beating heart and developing brain, only to be killed.

Pro-lifers must educate the American public. The fact that Gloria Feldt and the others were able to make such statements to their supporters and be taken seriously shows the ignorance and denial that is epidemic in the United States when it comes to the abortion issue.

We have our work cut out for us. But if we continue to tell the truth, perhaps one day statements like Feldt's will be seen for the absurdities they are.

Footnotes

1. Gloria Feldt. *The War on Choice: The Right-Wing Attack on Women's Rights and How to Fight Back* (New York: Bantam Books, 2004) 103

2. Annie Finch, ed. *Choice Words: Writers on Abortion* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2020) 5

Editor's note. This appeared on Sarah's Substack and is reposted with permission.

ADF Sues Academic Publisher That Retracted Studies About Risks of Abortion Drugs

Sage Publishing retracted three studies on abortion after a professor submitted an anonymous complaint about the authors' pro-life views.

By Alliance Defending Freedom

Throughout the last few years, health-care professionals, academics, and members of the media have implored Americans to "trust the science" regarding a variety of issues. For example, Sara Miller McCune, the co-founder of academic publisher Sage Publishing, said she was "proud to say that Sage is a company that advocates for policy that will enable science[…]"

But when it came to a group of studies about abortion, Sage failed to stick to the science and retracted the studies without justification. The decisions not only hampered scientific progress but also caused irreparable harm to multiple authors.

Three scientifically sound studies

From 2019 to 2022, ten professional researchers authored three scientific studies about abortion. Sage peer-reviewed the studies and published them in one of its medical journals, *Health Services Research and Managerial Epidemiology* (*HSRME*).

The editor-in-chief of *HSRME* even emailed the lead author of two of the studies, Dr. James Studnicki, and praised them as "fine contributions" to the journal. He also publicly commended one of the articles as fulfilling the journal's scientific "vision."

But in 2023, a federal court cited two of the studies in an opinion in an Alliance Defending Freedom case called *U.S. Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*. The court ruled that the FDA wrongly approved the abortion drug mifepristone and should have required in-person dispensing requirements for the drug.

Unjustified retractions

After the federal court issued its opinion citing the studies relating to the dangers of abortion drugs, a pro-abortion advocate filed an anonymous complaint about one of the studies that the authors were affiliated with pro-life organizations. But the authors had already disclosed these affiliations during the review process.

Rather than standing up for science and its own peer review process, Sage retracted not just the article complained of, but three of the authors' scientific studies about abortion. Sage tried to justify its decision, but as explained in a letter the authors sent to the publisher with detailed scientific rebuttals of each concern, none of the reasons Sage provided amounted to valid objections about the studies. Sage never replied to the authors' scientific response.

The publisher also claimed that the authors did not declare their pro-life affiliations as conflicts of interest. But the authors fully disclosed their affiliations and complied with all of Sage's conflict-of-interest declaration requirements. What's more, Sage routinely publishes articles by authors with pro-abortion affiliations who do not declare them as conflicts of interest.

Finally, Sage claimed its own double-blind peer-review process was flawed because one of the reviewers who recommended the studies be published has pro-life affiliations. But Sage selected this reviewer itself, and neither the reviewer nor the authors knew each other's identity. There were also multiple other reviewers who did not have pro-life affiliations and still recommended the studies be published.

ADF takes legal action against Sage

In November 2023, Sage issued a retraction notice for all three studies. The authors responded in detail to Sage's flawed reasons for retractions, but Sage retracted all three studies in February 2024 without ever responding to the authors' rebuttal. It also removed Dr. Studnicki from the HSRME board for his personal views.

Because of these retractions, the authors have faced verbal attacks from the media, other scientists, and even a sitting Supreme Court Justice. Perhaps even more concerning is the fact that these authors have seen new research proposals turned down because of Sage's unjustified retractions.

By censoring these pro-life authors without any justifiable cause, Sage has harmed the authors' reputations and deprived the public of objective, honest reporting that these authors can provide.

So, in October 2024, ADF attorneys filed a motion to compel Sage to come to the table for arbitration as its contract with the authors requires.

Editor's note. This appeared at Alliance Defending Freedom and is reposted with permission.

"I want you to look around at the tens of thousands of Americans, and I want you to remember, you are not alone."

From Page 1

'Life: Why We March' and there are obvious answers to the implicit question it poses. We march to protect the unborn; we march to proclaim and live out the sacred truth that every single child is a miracle and a gift from God.

"Now each time Usha and I welcomed our own children into the world, we saw firsthand the indescribable beauty of new life; and, yes, as you can see, sometimes the behavioral challenges that we had on Monday, but they were good, they were good. And watching all three of our kids grow, learn and become who they are today has been the single greatest blessing of our lives.

"Now every parent here knows that feeling, that awe at a newborn child. It is our responsibility to cherish and to protect it." —Vice President JD Vance.

"I want you to look around, look around you today, at the tens of thousands of Americans who will march up Capitol Hill with you today, and I want you to remember, you are not alone.

"You are part of a great movement, united around the truth that every life is precious. That every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and has infinite value and worth."—Senate Majority Leader John Thune

"What we need today is a new generation of leaders and activists like William Wilberforce and Frederick Douglass, men and women who will courageously use their voices to defend others. You, my friends, are part of that generation, and together, we are rebuilding a culture of life, and it begins now by sharing your time and influence, by volunteering to assist pregnancy resource centers, all the very practical ways that we can assist, using our voices, using our influence. It's going to make a difference.

"I'll close with this. I was born in January 1972. It was almost exactly one year before Roe v. Wade became the law of the land. I was the product of an unplanned teen pregnancy, and I am so eternally grateful that my mom and dad ignored all the people who told them to just take care of that problem, and they chose to embrace life and to have me, the first of their four children.

"It's a simple fact, a very simple fact, that had they not done that, I would not be here. And I often wonder who else we have missed, and what those individuals might have contributed to our society and our world, but they were just never given the opportunity." —Speaker of the House Mike Johnson

However, Rai Rojas, Outreach & Events Director for National Right to Life, may have put it best:

Over the years, I've met women marching to honor the babies they courageously chose to keep and men seeking healing for the lives they regret helping to end. I've met families holding signs for siblings or grandchildren they'll never meet and young people who march with hope for a future where every life is cherished. Each conversation and each step taken has been a reminder that this movement isn't just about laws or policies—it's about people, love, and the sacred value of life itself.

These are the reasons I continue to march year after year.

We March as a solemn remembrance

From Page 1

the strength and courage of women who embraced life, even under challenging circumstances.

To stand in solidarity with the voiceless. They march because unborn children cannot cry out for their right to live—they rely on others to advocate for them.

To show love for the women hurt by abortion. Pro-lifers walk in compassion, recognizing the emotional, spiritual, and physical pain many women face after an abortion.

To give hope to post-abortive parents. Many marchers come with stories of healing, forgiveness, and redemption, offering hope to others who feel burdened by the past.

To affirm that every life is valuable. From the moment of conception to natural death, every human being has inherent worth and dignity.

To teach the next generation. There are always so many families who bring their kids of every age, and by doing that, they instill in them the belief that life is precious and worth defending.

To carry the legacy of *Roe's* reversal forward. Marchers celebrate the strides made toward protecting life, but their presence affirms that the fight for life is far from over.

To push back against a culture of death. In a world where euthanasia and abortion are normalized, pro-lifers march to proclaim the sanctity of all human life.

To encourage lawmakers to act courageously. We aim to inspire legislators to pass protective laws that uphold the dignity of life, like the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act.

To be the visible pro-life movement. We march to show America that millions of people of all ages, races, and backgrounds believe in the right to life.

To honor adoption as an act of love. Many marchers are adoptees, birth parents, or adoptive parents who walk to highlight adoption as a life-affirming choice.

To remind the world of science. The march highlights scientific advancements that confirm life begins at conception, dispelling outdated myths.

To pray for hearts to change. Faith motivates many marchers, and the March For Life is filled with prayers for mothers, fathers, and society to embrace life.

To support pregnancy resource centers. Many marchers work with organizations that provide practical support to mothers in crisis, ensuring they don't face pregnancy alone.

To be inspired by unity. The march brings together people of different faiths, cultures, and ages, united by their deeply held belief that life is sacred and must be protected.

To proclaim that love saves lives. Every marcher declares through their presence that love—real, selfless love—has the power to change hearts and save lives.

That is why we March for Life.

Montana Senate Bill 136 would prevent assisted suicide

By Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Montana State Senator, Carl Glimm introduced Senate Bill 136. SB 136 will prevent assisted suicide by clarifying that consent is not a defense for homicide or assisted suicide.

Montanans have a confusing legal situation concerning assisted suicide.

In 2009, the *Baxter* lower court decision declared that Montanans have a right to assisted suicide. The Baxter decision was appealed to the Montana Supreme Court The state's highest court decided that Montanans do not have a right to assisted suicide but the Court found a defense of consent, meaning, a Montana physician who assists a suicide must prove that there was consent.

Since the *Baxter* decision, the assisted suicide lobby claims that assisted suicide is legal in Montana while assisted suicide remains technically prohibited.

Montana State Sen. Carl Glimm

Montanans have been dying by assisted suicide.

SB 136 will prevent assisted suicide by clarifying that consent is **not** a defense for homicide or assisted suicide. Among other things SB 136 states:

(3) (a) For the purposes of subsection (2)(d), physician aid in dying is against public policy, and a patient's consent to physician aid in dying is not a defense to a charge of homicide against the aiding physician.

(b) (i) For the purposes of this subsection (3), "physician aid in dying" means an act by a physician of prescribing a lethal dose of medication to a patient that the patient may self-administer to end the patient's life.

(ii) The term does not include an act of withholding or withdrawing a life-sustaining treatment or procedure authorized pursuant to Title 50, chapter 9 or 10.

Contact Montana State Senators and urge them to vote YES on SB 136. (List of legislative members).

