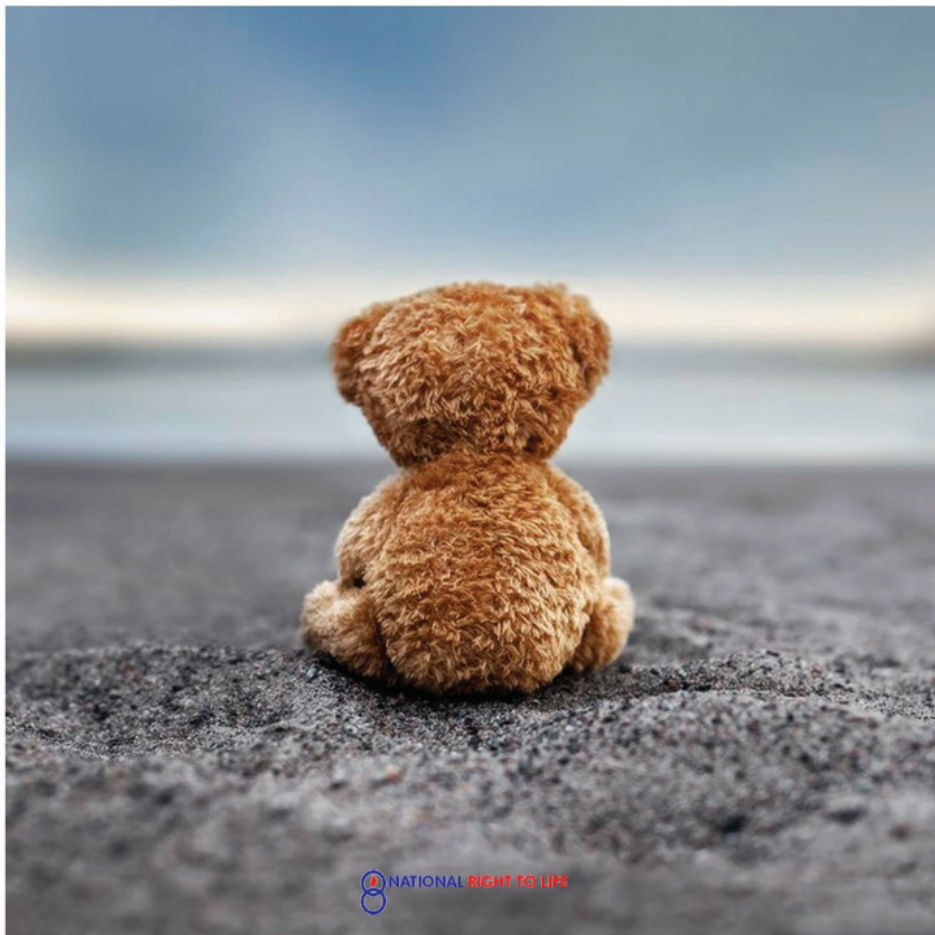




**national**  
**RIGHT TO LIFE**  
**NEWS**

**January 2018**

**"WHERE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN?"**



**THEY'RE GONE, BEAR!**

**60 MILLION ABORTED SINCE 1973**



# national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

## House to vote on Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act the week of March for Life

By Dave Andrusko

On January 9 House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Ca.) announced the first great national pro-life news of 2018. “Next week—the week of the annual March for Life when tens of thousands of Americans come to Washington to give voice to the voiceless unborn—the House will vote on the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act*,” he said in a statement. The chief House sponsor of H.R. 4712 is Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tn.)

Majority Leader McCarthy explained the commonsense humanity behind H.R. 4712.

**“This bill states simply that if a baby is born after a failed abortion attempt, he or she should be given the same medical care**

**as a baby born any other way. In line with our longstanding commitment to empower women, mothers will never**

**be held criminally accountable. However, doctors who fail to provide medical care to newborns will be held criminally accountable. There is absolutely no ambiguity here. This is about protecting babies who are born and alive, and nobody should be against that.”**



““  
*“We are grateful to Leader Kevin McCarthy for scheduling a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act next week when tens of thousands of pro-lifers come to DC for the March for Life. NRLC believes that it is time for Congress to act decisively to put the entire abortion industry on notice that when they treat a born-alive human person as medical waste, as a source for organ harvesting, or as a creature who may be subjected to lethal violence with impunity, they will do so at grave legal peril.” Carol Tobias, President National Right to Life*”

National Right to Life congratulated McCarthy for his leadership on H.R. 4712.

*See “Giving,” page 45*

## 45 reasons for hope and optimism on Roe’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary

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

As we mark the 45th anniversary of the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*, I would like to offer to members of the greatest movement for social justice of our time 45 reasons for hope and optimism:

1. Statistics show the number of abortions in the U.S. continue to decline. They have dropped from 1.6 million to 926,200.

2. Polls show the Millennial Generation is more pro-life than



young people of generations past.

3. President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order barring taxpayer funding of organizations that perform and promote abortions overseas, expanding on President Reagan’s original “Mexico City Policy.”

*See “Reasons,” page 36*

# Editorials

## Three days from now....

Around 11:30 am Friday, I will walk over to the National Mall, in between Madison Drive and Jefferson Drive, to join hundreds of thousands of members of the greatest movement for social justice of our time for the annual March for Life.

Some years the temperatures in Washington, DC have been in the 20s, even the teens. One year we almost were snowed out. This year the forecast is for a balmy 45 with sunny skies.

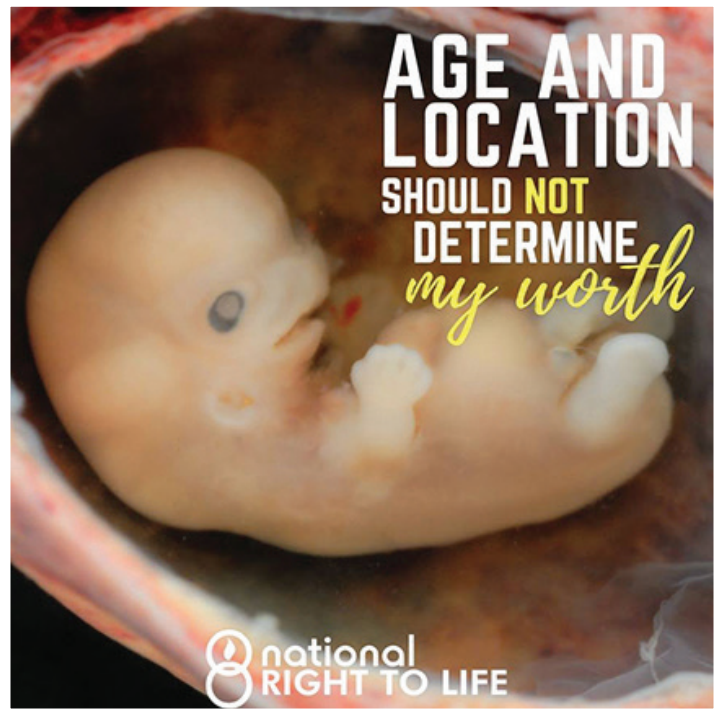
Rain or shine, freezing or “warm,” an army of compassion and resolve meets to hear inspirational speakers and then assembles on Constitution Avenue to march to the Supreme Court. There we will peacefully, as always, send the message that we can see *Roe v. Wade*’s expiration date on the horizon.

There is an especial urgency in the air. As the chart at the end of this editorial summarizes, we have a pro-life President who, in his first year in office, has been absolutely faithful to his promises given to our Movement when President Trump was a candidate. We also have great pro-life leadership in the Senate—Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)—and in the House—Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wi.)

As we’ve discussed in several places in this the January digital edition of *National Right to Life News*, the House will vote on the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act* this week. What does H.R. 4712 say? Simply that if a baby survives an abortion attempt, he or she will receive “the same degree of care as reasonably provided to any other child born alive at the same gestational age.”

Many of you may do a double take. Wasn’t this addressed years ago?

Didn’t Congress in 2002 (without a dissenting vote) pass the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act* (BAIPA), subsequently



signed into law by President George W. Bush and codified as 1 U.S.C. §8? And didn’t that law state that “every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development” is a “person” for all federal law purposes?

See “Three,” page 30

## A lone voice in the Media Establishment asks, “Could we be wrong?”

Periodically, just to remind myself how deeply embedded is the *Washington Post*’s loathing for pro-life President Trump, I will pull up the *WaPo*’s webpage and see how many negative stories (usually viciously so) there are. I stopped at nine, when I looked Monday morning. The hatred is pervasive, palpable, and poisonous.

The *Post*’s new self-flattering motto is “Democracy Dies in Darkness,” as if somehow the *Post* is the lone beacon of light holding off the forces of darkness, aka President Trump. They might entertain a secondary motto: “Journalism will die, absent genuine objectivity.”

We could post six days a week and twice on Sunday stories such as “Study: Media Coverage of Trump 91% Negative Over Past Three Months.” The animosity toward the President which was over the top during the campaign, has reached a new 24/7 intensity. And it’s not conservatives who have come to this conclusion. In its year-end review of 2017, the Pew Research Center reported that an astonishingly low 5% of media coverage of President Trump was positive.

This is why I found David Von Drehle’s recent column in the *Washington Post*, “Could we be wrong?” so utterly fascinating.

To be clear, his column’s primary focus is not “have we missed the boat on Donald Trump?” Rather while it is another in the *Post*’s shameless self-promotion (another 811 words of praise for the newspaper’s hay day via the new movie “The Post”), it is also a yearning for a virtue voluntarily abandoned.

Von Drehle is celebrating the new film, starring Tom Hanks as *Post* Executive Editor Ben Bradlee and Meryl Streep as then publisher Katharine Graham, for giving Mrs. Graham her due during the fight over whether the *Post* should publish “the classified Pentagon Papers despite a court order enjoining the *New York Times*.”

See “Voice,” page 40

# From the President Carol Tobias

## Want to Stop Abortion? *It begins by electing more Pro-Life Candidates*



The pro-life movement today has much to be proud of. Fourteen months ago, we elected a staunchly pro-life President who has already made purposeful use of his executive power, in every way he legally could, to protect life and to reverse the funding and promotion of abortion.

In that same election, we were successful in electing pro-life members of Congress and keeping pro-life leadership in both the House and Senate. Our state affiliates have been extremely successful in electing pro-life men and women to their state legislatures and to statewide offices.

Winning more elections means we are able to pass more pro-life laws. NRLC works with members of Congress on a federal level, and with state legislatures through our state affiliates. When someone talks about “grassroots organizations,” NRLC and its 50 state affiliates are a classic example.

We have been extremely effective in passing legislation to require that parents be informed that their minor daughter is seeking an abortion, and to require that abortion-minded women be told about the possible risks and complications of abortion, as well as alternatives that are available.

Some states have been successful in adding requirements that the women be told about “abortion pill reversal” in the case of a chemical abortion. Many have passed legislation making it possible, before she

makes this life or death decision, for a woman to have an ultrasound and see her baby.

We are currently working on legislation, at both the state and federal level, to protect from abortion unborn babies who have developed to the point where they can feel pain. We are also diligently trying to stop the killing of unborn children by dismemberment abortion. Whatever opinion people might have on the general topic of “abortion,” surely most would agree that no living human should have their arms and legs torn off and bleed to death.

We are working with Congress to pass a federal bill that would require abortionists, and anyone in the room with him/her, to treat a baby who survives an abortion just as any person would try to help a baby born early in a “wanted” pregnancy. Again, unless you are a dyed-in-the-wool pro-abortionist, how could you oppose this?

We’ve been able to write and re-write laws because we’ve won elections. We’ve won elections because of grass roots support for pro-life candidates and for NRLC’s PAC and Victory Fund.

Why, then, do we sometimes hear friends complain about the state of the pro-life movement? Understandably, there is frustration — which I share — that 45 years after *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, abortion has not come to an end in America.

Let me state categorically: Abortion *will* come to an end in America. History and morality are on our side. But we have a lot more hard work ahead of us. We will not get there until we add enough constitutionally honest justices to the US Supreme Court to overturn those sweeping and evil 1973 court cases. That will not happen until our President has the opportunity to appoint

honorable justices, and unless we protect and add to the ranks of pro-life Senators needed to confirm them.

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***Abortion will come to an  
end in America.  
History and morality  
are on our side.***

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There is no magic bullet — even though I wish there were. Today’s Supreme Court will strike down every clever wording of this definition or that timetable that looks like a magic bullet. Until and unless we change the Supreme Court. There is no substitute for the hard work involved — and for the faith, perseverance, and unity needed in the pro-life movement in marching toward that day of change.

Until then, there is still much we *can* do — indeed, much we *must* do. We need to elect more pro-life candidates at all levels because the pro-life laws we have been enacting are already saving lives. And we can save more. Many of these laws have been so carefully crafted that they have survived court challenges. And they are an absolutely necessary part of us making progress toward the day abortion comes completely to an end.

If you are not already involved in these massive efforts to change the law and protect the unborn babies, your talents and efforts are needed.

As I recently told a reporter, we want to change hearts and minds so that, even if abortion remained legal, no one would want one. However, the more permanent way to stop abortion is to change the law. Those efforts continue with the next election.

## Help NRLC save babies in the womb and babies who survive the abortionist's best efforts to kill them

In three days hundreds of thousands of America's finest will come together in our nation's capital to remind the nation and the world, as Dr. King wrote, that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." From all parts of our great country, these pro-life champions---young and old, male and female---will assemble to declare the darkness that is *Roe v. Wade* will not stand forever. Thanks to their faithfulness, the light of love and compassion for unborn children and their mothers, temporarily obscured by Justice Blackmun's abomination, will shine through.

Americans shouldn't need the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act which will be introduced into the House of Representatives later this week. Who could possibly not agree that if a baby survives an abortion attempt, he or she will receive "the same degree of care as reasonably provided to any other child born alive at the same gestational age"? Alas, no doubt, almost every Democrat will. For them, that poor baby is supposed to be dead. Case closed, body disposed.

H.R. 1192 is one of your National Right to Life's highest legislative priorities. We fight adversaries who have so much money, even they have trouble spending it all. NRLC depends on you, grassroots pro-life America.

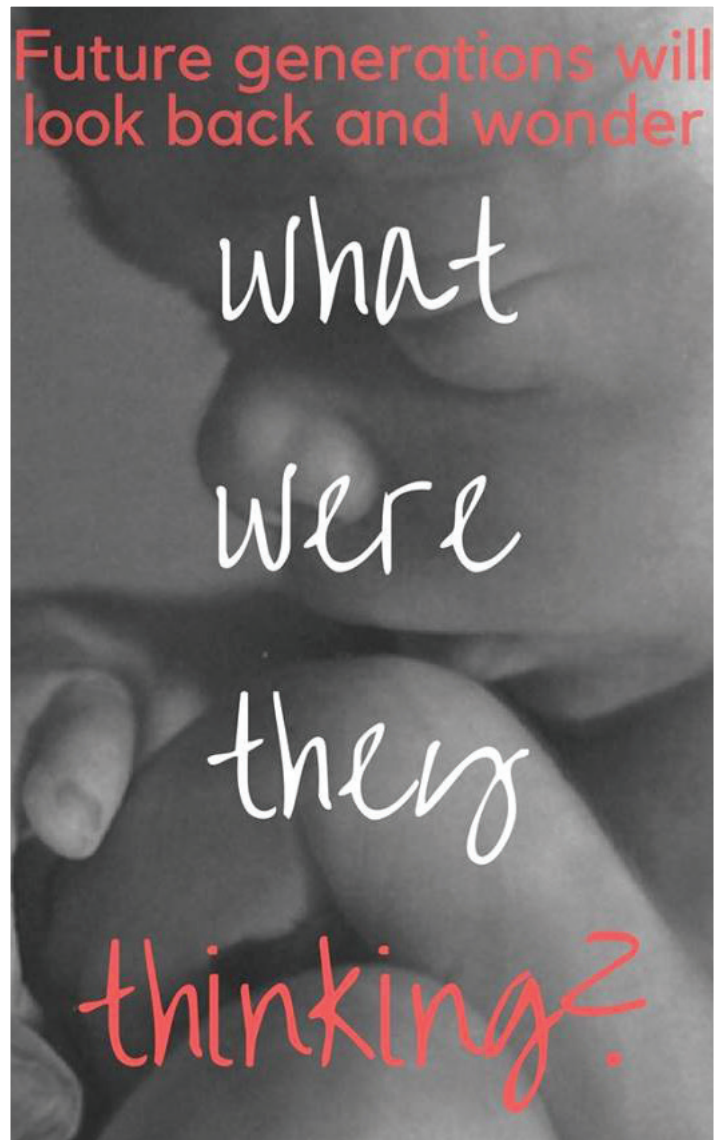
There are many fights ahead in 2018. Won't you partner with National Right to Life, "the flagship of the Pro-Life Movement," to quote the legendary Henry Hyde, to save babies in the womb and babies who survive the abortionist's best efforts to kill them?

Please help your National Right to Life pass these groundbreaking pro-life laws that will protect these helpless children. **Click here** now to give the most generous gift you can to National Right to Life.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you so much.

*(Because National Right to Life Committee works to pass laws to save the lives of the unborn babies, federal law does not allow your contributions to be deductible for tax purposes.)*



**MAKE A DONATION**

# The joyous task ahead as we begin 2018

By Jacki Ragan Director, NRLC State Organizational Development Department

January 22, 2018, will mark 45 years of *Roe v. Wade*. 45 years of abortion on demand. 45 years in which over 60 million lives have been lost and an untold number of mothers and fathers emotionally and psychologically injured. Believe me, while there is much work to be done, it is an honor for all of us, each in our own way.

However the wonderful news is, as we have discussed many times at *NRL News Today* and in this January issue of *NRL News*, the momentum is on our side. At the end of December, Planned Parenthood put out its annual report last which Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, NRLC's director of education and research, critiques on page seven.

There are many warning signs for the largest abortion provider in the world, but for all their well-deserved headaches, according to its new annual report, PPFA still aborted 321,384 babies during its 2016-2017 fiscal year. This must stop!

To defeat PPFA and the abortion industry and its apologists, we have to work smart. The smarter you and I work, the more babies we save. Our hearts have been pierced by their plight and we know that we have to be the voice for those unable to speak. We have to do everything we can. Not everything, just everything we can. Here are three important things you should do.

First, make sure you are a member of NRLC, your state organization, and your local chapter. Attend meetings, if you can. But please be a

financial supporter, attend major functions, and know what is going on within your local community.

National Right to Life has led the fight for unborn children for nearly 50 years. We need

life churches not only will help spread the message that lives are being destroyed in massive numbers, it will also offer positive steps that everyone can take to help protect innocent human life. Maybe

[www.nrlc.org/site/factsheets](http://www.nrlc.org/site/factsheets) or contact us and we will be happy to put a packet together and send to you! You can email us at [stateod@nrlc.org](mailto:stateod@nrlc.org) or call 202.378.8843.

And most of you are reading this because you also subscribe to *National Right to Life News Today*. Please make other proliferators aware of this powerful source of pro-life information that can be sent directly to their e-mail inbox every Monday through Saturday free of charge. They can sign up at [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/join-the-email-list/](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/join-the-email-list/)

The bottom line? You don't have to do everything. Just do something to advance the cause of unborn children.

Why do I say this? Simply because some people are almost paralyzed by the thought that they have to devote so many hours per week. That is simply not so. It is the individual contribution of many thousands of people that makes our Movement work so effectively.

So, get active in your local chapter. Help promote the right to life cause in your community, among your friends and family, and in your church.

