



August 2023

## Another magnificently successful NRLC Academy comes to an end



*Academy students and Academy coordinators are joined by NRLC President, Carol Tobias.*



## The 2024 Elections: How to Win the Messaging War on Abortion

By Karen Cross, NRL Political Director

The prevailing media narrative heading into the 2024 elections is that advocating for the right to life is a proverbial albatross around the necks of pro-life Republican candidates, one which will weigh them down or even cost them in key contests, including the presidential race. This is certainly the storyline that pro-abortion Democrats like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris would like to see play out. Many Democrats are confident that they can ride the issue of abortion to four more years in the White House and use it to make gains in the House and Senate. Some Republicans are already throwing in the towel

on the issue and urging others in their party to do the same. But it does not have to be this way. **Pro-life candidates can win in 2024 by learning from the 2022**

**elections and adopting the right messaging on this issue.**

Polling shows that support for unlimited abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy,

the position held by President Biden, Vice President Harris, and most Congressional Democrats, remains a minority view, even within their own party. Just 32% of registered Democrats say they support abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, according to a January 2023 Marist poll. The same survey also found that 49% of Democrats support at least some protections for unborn children and their mothers. Additionally, a May 2023 Gallup poll found that 15%



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## A New Class Ready For a New Era

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D. Academic Director, NRL Academy

*Editor's note. These were Dr. O'Bannon closing remarks concluding a very successful five weeks.*

Fifty years after *Roe* and just a year after *Dobbs*.

Your class is a unique one.

Last year, it was exciting to hear that *Roe* had been overturned and that we were entering a new era where real protections for unborn children were possible. We knew there would be challenges, but it was a new day for American mothers and their unborn children.

This year, with thirteen months now under this new legal framework, we are beginning to

see a bit more about what this new era offers. It will offer great opportunities. But it will also offer considerable challenges. And it is going to take hard, smart, strategic, dedicated work to turn this immediate legal advantage into long term, effective protections.

And that's where you come in.

You are the next generation of pro-life leaders, who until a couple of months ago, had lived your entire lives under *Roe*'s regime of abortion on demand. That you

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Academy students Jennifer Hubert and Elizabeth Smith with Academy Director Dr. Randall O'Bannon

# Editorials

## “Storytelling” cannot defeat the truth: abortion kills children and maims their mothers

Mary Ziegler, a professor of law at the University of California, Davis, is the Abortion Industry’s primary go-to source for an articulate pro-abortion response. Her writings appear in academic publications such as *JAMA* and the leading pro-abortion newspapers, including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and, most recently, the *Boston Globe*. And that is in addition to her books, such as *Reproductive Rights, Health, and Justice: Law and Policy and Roe: The History of a National Obsession*.

Her argument in “Women’s stories may change the abortion narrative” is that American pro-abortionists are using the strategy employed by the pro-abortion movement in Ireland, a gameplan that won for them the complete

elimination of protection for unborn babies. Ziegler writes

**Irish activists experimented with a wide variety of strategies to test the sweeping interpretation of fetal rights associated with the Eighth Amendment: They went to the nation’s supreme court to establish a right to abortion in cases of extreme threats to health and life, and they litigated before the European Court of Human Rights, advocating for a right to information about**

See *Storytelling*, Page 31



"We want to protect unborn children from death. But we also want to protect the women who are going to be harmed by abortion."

 national  
RIGHT TO LIFE

NRLC President Carol Tobias  
on ABC's *This Week*

## A devastating headline from *NBC News*: “Note cards and shorter stairs: How Biden’s campaign is addressing his age”

It’s not a state secret that President Biden has lost his fastball. The best that you could say for him is he is able to throw an occasional change-up, although where it lands is anyone’s guess.

We are a little less than 15 months away from the 2024 Presidential election and Mr. Biden insists he is running—maybe walking would be more accurate—for a second term. However, no matter what his handlers tell you, whatever the

party line may be on a given day, that will present an enormous challenge, regardless of who his Republican challenger turns out to be.

We’ll return to the *NBC News* poll presently. According to the *New York Post* [<https://nypost.com/2023/08/01/half-of-dem-voters-want-new-2024-pick-biden-even-with-trump-poll/>]

*Half of likely Democratic primary voters want the party to nominate someone*

*other than President Biden to run the 2024 race for the White House, a new poll has found.*

*Although Biden is a near-certainty to be nominated for a second term next summer, only 45% of likely primary voters want the 80-year-old to be the party’s standard-bearer, while 50% want someone else, according to the *New York Times*/*

*Siena College survey out Tuesday.*

*A plurality of Democrats who don’t want Biden renominated (39%) say their aversion is due to his advanced age, while another 20% say he hasn’t done a good enough job to earn a second term. Still*

See *Biden*, Page 34

# From the President Carol Tobias

## A Clear Choice: Good or Evil?



There is no question about it. Joe Biden is the most fanatically pro-abortion president we've ever had. Biden's administration is filled with people who go to work every day thinking

of ways to advance the

killing of innocent preborn children. In direct conflict with both federal and state law, his Administration pays for and provides abortions for veterans and eligible spouses and dependents within the Veterans Affairs system as well as travel and transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to obtain elective abortion.

President Biden rescinded a Title X grant from a state because the state refuses to use the funds to aid the killing of preborn children. He suspended long-standing protections for women undergoing chemical abortions, funds research on tissue from aborted babies, challenged in court laws enacted by men and women duly elected to state legislatures, and looks for opportunities to shut down viable alternatives for women facing an unexpected pregnancy (which is why they target pregnancy help centers)—and that is just a taste of his abortion fanaticism.

Biden must not—CANNOT—be re-elected as president for another four years. Too many more babies will die because of his “abortion is the only choice” mentality. Yet even if he is replaced as the Democrat candidate for president, his replacement will be no different, certainly no better.

The pro-life movement is blessed with many great pro-life candidates running for president on the Republican ticket. Many pro-lifers have a favorite candidate, others are waiting to see who comes forward as the best, strongest candidate to beat Biden or his replacement.

It is counterproductive for any pro-life person or group to disparage and undercut pro-life candidates, claiming that some of them are “unacceptable.” I was sorry to see a group do just that, trying to knock out of the race a pro-life candidate who didn't jump on board with their particular priority-- a national law to limit abortion after 15 weeks.

**Candidates who have a history of voting for, signing into law, or supporting pro-life legislation and policies should**

**be applauded and thanked. We do not have the luxury of saying some of these candidates are unacceptable-- especially when the standard for “acceptable” is a bill that would prohibit just 5% or fewer of all abortions.**

*NRL News Today* has carried several articles explaining the problem, including one in the August issue of *NRL News*. A 15-week bill would save only 5% of babies but would allow abortion promoters to weaponize their deceptive, poll-tested phrase “national ban on abortion” to mislead abortion supporters into believing all abortions would be “banned,” further inflaming their pro-abortion passion to defeat the pro-life candidate.

To a casual observer who does not know that 95% of all abortions occur before 15

pdf) the right to life movement should seek real lifesaving goals at the federal level that are politically wise and realistically achievable in the foreseeable future.

I have heard, for many years, that people are tired of voting for the lesser of two evils, meaning they don't really like either candidate. News flash—there is no perfect candidate! I don't remember a candidate with whom I agreed 100% on everything. We look at the options available to us and select the one who will be the better leader.

Any of the viable Republican candidates running for president will support meaningful, life-affirming policies to help mothers and save babies.

The only evil on the ballot will be the candidate who supports a nationwide law



weeks, such a bill, if enacted, would create the *illusion* of solving the abortion problem while leaving 95% of unborn babies unprotected.

A 15-week bill could not, in any event, pass the U.S. Senate in the foreseeable future because of a Democrat filibuster.

One further point: a 15-week bill *now* overlooks the profound and fundamental strategic difference between promoting such a law when *Roe v Wade* was in effect – when the need was to get the Supreme Court to reexamine that lethal precedent – and **post-Roe**, when the need is enacting legislation to actually save as many unborn children as possible.

As outlined in NRLC's initiative, “The Role of the Federal Government in the Protection of Unborn Children,” ([www.nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/RoleoftheFederalGovernmentList](http://www.nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/RoleoftheFederalGovernmentList)).

that allows abortion for any reason, through all nine months of pregnancy, paid for with taxpayer dollars.

The only evil on the ballot will be the candidate who wants to deny conscience rights to medical personnel who don't want to participate in abortions.

The only evil will be the candidate who wants to shut down pregnancy help centers and who uses the power of the federal government to harass peaceful people praying outside abortion facilities.

The election is still 15 months away. No pro-life candidate should be denounced or rejected. Let's instead use our time and energy to expose and fight the evil in our midst, doing everything we can to dispel the cloud over our nation on Election Day, November 5, 2024.

# States on the move since *Dobbs* overturned *Roe*

By Liberty Counsel

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* on June 24, 2022, it placed all policymaking on abortion in the hands of the people and their elected representatives. By determining there was no constitutional right to an abortion, the High Court did not make abortion illegal, but rather shifted the issue from the federal level to the state level. The decision opens the door for states to interpret what protections exist within their own constitutions and gives state legislatures the opportunity to enact laws protecting unborn life.

At least six state supreme courts have examined their respective state constitutions regarding abortion laws since *Roe*'s reversal. The Idaho and Indiana High Courts both ruled their constitutions do not protect abortion rights clearing the way for near-total abortion bans to take effect.

In addition, the High Courts of Kentucky and Oklahoma have also let near-total abortion bans go into effect. However, the Montana and South Carolina Supreme Courts ruled their state constitutions do protect abortion under the right to privacy. Liberty Counsel had filed amicus briefs in four of those states defending pro-life laws and achieved favorable results in Indiana, Kentucky, and Oklahoma.

Many states anticipated the overturning of *Roe* and moved quickly to enact abortion bans or reinstate older abortion laws previously struck down by *Roe*. Since June 2022, at least 18 states have enacted near-total abortion bans (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Wisconsin). Additionally, at least six other states have passed "fetal heartbeat" laws banning abortion at six weeks of pregnancy when

a baby's heartbeat is typically detectable (Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, Ohio, and South Carolina).

However, at least eight of these state laws are facing legal challenges by pro-abortion groups and have been temporarily blocked by the courts. The near total bans in Arizona, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, and the "fetal heartbeat" laws in Florida, Iowa, Ohio, and South Carolina are all on hold while the legal challenges are reviewed. The South Carolina Supreme Court struck down a previous "fetal heartbeat" law on January 5, 2023.

Liberty Counsel has filed amicus briefs in Arizona and Florida advocating the courts uphold these abortion laws in those states. The briefs state, "Abortion is the modern-day offspring of eugenics. Margaret Sanger and the early abortion movement promoted abortion to reduce populations they considered lesser than White or fully able Americans...Now, the abortion industry denies that all human beings have inherent value and dignity bestowed on them by their Creator, and has indisputably targeted Black, Hispanic, and disabled communities for reduction."

In Arizona, Liberty Counsel filed in defense of reinstating the state's 159-year-old abortion law to protect unborn minority and disabled children from social eugenic policies. In Florida, Liberty Counsel filed in defense of Florida's 15-week abortion ban since the Florida Constitution affirms "the right to enjoy and defend life" regardless of "race, religion, national origin, or physical disability."

The brief further states abortion is in direct conflict with both states' constitutional guarantee of the right to life. Liberty Counsel has filed amicus briefs in six states exposing the dark history of abortion – Arizona, Florida,

Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

The abortion fight also may come to the ballot box in several states. In July 2023, petitioners in Ohio submitted nearly a half a million signatures surpassing the minimum requirement to put a state constitutional amendment on the ballot this November.



The proposed amendment, "The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety," would allow the people of Ohio to vote whether or not to enshrine abortion rights into the state's constitution. Currently, Ohio only requires a simple majority vote to amend its constitution. However, the Ohio legislature has set a special election for August 8, 2023, to raise the voting threshold for amending the state constitution to a 60 percent majority.