Editor's note. This appeared on Mr. Schadenberg's blog and reposted with permission.

Biden leaves with historically low "great or good" President ratings—an incredible 25%

By Dave Andrusko

Pro-abortion Joe Biden's disastrous term as President is now in the rear view mirror but his ugly legacy will linger for years to come. We've written about this administration's attack on the littlest Americans and people of faith innumerable times.

NBC News's Harry Enten is a numbers cruncher par excellence. He wrote

> **"Joe Biden came in to end the Donald Trump reign in this country, end Donald Trump's political career. And all that ended up happening is Joe Biden has managed to end up at a lower approval rating at the end of his first term than any president on record."**

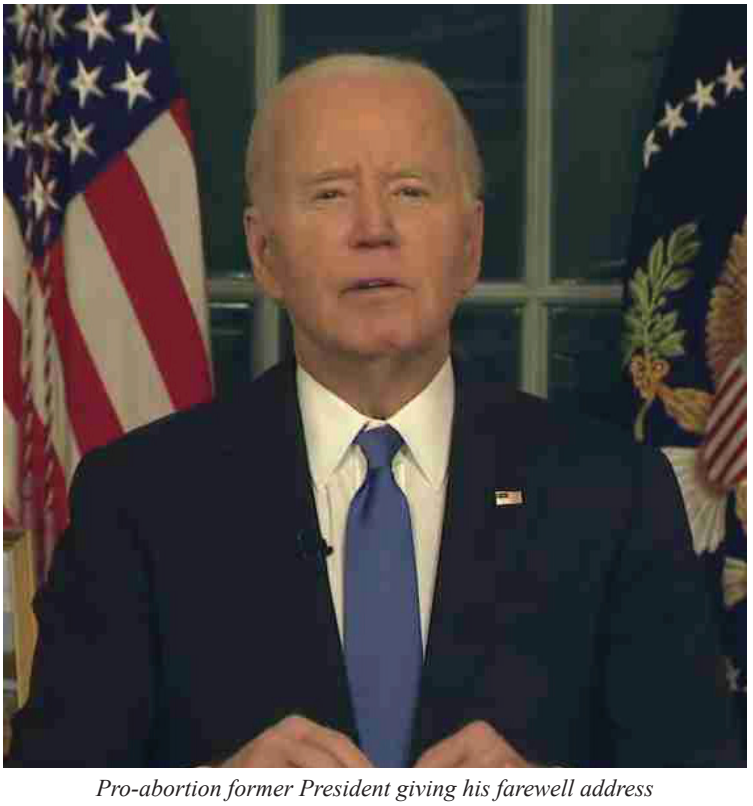
Enten went on

> *"My goodness gracious", "historically low" is how I would categorize Biden's final approval ratings. Biden goes out with the lowest approval rating (38%) after a first term on record. Trump, meanwhile, is at his highest favorable rating ever (47%).*

But that's just the beginning of the bad news for Biden.

Asked if Biden was a good or great president, only 25% said yes—"the lowest number since [the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research] started tracking this at the end of Barack Obama second term, " Enten said.

By contrast, President Trump's popularity is not only at its highest point, "56% believe Trump will be a good president."



Pro-abortion former President giving his farewell address

With the muzzle on truth-telling removed, will it finally be acknowledged that "A father is a father forever, even of a dead unborn child"?

By Dave Andrusko

No state secret here. Thanks to President Donald Trump, much of what was censored, muzzled, and squelched—**all** of it commonsense—has been released from captivity. When historians look back at these last four years, they will scratch their heads in amazement at what nonsense was the order of the day.

In our realm, both the House and the Senate passed the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*. However, the uniformly pro-abortion Senate Democrats held fast and were able to use a procedural trick to keep Republicans from gathering the 60 vote necessary to overcome a filibuster.

You would think, regardless of which camp you place your flag, everyone ought to be able to agree that "a baby born alive during an abortion must be afforded 'the same degree' of care that would apply 'to any other child born alive at the same gestational age,' including transportation to a hospital."

But, of course, many/most/all Democrats are so wedded to the Culture of Death they will distort this into a "ban on abortion."

I have argued for years (and obviously I am hardly the only one) that there will come a day when as a culture we will recognize the enormity of the damage abortion has inflicted on women. A "choice"? In so many case, women **have** no choice.

But what about the other victims of abortion? Siblings, for example, grandparents, aunts and uncles, to just begin to include the many people who are poorer for the loss of these children.

In a sense, it is deeply ironic that you can at least broach these secondary victims but not—**not**—even consider the impact on the fathers of these children.'

We've reposted Vincent Rue's extraordinary survey of what studies tells us about how price men pay because they are excluded from saving their children:

> *More than anything else, the U.S. Supreme Court has shaped the role of men in abortion. The Court has held that a woman's right not to procreate trumps a man's right to procreate, making his involvement in the abortion decision irrelevant.*

His conclusion?

> *Abortion leaves indelible footprints in the texture of masculinity, in the recesses of a man's heart, and in his reproductive history. A father is a father forever, even of a dead unborn child.*

Mary C. Lamia, Ph.D., would never be characterized as a pro-lifer—" I believe women should have the right to choose"—yet "at the same time, both women and men may also have a need to grieve."

Her book, *Grief Isn't Something to Get Over: Finding a Home for Memories and Emotions After Losing a Loved One*, excerpted in *Psychology Today*, appreciates the emotional complexity.

The except is entitled, "The Silent, Post-Abortion Grief of Men: Politics aside, both women and men may have a need to grieve."

This grief is often deeply buried in the hearts of women and men alike. While writing about both, this insight from Lamia is particularly telling for men:

> *Quietly working for us and keeping its own calendar, our implicit memory tracks essential dates and places, including anniversaries and markers of loss. People are often unaware of the markers that may trigger emotional responses, such as the expected age of a child that was aborted as a fetus. Instead, a person may have a day or week when, for no apparent reason, their mood seems heavy. When activated, an implicit memory registers as a feeling, image, or flashback within us, seemingly from out of nowhere. Because implicit memories are unconscious, they may lead us to wonder, "Why am I thinking about that right now?"*

Why, indeed, except, as Vincent Rue reminds us, "*A father is a father forever, even of a dead unborn child.*

Pro-abortion Senator mocks the truth that babies do survive abortions

By Melissa Ohden, Founder, The Abortion Survivors Network

On my flight back for the March for Life, I received a text from a friend about an X post regarding the failed Senate cloture vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act. The measure passed 52-47 but lacked the 60 votes needed to end the Democrats' filibuster.

Just when I think I've heard it all, pro-abortion Democrat Senator Cory Booker found a way to lower the bar even further.

In case you missed it, the post about the vote and born alive infants was entitled, "Today on $h*t that ain't true".

How professional of Sen. Booker, how compassionate.

Is this earth-shatteringly shocking? No, of course not. Sadly, we've seen this kind of dehumanizing rhetoric before.

But no matter how accustomed we become to this dismissive language, trivialize the truth that aborted babies **are** born alive, it's always deeply unsettling. This is the kind of language that fuels the complete denial that many of us have witnessed firsthand—the reality that babies survive abortions, and many of them are left to die without care.

Despite all the research and studies on the incidence of "failed" abortions, virtually all Democrats, the abortion industry, their lobby, are adamant that such live births don't happen—can't happen.

This rhetoric directly affects the lives of abortion survivors and their families. For those who already feel unloved, unworthy, and unseen, this rhetoric pours salt on the wounds. The disservice done when public figures deny our existence infuriates me as a leader

I wasn't going to let this rhetoric go unchallenged. Abortion nearly took my life and voice, but I will not let them take my voice again or silence and shame my fellow abortion survivors --and our mothers and families also impacted by abortions that didn't go as planned.

The unanimous Democrat Senate's backlash against survivors was a clear war waged ahead of the House vote that occurred the following afternoon. It passed the House with one lone Democrat vote.

But I wonder if it would have influenced those House members who attacked the bill to know that there were eight survivors in the House Gallery watching the vote, along with the adoptive parents of a survivor?

Despite the usual partisan attacks, to be in that space was an empowering and historic opportunity—a chance to be seen, heard, and respected by those in power.

As some members of Congress, virtually all Democrats, continue to vote against the born-live survivor population and employ rhetoric to protect abortion, it takes the leadership and courage of pro-life members of Congress such as Senator James Lankford (R-Ok.), Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), and Congresswoman Ann Wagner (R-Mo.), among countless others.

When Democrats deny the research and experiences of abortion survivors, they reduced abortion survivors and all those impacted by failed abortions to political chess pieces in their game of big abortion. But we honor these pro-life Senators and Representative who remembered us, who acknowledged us in statements on the floor, who came to press conferences, and who took time out of their very busy schedules to meet with us.

There were numerous memorable moments on the hill related to the vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act that give us great hope. This golden age in our nation is a great opportunity for us to have ongoing conversations about issues such born alive infants and the gaps in care and reporting.

Seeing the commitment to having these conversations and supporting the voices of those who can humanize the issue instills in me the hope that we **will** make progress on born alive legislation under the current administration and congressional leadership.

Members of The Abortion Survivors Network were seen and heard more than ever. I know where a few are gathered, more will come. And frankly, it's time for those who deny our existence and dehumanize us to face us.

Melissa Ohden

One of the most unforgettable moments of the week for me happened when I spoke alongside survivor Sarah Zagorski, Mary Szoch of the Family Research Council and Dr. Christina Francis of the Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists [AAPLOG] at a Family Caucus event on born alive policy. I stood up and asked the room, "If you've survived an abortion, would you please stand up?"

The survivors in the room—my friends, my colleagues—stood. And for the first time, many of those in attendance truly *saw* the reality. I watched as tears filled the eyes of lawmakers and staffers, who were finally confronted with the truth that these survivors are walking among us.

Before heading to the March for Life, survivors in our Network drew strength in a truly remarkable way. We were thrilled to meet with House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Majority Leader Rep. Steve Scalise, and House Whip Rep. Tom Emmer.

