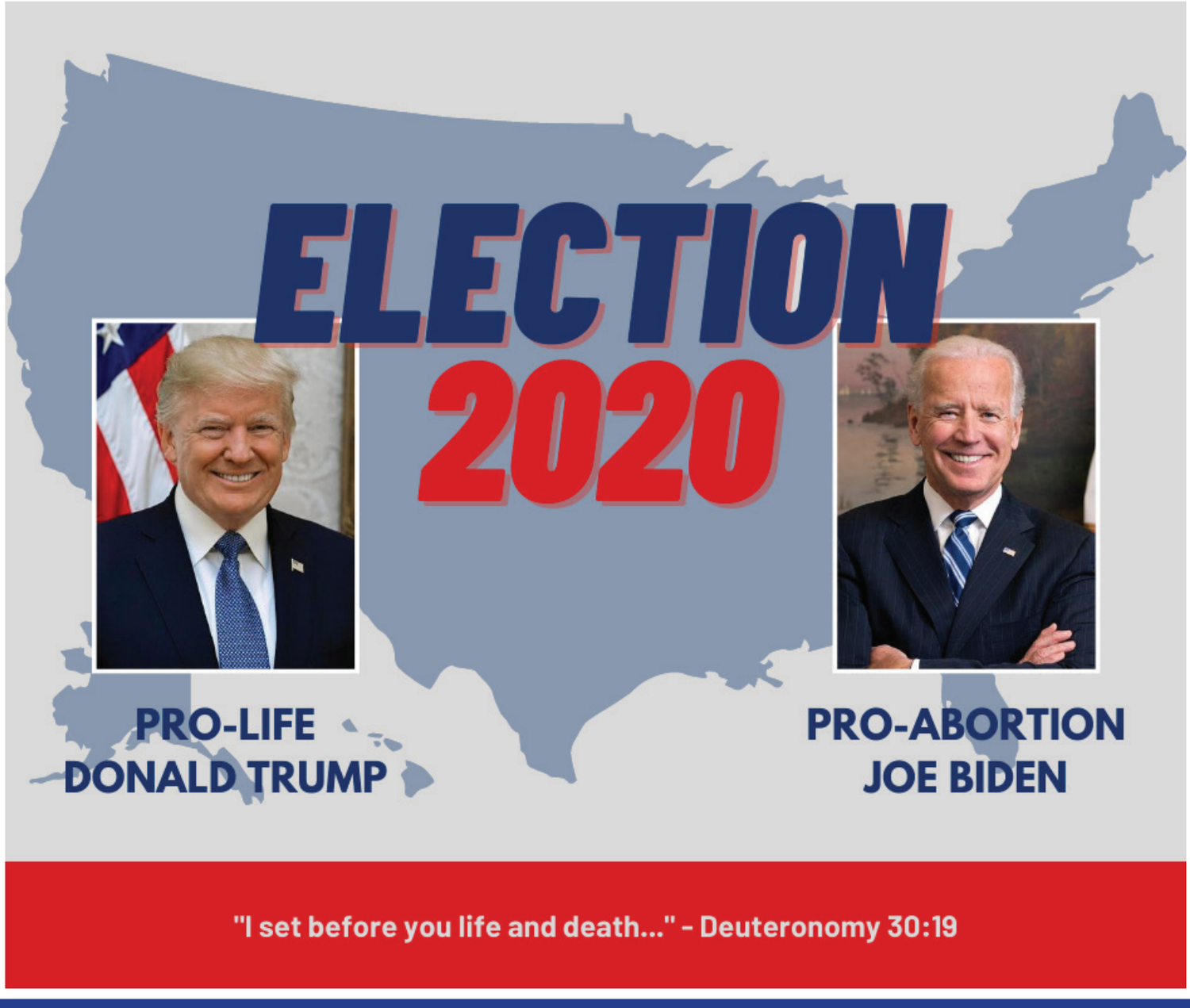
national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

August 2020



national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

Battle for the U.S. Senate: 2020 Competitive Races

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Radical pro-abortion Democrats are eager to take back the U.S. Senate. They are only a few seats away! We cannot allow that to happen.

With Charles Schumer as Senate Majority Leader, Democrats would advance an agenda of abortion on demand and taxpayer funding of abortion. And they would be in a position to determine the fates of judicial nominees, including potential nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Following is an overview of the most competitive U.S. Senate races in alphabetical order by state.

ALABAMA – Tommy Tuberville vs. Doug Jones

Tommy Tuberville (R) is pro-life. He opposes abortion on demand and supports protection for unborn children. Tommy Tuberville supports the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, legislation to protect unborn children by prohibiting abortion at 20 weeks, a point by which the unborn child is capable of experiencing great pain when being killed by dismemberment or other late abortion methods.

Tommy Tuberville opposes taxpayer funding for abortion, and he opposes taxpayer funding of abortion providers.

By contrast, his opponent, Sen. Doug Jones (D), supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason.

See "Battle," page 26

VP Pence: "The choice in this election has never been clearer and the stakes for people who cherish life and religious liberty have never been higher."

By Dave Andrusko

Editor's note. Just prior to us posting the August edition of NRL News, Joe Biden announced he had selected Sen. Kamala Harris to be his vice presidential running mate. Both are solidly pro-abortion. See page 25 for details.

It'd be hard to imagine a better match for pro-life President Donald Trump than Vice President Mike Pence, who has defended the unborn with grace and passion for decades.

Mr. Pence is on a multi-date "Life Win" tour which Clare Marie Merkowsky tells us began "by visiting a pregnancy center before speaking at a Christian church."

While visiting A Woman's Place Medical Clinic, Mr. Pence "met Kia, a mother who had considered aborting her child but changed her mind after visiting the clinic,"

See "Pence," page 31

Vice President Mike Pence looks at Kia, a mother who considered aborting her child before changing her mind at a Florida pregnancy center. (Twitter)

Editorials

Five thoughts 82 days out from the Election

As we put the finishing touches on the August digital edition of *National Right to Life News*, there are 83 days until the November 3 General Elections. The situation is so fluid—so unpredictable—that if we were to hold off publishing until the end of the week, who knows what the numbers would tell us? Here are five thoughts that may help us capture the underlying rhythms of an election held in the middle of a pandemic

#1. If you are a supporter of pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden, you are perpetually walking on eggshells. You never, ever know what he will say next. Since it's not our issue, suffice it to say that Joe did it **again** last week during an interview that aired at the convention of the National Association of Black Journalists and National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

#2. As we were about to publish, Mr. Biden announced he had selected Sen. Kamala Harris of California to be his vice presidential running mate Ordinarily, the selection of a running mate is small potatoes. Not so in 2020. Rasmussen Reports published a story Monday in which it found in its survey of 1,000 Likely Voters "that 59% of Likely U.S. Voters believe it's likely Biden's running mate will be president before the end of Biden's four-year term if he wins this fall, with 39% who say it's Very Likely." Sen. Harris is adamantly pro-abortion. As NRLC aptly described her, she is "the poster child for the extreme pro-abortion position of the Democratic Party."

#3. Mr. Biden's lead over President Trump dropped by four percentage points over the last two weeks, according to the RealClearPolitics poll average. Biden still has a six point advantage over President Trump in the key states of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, but that is a manageable deficit to overcome. Never, ever get caught up in the "Joe's measuring the White House for curtains" meme. He has not debated President Trump and there

are almost two and a half more months for Biden to say something puzzling, hugely off-putting, or painfully stupid.

As for what the national polls are telling us, polls come, and polls go…and then another one comes along. Last week *The Hill* told us

> **If the 2020 Presidential election were held today, 43 percent of voters would vote for former Vice President Joe Biden while 40 percent would chose President Trump, a new Hill-HarrisX poll finds.**

See "Election," page 33

What's inside the August edition of National Right to Life News?

It's at moments just like this one that I am so glad that in addition to our monthly issue of *National Right to Life News*, we also publish, Monday through Saturday, *National Right to Life News today.* There is so much going on that it's vitally important we can communicate with our ever-growing audience on a timely basis.

The August *National Right to Life News* issue is filled with the kind of stories you need to read to be up to date on politics, legislation, women-helping centers, bioethics, and all matters educational—to name just five categories.

Right off the bat, on page one, we have stories bringing our readers up to speed both on the presidential contest between our pro-life President Donald Trump and pro-abortion Joe Biden, and a separate story on the major Senate races. As you would expect, with less than 2 ½ months to go before the General Election, we provide many stories contrasting President Trump and former Vice President Biden. For example, see pages 2, 6, 10, and 20.

After 40+ years, we expect every pro-life law to be challenged by Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and/or the Center for Reproductive Rights. But we have good news about recent court decisions—very good news, in fact, particularly with regard to banning the dismemberment of living unborn children. See especially pages 2, 9, and 34.

Of course no issue of *NRL News* would be complete without stories about the unborn baby's most lethal nemesis, Planned Parenthood. As you've read in numerous posts in *NRL News Today*, PPFA is in the midst of tremendous internal strife. Its largest affiliate (Planned Parenthood of Great New York) cut ties with PPFA founder Margaret Sanger "because of her 'harmful connections to the eugenics movement,'" as the *New York Times* put it.

See "August Edition," page 37

From the President
Carol Tobias

We Must Continue to Move Forward!

By the time the August digital edition of National Right to Life News arrives in your inbox, there will be just 83 days before the nation chooses between pro-life President Donald Trump and his pro-abortion rival Joe Biden. I would like to place this momentous contest in perspective.

Our Movement is accustomed to ups and downs, victories and defeats. For many years, every two steps forward seemed to be followed by at least one step backward. But we persevered.

States would enact laws to require that a woman seeking an abortion be given specific information about pregnancy, abortion and abortion alternatives; to make sure that minor daughters could not get an abortion without parental involvement, and many others. Many states, and Congress, prevented tax dollars from being used to kill preborn children.

But the laws would be challenged in court. Sometimes the courts would uphold the pro-life law, but many were struck down as a violation of *Roe v Wade*. But we remained faithful to unborn children and their mothers.

The 12 years of pro-life Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush were followed by eight years of pro-abortion President Bill Clinton, and then eight years of pro-life President George W. Bush. Those years of plenty were followed by eight years of famine— pro-abortion President Barack Obama. But we continued to put our shoulder to the wheel.

All the while National Right to Life and its state affiliates initiated creative attempt after creative attempt to limit the impact of the abortion plague. At the federal level, there was the long, long fight to ban partial-birth abortions. Congress passed the bill twice and President Clinton vetoed it twice. Congress passed it again with President George W. Bush in office, and he signed the bill. After years of litigation, the Supreme Court upheld the law in 2007.

This brings us to today. The pro-life movement has been steadily marching forward for the past three-and-a-half years because of election victories in the states and because of the steadfast work of the administration of President Donald Trump.

Mr. Biden and the party that he leads has clearly told us of their priorities. Let's review what their objectives would be if they prevail in 82 days.

Hyde Amendment

Named after the late Congressman Henry Hyde, this language prevents federal tax funding of elective abortions in Medicaid, Federal Employees Health Benefits, and many other programs. More than two million Americans are alive today because of this amendment. However, the Democratic Party platform and presidential nominee Biden are calling for its repeal.

Title X Family Planning Program

The Trump administration has issued rules that returned Title X to its original purpose. They prevent entities from receiving Title X funds if the entity shares a location with an abortion facility. Also, Title X grantees may not refer for elective abortion.

Because of the Trump administration rules, Planned Parenthood withdrew from the program, forfeiting $60 million in Title X funds rather than restrict their abortion activities. If President Trump is defeated, those funds will again flow to abortion agencies.

Under the Obama administration, not only was Title X funding given to abortion providers, states were not allowed to direct these funds away from providers deemed unsuitable, such as Planned Parenthood. Thanks to action from Congress and President Trump, future administrative action could not prevent states from redirecting funds away from abortion providers.

Mandatory Insurance Coverage

The Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, authorized massive federal subsidies to assist many millions of Americans to purchase private health plans that cover abortion on demand, subsidized by federal tax dollars.

Under a Biden/Pelosi/Schumer government, insurance policies paid for with federal subsidies will include coverage of elective abortion.

Conscience Protections

Congress has, for many years, included language in various laws to protect the conscience rights of health care workers. There are approximately 25 different provisions in federal law to prevent discrimination against someone who does not want to participate in abortion, sterilization, or assisted suicide. These statutes will be overturned or ignored under a Biden administration and a Pelosi/Schumer-led Congress.

Chemical Abortions and Do-It-Yourself Abortions

During the COVID pandemic, abortion advocates have pushed extremely hard to force the Food and Drug Administration to remove the Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategy (REMS) placed on the drug mifepristone, part of the two-drug "medication abortion" technique. This would allow, among other things, the pill being sent through the mail, directly into someone's home. The goal? Dangerous do-it-yourself (DIY) abortions.

As has often been pointed out in these pages, chemical abortions are dangerous. Women using these drugs to abort their babies have died from hemorrhages, infections, and the rupture of previously undetected ectopic pregnancies. Allowing these drugs to be sold over the internet and delivered by mail expands and increases that risk, and opens the door to misuse and abuse, as it has in Britain. There, women are ordering and using these pills far past the deadline, with news there reporting at least two women aborting after 24 weeks gestation, which would qualify as murder under British law.

Allowing DIY at-home abortions is the goal of the abortion industry , and we would very likely see it come to fruition under a Biden presidency.

Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance

This widely expanded version of the Mexico City Policy prevents the use of US tax dollars from being used to perform abortions, lobby to overturn pro-life laws, or promote abortion in other countries.

This policy has been in effect under Presidents Reagan, H.W. Bush, and G.W. Bush, and was reinstated with broad changes by President Trump. There is no question this policy will be rescinded under a President Biden and US funds would again flow to agencies that perform and/or promote the killing of unborn children in developing nations.

See "Forward," page 23

A simple but critical question. What if the media conveyed the brutal reality of dismemberment abortions?

By Dave Andrusko

Last week, we were able to post a story filled with very encouraging news. Pro-lifers in Nebraska were able to overcome a pro-abortion filibuster of Legislative Bill 814, a bill that would ban dismembering living unborn children.

State Sen. Suzanne Geist, whose bill it is, said it best: "We are talking about eliminating a procedure that is barbaric."

But how many people know that "barbaric" is putting it kindly? Pro-abortionists must dig deep into their bag of euphemisms to hide a truth so brutal it would make you sick to your stomach if you knew the truth. Let's remind ourselves **exactly** what we are talking about.

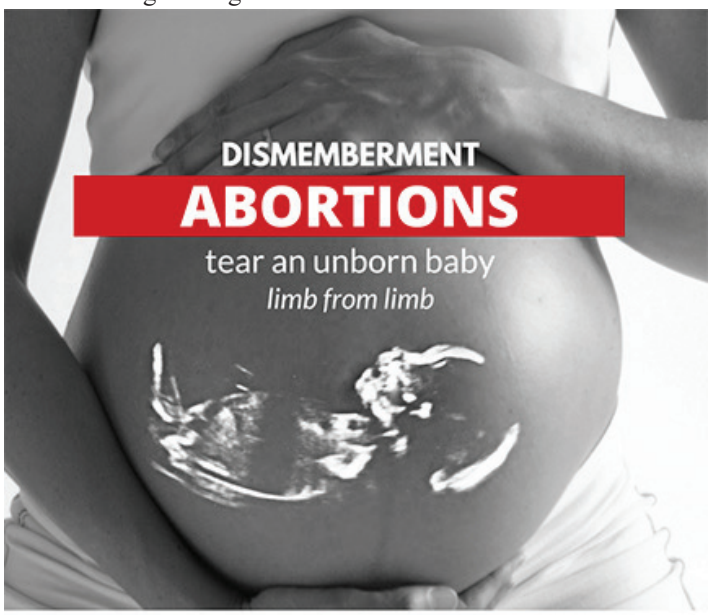
First, an important side note for context. Newcomers to the pro-life camp may not be aware that the debate over partial-birth abortions actually changed the trajectory of the abortion debate. Even Gallup conceded that the publicity "likely caused more Americans to identify as pro-life."

This in spite of our benighted opposition using every dirty trick in the book to attempt to hold back the tide. We were told partial-birth abortions either didn't happen or were unbelievably rare (in fact there were thousands performed); it wasn't a "medical term" (it was a legal term of art defined by Congress as a matter of federal law); and the Supreme Court would never uphold the ban on partial-birth abortions (the High Court did in 2007)—to name just three distortions.

The genius of partial-birth abortion is that the description cleared away the gauzy euphemisms. A baby is partially delivered, surgical scissors are jammed into the baby's skull, and her brains are vacuumed out like so much soot.

This shock of recognition was pivotal in clearly the path for the Supreme Court to uphold the federal ban in its *Gonzales v. Carhart* decision.

When it comes to dismembering living unborn children, what 99% of the public knows is what the compliant, pro-abortion media tells them. If only half of the reality of this "abortion procedure" were conveyed, you would find overwhelming opposition akin to that we saw in the public's outrage over partial-birth abortion.



I once critiqued a pro-abortionist who had celebrated a legal setback for one of the (now) 12 states that have passed a ban on dismembering living unborn babies.