In Florida, several pro-abortion groups have proposed a similar amendment to the state's constitution. Like Ohio's amendment, Florida's "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion" would allow the state to regulate abortion only after "fetal viability" (about 24 weeks). The proposal must have at least 891,523 valid petition signatures filed with the state by February 1, 2024, to be put on the state's ballot for voters to decide.

Pro-life advocates in Florida are

organizing to form a coalition to challenge the proposed amendment at the appropriate time.

The National Right to Life Committee states more than 63,000,000 babies have been aborted since the *Roe* ruling in 1973. According to a 2011 study published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, "Abortion and mental

health: Quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995-2009," 81 percent of women who had an abortion suffered increased risk for mental health problems as compared to women who carried their babies to term. The study also found a 37 percent higher rate of depression, 35 percent higher rate of suicide, and 34 percent higher rate of anxiety in women who had an abortion.

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* was a great victory, but the fight to protect unborn life is far from over. The battle for life is now in every state where everyone can get involved by engaging your elected representatives, voting pro-life, and speaking up for the unborn within your sphere of influence. Abortion has wrought nothing but carnage and death for more than 63 million children and harms women physically and psychologically. It is time for the womb to be a safe place again."

# The Instinct to Mother

By Bonnie Finnerty

Six months ago I left a job I loved, coworkers I admired, and a mission I wholeheartedly believed in. In some ways it was a difficult decision. But then again, it was also quite simple.

My four-year stint as the Education Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation was an exhilarating experience that stretched, challenged, and fulfilled my desire to be an agent of change in our misdirected pro-abortion culture. I loved writing and speaking about pro-life topics. I loved doing our weekly podcast with amazing guests. I loved meeting so many dedicated people through our chapter events. I even relished debates that would surface on social media when abortion supporters proffered their illogical comments.

So why leave a job that I found so meaningful, one where I had the opportunity to have a positive impact on the culture of life?

Well, a new position had developed.

The hours were irregular. The salary nonexistent. But the clientele was unparalleled. And it was the best pro-life job I could ever land.

I left to be a full-time Baba (grandmother).

You see, my daughter and son-in-law had recently relocated with their four children to our

corner of the world. If you are a grandparent, you know the weight of that blessing.

Each day that I went into the office, I felt a tug. While I was busily composing blogs, social media posts, and weekly

their homeschooling journey. The mom in me wanted to be available to help my daughter and son-in-law whenever the occasion arose.

So I resigned. It was hard to walk away from work I loved, but not hard for those I love more.



e-newsletters, safely tucked behind my keyboard, my fast-blooming grandchildren were just 15 minutes from me.

The baba in me wanted to be more present in their lives. The teacher in me wanted to support

The greatest pro-life work, after all, is what we do in our very own families, in our own homes.

This wasn't the first time I yielded to the strong maternal instinct that dwells within. Many years ago I left a teaching position

that I absolutely loved. I had landed an amazing job in a middle school where I felt I could truly make a difference.

But just a few weeks in I learned I was pregnant with our fourth child. As I neared the end of the pregnancy, I realized that I was called to prioritize my own children and leave teaching. Transitioning to one income meant some sacrifices but our basic needs were met and our family life flourished. Twenty-four years later, as that child is finishing her doctorate and serves others in her healthcare vocation, I know it was the right decision for our family.

As I was writing this, our fifth grandchild was born, a sign of good job security for this baba. With two weddings on the horizon, we are adding onto our family through marriage as well. It is a new season of life and I am embracing it.

There are so many ways to build a pro-life culture- through education, advocacy, legislation, mentoring, and more. And I am so grateful for all those who continue to work in the pro-life movement, shining light on the darkness.

For me right now, my work is here. Mother Teresa said, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." It is after all, where it all begins!

# The arrival of twins can rock a mother and father's world. But it also represents double the laughter... double the joy...and double the blessings

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

Their smiles were infectious as they stared out from the computer screen. They had entered the world together after just 23 weeks in their mother's womb. The twins now seem Pinterest-perfect in their latest portrait, which shows them wearing shirts advertising a professional football team.

A relative of the twins, who shared the sweet photo with a group of her friends, is justifiably proud of the pair and the challenges they have overcome.

What is frightening, though, is that babies at the same gestational age can be aborted in this country.

Abortion is an inherently inhumane act which violates human dignity and leaves a

mother to grieve an irreplaceable loss. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 33,000 preborn babies will lose their lives to abortion in a given year.

Euphemisms for the practice abound—"selective reduction" being a common way to refer to the killing of multiples. But the slick language cannot hide the pain of the procedure.

Granted, the arrival of twins can rock a mother and father's world. But it also represents double the laughter...double the joy...and double the blessings.

I stare at the picture of the little Packers fans and my heart melts. They are a shining example of a pair of babies who have beaten

the odds. They are a living, breathing testament to human grit and determination.

these pint-size football fanatics and to the mother who bore them. They are rightfully part of



They were as human in their mother's womb as they are today, months after birth. So cheers to

the human family, as all babies should be.

# Unknowingly using language employed by the Nazis a reminder of how we can inadvertently dehumanize entire groups of people

By Laura Echevarria, Director of Communications and Press Secretary

A recent errand meant spending a little time in the lobby of a local business. While I waited, I had the opportunity to talk to the owner's father who is now in his mid-80s and who helped start the business in the late 1970s. I've seen him over the years as we have visited the business and he has, by his own admission, slowed down because of his age. This time, he was sleeping when I walked in but woke up in time to have a conversation with me.

But something he said during our conversation disturbed me.

I asked how he was doing, and his answer—as it often is—was “Better than I deserve.” But as we talked more, he expressed his frustration that at his age and ability, he was a “useless eater.” I was stunned that he used the term and it's one that I loathe because it reflects a philosophy that was prevalent in Nazi Germany regarding persons with disabilities.

In 1920, two university professors, attorney Karl Binding and psychiatrist Alfred Hoche, wrote a tract called “Permitting the Destruction of Life Unworthy of Living.” In it, they argued for the deaths of persons they considered “lives unworthy of living.” They contended that people with mental or physical disabilities should be put to death as “healing work.” Their

arguments were made before the Nazis came to power but by the time they did, these ideas were foundational in the development of Germany's T4 program that was designed to classify for killing any people – and children—with

“Life unworthy of life” and “useless eater” were terms that came out of the 1920's tract and the T4 program. But Nazi propaganda went further. One official publication that was often found in doctor's offices,

But for the families of those killed, they were often lied to and told their child or family member died of pneumonia or tuberculosis.

“Useless eater” and “life unworthy of life” are offensive phrases meant to demean and undermine a person's inherent, God-given right to life.

In the waiting room, I ran into one of the very statements that laid the groundwork for Nazi Germany's annihilation of so many lives in a way I never imagined hearing in the modern era—bluntly and publicly. As we continued speaking, the gentleman told me that everyone else around him was working but all he did was sit and doze all day. He was forgetful and it bothered him. I told him that those things didn't make him “useless” and that he did contribute to the world around him. At his age, he has wisdom that only life experience can give. While it is true that he can't do everything he could do when he was younger, he can be there for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in different ways.

More importantly, even if he didn't “contribute” to society, his very existence means his right to life exists. It's not based on how much we contribute to the world around us. It just is.



disabilities as well as others that Nazis considered “undesirable.” From the early T4 program, the killing methods used in the Holocaust were developed and expanded leading to the deaths of millions of Jews, prisoners of war, and many others that the Nazis wanted to destroy.

libraries, and schools looked at the “cost” of keeping a person with a disability alive. Propaganda films were commissioned to develop sympathy in the population for euthanasia. The films sanitized and/or glorified the deaths of those with disabilities or debilitating conditions.



# A Federal 15-Week Ban on Abortion?

By Right to Life of Michigan

The post-*Roe* era calls for bold, compassionate leadership on the issue of abortion.

You may have heard some organizations or candidates promote a federal 15-week abortion ban as the path forward. **Sadly, a federal 15-week ban offers almost no protection for the unborn, since about 95% of abortions happen in the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.**

Advocates for life should instead work to build consensus around legal protections which both safeguard women and offer *meaningful* legal protections for the unborn, *as an effective starting point*. We can and must offer a compelling case that invites women to make a choice for life, rather than equivocate with policies that offer little to no protection for women and the unborn.

While Proposal 3, which passed on November 8, 2022, created a constitutional right to abortion in Michigan, the path taken at the federal level will impact countless lives across the country and help chart the part forward for the broader cause of life in the days and years ahead.

We can and must do better.

Federal elected officials interested in offering meaningful protections and alternatives for women seeking an abortion and, ultimately, saving the lives of vulnerable children regardless of gestational age, should focus on legislative priorities such as:

- Protecting the rights of parents to be involved in a minor's decision related to an abortion.
- Ensuring taxpayer dollars are not used for abortion.
- Protecting informed consent and existing

“right to know” laws for women seeking an abortion.

To view our full position on a federal 15-week abortion ban, please go to <https://rtl.org/mission/policy-federal-15-week-ban/>



# Florida Right to Life: We are proud of our Pro-life Governor Ron DeSantis

In a shocking and quite disappointing turn of events Florida Right to Life received a statement from Susan B. Anthony List (SBA) stating in

statement has a link to the interview for all to view for themselves.

I heartily encourage everyone to click



the title: “Ron DeSantis’ Position is Unacceptable to Pro-Life Movement.” The statement was attributed to the organization’s president following an interview Gov. DeSantis had with Megyn Kelly.

The following statement may be attributed to Lynda Bell, Florida Right to Life President:

**I watched the entire interview, and thought DeSantis was perfect in his response. Let me be clear . . . SBA does not speak for the pro-life movement! We are still baffled as to what they saw and heard that was offensive. Their**

**here and watch “The Full Interview”! Our Governor restated his defense of all preborn life, saying, “I’ve been a pro-life governor and I will be a pro-life president.” I do not know how much clearer he could have been.**

**In the greatest of all ironies, SBA has pushed for a 15-week national standard that would allow almost all abortions in the U.S., while Florida passed a law protecting babies at six weeks also known as “the Heartbeat Bill.”**

Recently, National Right to Life issued a white paper stating the Role of the Federal Government in the Protection of Preborn Children. We encourage everyone to read it. Considering the current makeup of Congress, it makes perfect sense. These protections include: no taxpayer funding of abortion, recognizing the role of parental involvement, making sure moms and babies are aware of Resources available to them, ensuring the CDC collects meaningful data, protecting conscious rights of health care professionals, among other very doable actions.

In Florida, our pro-life Governor DeSantis, working closely with Florida Right to Life, has signed a Parental Consent bill, last year’s 15-weeks bill (before the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe) and this year’s

6-week Heartbeat bill. I am not sure how that can be interpreted in any other way than being solidly in the pro-life camp!



*Lynda Bell*

**Florida Right to Life is the state’s oldest pro-life organization since 1971. We have been at the forefront in the battle to defend all innocent life. We are very proud of our accomplishments and the accomplishments of our very proudly pro-life Governor.**

# Indiana Attorney General ask Indiana Supreme Court to put Senate Enrolled Act 1 into effect immediately

By Dave Andrusko

In a new legal filing, Attorney General Todd Rokita has urged the Indiana Supreme Court to put Senate Enrolled Act 1 into effect immediately. His filing asks the Court to deny an ACLU-Planned Parenthood request that it leave intact a preliminary injunction against Senate Enrolled Act 1 while court challenges to the state law continue to play out.

Denying a rehearing and certifying the law is a necessary step for the law to be in effect.

Senate Bill 1 allows abortions only in cases of rape or incest, when there's a serious risk to the life of the mother, or when fatal fetal anomalies are present.