It was a personal visit, despite our meet-and-greet being cut short due to the House voting schedule. It was one of those rare moments when survivors were seen for who they are—not just as statistics or political pawns, but as living, breathing individuals with stories that need to be heard.

The mainstream media and many Democratic lawmakers have been in lockstep denial about the existence of abortion survivors for as long as I can remember. In fact, I'm reminded of 2015 when the late Cecile Richards testified before Congress alongside Gianna Jessen and me. Richards outright claimed to have never even heard of a baby surviving an abortion!

This kind of denial is deeply entrenched. It's a refusal to acknowledge the truth: babies **are** born alive in "failed" abortions, and they desperately need and deserve care.

Why do they fight so hard to keep this truth buried?

The answer is simple: admitting that babies survive abortions would force our culture to confront the inherent violence and inhumanity of abortion itself

And if we ever did that—if our culture ever admitted that babies are not just a "clump of cells" or a "healthcare decision"—we would have to face the truth about what abortion really is.

As we make America great again, maybe we can also make it finally supportive of abortion survivors, their mothers, and families. If last week was any indication, we may just get there thanks to the Trump administration of Donald Trump and Republican Congressional leadership.

As I tweeted that day along with photos

> *Tell me one more time that abortions don't fail and babies aren't born alive. Here's just a small number of those who know their story and with the support of the Abortion Survivors Network are courageously sharing their faces and voices in a culture that has been hostile to our population. Welcome to the golden era of the pro-life, pro-family movement. We're just getting started.*

President Trump and Vice President Vance's remarks at the 2025 March for Life

From Page 16

thousands of Americans from all walks of life to rally for the cause of life in our nation. It is the single largest gathering in the world to celebrate our movement; the victories we've fought so hard for and, yes, the victories yet to come.

And I want to personally welcome all of you who have traveled from far and wide to our nation's capital. Thank you for your dedication; and it is an incredible crowd, and it's great to see you today.

On Monday we were forced to move all of the inauguration events indoors because of the bitter cold; and it was cold. But you guys, and it's cold today. Here you are outside in an especially frigid January and I don't think I've ever seen such a joyful crowd out here, particularly during this time of year.

Now, as you all know, the event theme this year is "Life: Why We March" and there are obvious answers to the implicit question it poses. We march to protect the unborn; we march to proclaim and live out the sacred truth that every single child is a miracle and a gift from God.

Now each time Usha and I welcomed our own children into the world, we saw firsthand the indescribable beauty of new life; and, yes, as you can see, sometimes the behavioral challenges that we had on Monday, but they were good, they were good. And watching all three of our kids grow, learn and become who they are today has been the single greatest blessing of our lives.

Now every parent here knows that feeling, that awe at a newborn child. It is our responsibility to cherish and to protect it. But thinking about the question of why we march, there are also some subtler but equally more important answers to that question that I want to reflect on today.

Now the task of our movement is to protect innocent life. It's to defend the unborn and it's also to be pro-family and pro-life in the fullest sense of that word possible. Now, across my own lifetime, I can't tell you the number of friends and other acquaintances I've had who, facing a pregnancy or the prospect of one, react not with joy but with concern. They wonder how can they afford it; what will it mean for their education, their career, their relationship or their family?

And I know how many of you in this crowd have devoted immeasurable time and resources to help answer those questions and to lend a hand to young people facing a moment of desperation. But by and large, our society, our country has not yet stepped up in the way you have; and our government certainly has failed in that important responsibility. We failed a generation not only by permitting a culture of abortion on demand but also by neglecting to help young parents achieve the ingredients they need to [live] a happy and meaningful life. A culture of radical individualism took root, one where the responsibilities and joys of family life were seen as obstacles to overcome, not as personal fulfillment or personal blessings. Our society has failed to recognize the obligation that one generation has to another, is a core part of living in a society to begin with.

So let me say very simply: I want more babies in the United States of America. I want more happy children in our country, and I want beautiful young men and women who are eager to welcome them into the world and eager to raise them.

And it is the task of our government to make it easier for young moms and dads to afford to have kids, to bring them into the world and to welcome them as the blessings that we know they are here at the March for Life.

Now, it should be easier to raise a family, easier to find a good job, easier to build a home to raise that family in, easier to save up and purchase a good stroller, a crib for a nursery. We need a culture that celebrates life at all stages, one that recognizes and truly believes that the benchmark of national success is not our GDP number or our stock market, but whether people feel that they can raise thriving and healthy families in our country.

And that brings me back to where we stand today. Earlier this week, President Donald J. Trump stood in the Capitol Rotunda and took the Oath of Office, becoming not just the 45th but now the 47th president of the United States. And I know all of you helped. With the inauguration on Monday, our country faces the return of the most pro-family, most pro-life American president of our lifetimes.

Now, this is the man who delivered on his promise of ending Roe, giving us a monumental earth-shattering decision in Dobbs; the man who appointed hundreds of pro-life judges dedicated to defending the constitutional liberties of all Americans and the man who supported pro-family policies like doubling the child tax credit, which happened during his first administration and which we're going to do so much more on in the second administration. Now he's back, and we're going to do it again.

Now yesterday, President Trump issued a strong endorsement of the Born-Alive Abortion Act, ensuring that those babies who survived botched abortions enjoy the equal protection under law, which is the obligation of every citizen to enjoy in this country.

With his return to office, no longer will the federal government direct FBI raids on the homes of people like Mark Houck and other Catholic and Christian activists who are fighting for the unborn every single day. And no longer will our government throw pro-life protesters and activists, elderly grandparents or anybody else in prison. It stopped on Monday, and we're not going to let it come back to this country.

Instead, and I know you all saw the news, the 47th president has already issued pardons to those unjustly imprisoned; and I want to be clear that this administration stands by you. We stand with you; and, most importantly, we stand with the most vulnerable and the basic principle that people exercising the right to protest

See *Remarks,* Page 35

Unborn Children do not "Come From Away" but are the littlest Americans

From Page 2

symbol of generosity and connection, and the show is known for offering one of the most heartwarming evenings available at a Broadway theatre.

It's heartwarming in its solidarity and not only in the small town's overwhelming welcome to 7,000 passengers who are exhausted, frighten, and desperate to reach loved one.

One of the characters is the mother of a New York City firefighter who calls and calls but is unable to reach her son. Fearing the worst, Hannah is comforted throughout by Beulah, a Gander teacher. Beulah is there when the mother learns her son had died. The mother is based on a woman who truly did lose her son that awful day.

There is a comical character, Bonnie, who runs the local SPCA. But her fierce determination to rescue the animals on board the planes —"All animals are affected badly by stress —not just humans" —wins your heart over.

The running joke is a pair of rare Bonobo chimpanzees. Of course, we never see them, just hear their ooh ooh, aah aah sounds. The female is pregnant and Bonnie tenderly looks after her.

Near the end, Bonnie is talking to—reassuring—all the animals:

I've never met a rare Bonobo chimpanzee before. We don't get many of them here in Newfoundland. And since your partner there likes to throw his own feces, I'm going to say that you are the nicest rare Bonobo chimpanzee I've ever met… And I want you to know that I'm sorry… I'm sorry that you lost your baby.

There was an audible gasp from the audience.

A big deal? Of course not. Or… maybe it **was** a big deal.

The fate of babies, born and unborn, resonates with something deep in our souls. Politics aside, ideology aside, fanaticism aside, we know in our heart of hearts

that we must care for and about the little one.

Our failure to protect the most helpless among us has, as we knew it would, meant that other vulnerable populations—the medically dependent, the elderly, children with disabilities—are squarely in the crosshairs.

Finally, maybe like me, you wonder where does the title "Come from Away" come from?

A "come from away" is an outsider who has moved to the local area from elsewhere.

May we begin to remember that unborn children have not "moved to the local area from elsewhere" but are the littlest Americans. That recognition is the first step in recovering our shared humanity.

President Trump and Vice President Vance's remarks at the 2025 March for Life

From Page 34

on behalf of the most vulnerable should never have the government go after them ever again.

Now the crowd assembled here on this incredible National Mall provides an extraordinary example for our nation. You donate to diaper banks; you help find housing for those in need; you help fund the crisis-pregnancy centers that give help to young women and young men in a time of crisis. You guys are the beating heart of the pro-life movement, and you have saved many lives already, and you're going to save more again. You being here, this very march is a reminder of the incredible strength and unity of the pro-life movement. And from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Thank you for being here, and thank you for marching here today; and most importantly, in your works, you remind us that the March for Life is not just a single event that happens on a frigid January day. The March for Life is the work of the pro-life movement every single day from this point forward. Now, it is a lifelong call to action, a moment in time; but every single day that you guys do what you do, from supporting young moms and dads to fighting for the unborn, to working with our legislatures at the state and federal level, you make it possible for us to stand here and say that America is fundamentally a pro-baby, a pro-life and a pro-family country.

Now, I hesitate to give you all advice because I can see there are young and old people who have been in the pro-life movement, some of you for longer than I've even been alive, and I'm grateful to you. But if I can offer one piece of advice: It's a piece of advice born out of my own experience. There was a point when I would get frustrated with people who didn't see what we saw. I would get frustrated that people could look at a picture of a baby on an ultrasound and see not a human being but just a clump of cells. But one of the things that being a father has taught me, and one of the things that being in politics has taught me over the last couple of years, is that it is a blessing to know the truth. And the truth is that unborn life is worthy of protection.

So please go forth, not with frustration, but with joy. We are joyful to march for life. We are joyful to know that that picture on an ultrasound, that is a picture of a baby with hopes and dreams and potential to come.

It is a joy and a blessing to fight for the unborn, to work for the unborn and to march for life! God bless you all, and thank you for having me. It's an honor to be with you.