But I gave Casey Quinlan credit for being honest enough to concede one thing directly and one indirectly. The former was contained in the subhead: "But it won't stop other states from introducing these bans."

The latter we find when she quotes Elizabeth Nash, senior state issues manager at the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute. Alluding to the Dismemberment Abortion Ban section of the Pro-Life Senate Bill 8 passed by the Texas Legislature

> **Nash added that she finds it encouraging that the media and public have not popularized terms used by anti-abortion activists to describe these laws. By using language that makes the procedures sound dangerous, anti-abortion activists were successful in pushing for what they called "partial birth" abortion bans in the 1990s, Nash explained. This was a different second-trimester procedure called intact dilation and extraction.**
>
> **"They use this term called 'dismemberment abortion,' which hasn't been picked up in the same way that partial birth abortion was used," Nash said. "We haven't seen that term catch up, so I am wondering if that shows some sense of reluctance on the part of the public and the media to buy into the claims by abortion opponents on this issue."**

While this is 50% error and 50% spin, Nash has the big picture correct. The media coverage of laws to ban the dismemberment of living unborn babies could have been written by Planned Parenthood and NARAL.

Dismemberment abortions are every bit as brutal, as inhumane, and dehumanizes the abortionist every bit as much as partial-birth abortions. This "technique" tears and pulverizes living unborn human beings, rips heads and legs off of tiny torsos as the defenseless child bleeds to death. It is a measure of how trafficking in abortion brutalizes practitioners and defenders alike that a common response is that all "surgery" is "gross."

The pro-abortionist's counterfeit currency has been and always will be misdirections, phony comparisons and anesthetic language.

Ours, by contrast, is the genuine article: the simple, unadorned truth.

What we learned in launching a "Choose Life" license campaign in South Carolina

By Mary Kate Griffin, South Carolina Citizens for Life

As a summer intern, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to launch the Choose Life S.C. Campaign beginning almost two months ago. Before undertaking this campaign I had never heard of the South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers (SCAPCC) nor was I aware of how proceeds from the sale of license plate would help pregnancy care centers. But this lack of background knowledge has been a tool for me while designing this campaign. Chances were that if I didn't know about it, then neither did constituents. In a sense, this campaign provides the opportunity to learn alongside South Carolinians.

At the onset, my team and I sent out a survey to constituents that would help us tailor the campaign to enhance their existing knowledge of the Choose Life S.C. license plates and the South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers (SCAPCC).

We didn't receive very many responses. However, we think it's fair to say that the data we collected is representative of what most pro-life constituents in South Carolina know about Choose Life license plates.

This is what we learned:

- Over 50% said that they had seen a Choose Life S.C. license plate while driving in South Carolina.
- Over 80% said that they didn't own a Choose Life S.C. license plate.
- About 50% said they didn't know where the proceeds from the sale of the license plates are used and about 44.4% had never heard of SCAPCC.
- About 80% knew with certainty the services a pregnancy care centers provides while 14% were somewhat confident in their knowledge.
- The three most common reasons for not having a license plate was expense, plate design and fear of what others might think of the plate. A popular write-in answer was that the thought just never occurred to them to purchase one.
- 63.4% were more likely to purchase a plate if they didn't already own one and 61.1% were more likely to encourage loved ones to purchase one as well.

Keeping all of this in mind, we set out to educate constituents with social media graphics and pictures containing testimonies from SCAPCC leaders and pregnancy care center directors. Constituents are moved when they read the real-life stories of the women and children who benefitted from the proceeds coming from license plate purchases. It made sense that using strong visuals and compelling stories would give those constituents that were on the fence, or who had never considered buying a plate, that extra nudge.

Volunteering with pregnancy care centers and participating in sidewalk counseling gave me a taste of what it is like to be on the front lines at the centers. That up close involvement is a privilege not many South Carolinians have experienced.

We recently sent out a letter to 2,500 constituents containing a campaign letter, flier, and mid-point campaign survey to measure our success. We began to hear from constituents who don't regularly interact with us.

From some of the responses we received, the mail-out was the first time some constituents had even heard of the campaign, despite our efforts to raise awareness over Facebook and through email. We learned that this pool of constituents doesn't frequently use social media, if at all.

Both Crisis Pregnancy Centers and South Carolina Citizens for Life will benefit from what we learned.

1) Regardless of the kind of responses we received, we had a larger number of responses – double the number of responses from our pre-campaign survey, to be exact. Before launching this campaign, we hadn't used surveys to gauge constituent sentiments. The survey component was new to everyone.

2) Those 2,500 constituents that received the mail-out are now more familiar with SCAPCC and the license plate than they were previously. Since that mail-out was sent, I have received at least three phone calls from constituents with questions about the campaign and purchasing a license plate.

3) Our social media posts are receiving more views, likes, shares and comments than in the beginning of the campaign. Three of our #ChooseLifeSC posts have received a combined total of over 900 reactions, 70 comments and 140 shares. That is A LOT of visibility.

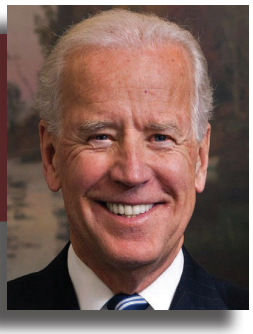
4) The checks for SCAPCC are trickling in with the proceeds from the license plate sales from this summer…STAY TUNED!

This entire campaign-- the launch and the execution--has been a learning experience for the team. Having the opportunity to engage with constituents over phone calls and social media has been an enriching component. We learned that troubleshooting what doesn't work--and quickly adopting what does-- takes a good bit of brain power, especially after time and energy was used to create a faulty prototype. But therein lies the lesson.

I am looking forward to the successes that come out of the remainder of this campaign over the next three weeks. And at the end, I think it will be high time for another survey.

Where do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?

For President



Donald Trump **Joe Biden**

Abortion on Demand

The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States, resulting in more than 61 million abortions.

President Trump has proven his pro-life commitment. As president he has appointed pro-life advocates in his cabinet and administration, restored the "Mexico City Policy," and he has pledged "to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life."

Joe Biden supports the current policy of abortion on demand. Joe Biden voted for the Harkin Amendment to endorse *Roe v. Wade*, which allows abortion for any reason. Joe Biden supports the Democratic platform of unlimited abortion even through birth.

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act would prohibit abortions after the unborn child is capable of feeling pain from abortion.

In his 2019 State of the Union speech, President Donald Trump called on Congress to "pass legislation to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother's womb."

When asked about prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks when the unborn child can feel pain, Joe Biden said, "I'm not going to interfere with that," which would allow abortion through birth.

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

President Trump opposes using tax dollars to pay for abortion. His administration issued regulations to ensure Title X funding does not go to facilities that perform or refer for abortions. He also cut off funding for the UNFPA due to their involvement in China's forced abortion program.

Joe Biden supports using tax dollars to pay for abortion. Joe Biden says he supports elimination of the Hyde Amendment. Joe Biden voted for taxpayer funding of overseas pro-abortion organizations.

Nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court

The fundamental documents of American democracy and freedom, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, have given us essential principles to be respected by the courts such as the "unalienable" right to life.

The next president may have the opportunity to appoint one to three justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Donald Trump has appointed Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. These appointments are consistent with the belief that federal courts should enforce rights truly based on the text and history of the Constitution.

Joe Biden pledges that his judicial nominees would "support the right of privacy, on which the entire notion of a woman's right to choose is based."

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Victim-babies—vulnerable unborn children—and their mothers, absolutely deserve respect, protection and an abundance of compassion

By Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

Editor's note. As NRLC has explained, on July 24 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7608, which contains Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations for State, Foreign Operations; Agriculture; Interior; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. The vote was 244 to 189.

One of the pro-life provisions this would strip away is the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA). Rep. Smith spoke passionately in opposition. As he noted, "The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy mitigates U.S. taxpayer complicity in global abortion." The following are excerpts from his remarks.

Someday, future generations of Americans will look back on us and wonder how and why a society that prided itself on its commitment to human rights precluded virtually all protection to the weakest and most vulnerable—unborn children.

I believe they will demand to know why dismembering a child with razor-sharp knives, pulverizing an infant with powerful suction devices, or chemically poisoning a baby with any number of toxic "medications," failed to elicit empathy for victim-babies.

The bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, reverses several modest but important pro-life polices including the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy—which is a reiteration and expansion of President Ronald Reagan's Mexico City Policy.

Announced by Reagan at the United Nations Conference on Population Control in Mexico City in 1984—hence its name—the policy was and is designed to ensure that U.S. taxpayer money is not funneled to foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning.

I would note parenthetically, that over the years, I've sponsored many amendments on this floor to protect the Mexico City Policy, beginning in 1985.

The policy restored by President Trump, now called the Protecting Life in Global Health

Rep. Chris Smith

Assistance Policy, established pro-child safeguards—benign, humane conditions—on about $8.8 billion in annual global health assistance.

For years—under Presidents Clinton and Obama—foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had been empowered by U.S. taxpayer grant money—to weaken, undermine, or reverse pro-life laws in other nations and to destroy the precious lives of unborn children.

Many countries throughout the world have been besieged by aggressive and well-funded campaigns to overturn their pro-life laws and policies.

The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy mitigates U.S. taxpayer complicity in global abortion.

U.S. foreign policy—and the foreign entities we fund with billions of dollars in grant money—should consistently affirm, care for, and tangibly assist women and children—including unborn baby girls and boys. …

No one is expendable or a throwaway.

Mr. Speaker, birth is merely an event—albeit an important one—in the life of a child.

Victim-babies—vulnerable unborn children—and their mothers, absolutely deserve respect, protection and an abundance of compassion.

As Trust in the Media Drops, Reporters Continue to Show Bias

By Laura Echevarria, NRL Director of Communications and Press Secretary

Today's news media has a major problem: much of the public distrusts them. Over the last few years, this distrust has grown significantly.

As the Knight Foundation gently put it, "A new report from Gallup and the Knight Foundation finds a widening gap between what Americans expect from the news media and what they think they are getting."

According to the poll, a whopping 86 % believe there is either "a great deal" (49%) of political bias or "a fair amount" (37%) in news coverage.

When it comes to political division in this country, a total of 84% of Americans say the media bears either "a great deal" (48%) of responsibility or "a moderate amount" (36%). That is a shocking indictment.

In the pro-life movement, we see this absence of objectivity time and time again as reporters write and produce stories on issues such as abortion or rationing of health care. A recent example is a *CBS* reporter who repeatedly has interviewed leaders of pro-abortion groups and presented them—and the organizations they represent—as advocates to be admired.

Last week, after the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit vacated a lower court decision that enjoined four pro-life laws passed by the Arkansas legislature, she expressed her frustrations in a series of posts on Twitter (emphasis mine):

An abortion ban in Arkansas will be allowed to be implemented thanks to a federal appeals' court ruling that reverses a lower court's decision to temporarily block the ban. Here's why that's such a big deal...

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals bases nearly its entire decision on the recent SCOTUS ruling on abortion. ***But, wait, you say, wasn't that a win for abortion-rights advocates? No!!!!!!***

[Chief Justice John] Roberts did NOT join the liberal bloc wholesale. He concurred, writing a very carefully crafted opinion recognizing that the Louisiana law in question was blatantly unconstitutional because of the court's 2016 ruling in Whole Women's Health.

But from there, he raised major questions about "undue burden" and whether it was the court's place to weigh in on the issue. From Roberts: "Pretending that we could pull that off would require us to act as legislators, not judges."

Roberts suggests that the "undue burden" standard ONLY requires abortion regs to not place a "substantial burden, not whether benefits outweighed burdens." ***And here's where it gets crazy: Roberts wrote his own opinion, but because its [sic] with the majority it's controlling!***

Using that opinion, the 8th Circuit reversed a lower court's decision to block series of '17 Ark. Abortion restrictions. ***It's significant to me that a federal court is using what was painted as a win for abortion rights groups to allow abortion restrictions to be implemented…***

Earlier tweets from this reporter refer to pro-life pregnancy centers as "anti-abortion 'crisis pregnancy centers.'" She quoted a pro-abortion activist who quite crudely criticized Chief Justice Roberts and set up the quoted tweet by saying, "This is exactly what to make of Roberts opinion in *June Medical*" [the June 27th decision in which the Supreme Court overturned a Louisiana law requiring abortionists to have admitting privileges at a local hospital].

She added "Aren't they wonderful" pieces on pro-abortion groups advocating for abortion in Colorado and Alabama. She also promoted a panel discussion on "reproductive rights" in New York, writing:

> ***Happening NOW NY AG Letitia James hosting a panel on reproductive rights with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, @ReproRights's Nancy Northup, @NIRHAction's Andrea Miller, Planned Parenthood's @alexismcgill & Robin Chappelle Golston***

See "Trust," page 24

8th Circuit tells judge to end injunction against Arkansas law banning dismemberment of living unborn children

By Dave Andrusko

On August 7, a three-judge panel of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a decision by U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker to issue a preliminary injunction against four pro-life passed in 2017 by the Arkansas legislature. Judges Smith, Wollman, and Grasz said the laws should be reconsidered in light of the concurring opinion issued by Chief Justice John Roberts in the June 29th case of *June Medical Services L.L. v. Russo*.

The measures for which Judge Baker issued a preliminary injunction are banning the dismemberment of living unborn babies; protecting unborn babies who would be aborted solely because of a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome; requiring forensic samples from abortions performed on a minor; and mandating humane disposal of the aborted baby's remains.

There are now twelve states that have passed bans on the horrific practice of dismembering live unborn babies. Bans on such gruesome practices are a primary emphasis of National Right to Life and its state affiliates. Nebraska is near to becoming the 13th state.

As *NRL News Today* wrote last Thursday, the Abortion Industry is counting on the public remaining unaware of what happens to an unborn baby. Dismemberment abortions are every bit as brutal, as inhumane, and dehumanizes the abortionist every bit as much as partial-birth abortions.

This "technique" tears and pulverizes living unborn human beings, rips heads and legs off of tiny torsos as the defenseless child bleeds to death. It is a measure of how trafficking in abortion brutalizes practitioners and defenders alike that a common response is that all "surgery" is "gross."

In his dissent to the 2000 *Stenberg* decision, then-Justice Anthony Kennedy observed that in D&E dismemberment abortions, "The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off."

Justice Kennedy added in the Court's 2007 *Gonzales* opinion upholding the federal ban on partial-birth abortion, that D&E abortions are "laden with the power to devalue human life."

In the *June* decision, decided on a vote of 5-4 on June 27, the justices struck down a Louisiana law that required abortionists to have admitting privileges at a local hospital in case of emergencies. Chief Justice Roberts' concurrence represented the deciding 5th vote.

In its seven-page decision, the 8th circuit panel references a 1977 Supreme Court decision that held that when "no single rationale explaining the result [of a case] enjoys the assent of five Justices, 'the holding of the Court may be viewed as that position taken by those Members who concurred in the judgments on the narrowest grounds'" (itself quoting from an earlier decision). In this case, it means the grounds on which Roberts struck down the Louisiana law.

The panel carefully explained that Roberts agreed with the outcome of the four-justice plurality but not with their reasoning. Here is the key: "According to Chief Justice Roberts, the appropriate inquiry under the [1992] *Casey* [decision] is whether the law poses 'a substantial obstacle' or 'substantial burden, **not** whether benefits outweighed burdens" ["cost-benefit standard"]. Emphasis added.

Roberts wrote "[i]n this case, *Casey's* requirement of finding a substantial obstacle before invalidating an abortion regulation is therefore a sufficient basis for [striking down the Louisiana admitting-privileges law], just as it was in *Whole Woman's Health*," the 2016 decision striking down a Texas law.

That having been established, the appeals court concluded

> **Here, the district court—without the benefit of Chief Justice Roberts's separate opinion in June Medical—applied the Whole Woman's Health cost-benefit standard to the challenged laws. In addition, the district court relied on Whole Woman's Health's "holding that the 'statement that legislatures, and not courts, must resolve questions of medical uncertainty is . . . inconsistent with this Court's case law." Chief Justice Roberts, however, emphasized the "wide discretion" that courts must afford to legislatures in areas of medical uncertainty.** [Internal citations omitted for clarity]

With that, the case was "remand[ed] for reconsideration in light of Chief Justice Roberts's separate opinion in *June Medical*, which is controlling…"

The clear and compelling differences on abortion between President Trump and Joe Biden

By Dave Andrusko

"It takes an extraordinary intelligence to contemplate the obvious." — Alfred North Whitehead

I was in college so long ago that the name Alfred North Whitehead is familiar to me. He was an enormously influential British mathematician and philosopher who died in 1947. By reading *Science and the Modern World*, I was introduced to a tiny portion of his incredibly vast contributions.

What does his saying, quoted above, have to do with us? It is relevant on two (of many) levels.

For one, there are transparently and transcendently obvious truths that shout "Treat the unborn as one of us," yet go unheard. We have talked about the obstacles from A (Apathy) to Z (I don't have a word starting in Z).