“Artificially prolonging an erroneously issued injunction through an exercise of raw judicial power would contravene this court's precedents, subvert the purpose of preliminary relief and undermine the democratic process,” Rokita said. “The state, its citizens, and especially the unborn lives protected by S.B. 1 all will suffer grievously from an unjustified extension of the injunction.”

*Plaintiffs' attempt to minimize the harm to the State because “abortion has been widely legal in Indiana since Roe v. Wade,” borders on farcical. As the U.S. Supreme Court has explained, Roe represented an unjustified federal intrusion*

*into a realm the U.S. Constitution leaves to ‘the people and their elected representatives’ in each state.’ And as this Court has recognized, from the very beginning of the Roe*



Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita

*era, Indiana ‘made clear it disagreed with Roe.’*

*Plaintiffs' invocation of Roe reveals what this case is about—whether ‘policy making responsibility’ for abortion should be vested in democratically accountable representatives or “our five-member, unelected Court, which does not have the institutional tools to discern Hoosiers’*

*divergent views on whether” and when abortion should be legal. But Roe—an unprincipled exercise of ‘raw judicial power’ by the U.S. Supreme Court*

*that ‘has embittered our political culture for a half century’—provides a cautionary tale against exercising such raw power here. The Court should not tolerate plaintiffs’ continued attempts to make the judiciary abortion policy czars.*

Writing for *The Times of Northwest Indiana*, Dan Carden explained that Rokita said

“there’s absolutely no basis for an Indiana appellate court to refuse to vacate a preliminary injunction after concluding the trial court exceeded its authority in issuing it — as the Supreme Court did in this case.”

As noted above, a month ago the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the law does not violate the state Constitution. Justice Derek R. Molter wrote that the state’s constitution “protects a woman’s right to an abortion that is necessary to protect her life or to protect her from a serious health risk, but the General Assembly otherwise retains broad legislative discretion for determining whether and the extent to which to prohibit abortions.”

While there is no timeline for the state Supreme Court to rule on the ACLU’s petition for rehearing, according to Casey Smith, “until the high court certifies its decision, an injunction remains in place — blocking the new law from taking effect. At earliest, decisions can be certified 30 days after a ruling is issued. Because the June 30 ruling was not certified by Monday, it will not take effect on Tuesday.”

In short, the ACLU of Indiana had a month to petition the court to rehear the case and they took full advantage, waiting until the last second. Moreover, “The ACLU of Indiana additionally filed for a rehearing on Monday, pushing back the date of certification even farther,” Brandon Smith reported.

# Young family faces daughter's diagnosis with faith: 'In God, there's hope'

By Lisa Bast

Kali Jackson always knew she'd attend college. Her goal was to study nursing and eventually embark on a career as a pediatrician. Since the sixth grade, Jackson had been enrolled in The Young Scholars Program with the promise of a full scholarship to Ohio State University. She never saw herself in the role of a mother, but at the age of 16, Jackson became pregnant.

Jackson told *Live Action News*, "At first, I didn't think much would change because of my pregnancy. I could enroll in Kent State University and be closer to home."

As a pro-life Christian, Jackson never considered abortion.

"I made the choice to have unprotected relations with my boyfriend, Caleb, so I needed to take responsibility for the consequences," Jackson said. "Fortunately, both sets of parents were supportive as was Caleb during this time."

For the first seven months, the pregnancy progressed normally, but then an ultrasound showed the baby was abnormally small. Doctors told Jackson the umbilical cord was not providing adequate blood flow to the baby.

Jackson said, "I was advised to have an amniocentesis so doctors could gather more information, but I declined. I didn't want to do anything that might harm the baby."

Two weeks later, Jackson was admitted to the hospital suffering from pre-eclampsia. She was given injections to help mature the baby's lungs and was told she'd most likely have to undergo a cesarian section. A fetal heart ultrasound revealed a tiny hole in the baby's heart that doctors told

Jackson would close once her daughter was born.

"I was so confused," Jackson said. "How could this happen so suddenly? I was very scared and feeling overwhelmed."

Her surgery date was scheduled for December 9, but in late

November, while still in the hospital, the baby's heart rate started to dip. Jackson was told she'd have the surgery in 30 minutes to save her baby's life.

## Couple fights for severely disabled baby's life

But the story wasn't yet over. Doctors told Jackson her daughter

inserted a breathing tube. I was terrified but so happy she made it through the birth."

to improve her breathing but cautioned Jackson her child's life expectancy was low. Jackson said, "The doctors told us that if all this was just too much to handle, we should just let her go. I couldn't believe those words were said in her hospital room. Caleb and I prayed together after eight minutes of silence and told the doctors we were committed to doing everything to save our daughter."

The couple believed that because of their young age, their capability to care for the daughter was being callously disregarded.

"I appreciate getting the worst-case scenario, and we understood there would be a lot of sacrifice, but we refused to believe there was no hope for her," Jackson said. "We weren't going to accept that diagnosis."

When Kelsi was one year old, she started showing improvement and Kali enrolled in Kent State, commuting to school while working part-time. Kelsi was still on a ventilator and oxygen, but doctors believed she was ready to go home.

Jackson said, "Caleb and I had to be trained on how to change and clean the trach tube and undergo 12-hour stays so we were proficient in her care. Later we were told she couldn't come home because of lack of available nursing care. We were so frustrated at this point."

## Overcoming adversity with faith

But in July 2020, Kelsi, now 20 months, was weaned off the ventilator, and though still on



*Kelsi with her parents Kali and Caleb*

November, while still in the hospital, the baby's heart rate started to dip. Jackson was told she'd have the surgery in 30 minutes to save her baby's life.

Jackson said, "The epidural didn't work, so I was put under anesthesia. I'm so glad Caleb was able to be with me. Our baby, Kelsi was born on November 27 and weighed just one pound, six ounces. She was so tiny they had to put her in what looked like a plastic bag to keep her body temperature regulated and

did not have a promising outcome.

"They told us she may never walk, talk or breathe on her own," Jackson said. "Her liver, eyesight, and hearing were affected by what we were now told was the CMV virus, which I apparently contracted early in my pregnancy. This was devastating news."

When Kelsi was two months old, she was switched to the nose cannula, but the breathing tube was re-inserted when she turned blue as she struggled to breathe. Doctors advised a tracheotomy

# Heartwarming Story: Mother at 15 Now Earns Doctorate From UCLA

By Ashlynn Lemos, Texas Right to Life

At the age of 15, Sonia Betancourt became pregnant with her first child. Although she had always dreamed of attending UCLA to become a lawyer, she decided to put her future on hold to raise her daughter Stephanie, and soon later, son Miguel. However, Sonia never let her dreams die. In early June, this long awaited dream became a reality when she walked across the UCLA stage with her doctorate in nursing. Her two children got to proudly watch their mom who gave them everything, even as a teenager, achieve this accomplishment.

Sonia and Stephanie spoke in an interview with *NBC 4* about Sonia's accomplishment.

"Of course, who plans a pregnancy at 15, right? I didn't," Sonia said. However, she further explained that she never had let the fear of becoming a "failure" or "just a statistic" hold her back. Instead, she took on the role of mothering her children, encouraging them to chase their dreams, and pursue college for

themselves. Ironically, both Stephanie and Miguel graduated with their Bachelor's from UCLA, before Sonia had ever taken a class there.



Sonia's daughter, Stephanie, wrote a touching tribute to her mom that was published on the UCLA nursing website. "As we know, life can throw us a curveball or two, and despite

the straight A's, my mom was pregnant at fifteen — putting her dreams to attend UCLA on hold," she wrote.

"Nonetheless, she instilled the

"Today, we honor a woman who reminds us that we can be selfless yet pursue our dreams too. It's never too late to go after what you want — what you deserve. Congratulations, Sonia Betancourt. We are SO proud of you. Even more — we are SO grateful for you."

It is stories like Sonia's that serve as a testimony that pregnancy is not the end of all goals and plans. Although she did not plan to postpone her college career, what a blessing it was to have her two children watch her walk the stage!

God's plan is always perfect, and he works all things for our good. While the abortion industry tries to tell women that pregnancy is the end of a woman's goals and dreams, it is really a beautiful beginning to a new journey.

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

-- Romans 8:28

same work ethic and drive into her children. She supported us in everything we did, nurturing us to become our best version."

"For decades, everyone else came first," Stephanie said.

# House Democrats use misleading reports about teen who burned, buried preborn child to scare public

By Calvin Freiburger

Democrats in Congress are seizing on a pervasive misrepresentation of a grisly child killing out of Nebraska in their attempt to turn the public against pro-life laws by claiming they subject troubled pregnant teenagers to criminal prosecution.

Last week, 19-year-old Celeste Burgess was sentenced to 90 days in prison and two years' probation for removing, concealing, or abandoning a dead body when she procured abortion pills to kill her preborn baby at 23 weeks, then burned and buried the body. Earlier this month, her mother Jessica pled guilty to assisting with the crime.

Celeste was not charged for taking abortion pills, which have been illegal past 20 weeks in Nebraska since before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, though her mother was charged with helping facilitate the abortion. Despite the facts of the case, many in the press attempted to present it as proof women and girls were starting to be thrown in jail simply for taking abortion pills.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota called the situation a “freighting

[sic] violation of privacy and autonomy,” and Democratic U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu of California said a Twitter Community Note correcting the record was “stupid” on the grounds that “Putting women in jail for concealing an abortion as compared to having

He shot back by claiming that thinking “a fetus is a baby” is a “religious belief,” when in reality it is a settled biological fact that fetuses are whole, living, and genetically distinct human beings. Fourteen states currently ban all or most abortions, with



California Rep. Ted Lieu  
Photo: Ted Lieu's Flickr page

an abortion is not the winning message that Republicans think it is.”

Lieu got pushback and a Community Note of his own, noting that the law at issue was not about “concealing an abortion” but rather about concealing “human skeletal remains.”

available data so far indicating those states could effectively wipe out an estimated 200,000 abortions a year, and discrediting abortion defenders' long-running predictions that abortion bans would only force women to continue aborting through more dangerous and illicit means.

The specter of women being jailed for aborting has long been one of the abortion lobby's most potent talking points, despite the fact that current pro-life laws expressly state that only abortionists or other facilitators may be subjected to penalties.

Meanwhile, abortion allies pursue a variety of tactics to preserve abortion “access,” such as easing distribution of abortion pills, legal protection and financial support of interstate abortion travel, attempting to enshrine “rights” to the practice in state constitutions rather than the U.S. Constitution, constructing new abortion facilities near borders shared by pro-life and pro-abortion states, and making liberal states sanctuaries for those who want to evade or violate the laws of more pro-life neighbors.

President Joe Biden has called on Congress to codify a “right” to abortion in federal law, which would not only restore but expand the *Roe* status quo by making it illegal for states to pass virtually any pro-life laws.

*Editor's note. This appeared at Life Site News and is reposted with permission.*

# Mass Citizens for Life testifies that not only is bill attacking pregnancy resource centers in Massachusetts not justified, it is unconstitutional

*Editor's note. The following is the testimony delivered July 24 to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure in opposition to H.377/S. 174 by Patricia Stewart, executive director of Massachusetts Citizen for Life.*

On April 11th this year, I requested public records from the office of the Attorney General

records she was providing “encompassed all of the complaints received by the AGO as of April 14, 2023,” the date she received my request.

These records consist of:

- 4 consumer complaints—with redacted dates—against 3 named PRCs and
- 1 third-party complaint against 1 of the same

PRCs have been serving needy pregnant women in Massachusetts for some 39 years. In 2022 alone, they served 2079 clients. In 39 years, they have served many thousands more.

Four consumer complaints in 39 years attest to the extraordinary safety record and client satisfaction with PRC policies and procedures.

Four consumer complaints in 39

opportunity to know what is prohibited....”

This bill does not define the prohibited “statement...that is deceptive...by statement or omission.”

*Webster's Dictionary* defines “deceptive” as “tending or having the power to deceive: misleading.”