Watch the video of Vice President Vance's address https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23XJ2SqI8FA

"The men and women of the pro-life movement proclaim that the right to life isn't earned and it isn't particular to any group—it is a God-given right to us all."

From Page 2

spread out on kitchen tables, shady picnic benches and the front seats of station wagons and minivans have most faded from view."

The author's writes about "The blue highlight," that "calming, comforting, unmistakable sapphire line overlaying your course [on today's digital maps] illuminating your way, boldly directing you from Point A to Point B by the most efficient route."

Of course, life doesn't work that way. Much as we might want otherwise, there is no blue highlight. The Introduction continues

> ***It's good and it's comforting to have a Point A and a Point B in our lives, where is the line marking our route? What's around the bend? Where are the intersections? What's the mileage? Will it be an eight-lane freeway or a winding, backcountry road with a few bridges washed out along the way? How long will it take? Where are the exits, vistas, scenic byways, and rest stops?***
>
> ***We can ask all the specifics we like but it really won't help. No one knows the precise route each of us will take to the other side. There may be a clear destination—and thanks God for that—but there is no blue highlight marking the course from here to there.***

Sen. Tom Cotton

So what **do** we do? "We can, however, do his much: We can make sure we are prepared for the journey, no matter what the route might be."

Sen. Cotton was prepared for his daunting journey into uncertainty, most assuredly including being armed with the power of prayer. My point is that, whether talking about Sen. Cotton or something you or I went through, the persuasiveness of personal, first-person accounts can never be overstated.

Fortitude when circumstances counsel surrender—what a woman needs in bulk when (as so often is the case) those closest to her tell her that an abortion is the "solution." What she covets most is the encouragement and reassurance that one lone holdout in an extended family can provide when everyone else is insisting she should choose the quick "solution."

Finally, Sen. Cotton offered this thumbnail sketch of the pro-life ethos and how it equips us for the journey:

> ***The pro-life movement stands against this evil ideology. [that there is such a thing as "life unworthy of life"]. In sharp contrast to the Culture of Death, the men and women of the pro-life movement proclaim that the right to life isn't earned and it isn't particular to any group—it is a God-given right to us all. The message of the pro-life movement is simple, it is clear, it is written down in no less an authority than our nation's founding charter. Our nation's bold, pro-life declaration is this – that "All men are created equal" and we all have a basic "right to life."***
>
> ***And this is that unassailable truth to which generations of brave reformers have rallied as they battled against the Culture of Death.***

The *Beatriz* case: a historic victory for the Latin American pro-life movement

By Carlos Polo

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has just rejected the pro-abortion lobby's attempt to establish a "right to abortion" throughout Latin America. This ruling creates a legal precedent that will help PRI and other pro-life groups to defend innocent unborn life from conception in the 25 member countries, including in the region at large.

The abortion lobby was hoping that Court's ruling in the *Beatriz Case* would go the other way, namely, that it would allow abortion on demand throughout Latin America in the same way that the US Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* opened the path to unrestricted abortion.

Just like *Roe*, the abortion lobby built its case on a falsehood.

They claimed a "therapeutic abortion" would have saved the life of a young Salvadoran woman, *Beatriz*, in a high-risk pregnancy. They argued that the laws of El Salvador, which recognise the right to life of the unborn and prohibit abortion, prevented doctors from saving her life.

The truth is that, just as Jane Roe was never raped, Beatriz did not die from complications related to her pregnancy or the alleged lack of an abortion. Rather, Beatriz died more than four years after the birth of her child in an unrelated motorcycle accident.

Given the pro-abortion sentiments of several members of the Inter-American Court, many believed that the pro-abortion lobby would prevail. Yet, against all odds, it did not.

The reason? A chorus of pro-life organisations across the region raised its voice for months, exposing the way the abortion lobby was distorting the facts of the case, not to mention engaging in outright falsehoods.

Population Research Institute played a key role in the *Beatriz Case* through our ongoing alliance with the Global Center for Human Rights (GCHR), our main ally within the Inter-American system. Together, we work tirelessly to defend human rights, with a special emphasis on the right to life from conception. We have trained GCHR's leaders in political strategies, provided them with practical and effective political tools, and are in constant communication with them.

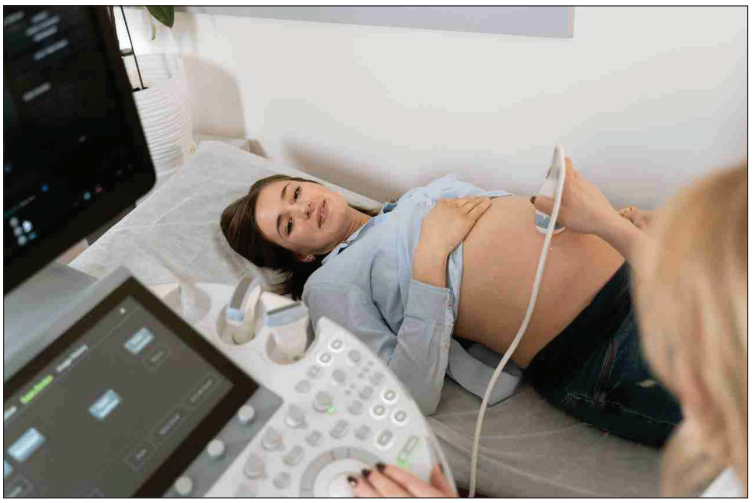
In the *Beatriz Case* specifically, PRI actively participated in multiple strategic meetings throughout the process, helping to outline clear courses of action. We facilitated the involvement of opinion leaders across the region and promoted a series of campaigns related to the case through media outlets and social networks. By forming a united front and working together for a common purpose, we were able to prevail against the duplicity and deep pockets of the abortion movement.

The *Beatriz Case* in detail: the truth about the abortion lobby's Deceptions

The *Beatriz Case* began in 2013. Beatriz, a 22-year-old woman of limited means in El Salvador, was pregnant with her second child. Her first pregnancy had been difficult, in part because she suffered from lupus, and doctors suggested sterilisation after she delivered. Beatriz refused because she wanted to become a mother again.

Several years later, Beatriz was happy to learn that she was again pregnant. But during one prenatal visit, the doctor informed her that her unborn child suffered from anencephaly. This is a congenital malformation that prevents the development of the brain, and which would limit her baby's time on earth to anywhere from a few hours to a few months.

Following the diagnosis, the abortion lobby lied to Beatriz,



telling her she would die if she continued with the pregnancy. Their real goal was to use her situation as a pretext to promote the legalisation of abortion, first in El Salvador, and then later at the Inter-American Court.

The case reached El Salvador's Supreme Court, which, after reviewing all the evidence, correctly concluded that Beatriz's life was not in danger and that an abortion was not justified. Rafael Varaona, a perinatologist and Beatriz's doctor throughout her second pregnancy, told the court that her systemic lupus erythematosus was completely controlled during her pregnancy, and that her life was never at risk.

However, because her previous cesarean had not healed properly, it was decided to perform a Caesarean section at six months to avoid the possibility of hemorrhage. Her daughter was born and named Leylani. She was born alive, received much love from her mother, and passed away naturally hours later due to her anencephaly.

As for Beatriz, she recovered from her Caesarean section without any complications. Four years later, however, she was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Her tragic death caught the attention of the pro-abortion lobby, who decided to lie about her cause of death. It attributed her death to her lack of access to the "human right to abortion". They resurrected the case and brought it before the Inter-American Court.

Key precedents from the ruling

After analysing the case, the Inter-American Court concluded that Salvadoran laws protecting life from conception neither violated Beatriz's human rights nor were related to her untimely death.

But the Court went even further, making several critical points that will help us defend life in the region even more vigorously:

1. **Rejection of Falsehoods:** The Court dismissed the lies in the *Beatriz Case*, recognising that her death was unrelated to El Salvador's abortion prohibition

See *Beatriz,* Page 40

"Abortion laws save lives!"

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

"Abortion laws save lives!"

This should be our rallying cry in the pro-life movement

It is a short but accurate statement, which succinctly summarizes why it is critically important to have good, solid pro-life laws on the books.

While the abortion industry shouts, "Abortion is health care!" we know better. Abortion is the taking of an innocent, unrepeatable human life. It kills a defenseless, vulnerable preborn child and leaves a woman to grieve the loss of that child. It is an inhumane, violent act. It can involve starving the preborn baby to death, vacuuming out her body piece by piece, or dismembering her limb by limb. It is the most egregious form of cruel and unusual punishment, and it should not be tolerated in a civil society.

Years of concrete evidence show that abortion laws save lives. For instance, when the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act went into effect in the mid'90s following a protracted court fight, abortion totals dropped by half in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This was largely due to the Act's requirement for parental consent for abortion. When girls are required to get a parent's permission for abortion, they are far less likely to go through with it. Parental consent has truly been a life-saver.

Another life-affirming measure is the federal Hyde Amendment. This visionary piece of legislation ensures that our hard-earned tax dollars are not used to pay for abortions. It is estimated that more than two million Americans are alive today as a result of the Hyde Amendment, which bars taxpayer funding of abortion except in the rare cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother.

Why do abortion laws save lives?

When an action is illegal, it is less likely that an individual will engage in it. He or she will not want to run the risk of running afoul of the law. This means that doctors are far less prone to commit abortions when they know that they could be prosecuted for any attempt to do so.

Maria V. Gallagher

It is important to note here that the mainstream pro-life movement does not want to put abortion victims in jail. A woman considering abortion should not be prosecuted. It is the healthcare worker who carries out the abortion who should be held accountable.

Women who undergo abortions are victims of the grisly practice. They are left to confront the death of their preborn baby. They may also suffer physical and psychological effects from the abortion. They endure an unspeakable trauma and deserve compassion and support in order to find healing and grace.

If abortion laws save lives, why are we seeing voters enact Constitutional requirements for abortion on the state level?