Decide today to do something and I can almost promise you that you won't regret it. How can I confidently make that assurance?

You will have the privilege of speaking out on behalf of God's most innocent children who have been sentenced to death—no trial, no jury—just an unjust, unfair, inhumane death. You will also be helping the moms who, for whatever reason, feel that abortion is their "only way out."

## WE ARE THE GRASSROOTS



your help to do what we do better than any other pro-life organization.

Please contribute to the "flagship of the pro-life movement," as the late, great Rep. Henry Hyde described National Right to Life. You can do so by going to [www.nrlc.org/donate.html](http://www.nrlc.org/donate.html).

Second, contact the pastor in your church and ask about putting inserts in the church bulletin. These inserts are inexpensive and educational. Including them in local pro-

life churches not only will help spread the message that lives are being destroyed in massive numbers, it will also offer positive steps that everyone can take to help protect innocent human life. Maybe

go a step further and contact other pro-life churches in your community!

Third—and very important—educate yourself. Nothing is more powerful than an educated pro-lifer. For starters take a few minutes and just read the back of the church bulletin insert. Know the facts and then, should the question arise, you can answer it with confidence and maybe make a real difference.

To dig deeper into the store of educational materials, visit

# Five simple things you can do to make a difference in the 2018 Elections

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

As we approach the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, our thoughts and prayers are for the more than 60 million unborn babies who have lost their lives since 1973. Yet we also know that thanks to our pro-life grassroots, the annual number of abortions has dropped from a high of about 1.6 million annually to under one million—a million too many but a tribute to your efforts.

In less than ten months, crucial off-year elections will take place in which we will fight to maintain pro-life leadership in both the House and Senate. As National Right to Life has for decades, as we approach November 6 we will offer guidance about the many different tasks you could undertake to help us help the babies.

Choose what you can do, even if it is only one thing for all are important in helping us carry the day. Please examine NRL's suggestions and decide what best fits your time and talents.

Nothing separates us from pro-abortionists more than the conviction that every life is singularly important. Every life you help National Right to Life save, is one taken away from the clutches of the likes of Planned Parenthood.

We know that changing hearts and minds through education and passing pro-life legislation saves lives. Just one piece of pro-life legislation – the Hyde Amendment, which restricts taxpayer funding of abortions – has saved two million babies. *Two million!* That's two million families blessed with a child rather than cursed with remorse and regret.

However, in order to pass pro-

life laws, we need to elect pro-life legislators – an enormous, but not insurmountable task, which we have proven election after election.

Pro-abortionists are motivated. Are we? Of course! But we must work harder and smarter than ever before because the financial advantage the other side always enjoys appears as if it will be even greater than ever.

The blessing of having pro-life majorities in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate comes along with the obligation to retain, indeed, expand those majorities. If each of us does our part, working together, the enormity of the task before us is manageable.

Here are five simple things you can do to help win the elections in 2018:

**1)** First and foremost, contribute money to National Right to Life. It takes a lot of money to maintain a national organization, especially a pro-life organization involved on the frontlines with education, political action and legislation. You can donate by clicking here: [www.nrlc.org/donate/](http://www.nrlc.org/donate/)

**2)** Educate yourself and others about the issue. Sign up for National Right to Life News Today, our free daily news, at [www.nationalrighttolifenews.org](http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org) Encourage your pro-life friends and family to do the same.

**3)** We are a grassroots movement. You can expand our reach through social media. “Share” pro-life news, National

Right to Life's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts with your friends. Go here to add National Right to Life to your social media.

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/nationalrighttolife](https://www.facebook.com/nationalrighttolife)

**Twitter:** @nrlc

**Instagram:** [nationalrighttolife](https://www.instagram.com/nationalrighttolife)

**4)** In order to make a difference in the elections, we need an educated electorate registered to vote. A 2017 Pew poll found that 60% of people

abortion candidate. See “Ways to Defeat a Pro-life Candidate” here: [nrlpac.org/pdf/six-ways.pdf](http://nrlpac.org/pdf/six-ways.pdf)

In 2018, thirty-four U.S. Senate seats, 435 U.S. House of Representative seats, and 39 gubernatorial seats are in play. 2017 taught us the literal truth that *every vote counts!*

The Virginia House of Delegates continues to have pro-life leadership due to one vote! Pro-life Republican Del. David Yancey and pro-abortion



say they have never been asked to register to vote. If you are not registered to vote, click here to see how: [ssl.capwiz.com/nrlc/e4/nvra/?action=form&state=e4](https://ssl.capwiz.com/nrlc/e4/nvra/?action=form&state=e4) Be sure your pro-life friends and family are registered to vote as well.

**5)** Get to know your candidates and never cast a vote for those candidates who won't protect our most vulnerable citizens: our unborn children, those who are medically disabled, and the elderly. And be sure your own actions do not inadvertently help elect a pro-

Democrat Shelly Simonds each received 11,608 votes. Yancey prevailed in a drawing. But had Del. Yancey received just one fewer vote, he would have lost, and the Virginia House would have flipped into pro-abortion leadership!

Your individual contribution matters!

Let's work together, make a difference and create a future for the unborn!

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

# PPFA’s annual report clearly shows it has double-downed on promoting abortion

By Randall K. O’Bannon, NRLC Director of Education & Research

*Editor’s note. This is the second of two parts of Dr. O’Bannon’s examination of “The 2016-17 Annual Report of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.” Part One can be read at <http://bit.ly/2D6Df5I>.*

Cementing its reputation as the nation’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood performed 321, 384 abortions in 2016, more than a third of all abortions performed in the U.S., according to its latest annual report.

But Planned Parenthood is more than just a “reproductive health care provider.” They are also the nation’s top abortion advocates and increasingly connected to much of the nation’s burgeoning political activism.

## A few more numbers

Looking at the gross revenues alone, it would appear that Planned Parenthood’s business is thriving. But tucked away in that increase of \$100 million over the previous fiscal year is the growing impact of increased private contributions. Combine that with the diminishing numbers of clinics and 20% fewer customers, and a quite different picture emerges.

Early in the introduction penned by Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards and Board chair Naomi Aberly, PPFA heralds the care provided by their “more than 600 health centers across the country” and the group’s 56 affiliates.

To be sure, PPFA remains a big and powerful organization. However check back a few year and you’ll see that they aren’t

what they used to be.

For example, as recently as 2010, there were 872 clinics listed on Planned Parenthood’s website, hailing from about a hundred local affiliates. From

operating clinics.

As we have documented in many *NRL News Today* stories, the decline in the number of affiliates is largely a consequence of larger, richer,

mention its bottom line.

Planned Parenthood now performs more than a third of all abortions in the U.S. and continuing to be its biggest defender in the legislature and the courts. Contrary to the 3% meme, abortion is no mere sideline for the group.

Planned Parenthood notes with pride that 26 of their affiliates have launched online scheduling for abortion appointments. A chat/text program set up by Planned Parenthood allows people to discuss “reproductive health questions” with a trained educator. It garnered as many as 30,000 individual conversations a month. PPFA’s statistics show that one in three chat/text users ended up at a clinic within 10 days of their conversation.



872 to 600—that’s a huge drop off in just 7 years!

And as mentioned yesterday, the three million customers they saw as recently as 2008. Today, that number is 2.4 million—a decline of 20%. No two ways about it, business at Planned Parenthood is off.

However while that is good news, it is not as unambiguously good as we might hope. While many centers have closed, quite often these were non-abortion performing clinics—smaller and unprofitable. Sometimes they were replaced by modern, giant regional abortion featuring mega-clinics.

This largely explains why abortions have held steady at Planned Parenthood, despite the huge drop in the number of

more politically powerful affiliates gobbling up smaller, less efficiently run clinics that often did not perform abortions. Unprofitable operations and expensive, inefficient middle management were cut.

## Still about abortion

Of course PPFA continues to downplay abortion’s significance to Planned Parenthood. It recycles the much-debunked statistic that abortion constitutes merely 3% of its services. As we have explained, this is a statistic artifice that even its media allies are reluctant to defend. Abortion still plays a huge role in Planned Parenthood’s mission and policies, not to

## Politics and legislation

With their emphasis on abortion, it is no surprise that many of the legislative and court victories they tout were abortion centered. They celebrated Delaware’s codification of Roe into state law and were happy that Oregon ensured “abortion coverage for all Oregonians, regardless of gender identity, income, or immigration status”—that is, tax-payer funded abortion on demand.

Pro-abortion judges and holdover Democrat governors thwarted abortion limits and clinic regulations in Florida, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania.

*See “PPFA,” page 41*



# 2018: A look at the federal legislative year ahead

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

As a hundred thousand or more people from all across the country prepare to travel to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life on January 19<sup>th</sup>, National Right to Life is gearing up for a busy year working with the U.S. Congress on federal legislation.

## January House Vote

There is slated to be a vote on or near the day of the annual March of Life on H.R. 4712, the *Born Alive Abortion Survivor's Protection Act*.

In 2002, Congress approved, without a dissenting vote, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act (BAIPA), subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush. This important law states that “every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development” is a “person” for all federal law purposes. The bill defines “born alive” to include a baby born as a result of natural or induced labor, cesarean section, or induced abortion.

The BAIPA was a response to troubling indications that some abortion providers and pro-abortion activists did not regard infants born alive during abortion procedures as legal persons – especially if the infants were deemed to be “pre-viable” (i.e., have limited life expectancy due to prematurity).

However, in the years since BAIPA was enacted, evidences have multiplied that some abortion providers continue to not regard babies born alive during abortions as persons. They do not provide them with the types of care that would be provided to premature infants who are born spontaneously.

In some cases, such born-

alive infants are even subjected to overt acts of deadly violence. In 2013, Dr. Kermit Gosnell of Philadelphia was convicted under state law of multiple homicides of such born-alive infants, but such a prosecution and conviction is very uncommon. In some jurisdictions, local authorities seem reluctant to investigate reports of infants born alive during abortions, or to bring appropriate indictments even in cases in which the publicly reported evidence of gross neglect or overt lethal acts seems strong.



Public concern has been increased by the series of undercover videos released by the Center for Medical Progress, in which various persons described events and practices within certain Planned Parenthood abortion clinics. At the very least, they raise troubling questions about whether it is generally recognized among abortion clinic personnel that a born alive baby is a legal “person,” whether before or after “viability.” Similar questions have been raised regarding some persons who operate firms that obtain and sell baby body parts, obtained from abortion

clinics, to medical researchers.

And just last month, the Department of Justice confirmed that it is actively investigating the sale of body parts. In his December 8th article for the *New York Times* titled, “Justice Dept. Investigating Fetal Tissue Transfers by Planned Parenthood and Others,” Nicholas Fandos writes,

**But the decision by Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s Justice Department is sure to breathe new life into a bruising fight over abortion and**

**particularly the handling of fetal body parts after an abortion is complete. And it appeared to offer social conservatives a long-sought victory, moving the Planned Parenthood probes out off Capitol Hill to the Department of Justice.**

National Right to Life believes that it is time for Congress to act decisively to put the entire abortion industry on notice that when they treat a born-alive human person as medical waste, as a source for organ harvesting,

or as a creature who may be subjected to lethal violence with impunity, they will do so at grave legal peril.

H.R. 4712 requires that babies born alive during abortions are treated in the same manner as those who are spontaneously born prematurely.

## Pro-life items to watch in the effort in the pending government funding showdown

While a major overhaul of the abortion-expanding Obama Healthcare Law (Obamacare) seems to be on hold, Congress is considering tackling several items in the upcoming government funding bill to prop up the law. National Right to Life opposes the authorizing money for Obamacare unless the funds contain true Hyde-like funding restrictions.

Prior to the enactment of Obamacare, there was a nearly uniform policy that federal programs did not subsidize health plans that included coverage of elective abortion. Over the strong objections of National Right to Life, Congress in 2010 enacted Obamacare with provisions that sharply deviated from the longstanding Hyde policy. Although denied at the time, it authorized massive federal subsidies to purchase private health plans that cover abortion on demand in all states that failed to pass laws to limit abortion coverage. The position we take on the pending proposals is identical to the position we took on the original Obamacare legislation.

*See “Legislative,” page 27*

# ‘Fixer Upper’ Stars Reveal Pregnancy in ‘Little Heartbeat’ Ultrasound

By Katie Yoder

Many in the media have long idolized “childfree” relationships. But that isn’t stopping one well-known couple from welcoming their fifth.

Fixer Upper stars Chip and Joanna Gaines recently announced that they’re expecting their fifth child. On Wednesday, Joanna shared an ultrasound video showing the baby’s “little heartbeat” on Twitter and Instagram.

“What!” Chip reacted in the video. “A beating heart.”

On Tuesday, the HGTV hosts who remodel homes first revealed the news. Chip posted “hints” on Twitter, including a video of the two chanting “number five” and talking about Joanna’s cravings for ice cream and pickles.

Later, he added, “we are officially pregnant. And I could not be more EXCITED! #5 #7ThePerfectNumber.”

Then, turning to Instagram,



he posted a picture of himself with Joanna, with his stomach puffed out to match hers.

“Gaines party of 7,” he typed. “(If you’re still confused.. WE ARE PREGNANT).”

The new baby will be welcomed by four siblings: 12-year-old Drake, 11-year-old Ella Rose, 9-year-old Duke and 7-year-old Emmie Kay.

Last year, the couple declared that the 5th season of Fixer Upper (now running) would be their last, in order to focus on their family and business.

“While we are confident that this is the right choice for us, it has for sure not been an easy one to come to terms with,” they wrote. “Our family has grown up alongside yours, and we have felt you rooting us on from the other side of the screen.”

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

# ACLU seeks TRO to allow fourth undocumented teenager to abort

By Dave Andrusko

*Editor's note. This is an ever-changing situation. The following is current as of January 15.*

As part of an ongoing challenge, the ACLU last week said it had asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for a temporary restraining order so a 17-yearold undocumented woman identified as “Jane Moe” can obtain an abortion.

If she succeeds, she would be the fourth undocumented pregnant teenager in federal custody to have a court overrule the policy of the Trump administration not to “facilitate” abortions of unaccompanied minors. As of last week, according to the ACLU, Jane Moe had requested an abortion about two weeks prior but “has been prevented from getting one by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), an office within the Department of Health and Human Services,” the *Washington Post's* Ann E. Marimow reported.

According to the ACLU, Jane Moe “is in her second trimester of pregnancy.” In its lawsuit, *Garza v. Hagan*, the ACLU argues that “abortion is a fundamental constitutional right. And that right does not depend on immigration status.”

Veteran Supreme Court reporter Lyle Denniston reported last month that the Supreme has decided to “move ahead on the dispute over teen abortions.”

In the first three cases of undocumented, unaccompanied minors, U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled that all the women must be allowed

to abort. In response to cases two and three—“Jane Doe” and “Jane Poe” —the government said.

**“We are deeply disappointed in the decision [by Judge**



**Chutkan] to grant a temporary restraining order that will compel HHS to facilitate abortions for minors when they are not medically necessary,” spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services told POLITICO. “A pregnant minor who has entered the country illegally has the option to voluntarily depart to her home country or identify a suitable sponsor. HHS-funded facilities that provide temporary shelter and care for unaccompanied alien minors should not become way stations for these children to get taxpayer-facilitated abortions.”**

That has been the Trump administration’s position from the beginning: the government is not obliged to “facilitate” these abortions. (As Denniston noted, “Since the Supreme

Court has ruled that women in general have a constitutional right to choose to have an abortion, and that government may not impose an ‘undue burden’ on that right, the Trump legal team takes the view that

failing to facilitate an abortion does not impose any such burden.”)

The Department of Justice argues that these pregnant teenagers may either go back to their home country of origin or “identify a suitable sponsor” but not simply be released on their own recognizance. (The *Washington Post* noted in its story today, “There were 420 pregnant girls in custody during fiscal 2017, according to court records.”)

A number of state attorneys general have gone further. “Texas and 10 other states have made repeated efforts to get three federal courts to rule that, as illegal entrants to the U.S. with no more tie to this country than the fact that they are detained by the government, the young immigrants have no constitutional rights, including no right to an abortion,” Denniston writes. They want the Supreme Court to rule explicitly that “unlawfully-present aliens with virtually no connections to the United States have no constitutional right to an elective abortion.”

The Justice Department is also addressing the specifics of the first undocumented teenager (“Jane Doe”) who did abort in late October after a split DC Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Judge Chutkan.

As *NRL News Today* has discussed in previous stories, the Justice Department is challenging the behavior of the ACLU lawyers.

In November the Justice Department filed a 29 page petition, arguing that “the ACLU misled the United States as to the timing of Jane Doe’s abortion,” according to Justice Department spokesman Devin O’Malley. “After informing Justice Department attorney the procedure would occur on October 26th, Jane Doe’s attorneys scheduled the abortion for the early morning hours of October 25th, thereby thwarting Supreme Court review.” The Justice Department seeks some unspecified form of punishment.

Denniston writes, “The more important part of that appeal, though, is the Administration’s request for the Justices to answer this question: should lower courts be ordered to dismiss all claims for release from detention regarding minors who entered the country alone and are or were found to be pregnant?” As noted, these teenagers are currently being held in HHS- funded shelters in different states.

Dennison concluded that the first issue the Supreme Court justices will confront “is whether to grant review. If they do accept the case, it could be decided before the end of the current term, probably in late June.”

# Pro-abortionists flail desperately as Trump administration keeps pro-life promises

By Dave Andrusko

A quasi-hysterical op-ed in *The Hill*—“If Trump wants to end *Roe v. Wade*, we must fight for legal abortion”—reminds the more sober-minded that the last refuge of pro-abortion partisans is the insistence that pro-lifers want to prosecute women who have abortions.

Such is argument of Jill E. Adams, described as the executive director of the Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at the University of California Berkeley Law School. The ironies just keep on coming.

No pro-life organization has ever advocated prosecuting women who abort. We are the ones who talk about win-win solutions; who have created a vast nationwide network of women-helping centers; who created entire ministries to help post-aborted women heal; who push for legislation to give a woman a moment to breathe before she makes a life and death decision; and who understand the truth of what the abortion industry flatly denies—that many, many women come under enormous pressure from boyfriends and family to abort “unplanned” pregnancies.

It is pro-abortionists who are eager to use the power of the state to force pro-life physicians to violate their consciences; to keep peaceful volunteers as far as possible from abortion-vulnerable women; to demand that women-helping centers advertise that women entering their care can go elsewhere for an abortion—and if they refuse to fine them out of business; and to siphon your tax dollars

off to pay for abortions at home and abroad.

But Adams is right about one thing: Donald Trump is keeping promises he made to the pro-life community. Readers of *NRL News Today* already know what those accomplishments are, but there are many people who are not regular subscribers who come across *NRL News Today*

Reagan’s Mexico City Policy.” Smith added, “The new policy establishes pro-child safeguards—benign, humane conditions—on about \$8.8 billion in annual global health assistance funding appropriated to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Departments of State and Defense.”

Obama administration. Pub. Law No. 115-23 restored the previous authority of states, if they so choose, to direct Title X funds to the providers they deem suitable.

Of course as we have written numerous times, the Trump administration is also working diligently to restore and protect the moral and religious rights



on the Internet who don’t. What follows is a brief summary.

The highlight, of course, was the nomination and eventual confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, an admirer of the late Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Gorsuch’s early opinions strongly suggest he is a worthy successor.

Then there is the new Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy, which pro-life champion Rep. Chris Smith described as a “significant reiteration and expansion of President Ronald

There are so many other examples I could cite. How about the inclusion of many pro-life people not only in the cabinet but also in key roles in government? One example of this came recently when the Trump administration refused to facilitate the abortions of undocumented minors. The outcome—whether illegal aliens can come to this country to abort—will be decided by the Supreme Court.