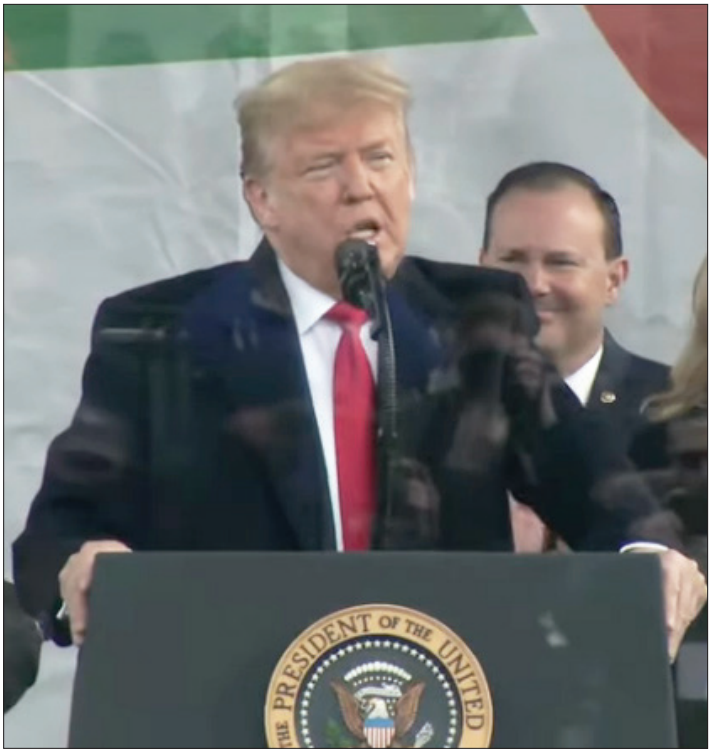
For another, courtesy of the media that is bound and determined to defeat pro-life President Donald Trump, we rarely see spelled out the huge obvious differences on abortion between Mr. Trump and pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden. Rather than compare and contrast, we see a great many attempts to confuse and confound in order to bewilder and baffle the ordinary voter.

Writing in *Newsweek*, Mary Vought does a superb job documenting how "The Pro-Life Choice This November Could Not Be Clearer."

Here are just a few compare and contrasts.

Vought begins by talking about how the language of the Democrat Party's platform on abortion will look:

Their platform endorses codifying Roe v. Wade, the legally questionable Supreme Court ruling that claimed women have a constitutional right to abortion. It supports restoring taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. And the platform calls for repealing the Hyde Amendment's ban on taxpayer funding of abortion



President Donald Trump speaking at the 2020 March for Life

One day last year, Biden reiterated his support for the Hyde Amendment. The next day he "saw the light" (when the Abortion Industry hit him over the head) and reversed field faster than you can say "so much for principle."

Vought also highlights how Democrats have gone from the platitude of abortion "safe, legal, and rare" to support for "unlimited, taxpayer-funded abortion-on-demand." The latter at least has the redeeming quality of honesty, although Biden will **never** admit this in a straightforward manner.

The contrast with President Trump could not be more obvious or compelling, as Vought lays out, chapter and verse. For example, no dithering on the Hyde Amendment (credited with saving two million lives): President Trump supports it.

Likewise, where Biden pledges that his judicial nominees would "support the right of privacy, on which the entire notion of a woman's right to choose is based," President Trump "has nominated consistently pro-life judges, and the Senate has confirmed over 200 of these appointments," Vought writes.

The obvious differences go on and on and on. Planned Parenthood is a meal ticket for Democrat politicians in general, Biden in particular. On the other hand, "President Trump has worked to eliminate taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider," Vought writes. "His administration implemented rules requiring clinics receiving federal funds to choose between promoting abortion and participating in the Title X family planning program." [Needless to say, Planned Parenthood opted out.]

Vought doesn't go into detail about protecting freedom of conscience/freedom of religion. The Trump Administration in this regard has been a tower of strength, most particularly the Department of Health and Human Services headed by Alex Azar, and in the work of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Moreover, while Biden would no doubt follow in the steps of the last Democrat presidential nominee—Hillary Clinton—and vigorously promote abortion overseas, the Trump Administration states flatly that it will fight ongoing attempts to make abortion an international recognized "right" and keep tax dollars away from "abortion providers," such as International Planned Parenthood.

Vought is right. If you want a real choice on abortion, it doesn't get any more clear than pro-life President Trump or pro-abortion Joe Biden.

"She spread the pro-life message until her last breath" – Creator of the Precious Feet pin dies at 99

By Lisa Bourne

Pioneer pro-life advocate Virginia Evers, the creator of the Precious Feet lapel pin, died July 17 at the age of 99.

Evers designed the Precious Feet pin following the 1973 Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, hoping it would be a symbol for the pro-life movement.

She had seen a photo in her local newspaper of the tiny feet of a 10-week-old baby on the one-year anniversary of Roe and was haunted by the picture. Modeled after the image, the Precious Feet would become the international pro-life symbol, with tens of millions distributed around the world.

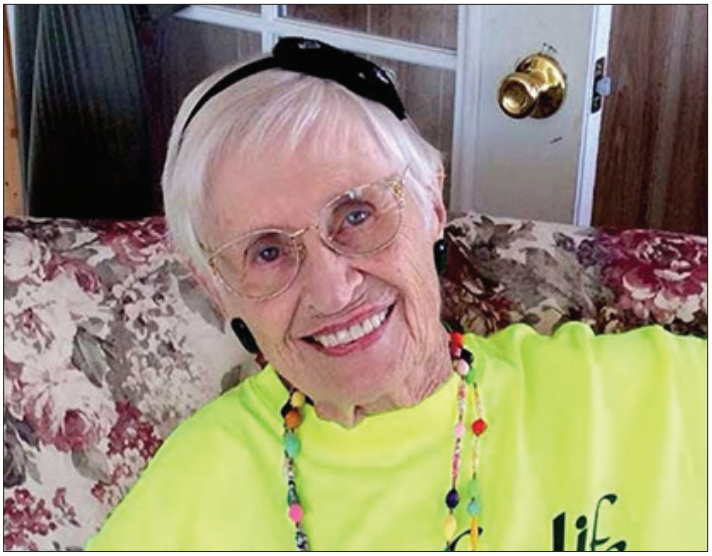
Evers and her husband Ellis, who preceded her in death, were active in pro-life work beginning well before the Roe decision legalized abortion nationwide, with some U.S. states having legalized abortion before the national ruling.

Evers was the mother of six, grandmother of 28 and great-grandmother of 70. Throughout her life she would come to know and associate with leaders in the pro-life, political and religious arenas.

Virginia and Ellis Evers had opened a small shop in 1973 leading up to the U.S. bicentennial in 1976, featuring American-made patriotic items.

The shop, Heritage House '76, proceeds from which supported a home for unwed mothers and a local crisis pregnancy service, began distributing the Precious Feet pin. Decades later it is one-of the largest providers of pro-life material in the world, including offering innovative pregnancy center curriculum.

After Evers and her husband retired from Heritage House '76 in the early 1990s, their daughter and son-in-law, Dinah and Mike Monahan, took over the company. Mike Monahan died in 2016. His and Dinah's son Brandon now leads Heritage House '76.



Virginia Evers
Photo: Heritage House/Monahan family

Another pro-life pioneer, the late Dr. Jack Willke, had said of the Precious Feet lapel pin, "This remarkable little pin has been responsible for countless people changing their minds on abortion."

Pro-life leaders noted Evers's passing and her legacy.

"What is so striking and compelling about Virginia's legacy is how strongly her family carries it forward," said Jor-El Godsey, president of Heartbeat International. "While she sowed a powerful symbol in the Precious Feet, she really gifted anointed, talented, and committed family members that continue to move and shape the pro-life movement today."

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, wrote about Evers's passing in an Instagram post, including a photo of Evers presenting him with a Precious Feet pin.

"May she rest in peace," Pavone said.

Janet Morana, executive director of Priests for Life and co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, wrote about Evers for the National Catholic Register, calling Evers, "the woman whose stamp will be forever imprinted on the pro-life movement."

Evers was a patriot and active in the conservative movement. Among the political figures with whom she corresponded was then-actor Ronald Reagan. Evers developed a friendship with him and encouraged to run for office.

Dismayed by the vitriol directed at American soldiers returning from serving in the Vietnam war, Evers and her husband created one of the first Vietnam memorials in their hometown in 1970.

Brandon Monahan remarked on the impact his grandmother had on her family.

"Virginia was friends of presidents and popes," he said, "but she was always grandma to me and grandma-great to my children."

"She was always a joy to be around," said Brandon Monahan. "At least once a week she would have, "the best meal I have ever eaten." She would bring gifts of lemonade and cookies to the grand kids, with whom her husband would be sharing the joys of hard work."

"She was sassy and ready with wonderful barbed humor that delighted her grandchildren," he added.

Brandon Monahan continued regarding his grandmother's persona and passion.

"She was kind and constantly positive, creative, and a woman that simply would get the job done," he said. "From creating the first Vietnam war memorial in the country, to starting a patriotic store in California (Heritage House), she simply did what she knew was right."

"She refused to stop working and wrote letters as she emphatically proclaimed the cause of life into her nineties," he stated. "In short, she lived her life well, and made an impact that will be felt for generations."

Evers's daughter Dinah Monahan reflected on her mother's kind spirit and love of life as well.

See "Creator," page 18

Infamous abortionist a hero to pro-abortion publication for moving to Alabama "to expand its abortion services to the full gestational limit set by state law"

By Dave Andrusko

If you are an adamantly pro-abortion website, you will be celebrating "heroes" whom most people not in the killing babies industry would find, shall we say, strange.

Without getting off track, suffice it to say you never know exactly what you'll find at *Rewire News* except that sometimes (well, most times) it almost takes your breath away.

Abortionist Leah Torres

So who was Rewire News' August 3 hero—"the Doctor Helping Transform Abortion Care in Alabama"? None other than Leah Torres.

That name ring a bell? It should. We wrote about her a couple of times in 2018. In March of that year, she chastised pro-lifers because they "cannot open their eyes and see past blind hatred and ignorance in order to view a greater good," Torres went on to memorably tweet (quickly deleted)

> **You know fetuses can't scream, right? I transect the cord 1st so there's really no opportunity, if they're even far enough along to have a larynx.**
>
> **I won't apologize for performing medicine. I'm also a "uterus ripper outer," if that's how you'd like to describe hysterectomy.**

In a story we reposted written by Nancy Flanders, we learned

> **While the infamous tweet wasn't specific about which cord she cut – the spinal, the umbilical, or the vocal – Torres later cleared that up a followup tweet. "Oh! Yeah, no… the 'cord' is the umbilical cord. That's basic anatomy, come on," she wrote.**

["Come on, dummies," don't you know nothing about aborting babies?]

Flanders concluded

> **Torres lost her job because her employer said she violated a provision of her contract requiring her to uphold a "professional reputation." She sued three media outlets for defamation, saying she was forced to relocate out of Utah to find a job**

Well, now (as various basketball players have said) she has "taken her talents" to Alabama for which Rewire News' Jessica Mason Pieklo conducts an interview that treats Torres as kind of an inverse Mother Teresa.

Part of the tribute is because Torres landed in a very pro-life state. Part of it is that she is replacing a long-time abortionist at West Alabama Women's Center (WAWC) in Tuscaloosa.

And a big hug to Torres because, as Pieklo explains, "With Dr. Torres at the helm, WAWC intends to expand its abortion services to the full gestational limit set by Alabama law."

First question, Torres is asked is about "expanding abortion access" in Alabama.

She responds, "OK, but can we also talk about expanding prenatal care?" Why? "Because it's just the same spectrum of things."

The "same spectrum." In one case, you use forceps if there are problems delivering the baby. In another, you use forceps "to loosen the pregnancy" (maybe the all-time, all-time abortion euphemism). In fact, forceps most commonly are used to grasp and tear the baby apart.

At one end of the spectrum we have a live baby handed over to her mother. At the other end we have a dead baby delivered in parts to be disposed of as "medical waste."

"Same spectrum."

Should you or I be surprised? No, alas.

If history teaches us anything, it is that the human mind (and heart) can convince itself of almost anything—what Bernard-Henri Lévy once called in a different context "Barbarism with a Human Face."

Giant PPFA affiliate at center of storm over Margaret Sanger is a yet another product of Planned Parenthood's relentless consolidation

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. NRL Director of Education & Research and Dave Andrusko, NRL News Editor

It was no more than a casual throwaway line in the media firestorm when Planned Parenthoodof Greater New York decided it was time to remove Margaret Sanger's name from its Manhattan health clinic. Why, you ask?

For her "harmful connections to the eugenics movement." More specifically, "The removal of Margaret Sanger's name from our building is both a necessary and overdue step to reckon with our legacy and acknowledge Planned Parenthood's contributions to historical reproductive harm within communities of color," according to Karen Seltzer, the chair of the New York affiliate's board.

This all takes on great significance in light of the aforementioned throwaway line: Planned Parenthood of Greater New York was now PPFA's largest—and therefore most powerful—affiliate.

Although preparations were several months in the making, it was not until this past January that five of Planned Parenthood's New York state affiliates officially announced that they had merged. These include Planned Parenthood of New York City, Planned Parenthood of Nassau County (the heavily populated county on Long Island just east of New York City), Planned Parenthood Mohawk-Hudson (upstate New York area including Schenectady and Utica), Planned Parenthood of the Mid-Hudson Valley (Poughkeepsie area), and Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes (area including Ithaca and several counties bordering Pennsylvania).

Planned Parenthood of Greater New York operates 28 clinics and covers 65% of the state's population. At the time

Margaret Sanger

of the merger, Laura McQuade, president and CEO of the New York City affiliate headed the new consolidated group. (As *NRL News Today* has reported, McQuade just recently was ousted following a blistering "Open Letter" criticizing her for many failings.)

Four other affiliates continue to cover other areas of north and west New York state, as well as eastern Long Island, the area just north of New York City, and counties in and around Albany.

If all the original clinics remain open, there would be 28 in the areas covered by the new merged affiliate, involving some 200,000 annual patient visits. Not every one of those patient visits involves abortion and only some of those clinics offer abortion. However each of the merging five affiliates has at least one abortion performing clinic and, even without New York City, which some have termed the "abortion capital" of the U.S., they exist in the some of the New York counties reporting some of the highest numbers of abortions in the state.

In leading up the official merger, there were public announcements that (at least for the immediate future) the merger would not lead to any closures (*Times Herald Record* – Middleton, NY, 5/18/19), and that no reductions in workforce were expected (*Crain's New York Business* 5/16/19). At the same time, other officials also said that one of the reasons for move was to reduce administrative costs (Daily Gazette – Schenectady, 5/14/19).

In the press release announcing the merger, several of the original affiliate officers talked about the merger as a way to "reach more patients,""serve more people," or "serving more New Yorkers." Kim Atkins, President and CEO for Mohawk Hudson, said the merger "allows for expansion and growth that will be technologically innovative by connecting patients to health care in a modern way. (PP New York City release, 5/15/19).

The release also talks about "the ability to expand telehealth services to deliver more convenient care to current patients and importantly, to improved access to underserved communities, including in rural areas on the state."

Although now telehealth is all the rage, when they made this announcement, the only "telehealth" service with which any Planned Parenthood affiliate had been known to be involved with was the web-cam chemical abortion that started back in Iowa in 2008 and had spread to ten states as of February 2018 (PPFA Release, 2/6/18).

A cascade of mergers

There seem to have been a cascade of mergers at Planned Parenthood in the last few years. Going back forty years, there were as many as 190 affiliates. As recently as 2008, there were supposed to have been at least 105 affiliates (*Lincoln Courier*, 2/8/08). At the time intention of the merger was first announced, the Schenectady's *Daily Gazette* (5/14/19) was reporting that there were just 53.

The pattern is what you might expect. Generally the larger, richer more aggressive affiliate gobble up the smaller ones.

But increasingly even some of the larger affiliates have banded together to increase their strength.

That there is still a desire to merge affiliates even after so many have already taken place is a sign that the group believes it can increase its revenue and political muscle even further. An increase in genuine health care services, which have been on the decline for years?

Not so much—or even at all.

Conclusion? While the structure appears to have changed, and maybe even the leadership, the mission has not at Planned Parenthood of Greater New York.

A small but important victory: Merriam-Webster describes "preborn" as "existing but not yet born"

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

It may seem like a small victory, but the pro-life movement has been powered by little victories that add up to big wins.

The Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary includes the word "preborn" in its sizeable list of legitimate words.

Just the appearance of "preborn" in the world's vocabulary is a triumph for those among the most vulnerable in our society—babies in their mothers' wombs.

But also telling is the definition that Merriam-Webster ascribes to "preborn": "existing but not yet born."

The abortion industry would have us believe that preborn babies do not exist—that they are simply "clumps of cells" or "products of conception." Abortion advocates and their allies in Congress and elsewhere use dehumanizing language to try to de-legitimize precious preborn children.

But here is Merriam-Webster, an arbiter of language, recognizing preborn babies for who they are—individuals in existence "yet to be born."

The dictionary further defines "exist" as "to have life or the functions of vitality."

"To have life"—that is the essence of the rationale for the pro-life movement, its own reason for existence. For, if a life exists, it needs to be protected, welcomed, nurtured.