The fact of the matter is that massive amounts of money are being poured into television advertising campaigns that are filled with lies and distortions. Voters are being misled time and time again with false claims about abortion laws. They are led to believe that these laws are dangerous and will lead to women's deaths.

The truth is that shoddy health care leads to women's demise. Life-saving care involves respecting the dignity of both patients—mother and child—and giving both appropriate treatment.

It should also be noted that pro-life laws contain exceptions for saving the life of the mother. These laws do not prevent miscarriage management or removing an ectopic pregnancy from a woman. The dire claims of the abortion industry are simply untrue and actually place women at risk.

Abortion itself can lead to a host of medical complications, including excessive bleeding and infection, along with major depression and sterility. Abortion is never safe for a baby and can be dangerous for the mother as well.

In Pennsylvania, efforts are underway to strip the Commonwealth of critical protections for preborn children and their mothers. Lawmakers with a radical pro-abortion stand are circulating co-sponsorship memos for bills that would wipe out key provisions of the Abortion Control Act. These legislators, beholden to the abortion industry, want to end such common sense practices as 24-hour waiting periods for abortion, protections against late-term abortion, parental consent, and informed consent.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives maintains a pro-abortion leadership by the narrowest of margins. But in the Pennsylvania Senate, pro-life leaders remain in control. This means that the state Senate can erect a legislative firewall to prevent pro-abortion bills from advancing.

As a result, advocates for life must play defense. We must do everything in our power to defend our time-tested pro-life laws. Countless lives have been saved because of these measures. Women have also been spared the pain of the loss of a child that comes with abortion. Our laws are life-giving, and we can take heart in that!

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

Mother of 23-week tiny twins makes toy rabbits for hospital staff and babies

By Right to Life UK

A mother whose premature twins, born at 23 weeks and 3 days, spent over 150 days in neonatal intensive care is giving back by making toy bunnies for other extremely premature babies.

Caroline Bentley Noble was experiencing a typical pregnancy with twins until she experienced premature rupture of membranes (PROM), in which a mother's waters break at or before the 37th week of pregnancy. Caroline was just 22 weeks through her pregnancy at the time that her waters broke.

The Maternal-Fetal Medicine team at University of Kentucky HealthCare attempted to prevent the twins from arriving too soon.

Dr John O'Brien, head of the team, said, "The six-week interval of pregnancy between 22 and 28 weeks' gestation is the most critical period to help determine whether newborns can survive or whether they have long-term complications related to prematurity. Every day during this crucial period is important."

Babies Paisley and Jaxson were ultimately born in December, 116 days before their due date, at 23 weeks and 3 days old. Paisley, the older baby, weighed 1lb 5oz, while Jaxson followed quickly weighing just 1lb 4oz.

"I was in utter shock", Caroline said. "I had no idea babies could be born so small. I think each baby had a team of 10 or 15 people".

The twins had a long hospital stay ahead of them

At just eight days old, Paisley had an emergency surgery for a spontaneous intestinal perforation, which required her intestines to be rerouted. Due to her small size, this operation carried a higher level of risk of bleeding or damage to other organs or structures.

"Paisley was born very early and was very small when she delivered", said Dr Eric Rellinger, one of the surgeons who performed the operation. "She was smaller than my hand when we operated on her".

"When I started training 17 years ago, children born this early rarely lived. Advances in neonatal intensive care have allowed us to better care for these children when they deliver earlier in pregnancy".

"These wonderful surgeons performed a miracle and successfully put PJ through an unthinkable surgery with success", said Caroline. "I am forever grateful. Dr. Rellinger was truly an angel. He handled us as a family with such grace. I will work for the rest of my life to make sure our gratitude for the KCH (Kentucky Children's Hospital) staff is felt and understood. It's hard to find the words of how important they are and how wonderful they are at their jobs".

Both Paisley and Jaxson spent their first Christmas and New Year at the hospital. It was 159 days before Paisley came home, and a further six days before Jaxson was able to join her. Once home, both twins required ongoing specialist care due to complications of prematurity.

Creating bunnies for staff and babies

The twins' time in hospital gave their mum, Caroline, the opportunity to think of a way to give back to the hospital staff. "I've always been passionate about finding new ways to use second-hand items and manipulating them to be different", Caroline said.

In gratitude to the hospital staff working with her children, Caroline and a friend set about creating fabric bunnies to give to each of the people involved with the twins' care.

"I don't know where I would be without them", she said. "They picked me up off the floor and treated me with such kindness and care that I was able to make it through with their help and help from my uncle Mark and grandmother".

She added, "I am very passionate about making sure I can give someone a token of my gratitude, which pales in comparison to what they've shown me with my children".

Once every member of the care teams had a bunny, Caroline started to create toys for the parents of the other children in intensive care. She began working with social worker Anna Bullard to ensure that every baby in the unit would go home with a bunny.

Caroline's project has now grown into a non-profit organisation, Lucky in Kentucky, which is dedicated to providing a custom-made bunny for any patient who might need one. She has ambitions to provide bunnies in neonatal intensive care units across Kentucky and beyond.

"From every moment of everything that has happened, every person that entered my or my children's hospital room, has been there to help in a genuine, honest, caring, respectful way", she said. "It's awoken something in me, a desire to be able to spread that kind of feeling to anyone who will possibly listen to me for five minutes".

Spokesperson for Right To Life UK, Catherine Robinson, said, "In the midst of one of the most challenging experiences a parent can have, Caroline was able to find a way of using her talents to show gratitude to those helping her children and to show encouragement and kindness to other parents in a similar situation".

The *Beatriz* case: a historic victory for the Latin American pro-life movement

From Page 37

and that her right to life was not violated.

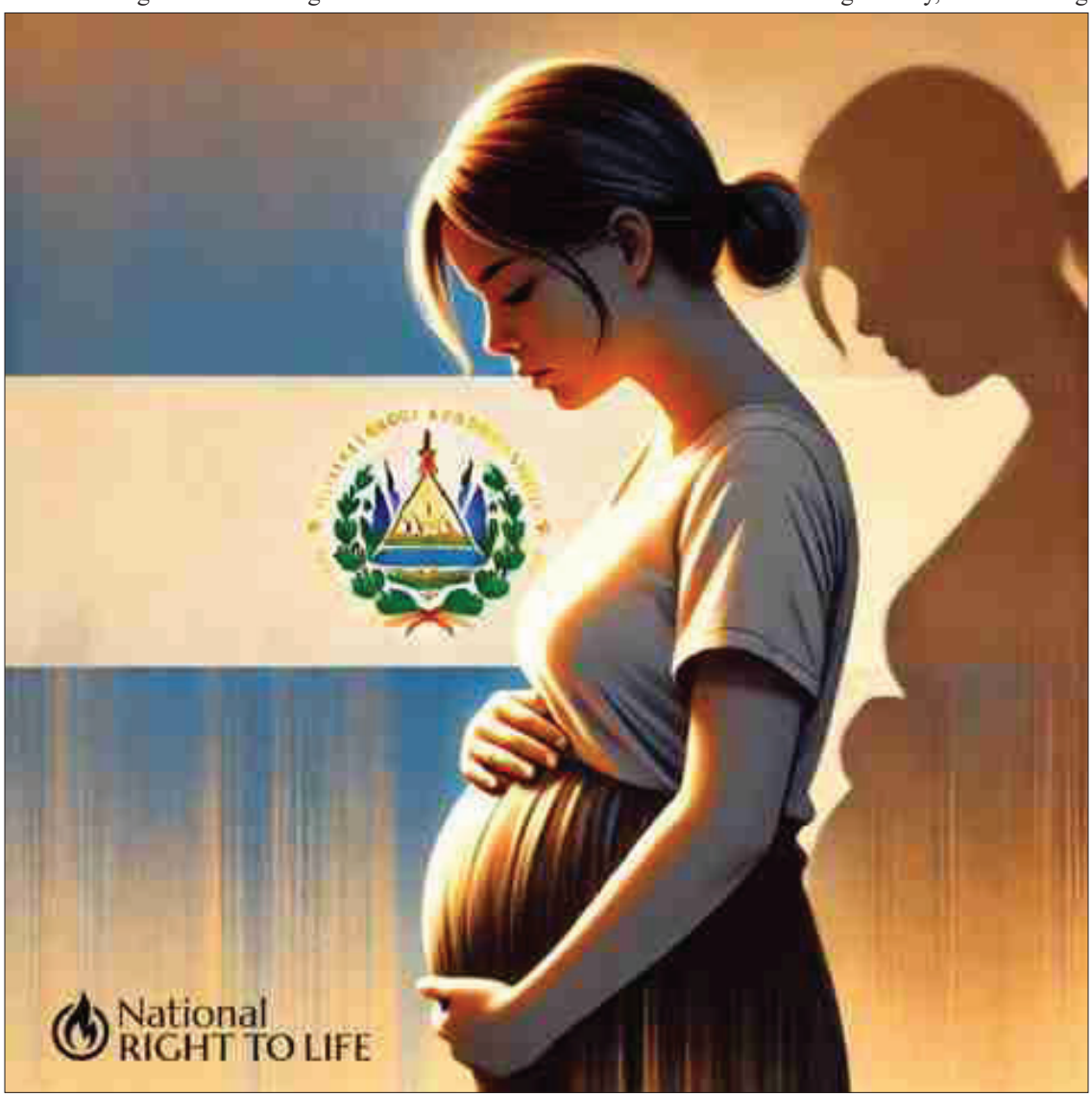
2. Recognition of the Dignity of the Unborn: The Court rejected attempts to dehumanise Leylani, affirming that a proper understanding of human rights does not prioritise the unborn's right to life over the mother's health, but does clearly grant equal protection to both.

3. Abortion Not Recognised as a Right: The Court clarified that abortion cannot be considered a "right" within the inter-American system because it remains a crime. An act cannot simultaneously be both a crime and a right.

4. Rejection of "Obstetric Violence" as a Pro-Abortion Argument: The Court noted that obstetric violence results from medical protocol failures, not laws criminalising abortion. This dismantled feminist arguments linking pro-life legislation to gender violence.