Moreover the Trump administration reversed a last-minute policy instituted by the

of conscience. This cannot be emphasized enough.

There is hopefully much more to come, including a law to protect pain-capable unborn children and addressing Planned Parenthood’s pipeline to the federal treasury.

As we begin 2018, it is essentially to remember that **none** of this would have happened if Hillary Clinton had become President.

(See page 40 for a graph summarizing the pro-life accomplishments of the Trump administration.)

# As 45th anniversary approaches, *Roe v. Wade* is losing steam and support

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

As the nation approaches the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, more and more the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling is showing just how out of date and out of step it has become.

An article published in the *Washington Times* newspaper cited a 2016 study showing the majority of Millennials—young adults born in the ‘80s and ‘90s—oppose most abortions.

Tellingly, even those who support legal abortion admit that the vast majority of people who participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. are under the age of 30. The *Huffington*

Wendy wrote. “Remember the abortion lie that promised to help me ‘forget about my baby and go on with my life like nothing happened?’ Now, after 35 gut wrenching years, I can go on only because I found forgiveness and peace in the truth – not the lie.”

Or consider this plea from a post-abortive woman named Jill from Missouri: “If I could help just one person change their mind and not follow through with the abortion then it would have all been worth it, and that’s why I am silent no more.”

One major reason *Roe* is in such awful shape is that *Roe* was poorly decided (as even some advocates of legal abortion acknowledge). Here are just a few examples.

According to the *Washington Examiner* Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the *North Carolina Law Review* once described *Roe* as “heavy-handed judicial activism.” Writing in the *Harvard Law Review*, Prof. Laurence Tribe noted, “[B]ehind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found.”

Writing in *findlaw.com*, Edward Lazarus, a former clerk to the late Justice Harry Blackmun—the Justice who authored *Roe*—has stated, “Justice Blackmun’s opinion provides essentially no reasoning in support of its holding. And in the ... years since *Roe*’s announcement, no one has produced a convincing defense of *Roe* on its own terms.”

Estimates based on figures provided by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, the former research arm of Planned Parenthood, indicate 60 million unborn children have died from abortion since the 1973 Supreme Court rulings of *Roe v. Wade* [and its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*]. Countless mothers have been left to grieve children lost to abortion. Research indicates as many as 60 percent of abortions are coerced, meaning that boyfriends, husbands, parents, or others are pressuring women into abortions they do not want.

The advent of 4D Ultrasound is adding to *Roe*’s plight. It has provided a window to the womb, showing the humanity of the unborn child. It is hard to argue against a right to life to a baby who is smiling or giving a thumbs up in an Ultrasound video.

The facts are clear—*Roe v. Wade* was a terribly ill-conceived ruling which has ended an immense number of innocent lives... harmed women...and devastated families. It is long past time for *Roe* to be tossed on the ash heap of history, and for women and children to be freed from the negative effects of legalized abortion.



*Post* website, a hotbed of pro-abortion orthodoxy, concedes that pro-life pregnancy resource centers “vastly outnumber abortion clinics” in the U.S. (That is why pro-abortionists attack women-helping centers with such ferocity.)

And then there is the testimony of the women of the Silent No More Awareness campaign, who had abortions, but who now regret them. Consider Wendy from Pennsylvania, who had an abortion when she was 19 years old.

“It took 35 years of my life to reconcile that one foolish mistake,”

# NRLC 2018's Promise to Unborn Children

By Ingrid Duran, Director, NRLC Department of State Legislation

It's no secret that the 2017 state legislative session was wildly successful in passing protective pro-life laws. If you had any doubts, read any pro-abortion blog. What follows is an overview; much more could be written. (At the federal level, see Jennifer Popik's, "2018: A look at the federal legislative year ahead." on page eight.)

Last session, Ohio and Kentucky passed NRLC's Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act which protects from abortion unborn children capable of feeling pain. To date 16 states have passed laws like these. Pro-abortionists are massively afraid that the public will learn the truth about fetal pain,

Arkansas and Texas passed another NRLC priority piece of legislation, the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act. This prohibits the barbaric procedure that involved tearing a living unborn child limb from limb as it bleeds to death and dies in the womb. Now 8 states have passed laws banning this abhorrent method.

In 2017, there were over 40 laws passed that in one form or another advanced legal protection for unborn children and their mothers or protected the taxpayer or the state from funding abortions. (See <http://bit.ly/2DeUpQ0>.)

Tired of strictly playing defense, over the last month the pro-abortion lobby claims that 2017 saw a surge of pro-abortion bills. They had seen the U.S. Supreme Court decide in *Whole Women's Health*

that states could not require abortion clinics to meet even the most minimal standards and convinced themselves they could pass pro-abortion laws. One leader tried desperately

legislation and working to defeat pro-abortion bills for over 30 years. And with the invaluable help of each NRLC state affiliate and the faithfulness of each grassroots

as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, The Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, and Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act. This in addition to legislation to strengthen existing pro-life laws, such as Informed Consent and Ultrasound laws and laws that allow parents to be involved in the abortion decision of their minor daughters.

National Right to Life doesn't rest because the pro-life grassroots never rests. None of us can until there is true recognition and protection for the vulnerable unborn.

This is our promise is to the unborn child and to their mother. We promise to be your voice, your representative in the 2018 session. We promise to pass protective laws that also educate the public about your humanity and your right to exist and the need for abortion-minded women to have the full picture about what is a life-and-death decision.

We know 2018 will be a busy year for pro-lifers, made even more hectic because it is an election year. But as Maria Gallagher wrote on page one, there are "45 reasons for hope and optimism on *Roe's* 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

We know we have truth on our side and any setback is only temporary. C.S. Lewis may have put it best when he wrote, "Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement."

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to do what is right.



to put the best face on their dire situation: "The goal is to send the message that despite the 401 state-level abortion restrictions that have been passed into law since 2011, we do have leaders at the state level who are willing to stand up and fight for our rights" [[www.cosmopolitan.com/politics/a15060139/reproductive-rights-council-state-innovation-exchange](http://www.cosmopolitan.com/politics/a15060139/reproductive-rights-council-state-innovation-exchange)].

But here is a simple rejoinder: the State Legislation Department at the National Right to Life Committee has been on the forefront in state legislatures enacting pro-life

fellow pro-life warrior, over and over again we have been successful!

We are less than three weeks into the new year but pro-lifers have already hit the road running.

As of this writing, 32 states have effective parental involvement laws; 27 states have a Woman's Right to Know Law/Informed Consent with reflection periods; 26 states have ultrasound viewing laws; and 19 states have a ban on web cam abortions.

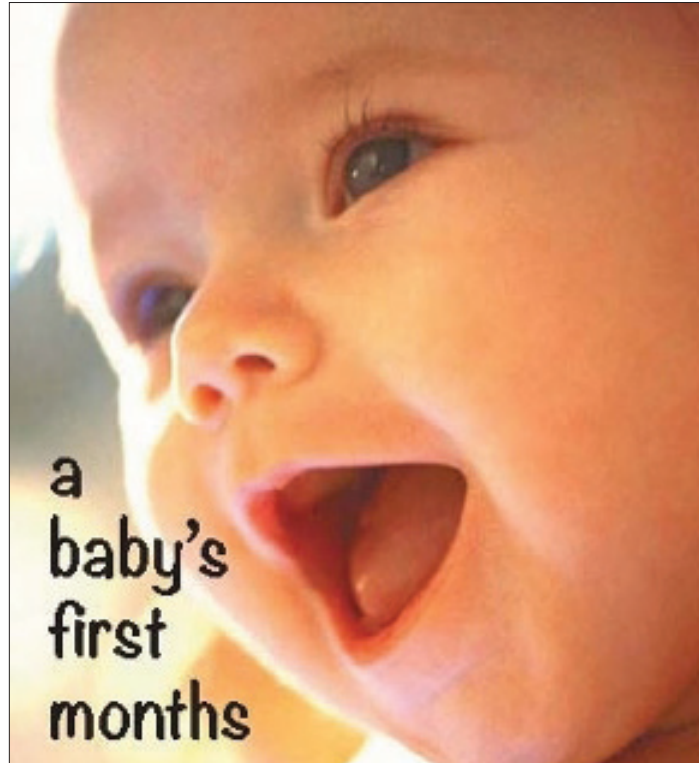
We will continue to see states introduce NRLC's legislative priority bills such

## “A Baby’s First Months” brochure in stock and ready to be ordered

National Right to Life just received a shipment of the wonderful and educational pamphlet “A Baby’s First Months!” We are fully stocked and ready to take your orders.

“A Baby’s First Months” is a truly remarkable, full-color brochure which follows the development of the unborn child in utero from fertilization until birth. It documents the development milestones that occur during a baby’s first months of life, including the development of her fingers and toes, ears, and her capacity to feel pain. A must-have for every pro-lifer!

All pricing includes regular United States Postal Service (USPS) or ground shipping in the USA. There is a minimal order of 5 pamphlets.



To place your orders, please email us at [stateod@nrlc.org](mailto:stateod@nrlc.org). If you are ordering from outside the United States, call 202-378-8843 for shipping information. The prices of the pamphlets are:

<b>5 – 99</b>	<b>\$.50 each</b>
<b>100 – 499</b>	<b>\$.40 each</b>
<b>500 plus</b>	<b>\$.30 each</b>

So stock up now and get your order in early for one of the best educational tools available in the pro-life movement!

In addition to these educational booklets, we also have a 6 minute video, appropriate for all ages, that is looped on a dvd for your use for only \$10 each. This is an amazing tool for your use.

To view the video, visit [NRLC.org](http://NRLC.org).

# Unanimous 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals refuses to “weaponize the means of government,” strikes down Baltimore law targeting pregnancy care centers

By Dave Andrusko

In a unanimous 3-0 decision, last week the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed a ruling by U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis that a Baltimore ordinance targeting pregnancy care center violates the First Amendment.

As we shall see, the decision safeguarding the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns is more than a victory for the free speech rights of a woman-helping center, although that is hugely important, particularly given that the Supreme Court is about to hear a related case.

In an opinion written by Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III, and joined by Judges Allyson Duncan and G. Steven Agee, the appeals court panel ruled that the ordinance compelled a “politically and religiously motivated group to convey a message fundamentally at odds with its core belief and mission.”

As Judge Wilkinson explained in his 21-page decision, the city council and its then-mayor were “Concerned that women seeking abortions might be misled into visiting pro-life pregnancy centers and delay the abortion.” The Ordinance “requires any ‘limited service pregnancy center’ to post a disclaimer in its waiting room notifying clients that it ‘does not provide or make referral for abortion or birth-control services.’”

Violators would incur a **daily** \$150 fine for failing to post the mandated signs.

Wilkinson criticized the ordinance on a host of grounds. Starting with his most trenchant observation, he wrote, “After

seven years of litigation and a 1,295-page record before us, the city does not identify a single example of a woman who entered the Greater Baltimore Center’s waiting room under the misimpression that she could obtain an abortion there.”



Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III

Wilkinson said of the ordinance, passed December 4, 2009, “The compelled speech at issue here raises particularly troubling First Amendment concerns. At bottom, the disclaimer portrays abortion as one among a menu of morally equivalent choices. While that may be the City’s view, it is not the Center’s. The message conveyed is antithetical to the very moral, religious, and ideological reasons the Center exists. Its avowed mission is to ‘provid[e] alternatives to abortion.’”

There is an extended discussion of which “level of judicial scrutiny” should be employed which is interesting but takes us away from the hub of the decision. For example, how the ordinance only applies to pro-life centers, not to

abortion clinics. Wilkinson observed

**Particularly troubling in this regard is that the ordinance applies solely to speakers who talk about pregnancy related services but**



Judge Marvin J. Garbis

**not to speakers on any other topic; and that the ordinance compels speech from pro-life pregnancy centers, but not other pregnancy clinics that offer or refer for abortion.**

Wilkinson addresses a phase of the case other judges have highlighted. That while “The classic First Amendment violation has always been thought to involve an outright prohibition by the state of certain speech,” he wrote, “over time, adjunct First Amendment rights have emerged, which in their own way have become as significant for expressive liberty as the right not to be silenced by a disapproving public entity.”

Among those “adjunct rights,” Wilkinson explained is

**the right not to utter political and philosophical beliefs that the state wishes to have said. ... These adjunct rights have become crucial to speech freedoms because, without them, states can bend individuals to their own beliefs and use compelled speech as a weapon to run its ideological foes into the ground. Preserving some distance between the state and the message is thus the aim of preventing banned speech and compelled speech alike, and it is what gives the right in this case its fundamental character.**

Similar laws forcing pregnancy centers to post such signage have been struck down in New York City and Baltimore, as well as Austin, Texas and Montgomery County, Maryland. The latter was eventually ordered to pay pregnancy centers \$330,000 in attorney’s fees.

The battle over the relentless pro-abortion campaign to compel pro-lifers organizations to promote abortion could be coming to a head this year. The Supreme Court has announced it will hear *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra*, the pro-life challenge to the so-called “Reproductive FACT Act.”



# How *Roe v. Wade* subverted the Fourteenth Amendment to impose abortion on demand

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

In 1868, in the wake of the Civil War, the Fourteenth Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution. It affirms (in part): “No State shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

More than a century later, this amendment played the feature role in the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision, which asserted a constitutional right to abortion and erased laws protecting unborn children nationwide.

One question at issue in *Roe* was this: Does the meaning of “person” in the Fourteenth Amendment encompass all members of the human species? Does it therefore encompass unborn children? If so, the Constitution guarantees them protection under the law.

Indeed, “If this suggestion of personhood is established,” *Roe* acknowledged, “the [case for a constitutional right to abortion], of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [Fourteenth] Amendment.”

*Roe* claimed, however, that the unborn don’t qualify as constitutional persons. Why not? The Court’s reasoning was remarkably flimsy. It argued that most other references to persons in the Constitution (such as a provision about persons eligible to serve in Congress) have no prenatal application—so “person” must not be meant to include the unborn.

But that obviously doesn’t follow. Most provisions in the Constitution don’t apply to born children, either, and clearly children were understood to be persons.

The Court ignored the fact that dictionaries of the day defined

“person” and “human being” interchangeably. It ignored the intentions of the Fourteenth Amendment’s framers, like main author John Bingham, who

And where in the Constitution, according to the Court, is this prohibition found? The Fourteenth Amendment.

The Court said that the

ratified the amendment. They enacted those laws (contrary to *Roe*’s historically debunked suggestion) for the primary purpose of protecting unborn children from being killed.

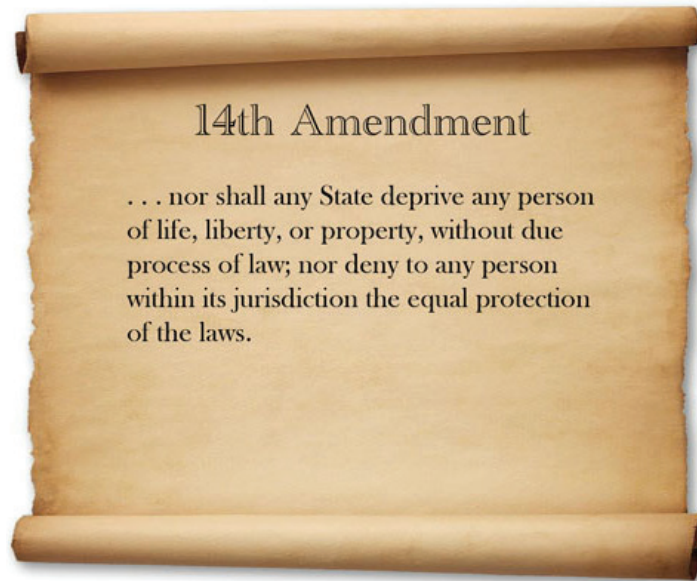
The Ohio legislature, for example, ratified the Fourteenth Amendment in early 1867. A few months later, the same legislature voted to strengthen Ohio’s abortion ban, with the committee overseeing the bill calling abortion “child murder.”

“To reach its result,” concluded Justice William Rehnquist in his *Roe* dissent, “the Court necessarily has had to find within the scope of the Fourteenth Amendment a right that was apparently completely unknown to the drafters of the Amendment.”

The irony of *Roe*’s two-part interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment is jarring. “[T]he Court resorted to the most literalistic possible form of strict construction to avoid finding the unborn to be persons” while also “employing the most imaginative possible construction of the Fourteenth Amendment to find a right of abortion,” observe Dennis J. Horan and Thomas J. Balch.

The Fourteenth Amendment is supposed to protect everyone. *Roe* imagined that not only doesn’t it protect everyone; it actually (somehow!) *requires* depriving a whole class of human beings of protection—human beings who happen to have been legally protected by the same Americans who adopted the amendment in the first place.

*Roe v. Wade* turned the Fourteenth Amendment against itself in ridiculous fashion. “No state shall deprive” became “Every state shall deprive.” That’s how we got abortion on demand in America.



said the amendment protects “any human being” and is “universal.” And the *Roe* Court tried to dispute, unsuccessfully, the fact that both statutory laws and common-law history recognized unborn children as human beings deserving of protection. Most states at the time of the amendment literally classified abortion as an “offense against the person.”

Admittedly, not all legal scholars and judges who aim to interpret the law as it is (regardless of their own ideas about what the law *should* be) have thought that unborn children are persons within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. But the *Roe* Court didn’t just deny that the Constitution requires protection for the unborn. It claimed that the Constitution actually *forbids* protection for the unborn.

amendment’s Due Process Clause includes an implicit “right of privacy” that encompasses a right to abortion. Even assuming a broad realm of privacy, though, many “personal” matters (uncontroversially) are not protected by it. So why is abortion protected? Well, *Roe* explained, a prohibition on abortion can be a “detriment” to a woman. But the same can be said of countless acts that are not exempt from the possibility of legal restriction.

And this is all the justification *Roe* could offer.

Thus the Court had no valid reason to think there’s a right to abortion. Worse, the purported right is refuted by the very people who adopted the Fourteenth Amendment. Many states enacted statutes banning all elective abortions during the same era in which they

# 2018 Election: What if pro-abortion Democrats took back the U.S. House?

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Democrats would need a net gain of 24 seats in order to take control of the House of Representatives, and in the process take the gavel out of the hands of pro-life Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wi.) and return it to pro-abortion Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.).

What would that mean for unborn children? It would be difficult to exaggerate the fallout. If Nancy Pelosi has control of the agenda, there would be no chance that protective pro-life legislation would ever be voted on, let alone passed.

Instead, we'll be faced with a push for pro-abortion legislation like the so-called "Women's Health Protection Act" (S.510, HR 1322), also known as the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act." This is a bill radical even by pro-abortion standards that would invalidate nearly all state and federal limitations on abortion, including women's right-to-know laws and waiting periods. It would also invalidate Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection laws that protect babies 20 weeks and older who can feel excruciating pain during abortion.

Their appetite whetted, pro-abortion Democratic leadership would then begin to attempt to dismantle many other pro-life laws.

And the biased pro-abortion media will celebrate the initiatives, claiming a "mandate" for abortion on demand.

We cannot allow that

to happen. We know that every time we pass pro-life legislation lives are saved. In fact, one piece of pro-life policy alone – the Hyde

experience horrific pain while she is killed.