Would a PRC advertisement that omits driving directions be considered “deceptive” to someone with no GPS access who got lost? Or, would omission of a “Closed on Sunday” notice be deemed to have “deceived” someone who attempted to visit a PRC on a Sunday?

With no defining parameters, the opportunities to offend are unknowable, and thus, unconstitutional.

H.377 is not about protecting women's health; it is about protecting abortion providers' profits by censoring and ultimately shutting down their only competition – the PRCs of Massachusetts, who work for *free* and offer women a *true* choice.

I respectfully request H.377 receive an unfavorable report.



## MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE

of Massachusetts “that reflect or refer to complaints, accusations, dissatisfactions, or other concerns asserted *at any time*” against any of 41 identified pregnancy resource centers [PRCs] in Massachusetts.

On May 1st, I received the AGO's [Attorney General's Office's] response, stating the

3 PRCs, dated 2017 from a Washington DC group, whose website promotes a Planned Parenthood blog.

Notably absent were any records evidencing action taken by the AGO in response to these complaints.

years give the lie to the pretext of presumed deception and unsafe practices that underlay H.377.

In addition, this bill is facially unconstitutional. A due process principle deems a law void for vagueness if its prohibitions are not clearly defined. It demands that “laws give the person of ordinary intelligence a reasonable

# Two abandoned babies, an infant and a toddler, rescued by driving instructor outside High School in Madison Heights, Michigan

By Dave Andrusko

What are the odds that driving school instructor John Belyea would find two abandoned babies tucked away behind a wall outside a back entrance to Lamphere High School in Madison Heights, Michigan?

It was Saturday and “before swapping students for a segment one session, instructor John Belyea and a student were planning to go inside for a bathroom break,” Megan Woods reported for Local 4.

It was early afternoon, around 1 p.m. when he heard the cries.

“When I came over here (toward the entrance), I’m listening, and it’s a weird noise like two cats fighting,” said Belyea, the father of three children. “Something’s wrong. So I started making loud noise to scare them off, and I’m like, wait a minute, that’s not cats. I’m thinking, ‘That sounds like a baby.’ I didn’t see anything, so I walked over where I heard the noise from around the wall where the two infants were at,” he told *Local 4*.

**Belyea said the smallest child was in a car seat**

**with a cover and blanket, and the other child looked to be around 1 year old. Police later confirmed the child is 2 years old.**

July 20 “that a woman was taken into custody after two young children were abandoned behind Lamphere High School.”

The 20 year old was arraigned and was charged with two counts

children born within 72 hours can be dropped off at designated locations like hospitals, police and fire departments.”

On the *Local 4* website you read “For families going



Had he not heard them, there would likely have been no one around until Monday.

In an update, Madison Heights police reported that on Thursday,

of child abandonment and two counts of child abuse.

Both Belyea and Woods emphasized that Michigan has “safe haven laws where

through tough situations, United Way has a Michigan resource database for anything from diapers to food and rental assistance.”



# Debunking pro-abortion claims, CDC's provisional maternal mortality numbers for the post-Dobbs years show a decline in deaths

By American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*Editor's note. This post from AAPLOG debunks recent stories that claim that the effect of protective pro-life laws is to worsen maternal mortality when the opposite is true, as early CDC data post-Dobbs reveals.*

The baseless narrative that the U.S.'s poor maternal health is attributable to abortion regulations only serves to harm women.

Several weeks ago, we responded to these claims by abortion advocates on social media, refuting them and calling attention to the factors that actually contribute to the maternal mortality crisis in this country. Yet this narrative attempting to connect the 2021 surge in maternal deaths to the Dobbs decision persists.

In fact, the CDC's provisional maternal mortality numbers for the post-Dobbs years show a decline in deaths. Research from diverse countries around the world has repeatedly shown that abortion laws do not worsen maternal mortality. Malta and Poland, two countries with robust pro-life laws, have some of the lowest maternal mortality rates in the world.

An honest discussion on improving health outcomes for American mothers is sorely needed and will include topics such as access to actual maternal healthcare (and not induced abortion),

socioeconomic inequality, extended coverage of health insurance to one year postpartum and quality institutional protocols for management of common pregnancy complications.



Promoting the intentional killing of embryonic or fetal human beings will do nothing to help their mothers thrive. The false narrative that it does harm the women they purport to care about serves a political agenda – not women and girls. Our patients deserve better.

## Young family faces daughter's diagnosis with faith: 'In God, there's hope'

From Page 11

oxygen, was finally ready to come home.

"It was like bringing home a newborn, we all had to adjust to a new way of life," Jackson said. "By now, I was working in daycare full-time, so Caleb quit his job to care for Kelsi. We didn't want to infringe on our parents because we knew how hard it was to care for a child with so many disabilities."

They struggled with getting in-home nursing care, as nurses didn't want to travel to their neighborhood. Eventually, the

couple moved in with Caleb's family for short-term assistance.

Fortunately, the nursing agency ultimately found a qualified nurse to help during the day and Kelsi, still severely behind in development, started to progress steadily.

Jackson said, "Kelsi's eyesight has improved though she wears glasses but now she only needs a hearing aid in the left ear. Her trach tube was removed on July 7."

Kelsi, now four years old, doesn't yet talk but does use a speech device, though she is

starting to emit natural sounds on her own.

"Every day we hear new sounds," Jackson said. "I think her vocal cords are just weak. We had her tested; there's no medical reason she can't speak, but I do think her voice is strengthening."

Jackson is grateful for the miracle of Kelsi. She credits her strong faith and Christian support network for walking alongside her in difficult times. Currently serving as a director of a daycare center, Jackson loves her job. While it's not what she

envisioned, she knows her life is in God's hands.

Jackson said, "In God, there's hope. In those moments when you don't know what to do, pray. I always believed Kelsi's life mattered even if she wasn't a typical baby. Going through this journey has taught me patience and strengthened my relationship with Christ. Don't ever give up; let God lead you through it."

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

# Vermont Law Challenged in Federal District Court for Restricting Pro-Life Speech

By Mary Hahn Beerworth

On June 25, 2023, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) and two Vermont pregnancy care centers challenging Vermont state officials for unconstitutionally restricting the centers' speech and provision of services.

ADF attorneys filed the lawsuit, *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Clark*, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

In May, 2023, Gov. Phil Scott signed legislation (S 37) into law, threatening the ability of pro-life pregnancy centers to continue providing help and support to Vermont women and families.

The bill (now Act 15) was promoted by Planned Parenthood of Northern New England whose lobbyist testified with open hostility against Vermont's Pregnancy Resource Centers.

Vermont Right to Life's Executive Director and Policy Analyst testified before committees of the House and Senate against S37 and

clearly stated that S37 was unconstitutional.

"The pro-abortion super majority in the Vermont Legislature, and Governor

The law censors the centers' ability to advertise their services. It also precludes the ability of centers to offer even non-medical services, information, and

does the opposite—it impedes women's ability to receive critical services during a difficult time in their lives and suppresses the free-speech rights of faith-based pregnancy centers. Pregnancy centers should be free to serve women and offer the support they need without fear of unjust government punishment."

Thomas Glessner, president of the National Institute for Family and Life Advocates, argued that the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 affirmed crisis pregnancy centers' rights to operate "without unjust government punishment or government interference with their message."

Glessner further stated in a press release, Vermont is "trampling First Amendment rights of people whose only goal is to help women in their time of need."

"Vermont is wasting precious time seeking to hinder the constitutional right of women to choose life for their baby and by going after centers who help women rather than working with these pregnancy centers on what they can do together to meet the needs of women facing unplanned pregnancies," Glessner said.

Phil Scott, ignored the First Amendment in favor of Planned Parenthood's agenda," stated Sharon Toborg, Policy Analyst for VRLC. "Pro-life people will not let abortion advocates manipulate the law in order to prevent women from hearing about alternatives to abortion."

counseling unless provided by a licensed health care provider.

"Women who become unexpectedly pregnant should be empowered with life-affirming options, emotional support, and practical resources," said ADF Legal Counsel Julia Payne. "Vermont's law, however,



# Euthanasia in Canada. MAiD in hell?

By Michael Cook

The United Kingdom and other countries are looking to Canada for guidelines about how to legislate for euthanasia. According to a group called UK Humanists, “We can and should learn from Canada to create laws that are right for the UK”.

Canada’s euthanasia regime, which is officially termed “medical assistance in dying” or MAiD, is often described as the most radical in the world. In a recent article in *The Spectator* (UK), journalist Douglas Murray described it as a “hell-path”. After March 2024, he opined, doctors “will be able to kill (or award ‘medically assisted suicide’) to people of any age who suffer from anorexia, depression, PTSD or a growing smorgasbord of other debilitating ailments.”

UK Humanists deny this pessimistic view of the future. After studying a number of cases which came to light in the Canadian media, its report concluded optimistically: “we don’t believe that anyone in Canada has had an assisted death who shouldn’t have been able to.”

However, a recent article in the journal *Palliative and Supportive Care* by three Canadian doctors and a bioethicist covers much the same ground in far more detail and comes to very different conclusions: “The Canadian MAiD regime is lacking the safeguards, data collection, and oversight necessary to protect Canadians against premature death.”

Their article is an excellent overview of the status quo in Canada before MAiD for mental illness becomes legal next March. They attempt to identify “policy gaps” as a warning to other jurisdictions. These are the following:

**Inadequate data collection.** Doctors self-report and they are unlikely to report errors

or omissions which might result in prosecuting them for not observing guidelines. Unsurprisingly, media stories about people with disabilities or mental illness who received MAiD were not even mentioned in the government’s annual report on the program.

**Lack of oversight.** “Rather than the government accepting responsibility for setting up procedures for investigation, the Justice Minister stated that oversight must be provided by family members complaining after the fact to initiate disciplinary actions or police investigations.”

**Prioritizing access to MAiD over patient safety and needs.** Although Canada’s Supreme Court has not established an explicit “right to die with dignity”, bureaucrats have. Even when other options are available, patients are being steered toward MAiD. Furthermore, a doctor who objects to a patient’s request, “even if only in specific cases for specific circumstances (thus arguably even if that objection is based on an opinion that medical professional standards of care have not been met)” is deemed to be a conscientious objector who must refer the patient to a willing doctor.

**Proactively offering MAiD to patients as though it is 1 of many standard treatment options.** This puts patients under pressure to accept MAiD, makes them feel that their suffering really is intolerable, and makes them fearful of accessing medical care.

**Undefined terminology in the legislation.** Patients can request MAiD if they face the prospect of a “reasonably foreseeable natural death”, even if death is not imminent nor their condition terminal. The wording of the Act is “imprecise and makes clear determinations and consistent implementation of clinical

practice standards for MAiD difficult.”

**Suffering is subjectively defined and can be rooted in psychosocial distress.** More and more stories are emerging of people who requested MAiD

treatment options have been exhausted. But in Canada, “There is no requirement that standard best-practice treatments have been appropriately attempted, or even that they are accessible. Tragically, some people are



because they could not access social services. One woman even left an exit video in which she said: “the government sees me as expendable trash”. A government minister has even admitted that “it is easier to access MAiD than to get a wheelchair in some parts of the country”.

**Proactively offering MAiD to patients as though it is one of many standard treatment options.** In other jurisdictions, doctors are forbidden to raise the topic of euthanasia or assisted suicide with their patients. Not in Canada. “No other country in the world has normalized assisted suicide or euthanasia in this way as a potential first line therapeutic option to address suffering,” the authors write.

**No standard treatments must have been tried first or even be available.** In Belgium and the Netherlands, euthanasia can only be an option when all

choosing to die while on wait lists for potentially effective treatment or because they are refused care.”

**Suicide contagion.** There is anecdotal evidence that some people request MAiD after hearing about other cases in the media. But the government is assuming that MAiD will make suicide less common – a position which is not supported by evidence.