5. Reaffirmation of National Sovereignty: In an unprecedented and unexpected decision, the Court declared that while countries are free to implement its recommendations, it will not and does not impose them on member countries. This strengthened El Salvador's sovereignty.

More generally, this ruling reaffirms that the best practices for protecting both mother and child lie in medical protocols that always, under all circumstances, respect life, and never see abortion as a solution.



Most importantly, it marks a turning point in the defense of life in Ibero-America. It sends a clear message: human rights, including the right to life from conception, are non-negotiable.

Lessons for the pro-life movement

The Inter-American Court's decision demonstrates that the defence of life can prevail even against massive international pressure and media manipulation and lies.

This case also underscores the importance of organisation and unity among pro-life organisations in the region, all of whom worked together to expose the falsehoods spewed by the pro-abortion lobby.

This victory could not have been achieved without the splendid efforts of the Global Center for Human Rights. Its leaders, Sebastián Schuff and Neydy Casillas, have dedicated years of their lives to co-ordinating efforts across the region to ensure that the Inter-American Court respected national rights and democracy.

Among other things, they launched the website casobeatriz.org to centralize information, promote activities, and facilitate the participation of thousands of citizens through a petition directed at the Court's judges.

Our victory serves as a model for successfully resisting the culture of death throughout the region. The story of Beatriz teaches us that, if we stand together, Truth and Life can prevail, even against the vicious lies of the merchants of death.

As the head of the Population Research Institute's office in Latin America, I am proud to have been part of it.

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

New Fact Sheets Show *Roe*, *Dobbs* Impact on the Number of Abortions in the U.S.

From Page 10

our annual cumulative abortion count. We decided to split this into two different fact sheets, one dealing with the *Roe* era, the other addressing the circumstances after *Dobbs*.

The *Legacy of Roe* lists the official abortion numbers from Guttmacher and the CDC, like the old statistics fact sheet did, but specifically limits itself to the time when *Roe* was in force, from 1973 to mid 2022. Using that data and stopping at that point, NRLC has determined that *Roe* cost America more than 64 million lives.

On the front side of this factsheet, we take some time to lay out the events and the legislation that caused abortions to increase or decrease over those nearly fifty years where *Roe* held sway. On the reverse side we talk about some of social, economic, political and cultural impacts resulting from the loss of tens of millions of innocent lives.

After Dobbs reports on the new numbers published by the abortion industry since 2022. This factsheet explains how Guttmacher and SFP surveyed their memberships, projected figures for abortionists they couldn't reach, attempted to track abortion travel, and used abortion pill sales figures to claim abortion increases across the board, even in pro-life states.

This fact sheet relates some of the problems with those projections (several of which we mentioned above) and offers competing data showing increased births in many of those pro-life states.

The final conclusion is that abortion travel is taking place, and abortion pills are being mailed to women in pro-life states, keeping the abortion industry busy. But we still have evidence that many women are responding to new pro-life legislation and to public and private assistance by staying home and giving birth to their babies.

Bottom Line

Roe cost this country tens of millions of innocent lives, leaving a painful legacy that will never fully heal. Even so, it would have been far worse if not for the efforts of pro-life Americans who offered practical alternatives and put up legislative barriers that eventually resulted in *Roe*'s overturn.

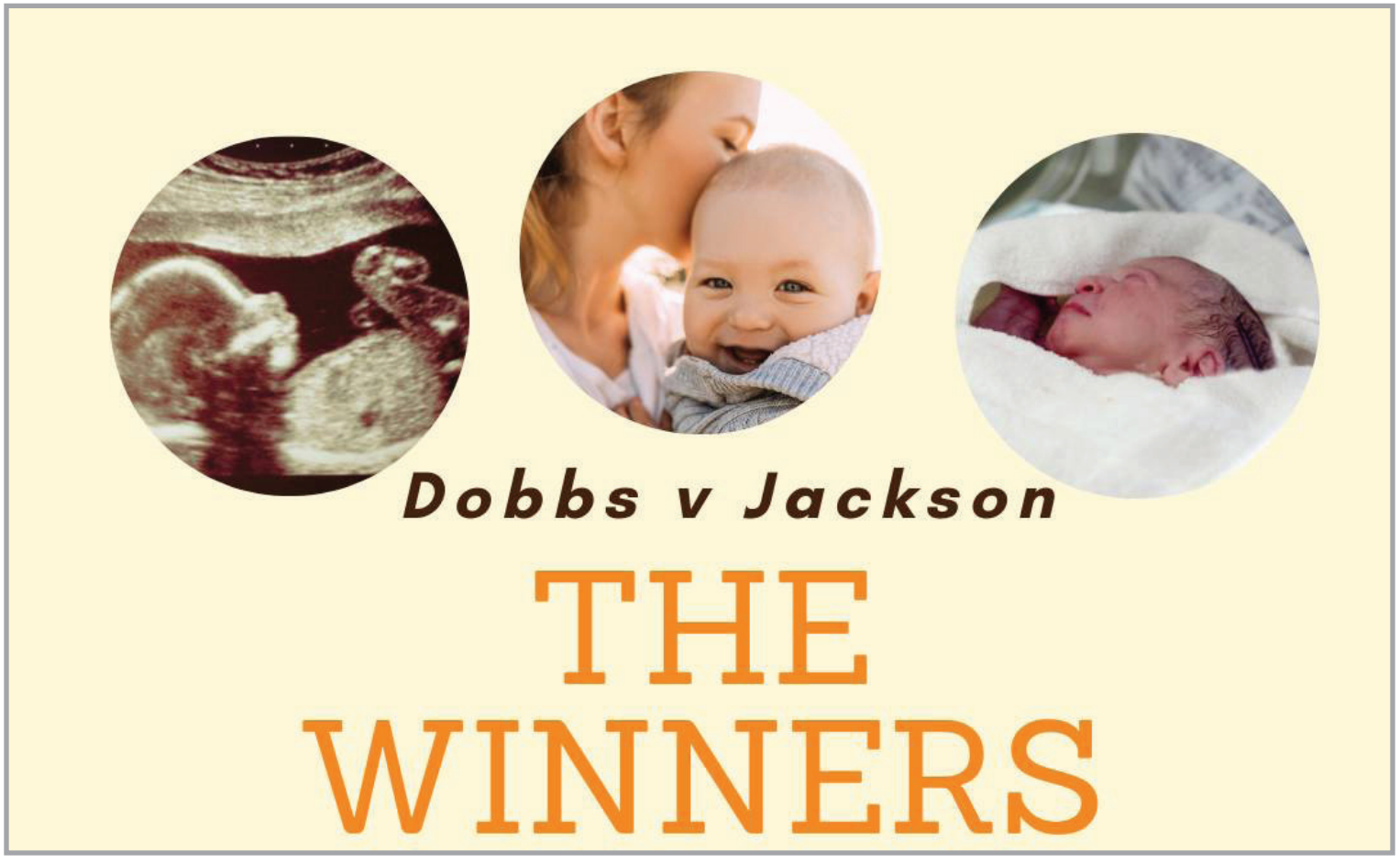
The abortion industry did not disappear with *Dobbs*. They prepared for this day, turning their clinic staff into travel agents, paying women to travel to neighboring states for abortions, often covered by private abortion funds.

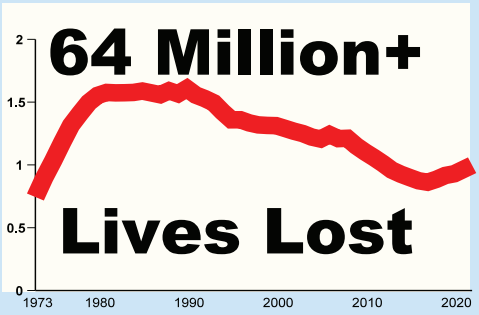
They developed abortion pills and used Democrat presidents to get rid of regulations that had previously kept these from being prescribed by telemedicine and shipped to women's homes, even in states where they were illegal.

Women did respond to state protections, however, leading to the births of thousands of new babies.

There is much that has been and can yet be done restore a culture of life to this country. With the law finally on our side, it seems we have seen some tangible progress in the ongoing fight to protect human life.

It's going to be difficult to get solid numbers for the next few years, but we can already tell we're having an impact.





	Guttmacher	CDC
1973	744,610	615,831
1974	898,570	763,476
1975	1,034,170	854,853
1976	1,179,300	988,267
1977	1,316,700	1,079,430
1978	1,409,600	1,157,776
1979	1,497,670	1,251,921
1980	1,553,890	1,297,606
1981	1,577,340	1,300,760
1982	1,573,920	1,303,980
1983	1,575,000	1,268,987
1984	1,577,180	1,333,521
1985	1,588,550	1,328,570
1986	1,574,000	1,328,112
1987	1,559,110	1,353,671
1988	1,590,750	1,371,285
1989	1,566,900	1,396,658
1990	1,608,600	1,429,247
1991	1,556,510	1,388,937
1992	1,528,930	1,359,146
1993	1,495,000	1,330,414
1994	1,423,000	1,267,415
1995	1,359,400	1,210,883
1996	1,360,160	1,225,937
1997	1,335,000	1,186,039
1998	1,319,000	884,273*
1999	1,314,800	861,789*
2000	1,312,990	857,475*

2001-2022 data *continued on reverse*

Abortion Statistics

The LEGACY of *ROE v. WADE*

There were already abortions being performed in some states in the years before Roe,[1] but the Supreme Court's decision in 1973 set off a tragic era that led to the loss of more than 64 million lives[2] in the U.S. over the next five decades.[3]

Abortions rose quickly after legalization, skyrocketing from nearly three quarters of a million a year to about 1.5 million by1980.