Due to retirements, resignations or candidates running for other offices, in

vulnerable, it is imperative that you are prepared to defend your pro-life Congressional seat, keeping in mind that in this environment *no seat* is really



Amendment, which restricts taxpayer funding of abortions except in rare cases – has saved two million babies. Even the process of passing pro-life legislation (i.e., the discussion surrounding passing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act) saves lives by educating the public about the unborn child's capacity to

2018, there are more than 30 pro-life Republican seats to defend – twice as many seats as pro-abortion Democrats in.

Overall, there are 23 vulnerable pro-abortion Democrat seats compared to 61 vulnerable pro-life Republican seats so far this year.

Considering the number of pro-life seats that are

safe.

Let us be forewarned and prepared.

Let's work together to make a difference so we can continue protecting those who are most vulnerable – our unborn children.

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

# Don't make disability an issue in abortion debate, says Irish health minister

*Simon Harris "abhors" abortion for disability—but not all disabilities*

By SPUC—the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

Simon Harris is “not ashamed” that he has changed his view on abortion.

Irish health minister Simon Harris has “warned” campaigners not to make non-fatal disability an issue during the referendum on the Eighth Amendment, the *Times* reports.

“The committee [considering the Eighth Amendment] did not recommend disability as a grounds for abortion nor do I think it should have, I would abhor that idea,” Mr. Harris said. “People may try to make this an issue during the campaign but it’s not grounds for an abortion. If you look at what the committee considered and what it accepted and rejected, the idea of abnormalities that are not fatal was not put in as a grounds for abortion.”

## Misleading terms

While the committee rejected the legalization of abortion on grounds of “foetal abnormality” that would not lead to death before or shortly after birth, it recommended abortion up to birth for “fatal foetal abnormality.”

Organisations such as Every Life Counts campaign against terms such as “incompatible with life” and “fatal foetal abnormality” as being “hurtful, medically meaningless and misleading.”

## Disability bias

As Martin McCaffery, a neonatologist and professor of pediatrics at the university of North Carolina, wrote in the *Irish Times*, the committee did

with trisomy 18 as ‘lethal’ is inaccurate and steeped in disability bias.”

The committee also recommended permitting abortion with no restrictions



*Irish health minister Simon Harris*

not hear “from one physician describing counselling in which parents are told that with continued care their anencephalic child would likely be born alive, have a meaningful if short life, and the child’s birth would reduce later maternal mental health challenges. No doctor testified that labelling infants

up to 12 weeks, and up until birth on the grounds of the mother’s mental health, both of which grounds could be used to target children with disabilities.

## Targeting the most vulnerable

“It is clear that the health minister wants to distance

himself from the unpleasant reality that the proposed legislation would certainly lead to babies with disabilities being aborted simply because they are disabled.” SPUC’s Dr. Anthony McCarthy commented. “Bearing in mind that ‘fatal foetal abnormality’ is not a medical term, and most babies with life-limiting conditions do live for some time after birth, what he is actually saying is that babies with more severe disabilities than others do not deserve to live.”

## Pro-life?

Mr. Harris, who previously described himself as pro-life, also told the *Times* that “I did completely change my mind on abortion. I don’t know why I had the initial view I had. I came into the Dáil [the lower house of the Irish Parliament] at 24 years of age, never had kids and I just had a traditional view. Since becoming a TD [member of the Dáil] and particularly since becoming health minister, the more I meet people and listen to their experiences I genuinely have had a radical change in my view on this. I am not ashamed to say that.”

He also denied reports that the Government was planning to postpone the referendum.

# The Global impact of an abortion survivor's story

By Melissa Ohden

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

January is always a month of great introspection.

The turn of the calendar page lends itself to the inevitable assessment of the past year, of years gone by, and the ever-hopeful look towards the coming year and even years to come.

The anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* which continues to convulse the nation 45 years later, adds immensely to our introspection. As a new year begins, another year of legal abortion has passed with nearly a million lives lost in just our country alone.

Although my New Year's resolutions change over the years, there is one constant, one that has unfortunately remained the same—you might call it my annual New Year's resolution that I would love to see finally resolved: that abortion comes to an end.

It's a sobering reflection, made more somber by the seemingly inexorable expansion of the death toll. But in the midst of it, I still have hope—hope that as another year begins, the plague of abortion will, indeed, end. You might ask why.

I could point to the pro-life victories made across the states over the past year. You can read about them on pages 1,2, 13-14. Or at the federal level on page 8. I could reference the positive developments, both at home and abroad, that we've

seen under pro-life President Trump. But I would like to offer you something more.

Last January, my memoir, *You Carried Me*, was officially released. To me, it was a personal victory, to finally see all of my years of writing

in their healing, over twenty abortion survivors connected with The Abortion Survivors Network. Individuals who consider themselves pro-life but had never been involved in pro-life efforts reached out to me asking for ideas on how to

interested in sharing my story when mainstream television is largely so unfriendly to the pro-life cause. It was also because ultimately, my interview led to the most monumental experience yet, that gives me the greatest hope—my birthmother shared her story with them in an interview, too.

The interviews have yet to air, but I can tell you that my birthmother choosing to come forward publicly with her story for the first time brings me incredible hope.

If you would have asked me one year ago if my birthmother was ever going to share her story publicly, I would have answered you with a resounding 'no.' She had come so far in even contributing to my book, but I know how hard sharing such a personal story is. I know how hard living this life story out loud is.

But what a difference a year can make! And by the look of strength and joy that shone upon her face as she participated in that interview, her steps forward have just begun. Yet another chapter in our story has opened, that I never fathomed would.

Just as God has continued to unfold the stories of our lives, I can't help but look forward with anticipation to how the story of how abortion is ended unfolds itself. God only knows what chapters in this fight will unfold over the next year, but with the House of Representatives voting on the *Born-Alive Infant Protection Act* this week, I think we'll have a lot to reflect upon next year at this time and be truly thankful for.



coming together; to have overcome the fear of having my life laid open bare for the world to see.

But as the months unfolded, I was able to witness an even greater victory—one that I had been longing for: my book, my life, would make an immeasurable difference globally in the lives of others and ultimately in our fight for life.

Countless post-abortive women and men reached out to me as they began or continued

get involved.

Major media outlets covered my story, ultimately sharing the message about the sanctity of life and the impact of abortion, including *Women's Day* magazine and *The Daily Mail*, among countless others in the U.S. and abroad, including *NRL News* and *NRL News Today*.

Out of all of the media coverage that was garnered over the past year, though, the most surprising was the television show *Inside Edition*. It was not only because they were

# “Behold, I make all things new”: abortion clinic now a life-affirming general-purpose health clinic for the medically uninsured

By Dave Andrusko

I’ve read other stories by the *Washington Post’s* Julie Zauzmer but to be honest I don’t recall anything particularly pro or con about Zauzmer who is a religion reporter for the *Post*. The first time I read her New Year’s Day story, “In Manassas, a closed abortion clinic made new,” I was not entirely sure how I felt.

But after re-reading the story more closely, I can say, with a few caveats, I was very encouraged by her sympathetic account of the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas, Virginia, which is about an hour south and west of Washington, DC.

Pro-lifers had prayed for years outside Amethyst Health Center for Women, (described by Zauzmer as “formerly Manassas’s and Prince William County’s only abortion clinic”) which closed up when the 76-year-old owner retired last year. Pro-abortionists had hated them not just for their witnessing to abortion-minded women but also for having a crisis pregnancy center nearby. They went apoplectic when the Archdiocese of Arlington purchased the Amethyst Health Center clinic.

Now unborn babies are no longer torn to shreds there. It is “now a general-purpose health clinic for uninsured patients in Northern Virginia” run by volunteers.

The beginning of the story is about the politics of the changeover—the typical pro-abortion grousing—but after a while we learn just what a blessing Mother of Mercy

Free Medical Clinic has become.

Many of the people they serve are Latinos, half of whom suffer from diabetes. They also have many other medical problems and, lacking health insurance, such as is Arlina Flores-Roxas’ situation, fear they can’t afford necessary care and medicines.

But then nurse practitioner Lori McLean told Flores-

**which so energized the community,” Scott Ross [the family medicine doctor] said. “Something good would be coming forth from a place where evil had occurred.”**

Right now, the hours are limited, but there are plans to try to enlist other volunteer providers to help out and

who served as a translator for one of the patients:

**Ramirez-Venegas, a teacher who immigrated from Colombia just like Juan Perez, said she heard about this clinic at her parish and wanted to help out. She tells Perez that all staff members are volunteers. Again, he says, “Wow.”**



Roxas, whose hands hurt so much she is left whimpering, “That’s okay. It’ll be taken care of.

“Flores-Roxas’s face lit up,” Zauzmer writes. ““Oh, thank you so much,” she said. On her way out the door, she gave McLean a hug.”

Few, if any patients, know this used to be an abortion clinic which ended the lives of 1,200 unborn babies a year.

**But the nurses and translators — who volunteer their time to make the entirely free clinic operate — know. “Everyone was so keenly aware of that,**

increase the hours it is open. But Ross, “who is a doctor for Novant Health during the rest of the week, [who] serves as medical director at the new Catholic Charities clinic,” also wants “to strike more agreements with neighboring medical providers so that patients who need more help than what the free clinic can provide can access care.”

The transformation is just stunning. A place of blood and misery morphed into a medical refuge largely for recent immigrants lacking health insurance. The story ends beautifully beginning with Liliana Ramirez-Venegas,

**Ross rushes past. Between examining a woman with a nasty undiagnosed skin condition that’s causing open sores up and down her torso, and checking on a concerned father of eight children who lost his job and the function in his foot when a hydraulic hammer fell on him, the doctor pauses to quote the verse from Scripture that he thinks about in this place.**

**It’s from Revelation: “Behold, I make all things new.”**

# The beauty of unborn children and the excellence of faithful parents

By Dave Andrusko

Anyone who reads *NRL News Today* on an even semi-regular basis knows what an admirer I am of Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., the Archbishop of Philadelphia. What is his greatest strength? The clarity of his insights? The exquisite skill with which he communicates to a lay audience? His fusion of passionate denunciation of evil with a pastor's heart for the fragility of the human heart?

All this and much more. Truly, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

A friend recently emailed a link to an essay Archbishop Chaput wrote for the October issue of *First Things*: "The Splendor of Truth in 2017."

The title is an allusion to "Veritatis Splendor, John Paul's great encyclical on the 'splendor of truth,'" Chaput writes. Next year, marks the 25th anniversary of its release.

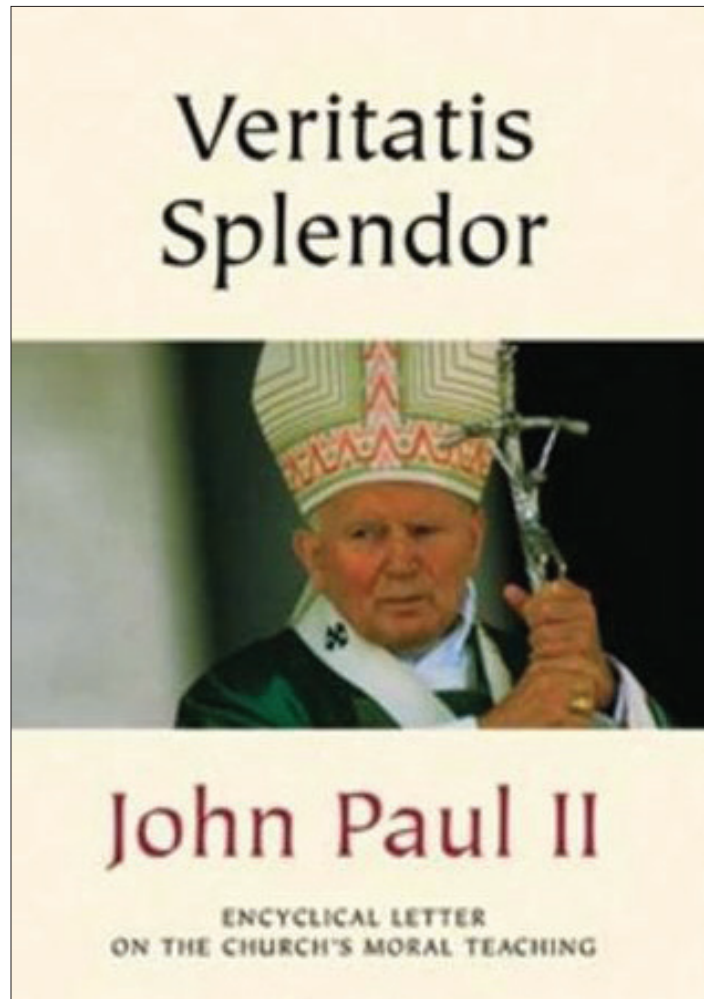
His essay is too rich, too deep, and too nuanced to try to tackle here. In the strongest terms, I would encourage you to read and ponder Archbishop Chaput's thoughts.

Let me instead quote one telling paragraph and offer just a couple of brief thoughts..

**"We don't create truth; we find it, and we have no power to change it to our tastes. The truth may not make us comfortable, but it does make us free."**

As we wage battle against what Pope John Paul, in his encyclical "The Gospel of Life," called the "culture of death," those two sentences

all: The truths of biology, fetal development, and the inextricable bond between mothers and their unborn children.



should be emblazoned on our forebrains. Those who count it a day lost when they have not increased the number of dead babies manufacture their own truths at the expense of timeless truths accessible to

Those truths do not suit the death peddler's tastes. Put another way, if fully acknowledged and widely promoted, these foundational truths would be a nearly impregnable barrier to the Death Doctors.

When I read the second sentence—"The truth may not make us comfortable, but it does make us free"—it reminded me of a famous statement Associate Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in a 2012 decision:

**"The remedy for speech that is false is speech that is true. This is the ordinary course in a free society. The response to the unreasoned is the rational; to the uninformed, the enlightened; to the straight-out lie, the simple truth."**

Even in our twitter universe, even at a time when doubling the number of characters from 140 for tweets to 280 constitutes a near-revolutionary expansion of concentrated thought, pro-lifers believe in linear expression.

Doesn't mean we don't create attention-grabbing memes. We do, and some at National Right to Life are geniuses at it.

But they are created in service of helping people to think...to think about things that matter...to think about things that are true, noble, pure, lovely, admirable, and excellent.

Like the beauty of unborn children and the faithfulness of their parents.

# Notorious late-term abortionist charged with malpractice in “botched” abortion

By Dave Andrusko

A jury trial began last week in a malpractice suit brought against notorious late-term abortionist Warren Hern.

The unidentified woman who was 25 weeks pregnant when she aborted, alleges that Hern “missed part of the fetus’ skull — found embedded in the wall of her uterus more than a year later,” according to the *Lincoln Journal Star’s* Lori Pilger.

Pilger writes the woman and her husband are

**seeking money damages for medical care, physical pain and mental suffering, as well as permanent injury, including the loss of her ability to conceive children.**

**Their attorney, Terry Dougherty of Lincoln, alleges Hern had failed to warn her of the increased risks and negligently misrepresented that the fetus had been entirely removed.**

Amy Cook Olson, Hern’s attorney, “was expected to argue at trial it was the decision to perform a hysterectomy by the woman’s own primary doctor that caused her injuries, not him, according to a trial brief filed in the case,” Pilger reported.

In December 2013, the woman traveled to Hern’s Boulder, Colorado, clinic where Hern aborted her nearly third-trimester baby. According to court records, the following spring her regular doctor changed her

**object, consistent with the curved portion of a fetus’ skull, cutting into her uterine wall.**

Why did she abort? In court records, Dougherty said the unidentified woman was told



*Abortionist Warren Hern*

birth control after she had “break-through bleeding,” thinking that the bleeding was the result of a hormonal imbalance. Dougherty wrote in a trial brief, Pilger explained, that

**when the bleeding continued a gynecologist ordered an ultrasound that revealed the cause: a 4-centimeter long**

by her doctor in November 2013

**that an MRI had shown their baby boy was missing a part of his brain and would live less than a year if he even survived the delivery. Delivery also posed significant health risk to the mother, they were told.**

Pilger writes that Dougherty **alleges Hern breached his standard of care by not warning her of an increased risk that fragments of bone could be left behind if he proceeded even though she failed to dilate more than 1 or 2 centimeters. He says it was medical malpractice.**

**Hern’s attorney, Cook Olson, denied it....**

Hern, who wrote a textbook on abortion techniques, is well-known to veteran pro-lifers for performing abortions well into the third trimester, including routinely tearing huge babies apart in “D&E” abortions. Among his many blood-curdling comments, perhaps his most famous came in a 1978 paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians where he said that

**“there is no possibility of denial of an act of destruction by the operator [of a D&E abortion]. It is before one’s eyes. The sensations of dismemberment flow through the forceps like an electric current.”**

# Woman who had suffered catastrophic brain injury communicates with her mom after 21 years

By Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director – Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

On December 29 the Canadian Press published a “Christmas miracle” story. A Nova Scotia woman, Joellen Huntley, who had suffered a catastrophic brain injury in 1996, communicated with her mother, on Christmas day, for the first time in 21 years.

Her mother called it a “Christmas miracle” which occurred during a visit to the Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre in Waterville, Nova Scotia.

According to Keith Doucette

**Louise Misner said her 37-year-old daughter Joellen Huntley used eye-motion cameras and software on an iPad to respond to a comment from Misner about her clothes.**

Huntley has been severely disabled since she was 15, unable to walk or talk and fed through a tube. She has always responded to family members’ presence by making sounds, but was unable to communicate any thoughts.

Huntley was thrown from a car that had swerved to avoid a dog that was running loose along a road in Centreville, N.S., on April 18, 1996. The accident claimed the

**life of her boyfriend and a young girl who was the sister of the driver.**

The article reports that the breakthrough happened in this way:

**“I said ‘Joellen I like your new Christmas outfit you got on,’” Misner said in a telephone interview on Friday.**

**Misner said her daughter then used the technology to find an icon for a short-sleeve shirt.**

**“And then she said no, and went to a long-sleeve shirt because she was trying to tell me what she had on.”**

**Misner said her reaction was immediate to what had been a long hoped for personal communication.**

The computer equipment was purchased for Joellen with the proceeds from a court settlement. According to the story

**Misner said the settlement money helped the family purchase the computer equipment she is now using with the help of a speech pathologist.**

**“We had to go through two or three**

**different screens until we found the right one for her and it’s called Eyegaze. Her eyes**

**Joellen’s nurses told them she is “doing really well with it.” “I knew she just needed**



*Joellen Huntley is shown in a pair of family handout photos.  
Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS*

**focus on the icons to answer questions.”**

In the past few years Dr. Adrian Owen, a researcher at the University of Western Ontario, has developed technology to communicate with people who are believed to be in a Persistent Vegetative State.

The computer technology used by Joellen is different than the technology used by Dr. Owen but this article shows how technology is opening the window for people who were considered by many to be “hopeless.” Doucette added **Misner said one of**

**time for technology to catch up with her,” Misner said. “When God gives you a child, they are the most precious thing and you never give up on them and you always fight for them.”**

The “Christmas miracle” teaches us that we should never consider a human being with disabilities as less than an equal person. It also teaches us that every human life has value.

Unfortunately, many people believe that euthanasia should be considered for people in Joellen’s condition.



# Relentless push for mail order RU-486 altogether ignores women's safety

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

A forthcoming study in the journal *Contraception*, already promoted and publicized by pro-abortion media outlets, is a classic illustration of the extent to which the abortion industry is pushing chemical abortifacients without even a semblance of scientific rigor. While "Exploring the feasibility of obtaining mifepristone and misoprostol from the internet" has the trappings of a serious study, in fact, it lacks data, controls, or concern for the women who would be taking the two drugs at home without a prescription and without medical supervision of any kind.