I do not know whether the members of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court had ever heard of the term "preborn"—it seems to have only gained popularity in recent decades. The High Court admitted that it did not know when life begins, even though science clearly demonstrates that life commences at conception.

But it is high time our law caught up with both culture and science. Merriam-Webster recognizes that preborn babies exist. The highest court in the land should, too.

Roe v. Wade needs to be reversed, and states should be given the opportunity to fully protect preborn children and their mothers from the harm of abortion. It's the civilized thing to do.

Justice Thomas's prophetic denunciation of Planned Parenthood's eugenic legacy

By Dave Andrusko

We've discussed many, many times how Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has made a career out being ahead of the conformist-thinking crowd. However, it's only been in the last year or three that his enormous influence has begun to be recognized.

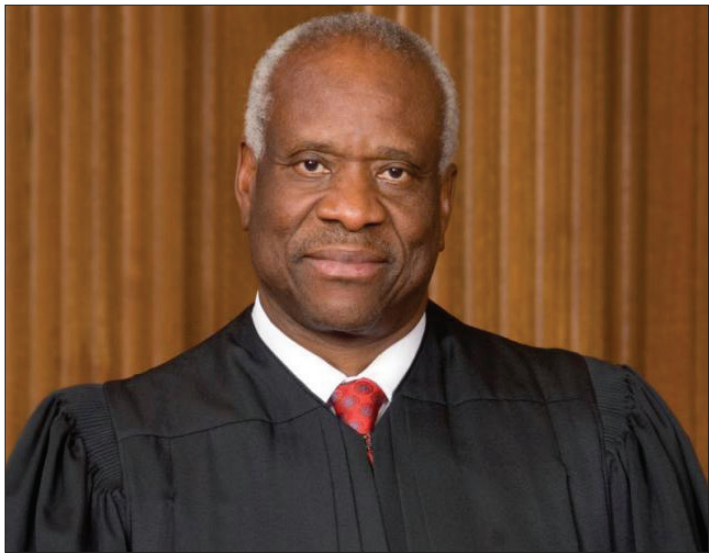
As we wrote last year, for example, "But now, after 28 years suddenly more perceptive observers are beginning to grasp that Justice Thomas has moved the High Court in his direction even as he has created a stable of young conservatives who are found everywhere in the pro-life Trump Administration and in the federal courts."

Here's another, quite current example of Thomas' extraordinary insight and foresight.

There's ensued tremendous controversy stemming from Planned Parenthood of Greater New York's decision to remove the name of Margaret Sanger, PPFA's "iconic" founder, from its Manhattan health clinic because of her 'harmful connections to the eugenics movement. Reluctantly, at least some observers are recalling Justice Thomas' prescient comments in *Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky*.

In that 2019 decision, the Supreme Court voted to uphold one part of a 2016 Indiana abortion law while laying over for another day the second part—the portion of the law that prohibited "abortions done solely for reasons of race, sex or disability—in other words, for eugenic reasons," as William McGurn reminded us in a piece that ran in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Justice Thomas took the occasion to write a 7,000-word history of how "From the beginning, birth control and abortion were promoted as means of effectuating eugenics."



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

His reward for being waaay ahead of the curve? *MercatorNet* aptly observed

Most journalists ignored it or ridiculed it.

Mark Joseph Stern at Slate said that Thomas had attacked women who have abortions as "callous and monstrous child-killers" – a slander which Stern made up out of thin air.

Charles P. Pierce, at Esquire, wrote that Thomas had gone "bananas." Garrett Eps, in The Atlantic, said that Thomas was part of "the far-right wing of African American conservatism."

Adam Liptak, at the New York Times, barely mentioned it.

The full decision in *Box v. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky* [Thomas's concurrence begins on page 13] can be read at https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-483_3d9g.pdf

What follows are just a few highlights from his 20 page concurrence.

***"This case highlights the fact that abortion is an act rife with the potential for eugenic manipulation. From the beginning, birth control and abortion were promoted as means of effectuating eugenics. Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger was particularly open about the fact that birth control could be used for eugenic purposes. These arguments about the eugenic potential for birth control apply with even greater force to abortion, which can be used to target specific children with unwanted characteristics. Even after World War II, future Planned Parenthood President Alan Guttmacher and other abortion advocates endorsed abortion for eugenic reasons and promoted it as a means of controlling the population and improving its quality. As explained below, a growing body of evidence suggests that eugenic goals are already being realized through abortion."**

***"Eight decades after Sanger's 'Negro Project,' abortion in the United States is also marked by a considerable racial disparity. The reported nationwide abortion ratio—the number of abortions per 1,000 live births—among black women is nearly 3.5 times the ratio for white women. And there are areas of New York City in which black children are more likely to be aborted than they are to**

See "Legacy," page 30

Three culture of death tipping points

By Wesley J. Smith

Pope John Paul II once famously described Western society as a "culture of death." But what does that term mean? It refers to a civilization that endorses lethal omissions and even outright killing by doctors to alleviate suffering or resolve life crises.

"Culture of death" is most often applied in the context of euthanasia, assisted suicide, and abortion. A few decades ago, most such acts were outlawed and widely scorned. Not anymore. The sad fact is that now most people tolerate—and some even celebrate—the culture of death as necessarily linked to secular individualistic modernism.

How did our culture become so indifferent to the sanctity and equality of human life? Roe v. Wade had a lot to do with it, of course. But subsequent to that, three major cultural tipping points fueled popular acceptance of death-culture paradigms.

Jack Kevorkian: Between 1991 and 1999, Jack Kevorkian assisted the suicides of about 130 people. He broke into the headlines after admitting that he had assisted the suicide of Janet Adkins, who had been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Kevorkian's disclosure was met with widespread revulsion—even declared "outrageous" by the *New York Times*.

But as he defied moral convention and the law—he was found not guilty of assisted suicides in acts of blatant jury nullification—the worm turned. By the time he was finally convicted of murder in 1999, Kevorkian's assisted-suicide campaign was widely accepted in public polling, he had been lauded repeatedly on 60 Minutes, and he had even been invited to Time magazine's 75th Anniversary Gala, where Tom Cruise rushed up to shake his hand. After his release from prison, Kevorkian was restored to mega-celebrity status, receiving $50,000 per speech while being depicted sympathetically by Al Pacino in an award-winning film hagiography.

The Case of Terri Schiavo: The death of Terri Schiavo was a true culture-changing moment. Before the very public court battle between Michael Schiavo and Terri's family, many people were unaware that cognitively disabled patients can legally be dehydrated to death via the removal of feeding tubes. But after Terri's family (in alliance with the disability rights and pro-life movements) spent years striving in vain to save her from dehydration, this form of quasi-euthanasia became both widely known and actively supported by polling majorities.

Planned Parenthood's Fetal Organ Harvesting: In 2015, the pro-life Center for Medical Progress began releasing a series of undercover videos of Planned Parenthood executives describing in sickening detail how their abortionists preserve fetal organs and tissues for sale—or legal expense reimbursement, according to Planned Parenthood. At first, there was widespread outrage at executives chirpily telling undercover investigators that abortion techniques could be adapted to "crush" fetuses in a "less crunchy" manner. But by the time videos were released showing abortionists at a convention ghoulishly laughing about "eyeballs rolling into our laps," the general public no longer much cared.

Each of these events followed the same pattern: Initial outrage was replaced by justifications, which eventually turned into either explicit popular support or, more commonly, shoulder-shrugging. This process was not accidental; public attitudes were pushed along by powerful cultural forces.

The media took sides in each of these cultural conflagrations and helped shape public opinion. Jack Kevorkian was (and still is) depicted in the press as helping only the "terminally ill" commit suicide. This was blatantly untrue. In fact, about 70 percent of Kevorkian's customers—I refuse to call them patients—were not dying, and at least five were not even sick.

Similar failure to report the facts can be found in the Schiavo case. Michael was usually described by the press as a loving "husband." Rarely mentioned: When he started court proceedings to have his wife dehydrated, he was already living with a new fiancée (with whom he had two children by the time Terri died)—which could accurately be construed as marital abandonment.

The Planned Parenthood situation was even more egregious. Many major outlets ignored the story, and when they did finally report on it, they described the videos as "discredited" because of propagandistic editing—even though the Center for Medical Progress posted the raw tapes in full for anyone to view.

"Expert" bioethicists also influenced public attitudes in these cases. The field's predominant voices supported assisted suicide, even if they did not fully celebrate Kevorkian. The bioethics movement was virtually unified behind Michael Schiavo, and the medical and bioethics establishment have all stood as bulwarks defending Planned Parenthood.

Society's primary purpose is now understood to be the elimination of suffering. In this climate, killing that is motivated by "compassion" often finds strong public support. Kevorkian quickly

See "Death," page 17

Roe's enduring legacy: Three women… three generations…three abortions

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

The impact of the devastating U.S. Supreme Court decision known as *Roe v. Wade* ripples through the generations.

I have often thought about the impact of *Roe* on families who lose children to abortion. An entire limb of the family tree is severed, meaning the loss of their children's children and all their many descendants. But it doesn't stop there.

Recently I came upon a tear-inducing testimony which illustrated another aspect of the painful legacy of *Roe*.

A woman named Jessie gave a profoundly moving talk at an online post-abortion healing conference. She spoke of her mother's abortion of Jessie's sibling, which passed on unhealed wounds to her. Jessie, in turn, had an abortion, which had a negative impact on her daughter, who also ended up having an abortion.

Three women…three generations…three abortions. The perpetuation of the pain surges throughout the family. With over 61 million abortions, how many other families in the U.S. are struggling with a similar fate?

Jessie stressed the importance of women who have had abortions finding a way to "repurpose (their) pain" in an effort to break the abortion cycle. She mentioned that, while women seeking abortions may cite reasons such as financial struggle or relationship problems, the root cause of the abortion may rest in childhood.

That *Roe* has devastated families, there can be no doubt. But how often do we also consider the collateral damage—the women who are unable to fully grieve their aborted children and the surviving siblings of the souls lost to abortion?

Their scars are invisible. They aren't part of the tally, but their suffering is deep, real, enduring, and largely invisible.

What answers can we offer to counter this generational pattern? Most obvious is beginning at the beginning: preventing abortions in the first place.

It cannot be said often enough that when women are apprised of their life-affirming options, in a compassionate and supportive atmosphere, they are far less likely to select abortion as a "solution" to their problems. In loving the mother, we love the child—and all her progeny.

Three culture of death tipping points

From page 16

became popular after he stopped describing his participation in assisting suicides as a step toward human—explained vividly in his book Prescription Medicide—and instead proclaimed that it was based in a desire to eliminate suffering.

Similarly, Terri Schiavo's husband claimed that his wife would not have wanted to live in such a profoundly disabled condition—even though, when seeking monetary damages, he had told a malpractice jury a different story. Planned Parenthood's organ harvesting was justified as supplying much-needed material for medical researchers to use in their discovery of cures.

If compassion is the shield that defends the culture of death, autonomy is the spear used to expand its territory. Kevorkian claimed that he had merely helped people fulfill their wish to die. Michael Schiavo testified that he was only doing what Terri had told him she would want. Planned Parenthood defends all abortion-related activities as justified by the "right to choose."

Each of the three tipping points involved different circumstances. But they struck similar cultural chords, and ultimately expanded the scope of the culture of death. Considering these outcomes, can we still defend against the normalization of lethality in the medical context?

Editor's note. This first appeared at First Things and is reposted with the author's permission.

Twitter Censors Tim Tebow's Witness to Faith as 'Potentially Sensitive'

By Corinne Weaver

No one in the media or in tech companies bats an eye when football players kneel during the national anthem as a protest. But when a football player tries to offer an inspirational message of faith, Twitter censors it as "potentially sensitive content."

"We get to trust an unknown future to a known God, because we know how much he loves us," said former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow in a video posted to his Twitter page. The athlete looked as if he was finishing a heavy workout, offering a message of hope to his followers. But Twitter found this video to be potentially sensitive content, covering it up with an interstitial, or filter.

"Twitter can identify potentially sensitive content that other users may not wish to see, such as violence or nudity," says the Twitter Rules and Policies. But would a video featuring Tim Tebow speaking to his fans about God count as violence or nudity?

"This could be your time for growing; this could be your time for adapting; this could be the time that is a test for you; but tomorrow it gets to turn into a testimony," said Tebow. "Because you never know what God is doing with your life."

A Twitter spokesperson told the Media Research Center that "It was a mistake and has since been corrected."

Twitter has a habit of censoring both Christian content and pro-life content regularly. The platform suspended the account for the pro-life film, Unplanned, and prevented users from following the account. More recently, the platform has been cracking down on conservatives, even President Trump himself.

"Right where you're at, whatever you're doing, whatever you're going through, He loves you. You were enough for His Son to die on the cross. That's how much you're loved. Hold on to that in your time of need," Tebow ended his video. While many Christians might find that uplifting during these troubled times, Twitter slapped a "potentially sensitive content" label on it.

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

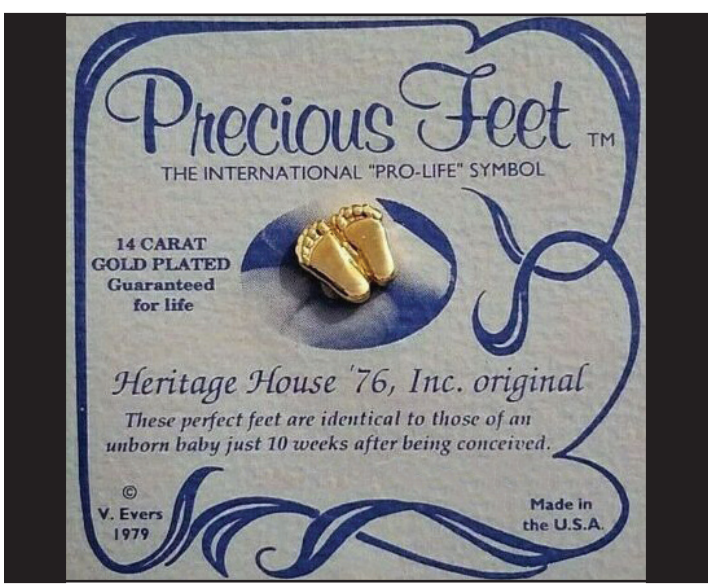
"She spread the pro-life message until her last breath" – Creator of the Precious Feet pin dies at 99

From page 11

"Mom's smile, warmth and generosity left an impact on everyone she met," she said. "Her arms were always open wide, and her heart was big enough to offer love to one more grandchild, one more stranger, one more single mother, one more baby."

"She spread the pro-life message until her last breath," said Dinah Monahan.

"Virginia lived a full, productive and meaningful life," she continued. "So many other lives are changed for the good because they knew her. We celebrate her passing and thank God for the many years she was with us."



Evers had written the story of the Precious Feet, recounting testimonies of how they had affected people, encouraging them toward life, and what she considered most important about the impression the Precious Feet had made.

"The greatest reward for our labor is the fact that the Precious Feet save babies lives," she said.

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

Memorials & Tributes

You, your family, and your friends may remember a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to National Right to Life. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn at the time of death. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card in your name will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount remains confidential.

In Memory of

Joan P. Allgaier
Michael Allgaier

Michael Amend
Carol Amend

Brandy Debois
Mary Higgins

Elmer Buhrdorf, Helen Buhrdorf, and Wayne Buhrdorf
Thomas Johnson

Vance Henry
Kristin Fijewski
Raymond Frey
Joan Raney Family: Jeff, Diane, Russ, Janice, Karen and spouses
Eugene York
Joan and John York
Thomas York

Ron Frommeyer
Cheryl Koehler
Maureen Reis
Thomas White

Matthew Jacques
Idit & Steven Solomon

Shirley Misiura
Paul Valvaw

Marilyn Shinners
James Shinners

Dorothy Wolfe
Wayne Wolfe

In Honor of

Our 35th Wedding Anniversary
Ruth Lewis

Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere
Ron & Sue Dunlay

Robert Federline's Birthday
M. Simbani

Mr & Mrs Neal Stoneback
Marilyn & Larry Slowick

August 2020

You can make your contribution in loving memory or in honor of someone online at www.nrlc.org/giving or by sending your contribution along with the form below.

Memorials & Tributes

Contribution amount $_____

Your name_____

In memory of_____ In honor of_____

Your address_____

Name/Address for acknowledgment card_____

_____

Make your check payable to National Right to Life Committee and return with this form to:
National Right to Life Development Office
1446 Duke Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Preparing to win in 2020: Have you registered to vote?

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

We are two and a half months away from election day: November 3, 2020.

Are you prepared?

One of the most important ways anyone can help save unborn children is with their vote. The impact pro-life voters make in sending pro-life candidates to Congress, the White House, and their state capitols is immeasurable. Research demonstrates that pro-life legislation saves lives, and every life saved is priceless.

If you have never voted, or if you have moved since you last voted, you will need to register to vote. If you will be 18 years old by November 8, 2016, you can register to vote.

You can register to vote online by here: www.votervoice.net/NRLC/home

Are your pro-life friends prepared?