Though abortions didn't peak until 1990 at 1.6 million, abortion rates (the number of abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age) reached their all time high in 1980 and 1981 at 29.3. The number of "providers" performing abortion also peaked during this time, reaching 2,918 in 1982. The abortion ratio, measuring the number of abortions for every 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live birth, peaked just a few years later at 30.4.

Abortion rates and ratios began falling in the 1980s, and abortions themselves fell afer 1990, so that by 2017 all had reached levels not seen since *Roe*.

These drops coincided with court cases and pro-life legislation that allowed governments to impose limits on abortion to slow the abortion juggernaut. The Hyde Amendment cut funding in the early 1980s, followed by laws giving parents the right to be involved in their teens' abortion decisions. Informed consent laws passed in the 1990s and later ultrasound legislation assured that women knew of the humanity of their unborn children and practical alternatives available in their area. Laws against Partial-Birth Abortion exposed abortion's inhumanity and the barbarity of the industry.

By 2017, Guttmacher recorded just 862,320 abortions along with a low abortion rate of 13.5 and an abortion ratio of just18.4. And there were just 1,587 identified abortion providers that year.

After those lows, chemical abortions, governed by strict safety rules since 2000, took off after being greatly deregulated under Democrat administrations in 2016 and again in 2021. Those new rules eventually allowed abortion pills to be mailed to women's homes.

The Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022, giving states the ability to limit abortion and legally protect unborn children. Several states stopped allowing non-therapeutic abortions at that point leading to a sudden drop-off in those states and some drop overall

Our count goes through June of 2022 – when *Roe*'s official reign ended and a new era began.

Living with the Consequences of *Roe*

Loss of an entire generation – due to *Roe*, more than 64 million innocent babies lost their lives. That represents more lives than are found in any U.S. state and about 20% of the current national population.

Abortion as the social norm – by the time *Dobbs* came in 2022, more than half the U.S. population (those born since 1973) had never known a time when abortion was not legal. Claims have been made that between a quarter and a third of all American women have had at least one abortion.

A multi-billion dollar killing industry – What started as isolated rogue abortionists operating out of old houses and storefronts gradually morphed into a lucrative industry with national abortion chains like Planned Parenthood[4] building giant mega clinics, large staffs performing thousands of abortions a year. Eventually, these entities included not just clinicians with some modest level of training, but well-paid administrators, fundraisers, and lobbyists.

Corrupted institutions – medicine, once dedicated exclusively to saving lives, has added surgical and chemical killing to its repertoire. Universities and Institutions of "higher learning" have become havens for abortion industry researchers and apologists, ignoring or denying the death of the unborn and the physical, psychological, and social harms done to women and society. The media and entertainment industries have tried to make abortion seem normal and positive and abortionists seem noble.

Entrenched, powerful, wealthy political lobby – the abortion industry has used its wealth and social influence to build and maintain a powerful political block in local, state, and national legislatures, government, and judiciaries guaranteeing the flow of money to the industry and funding strong opposition to even the most common sense legislation.

Experienced, effective pro-life movement.– when the medical and legal establishment began to move towards legalization of abortion, concerned citizens in different communities across the U.S. came together to organize and oppose these movements.

Over the years, they learned how to whittle away at the legal abortion establishment, ensuring federal taxpayers weren't funding abortions, that parents were involved in teens' decisions, that women were informed of practical alternatives, that the most horrific abortion procedures were banned. All this was part of the substantial reduction in abortion and abortion rates since the mid-1980s forward and the legal challenge that eventually undid *Roe*.

Annual Abortion Totals
(continued)

2001	1,291,000	853,485*
2002	1,269,000	854,122*
2003	1,250,000	848,163*
2004	1,222,100	839,226*
2005	1,206,200	820,151*
2006	1,242,200	846,181*
2007	1,209,640	827,609*
2008	1,212,350	825,564*
2009	1,151,600	789,116*
2010	1,102,670	765,651*
2011	1,058,490	730,322*
2012	1,011,000	699,202*
2013	958,700	664,435*
2014	926,190	652,639*
2015	899,500	638,169*
2016	874,080	623,471*
2017	862,320	612,719*
2018	885,800	619,591*
2019	916,640	629,898*
2020	930,160	620,327*
2021	976,668§	625,978*
2022	499,060§	613,383*

Dobbs
overturns Roe
June 24, 2022

*Excludes data from NH, CA and at least one other state

§ Guttmacher has not published figures for 2021 or 2022..NRLC extrapolates for 2021 and then, to account for *Dobbs* occurring mid-year, counts only half of the 998,120 that would have been expected for 2022 if abortions rose at the same rate each year and reached the 1,032,100 Guttmacher reported for 2023.

What Made This Abortionist Pro-Life?

By Sarah Terzo

Kathi Aultman is a former abortionist who is now a pro-life advocate. She told her story in an interview with Lila Rose from Live Action.

Dehumanizing Preborn Babies

Aultman was strongly pro-choice when she entered medical school. A doctor she really admired committed late-term abortions, and she was eager to learn from him.

She bought into the pro-abortion argument that women's bodily autonomy gave them the right to have abortions.

She liked the challenge of doing abortions and was not put off by doing them late in pregnancy:

> *I was challenged by the procedure and I really hate to say this, but the bigger the better. I cringe now when I say that, but I wanted to do the biggest ones I could. It was a challenge, and my whole focus was being good at what I did and stretching the limits.*

She did not see the babies she aborted as human beings:

> *I think part of the problem was that I didn't see a fetus any [differently] than a chick embryo. The chick embryos that we dissected in college. And I didn't see them as human beings.*

She did not feel any emotional conflict about tearing preborn babies apart. In fact, she was fascinated by the babies' bodies:

> *As a matter of fact, and again I hate to admit this, but when I would look at the parts that I had taken out, I was fascinated with them. I thought, "Oh, these are so cute. And they're great, they've got little fingers and toes."*
>
> *... I just wanted to find out everything about them that I could. But I did not see them as human beings. I just saw them as embryos and fetuses. Not as people.*

Doing Abortions While Pregnant

Aultman became pregnant. She continued to do abortions throughout her pregnancy:

> *I got pregnant while I was in residency, and I was moonlighting at an abortion clinic at the time doing abortions. And I was almost proud of the fact that here I was pregnant, and I was still doing abortions. I felt like, well, my baby is wanted, theirs is not. They have the right to abort their babies. And so, I continued to do abortions during my whole pregnancy.*

But when her baby was born, Aultman found that her attitude had shifted. Things about her work that hadn't bothered her before began to.

She stopped doing abortions because of three women she encountered.

Three Patients That Changed Everything

She describes the first woman:

> *The first one was a young girl that came in, and she was scheduled that morning. I had done three abortions on her myself... And she had had other abortions that I didn't do, but I had done three of them.*
>
> *And I told the people at the clinic that I didn't want to do it. And they said, "You don't have the right to judge. It's her choice. If she wants to use abortion as birth control, that's up to her."*
>
> *I looked at them, and I said, "Yeah, but I'm the one that's having to do the killing." So, I ended up doing the abortion, and afterwards I tried to get her to take birth control and she refused, so she left.*

The casual attitude of the woman using abortion as birth control troubled her. The next encounter was with a woman who had a similar attitude:

> *Then the next woman came in with a friend, and sometimes people did want to see the tissue. And the friend said, "Do you want to see the tissue?" And she said, "No. I just want to kill it."*
>
> *And it just hit me, like cold water in the face. And I thought, "What did this baby do to you?" It's not the baby's fault.*

The third woman was a mother of four who really wanted to keep the baby. She and her husband didn't believe they could afford a fifth child. Pressured by financial circumstances, the woman was forced to "choose" abortion.

She cried the entire time she was at the abortion facility. Aultman was able to see how little choice this woman had and how devastated she was by her abortion. Aultman says, "Thankfully, she was my last patient because I just — I couldn't do them after that."

She says:

> *I think I had finally made that baby = fetus connection. And I realized that that was a little person, just like my daughter was a little person. And the fact that they were no longer wanted was not enough for me to kill them.*

Seeing Young Mothers

Aultman quit and resolved never to do abortions again. But she was still pro-choice. She still supported keeping abortion legal and would refer patients for abortions, even if she wouldn't do them herself.

Aultman had always believed the pro-choice narrative that people, particularly young girls, needed abortions because a baby would destroy their lives. But what she saw in her practice proved otherwise:

> *It wasn't until I started to see young girls in my practice who had babies and did really well. I had always thought that an unplanned pregnancy for a young girl was the worst thing that could happen*

See *Abortionist,* Page 47

Jim Acosta and the Collapse of the 'Mainstream Media'

By Jeffrey Lord

The 2024 election sent serious shock waves through the badly named "mainstream media." The American mainstream has rejected the Democrat media establishment, finding them untrustworthy to "save democracy." It's more like arrogantly manipulating democracy. They through every rock and every kitchen sink at Donald Trump, and they lost. Is it time to say goodbye?

Here's a collection of recent media headlines:.

Hollywood Reporter:

MSNBC, CNN Halt Post-Election Swoons, But Fox News Stays Way Out in Front in January

The Independent:

CNN lays off hundreds of employees and replaces Jim Acosta as it restructures network amid falling ratings

Yahoo Finance:

CNN And MSNBC Ratings Plunge By Half, Reaching 30-Year Lows – And Billionaires Are Paying Attention

The Yahoo Finance story opens by reporting:

CNN And MSNBC Ratings Slashed In Half, Collapse To Their Lowest Levels In Nearly 30 Years With Billionaires Circling

The political media landscape is undergoing a dramatic shake-up. CNN and MSNBC, two of the biggest cable news networks, are facing historic ratings declines, with their viewership slashed nearly in half since the recent presidential election. Both networks struggle to retain their audiences, collapsing to levels not seen in nearly 30 years. Meanwhile, Fox News has held steady, dominating the cable news space.