So what comes next for Canadians with illness and disabilities? The authors are worried about the normalization of MAiD “as an accessible tool to relieve suffering” and to stop being burdens on their loved ones. The rates are rising dramatically, year by year. In 2021, MAiD accounted for 3.3% of all deaths, and 7% in some areas.

*Editor’s note. This appears at BioEdge and is reposted with permission.*

# Stray dog rescues abandoned baby thrown in trash heap in Lebanon

By Catherine Livingston, Ph.D.

A stray dog emerged a hero after it discovered an abandoned baby in the trash and rescued her, carrying the bruised little one in its mouth in the northern Lebanon city of Tripoli until a passerby heard her cries.

According to *The National*, after a passerby heard the baby crying and discovered the dog, the anonymous person rushed the baby to the Islamic Hospital. She was transferred to the Tripoli Government Hospital later, where she was pronounced in serious but stable condition.

Conflicting reports said the baby was of different ages, but Arab News said that it had learned the baby is “believed to be only a few hours old.”

*Arab News* added a comment from Ghassan Rifi, a Tripoli journalist who was stunned, saying he “had never seen an incident as disturbing as this in the city during his career.”

Rifi added, “Usually when someone wants to give up their kids, they place them in front of an orphanage or a police station. However, this baby was dumped in an area that is considered very dangerous at night, as a lot of stray dogs can be found. The municipality had



Photo: Twitter Farid\_1986\_fm

previously tried to poison these dogs but animal welfare organizations refused and called for their protection.”

The Al-Tal neighborhood, near where the baby girl was dumped, is not a residential area, Abdulrahman Darwish, a representative in Tripoli of the Union of Relief and Development Associations, told *Arab News*. Darwish added, “I also don’t think that what happened is the result of the dire economic situation, as everyone is suffering from the crisis but no one has ever dumped their newborn on a street full of stray dogs.”

In the United States, each state has implemented safe haven laws in an attempt to curtail infant abandonment cases like this one.

These laws allow a parent to surrender their child at an appropriate facility, like a hospital or fire station, within a certain period of time after birth. More information about safe haven laws can be found here.

*Editor’s note. This appeared at Live Action News and reposted with permission.*

# The 2024 Elections: How to Win the Messaging War on Abortion

From Page 1

of registered Democrats identify themselves as “pro-life.”

These numbers indicate a disconnect between the Democratic Party establishment which supports abortion without limits and a sizable number of registered Democrat voters who either identify themselves “pro-life” or who support at least some protections for unborn babies while not claiming the “pro-life” label. This offers an opening for pro-life Republican candidates.

This disconnect is likely even more pronounced in states with long histories of electing pro-life Democrats. This includes states like Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi, which have statewide offices on the ballot this fall, and states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia, which will play important roles in 2024 in determining which party will control the Senate and/or who inhabits the White House.

The pro-abortion absolutist view has even less support among Independents. According to the January 2023 Marist poll, just 20% of Independents support a policy of unlimited abortion for any reason until birth. Meanwhile 70% support at least some protections for unborn children and their mothers.

It is worth recalling that the last two presidential elections came down to just a couple thousand votes across a handful of key battleground states. And in 2020 and 2022, several Congressional races came down to a couple hundred votes. Or, in the case of pro-life Iowa Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks’ 2020 election, *just 6 votes!*

A Pew Research survey in October 2022 found that 75% of registered Democrat voters rated the issue of abortion as “very important” in their election decisions. The same survey from March 2022, before the *Dobbs* decision, showed just 46%. The survey found that, both before

and after *Dobbs*, about 40% of Republican voters rated the issue as “very important.” 51% of all voters who cast ballots in 2022 said abortion affected the way they voted according to a McLaughlin poll conducted after the elections.

Following the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* ruling, many pro-abortion Democrats seized upon the abortion issue and wielded it to their advantage in the 2022 elections by fomenting a climate of uncertainty, misinformation, and fear. Democrats falsely claimed that women would no longer be able to receive medical treatment for miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies and those who have abortions would be put in jail. They characterized even the most modest pro-life bills as draconian and strategically pivoted the focus of the debate to abortions in cases of rape and incest, risk to the mother’s health or a major bodily function even though less than 5% of all abortions take place under those tragic circumstances. Democrats painted Republican candidates as heartless, out of touch, and extreme.

In 2022, while pro-abortion Democrats went on offense and galvanized their supporters, many Republicans tried to dodge or hide from the issue of abortion altogether. Some Republican Congressional candidates attempted to shirk the responsibilities of the office for which they were running by claiming that there is no role for federal government in setting abortion policy. (For NRLC’s statement on the federal role on abortion go to: <https://www.nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/RoleoftheFederalGovernmentList.pdf>)

In many of these cases, Republican candidates handed their opponents a golden opportunity to fill the void with pro-abortion talking points. Instead of challenging false

claims, defending their voting records, clarifying their positions, and holding their opponents accountable for their own extremism on the issue, *these Republicans essentially ceded the issue to Democrats.*

By and large, pro-life Republicans who succeeded in the 2022 elections did not raise a white flag when confronted on abortion. Nowhere was this seen as clearly as in the gubernatorial elections. Pro-life governors in swing states who had signed protections for unborn children and their mothers persevered against Democrat attacks on abortion because they were proactive about defending their records and not afraid to call out their opponents. Some notable examples were Governor Brian Kemp in Georgia, Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida, Governor Kim Reynolds in Iowa, Governor Mike DeWine in Ohio, and Governor Greg Abbott in Texas, all of whom won re-election by double-digit margins (with the exception of Kemp who won by 7.5%).

Pro-life candidates must be strategic about which issues to bring to the fore. By all early indications, pro-abortion Democrats aim to employ their 2022 strategy all over again. “I think it’ll continue to be a really galvanizing issue, and we’ll continue to find ways to make it front and center,” Biden campaign manager Julie Chávez Rodríguez told POLITICO in June. This will likely involve a concentration on abortions in cases of rape or incest, spreading misinformation like the false claim that women will not be able to access non-abortion-related healthcare or medications due to protections for unborn children, and raising the specter of a “national ban on abortion.”

There are several key issues where pro-life candidates have the high ground in terms of public opinion. Consistently, Americans

do not support the use of their tax dollars to pay for abortions. A November 2022 poll conducted nationwide by McLaughlin and Associates found 60% opposed to tax dollars being used to pay for abortions. The *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act* (H.R. 7) is a top priority bill for National Right to Life (NRLC). It is not only popular, but it would also save lives. The *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*, another priority bill for NRLC, would ensure that infants born alive during failed abortion attempts are afforded the same degree of medical care as any other child born at the same gestation. This commonsense legislation puts pro-abortion candidates in the very uncomfortable position of having to reject basic medical care for newborn babies. Pro-life candidates also have an advantage when discussing parental involvement. A July 2022 Rasmussen Reports poll found 61% oppose abortions being performed on minors without a parent’s knowledge.

Pro-life candidates should call out pro-abortion Democrats for their support for the so-called *Women’s Health Protection Act*, a radical federal bill that would enshrine unlimited abortion in federal law and strike down virtually all state-level protections for unborn children and their mothers. Despite Democrats claiming the bill would merely “codify *Roe*,” in fact, it would go way beyond the 1973 Supreme Court case by tearing down protections with broad public support like parental involvement and informed consent laws.

Pro-life candidates, and ultimately, vulnerable unborn children and their mothers, will not benefit from the push for the so-called “national ban” on abortion, a bill that would

# Woman says she did not know that man gave her mifepristone, defendant charged with assault in the second degree

By Dave Andrusko

After a 15-month investigation, 39-year-old Dia Beshara was arrested on July 3rd and charged with giving the abortifacient mifepristone to a pregnant woman without her knowledge triggering a miscarriage. The local County Sheriff's Office posted this summary:

**On July 3, 2023, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office arrested Dia A. Beshara, a 39 year old resident of Schaghticoke. Beshara was charged with Assault in the Second Degree at the conclusion of a 15 month investigation. The investigation began when the female victim reported that, while she was pregnant, Beshara gave her a drug, Mifepristone, without her knowledge, causing a miscarriage. Beshara was arraigned in Schaghticoke Town Court where he was released on his own recognizance with an order of protection in place.**

This is only the most recent illustration of how women can be slipped the abortion pill without their knowledge or consent. In her account, Nancy Flanders cited two examples:

**In April of 2022, Jeffery Smith was sentenced to 20 years in prison as part of a plea agreement after he was convicted of attempted first-degree intentional homicide of a preborn**

**child who was 21 weeks old at the time.**

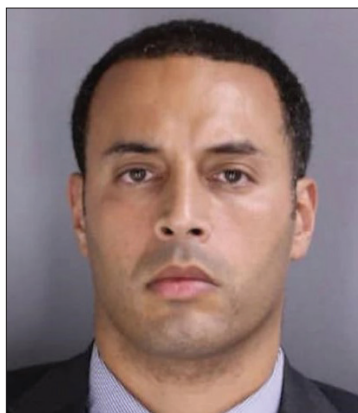
**Jin Mimae was arrested in February 2021 for tricking his pregnant girlfriend into taking mifepristone. Upon his arrest, he told police, "I didn't want to marry her," adding, "Because of the current economic conditions, I did not want to raise a child." He had ordered mifepristone online the same day his girlfriend had a positive pregnancy test and told her they were to treat an STD.**

Mifepristone is the first of two drugs used in the abortion pill regimen. "It acts to block the hormone progesterone, which works during the first weeks of pregnancy to sustain the developing preborn baby's life," writes Jor-El Godsey. "Progesterone also prevents muscle contractions in the uterus that would cause the woman's body to reject the newly-created life."

Godsey explains that at the behest of the Biden administration, the FDA

**reduced rules designed to protect women from harm (known as REMS) such as required in-person doctor visits that had been in place for more than two decades despite knowing that ectopic pregnancy is "responsible for 9% of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States." The FDA did this even**

**while its own website notes women, "should not take mifepristone, in a regimen with misoprostol, for medical termination of pregnancy if they have an ectopic pregnancy."**



*Dia A. Beshara*

In addition to tricking women into swallowing the drug, mifepristone is also associated with many more complications than a surgical abortion. That's why the idea that taking the two-drugs is safer than "taking a Tylenol" is so dangerous.

As Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, NRLC director of education and research, has documented

**A 2015 study of emergency room visits by University of California, San Francisco researcher Ushma Upadhyay is one of those often cited as proof that the rate of serious complications is "less than 1%." Indeed, in "Incidence of emergency department visits and complications after abortion," from the January 2015**

**issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Upadhyay officially found that "The major complication rate was 0.23%," less than a quarter of one percent.**

**But this depends on several questionable moves to finesse the data.**

**First, Upadhyay specifically limits what can be counted as a "serious" or "major" complication. "Major complications were defined as serious unexpected adverse events requiring hospital admission, surgery, or blood transfusion," the article asserts. "Minor complications were all other expected adverse events."**

**While this sounds reasonable, consider the things included in Upadhyay's "minor complications": hemorrhage, infection, incomplete or "failed" abortion requiring "uterine aspiration" (i.e., surgical abortion). Even things like "uterine perforation" were classified as "minor."**

**Second, with this knowledge, consider that when Upadhyay added in and counted both major and "minor" complications, the complication rate for chemical abortions was 5.19% – considerably higher than the "less than one percent" advertised.**

# Governor Mills signs radical Maine bill that makes abortion legal throughout pregnancy

By Dave Andrusko

Maine's pro-abortion Gov. Janet Mills has signed LD 1619 whose language pro-lifers assert allows abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy. A typical headline downplaying how radical the bill genuinely is reads "The bill would expand abortion access to later in a pregnancy."

The Senate vote was not close: 20-11. In the House, however, it was much tighter: 73-69.