As an ambitious pro-lifer – by virtue of the fact that you're reading this article, I consider you an ambitious pro-lifer – you will want to be sure all of your pro-life friends and family are ready to vote.

An even more ambitious pro-lifer will organize a voter registration drive in their church or community.

Some years ago, a local pro-life chapter organized a voter registration drive in a small West Virginia church. Fifteen people including the pastor and his wife registered to vote! They meant to register after they moved but had not found the time.

In a close race, a few votes per precinct may well make the difference.

Remember, the outcome of elections have life and death consequences. There are dire consequences when the White House is inhabited by a pro-abortionist who vetoes life-affirming legislation and great benefits when, as is the case with President Trump, the nation's chief executive is a firm supporter of Life.

Go to page 6 to see a comparison of where candidates stand on life.

Make a difference for 2020. If you're not registered to vote, do it now. Once you're registered, or if you're already registered, make sure your pro-life friends are registered as well.

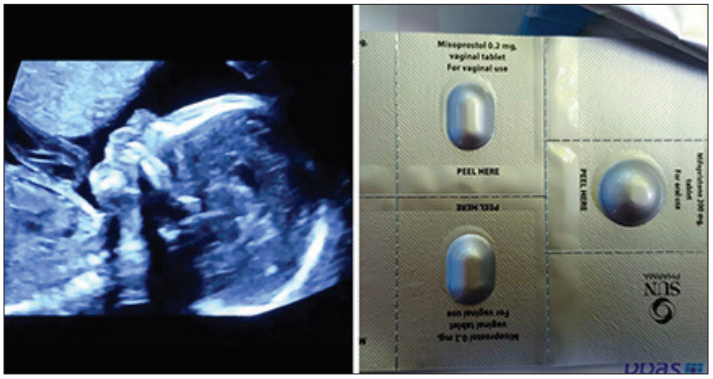
It makes a world of difference to those whose lives depend on us.

Look for updates in future *National Right to Life News*.

Two women have died after using UK 'DIY' abortion service

By Right to Life UK

Two women have died after taking 'DIY' home abortion pills according to a leaked "urgent email" sent by a senior chief midwife at NHS England and NHS Improvement on the "escalating risks" of the 'pills in the post' service that is being run by UK abortion providers BPAS, Marie Stopes, and NUPAS .



One woman died "very quickly" with sepsis whilst seeking urgent care at a hospital's accident and emergency department after taking 'DIY' abortion pills.

A second woman was found dead at home the morning after starting the medical abortion process.

The tragic incidents were exposed at the UK Court of Appeal yesterday, where the Christian Legal Centre was challenging the Government's decision to permit 'DIY' abortions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Murder investigation into baby born alive

The leaked email not only reveals the two maternal deaths but discloses further serious consequences of the Government's temporary 'DIY' home abortion scheme.

These include a murder investigation into the death of a baby aborted alive and medical termination pills being delivered to a woman 22 weeks over the legal limit for 'DIY' home abortion.

Not counting the maternal deaths, there are currently three ongoing police investigations linked to these incidents. One of those is a murder investigation as there is a concern that the baby was born alive.

The email also states that "women attending ED [emergency departments] related to the process through ruptured ectopics, major resuscitation for major haemorrhage and the delivery of infants who are up to 30 weeks gestation."

Tip of the iceberg

As the email was sent on May 21, 2020, it is unclear how many further incidents have taken place.

The emails also details that many incidents with the new 'DIY' abortion service have not been reported to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) by abortion providers.

The email outlines that "the only reporting of incident to the CQC, from this sector are those that are significant, ie babies that are to be a late TOP [termination of pregnancy], as all the other outcomes are seen to be a complication of the process which could occur in any setting."

Conflict of interest

The email mentions that a review of these cases has been undertaken by Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). This is despite the medical body having heavily lobbied for the introduction of 'DIY' home abortions.

The former RCOG President Dame Lesley Regan, who was recognised in 2019's New Year's Honours List, sits on the board of BPAS, the UK's largest abortion provider. She is joined by the former CEO of the Royal College of Midwives, Dame Cathy Warwick.

Court of Appeal refuses to hear evidence against 'DIY' home abortions

Despite the clear harm 'DIY' home abortions are having on pregnant women and their unborn babies, the Court of Appeal refused to consider evidence highlighted in the leaked emails.

According to the Christian Legal Centre, Lady Justice King refused, saying that she would give her reason for the refusal later.

The court also rejected an expert witness statement from Kevin Duffy, a former global clinics director at abortion provider Marie Stopes International, who called for 'DIY' home abortion services to be withdrawn immediately.

In his statement, Mr. Duffy brought attention to an undercover investigation which found abortion providers were not carrying out basic checks before sending termination pills – including the prescription of termination pills past the 10-week limit.

Significant problems from the onset

Since 'DIY' home abortions were introduced on March 30, a number of significant problems have arisen.

A nationwide undercover investigation found evidence of abortion providers putting women at significant risk by not carrying out basic checks before sending them 'DIY' home abortion pills.

The study also discovered 'DIY' home abortion pills can easily be obtained and administered to others, potentially in a coercive manner, as more shocking abuses from an undercover investigation have come to light.

In May, it was revealed UK police were investigating the death of an unborn baby after its mother took 'DIY' home abortion pills while 28 weeks pregnant.

In addition, abortion provider BPAS announced that it was investigating a further eight cases of women taking 'DIY' home abortion pills beyond the 10-week limit, raising questions over what checks are being conducted to ensure the law isn't being broken and

See "DIY," page 34

MSNBC Producer QUITS: We Block 'Diversity of Thought,' Amplify 'Fringe Voices and Events'

By Tim Graham

An *MSNBC* producer for Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell recently left the network in dramatic fashion, writing a harshly critical open letter on her personal website.

"July 24th was my last day at *MSNBC*. I don't know what I'm going to do next exactly but I simply couldn't stay there anymore," Ariana Pekary wrote on her personal website. "My colleagues are very smart people with good intentions. The problem is the job itself. It forces skilled journalists to make bad decisions on a daily basis."

She then quoted an anonymous "successful and insightful TV veteran" who said: "We are a cancer and there is no cure… But if you could find a cure, it would change the world."

As it is, this cancer stokes national division, even in the middle of a civil rights crisis. The model blocks diversity of thought and content because the networks have incentive to amplify fringe voices and events, at the expense of others… all because it pumps up the ratings.

This cancer risks human lives, even in the middle of a pandemic. The primary focus quickly became what Donald Trump was doing (poorly) to address the crisis, rather than the science itself. As new details have become available about antibodies, a vaccine, or how COVID actually spreads, producers still want to focus on the politics. Important facts or studies get buried.

This cancer risks our democracy, even in the middle of a presidential election. Any discussion about the election usually focuses on Donald Trump, not Joe Biden, a repeat offense from 2016 (Trump smothers out all other coverage). Also important is to ensure citizens can vote by mail this year, but I've watched that topic get ignored or "killed" numerous times.

Context and factual data are often considered too cumbersome for the audience.

There's a lot of complaint in there that's very common to critiques of cable news, that it thrives on hot talk and doesn't qualify as "news," it qualifies as ideological reinforcement:

Occasionally, the producers will choose to do a topic or story without regard for how they think it will rate, but that is the exception, not the rule. Due to the simple structure of the industry – the desire to charge more money for commercials, as well as the ratings bonuses that top-tier decision-makers earn – they always relapse into their old profitable programming habits.

Ariana Pekary

I understand that the journalistic process is largely subjective and any group of individuals may justify a different set of priorities on any given day. Therefore, it's particularly notable to me, for one, that nearly every rundown at the network basically is the same, hour after hour. And two, they use this subjective nature of the news to justify economically beneficial decisions. I've even heard producers deny their role as journalists. A very capable senior producer once said: "Our viewers don't really consider us the news. They come to us for comfort."

Pekary had a public-radio background, so she disliked the profit-oriented approach: "It's possible that I'm more sensitive to the editorial process due to my background in public radio, where no decision I ever witnessed was predicated on how a topic or guest would 'rate.' The longer I was at *MSNBC*, the more I saw such choices — it's practically baked in to the editorial process – and those decisions affect news content every day."

It's not shocking that this breaking media news did not get picked up in the *CNN* "Reliable Sources" newsletter on Monday night!

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

We Must Continue to Move Forward!

From page 3

The Women's Health Protection Act

I had the great privilege of testifying against this bill before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2014 but Democrats keep bringing it back. The bill would invalidate nearly all state limitations on abortion, including waiting periods and women's right-to-know laws. It would invalidate state laws to protect pain-capable unborn children after 20 weeks fetal age, and it would require all states to allow abortion even during the final three months of pregnancy based on an abortionist's claim of "health" benefits, including mental health. It would also invalidate nearly all existing federal laws limiting abortion.

Make no mistake. A Biden/Pelosi/Schumer government would do everything in their power to enact this as federal law.

Judicial Appointments

President Trump, working with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, has done an amazing job, filling vacancies on the federal judicial bench with men and women who believe judges should interpret laws as they relate to the US Constitution and not to the judge's personal bias.

President Trump has appointed more than one-fourth (53 of 179) of all federal circuit courts of appeals judges and, for the first time in 40 years, there is no vacancy on the circuit courts. The circuit courts are just one step below the Supreme Court. Most decisions from these courts are final, as the Supreme Court takes on a very limited number of cases each year.

President Trump has also appointed 146 of 677 U.S District Court judges.

This is all to the dismay of Democrats. Several candidates in the democratic presidential primary, as well as many in the media, have advocated "packing" the Supreme Court— adding more seats to the court so that a Democratic president and Senate can add enough justices to outnumber those appointed by Republican presidents.

Reportedly, the proposed Democratic platform will call for "court reform." Although specifics are not identified, it is clear that the party wants to counter the success President Trump has had in filling vacancies on the federal bench.

At the same time the Democrat Party has grown even more radical on abortion, its allies in the media are working overtime to present them as "mainstream." Joe Biden, we are told, is a "moderate."

Our job is to make sure the public understands the clear and obvious choice before it. We have much to do in the coming months to make sure we are well-positioned to keep moving forward after November 3.

Helping post-abortion women find a path toward hope and healing

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

We are a society in denial.

Each day, over 2,400 precious preborn babies lose their lives to abortion in this country. Thousands of women are left to grieve the children they have lost.

Yet, these losses are often invisible. No names are recorded on death certificates. The daily death toll is not mentioned on cable news programs. In our media-saturated day, where we are barraged with often meaningless information, news of how abortion wounds our society is rare.

I recently heard a woman who had had an abortion, who now regrets the experience, talking about the importance of a culture of healing when it comes to abortion trauma. Because of Roe v. Wade, the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling which legalized abortion for any reason essentially during all nine months of pregnancy, countless women are now the walking wounded. They work, they take care of families, they go to church—but their wounds from abortion have not healed.

Many women feel as if they do not have permission to openly grieve children lost to abortion. The abortion industry ignores any lingering negative effects from abortion, dismissing post-abortion syndrome as a myth. But when women turn to drugs and alcohol following abortion to numb their pain, it is apparent that there is something deep within them that is hurting, a grievous injury that cries out for compassion and support.

This is why post-abortion outreach is so vital, so essential to the pro-life cause. Women in some instances repetitively turn to abortion when they feel as if they have no other options. It is as if they are in the wilderness, seeing no way out. Through the care of gentle counselors knowledgeable about post-abortion grief, they can find a path toward hope and healing.

If you or someone you know is hurting from a past abortion, compassionate, non-judgmental help is available. Please know that you are not alone in the world—there are so many people who stand ready to help.

In many cases, these are the very people who had abortions themselves, and who know the kind of pain you carry with you.

For information on post-abortion healing, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org .

As Trust in the Media Drops, Reporters Continue to Show Bias

From page 8

Reporters who report on the abortion issue, which is part of this reporter's "beat," should not be posting personal observations on her or his Twitter feed where the reporter self-identifies as being a reporter for the network. This is one major reason the public distrusts reporters—they no longer report, they advocate.

In their book, *The Elements of Journalism*, Bill Kovach, who is the chairman for the Committee of Concerned Journalists, and Tom Rosenstiel, who is director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, say the purpose of journalism: "is not defined by technology, nor by journalists or the techniques they employ." Instead, "the principles and purpose of journalism are defined by something more basic: the function news plays in the lives of people."

In fact, the American Press Institute notes, **"Journalists who select sources to express what is really their own point of view, and then use the neutral voice to make it seem objective, are engaged in a form of deception. This damages the credibility of the craft by making it seem unprincipled, dishonest, and biased."** [Emphasis added.]

The pro-life movement has always known that many journalists come to the abortion issue with a deeply engrained pro-abortion bias. The "unprincipled, dishonest, and biased" reporting of many widely recognized reporters has certainly colored the industry and the public has caught on.

Whether the industry can redeem itself is something that remains to be seen.

Joe Biden Chooses Senator Kamala Harris as His Running Mate

National Right to Life Documents Her 0% Pro-life Voting Record

WASHINGTON—Presumptive Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden today announced that Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) would be his vice-presidential running mate. By picking Senator Harris, Joe Biden has reaffirmed his commitment to abortion on demand at any time for any reason and paid for by taxpayers. Kamala Harris is the poster child for the extreme pro-abortion position of the Democratic Party.

As a U.S. senator, Kamala Harris has a 0% rating from the National Right to Life Committee. By contrast, Sen. Harris' abortion extremism earned her a 100% rating from NARAL Pro-Choice America.

"Sen. Harris supports a policy of abortion on demand at any time, any where, and under any circumstances," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. **"Sadly, both Joe Biden and Kamala Harris see the lives of precious unborn babies as expendable. Joe Biden could not have picked a more extreme pro-abortion running mate."**

Tobias added, **"Sen. Harris is so extreme on abortion she opposes even the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, legislation to protect unborn children from abortion after 20 weeks, when they are capable of feeling excruciating pain during dismemberment or other late abortion methods."**

In her response to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 29th decision in *June Medical Services, LLC v. Russo* where the justices overturned a Louisiana law requiring abortionists to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, Sen. Harris said, "While the Court reached the right result today, we must nonetheless keep up the fight to protect access to abortion."

Sen. Harris also co-sponsored the so-called "Women's Health Protection Act," known to pro-lifers as the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act." As a candidate for president, Harris announced a broad platform that would require states that have a history of passing pro-life laws to seek preclearance from the Justice Department before they could enact any new pro-life laws that would impact abortion on demand. Under her plan, any new pro-life laws would be considered unenforceable without preclearance from the Justice Department.

When Sen. Harris won her Senate seat, she was praised by the then-Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards. Richards said, "Kamala Harris is a staunch advocate for women's health and rights. She ran proudly on an agenda to expand access to reproductive health care…"

Following today's announcement, Planned Parenthood Action Fund tweeted, "Throughout her entire career, @KamalaHarris has been a steadfast champion for reproductive rights…"

Battle for the U.S. Senate: 2020 Competitive Races

From page 1

Since being sworn into office, Jones voted against the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* and the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*. With his opposition to these priority pro-life bills, Jones has taken a stance in favor of late abortions and using your tax dollars to fund abortions. That is a far cry from the moderate image he tried to cultivate during his campaign.

Tommy Tuberville has been endorsed by National Right to Life.

ALASKA – Dan Sullivan vs. Al Gross

Alaska's primary election will be held on August 18. Pro-life Senator Dan Sullivan (R) will likely face leading candidate pro-abortion Democrat Al Gross, a physician, in the general election.

Sen. Sullivan has a 100% pro-life rating from National Right to Life and has earned National Right to Life's endorsement. Sullivan voted in favor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act*.

In contrast, Al Gross supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason. Gross is backed by Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, which advocates for abortion at anytime, anywhere, under any circumstances, and paid for by taxpayers.

Dan Sullivan has been endorsed by National Right to Life.

ARIZONA – Martha McSally vs. Mark Kelly

Pro-life Senator Martha McSally (R) was appointed to the U.S. Senate following the passing of Sen. John McCain. Her 100% pro-life rating in the Senate earned her the endorsement of National Right to Life. She voted in favor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*.

National Right to Life has endorsed Senator McSally.

McSally faces former astronaut Democrat Mark Kelly, husband of pro-abortion former Rep. Gabby Giffords. Kelly has voiced his support for the current policy of abortion on demand as imposed by *Roe v. Wade*. "Women have the right to choose, and I'm going to stand up to defend that right," stated Kelly. Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America are both supporting Kelly. "Planned Parenthood advocacy and political organizations are going all-in. We're investing deeply to engage voters, and we're going to help elect Mark Kelly to the U.S. Senate," PPFA said in its announcement.

President Trump carried Arizona by four points over Hillary Clinton in 2016 but most election experts believe the state will be a key battleground in 2020.