Viewership in Freefall

MSNBC's prime-time audience has taken a staggering 53% hit, dropping from 1.34 million viewers before the election to just 632,000. CNN hasn't fared much better, losing 47% of its prime-time viewers, down to 398,000. On some nights, these networks aren't just losing to Fox News – they're losing to lifestyle channels like the Food Network, where more viewers are tuning into shows like Chopped than CNN's Anderson Cooper or MSNBC's Jen Psaki.

Then there was this on Newsmax from August of 2024:(And full disclosure, I am a Newsmax contributor.):

Newsmax Broke Ratings Records in July

Now.

Pull up to the proverbial 30,000 mile marker and take a good hard look at what is happening to the so-called "Mainstream Media" in America. And with that done there is an increasingly inescapable conclusion.

Namely: The Mainstream Media – aka the liberal media in America – is in the middle of a slow-motion collapse. Ratings are sinking. Staff are being let go. Over there at CNN one of the network's star anchors – Jim Acosta – is out the door. Gone.

Meanwhile, as indicated above, straight-news or conservative networks are on the rise. Even more interesting is the advent of modern technology and the surge of what we have come to call the "podcast."

Were one to have access to the proverbial time travel machine and could shoot forward a dozen years, one can honestly wonder whether the likes of CNN, MSNBC and the three "mainstream network" nightly news broadcasts – not to mention the flagship lefty newspapers like The New York Times, The Washington Post and others will even still exist. Or at least exist in their current form.

And speaking of hopping in the time travel machine, put the machine in reverse and go backwards in time. Back… back…back to, a year not at random, 1955.

Why 1955, you ask?

It was in 1955 that a rising conservative named William F. Buckley Jr. created a not-in-the-progressive-mainstream magazine known as National Review. Unrealized at the time was that Buckley's magazine was the opening shot in what would, over time, become a conservative media revolution.

Over time as the future opened up the door, what was opened with a trickle became a flood of conservative media outlets, whether in print form or, with the rise of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and others, talk radio. Then came Fox News. Next came Newsmax. News Nation.

Now come the new technology of podcasts.

To show just how far podcasts – and conservative podcasts specifically – have multiplied, swimming along in the flood of information on the topic is this website titled 100 Best Conservative Podcasts.

That's right-100 of them. With even more out there. On that list of 100, among others, can be found listings for conservative podcast stars with names like Ben Shapiro, Matt Walsh, Daniel Horowitz, Senator Ted Cruz, Ben Ferguson, Charlie Kirk, Steve Deace and more. Many more.

Connect the dots from the conservative podcasts and the online conservative sites (such as NewsBusters right here) and one can see in, as it were, black and white, just why the ratings for those once seemingly immutable "mainstream" liberal media are sinking, shedding staff and, one suspects, advertisers as well.

Once done it is reasonable to ask how much longer these once mainstream liberal media juggernauts can survive in their current form or power positions. Or, alternatively, are they destined to simply shrink over time, never again to regain the status they once had as liberal media giants ruling the American (and global!) media universe.

Which brings us back to those opening headlines. Headlines that, unrecognized at this moment, may well in the future be seen as harbingers of a decidedly major shift in the American media environment.

With more headlines like this one here:

CNN anchor Jim Acosta will exit network after turning down midnight shift

So there goes Jim Acosta. The question is: what else -and who else – in the liberal media is headed out the door right behind him. And is the Acosta departure yet another signal of the collapse of the "mainstream" liberal media?

Stay tuned.

Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri can continue legal fight against the abortion pill, judge rules

By Dave Andrusko

On Thursday U.S. Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk of the Northern District of Texas issued a ruling that permits the attorneys general of Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri to continue litigating the *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA*.

The original plaintiffs–the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, composed of four national medical associations, four doctors, and the Alliance Defending Freedom–dropped their case after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June 2024 they lacked the necessary legal standing. At that juncture the three states requested to pursue the case in federal court in Amarillo, Texas.

Litigation began in 2022

The Alliance sued the FDA in 2022, "maintaining that the agency overstepped its authority, first in approving the abortion drug, and again in waiving safety guidelines on the procedure," according to Kim Schwartz of Texas Right to Life.

The Alliance asked that mifepristone be pulled from the market altogether. In his April 7, 2023, decision Judge Kacsmaryk "agreed with the challengers and suspended both that approval and the later changes to the conditions on the use of the drug – such as allowing the drug to be used through the 10th week of pregnancy, rather than the 7th, and allowing health-care providers who are not physicians to prescribe the drug," according to Amy Howe.

"But although the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit upheld Kacsmaryk's rollback of the later changes to conditions on the use of the drug, it ruled that the challengers' efforts to invalidate the FDA's initial approval of the drug came too late."

Worth noting were the comments of Judge Ho, who was part of the 5th circuit court of appeals panel. He wrote

> **By the applicant's own admission, the FDA used an unlawful procedure when it approved mifepristone. And the agency's later regulations are likewise invalid—both under the APA as the majority outlines, and under the Comstock Act as well. In sum, the regulations are "not in accordance with law" and therefore must be set aside. Accordingly, we should affirm.**

His biting conclusion?

> **Scientists have contributed an enormous amount to improving our lives. But scientists are human beings just like the rest of us. They're not perfect. None of us are. We all make mistakes. And the F.D.A. has made plenty.**

Basis for standing

Brendan Pierson and Nate Raymond report that Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri

> **have argued they have standing to sue because their Medicaid health insurance programs will likely have to pay to treat patients who have suffered complications from using mifepristone. They have also said they should be allowed to remain in Texas even without the original plaintiffs because it would be inefficient to send the case to another court after nearly more than two years of litigation.**

Mifepristone is used in combination with misoprostol, a prostaglandin, to cause an abortion. Mifepristone blocks progesterone, leading to the death of the unborn baby, while the second drug, misoprostol, causes powerful, painful uterine contractions to expel the dead or dying baby.

FDA records include more than two dozen deaths and thousands of complications associated with the use of the mifepristone/misoprostol chemical abortion method. Thousands of "adverse events" are on record with the FDA and include serious infections, severe hemorrhaging, and the rupture of previously undiscovered ectopic pregnancies.

What Made This Abortionist Pro-Life?

From Page 44

to her. That's sort of the normal thinking…

That's the narrative. And to see these girls do so well. And then I had other patients who were seeing psychiatrists or were struggling with the physical complications of abortions. And it just wasn't what I expected. It didn't jive with the rhetoric, the rhetoric that I had embraced.

Aultman became a Christian and began going to church. Her new beliefs had no effect on her pro-choice views. But she saw young girls in her church have babies. Just like the young girls in her practice, these young women's lives were not destroyed by their children.

She got to know the babies and watched them grow, all the while knowing that had their mothers been her patients, she would've given them abortions. She says:

And as I watched those little children grow up into these wonderful people, I began to again see, okay, these are real people that we are killing. Who never get a chance to be alive. And we never get to see who they're going to become.

The Conversion

But the final, pivotal event that won her to the pro-life cause was reading an article given to her by some pro-life friends.

The article drew a parallel between the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and abortion in America today. Although abortion and the Holocaust are very different, the article pointed out that both were enabled to happen because people did not see the victims as human beings. Both preborn babies and the victims of the Holocaust were dehumanized.

Aultman says:

My dad was with… the group that [liberated] the first concentration camp during World War II. And so, I grew up with all those stories and those horrific pictures. And then, when I became a doctor, I couldn't understand how the German doctors could do the things that they did…

When I read that comparison between the Holocaust and abortion, I finally understood how they could do the horrible things that they did. Because just as I didn't see the fetus as a person, they didn't see the Jews and the Gypsies and the others as people. And if you don't consider someone human, you can do anything you want.

That's when I realized that I was a mass murderer. I had killed all of these people. And that's when I completely changed my opinion on abortion.

Aultman made the connection between the dehumanization of babies in the womb and the dehumanization of other victims of violence.

She struggled to cope with the guilt and remorse she felt for killing so many people. It took years of therapy, reflection, prayer, and spiritual guidance for her to come to terms with what she had done. Now Aultman is pro-life and speaks out against abortion.

Thoughts on Other Abortionists

She says that she is far from the only former abortionist, but most former abortionists never tell their stories:

[N]ot many people can continue to do abortions. They may do them during their residency training, but very few of them go on to do abortions because the normal human cannot be ripping apart and killing other human beings for very long, if you have a conscience.

And that's why there aren't that many abortionists, because people just can't continue to do it. Something happens along the way, where they see the light, and they realize what they are doing.

Most former abortionists, she says, keep quiet because of the stigma of abortion and their shame in taking part in so many deaths. Many of the ones still in practice know that women don't want their babies delivered by an abortionist or former abortionist. They fear losing their patients, and they fear the judgment of people in their lives.

Aultman speculates that if more doctors spoke out about their experiences, it would greatly help the pro-life movement. The pro-life movement needs to create a welcoming environment that encourages former abortion doctors to tell their stories.

At the end of the interview, Aultman encourages those currently doing abortions to feel the same compassion for the babies that they feel for the mothers:

So you're thinking you're helping this poor woman. There are alternatives for her, okay?

There aren't any alternatives for the baby. So you're, in order not to inconvenience this person, or make her feel bad about "giving her baby away" or whatever, you're then taking the life of this other person, who never gets to experience the light of day.

Never can grow up and be who they're supposed to be. So, have as much compassion for the baby as you do for this woman.

Pro-Lifers Must Be Compassionate

She also reminds pro-lifers of the importance of reaching out to people on the other side with compassion:

It wasn't people yelling at me, berating me, trying to make me feel guilty, that's not what changed my opinion. It was people loving me, even though I was pro-abortion and me respecting them and then them telling me, "well, maybe you should consider this."

Aultman's conversion was a process, and it took time. Pro-life friends, such as the ones who shared the article, were pivotal in opening her eyes. Pro-lifers must approach pro-choicers with respect and compassion and be willing to befriend them. Many times, it is through friendship that conversions happen.

Editor's note. This was published on Sarah's substack and reposted here.