"LD 1619 creates a subjective standard empowering the abortionist to justify any abortion after viability," according to Maine Right to Life. "Governor Mills' bill removes current language that allows abortion for a woman's life or health and replaces it with language that would allow abortions in the second and third trimesters because of an abortionist's opinion."

Karen Vachon, executive director of Maine Right to Life, added that Gov. Mills is returning a favor to the Planned Parenthood abortion chain, which "spent millions buying elections in Maine and around the country."

"Pro-abortion leaders have lied repeatedly about their true intention," Vachon said. "During the campaign in 2022, they were content with the law the way it

was. In January, they announced they would propose a narrow expansion to address specific instances of tragic fetal disease and debilitation.

"Now they've moved the goal post once again, proposing abortion on demand, with no



*Pro-abortion Maine Gov.  
Janet Mills*

limitations to the point of birth."

Supporters, such as Sen. Ann Carney, argue that "It allows patients to get the care they need with the doctor who's been providing them with care throughout their pregnancy and close to home and family and friends can be there to support them."

Opponents respond that the law invites abuse and will lead to healthy unborn babies being aborted.

"Where did governments before us stop in deciding who had the right to live and who had the right to die," said Sen. Stacey Guerin. "To make it convenient for parents, the government, for business."

The debate in the House was intense. According to Billy Kobin reported for the *Bangor Daily News*

**The bill has drawn passionate and at-times graphic debate since. Maine's Catholic bishop called it "radical and extreme," and in early May hundreds of opponents of the bill — along with a smaller number of abortion-rights advocates — filled the State House for a hearing that ran 19 hours.**

**On Tuesday, smaller but still sizable crowds featuring mostly opponents of the bill but several supporters were lining the hallways of the State House and filling the House gallery,**

**with some joining along with Rep. Jim Thorne, R-Carmel, as he recited the Lord's Prayer for his floor speech.**

**In the hours leading up to the vote, anti-abortion onlookers in the hallway chanted "kill the bill," sang hymns and prayed together.**

And pro-abortion Democrats, emboldened by their victory, have other items on the verge of enactment. Kohn writes

**While Republican-backed bills to restrict abortion access have failed this session, several other abortion-rights proposals from Democrats have cleared both chambers, including bills to prevent Maine cities and towns from restricting abortion in their jurisdictions, require private insurers to cover abortion services and prevent medical malpractice insurers from taking action against abortion providers based on anti-abortion laws in other states.**

# Why *NRL News Today* is so important: apologists for the abortion industry abound in newsrooms in Pennsylvania and across the country

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

The deplorable legacy of mass murderer Kermit Gosnell will never be forgotten among those who suffered the loss of loved ones at the abortionist's hands.

But rarely does the mainstream media mention the name of the man who may have been the worst serial killer in U.S. history.

On a recent radio interview, I mentioned the abortionist who is now serving three consecutive life sentences for the murders of newborn babies. The host quickly interjected a comment ensuring that the subject of Gosnell would be brushed aside.

This is hardly surprising—although it is disturbing.

As former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer recently wrote in his book *Suppression, Deception, Snobbery, and Bias*, “When a doctor goes on trial for a series of horrendous baby murders, the media know if they give the story attention, it will likely cause people to think twice about abortion.

“Covering the ongoing story, as opposed to the one-time indictment, will generate sympathy for the pro-life movement that I would say has precious few adherents in most newsrooms,” Fleischer added.

Indeed, apologists for the abortion industry abound in newsrooms in Pennsylvania and across the country. That is why a resource such as *National Right to Life News Today* is so important. Readers can receive updates about the life issues unfiltered by the lens of pro-abortion bias.

We will never forget Kermit Gosnell's reign of terror. Because to forget his crimes would do a disservice to his many victims, whose loss cries out to the heavens for justice.



## The 2024 Elections: How to Win the Messaging War on Abortion

From Page 20

ostensibly limit abortions after 15 weeks gestation. The reality is that 95% of abortions occur prior to 15 weeks gestation and the remaining 5% could fall under the bill's exceptions for cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother. Additionally, such a bill, which needs 60 votes in the Senate, has no chance of passing anytime soon. Even if pro-life Republicans were to win every swing-state Senate seat in 2024, they would still fall short of the 60-vote threshold. Democrats are eager to exploit this so-called “national ban” as a focal point in their campaigns because they know how politically toxic it is for Republicans.

Pro-life candidates would do best not to be drawn into purity tests or litmus tests put forth by various organizations. While well-

meaning in many cases, these tests can ultimately force a candidate to alienate their base in order to appeal to the broader electorate, or they can force candidates to double down on untenable positions limiting their ability to win. At the same time, all of this provides their opponents with ammunition for attack ads.

Pro-life candidates need to demonstrate to voters that not only are they against a policy of unlimited abortion for any reason, but they also support positive alternatives to abortion and stand with women and girls who find themselves facing unexpected pregnancies. They should familiarize themselves with pregnancy help centers in their states or districts. Nationwide, there are over 3,000 of these centers which offer pregnant

women the compassion, support, and resources they need in order to make life-affirming decisions.

Pro-life candidates should also be mindful that the debate over abortion is not merely a discussion of laws and policies. There is a deeply personal dimension to this issue that sets it apart from other political issues. When presenting their pro-life views, candidates should not shy away from sharing how they came to believe what they do. Impactful are personal experiences of parenthood, adoption or foster care, volunteering at a pregnancy help center, or seeing ultrasound images of babies in the womb.

By showing the human dimension to their views, pro-life candidates can also help to reverse the public perception that pro-abortion Democrats are better

suited to address the abortion issue. An April 2023 NPR/PBS News Hour/Marist poll found that Democrats are more trusted than Republicans on handling the issue of abortion. (41% say Democrats and 25% say Republicans. A quarter say neither party, and another 1 in 10 said both parties are the same or weren't sure.

What most political campaigns come down to is messaging. A candidate could have the perfect resume, a deep knowledge of the issues, and all the right endorsements, but if they cannot effectively communicate their vision and persuade voters, they will lose. What pro-life candidates need to do as soon as possible is study the Democrat abortion playbook, learn the right lessons from the 2022 elections, and employ effective messaging.



# A New Class Ready For a New Era

From Page 1

were even able to envision a world where the killing of the unborn would not be sanctioned, much less celebrated is a testament to your character, your commitment, and your upbringing.

But here you are, ready to take the reins of this historic, righteous cause. You came better prepared than many, having some prior experience working with your college and state groups. I hope that we've helped hone your skills, that we've further fired your passion, that we've given you considerable practical and factual and tactical

personnel on their side, and undermine public support for pro-life legislation.

Though chemical abortions have been legal your entire lifetimes, you have witnessed how in recent years the abortion industry has put in place plans to use mailed abortion pills to get around whatever protections exist for mothers and the unborn children, flouting the law and putting women's lives at risk for the sake of the pro-abortion cause.

You have seen how that when the safety and efficacy of these pills is

whether it be a mother facing an unexpected pregnancy or a family member dealing with a traumatic injury or illness.

## A Significant Challenge

This is the world into which you are now thrust. One in which there is both great opportunity and great danger. But one in which we believe you two are now

for some legal and legislative counterstrategies that will better enable states to enforce laws prohibiting the mailing of these dangerous drugs to women's homes.

You know the facts and are ready to defend the safety and efficacy of abortion pill reversal.

You know how to respond sensitively and compassionately



Academy Director Randall K. O'Bannon Ph.D. and NRLC President Carol Tobias with Academy graduate Jennifer Hubert  
Photo: Lisa Andrusko



Academy Director Randall K. O'Bannon Ph.D. and NRLC President Carol Tobias with Academy graduate Elizabeth Smith  
Photo: Lisa Andrusko

resources that will enable you to be even more effective advocates than before.

## Lingering Problems, New Challenges

While the abortion industry has always had a rather tenuous connection to the truth, they have in recent months launched an aggressive effort to mislead the public, to confuse the issue. They have tried to make it sound as if every abortion is a "medical emergency," or one for sexual assault, or a poor, minority woman being denied care for a miscarriage.

That laws protecting the unborn typically do not apply in any of these situations and should not in any way affect the medical care of women facing these crises matters little to the abortion industry. They are satisfied so long as they can confuse the issue, get uninformed doctors and misinformed medical

challenged, the industry has fought back by selectively releasing and reporting study data that makes these abortifacients look safer than they are, all the while raising phony concerns about safety and efficacy of abortion pill reversal.

You have watched as advocates of abortion have derailed efforts at passing good pro-life legislation by publicizing and seeking to imply that pro-life goals include harsh, unrealistic, or ineffective measures such as prosecuting aborting women. They have spotlighted legislation without provisions for cases of rape, incest, or life of the mother, or have implicitly encouraged laws pretending to limit late abortions that actually limit none, thus keeping any sort of real protections from passing and blocking any that might survive constitutional muster.

Despite *Dobbs*, we have had to continue to fight the idea that killing someone is the best way to treat pain, depression, or difficulty,

particularly suited to lead and make a difference.

[After a few brief personal remarks to students, Dr. O'Bannon continued...]

The knowledge, the skill, the passion, the commitment you now possess should serve both of you well in the days that lie ahead.

It will not be easy. The lies, the disinformation, the callous exploitation of the abortion industry, generated by the ethically challenged researchers working at the country's top universities, funded by the of world's economically elite, amplified by Hollywood and the media are only going to get worse.

But we believe you are ready.

You are prepared to explain and defend common sense protections favored by the vast majority of Americans that will not only save the vast majority of babies but will leave room for creating a presumption and an opportunity for life in even the hardest cases.

You are armed with the truth about chemical abortions and are ready to make the case about how dangerous and difficult these really are. You are ready to lobby

to a woman who is pregnant as a result of rape, or who carries a child with a fatal disability, or who just doesn't know how she's going to be able to put food on the table for her family.

You know that the answer to pain, to difficulty, to poverty, to loneliness, to depression, to trauma is never killing, that being pro-life means being committed to loving your neighbor, offering personal, practical support, of helping people get through whatever crisis in which they find themselves, rather than abandoning them at their greatest time of need.

## Ready, Willing and Able

You are trained, you are prepared. You are committed and capable. You are tried and talented.

You are ready to speak out, to write, to advertise, to advocate, to lobby, to legislate, to get out the vote for people, for policies, for lives that need and deserve protection.

You are ready to carry the torch, to lead this movement forward, to face the challenges that lie ahead.

And I believe the future looks bright with you leading the way.

# The Truth About Idaho's Parental Consent Law and the Law Preventing the Abortion Trafficking of Minors

## *Legal Challenge to the Law Could Leave Idaho's Daughters Vulnerable to Sexual Predators*

WASHINGTON – In April, Governor Brad Little of Idaho signed a bill designed to protect minor daughters in the state of Idaho.

Idaho's HB 242 prevents an abortion—whether surgical or procured using abortion drugs—from being performed on a minor without the knowledge of her parents or guardians.

Since then, misinformation about the law and its scope has made its way into the mainstream media. In July, pro-abortion groups filed for a temporary restraining order against enforcement of the law, once again prompting stories loaded with misinformation.

“If successful, the challenge to Idaho's abortion trafficking law could potentially make minor daughters the victims of

sexual predators and traffickers,” said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life (NRLC). “The only ones to benefit would

for the purpose of obtaining an abortion with the intent to conceal the abortion from the parents or guardian of the minor.

to protect minor daughters from predators and from those who would deny parents the right to be involved in their minor daughter's abortion.”

Idaho is the first state to make abortion trafficking of minors illegal and the language is based on the model National Right to Life drafted in June 2022. Missouri passed a law in 2005 that prohibits aiding a minor in getting an abortion without her parents' consent.

In *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that “The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.”

be the traffickers who would exploit minor girls.”

HB 242 makes it a crime for an adult to transport a pregnant minor within the state of Idaho

“There are those who would prey on minors and then conceal their crimes by procuring abortions for their victims,” said Tobias. “Idaho's law is designed



### the NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE video contest

The National Right to Life Video Contest is a great way to impact our culture by using your talents.