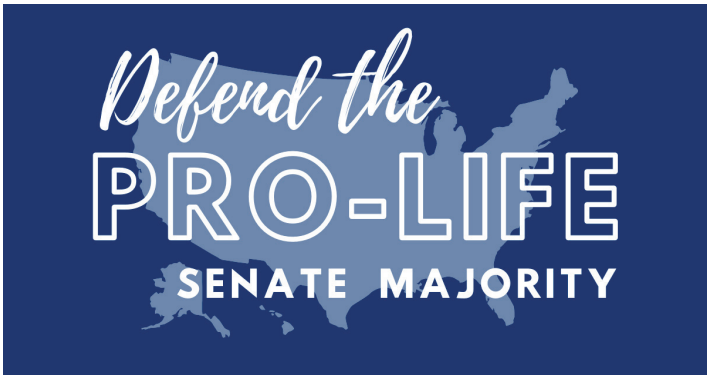
COLORADO – Cory Gardner vs. John Hickenlooper

Pro-life Senator Cory Gardner (R) faces a challenge from former Colorado Governor and failed presidential candidate John Hickenlooper (D).

Sen. Gardner has maintained a 100% pro-life rating during his term in the Senate. He voted in favor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,* the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*.

By contrast, Hickenlooper has been an ally to Planned Parenthood, and called for the repeal of the pro-life Hyde Amendment. "I look at the woman's right to control what happens to her body as being inalienable," Hickenlooper told the *Washington Examiner.* (A telling inversion. Our Founding Fathers used almost identical wording to describe the right to life in the Declaration of Independence.)

Cory Gardner has been endorsed by National Right to Life.



GEORGIA – David Perdue vs. Jon Ossoff

The Peach State has two Senators up for re-election in 2020. Sen. David Perdue is running for a second term and Sen. Kelly Loeffler is running in a special election to complete the term of Sen. Johnny Isakson who retired in 2019. (See below for highlights of the special election.)

Sen. Perdue has a 100% pro-life rating from National Right to Life. Perdue, who has served since 2015, voted in favor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act*.

Sen. Perdue faces Jon Ossoff, a pro-abortion Democrat who lost a special election in Georgia's 6th Congressional district in 2017. Ossoff is backed by Planned Parenthood. He noted that he "will only vote to confirm judges who commit to upholding *Roe v. Wade."*

Ossoff even cited that his motivation to run for Senate was in part to fight back against pro-life efforts in Georgia and nationally.

David Perdue has been endorsed by National Right to Life.

GEORGIA – Special Election

Due to Georgia's system, a special election will take place on November 3, 2020. All candidates, regardless of party, will be placed on the same ballot. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the top two finishers will advance to a runoff election, which will be held on January 5, 2021. The winner will finish out the remainder of Sen. Isakson's term.

The leading Republican candidates are Sen. Kelly Loeffler and Rep. Doug Collins.

As the Senate incumbent with a 100% record, National Right to Life endorsed Sen. Loeffler.

See "Battle," page 38

Little girl, whose surrogate Mom refused to abort her, dies at 8. "Seraphina's larger than life personality only grew throughout her life"

By Dave Andrusko

Some stories come in and pass through your mind quickly. Others you never forget.

One of those—way back in 2012—was the unforgettable story of Seraphina Harrell and Crystal Kelley. Kelley, Seraphina's surrogate mother, refused to abort her even though offered $10,000 by the couple that hired Kelley to carry the baby.

Why are we revisiting her story? Seraphina died July 15, just shortly after her eighth birthday—many years after the experts in 2012 said she would pass. She lived a remarkable life, reared by a remarkable family.

As we wrote at the time, the story was not about the ethics of surrogacy. It was about Kelley's refusal to abort "Baby S." when a prenatal screening showed "severe medical problems" and how she came under tremendous pressure from the biological parents.

The ultrasound taken when Kelley was five months pregnant showed the baby had "a cleft lip and palate, a cyst in the brain, and a complex heart abnormality," as *CNN* Senior Medical Correspondent Elizabeth Cohen wrote. While Seraphina's conditions turned out to be even more challenging at birth, this did not prevent her —according to Rene Harrell, her Mom–from leading a full and rich life.

"What I heard over and over from so many of her doctors was they could never imagine that someone with Seraphina's level of need could do as well as she did or be as joyful as she was," Harrell told *The Mirror.* More about that below.

Following the ultrasound, as Cohen wrote back in 2012,

"The doctors explained the baby would need several heart surgeries after she was born. She would likely survive the pregnancy, but had only about a 25% chance of having a "normal life," Kelley remembers the doctors saying.

"In a letter to Kelley's midwife, Dr. Elisa Gianferrari, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Hartford Hospital, and Leslie Ciarleglio, a genetic counselor, described what happened next.

"'Given the ultrasound findings, (the parents) feel that the interventions required to manage (the baby's medical problems) are overwhelming for an infant, and that it is a more humane option to consider pregnancy termination,' they wrote.

"Kelley disagreed.

"'Ms. Kelley feels that all efforts should be made to 'give the baby a chance' and seems adamantly opposed to termination," they wrote."

Seraphina at 8 months old
CNN video still

From that juncture on, Kelley and the parents came to be at complete loggerheads. From that point forward, an already inherently ethically, morally, and spiritually complicated situation became mind-bogglingly complex.

According to medical records, the biological mother inquired about abortion techniques. The way the second option (dilation and evacuation) was explained to her was that "the pregnancy would be vacuumed out of the womb." (Of course the baby was somewhere in the 21-23 week range, and would be dismembered, not "vacuumed out.") Evidently after being told the baby would not suffer pain, the mother chose that option over option one–inducing birth after which the baby would die.

A lengthy series of events transpired, all intended to ratchet up the pressure on Kelley to abort. For example, she was told through an intermediary, that if she didn't abort, the couple would not agree to be the baby's legal parents. When that failed, the parents offered $10,000 to Kelley to abort the baby.

And then this real-life tragedy really became stranger than fiction.

Everything from the parents hiring a lawyer to compel her to abort under the terms of the surrogacy contract (when she hired a lawyer, he told Kelley they could not compel her to abort); to being told the parents had changed their minds and would "exercise their legal right to take custody of their child — and then immediately after birth surrender her to the state of Connecticut. She would become a ward of the state"; to Kelley fleeing the state (Connecticut) to go to Michigan where she corresponded with parents of children with special needs; to concluding it was best for Baby S. to be adopted by a family which had already adopted several children; to giving birth June 25, 2012 to Seraphina.

To be clear, Seraphina had massive medical problems. During her life, she "had three heart surgeries and countless other more minor surgical procedures."

See "Seraphina," page 32

Five takeaways from the disavowal of Margaret Sanger by Planned Parenthood's largest affiliate

By Dave Andrusko

Did someone (me, for example) say five takeaways from the blockbuster decision by Planned Parenthood of New York to remove Margaret Sanger's name from its Manhattan health clinic? Honestly, I could name 20.

And, to rub salt in the wound, the *NY Times* Nikita Stewart wrote, "The group is also talking to city leaders about replacing Ms. Sanger's name on a street sign that has hung near its offices on Bleecker Street for more than two decades." As the saying goes, the "iconic" founder of Planned Parenthood is dead to Planned Parenthood of New York which came to be when five area chapters merged last January.

This decision is genuinely historic.

#1. Nothing of this magnitude—especially coming from this powerhouse PPFA affiliate—takes place in a vacuum. Stewart talked to Merle McGee, the New York chapter's chief equity and engagement officer, and wrote

> **The New York affiliate's effort to disavow Ms. Sanger comes as it wrestles with internal turmoil, including the recent ouster of its executive director, Laura McQuade, in part because of complaints that she had mistreated Black employees. McGee said there was no connection between Ms. McQuade's departure and the decision to remove Ms. Sanger's name. The move, she said, arose out of a three-year effort to tackle racism internally and to improve relationships with groups led by Black women who have been wary of Planned Parenthood's origins.**

Yes and no. Yes, as we have written, there has been a spate of stories appearing in (of all places) the *New York Times* about ongoing turmoil explicitly or implicitly over the way the white leadership of PPF treats its employees of color. There is a history of bad blood between workers and management.

But no, in the sense that it defies commonsense after what just happened at Planned Parenthood of Great Plains and Planned Parenthood of New York to believe the timing was not directly affected by very recent events.

In June, when an open letter from 300 current and former employees of Planned Parenthood of New York demanded McQuade's ouster, she was in big trouble. But her board initially stood behind her until a former lobbyist in Kansas for Planned Parenthood Great Plains (which McQuade headed until she moved East) said McQuade demonstrated the same behavior there. To call McQuade's forced resignation a "departure" is euphemism on steroids.

Foreshadowing what was to come about within a month, three paragraphs into that open letter we read, "Planned Parenthood was founded by a racist, white woman."

#2. Pro-lifers have written and documented Sanger's love affair with eugenics. In a 2016 "Factsheet," the national PPFA tried to have it both ways. They tried the Big Picture approach—Sanger was a child of her times when all the "best people" were eager to "improve the face"—and then "acknowledge these major flaws in Sanger's view—and we believe they are wrong."

What "major flaws"? According to the *Times* story, for "placing so-called illiterates, paupers, unemployables,

Margaret Sanger

criminals, prostitutes, and dope fiends on farms and in open spaces as long as necessary for the strengthening and development of moral conduct." PPFA in 2016 "also condemned her support for policies to sterilize people who had disabilities that could not be treated" and "for banning immigrants with disabilities."

However this misses the point. Pro-life scholars had long since conclusively outlined what the Factsheet gently concedes are "some beliefs, practices, and associations that we acknowledge and denounce, and that we work to rectify today." To wit endorsing the 1927 *Buck v. Bell* decision, written by one of that era's "best people" (Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.) in which the Supreme Court ruled that compulsory sterilization of the "unfit" was allowable under the Constitution.

#3. *The New York Times'* Stewart somehow manages amidst all this turmoil not to mention Dr. Leana Wen, who was kicked to the curb after a tenure of just eight months as President of Planned Parenthood. The board ousted her on July 16, 2019, almost exactly a year before the decision by Planned Parenthood of New York to treat Margaret Sanger as a non-person. Dr. Wen was a Chinese-American.

#4. As you can see, the pace of the unveiling of PPFA scandals is picking up speed. It's not being cynical to draw an obvious conclusion: today's Planned Parenthood has its own brand of "major flaws" which are coming to the surface. And

#5. The 2016 "Factsheet" begins with two pages of encomiums to the wonderfulness of Margaret Sanger. It ended with pages of debunking of what it said were either statements falsely attributed to Sanger or misrepresentations ("Published Statements that Distort or Misquote Margaret Sanger"). So, even while acknowledging some "flaws," the Factsheet began and ended with material intended to put Sanger in the best possible light.

So, too, does the conclusion of Stewart's story where a representative of (what I assume to be) Planned Parenthood of Greater New York recounts "an often repeated but uncorroborated story" that all but confers sainthood on Sanger.

If you have a few minutes, please read pro-life champion Rep. Chris Smith remarks on Sanger which appear on page seven. Rep. Smith's eloquence is surpassed only by his passion.

Pro-life pregnancy center opens across from Texas Planned Parenthood

The Prestonwood Pregnancy Center reports a 50 percent increase in visits, and 90 percent of those women have decided to continue their pregnancies.

By Calvin Freiburger

DALLAS– The largest Planned Parenthood facility in Texas has a new neighbor in the form of a pro-life pregnancy center that will provide life-saving support and alternatives to the deaths taking place across the street.

The Prestonwood Pregnancy Center has moved to a new location in southwest Dallas, where it will offer free sonograms, ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, medical referrals, childbirth classes, and pregnancy counseling free of charge, Fox News reported. Its new location is directly across the street from Planned Parenthood's largest abortion center in the state.

"An unplanned pregnancy is one of the greatest challenges a woman can face, especially during a time of economic hardship like the one we are living through," said Leanne Jamieson, who heads the new Prestonwood location. "Our mission is to meet these women where they are and let them know they are not walking this road alone."

"I truly believe this relocation is the greatest opportunity we've had in our 29 years of operating to offer hope where it's been lost, to offer a better choice that leads to life instead of death and to show grace and love at the very moment when many women are their greatest need," added Pastor Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church, who founded the pregnancy center in 1991.

Prestonwood currently has two permanent locations in Texas as well as several mobile clinics that offer pregnancy tests, sonograms, and referrals for further care.

The new clinic says that since opening there is already a 50 percent increase in the number of women it has seen, 90 percent of whom ultimately decided to choose life – indicating that the location's proximity to Planned Parenthood has made a significant difference in the number of babies and women saved.

There are more than 170 pregnancy centers offering services for alternatives to and recovery from abortion, compared with 40 Planned Parenthood locations. Nationwide, legitimate providers of non-abortion women's healthcare outnumber Planned Parenthood facilities 20 to 1.

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

The very sad and complicated story of a woman still dealing with her abortion 15 years later

By Dave Andrusko

Renee Bracey Sherman is someone we've posted about several times before. Not (as she bitterly complains in her latest attack on pro-lifers) because I, or any other pro-lifer, am lashing out because Sherman considers her abortion "was—and still is–the best decision I ever made"; or are "upset" because "I love myself, publicly"; or because there is a "deep seated hatred for Black women" illustrated by a billboard that reads, "The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb."

It's none of these motives that she inputs to those "who are anti-abortion." Even a decade and a half later, Sherman is self-evidently still dealing with the abortion she insists was "uneventful," planned (before she even turned 16, she knew "if I became pregnant before I was ready, I would have an abortion"), and essentially painless ("a few cramps").

Sometimes it's "The lady [really] doth protest too much," and in so doing reveals there are layers and layers to the conclusion to her *Newsweek* op-ed which ran last week—"The most important lesson I've learned in the 15 years since my abortion is that it's okay to love myself."

As she has told readers before, Sherman had her abortion alone. Her then-boyfriend "didn't want to come inside" and she "wasn't ready to tell my parents—who I knew would have come with me if I wanted."

Out of this "feeling of loneliness," her life was changed and she became a full-time abortion activist. (At the end, we read, *"Renee Bracey Sherman is the founder and executive director of We Testify, an organization dedicated to the leadership and*

Renee Bracey Sherman

representation of people who have abortions.")

One other—to me—especially revealing part of her op-ed. While bashing anyone who put up such a billboard (or another that read "Every 21 minutes, our next possible leader is aborted " next to an image of President Barack Obama), she chooses to avoid the truth: Black women have far, far more abortions per thousand women of child-bearing age than do white women. She simply says that if women who've aborted see one of these billboards, they "might feel erased."

But, of course, it's the millions and millions and **millions** of Black babies who've been aborted since 1973 who have been erased. The billboards are intended not to shame or "erase." What possible purpose would that serve, other than to affirm Sherman's hatred of pro-lifers?

Rather the objective is to educate and affirm that the sponsors believe women of any color are strong enough to choose life in difficult circumstances.

Justice Thomas's prophetic denunciation of Planned Parenthood's eugenic legacy

From page 45

be born alive—and are up to eight times more likely to be aborted than white children in the same area. Whatever the reasons for these disparities, they suggest that, insofar as abortion is viewed as a method of 'family planning,' black people do indeed 'tak[e] the brunt of the 'planning.'"

***[This is crucial] "Enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion based solely on the race, sex, or disability of an unborn child, as Planned Parenthood advocates, would constitutionalize the views of the twentieth-century eugenics movement. In other contexts, the Court has been zealous in vindicating the rights of people even potentially subjected to race, sex, and disability discrimination. … Although the Court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever.**

Having created the constitutional right to an abortion, this Court is dutybound to address its scope. In that regard, it is easy to understand why the District Court and the Seventh Circuit looked to Casey [the 1992 Supreme Court decision] to resolve a question it did not address. Where else could they turn? The Constitution itself is silent on abortion.

"Although the Court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever."

Life is full of ironies.

Planned Parenthood of Greater New York could not possibly dislike anything more than the prospect of frankly acknowledging the truth of what McGurn wrote on Monday: "Planned Parenthood disavows her 'racist legacy' but continues carrying it out."

VP Pence: "The choice in this election has never been clearer and the stakes for people who cherish life and religious liberty have never been higher."

From page 1

Merkowsky wrote. He then tweeted, "Thank you to A Women's Place Medical Clinic for the work you're doing to save the innocent lives of the unborn, including 10,000 babies in the last 35 years & 500 babies within the last 12 months," adding, "I couldn't be more proud to be part of the most Pro-Life Administration in history!"

Vice President Pence also gave an interview to David Brody, the influential chief political correspondent for the *Christian Broadcasting Network*. (According to the *New York Times*, "Mr. Brody interviewed Mr. Trump eight times during the [2016] campaign.")

Mr. Pence laid out the case for President Trump at the same time he blasted pro-abortion former Vice President Joe Biden for having "Been Overtaken by the Radical Left" on Issues such as abortion and religious liberties.