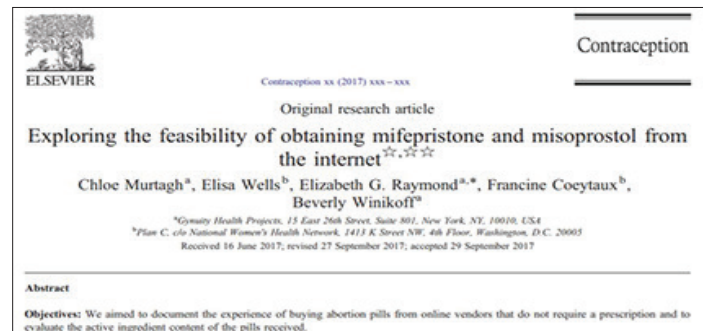
The authors, a virtual rogues gallery of pro-abortion partisans, bury the absence of precautions in a landfill of exaggerated benefits.

The objective seems modest enough: "We aimed to document the experience of buying abortion pills from online vendors that do not require a prescription and to evaluate the active ingredient content of the pills received." But in English that means researchers from Gynuity Health Projects were studying what the results might be if women could purchase mifepristone and misoprostol by mail order to use at home. So they sought RU-486 from 20 websites to see if they worked—that is, were they effective at killing the unborn child.

The authors say that while certain of the pills may have been "substandard" and the ordering process "suboptimal," this method is nonetheless "feasible" for women who want to chemically abort but for some reason either can't or don't want to go to the clinic. As we shall see, this is simply not proven. Note as well the

way the ordering process is constructed, a third party—not the woman—could buy the abortifacients, even in bulk.

*NRL News Today* has written many stories about boyfriends who have slipped chemical abortifacients into their



girlfriend's drink, causing her to lose her baby. Online purchases without a prescription would only aggravate the problem.

The *Contraception* study also reveals how the abortion establishment not only defends but promotes the online sales of these drugs, and how this fits in with their long-term plans for expanding the use of the abortion pill in the United States.

## Chemical abortion protocols

The standard chemical abortion today is far different that what was recommended in 2000 when it was approved by the FDA for use in the United States. It now involves taking a single pill of mifepristone (RU-486) to shut down the supply of essential nutrients to the baby, then a second set of prostaglandin pills (misoprostol) taken a day or so later, to stimulate powerful uterine contractions to expel the tiny corpse. Some women, following the advice of groups like those involved in this study, have tried using the cheaper, easier to find, misoprostol alone

to abort, though this is less effective than the mifepristone-misoprostol combination.

## What the study found

Researchers in four states—TX, WA, CA, and NY—acted as "mystery shoppers" (their own

mentions three groups by name who have actively promoted on-line sales of abortion pills who say they will not ship to the U.S. Those include Women on Waves, Women Help Women, and safe2choose. (We have written about two of these before here and here). Though they take orders for abortion pills on their websites, these groups say that they only make "information" available to women in the U.S.

This is the background against which this latest marketing study has been done. While we perhaps do find out something about how easy (or not) it is to obtain abortifacients online in the U.S., we certainly learn more about the intentions of abortion activists in this country.

## How deep is the penetration of the American market?

It is deeply troubling that unscrupulous entrepreneurs would try to turn a few quick bucks by selling knockoff abortion pills from a couple of rogue Indian labs, but not surprising. The internet is being used to sell drugs, legitimate or otherwise.

Foreign companies began to develop generic copies of the new French abortion pill once they figured out the formula and saw there was a market. By 2014, mifepristone was being sold under more than sixty different names from manufacturers in at least a dozen countries.

Although it is clear that online sellers exist, most of the drug companies have publicly shied away from the American market. Why?

words) looking for abortion pills on the internet that sellers said they would ship to the U.S. Over a four month period from December 2016 to March 2017, they identified and ordered 22 products from 18 different websites.

Multiple problems were found with the shipments. None of the suppliers required a prescription or any relevant medical information, in spite of the fact that certain physical conditions render use of the drugs ineffective or dangerous to women. Pills were shipped without any instructions on use, even though the pills are supposed to be taken in certain amounts and in a certain order.

Some of the drug packets came with small pinprick punctures that may have partially "degraded" or spoiled the contraction-inducing misoprostol used in tandem with mifepristone. Nothing on the packaging indicated they contained pharmaceutical products, much less chemical abortifacients, which required any special handling.

The *Contraception* study

# Meet Giselle, the Latest Baby Rescued by Abortion Pill Reversal

By Jay Hobbs

By the time Giselle entered the world in early December, she arrived fully equipped with her own protective detail of three older brothers. They're old enough to know their sister is a precious addition to their family, but they're years away from understanding just how priceless she is.

What Giselle's brothers will learn in time was that their mother, Samantha, was left high and dry by Giselle's father and turned to a chemical abortion pill as what she felt was her only way forward.

Then, almost as soon as Samantha had taken the first of two chemical abortion pills—which ends a baby's life in utero ahead of the second and final pill, inducing labor—she changed her mind and reached out to the Abortion Pill Reversal hotline (1-877-558-0333) for help.

Through the hotline, Samantha was connected to one of 350 providers in the nationwide Abortion Pill Reversal network trained in a life-saving protocol that starts with an emergency injection of progesterone used since the 1950s to prevent miscarriages.

Samantha's daughter, Giselle, was born Dec. 1, 2017—an event celebrated all month by Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Attleboro, Mass., where Samantha had learned about the life-saving option before going in for her abortion appointment.

“For those who have been following along with the story of Sam, and the miracle of Abortion Pill Reversal, we are so excited to introduce her little girl, Giselle,” the

one of the attempts, Samantha was in the waiting room at an abortion business when another woman's name was called.

The woman's name was Giselle.



*Giselle, whose mother saved her via Abortion Pill Reversal, was born Dec. 1, 2017.*

*Photo Courtesy: Abundant Hope PRC*

pregnancy center posted in early December. “Born Friday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m. 6lb 3oz, 18 3/4 in. Both mom and baby are in perfect health and doing wonderfully. And her 3 older brothers are completely smitten with their new sister. Please send this beautiful family prayers as they begin their journey with a new bundle of joy!”

As previously reported at *Pregnancy Help News*, Samantha had tried three separate times to abort her baby, including the third time via chemical abortion. During

“It was at that point, I felt like that was a sign of some sort, and I ended up just freaking out and leaving the appointment,” Samantha said.

Samantha is one of 400 mothers who have successfully rescued their baby from abortion via Abortion Pill Reversal since 2007, when two doctors—George Delgado and Matthew Harrison—began implementing the treatment independently of one another.

While abortion proponents have tried to stop nurses and doctors from educating themselves on Abortion Pill

Reversal—a move effectively robbing women like Samantha of her choice to save her own baby—as many as 50 women are reaching out to the hotline every month to try and interrupt a chemical abortion.

“The ‘second choice’ we offer women who change their minds after taking mifepristone not only gives their unborn babies a fighting chance, it also provides an avenue for emotional and spiritual healing,” Delgado said.

For Samantha, now a mother of four, that “second choice” offered by Abortion Pill Reversal is making a world of difference for her family. And so is the relationship she's forged with Abundant Hope, who not only told her about all her options, but is continuing to stand with Samantha and her children during their new season of life.

“They gave me strength to not go through with that that abortion—that horrifying thing that would have affected the rest of my life,” Samantha said. “It was just an ongoing struggle with what to do in my heart and my head. Abundant Hope has changed my life by being a good support system. When I don't have anyone else to turn to, I give them a call—even if I just need to talk to them.”

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

# Will investigators ignore babies discovered in Detroit body broker warehouse?

By Right to Life of Michigan

Deceptive informed consent documents. Crudely chopped-up body parts. Excuses about “fees” when confronted about organ and tissue trafficking. Detailed prices per body part. Federal and state regulators out to lunch.

These are the features of the stories involving Planned Parenthood’s practice of selling human body parts following abortions in their clinics. These are also the same features of a series of stories involving “body brokers,” who run filthy chop shops where corpses are bought and sold by part like a butcher’s shop.

One man in Michigan, Arthur Rathburn, is the nexus for these two stories. *Reuters* released an exclusive report Tuesday that federal investigators found the bodies of four unborn babies in Rathburn’s chop shop.

The discovery is notable for two important reasons. First, selling body parts from corpses is legal, but selling fetal tissue is against federal law. Second, as *Reuters* reports, the unborn babies are not mentioned in the indictment of Rathburn or other public documents.

Another familiar parallel that may be present in this case is investigators failing to take laws against fetal tissue trafficking seriously.

Since October *Reuters* has been running a series detailing the macabre body broker industry that operates almost entirely beyond regulation and public scrutiny. Usually cases involving the unborn require some unrelated hook to get proper scrutiny, for example, Kermit Gosnell was initially caught because of his massive

drug trafficking. In this case, *Reuters*’ body broker series was flying under the radar of the public consciousness until *Reuters* found evidence of the dead babies, linking the



*In a photograph obtained by Reuters, a fetus lies alongside a government evidence marker.*

practices of body brokers to the abortion industry.

*Reuters* so far has done seven stories in their series. Those who closely followed David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress’ investigation will see nearly perfect parallels in the details, as will proliferators used to dealing with the abortion industry.

On the surface people are told these “services” are a benefit to them and society overall by advancing science. In reality, however, the body broker industry appears to show the same familiar disregard for the value of human life and the same willingness to violate moral norms to line pockets with blood money.

Several examples from the seven-part series stand out. In exchange for paying for cremation services, poor loved ones would donate bodies to science, and in return be given

back some ashes. One body broker found a use for every body part of a deceased man, and sent grieving family members back sand masquerading as the man’s ashes.

*Reuters* easily purchased the severed head and spine of a young man by posing as a tissue buyer. After purchasing the decapitated head, *Reuters* was able to locate the young man’s parents to inform him of his grisly fate. The body broker failed to tell the young man’s parents that this was going to be his fate in death.

Medical conferences held in major hotels—even a Disney resort—have used their event ballrooms for cadaver labs. Body brokers sell the corpses, which are wheeled into the ballrooms on gurneys.

Cheap plastic is thrown down on the carpet so the next day’s wedding crowd (hopefully) won’t discover bone fragments and bodily fluids as they dine and let their small children crawl on the carpet. Apparently abortion clinics aren’t the only places where proper sanitation is an afterthought.

What does this story mean for the prolife movement? It could mean a lot.

Planned Parenthood did everything they could to distract from the undercover videos that revealed their practices to the outside world. They’ve been able to trick many of their supporters into believing the practice of fetal tissue trafficking is “fake news.” With this news coming on the heels of revelations of a federal investigation into Planned Parenthood and convictions in a related case, the baby body parts story may have just begun. The story may result in a public examination into wider practices involving tissue trafficking. Laws may be changed.

Organ donations and tissue donations are not just an issue that impacts unborn children, but also plays an important role in end-of-life situations. Simmering in the background is the idea that euthanasia can be successfully combined with tissue donation. Will patients find themselves pressured into accepted death, only for their bodies to be horse traded like cuts of beef at the market?

In the particular case of Michigan’s own body broker, Arthur Rathburn, it’s unclear if the four bodies discovered were children who had been aborted or stillborn.

From the pictures *Reuters* released, at least one baby was either not aborted using

*See “Investigators” page 43*

## 2018: A look at the federal legislative year ahead

From page 8

**National Right to Life continues to oppose any Obamacare prop-ups unless true Hyde-like provisions are added to such funding provisions.**

Additionally, Congress can take a positive step to protect the rights of conscience of people to not participate in abortion by incorporating all the *Conscience Protection Act* in the government spending bill.

By way of background, this past fall, the House completed and sent a robust appropriations package to the Senate that contains all of the strong existing pro-life riders along with numerous new pro-life provision ranging from cutting funding to Planned Parenthood, to eliminating Title X family planning funding, to reversing the D.C. legalization of assisted suicide. H.R. 644, the *Conscience Protection Act* was also included, and the government funding bill provides a clear chance to enact this into law.

The *Conscience Protection Act* is urgently needed because of a growing number of actions by some state governments to compel participation in abortions by health care providers and others, and because hostile administrations can adopt a non-enforcement policy with respect to existing federal conscience-protection laws.

The *Conscience Protection Act* would prohibit **any** level of government from mandating that health care providers participate in abortion.

It would protect doctors, nurses, hospitals, and health plans (and employers who purchase the plans). Most importantly, the bill empowers

those who are affected by abortion mandates to file private lawsuits in federal courts without the need for intervention by the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Currently, California, Oregon, and New York mandate that nearly all health plans in the state must cover all abortions. This is in blatant violation of the Weldon Amendment, a provision of the HHS appropriations bill that has been in continuous effect since 2004. While the Trump Administration is actively working to undo many of the violations that were ignored in the Obama Administration, Congress can empower people to file private suits and that right would exist no matter which party was in power.

### Later in 2018

The *Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act* (H.R. 1192)

Currently, National Right to Life is urging members of the House to sponsor the *Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act* (H.R. 1192).

This vital pro-life legislation, introduced by Rep. Chris Smith, would prohibit the performance of *dismemberment abortion*. H.R. 1192 is based on a model state bill proposed by National Right to Life, which has been enacted in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia. More states are expected to consider the legislation in 2018.

H.R. 1192 defines “dismemberment abortion” as “knowingly dismembering a living unborn child and extracting such unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of

clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments that, through the convergence of two rigid levers, slice, crush or grasp a portion of the unborn child’s body in order to cut or rip it off . . .”

The method is commonly used starting at about 14 weeks of pregnancy, and extending into the third trimester. A medical illustration of a D&E dismemberment abortion is available at [www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/deabortiongraphic](http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/deabortiongraphic).

An unborn child should not be subjected to the cruel violence of having her arms and legs torn off by brute force, with steel tools that grasp, tear, and crush.

The *Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* (H.R. 36)

While the details of a potential pro-life vote and the timing are not set in stone, we expect the Senate to take up the House-passed *Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*. This legislation extends general protection to unborn children who are at least 20 weeks beyond fertilization (which is equivalent to 22 weeks of pregnancy — about the start of the sixth month). This vital legislation is similar to laws enacted in 16 states beginning in 2010, based on National Right to Life model legislation.

There is abundant medical evidence that by this point in development (and probably earlier), the unborn child has the capacity to experience excruciating pain during typical abortion procedures.

It is now commonplace to read about evidence that, by 20 weeks fetal age and even earlier, an unborn child responds to many forms of

stimuli, including music and the mother’s voice. Claims that the same child is nevertheless insensible to the violence done to her body during an abortion should engender strong skepticism. Abortions at this stage typically are performed using a variety of techniques, including a method in which the unborn child’s arms and legs are twisted off by brute manual force, using a long stainless steel clamping tool. A medical illustration of this common method is posted here: [www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/deabortiongraphic/](http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/deabortiongraphic/)

Some of the extensive scientific evidence that unborn children have the capacity to experience pain, at least by 20 weeks, is available at here: [www.doctorsonfetalpain.com](http://www.doctorsonfetalpain.com)

A common pro-abortion response is that late abortions are “rare.” That is not true. At least 275 facilities offer abortions past 20 weeks fetal age.

The public is in our corner on this matter. In a nationwide poll of 1,623 registered voters, The Quinnipiac University Poll found that 60% would support a law such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks, while only 33% opposed such legislation. Women voters split 59-35% in support of such a law, while independent voters supported it by 56-36%.

National Right to Life has urged the Senate to take up this important measure and bring it for a vote.

2018 promises to be a eventful year as National Right to Life. With your support, we anticipate a busy year working with the U.S. Congress on federal legislation.

# Chair-elect of USCCB's Pro-Life Activities asks for your prayers

By Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

Editor's note. Back in November we were pleased to post stories about the truly wonderful news that the Catholic Bishops had chosen Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, to be chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. What follows is the column he wrote for *The Leaven*, the archdiocese newspaper, following that momentous November 14 decision. Archbishop Naumann's wit and humility shines through throughout as does his devotion to our great cause.

In 1965, William F. Buckley ran as a conservative for mayor of New York City. When he was asked what he would do if he were elected, Buckley quipped: "I'd demand a recount!"

I had similar sentiments after my recent election to serve as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

I was actually elected first to serve one year as chair-elect for the pro-life committee. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York remains the chair of the pro-life committee for the next year. At the conclusion of the November 2018 general assembly of the bishops' conference, I will begin my three-year term as the chairman of the pro-life committee.

Oftentimes, a newly elected chair is not a member of the current committee. The opportunity to serve a year as chair-elect allows a bishop to become acquainted with the work of the committee before

assuming the role of chair. Some of the more important and complex committee projects often require more than three years to accomplish. Allowing the incoming chair to serve first as chair-elect insures continuity with the committee work.

In my case, I am already



*Archbishop Joseph Naumann*

a member of the pro-life committee. My life will not change significantly for the next year.

Through my 20 years as a member of the bishops' conference, I have been nominated several times for other committee chairmanships. In fact, several years ago, I was nominated previously to chair the pro-life committee. Up until this November, I had a perfect losing record.

Every bishop is invited to nominate brother bishops for the chairmanship of committees, whose current chairs will be entering into their final year of service.

The Committee on Priorities and Plans, composed of elected representatives from all of the geographic regions,

identify two bishops, based on the names of those most frequently nominated, who are willing to serve as candidates for the chairmanship of each committee.

Elections in the bishops' conference are very different from those we experience in

of my brother bishops. We have such an incredible pool of talent within the conference of bishops.

I am one of a handful of bishops who had the opportunity during our priestly ministry to serve as diocesan pro-life directors. From 1984 through 1995, I was the priest coordinator for the pro-life apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

This responsibility both required and afforded me the opportunity to study and reflect upon the many and often complex issues related to the church's efforts to both protect and promote the sanctity of every human life.

In large part because of that experience, I am currently serving my sixth term as a member of the USCCB's pro-life committee. It has been a great privilege to have been chosen by the six preceding pro-life chairmen to serve on the committee.

Since my election, I have been asked what will be my priorities for the committee. Cardinal [Timothy] Dolan [of New York] remains the chair of the committee. Since my term does not begin until next November, it would be premature for me to articulate goals for the future committee. My focus currently is to assist Cardinal Dolan in any way that I can with the current committee's work.

The USCCB Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities outlines the multidimensional approach

civil society. A nominee for a committee chairmanship never knows the identity of the other nominee until the list of candidates are presented to all the bishops.

Additional candidates can be nominated at the meeting, but this rarely occurs. It is never the case that you are running against the other nominee. Refreshingly, there is no campaigning for office. Bishops are presented with brief biographies of each candidate. Based on the bios and our own knowledge of one another, we cast our votes.

Personally, I have always felt quite humbled in the past to be nominated by the bishops to stand as a candidate for the chair of a committee. I admire the zeal, knowledge and wisdom

*See "USCCB," page 43*

# Ok to abort children with disabilities, father of child with disabilities insists

By Dave Andrusko

Having graduated from the University of Minnesota and done master's work in journalism there, I have a fond spot in my heart for my alma mater. The two years I wrote for the student newspaper were two of the best of the first half of my life.

So when someone who works at the University as an "Undergraduate Academic Advisor" writes a viciously biased piece which is awash in contradictions, I feel the call to say a few words.

David M. Perry writes for, shall we say, left of center publications, including *The Nation*, where "Republicans Are Using Fear of Eugenics to Attack Reproductive Rights" appeared Thursday.