#### THE RULES:

1. You must be 15 to 25 years old.
2. Films must be 30 sec to 3 min long.
3. Deadline is MAY 31, 2024

The winner receives free registration to the National Right to Life Convention and tickets to the annual Prayer Breakfast and Closing Banquet. The top 3 finalists also get free entry into the LifeFest Film Festival in Hollywood, California.

Watch all of the winning videos at  
[nrlconvention.com/video-contest](http://nrlconvention.com/video-contest)



Involve your friends, family, and community... all while giving a voice to the voiceless. **Make a movie that changes the world!**

the NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE  
video contest

# Olympic boxer Félix Verdejo-Sánchez found guilty of killing pregnant lover and unborn child

By Dave Andrusko

Following a three-month trial in the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico, former Olympic boxer Félix Verdejo-Sánchez was convicted Friday of kidnapping his pregnant girlfriend and murdering her and her unborn child by tossing her off a bridge into a lagoon in Puerto Rico. Allegedly 27-year-old Keishla Rodríguez Ortiz refused to get an abortion. A Puerto Rican jury “found Félix Verdejo Sánchez guilty of kidnapping resulting in the death of a pregnant woman who disappeared on April 29, 2021, shortly after her family said she was supposed to meet the former Olympic boxer to share that she was expecting his child, according to court filings,” Andrea Salcedo reported for the *Washington Post*. “Verdejo was also found guilty of the death of an unborn child,” Salcedo added. “The jury, which deliberated for three days, could not reach a unanimous verdict for a charge of carjacking that resulted in the death of a person and another charge of possession of a weapon during a violent crime.”

Prosecutors said Verdejo-

Sanchez faces a mandatory life sentence for each conviction. His sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 3.

Reporting for *Fox News*, Danielle Wallace wrote that “Prosecutors reportedly relied on testimony from more than 30 witnesses, including Verdejo-Sánchez’s codefendant, Luis Antonio Cádiz-Martínez.”

**Federal prosecutors said Verdejo-Sánchez teamed up with Cádiz-Martínez on the morning of the murder before heading to a meeting point, where the former Olympian lured Rodríguez Ortiz out of her Kia Forte and into his Dodge Durango. Cádiz-Martínez testified that’s where the victim presented Verdejo-Sánchez with a positive pregnancy test, the Washington Post reported.**

**He further testified that Verdejo-Sánchez then punched Rodríguez Ortiz and injected her with a**

**substance that Cádiz-Martínez believed to be heroin.**

**He said they both then tied her limbs to a cement block and threw**

Days later Cádiz-Martínez provided the location of her body in an anonymous 911 call. “Cádiz-Martínez, who prosecutors said the former boxer hired to help carry out the premeditated



**her off the busy Teodoro Moscoso bridge into the San José Lagoon in broad daylight.**

Federal prosecutors said Verdejo-Sánchez “jumped into the lagoon in order to finish murdering both victims.” A pathologist testified that Rodríguez was still alive when she was thrown into the lagoon.

attack, pleaded guilty last year to carjacking resulting in the death of a person and an unborn child and is due to be sentenced in August,” according to Wallace. Reporting from inside the courtroom the Puerto Rican newspaper *El Nuevo Día* wrote that “Verdejo remained expressionless as the jury’s verdict was read, while Rodríguez’s family hugged and cried.”

# Trafficking survivor says her trafficker ‘took all his girls to Planned Parenthood’

By Nancy Flanders

According to at least *three studies*, Planned Parenthood is one of the most common clinical settings to which sex traffickers bring their victims. Traffickers take the women and girls they abuse to Planned Parenthood because, according to the survivors, Planned Parenthood does not ask questions.

Research published in 2014 by the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy found that survivors of human trafficking have “had significant contact with clinical treatment facilities, most commonly Planned Parenthood clinics.” Another study from 2017, “Identifying Health Experiences of Domestically Sex-Trafficked Women in the USA: A Qualitative Study in Rikers Island Jail,” found that “[e]mergency departments, Planned Parenthoods, and jails were common care sites.” And “Sex Trafficking Victims at Their Junction with the Healthcare Setting—A Mixed-Methods Inquiry,” published in 2019, found that the “most commonly visited community healthcare clinic is Planned Parenthood....”

## Planned Parenthood is a favorite of sex traffickers

In “The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities,” researchers found that almost **a third** (29.6%) of human sex trafficking survivors had visited a Planned Parenthood affiliate. Former senior advisor for trafficking in persons for the U.S. Department of State, Laura J. Lederer explained, “Since pimps and traffickers generally exercise nearly complete control of their victims, these points of contact with healthcare represent rare opportunities for victim identification and intervention.”

Researchers behind “Sex Trafficking Victims at Their Junction with the Healthcare Setting—A Mixed-Methods Inquiry,” published in the *Journal of Human Trafficking* said that the majority of women who

participated in the study visited two types of traditional healthcare settings while being trafficked — emergency departments (76.2%) and community clinics (71.4%). “Among those who used community clinics, **all but one** visited a Planned Parenthood clinic,” states the study (emphasis added). Those surveyed said that Planned Parenthood was the facility of choice because it was “familiar and helpful” and primarily because it offered “free-of-charge services.” In other



words, sex traffickers take their victims to Planned Parenthood because it is “free” and “helpful.”

These “rare opportunities” to intervene and save women and girls from their abusers and traffickers appear to be largely ignored by Planned Parenthood as trafficking survivors themselves have alluded to.

## No questions asked

Laura, who said she was so “young” she needed “a waiver” to be examined, spoke about her time “on the street” saying, “I went to hospitals, urgent care clinics, women’s health clinics, and private doctors. **No one ever**

**asked me anything anytime I ever went to a clinic.** ... I was on birth control during the 10 years I was on the streets — mostly Depo-Provera shots which I got at Planned Parenthood and other neighborhood clinics. I got the morning-after pill from them...” (emphasis added)

Another survivor explained that she got pregnant six times while being trafficked and had six abortions. She said, “**At least one of my abortions was from Planned Parenthood because**

to Planned Parenthood. He was a repeat customer. She explained:

*I went to Planned Parenthood. I went there a lot for birth control [to the same clinic]. He [trafficker] took all his girls there. They knew him by Benny, but they didn’t know who he was. He just kept saying that they were sisters or friends. He wasn’t like, ‘Oh, this is my girlfriend. This is my girlfriend.’ He would just say, ‘This is my sister. This is my friend. This is my cousin.’ That was how he would be able to get a lot of different people in and not get questioned about it.*

*...Whenever any of us went, he went with us. [The trafficker would refuse to go outside even if asked by healthcare providers] He was like, ‘Naw, I’m good. I want to make sure that you treat her right’ kind of thing. They didn’t make him. They would just say, ‘Are you okay with him being here?’ The answer is always, ‘Yeah.’*

Jazzy’s trafficker would go with her to Planned Parenthood as well — while she was trafficked for over **six years**.

## they didn’t ask any questions.

... I had so much scar tissue from these abortions because there was no follow-up and in a couple of cases I had bad infections, so bad that I eventually lost my fallopian tubes [and had to have a hysterectomy].” (emphasis added)

## Trafficker’s abuse continued while at Planned Parenthood

Ann also shared that her trafficker went with her to Planned Parenthood to have her tested for STIs or to get birth control and while there, he would befriend the staff. And she wasn’t the only one of his victims that he brought

“I’m just filling out the paperwork and I’m waiting until I get called. And he’s going to go in with me [trafficker],” she said. “And I told him, ‘I don’t think they are going to let you go in there’, you know? And he was like, ‘Well, OK. We are going to figure that out. I’m not going to leave you out of my sight.’ Like, you know, ‘what do [traffickers] think you are going to do? Go in there with the doctor and never come out?’ you know. And I was really nervous. I was like, ‘Oh wow’... you know what I mean?”

# ‘Little fighter’ Zaylan, born 16 weeks early, heads home from hospital

By Right to Life UK

After a 181-day stay in hospital, baby Zaylan Reed is finally going to join his parents at home. The little boy weighed just 11lb 6oz and mum, Krysten Ribson, has said that her “little fighter” is inspiring her to train as a neonatal nurse.

## In labor at 23 weeks and 6 days

Krysten recalls going into labor when she was just 23 weeks and 6 days pregnant. When the doctors realized she was going to give birth to Zaylan four months prematurely, they warned her that he might not make it.

Ms. Ribson had to be taken by helicopter to a specialist hospital. She said “It was scary. I just kept thinking please just get us there”.

On arrival at the hospital, doctors managed to delay labour by two days.

## “Little fighter” makes it home

Zaylan was born at 24 weeks and 1 day, weighing only 11lb 6oz – just over 600g. He was born with a hole in his heart and retinopathy of prematurity, an eye condition that can affect premature babies. Despite needing surgery, a feeding tube, and regular supplies of oxygen, Zaylan has now made it home and is a healthy little boy.

“It was unreal having him home,” his mum said. “He’s pretty funny. He’s a grump – he

gives me the side eye. He smiles and laughs all the time”.

## Mum inspired to become neonatal nurse

After her experience with Zaylan, Ms. Ribson, 22, is now

the University of Iowa, found that from 2013 to 2018, with infants born between 22 and 28 weeks gestation, “survival to discharge occurred in 78.3% and was significantly improved compared with a historical rate of 76.0%

number of health and functional outcomes.

## Born a day after the UK abortion time limit

Born at 24 weeks and 1 day gestation, Zaylan arrived just



studying to become a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse. NICU nurses work in a specialist setting to provide care for newborn babies who are born premature or sick.

## Improving outcomes for premature babies

A study, ‘Mortality, In-Hospital Morbidity, Care Practices, and 2-Year Outcomes for Extremely Preterm Infants in the US, 2013-2018’, by Dr Edward F Bell of

among infants born in 2008-2012”.

The study, which took place between 2013 and 2018, assessed 10,877 infants born between 22 and 28 weeks gestation in 19 academic medical centres across the US.

This means that almost four out of five extremely prematurely born babies survived and were able to be assessed at 22-26 months corrected age (22-26 months from their due date) for a

one day after the legal limit for abortions in the UK (this limit does not apply if the unborn baby has a disability).

Right To Life UK spokesperson Catherine Robinson said “Zaylan’s inspirational story is a testament to the improving outcomes for premature babies and a constant challenge to the current abortion time limit of 24 weeks in the UK.”

She added, “This time limit needs to be urgently reviewed and unborn babies rightly protected.”

# Incredible Roadside Art of Unborn Baby in South America Goes Viral

By Kim Schwartz, Texas Right to Life

In a small town in South America, a remarkable sculpture has captured the attention of locals and gained worldwide recognition through social media.

The sculpture, located along a roadside, portrays the image

who shared a photo of it.