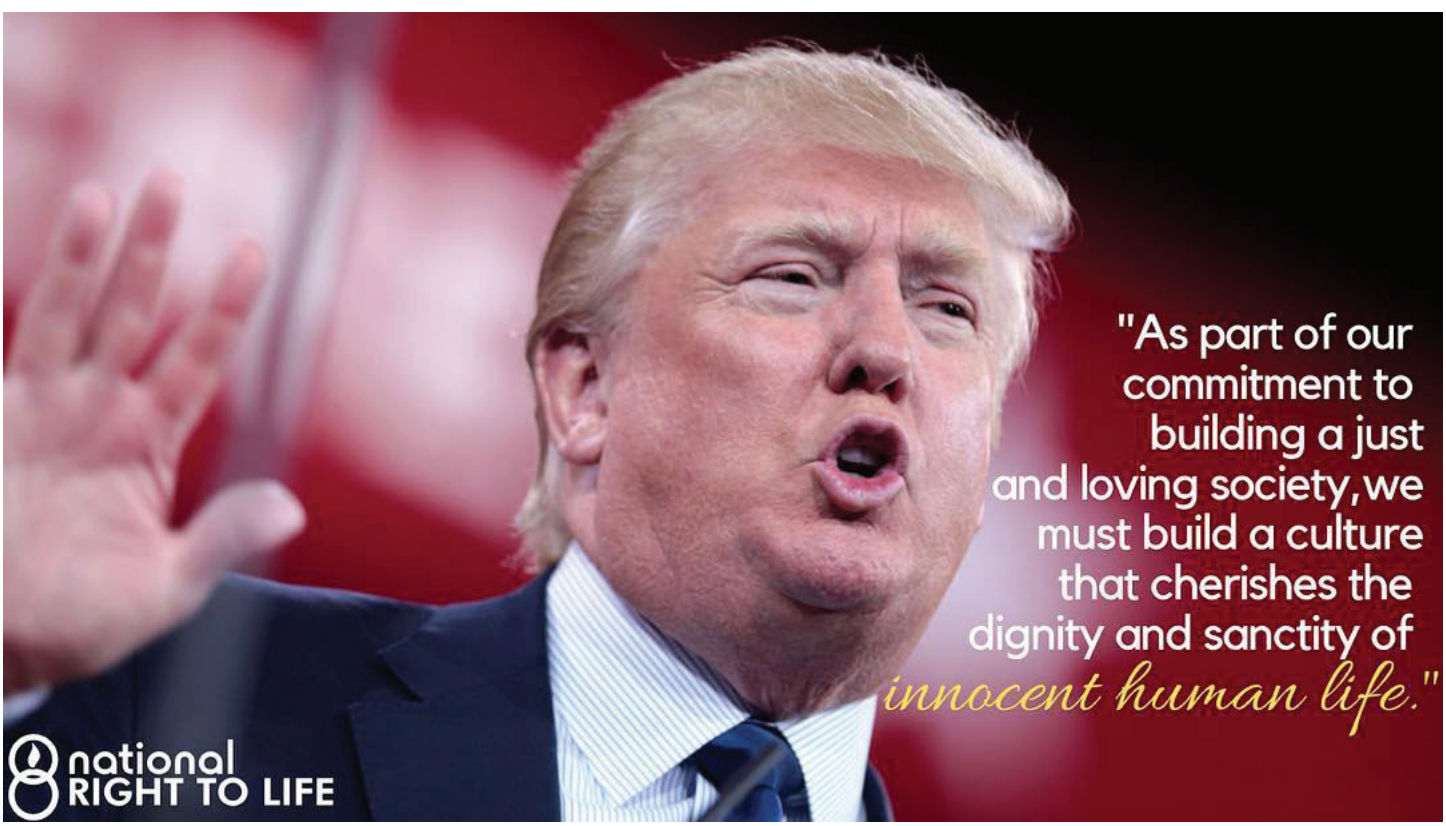
Brody stated, "Joe Biden has always said as a Catholic that he's personally pro-life but professionally, politically, he's pro-choice as he calls it. What do you make of that dichotomy, if you will, or that difference?"

Vice President Pence responded

> **"Joe Biden and the Democratic Party have been overtaken by the radical Left. And as you said, Joe Biden for years, like many Democrats, was willing to support what was known as the Hyde Amendment, which would prevent taxpayer funding from being used to pay for abortions. But now Joe Biden has even abandoned that. Joe Biden would support public funding of abortions. He's calling for a historic increase in funding to Planned Parenthood of America. He would appoint activist judges to our courts, who would literally trample on the progress that we've made on life and religious liberties. I just think that the choice in this election has never been clearer and the stakes for people who cherish life and religious liberty have never been higher."**

After addressing other issues over which President Trump and Mr. Biden disagree fundamentally, Mr. Pence concluded

> **"I think the choice is clear. We need four more years of President Donald Trump in the White House."**



Washington Post settles with pro-life teen wrongly maligned in rush to judgment news coverage

By Dave Andrusko

Two down and hopefully more to go. *Fox News'* Joseph A. Wulfsohn wrote

> **The Washington Post is the latest news organization to settle a defamation lawsuit launched by Covington Catholic High School student Nicholas Sandmann over its botched coverage of a viral confrontation with a Native American elder that had portrayed the Kentucky teen as the aggressor.**

As was the case with the settlement with *CNN*, announced January 7, the amount was not disclosed. Sandmann, who was 17 and the time of the January 18, 2019 "incident," announced the victory on Twitter:

> **"On 2/19/19, I filed $250M defamation lawsuit against Washington Post. Today, I turned 18 & WaPo settled my lawsuit. Thanks to @ToddMcMurtry & @LLinWood for their advocacy. Thanks to my family & millions of you who have stood your ground by supporting me. I still have more to do."**

A *Post* spokesperson told *Fox News* only that "We are pleased that we have been able to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of the remaining claims in this lawsuit."

Sandemann was with others from his Covington Catholic High School who had just attended the March for Life in Washington, DC.

Initial coverage missed

Nicholas Sandmann

the Sandemann had kept his composure while being taunted, turning the victim into the victimizer.

According to Wulfsohn, "[S]everal mainstream media outlets, including *CNN* and The *Washington Post*, portrayed the incident with Sandmann and the other teens as being racially charged before additional footage later showed that a group of Black Hebrew Israelites had provoked the confrontation, slinging racial slurs at the students as they were waiting for their bus following the March For Life event."

The negative publicity "led to death threats and the temporary closure of his Catholic high school for several days due to security concerns," according to Micaiah Bilger.

"More presents to be delivered to you this next year," attorney Wood wrote on Twitter. "You deserve justice. We all deserve justice."

"Seraphina's larger than life personality only grew throughout her life"

From page 27

But the beauty of this story—and others written in the wake of Seraphina's death—is that they are all tributes to this extraordinary little girl and her life-affirming family. Cohn wrote

> **In a heartwarming obituary, her loved ones wrote: "Seraphina's larger than life personality only grew throughout her life, and you never had to guess what she was thinking or feeling.**
>
> **"At least once a day, someone would snuggle up to her and repeat the Seraphina family motto: 'For a girl who can't talk, you sure are never quiet!'**
>
> **"She couldn't walk by herself, but she persisted in turning everyone in the house into her personal mobility assistants.**
>
> **"She couldn't eat, but that never stopped her from insisting on her own plate of food to be part of the gang."**

Cohn concluded her powerful story with a final tribute to Seraphina from her Mom:

> **Seraphina could only speak a few words, but learned American Sign Language. She couldn't walk, but mastered her wheelchair.**
>
> **"She could get herself around in a power wheelchair like nobody's business," Harrell said.**
>
> **Seraphina's favorite sign was "I love you."**
>
> **"She'd sign it and always add a little kissing sound," her mother remembers.**
>
> **"She was so loving. If you looked sad, she would comfort you. If you got even the slightest little poke, she would sign 'sorry' and then kiss your boo-boo," Harrell said. "When her baby cousin cried, she would sign 'Baby, cry, Mama, milk.'" …**
>
> **She often ordered Nathan, her 10-year-old brother, to read the Little Critters books to her. Nathan told her he was the big brother character in the book and she was the little sister. After she died, Nathan asked to have one of the Little Critters books placed in Seraphina's casket.**

Five thoughts 82 days out from the Election

From page 2

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee's lead fell from a 7 percentage points in a July 17-20 survey to 3 percentage points in this August 2-5 poll.

And that

The survey found Trump made gains among voters in two key demographics.

Support among Midwestern voters rose from 38 percent two weeks ago to 42 percent in this most recent poll. Support for Biden among the same group fell from 45 percent to 39 percent.

The president also edges out Biden among independents in the latest poll, with 35 percent support, a 4 percentage point increase from last survey.

By contrast, 33 percent of independents prefer Joe Biden as their candidate for president.

Another recent poll of Likely Voters conducted by Emerson had Biden up by 4 points (50% to 46%) nationwide.

#4. Under the headline, "Trump's campaign knocks on a million doors a week. Biden's knocks on zero," POLITICO (a hotbed of Democrats) wrote

The Republican and Democratic parties — from the presidential candidates on down — are taking polar opposite approaches to door-to-door canvassing this fall. The competing bets on the value of face-to-face campaigning during a pandemic has no modern precedent, making it a potential wild card in November, especially in close races.

Biden and the Democratic National Committee aren't sending volunteers or staffers to talk with voters at home, and don't anticipate doing anything more than dropping off literature unless the crisis abates. The campaign and the Democratic National Committee think they can compensate for the lack of in-person canvassing with phone calls, texts, new forms of digital organizing, and virtual meet-ups with voters.

"At first I was nervous, but our response rates on phone calls and texts are much higher and people are not necessarily wanting someone to go up to their door right now," said Jenn Ridder, Biden's national states director. "You get to throw a lot of the rule book out the window and try out new things."

To state what you would think is obvious, this is a huge gamble for the Biden campaign.

They offer all kind of excuses why this makes sense (see the one above), none of which are particularly persuasive. Hot Air's Ed Morrissey may have the best explanation:

The DNC [Democratic National Committee] simply doesn't have the resources to compete, and Biden's general-election campaign barely had any money before the summer. They don't have the resources either, nor apparently the urgency needed to raise them. Their centralized national-messaging strategy is a cheesier, 30,000-foot approach to GOTV that might pay off if people resent porch visits in the age of COVID-19.

Talk about irony. Who is the Trump campaign mimicking? Morrissey again:

The RNC [Republican National Committee] has been building a candidate-independent GOTV arm originally called the Republican Leadership Initiative (now called the Trump Victory Leadership Initiative), based on the model used by Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. The RNC has heavily invested in that infrastructure, helped by its massive fundraising edge over the DNC the last several years, and this is precisely the task for which it was designed — having local supporters stoke enthusiasm in their own communities with personal connections.

And there have been stories going back to January about Democrats "freaking out" over Trump's "massive digital operation." That could easily prove to be his ace in the hole.

And …

#5. The real unknown for 2020—besides turnout and if votes will be accurately tabulated—is to what extent each candidate makes inroads into the other candidate's base. Biden is making gestures to the wider faith community that many media outlets tell us could cause President Trump to lose voters, in either the White Evangelical community and/or the Catholic community.

I seriously doubt it. Biden's core constituency—not to mention various platform planks the Democrats will adopt at their convention—will send the message Joe Biden is not your friend.

And while I can't prove it (although there is anecdotal and harder data as well), I strongly suspect President Trump will do far better in the Latino community than we are told he will.

Like everything else, numbers move around. At the end of May, for example, Trump's approval rating among Hispanic-Americans stood at 44 percent, according to a Hill/HarrisX poll. "That's a notable jump over the 28 percent of Latinos who voted for him in the 2016 presidential contest," Mary Kay Linge reports.

An NPR/PBS/Marist poll conducted between June 22-24 found that 59% of Hispanic voters said they would vote for Biden, while 39% said they'd vote for Trump. Other polls are more favorable for Biden.

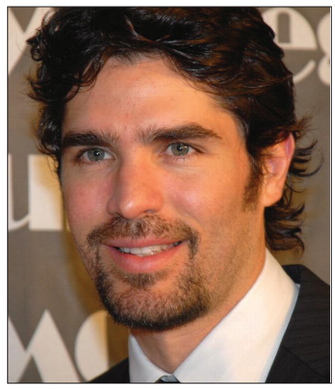
Stay tuned. Check in daily at *National Right to Life News Today*. And be sure not to be snookered by the Trump-hating major media.

Actor Thanks President Trump; Asks for Prayer for Pro-Life Leaders

By PNCI—the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues

Pro-life actor and film producer Eduardo Verástegui- famous in Mexico and best known in the U.S. for the film *Bella* -- participated in a White House event for the Hispanic Prosperity Initiative Executive Order created to give greater "educational and economic opportunities" to more than 60 million Hispanic Americans in the US today. The event occurred the day after a meeting between President Trump and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador initiating the new trade deal, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

When called upon to speak, Eduardo first explained that he is a film producer whose mission it is *"to make films that hopefully not only will entertain, but hopefully will make a difference in people's lives, because we know how media influence – influences how people think."*



Eduardo Verastegui
Photo credit: lukeford.net

He then addressed President Trump stating, *"Thank you for your leadership in defending the unborn. As you know, Mexicans – the majority of Mexicans support the right to life. And thank you for defending life in America and in Latin America. Without a doubt, you are the best, the greatest pro-life President in the history of the United States. Thank you for that."*

The actor also expressed his thanks to President Trump for the new USMCA which he considered to be *"a win-win for Mexico and United States"* adding that he hoped that it would *"make Mexico, America – America and Mexico great together."*

The devout Catholic presented President Trump with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe" telling @ EWTNNewsNightly on July 14: *"I brought the president a beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe because not only is she the icon of the pro-life movement, but at the same time she is the symbol of unity and racial healing."*

Eduardo also expressed concern for every leader *"who is fighting every day for the unborn"* and reminded everyone *"who supports and is pro-life to pray for a pro-life leader."*

PNCI extends its heartfelt thanks to Eduardo for requesting prayers for pro-life leaders who fight for the unborn. It is truly needed and appreciated.

Two women have died after using UK 'DIY' abortion service

From page 21

dangerous later-term abortions aren't happening.

A number of women have also come forward to share the serious problems they've experienced after taking 'DIY' home abortion pills.

One woman said she went through "hell" and thought she was going to die after taking the dangerous pills.

Another woman said the pain and physical process was "horrible" and "a lot worse than expected".

Service must be withdrawn

Mr. Duffy said:

"None of the scenarios revealed in my survey, or the incidents in the NHS email leak, would have happened under the pre-lockdown abortion process. These cases are a direct result of the move to home abortion and particularly the removal of the clinic visit and routine assessments.

"It is simply not possible to replace the critical clinic-based consultation with a phone call. The telemedicine service leaves pregnant women highly vulnerable and must be withdrawn urgently."

The Court of Appeal judges have reserved their ruling to a later date.

'Inherently dangerous'

"Ever since the UK Government permitted 'DIY' home abortions, stories of illegal late-term abortions and safety abuses have come to light," said Catherine Robinson, a spokesperson for Right To Life UK.

"We, along with other pro-life campaigners, warned it was only a matter of time before a woman died as a result of a 'DIY' home abortion. Tragically, that is now the case.

"These cases and the thirteen ongoing investigations are likely only the tip of the iceberg, given the date of the leaked email.

"Abortion providers, such as BPAS and Marie Stopes International, who want to keep 'DIY' home abortions on a permanent basis, are unlikely to want to reveal how many complications or serious incidents have arisen as a result of their 'services'.

"There are also likely many more incidents that abortion providers don't know about as the majority of women are likely to not come back and tell an abortion provider that they have broken the law using their service or weren't even aware how far along they were, given they have not had an ultrasound.

"These 'DIY' home abortion schemes, which are inherently dangerous and show no concern for babies or vulnerable pregnant women, should be suspended immediately."

'DIY' home abortions causing problems around the world

Earlier this year, it was revealed that one father in the United States had performed 'DIY' home abortions on his daughter and stepdaughter to cover up 14 years of sexual abuse.

In May, an Indian woman and her unborn baby died after the use of 'DIY' home abortion drugs. According to the Mumbai Mirror, the woman's husband, with the help of his parents and a friend, obtained the abortion drugs from a medical representative – all have now been "booked" with an intent to cause miscarriage by police in the Indian region of Kashimira.

When Roe v. Wade is overturned, the case for life will have the last word

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

When I began working as a secular journalist, the *Associated Press* stylebook became my Bible. Although the *AP* stylebook has many competitors, it remains enormously influential.

The *AP* stylebook prescribes the language that is approved for usage for news stories. I quickly learned that, in my writing, the phrase "pro-life" would be banned. It would be replaced with the biased, but politically correct, "opponents of abortion rights."

Rather than aiding journalists in achieving balance in their news reports, such guides allow pro-abortion assumptions and psychology to worm their way into countless newspaper articles, TV stories, and online news publications.

One of the most egregious examples of this is the term "abortion foes." The idea, I

suppose, behind the phrase is to communicate that pro-life advocates oppose abortion.

But the subliminal message is not that proponents of the right to life are one side of a contentious debate over fundamental issues but somehow the "enemy." Think about it. Other than in an abortion context, how many times do you see the word "foes" used in newswriting?

Similarly, in my journalism classes, instructors taught me to avoid, at all costs, the phrase "unborn baby" when reporting on abortion. Instead, I was to use the Latin term "fetus." Other than an occasional "status quo," how many times do you see Latin terminology, without explanation, used in news stories? Instead of showing a lack of bias, "fetus" serves to depersonalize and dehumanize the child in the womb.

It should come as no surprise that I would hear "fetus" jokes in the newsroom. The desensitizing language had desensitized reporters to the humanity of preborn children– and to the very idea that other reporters might think differently.