It's a long piece, the gist of which is "prioritizing bodily autonomy" (i.e., doing nothing to try to stop aborting kids because they have been prenatally diagnosed with a disability) is not only "ethically correct, but remains the best path forward to support disability rights." That's a headscratcher, if ever I read one.

What makes the piece even more odd is that Perry and his wife are the parents of a child with Down syndrome. Anywhere from 60% to 90% of preborn babies found to have Down syndrome are aborted. Place, like Iceland, brag about someday very soon being "free" of Down syndrome.

So somehow Perry has to square the first part of this paragraph (underlining mine)

**I've spent many years now asserting the need to re-order how we ascribe value to diverse human lives. My son may not participate in**

**the capitalist economy, live independently, or speak (he might also do all of these things!), but his value as a human**



David M. Perry

**is intrinsic. I'd like others to see it that way too. Selective abortion, as I've written for The Nation, reveals our attitudes about disability and other forms of difference.**

with the rest of the paragraph that reads

**Still it's time to affirmatively support the right to eugenic abortion. The struggle for disability rights begins with the affirmation that no one gets to tell anyone else what to do with their body. That includes abortion.**

Part of the "solution"—a huge part—is to vilify pro-lifers who dare to introduce, let alone pass, laws that ban abortions based on disability. Ohio just passed a law that bans aborting

children diagnosed with Down syndrome, which was the jumping off point for Perry's column.

It's a "winning wedge issue,"

and can be used earlier in a pregnancy."

These contrasting paragraphs capture the inherent tension between his affirmation of an absolutely unfettered right to abort for any reason or none and a recognition that the lives of people with Down syndrome (and their families!) can be blessed.

But so what? Nothing but nothing can "undermine reproductive rights."

Perry also angrily takes a shot at pro-life feminists who, of course are, for him, a contradiction in terms. He is annoyed that we use the language of disability rights and feminism to make the case for life.

But the reason we "use" these languages is because they reinforce what Perry himself concedes: that we **all** have "intrinsic" human value.

Perry refuses to see the moral schizophrenia inherent in espousing the causes of disability rights and feminism and then offering up three cheers for those who would abort children because they have a disability or are the "wrong" sex! Instead Perry insists if we look deep enough, we can square the circle: blatant, lethal discrimination will further the cause of people with disabilities and women. Figure that one out.

It's nonsense, and Perry knows it. But he must keep his pro-abortion credentials burnished if he going to write for *The Nation* and *Rewirenews*, *The Guardian*, and *Vice.com*. And what better way than for the father of a child with Down syndrome to say he's fine with aborting children with disabilities.

Perry tells us in a fit of pique. The only reason we care is because children with Down syndrome are "cute"—it's one of the "sympathetic disabilities"—and therefore likely to find a more receptive audience.

Warming to the task, a few paragraphs later he tells his readership, "Enter the anti-choice activists and their politics of division and destruction. They can exploit people with Down syndrome (often stereotyped as angelic) to push back reproductive rights."

Note, by the way, this is the same man who a few paragraphs before noted, "With community and educational supports, people with Down syndrome live happy, inclusive, meaningful lives, and there's data showing that having a sibling or child with Down syndrome strengthens overall familial bonds. At the same time, screening technologies are becoming more accurate

## Three days from now....

From page 2

It did. But these are abortionists we're talking about. Unquestionably some are still evading the law. But there is another reason to believe babies are surviving abortions: the specter of abortionists changing their abortion procedures because "many researchers want tissue from late-gestation infants

kill the child but she survived. Here are just three rationalizations.

\*Failing to care for the abortion survivor is like the way a continuation foul in called in basketball. The player is fouled as he is in the motion of going to the basket. Instead of the referees stopping the play at that point, he is allowed to

intention was to produce a dead baby. "Interfering" with that desire—by treating the baby as you would any other baby of similar gestational age—is an abridgment of "autonomy," aka an infringement of her "right to privacy," or her liberty interest, or whatever. This, of course, sidesteps the fact that under federal law "every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development" is a 'person' for all federal law purposes."

A House vote on the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act* is a great gift to the hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers who will assemble January 19 in our nation's capital. It's also a down payment on the justice owed to unborn babies and infants who survive the abortionist's assault.

### Pro-life accomplishments of the Trump Administration

#### MEXICO CITY POLICY

President Trump restored the "Mexico City Policy," which prevents tax funds from being given to organizations that perform or promote abortion overseas. The policy was later expanded to include a broad range of health-related U.S. foreign aid and renamed *Promoting Life in Global Health Assistance*.

#### UNFPA FUNDING

The Trump administration cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund due to that agency's involvement in China's compulsory-abortion program.

#### SUPREME COURT

President Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch to the United

States Supreme Court and is working closely with the Senate to fill vacancies in Federal and Appellate Courts.

#### TITLE X

In 2016, the Obama Administration issued a regulation to prevent states from withholding Title X funds that providers deemed unsuitable, such as Planned Parenthood. President Trump signed into law H. J. Res 43 to restore authority to states to direct Title X funds to providers they deem suitable.

#### CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

The Trump administration has taken action to protect the moral and religious rights of conscience so that medical professionals, religious institutions and employers may not be forced to participate in abortion.

#### OTHER LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

In advance of votes in the U.S. House of Representatives on the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7) and the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 36), the White House issued a statement affirming that President Trump would sign the bills. The Senate has not yet taken action on these measures.

Additionally, during his campaign for the presidency, Mr. Trump expressed support for directing funding away from Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. In a September 2016 letter to pro-life leaders, he noted that, "I am committed to...defunding Planned Parenthood as long as they continue to perform abortions, and re-allocating their funding to community health centers that provide comprehensive health care for women."



'untainted by fetid agents,'" to quote from the final report of The House Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives issued in January 2017.

These ghouls are looking for "intact fetal cadavers," and when there are changes made to the abortion technique to increase the likelihood of procuring them, the alterations increase the chances that unborn infants will be born alive during late second-trimester abortions.

Whether it's an overt act of violence against the abortion survivor, or grossly neglecting him or her, what possible justification can there be for not treating an abortion survivor with the same degree of care you would any other baby? The baby is no longer "in utero." The abortionist did his best to

take several steps more to score a basket. Although foul and basket are yards (and seconds) apart, they are treated as if it were all one continuous action.

The abortionist "fouled" the child in utero and failing to treat the child ex utero is like one continuous action—ensuring a dead baby.

\*It's a plot to outlaw all abortions. This is so stupid, such sophomoric propaganda, it doesn't justify a response. But what is the fear that motivates the bogus allegation? That if you treat a baby outside the womb who had survived an abortion, people just might start to think about what makes that child different from the child who was inside their mother's womb five minutes before?

\*The intent argument. The

# Looking back on Gallup's 2017 abortion survey results

By Dave Andrusko

As we've explained previously, Gallup annually conducts what it calls its "Values and Beliefs poll" which it then mines for the remainder of the year. Each subsequent post builds on the previous ones.

It'll be a few months obviously before Gallup publishes its first interpretation for the new year. In anticipation let's take a look back on the stories *NRL News Today* wrote about several of Gallup's abortion stories in 2017 and see what they tell us. Let's go from most recent to the oldest.

In September we published, "Moral acceptability of abortion varies widely among Protestant denominations, Gallup finds: 'Mainline' denominations far more accepting." This was particularly useful in one respect— it reminded readers that there is no one "Protestant" denomination and that among the many denominations there is a vast difference on abortion

Two additional points. First, according to a different survey published by Gallup in July 2017, there are fewer Protestants that identify with a specific denomination and a growing number of "nones" who don't have a specific religious identity at all. The fastest growing Protestant "denomination" is the non-denominational.

Barely a quarter of them (26%) find abortion morally acceptable.

Second, as noted in the quote above, this same caution must be exercised when talking about "Catholics." Their position on the moral acceptability of abortion will vary along many grounds, most specifically how often they attend church.

On August 1, we wrote, "Another dubious interpretation of Gallup's survey on abortion." In that post we addressed the story, "On Abortion, Americans Discern Between Immoral and Illegal," written by Frank Newport and Robert Bird.



The conclusion they want us to reach is that when push comes to shove pro-life people are less "consistent" than pro-abortion people.

They wrote

**We combined data from the 2013-2017 surveys and found that almost half of Americans see abortion as morally wrong, with only 20% saying it should be totally illegal.**

**"That means that almost three in 10 Americans have the combination of attitudes that is our primary focus: viewing abortion as morally wrong but at the same time believing it should remain legal (at least in some circumstances)."**

**The other group holding contradictory attitudes — that**

**abortion is morally acceptable but should be illegal — is very small (about 2%). Apparently, once Americans have decided that abortion is morally OK, there is**

**little question in their minds that it should be legal.**

What other way—more consistent with reality, in my opinion—could you interpret these numbers? That pro-abortionist are more willing to draw out the extremist "logic" of their position, something that is conspicuously absent in Newport's and Bird's analysis.

If abortion is morally acceptable, why would you put any limitation on when an abortion could be performed? When it comes to the unborn child, they've already decided that there is no there there, to paraphrase Gertrude Stein.

Those who take a pro-life position believe abortion is morally wrong but a portion believe there are very rare circumstances—typically when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest—when "abortion

should be legal." This is not a position they embrace; it is one to which they come very reluctantly.

But note! Pew Research found very, very different results about the public's view of abortion's morality.

"More than four-in-ten Americans (44%) say having an abortion is morally wrong, while 19% think it is morally acceptable and 34% say it is not a moral issue," Michael Lipka and John Gramlich told us. (Remember Gallup said the figure is 20%.)

What explains such a huge difference? One is the question. Gallup's is more abstract: is abortion "morally wrong" or "morally acceptable"?

Pew asks people about whether **having** an abortion is morally wrong or morally acceptable? More than twice as many people say having an abortion is morally wrong as say it is morally acceptable. This question poses a reality check and people are far less likely to say it is morally acceptable to actually abort a child.

On June 2, we published, "Latest Gallup numbers very encouraging for pro-lifers." Author Lydia Saad told us

**There is no consensus among the American public for making abortion completely legal or illegal. Rather, the largest segment falls in the middle, saying it should be legal but with restrictions.**

...

See "Survey," page 44



# The 20 most read NRL News Today stories of 2017

By Dave Andrusko

This year, as we do each year on the last day of the calendar year, we published a list of the 20 best received, most popular stories *NRL News Today* stories of the past twelve months. There was/is no magic to choosing 20, but 20 it is.

Below is a list of the 20 most read stories of 2017. A few words on the common denominators.

Needless to say, our readers want to know all they can about Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion “provider” in the world.

When we debunk one of their bogus assurances about providing genuine health care; or write about defunding a “non-profit” that rakes in over \$1.3 billion annually; or highlight how the Trump administration implemented a new Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy—a significant reiteration and expansion of President Ronald Reagan’s Mexico City Policy—which keeps money out of abortion-performing or abortion-promoting organizations, the response is off the charts.

Another common theme are stories that highlight how parents refused to give into prognoses whose “solution” was to abort their child. Many of these stories just melt your heart.

By number, the category of stories most read were accounts of parents who treated their children with Down syndrome exactly as they should: as members of their families where challenges can bring out the best.

Just one other of many. Our readership is very sensitive (as they should be) to attempts to stifle our free speech rights, or our ability to exercise our conscience in matters relating to abortion and assisted suicide. They appreciate “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

When you have a few moments, read or re-read these 20 stories. I would love to hear your reactions: [daveandrusko@gmail.com](mailto:daveandrusko@gmail.com).

Happy New Year!

*France makes it official: fines and prison sentences for pro-lifers who practice free speech online*

*The Abortion Clinic Said They’d Throw Her Baby in the Trash... That’s When She Changed Her Mind*

*Babies with Down Syndrome Deserve Love, Not Eradication*

*Connie Yates tells the inside story behind what was not done for little Charlie Gard*

*President Trump restores policy preventing organizations that promote abortion overseas from receiving U.S. Foreign Aid*

*“A Thing I’ll Never Understand”: the tragedy of an unborn life cut short*

*Woman sees aborted baby after taking abortion pill*

*Baby aborted at 35 weeks, teenage mother later learns baby had survived*

*Aaron tells his mom, “I love you, Mom. I forgive you”*

*Actor James Woods asks PPF, “Safe for Who?”*

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

*Study shows teens’ ignorance about fetal development and abortion*

*New commercial beautifully features a baby with Down syndrome*



*Nailed it: Paul Ryan’s perfect answer to why Planned Parenthood should be defunded*

*Facebook shut down RTL of Michigan’s ad account, claiming prolife news is “fake news”*

*Meet Autumn: Star Wars star’s family wanted abortion, her mom chose life*

*“She’s still our third child and she’s still very much loved”*

*‘It lived for several days,’ abortionist says about baby born alive*

*Given permission for a 32-week-abortion, two days later girl delivers baby by C-Section*

*Amusement park thermal camera gives one lucky family a sneak peak of their preborn baby*

*Three years later world’s youngest preemie healthy*

# Med student was all for abortion, until he watched one happen

By Sarah Terzo

**The vacuum filter was opened, and the tiny arms and legs that had been torn off of the fetus were accounted for. The fingers and toes had the beginnings of their nails on them.**  
~ Medical student, describing an abortion

Some time ago, I was sent this testimony from a medical student who preferred not to leave a name. He had just witnessed an abortion as part of his training. Deeply troubled, he wanted to tell someone. He was haunted by what he had seen.

The student starts out by saying that he was firmly in the pro-choice camp before witnessing the abortion:

**To begin, I must say that until yesterday, Friday, July 2, 2004, I was strongly pro-choice. I am a pre-medical student, and being very scientific, I understood that the mass of cells that forms the fetal body is not often capable of survival before 24 weeks in the womb. I am also somewhat liberal, and I believed that every woman should have the right to choose what she did with her body and one that could potentially be growing inside of her.**

The student had heard the pro-choice movement's slogans. He took them at face value, believing that the unborn baby

was "a mass of cells" and not an individual human being. He felt that a woman "had the right to control her body" and did not sympathize with the tiny baby inside her. He did not believe in the child's humanity or right to life.

Then he took the opportunity to see an abortion performed.



Because of his pro-choice beliefs, he did not expect to be disturbed by anything he would see:

**This summer, I was accepted into a pre-medical program in NYC in which we are allowed to shadow doctors and see all sorts of medical procedures. When given the opportunity to see an abortion, I did not hesitate to accept the offer. It was something new, edgy, and exciting that I had never seen.**

He then describes exactly what he witnessed in the operating room:

**When I entered the operating room, it felt like any other I had ever been in. On the**

**table in front of me, I saw a woman, legs up as if delivering a child although she was asleep. Next to her was a tray of instruments for the abortion and a vacuum machine for suctioning the fetal tissues from the uterus.**

**covering them, the eyes had formed, and the inner organs had begun to function. The tiny heart of the fetus, obviously a little boy, had just stopped — forever. The vacuum filter was opened, and the tiny arms and legs that had been torn off of the fetus were accounted for. The fingers and toes had the beginnings of their nails on them. The doctors, proud of their work, reassembled the body to show me. Tears welled up in my eyes as they removed the baby boy from the table and shoved his body into a container for disposal.**

Since this abortion was done by suction, the baby must have been less than 13 to 14 weeks, but still far enough along that his humanity was evident.

Abortions in the second trimester are usually done through dilation and evacuation, a procedure in which forceps are used to tear apart the baby, rather than through suction.

The student was haunted by what he saw:

**I have not been able to think of anything since yesterday at 10:30 besides what that baby boy might have been. I don't think that people realize what an abortion actually is until they see it happen.**

*See "Med Student," page 44*

# It's official: Ireland parliamentary committee recommends abortion on demand through 12 weeks, also opens door to much later abortions

By Dave Andrusko

On December 13, members of Ireland's Parliamentary [Oireachtas] Committee on the Eighth Amendment published its 40 page report that included the recommendation that the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution be repealed. The Eighth Amendment [otherwise known as Article 40.3.3] gives equal legal protection to mothers and unborn children and has been the target of pro-abortion forces, inside and outside of the Republic of Ireland, for years.

"The current regime for the termination of pregnancy in Ireland is unfit for purpose and that constitutional reform is necessary," the report says. Beyond acknowledging the recommendation that abortions be legal for any reason through the 12th week, news accounts continue to be sketchy about what else the influential committee wants.

Here's one pivotal recommendation

**The Committee is of the opinion that the decision as to when a termination can take place is dependent on a range of factors; and that, in cases involving risk to health, medical practitioners, acting in good faith, and in consultation with the woman, are best placed to make such a decision, subject to any statutory requirements which should underpin guidelines drawn up by the Minister for Health**

**in consultation with the Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.**

So...subject to "any statutory requirements which should underpin guidelines drawn up by the Minister for Health in consultation with the Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland"—which could easily be ultra-permissive—there would seem to be few checks and balances on abortions performed up to and including abortions late in pregnancy.

The very next section fleshes this out:

**2.18. The Committee recommends that (a) termination of pregnancy should be lawful where the life or health of the woman is at risk and that a distinction should not be drawn between the physical and mental health of the woman, (b) provision for gestational limits for termination of pregnancy should be guided by the best available medical evidence and be provided for in legislation, and (c) any assessments in relation to the termination of pregnancy where the life or the health of the woman is at risk should be made by no fewer than two specialist physicians and the law**

**should be amended to provide accordingly.**

"Life or health." Where have we heard that before?

The cover is "The Committee is not of the opinion that

"Abortion scaremongering to be conquered with facts," written by Ellen Coyne. In English (or Gaelic), this means to discourage (ridicule) any questions that point out how liberal/permissive the language



termination of pregnancy after 12 weeks for socio-economic reasons should not be provided for..." Possibly abortion on demand for "life and health" but not (past 12 weeks) for "socio-economic reasons."

There are many ironies, all of them tragic. The *Times of London* ran a piece under the condescending headline,

may be in next year's abortion referendum.

A much more accurate assessment of what might be coming down the lane came from Alban Maginness, writing in the *Belfast Telegraph*. The headline reads, "Dail committee proposals for the 'reform' of law on abortion would cause Herod to blanch."

# Pro-Life Vote Upheld on Amendment 1

## *Federal Judges Rule Unanimously Against Planned Parenthood*

On January 9, in a resounding victory for pro-life Tennesseans, judges on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously rejected a pro-abortion effort to overturn the 2014 voter passage of “Amendment 1.”

“Although the subject of abortion rights will continue to

be controversial in Tennessee and across our nation, it is time for uncertainty surrounding the people’s 2014 approval and ratification of Amendment 1 to be put to rest,” wrote Senior Judge David McKeague, a 2005 appointee of George W. Bush.

Passage of SJR 127,

which placed the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, and Amendment 1 were the top priority and legislative goal of Tennessee Right to Life for more than 16 years. The key wording of Amendment 1 was in the beginning: “Nothing in this

Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion.”

Brian Harris, president of Tennessee Right to Life, said, “Today’s ruling is vindication of the state’s amendment process and victory for the thousands of pro-life Tennesseans who sacrificed to see Amendment 1 passed.

“We are grateful to the legislators who placed the amendment on the ballot, to voters who approved it, and to the Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Coordinator of Elections who all worked tirelessly to defend it,” added Harris. “The voices of Tennessee’s voters have been heard and, as a result, public policy decisions on the matter of abortion can be rightly debated and determined by the people’s representatives.”

Amendment 1 was made necessary by *Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee v. Sundquist*, a radical pro-abortion decision by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2000, which wrongly declared a so-called “fundamental right to abortion” in the Tennessee Constitution thereby making enforcement of common-sense protections impossible in Tennessee.

Tennessee Right to Life expresses profound gratitude to the many supporters, advocates, and voters who sacrificed to see placed on the ballot and passed by public vote.

**yes on 1**  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**TENNESSEE**  
**RIGHT TO**  
**LIFE**  
**U.S. 6TH CIRCUIT COURT OF**  
**APPEALS UPHOLDS TENNESSEE'S**  
**PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT 1**

 NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE

## 45 reasons for hope and optimism on Roe's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary

From page 1

4. The White House supports no federal funding for abortion giant Planned Parenthood.

5. President Trump's Vice-President, Mike Pence, continues to be outspoken in his defense of innocent human life.

6. Strict constructionist Neil Gorsuch now sits on the U.S. Supreme Court.

7. President Trump has vowed to appoint Supreme Court Justices who will not legislate from the bench, hastening the day when *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned.

8. The annual March for Life continues to attract huge crowds, largely made up of young people.

9. Pregnancy resource centers are reaching out to pregnant women everyday with compassion, love, and support. The most recent federal court decision confirms that pro-abortionists should not be able to force pregnancy resource centers to channel their anti-life message.

10. The number of pregnancy resource centers in the U.S. far outnumbers abortion facilities by a margin of almost 4-1.

11. Abortion centers are closing all across the country.

12. Congress boasts a pro-life majority, as do many state legislatures.

13. 4D ultrasound technology is showing babies smiling in their mothers' wombs.

14. Women who regret their abortions and who want to help other women avoid similar heartache have found their voice in organizations such as the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

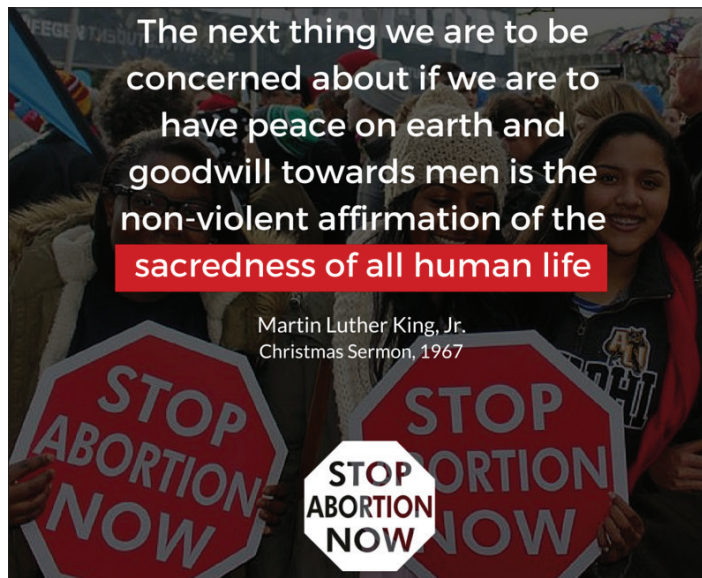
15. Healing retreats such as those of Rachel's Vineyard are bringing hope to women scarred by abortion.

16. A number of Planned Parenthood workers have left their jobs in the abortion industry and have become

powerful spokespeople for the pro-life cause.

17. Abortion survivors such as Melissa Ohden are speaking out about being targeted for abortion when they were preborn babies.

18. More men are taking responsibility for pressuring their wives and girlfriends into having abortions.



19. Scientific research supports the pro-life contention that abortion hurts women physically, mentally, and emotionally.

20. The blogosphere is filled with pro-lifers willing to share their knowledge.

21. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter allow the pro-life movement to get accurate information into cyberspace at a moment's notice.

22. Nurses who work with premature infants are sharing their experiences about the fragility of human life.

23. A number of abortionists have stopped doing abortions and now promote life.

24. College students are organizing and motivating their classmates to support pregnant women on campus.

25. Teens for Life are finding innovative ways to promote life

in their communities.

26. Local chapters of National Right to Life are educating people about the life issue at area fairs and festivals.

27. State affiliates of National Right to Life are passing pro-life laws and changing hearts and minds about abortion.

28. Campaigns to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide have

aborted just because of their sex.

34. A number of members of Congress are determined to shine a spotlight on allegations of baby body part harvesting in the abortion industry.

35. Public opinion polls continue to show most people oppose the reasons for which 90%-95% of abortions are performed.

36. Polls also indicate that the vast majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

37. Polls demonstrate that most Americans oppose late-term abortions.

38. Women and men who joined the pro-life movement way back in 1973 continue to serve the cause with dignity and honor.

39. A number of celebrities, such as actress Patricia Heaton, are bucking the Hollywood trend and boldly proclaiming their pro-life views

40. A number of states have passed laws ensuring that no taxpayer funding of abortion can occur in the health insurance exchanges created by Obamacare.

41. Many Congressmen want to codify the principles of the Hyde Amendment, which bars taxpayer funding of abortion except in rare cases, on a permanent government-wide basis.

42. A distinguished counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway, spoke at the March for Life as did Vice President Pence.

43. Women across the country are courageously stating that Planned Parenthood does not speak for them.

44. People with disabilities are leading the fight against doctor-prescribed suicide and euthanasia.

45. The end of *Roe v. Wade* is in sight, given anticipated changes in the makeup of the Supreme Court.

failed much more often than they have succeeded, thanks to a tremendous coalition.

29. Popular culture is recognizing the humanity of the preborn child by sharing Ultrasound videos and praising "baby bumps."

30. People with Down syndrome are showing why it is inhumane to abort a child diagnosed with a disability—any disability-- in the womb.

31. The gruesome practice of partial-birth abortion, in which a baby is partly delivered, then killed, has been outlawed.

32. New attention is being focused on the brutal practice of dismemberment abortion, where a living child is torn apart, limb by limb, from a mother's womb.

33. An increasing number of people are questioning the practice of sex selection abortions, in which babies are

# Justice Scalia on the Constitution, abortion, and assisted suicide

By Paul Stark

*Editor's note. Last night I finally had a chance to sit down and begin to read "Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and Life Well Lived." The Amazon blurb starts with a helpful overview: "This definitive collection of beloved Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's finest speeches covers topics as varied as the law, faith, virtue, pastimes, and his heroes and friends."*

The anthology was assembled by the eighth of Scalia's nine children, his son, Christopher Scalia, and by a former clerk, Edward Whelan, who president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center. I only needed to read the introduction and two of his speeches to know this is one rare (for me) 432 page long book I will actually read cover to cover.

In the meanwhile I thought I would re-run for my edification and hopefully yours Mr. Stark's thoughtful piece on the late Justice's positions on abortion and assisted suicide.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia believed that the role of the Court is to faithfully interpret and apply the law as it actually is—not as the Court wants it to be. Making law and policy is the job of the elected branches of government. Judges, he insisted, should not be legislators.

That's why Scalia took the position he did on abortion and the Constitution. The Constitution simply does not require, as the Court mistakenly ruled in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), a nationwide policy of abortion on demand. In his dissenting opinion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), which upheld the "central holding" of *Roe*,

Scalia explained:  
**The issue is whether [abortion] is a liberty protected by the Constitution of the United States. I am sure it is not. I reach that**

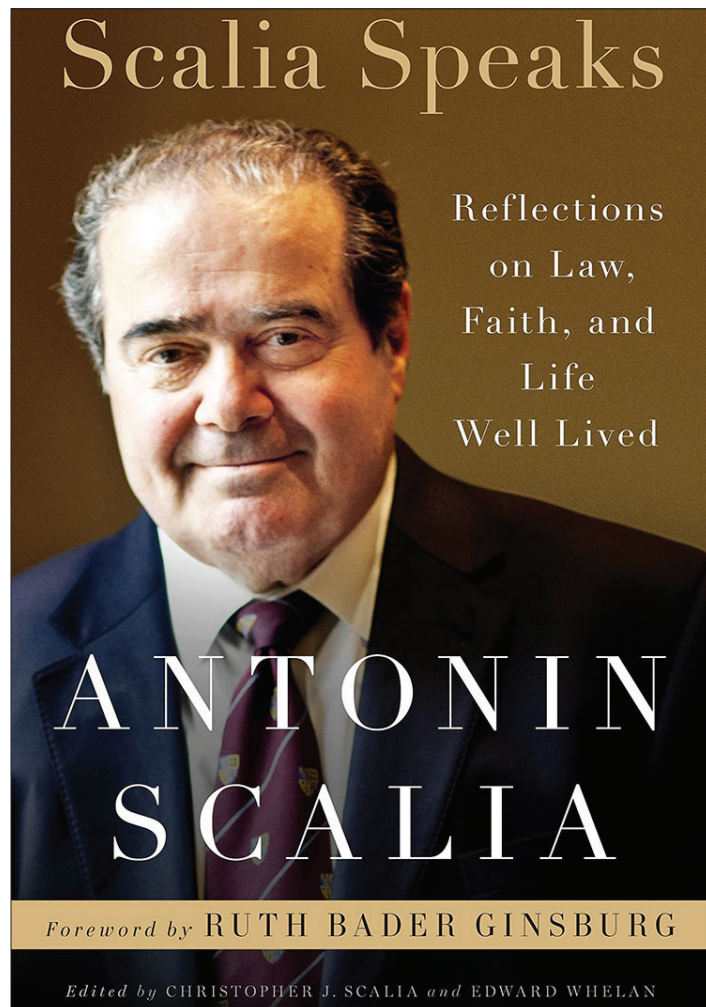
**it to be legally proscribed.**

Therefore, Scalia concluded, "The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations upon it, are to be resolved like most

designed, among other things, "to establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility ... and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity," prohibits the States from simply banning this visibly brutal means of eliminating our half-born posterity is quite simply absurd.

*Hodgson v. Minnesota* (1990) dealt with the details of Minnesota's parental notification law. In a complicated and divided outcome, the Court upheld the law as long as there is a judicial bypass option (Scalia would have upheld the law regardless). Scalia noted:

**One will search in vain the document we are supposed to be construing for text that provides the basis for the argument over these distinctions; and will find in our society's tradition regarding abortion no hint that the distinctions are constitutionally relevant, much less any indication how a constitutional argument about them ought to be resolved. The random and unpredictable results of our consequently unchanneled individual views make it increasingly evident, Term after Term, that the tools for this job are not to be found in the**



**conclusion ... for the same reason I reach the conclusion that bigamy is not constitutionally protected—because of two simple facts: (1) the Constitution says absolutely nothing about it, and (2) the long-standing traditions of American society have permitted**

important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting."

Dissenting in *Stenberg v. Carhart* (2000), which struck down a state law banning partial-birth abortion, Scalia wrote:

**The notion that the Constitution of the United States,**

*See "Scalia," page 40*

# Resolve to Pray for Life in 2018

## *Expect the Lord to answer*

By John Stonestreet with Stan Guthrie

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

Most of us give up on our New Year's resolutions rather quickly. But here's one that I hope you'll keep—for life.

If you're a regular listener or reader of our BreakPoint commentaries, you know that we are staunchly pro-life. And likely you are, too. Every human life, in or out of the womb, is precious and invested with a special dignity, having been created in God's image. But in our culture, life is assaulted.

Christians should, at the same time, both love unborn babies and their mothers, and also hate what abortion does to them—and to our broken society.

Many of our BreakPoint listeners and readers are active in the pro-life movement. Many of you have walked a picket line, written a letter to the editor, or volunteered at a pregnancy care center. Many of you have given money, sacrificially, to support pro-life organizations.

And yet, despite all this effort by you and millions like you and the great progress made by the pro-life community, the monstrous evil of legal abortion continues.

The statistics, 45 years after *Roe v. Wade*, are so well-known by now that, incredibly, they fail to shock us as they should. Around 60 million unborn American babies—think of it!—60 million, have succumbed to abortion since 1973. That's more than the combined populations of Texas and New York.

Each year [nearly 1,000,000] abortions are still performed in the U.S. About one in three women will have an abortion by age 45. Nearly half (49 percent) of abortions are among women and teens 24 years of age and younger. These are sobering and, if we're honest, depressing numbers.

And yet, there's good news, some really good news. First,

death mills—in fact, 37 abortion clinics closed in 2017 alone. Praise God!

And the best news of all is that God is with us on this issue, and He answers the prayers of His people.

Is anything impossible for God? Jesus Christ reigns over heaven and earth, He loves the little children, and He is perfectly willing and able to

Come to BreakPoint.org/21Days to download a free “21 Days of Prayer for Life” prayer guide, complete with moving stories, statistics, discussion questions, and of course, prayer requests for life. Even more, each day will equip you to not only pray but also to make the case for life with friends and neighbors. And it's free. Use it in your



public opinion is turning against unlimited abortion. Even young people, who are generally liberal on social issues, are quite conservative when it comes to life. A study found that just seventeen percent of Millennials support anything-goes abortion. And a Knights of Columbus poll in 2014 found an incredible 84 percent of Americans want to restrict abortion to the first three months.

Second, many states have enacted laws over the years that have restricted abortion and even forced some Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to close their grisly

answer our prayers for them. And there are some things that we're called to that will only, only be accomplished through prayer.

So let all of us who love life, born and unborn, commit to praying through this New Year, asking and expecting God to act. That's something that all of us, no matter our political, financial, or social status, can do.

And so, once again, we're asking you to join thousands of others in what has now become an annual effort here at BreakPoint and the Colson Center: The 21 Days of Prayer for Life.

family, your churches, your small groups. Breakpoint.org/21Days.

There's also a 21 Days of Prayer for Life app for your smart phone or computer. When you download the app, you'll not only get the 21 days of pro-life devotionals and training, but you'll receive pro-life prayer requests six days a week all 52 weeks this year. Can you imagine what would happen if thousands of Christians would pray for life and against abortion every day of 2018?

# Pro-abortionists tell one another to stop the “awfulization” of abortion and embrace it as a social good.”

By Dave Andrusko

Pro-lifers will come together to rally in cities, state capitals, and in Washington, DC to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the disastrous January 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* decision. A handful of pro-abortionists will show up in

which they will simultaneously celebrate *Roe* (and its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*) and lament how “equal access remains elusive,” to quote from a press release for a discussion at the Brooklyn Historical Society on January 16.

solidarity, Pollitt reaffirmed Rosin’s own condescending prejudices. For instance, it’s so 1950ish to think there could possibly be anything wrong about abortion, anything the tiniest bit problematic.

For example, why can’t

The reason we’re not, according to Pollitt, is that “we have all essentially been brainwashed by a small minority of pro-life activists.”

No doubt in explaining “the legacy and future of this landmark case on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary” at the Brooklyn Historical Society, Pollitt will double down on the fanciful notion that the America public has been deluded by those Machiavellian pro-lifers.

I’m also guessing Hogue will pick up on a second theme of Pollitt’s book (as summarized by Rosin): “the left needs to stop the ‘awfulization’ of abortion and embrace it as a social good.”

In other words, until and unless “progressives” stop being defensive and embrace the annihilation of a million or so unborn children every year, **they** will always be on the defensive.

Talk about living in a cocoon.

A suggestion to pro-abortionists: Attend any of the many, many state pro-life rallies or the huge assemblage in our nation’s capital and see if you still believe that celebrating the brutality and bloodiness and barbarity of abortion is a winning strategy.



front of the Supreme Court to greet 100,000+ pro-lifers and, for their trouble, will receive photos in the *Washington Post* and have their miniscule counter-demonstration treated almost as an equal to the massive outpouring of pro-lifers, mostly young, from all over the nation.

But as often as not, the anti-life crowd will hold “events” in

Several of the usual suspects will assemble including Ilyse Hogue, who is the President of NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Katha Pollitt, the author of *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights*.

I remember reading Hanna Rosin’s love-letter disguised as a review of Pollitt’s book at *Slate*.

In a demonstration of sisterly

*Obvious Child*, the movie of a few years back, make a joke out of the lead character obliterating her unborn child? “We shouldn’t need a book explaining why abortion rights are important,” Rosin plaintively insisted. “We should be over that by now.”

So why aren’t we collectively “over that” by now? You guessed it: us.



## A lone voice in the Media Establishment asks, “Could we be wrong?”

From page 2

So what does this have to do with us, other than reading more media preening which comes at the same time journalistic objectivity has been willfully thrown overboard?

Von Drehle is celebrating what he tells us was the late Mrs. Graham’s “modesty.” He writes

**Modesty ranked high among her winsome attributes. She understood that good journalism is not a romantic sequence of high-stakes showdowns. It is a flaw-specked but sincere effort to learn about the world and reflect it honestly, in little increments, without fear or favor.**

**Those last few words are a commonplace bordering on cliché.**

**But let’s pause a moment with them. Fearless journalism is not just reporting in the face of adverse power. Another brand of courage is the guts to tell one’s friends that their assumptions may be mistaken. It’s the willingness to push oneself to dig deeper and think harder. To understand bad guys and challenge heroes. To ask ourselves why we think as we do and could we be wrong.**

The remainder of Von Drehle’s column is an alleluia to the ideal of “genuine objectivity” which so “many journalists have cheerfully shrugged off.”

Why might “an open, curious, careful mind” not be popular?

With journalists, it requires actually working rather using their tweeter feed to snark endlessly (this is my opinion, obviously, not Von Drehle’s).

For readers “seeing the world in all its mixed-up shades of gray is not necessarily comforting.” Translated the latter means the readership of publications such the *Post* and the *New York Times* hate President Trump with such vitriolic intensity, to even suggest he has any redeeming qualities is to speak the unspeakable.

If you think I exaggerate, just read a sample of the thousands of reader responses to any story about the President or Vice President Mike Pence, for that matter. The onslaught is savage.

But what’s the upside of genuine objectivity? Von Drehle says most readers

**respect it when they see it. Journalists**

**who strive to deliver it bank credibility in small doses over time, humbly acknowledging their blind spots and errors.**

**Katharine Graham is having her Hollywood moment because she gave the right answer when history popped its quiz. But her crucial lesson for today is that she asked the right questions: Are we sure we’ve got it right?**

**Could we be wrong?**

My guess is when his fellow columnists and reporters read his piece, they roared with one voice, “No!”

Which is very, very unfortunate. The public’s confidence in institutional media is sinking fast.

The only way that confidence can be restored is to earn it.

## Justice Scalia on the Constitution, abortion, and assisted suicide

From page 37

**lawyer’s—and hence not in the judge’s—workbox. I continue to dissent from this enterprise of devising an Abortion Code, and from the illusion that we have authority to do so.**

Nor does anything in the Constitution prevent states from prohibiting assisted suicide or protecting against the dehydration and starvation of medically vulnerable patients. In *Cruzan v. Missouri Department of Health* (1990), Scalia wrote:

**American law has always accorded the State the power to prevent, by force if**

**necessary, suicide ... [T]he point at which life becomes “worthless,” and the point at which the means necessary to preserve it become “extraordinary” or “inappropriate,” are neither set forth in the Constitution nor known to the nine Justices of this Court any better than they are known to nine people picked at random from the Kansas City telephone directory.**

Scalia was part of the unanimous decisions in *Vacco v. Quill* and *Washington v. Glucksberg* (1997), which held that there is no right to assisted

suicide. In his dissenting opinion in *Gonzales v. Oregon* (2006), Scalia argued that the Attorney General is allowed, under federal law, to prevent the use of drugs in Oregon for assisted suicide:

**Unless we are to repudiate a long and well-established principle of our jurisprudence, using the federal commerce power to prevent assisted suicide is unquestionably permissible. ... If the term “legitimate medical purpose” has any meaning, it surely excludes the prescription of drugs to produce death.**

In *Roe v. Wade* and subsequent decisions, the Court usurped the authority of the American people and their elected representatives to determine abortion policy—and 58 million abortions have been the result. Some people want the Court to do the same with assisted suicide.