Language—fair, unbiased, and accurate– is critical in the mission to protect the vulnerable from harm. As pro-life advocates, we embrace life-affirming terminology to communicate the incontrovertible, scientific truth that life begins at fertilization and should end at natural death.

We are not "foes." We are friends of life—of mother and unborn child. And when R*oe v. Wade* is overturned, the case for life will have the last word.

Pro-lifers defeat filibuster of bill banning the dismemberment of living unborn babies

By Dave Andrusko

Once again, pro-life persistence and never-give-up attitude has prevailed.

As *NRL News Today* previously reported, on July 21 Nebraska senators voted 30-8 to get state Sen. Suzanne Geist's bill banning the dismemberment of living unborn babies out of the Judiciary Committee, where it had been deadlocked. But the bill still had one gigantic obstacle: a pro-abortion filibuster.

Last week that obstacle was overcome after three hours of intense debate.

Reporting for the *Omaha World Herald*, Martha Stoddard wrote

LINCOLN — Nebraska lawmakers shut down a filibuster and advanced a bill Wednesday to ban a type of second-trimester abortion in the state.

Legislative Bill 814, introduced by State Sen. Suzanne Geist of Lincoln, drew 34 votes on a filibuster-ending cloture motion. The motion needed 33 to succeed. Senators then gave the bill 34-9 first-round approval.

Currently 12 states prohibit this hideous form of abortion—Kansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Ohio, North Dakota, and Indiana.

Pro-abortionists argued both that the measure is unconstitutional and would be costly to defend. The first is unknowable, the latter is true only because the Abortion Industry has deep pockets, and with assistance of organizations such as the ACLU, they can drag proceedings out for an extended period of time.

During the debate over pulling LB 814 out of the Judiciary Committee, Geist said, "I believe that discussion of human dignity belongs at the top of that list," adding. "It's more important to me than tax credits."

Today she added, "We are talking about eliminating a procedure that is barbaric."

LB 814 was the top legislative priority of Nebraska Right to Life, NRLC's state affiliate.

Congratulations to Kansans for Life PAC 2020 Primary Winners!

Editor's note. This August 4 update was provided by Kansans for Life PAC. Dr. Roger Marshall, a pro-life two-term Congressman, defeated three other major candidates in yesterday's GOP primary to secure the Republican Party's nomination. His Democrat opponent is pro-abortion state Sen. Barbara Bollier. The winner will replace longtime United States Sen. Pat Roberts, who is retiring.

"The Value Them Both" Amendment is a proposed amendment to the state constitution.

Topeka, Kansas– "Kansans for Life PAC congratulates Dr. Roger Marshall on his victory this evening," said Melissa Leach, KFL PAC Manager. "After a hard-fought campaign with many pro-life candidates, we urge everyone committed to the protection of the pre-born to unite behind him. We must do everything in our power in the race to November to keep the thin pro-life majority in the U.S. Senate and ensure Barbara Bollier is nowhere near the confirmation of any federal judges."

"Congratulations also go to former Lt. Governor Tracey Mann (KS-01), Kansas Treasurer Jake LaTurner (KS-02) and Amanda Adkins (KS-03) for battling through hot races," continued Leach. "Congressman Ron Estes with his stalwart support of the life issue joins these three winners to make up a powerful pro-life congressional slate for voters to send to the U.S. House to stand against Nancy Pelosi and her pro-abortion agenda.

Dr. Roger Marshall

We must send a clear message to the abortion industry that they are not welcome in Kansas."

Last night also brought a very important win for the Value Them Both Amendment. With the defeat of Jan Kessinger and John Skubal, both of Overland Park, every Republican who voted against the amendment has either retired or was removed by voters. KFL PAC looks forward to electing the needed 2/3rd majorities necessary in November to protect women and their babies from unlimited abortion.

Kansans for Life PAC is dedicated to protecting and defending the right to life of all innocent humans from the moment of conception to natural death. We engage in recruiting, evaluating, endorsing, electing, and holding accountable pro-life candidates and elected or appointed officials.

Post-abortion father: "Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, from the moment of conception, we are parents."

By Sarah Terzo

Post-abortion father Dr. David Russell writes

We've all heard the platitudes regarding abortion that are being bandied about the workplace and the schools. "It's the only choice… It will pass… It will be like nothing ever happened… You can have other children…" You've heard them all…

It won't pass. It will never be like nothing ever happened. Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, from the moment of conception, we are parents, and on some deep level, we realize it. After abortions, we are the parents of children who died, and carry the burdens of our parts in those deaths. No matter how strongly you may believe that you could forget about that child, I can tell you from experience it doesn't work that way.

Dr. David Russell. *Through My Father's Eyes* (Mustang, Oklahoma: Tate Publishing and Enterprises, 2016) pp. 44 – 45.

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

A passion for life and a strong belief that life was always worth living, no matter how difficult the circumstance

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

He thought he would live to be 100—but it seemed like his Creator had different plans.

My father had seemed so invincible, surviving a stint as an airman in the Korean War, then, nearly two decades later, winning a difficult battle against a debilitating form of the flu.

But, with seemingly little forewarning, he suffered a diabetic stroke. With his kidneys failing, he seemed to be at death's door.

Then, miraculously, he rallied, and I was able to visit him in the hospital. He had lost much of his ability to speak, but not to laugh, and we shared a joke between us which cut the tension and reminded me of happier times.

In the nearly two months that followed, he reconciled with

His God in a beautiful and profound way. But just about two weeks shy of his birthday, he crossed from this world to the next as his body gave up the fight.

During his illness, my father could have been a candidate for doctor-prescribed suicide. After all, he had been diagnosed with diabetes, he had lost most of his ability to communicate, and he was an older gentleman—the majority of his days were behind him.

And yet, he would have resisted such a call for assisted suicide with every fiber of his failing body and undiminished soul. He had a passion for life and a strong belief that life was always worth living, no matter how difficult the circumstance.

The lessons my father taught me about living linger with me. I salute his legacy with each pro-life policy for which I advocate, each article I write, in the hope that no one will be tempted at the twilight of life to succumb to assisted suicide.

What's inside the August edition of National Right to Life News?

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This is on top of the recent ouster of that same affiliate's CEO over charges of abusive behavior, racism, and financial mismanagement. Ironically, the same affiliate which that CEO had left a couple of years back is itself in the midst of cutbacks and staff disgruntlement.

There is much more in the August digital edition of *National Right to Life News*, including important stories about reaching out to grieving post-abortion women. See pages 17 and 24.

Please be sure to pass this edition of the "pro-life newspaper of record" along to your friends and family. I eagerly await any responses you may have to the content.

My email is daveandrusko@gmail.com

Battle for the U.S. Senate: 2020 Competitive Races

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Loeffler, who took office in 2020, co-sponsored and voted for the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.*

Rep. Doug Collins also has a 100% pro-life score with National Right to Life. Doug Collins co-sponsored and voted for the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.*

The leading Democrat is pro-abortion Rev. Raphael Warnock. Planned Parenthood is supporting Rev. Warnock, calling him a "dedicated champion" for abortion.

IOWA – Joni Ernst vs. Theresa Greenfield

One of the U.S. Senate's most prominent pro-life women is up for re-election in 2020 – Sen. Joni Ernst (R) of Iowa. Ernst has maintained a 100% pro-life rating during her term in the Senate, voting in favor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection* Act.

Joni Ernst is endorsed by National Right to Life.

Her opponent, Theresa Greenfield (D), is backed by EMILY's List, a political action committee dedicated to electing Democratic women who support abortion without limits, and by NARAL Pro-Choice America.

KANSAS – Roger Marshall vs. Barbara Bollier

Dr. Roger Marshall is pro-life. He opposes abortion on demand and supports protection for unborn children. Dr. Marshall voted for the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dr. Marshall voted against taxpayer funding for abortion, and he voted against taxpayer funding of abortion providers as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

By contrast, Barbara Bollier supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason. Bollier voted against the Kansas Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and she voted to allow using tax dollars to pay for abortion.

Dr. Roger Marshall is endorsed by National Right to Life.

KENTUCKY – Mitch McConnell vs. Amy McGrath

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is up for re-election in 2020. Few have done more to advance the right to life in the U.S. Senate than Sen. McConnell.

"Senator McConnell has had an exemplary 100% pro-life voting record throughout his senate term. He has provided extraordinary pro-life leadership in the U.S. Senate and throughout his career," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, in announcing NRLC's endorsement.

In addition to his 100% pro-life voting record, McConnell has masterfully shepherded countless judicial nominees through the Senate, leaving a legacy that will impact the country for years to come.

Sen. McConnell faces pro-abortion Democrat Amy McGrath, a well-funded former fighter pilot and failed Congressional candidate who raised $17.4 million between April and June of this year. Despite being an adept fundraiser, McGrath nearly lost the Democratic primary after a series of missteps and the late surge of progressive candidate Charles Booker.

McGrath put her abortion extremism on full display in a 2018 interview on 590 *WVLK*. "You don't think there should be any limitations at all on abortion?" asked host Larry Glover. "I don't think government should be involved in making a decision on a woman's body," McGrath said. "So you think a woman on the way to the hospital to give birth could decide to abort it instead?" Glover said. "I don't think the government should be involved in a woman's right to choose what is happening to her body," McGrath said.

MICHIGAN – John James vs. Gary Peters

In 2016, Donald Trump shocked political experts when he carried the state of Michigan. Now with Trump back at the top of the ticket, pro-life Senate candidate John James (R) is running against pro-abortion Democrat incumbent Sen. Gary Peters.

Sen. Peters voted against bills to protect unborn children after 20 weeks, a point by which they can feel pain and against the bill to ensure babies born alive during abortions are afforded proper medical care.

John James is endorsed by National Right to Life.

By contrast, Sen. Peters was one of the first endorsements unveiled by Planned Parenthood in the 2020 election cycle.

In May and early June, some polls showed Peters leading by as much as double digits. Now, polls have James closing in. The momentum is clearly in the pro-life direction.

MONTANA – Steve Daines vs. Steve Bullock

Sen. Steve Daines (R) will face off against former governor and failed Democrat presidential candidate Steve Bullock. Sen. Daines holds a 100% rating from National Right to Life, having voted for key pro-life legislation such as the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act*, and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*.

Sen. Daines is endorsed by National Right to Life.

In 2019, Steve Bullock told *CNN* that he believes that life begins when an unborn baby is able to survive outside the womb. But he still does not believe those children deserve to be protected under law. "I would say that life begins at viability, but either way it's not up to people like me to be making these decisions."

And yet when those very decisions came to his desk as governor, Bullock **did** make a decision: he chose to veto. He twice vetoed a bill to protect unborn babies after 20 weeks, a point by which they can feel pain. Bullock even vetoed a bill that would have required babies born alive during an abortion to receive proper medical care.

NORTH CAROLINA - Thom Tillis vs. Cal Cunningham

In the Tar Heel State, pro-life Sen. Thom Tillis (R) is up for reelection. Tillis has earned a 100% rating from National Right to Life in his time in the Senate.

In voting for the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*

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Battle for the U.S. Senate: 2020 Competitive Races

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and the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*, Tillis said, "It is truly heartbreaking that there are politicians in the United States who believe that babies who survive failed abortions should not receive the proper medical attention necessary to keep them alive. Today, I voted in support of commonsense legislation to protect unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization and to ensure that newborns have the care they need and deserve. While Democrats continue to stake out extreme positions, I will never stop fighting for the sanctity of life."

National Right to Life has endorsed Thom Tillis.

Tillis faces pro-abortion former state representative Cal Cunningham, (D) who is backed by NARAL Pro-Choice America. "In the Senate, I will always defend *Roe v. Wade*, unlike Senator Tillis who just a few months ago asked the Supreme Court to revisit and potentially overturn it," said Cunningham. In addition to NARAL, Cunningham has the support of Planned Parenthood.

In its press release, PPFA noted, "Defeating Senator Thom Tillis is especially urgent, given his leading role in attacks on abortion rights and Planned Parenthood funding in the Senate."

As always, North Carolina will be a nail-biter. Defending Sen. Tillis may be the difference between a pro-life or a pro-abortion majority in the U.S. Senate.

SOUTH CAROLINA – Lindsey Graham vs. Jaime Harrison

Pro-life stalwart, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R), is facing a challenge by pro-abortion Democrat Jaime Harrison.

Sen. Graham is pro-life. He opposes abortion on demand and supports protection for unborn children. Senator Graham is the lead sponsor of the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*.

Sen. Graham voted against taxpayer funding for abortion, and he voted against taxpayer funding of abortion providers.

By contrast, his opponent, Jaime Harrison (D), supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason. Harrison opposed the South Carolina *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, and he supports using tax dollars to pay for abortion.

Lindsey Graham is endorsed by National Right to Life.

TENNESSEE – Bill Hagerty vs. Marquita Bradshaw

This U.S. Senate seat is open due to Lamar Alexander's retirement. Republican Bill Hagerty, former Ambassador to Japan, and Democrat community organizer Marquita Bradshaw were nominated by their respective parties in the August 6 primary election.

Bill Hagerty is pro-life. He opposes abortion on demand and supports protection for unborn children. He supports the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*.

Bill Hagerty opposes taxpayer funding for abortion, and he opposes taxpayer funding of abortion providers.

His opponent, Marquita Bradshaw, supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason, and she supports taxpayer funding of abortion.

Bill Hagerty is endorsed by National Right to Life.

TEXAS – John Cornyn vs. M.J. Heger

Senator John Cornyn is pro-life. He opposes abortion on demand and supports protection for unborn children. Sen. Cornyn voted for the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*.

Sen. Cornyn voted against taxpayer funding for abortion, and he voted against taxpayer funding of abortion providers.

By contrast, his opponent, M.J. Heger, supports a policy of abortion on demand, which allows abortion for any reason. Heger is backed by the pro-abortion trifecta: EMILY's List, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood. These pro-abortion groups advocate for abortion at anytime, anywhere, under any circumstances, and paid for by taxpayers.

National Right to Life endorsed Sen. Cornyn for re-election.

Make no mistake about it. National pro-abortion groups are spending enormous amounts of money to win the U.S. Senate majority. They know that a pro-life majority is essential to the goal of passing pro-life laws and stopping pro-abortion legislation such as the repeal of the Hyde Amendment.

For more information on where the candidates stand including downloadable comparisons, please go to www.nrlvictoryfund.org.

After victory in the highest court, Mexican bishops' conference tweets " May life live!"

By Dave Andrusko

At the end of the day last Wednesday, we learned that Mexico's Supreme Court, by a 4-1 vote, had unexpectedly rejected a lower court decision that had decriminalized abortion in the state of Veracruz.

Subsequently, we learned more specific details.

According to *The Catholic Universe*, "The Veracruz decision ordered the state legislature to reform its criminal code and remove any penalties for abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy."

Only Justice Juan Luis Gonzalez Alcantara Carranca proposed the Supreme Court uphold the lower court ruling.

The other justices were concerned about overstepping their proper boundaries, according to both *The Catholic Universe* and the very pro-abortion *BBC*.

The Catholic Universe reported

> **Justice Norma Pina, who voted with the majority against the proposal, voiced concerns that the court could not order another branch of government – the Veracruz legislature – to take certain actions or act as lawmakers.**
>
> **"The court cannot replace the legislature to order specific legislative content, because there is no constitutional mandate to legislate," Pina said, according to the newspaper Reforma.**
>
> **"The court would fall into judicial activism," Pina added, "which would surpass its constitutional powers."**

According to the *BBC*, in delivering her verdict, another justice

> **said that upholding the decision would "greatly overstep the constitutional powers of this Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation." Another voted against it because of what she called "a legal technicality."**

Of course, much more was at stake than the law in a single eastern state that borders the Gulf of Mexico. The widespread fear among pro-lifers (and equally widespread hope among pro-abortionists) was that a favorable decision would lead to widespread abortion "liberalization" in Mexico. There are 32 states in Mexico. Abortion is legal in only two.

Background

As so often is the case, a ruling by a single judge instigated the review at the nation's highest court. "Last year, a judge in Xalapa, Veracruz, approved an injunction ordering the state's Congress to remove articles 149, 150 and 154 of the local penal code," the *BBC* reported.

"The case then went to Mexico's Supreme Court, which needed to decide whether to uphold that judge's decision.

"Removing these articles would have decriminalised abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, allowed terminations for health reasons, and gotten rid of the time limit on abortions in cases of rape."

Prior to yesterday's decision, Bishop Herrera, who heads up the Commission for Life of the Mexican Bishops' Conference and is the Bishop of Nuevo Casa Grandes, released a statement on July 24 in which he expressed concern that the Supreme Court's decision could have "a direct impact on the legal protection of the fundamental human right to life, particularly in its early stages," *Vatican News* reported.

"Bishop Herrera added that a ruling quashing Veracruz's abortion law would have immediate effect in the state, which could eventually extend to the rest of Mexico."

Immediately after the court's decision, The Mexican bishops' conference tweeted "Today in #Mexico, a culture of life triumphs, thanks to everyone and each of you who joined together to pray and raise their voices. May life live!"