To prevent that from happening—and to reverse *Roe*, allowing for greater protection for unborn children and their mothers—we desperately need more Supreme Court justices like Antonin Scalia.

*Editor’s note. Paul Stark is Communications Associate for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, NRLC’s state affiliate.*

## PPFA's annual report clearly shows it has double-downed on promoting abortion

*From page 7*

Planned Parenthood states, correctly, that “Litigation is a crucial tool for protecting and expanding access to care” and noted that “Planned Parenthood (along with partner organizations, in some cases) filed seven new lawsuits to protect and expand access to safe, legal abortion.”

Planned Parenthood also fights for abortion in other countries. Through Planned Parenthood Global, they launched the Niñas No Madres (Girls Not Mothers) program in Latin America to “educate” the public and lawmakers about “the impact of draconian laws and practices restricting abortion access.”

### **Pumping up the Resistance**

Planned Parenthood has long complained that federal policies and state laws cut them off from taxpayer funds and make it difficult for their clinics to operate. The last paragraph in the “Message from Our Leadership” includes the sentence, “This year has defined the dedication, defiance, and power of the Planned Parenthood family.” The 35-page-long annual report is filled with plenty of talk about their efforts to defend themselves and mobilize opposition.

In the annual report, they refer to the ‘historic threat to our mission’ and facing “higher, harder barriers to

getting care” and attempts to defund Planned Parenthood. They talk about “fending off attacks” and “continuing to mobilize our supporters to fight for the health and rights of the people we serve.”

Many of the pictures featured in the 2016-2017 Annual Report are from the Women’s March held in January of last year to coincide with the Inauguration of pro-life President Trump and the language of “resistance” and “defiance” echoes throughout the report.

In the face of a “hostile administration” that has fought to repeal ObamaCare and has cut off funding to international groups (like Planned Parenthood’s international arm) that perform, refer, or advocate for abortion, Planned Parenthood says they are “Building a Movement & Mobilizing Our Supporters.” They say such “attacks” haven’t tired supporters – “They resist, they persist, and they are fighting to win.”

Planned Parenthood has clearly adjusted their tactics to deal with the political reality that they no longer control the presidency, the federal legislature, or many of the state houses. Under the heading “Fueling the Resistance to Protect Health Care Access” they talk about building allies with leaders in the “racial justice, immigrant rights, and economic justice movement

to highlight the intersection between these issues and access to health care.”

They argue that “far too often, systemic barriers, including the harmful legacies of oppression and white supremacy, stand in the way of achieving health equity for all.” (How exactly is the reality that over the years Planned Parenthood has likely aborted millions of black and other minority babies supposed to be addressing this “oppression”?)

Beyond the “strong partnerships with organizations with other resistance leaders” that Planned Parenthood says followed the Womens’ March, Planned Parenthood celebrates their #IStandWithPP and #Idefy campaigns to help identify and inspire a new generation of activists.

Until their political fortunes improve (hopefully never), the plan in the meantime is to generate, with the media’s help, the appearance of such opposition to pro-life laws, clinic regulations, funding limits, and healthcare repeal that legislators won’t institute such policies or courts won’t let them go forward.

### **Eyes on the Future**

Executives at Planned Parenthood have certainly seen the same figures that we have for the past several years. There is no ignoring the drop in the number of patients, the greatly

reduced numbers of cancer screenings, or even fewer number of clients receiving contraceptives —from 3,868,901 in 2009 to 2,701,866 in 2016—a 30% tumble.

They’ve lost access to a lot of state funding and, as noted above, closed significant numbers of clinics and merged many affiliates. But PPFA has been able to increase their revenues and hold the number of abortions performed steady.

Rather than dump their abortion business to concentrate on the other services they say are so critical, they’ve done the exact opposite. PPFA has chosen to double down on abortion, adding abortion services to most of their remaining clinics, requiring that every affiliate have at least one abortion performing center, and refusing to give it up in order to receive state funding.

They’ve built new megaclinics which can handle enormous abortion volume, to put into new web technology to attract and serve new customers, and to stimulate more political activism. They’ve got big private donors and the media defending their every move, which makes their job easier.

All that may sustain a certain level of business for now, but in the end, it will not, cannot succeed. Why? Because there isn’t any future in it.

## Relentless push for mail order RU-486 altogether ignores women's safety

*From page 24*

It may be that the U.S. has had its own version (made in China) available for sale since 2000. Or it could be that an import restriction and an official warning from the FDA has frightened a few off. (A few of the suppliers in this study expressed concern to their “customers” that they were being “investigated.”)

### Research with an agenda

To understand the point and purpose of the study one only needs to go as far as the author list. Despite claims that the “Authors report no conflicts of interest,” two come from “Plan C,” a group whose online home page opens with the question “Did you know there is a safe, private option for an at-home abortion?”

The other three are associated with Gynuity, a “research and technical assistance” organization specifically devoted to bringing products like chemical abortions to the world.

One of the authors, Beverly Winikoff, is not only Gynuity’s president, but prior to that, she was part of the Population Council where as Director for Reproductive Health and a Senior Medical Associate she was instrumental in bringing RU-486, the “abortion pill,” to the U.S.

The abortion pill was developed in the 1980s because surgical abortion had become increasingly unpopular among women. Clinics were closing, the ranks of abortionists were thinning, and the number of abortions were dropping.

Chemical abortion offered the industry the chance at a new non-surgical alternative that did not require trained surgeons or expensive fully equipped surgical centers.

The abortion pill was approved in the United States

in September of 2000. The dosage was specific—three pills of mifepristone, two pills of misoprostol; its use was limited to pregnant women 49 days or fewer past their last menstrual period; the pills were under the supervision of a physician; and the protocol required three separate office visits.

From the very beginning, promoters of the abortion pill chafed at any conditions or limits on distributing or prescribing the pills. The distributor agreed to whatever limits they had to in order to obtain FDA approval, but once it had approval in hand, the industry (through the National Abortion Federation) put forward its own protocol.

They altered doses, reducing mifepristone from three pills to one, boosting the misoprostol from two pills to four. They also eliminated the return visit for administration of the prostaglandin. This gave women the opportunity to take the pills at home. Moreover, they extended the cutoff from 49 days LMP to 10 weeks LMP.

The Obama FDA eventually accepted all of these changes in 2016.

Even that was too much for some, especially the requirement that the abortionist had to meet the woman and deliver the pills in person. This led to the web-cam abortion, where a woman’s screening and counseling takes place over a computer monitor and an abortionist in another city remotely triggers a drawer releasing the drugs there at some storefront location.

Groups like Gynuity and Plan C find even this too burdensome. They have sought instead to have the pills sold over the counter at the local pharmacies or to have these

drugs sold over the internet and delivered by mail.

This is the context for this latest “study.”

### Gynuity’s broader objectives

It is no coincidence that Gynuity, over the last year or so, has been involved in a separate study of its own (perhaps more correctly identified as a campaign) studying the “feasibility” of abortion by mail in Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and New York. Women in that study find Gynuity on the internet, do an online consult, make arrangements with a local doctor for certain needed tests, and then have Gynuity ship them the drugs via overnight mail.

This is, of course, quite similar to the process Gynuity and Plan C are examining in the Contraception study, albeit with a few additional, and very minimal, safeguards. That makes this touted “scientific study” very close to just basic marketing research or even competitor surveillance.

This helps to explain why the authors walk a fine line. They raise issues with the product and practices of some of the random online abortion pill retailers, but stop short of condemning the concept. While they admit there were problems with some of the batches that they received and how these orders were handled, they want people to know that the idea is “feasible” and that there was “no evidence” that the pills sold online were “dangerous or ineffective.”

They don’t want to do anything to impede the market they’re hoping will be there if their study convinces the FDA to explicitly authorize this online mail order method.

In other words, they admit that it’s all a bit messy with

a couple of opportunistic marketers of Indian generics, but want to emphasize no one has gotten hurt (yet, as far as we know). They wish to leave the impression that all these “minor” problems can be solved once the government authorizes online sales and allows “responsible” groups such as Gynuity, Plan C, Women on Web, Women Help Women and safe2choose with ties to reputable manufacturers, to operate.

They also want to try to make the case that the market and demand for such a product already exist, that women have already shown that they are going to do this anyway, and that the government might as officially authorize responsible groups like theirs.

Something else we learn: promoters of these pills aren’t worried about chemical abortion’s side effects and failures that have put hundreds of women in the hospital and are responsible more than a dozen deaths in the U.S. alone. All of this took place when the drugs were being dispensed under more rigorous conditions.

Their minimal concerns about degraded drugs, drugs that took more than two weeks to be delivered, and drugs that were ordered and failed to arrive, are not reassuring.

They simply want these drugs out there, preferably through programs like theirs, so that it is easier for more women to have abortions, without the industry having to find and train more abortionists or build more expensive clinics.

*Editors note. Dr. O’Bannon is NRL Director of Education & Research.*

*Dave Andrusko is the editor of National Right to Life News Today.*

## Chair-elect of USCCB's Pro-Life Activities asks for your prayers

*From page 28*

the church employs in her pro-life efforts. First of all, every apostolate and ministry of the church must be grounded in

prayer.

Secondly, the church's pro-life efforts are educational. We must attempt to inform the

minds and inspire the hearts of our own people to build a culture of life.

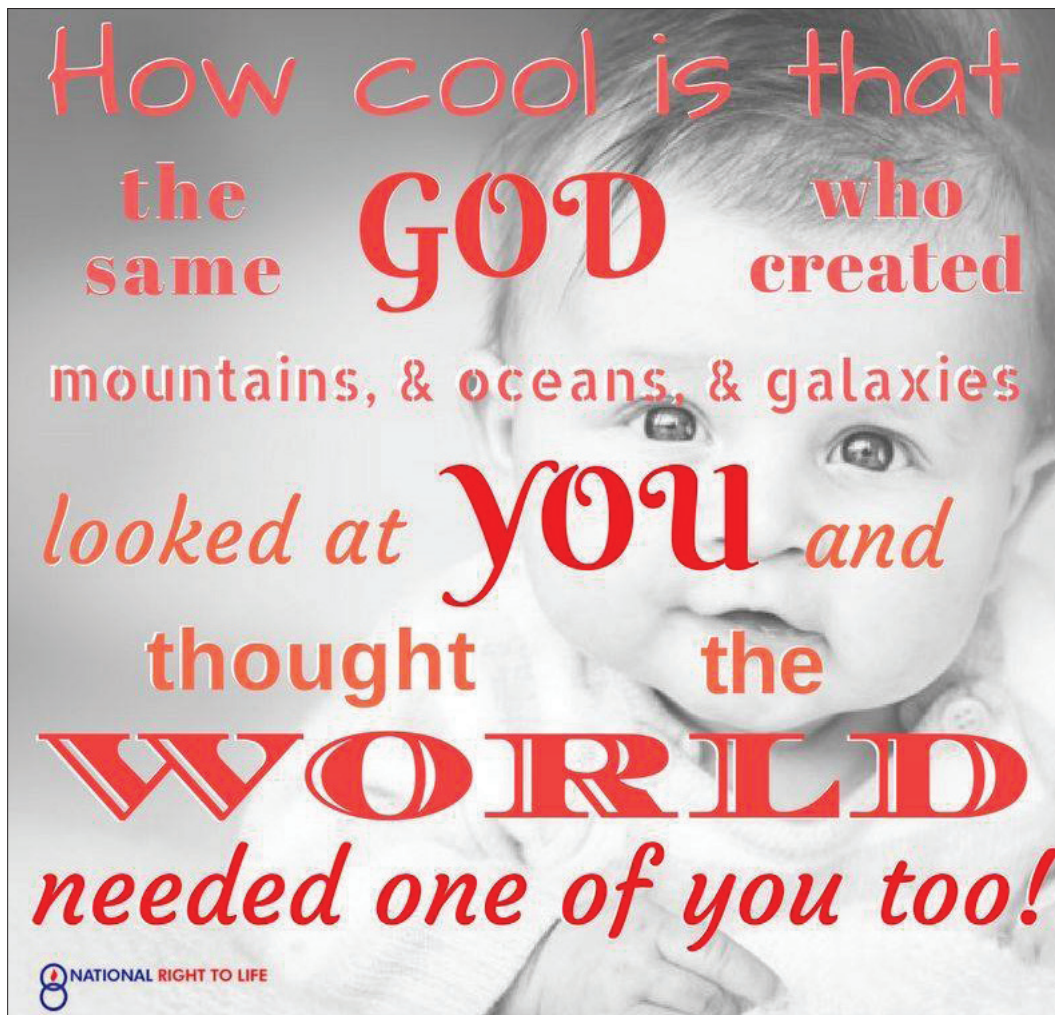
Third, the pro-life ministry

is all about love and mercy. Our goal is to surround those experiencing an untimely or difficult pregnancy with a community of love and support to help them choose life.

At the same time, we are called to make available the healing mercy of God to those who have participated in or facilitated an abortion decision and now deeply regret that choice.

Finally, our pro-life efforts also include advocacy for public policies that protect life from the womb to the tomb. The church, since the inception of our nation, has chosen not to endorse political candidates or parties. At the same time, the church has a responsibility to form the consciences of her members and to be a voice for the voiceless in the public square.

Please know that I appreciate and depend on your prayers all the time. I will count on you to ramp up your prayers next November when I assume this additional responsibility to serve the U.S. bishops in their efforts to build a culture of life and a civilization of love.



## Will investigators ignore babies discovered in Detroit body broker warehouse?

*From page 26*

the dismemberment abortion procedure (D&E), or the baby may have been born before the abortionist had a chance to tear apart his or her body.

The babies may have come from Michigan, or anywhere;

one part of *Reuters* story involves Rathburn driving back from Canada with 10 severed heads in his vehicle.

These questions demand answers, but from *Reuters'* reporting, it appears

investigators may once again be derelict in their duty. If nothing else, at least these revelations have served to bring public scrutiny to these awful cases.

Rathburn's trial in federal court in Detroit is scheduled to

begin on January 4. He is facing charges of fraud and lying to investigators. We'll hopefully have more details for you after that date.

Is there no end to the depth of human depravity?

## Looking back on Gallup's 2017 abortion survey results

*From page 31*

**This helps explain how the states have been able to pass a vast array of laws limiting when, where and how abortions can be performed. It also sheds light on how citizens can shift from electing a staunchly pro-choice president in Barack Obama to electing an avowed pro-life one in Donald Trump. For most Americans, the issue involves shades of gray, not black and white.**

Well, yes, but...

We have long lauded Gallup for changing the way it asks a key question about abortion which gives a nuanced and far more accurate portrait of public opinion. They first ask, "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

We learn 29% say "legal under any circumstances," 18% say "illegal in all circumstances" and 50% say "legal only under certain circumstances." That's where most polling companies

stop.

But Gallup then ask the middle group (the 50% who response "legal only under certain circumstances") "whether those should be most circumstances or only a few, and, by nearly a 3-to-1 ratio, they choose only a few, 36% vs. 13%," according to Saad.

"Thus, the slight majority of Americans (54%) favor curtailing abortion rights — saying abortion should be illegal or legal in only a few circumstances. Slightly fewer, 42%, want access to abortion to be unrestricted or legal in most

circumstances."

(The 54% is comprised of the 18% who say "illegal in all circumstances" and the 36% who said legal "in only a few circumstances.") But the overarching point is that a majority of Americans do not accept the reasons 90%-95% of all abortions are performed!

Gallup is correct: that is why pro-life legislation passes and passes. It is in tune with the electorate.

I look forward to Gallup's 2018 analyses. We will analysis each iteration and tell you what the numbers actually tell us.

## Med student was all for abortion, until he watched one happen

*From page 22*

**I have been tortured by these images – so real and so vivid – for two days now...and I was just a spectator.**

**Never again will I be pro-choice, and never again will I support the murder of any human being, no matter their stage in life.**

Unlike the vast majority of abortions, this baby was mourned. Someone felt sadness and horror at his death. Thousands of babies

like him are suctioned out of their mothers' wombs every day. They are rejected by their mothers and regarded as medical waste by their killers. Society allows these babies to die silently, with no recognition or acknowledgment of their humanity.

This little baby boy will never have a name. He will never take a breath of air, never pet a dog, never watch a sunset, never ride a bike... He will never experience all the things that you and I take for granted. But this baby, perhaps, did not

die entirely in vain – his tragic death revealed the truth to this young man. And those of you who are reading this article now know about this baby's death.

Perhaps the story of this unfortunate child can motivate you to become more active in the pro-life movement. There are many things you can do, even from your computer. Share this article on Facebook. Sign on to a mailing list of a pro-life group. Donate money to a pro-life organization or a crisis pregnancy center – every little bit helps. Consider going

to a clinic and trying to talk to the women entering it – with respect and kindness. Vote pro-life. Talk to your loved ones about abortion – share this or other pro-life articles with them. Spread the animated abortion procedures videos. Tell people that abortion reversal is real. Be patient and understanding, be kind, be respectful, but most of all, be active – do something.

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

## House to vote on Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act the week of March for Life

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**“We are grateful to Leader McCarthy for scheduling a vote on the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* next week when a massive number of pro-lifers will come to DC for the March for Life,” said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. “NRLC believes that it is time for Congress to act decisively to put the entire abortion industry on notice that when they treat a born-alive human person as medical waste, as a source for organ harvesting, or as a creature who may be subjected to lethal violence with impunity, they will do so at grave legal peril.”**

The *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act* would strengthen enforcement of existing law, such as the 2002 Born-Alive Infants Protection Act.

In 2002, Congress approved, without a dissenting vote, the *Born-Alive Infants Protection Act* (BAIPA), subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush and codified as 1 U.S.C. §8. This important law states that “every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development” is a “person” for all federal law purposes.

The 2002 BAIPA was a response to troubling indications, well summarized

in the House Judiciary Committee’s excellent 2001 report on the legislation, that some abortion providers and pro-abortion activists did not regard infants born alive during abortion procedures as legal persons – especially if the

Lauretta Brown, writing at Townhall, observed that in their final report in January 2017, The House Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives found that abortionists could be using techniques that resulted in infants being born alive. The

**the odds of getting an intact infant cadaver (e.g., increase the number of laminaria placed in a patient’s cervix to achieve greater dilation). Clearly, these factors increase the likelihood that unborn infants are born alive during late second-trimester abortions, and raise the question whether these infants’ civil rights are recognized by abortion providers.”**



infants were deemed to be “pre-viable” (i.e., have limited life expectancy due to prematurity). Such a mindset puts a substantial number of live-born infant persons in jeopardy of gross neglect or overt violence. Live birth, as defined in 1 U.S.C. §8, may occur a month before “viability.” BAIPA made it crystal clear that life expectancy is entirely irrelevant for purposes of legal personhood.

Since that time, there have been many additional troubling reports.

Panel wrote, Brown reported, that

**according to documents obtained in their investigation, many researchers want tissue from late-gestation infants “untainted by feticidal agents.”**

Brown went on to add **They concluded in their report that “abortion providers may modify abortion procedures, in apparent violation of the law, to increase**

In his statement, Majority Leader McCarthy put the pending introduction of the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act* in the wider context of Republican House efforts on behalf of life.

“Under Republican leadership, this House has consistently stood for life,” McCarthy said. “Last year, the House passed—among many other pro-life bills—the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which banned abortion at 20 weeks when science shows babies can feel pain.

**“Unfortunately, almost all of our Democrat colleagues voted against that bill. Their votes were an attempt to ensure America remains one of only seven countries that allows radical late-term abortions.”**