This sculpture, known as the “sculpture of an unborn baby carved on a mountain in Colombia,” was crafted by Monsalve in 2012 as part of his college project at the National University of Colombia

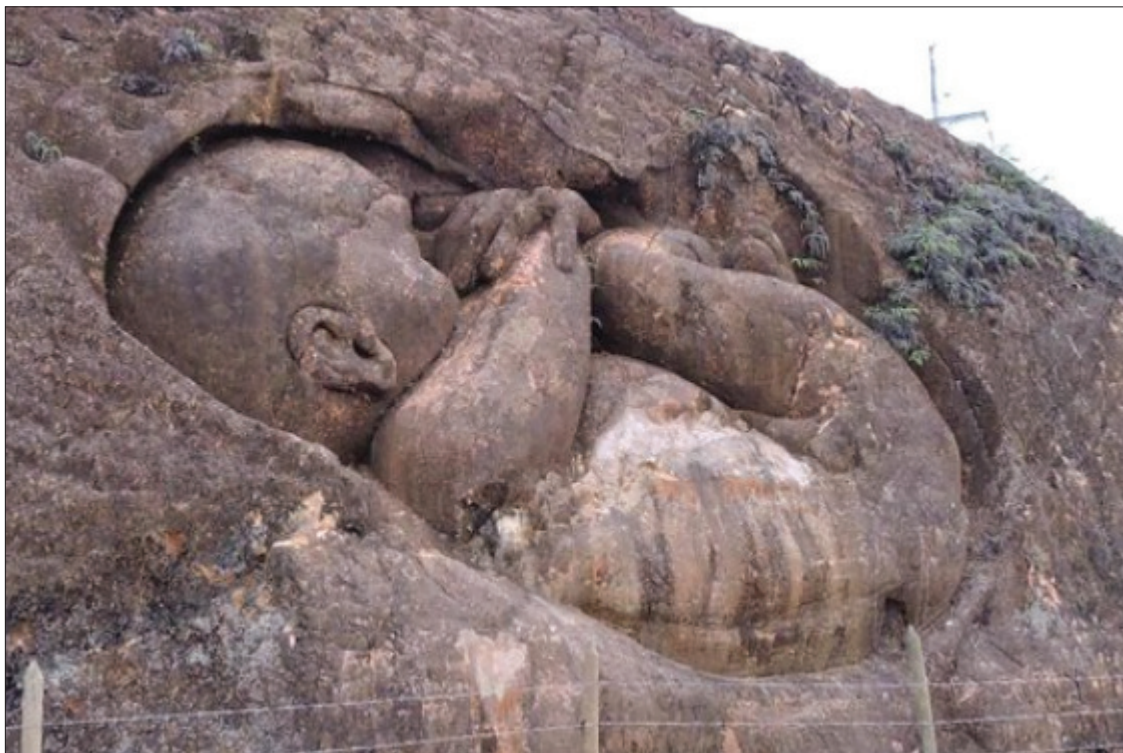
locals, can be found in Santo Domingo, Antioquia, Colombia, as confirmed by AFP Fact Check, an international news agency based in France.

In an interview with Catholic news outlet *ACI Prensa*, Monsalve

for the Colombian people.

Monsalve’s vision extends beyond the borders of Colombia. He hopes that his artwork will remind people everywhere of the inherent value of Life and encourage them to fight for it:

**“Don’t be afraid, it’s a word that Jesus himself taught us... We cannot shut up or silence ourselves. I really enjoyed doing that work because it also encompasses a very universal message about life ... a message to defend life from its beginning to its end and that it is not worth giving up simply because of the prejudices of the world or because of the criticism of the world. It is simply having strength, being brave, and risking holding your thoughts, your ideas, and being a Christian artist.”**



of an unborn baby and has been captivating passersby for over ten years. Created by Pro-Life artist Dubian Monsalve, this awe-inspiring artwork has recently resurfaced on Twitter, thanks to Catholic journalist Sachin Jose

in Medellin. Monsalve’s intention was to pay tribute to the value of life, firmly believing that it is precious from the moment of conception until its end. The sculpture, affectionately named “Pregnant Mountain” by the

expressed his deep-rooted belief in the sanctity of life, stating, “I am a believer, and I believe that life is worth everything.”

His sculpture not only represents the miracle of life but also serves as a symbol of hope

The sculpture of the unborn baby stands as a powerful reminder of the beauty of life before birth, and to cherish and protect this miracle. As the image continues to spread on social media, it promotes conversations about the sanctity of Life, reaching audiences far and wide with its universal message.

# Judge considers Planned Parenthood's request to stop enforcement of pro-life measure that protects unborn babies

By Dave Andrusko

After a hearing on Wednesday, Lancaster County District Judge Lori Maret said she would issue a written ruling later on a request by Planned Parenthood of the Heartland to place a preliminary injunction on Legislative Bill 574. Judge Maret did not say when her decision could be expected.

Attorneys for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland argued that when the “Preborn Child Protection Act”—Amendment 1568—was attached to the “Let Them Grow Act” — LB 574— on May 16, it violated the Nebraska Constitution’s requirement that legislation be confined to a single subject.

That means for now most Nebraska preborn babies at 12 weeks gestation and beyond, will be protected with the exception of rape, incest, and life of the mother.

Signed into law by Governor Jim Pillen on May 22, it was immediately challenged by Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and ACLU of Nebraska. They requested that a

preliminary injunction be placed on the “Let Them Grow Act” and the accompanying 12-week abortion protection.



*Lancaster County District Judge Lori Maret  
WOWT 6News video still*

“We are pleased that Judge Maret will allow the law to remain in effect while she considers its legality,” said Sandy Danek, Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life. “We believe

both aspects of the law address the single subject of protecting and preserving the dignity of vulnerable children.”

The Nebraska Attorney General’s Office maintains that LB 574 “firmly withstands” questions about its constitutionality because the two matters both deal with public health and welfare.

“Plaintiffs (Planned Parenthood) rely on case law that is often inapplicable, distinguishable, or plainly stands against its proffered outcome,” wrote the Attorney General’s office. According to reporter Paul Hammel, Attorney General Erik Fernet’s brief maintains it is “irrelevant how LB 574 got passed and that the court needs only to consider ‘the end result.’”

**On Wednesday, Fernet added that there’s a “strong presumption” that any legislation passed by the State Legislature is both “legal and enforceable” and for the judge to interject herself into the case of LB 547 goes “into the internal process of how the Nebraska Unicameral has decided it will conduct its business.”**

**He added that the harm to the unborn and minor children that the bill tries to address outweighs any “economic” harm done to Planned Parenthood.**

## “Storytelling” cannot defeat the truth: abortion kills children and maims their mothers

From Page 2

**abortion access and arguing that the state had a duty to make safe abortion available in the situations in which it was legal under Irish law. But these legal efforts made only a modest difference on the ground, and when pressed by international bodies, Irish political leaders argued that voters had never repealed the Eighth Amendment and still agreed with its basic message.**

So, if these were contributing factors, and important ones, what tipped the scales allowing the Abortion Movement to carry the day—the elimination of the pro-life Eighth Amendment— for pro-abortionists? “Storytelling, at the grassroots level and otherwise, was ultimately what made the biggest difference.”

Well.... Vehement anti-Catholicism was woven into many of the rabid attacks on the Catholic Church; it was an ugly sight. Also, the impact of the near-universal support of the Irish media cannot be stressed enough.

Back to the United States. There are other abortion “stories,” but these are told by pro-lifers. For example, the reality of coerced abortion is finally beginning to make a dent in the dominate (and tiresome) narrative about women freely exercising “choice.” Moreover, the high incidence, compared to surgical abortion, of chemical abortions, is acknowledged even by some pro-abortionists.

“Less widely publicized is the fact that, in other parts of the world, even pro-choice medical authorities have raised concerns

about the safety threats to women of unsupervised abortions using mifepristone and misoprostol,” writes Dr. Calum Miller. “These risks include, for example, undetected ectopic pregnancies rupturing and causing major hemorrhages, or even legal risks – in the United Kingdom (UK), a woman was recently jailed after taking the pills to kill her unborn child at eight months of gestation. These threats include the risk of abuse and trafficking victims being subjected to abortions without their consent – or remaining unidentified as victims even in consensual abortions.”

And there are endless stories of women deeply regretting their abortions. That, by the way, explains the Abortion Industry’s full bore attacks on Abortion Pill Reversal. “Choice” is wonderful if the woman has no second thoughts, it’s terrible if she quickly begins to take progesterone to try to offset the impact of the mifepristone, the first of two drugs.

Prof. Ziegler ends on optimistic note (for the abortion camp):

**Over the years, the antiabortion movement dealt Roe a death by a thousand cuts by**

**pushing restrictions and carving out exceptions to abortion rights, all while telling a story about fetal protection that resonated on the right. But what happened to Roe could happen to Dobbs, and the Texas case is just the beginning.**

By that she means [hopes] that *Dobbs*—the decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*—may in turn be overturned. But we didn’t work 49 years to save unborn babies and their mothers to allow that to happen.





# It's normal to view our embryos as our prenatal children.

By Monica Snyder, Executive Director, Secular Pro-Life

Some parents get tattoos to memorialize the children we've lost through miscarriage.

I'm reflecting this morning on how profoundly pregnancy loss can affect us. I've had two miscarriages, both around the 6 week mark, both deeply upsetting when they happened and, if I give myself time to think about it, deeply upsetting to this day.

I get being pro-choice out of concern for women and/or out of deeply held beliefs about bodily rights. I get that a lot of people don't view early embryos as morally significant.

It's harder for me to get why those people can't seem to wrap their minds around the idea that many of us do — sincerely, cross my heart and hope to die — view early embryos as precious children. In the abortion debate, a lot of people speak as if the “embryo is a child” idea is, at best, peculiar and confusing, at worst, stupid or insane.

It is none of those things. It is normal and understandable to view our offspring as our prenatal children. And it's normal and understandable to recognize that if *my* embryos are my prenatal children, yours are too.



## The 2024 Elections: How to Win the Messaging War on Abortion

From Page 20

ostensibly limit abortions after 15 weeks gestation. The reality is that 95% of abortions occur prior to 15 weeks gestation and the remaining 5% could fall under the bill's exceptions for cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother. Additionally, such a bill, which needs 60 votes in the Senate, has no chance of passing anytime soon. Even if pro-life Republicans were to win every swing-state Senate seat in 2024, they would still fall short of the 60-vote threshold. Democrats are eager to exploit this so-called

“national ban” as a focal point in their campaigns because they know how politically toxic it is for Republicans.

Pro-life candidates would do best not to be drawn into purity tests or litmus tests put forth by various organizations. While well-meaning in many cases, these tests can ultimately force a candidate to alienate their base in order to appeal to the broader electorate, or they can force candidates to double down on untenable positions limiting their ability to win. At the same time, all of this provides their

opponents with ammunition for attack ads.

Pro-life candidates need to demonstrate to voters that not only are they against a policy of unlimited abortion for any reason, but they also support positive alternatives to abortion and stand with women and girls who find themselves facing unexpected pregnancies. They should familiarize themselves with pregnancy help centers in their states or districts. Nationwide, there are over 3,000 of these centers which offer pregnant women the compassion, support, and resources they need in order to make life-affirming decisions.

Pro-life candidates should also be mindful that the debate over abortion is not merely a discussion of laws and policies. There is a deeply personal dimension to this issue that sets it apart from other political issues. When presenting their pro-life views, candidates should not shy away from sharing how they came to believe what they do. Impactful are personal experiences of parenthood, adoption or foster

care, volunteering at a pregnancy help center, or seeing ultrasound images of babies in the womb.

By showing the human dimension to their views, pro-life candidates can also help to reverse the public perception that pro-abortion Democrats are better suited to address the abortion issue. An April 2023 *NPR/PBS News Hour*/Marist poll found that Democrats are more trusted than Republicans on handling the issue of abortion. (41% say Democrats and 25% say Republicans. A quarter say neither party, and another 1 in 10 said both parties are the same or weren't sure.

What most political campaigns come down to is messaging. A candidate could have the perfect resume, a deep knowledge of the issues, and all the right endorsements, but if they cannot effectively communicate their vision and persuade voters, they will lose. What pro-life candidates need to do as soon as possible is study the Democrat abortion playbook, learn the right lessons from the 2022 elections, and employ effective messaging.



# Unplanned but never unwanted

By Ryan Scott Bomberger

The best birthday present I ever received was the gift of being able to adopt my oldest daughter.

I'll never forget sitting in the Historical Society parking lot, being hounded by busybodies who demanded to know why I was parked there. I explained that my wife was in the courthouse across the street, and I just needed a few more minutes to find out about the child support proceeding. My wife, Bethany, and I were praying and hoping for a God-sized miracle. Her biological daughter had only known me as her dad since she was a one-year-old. Against our highly-paid attorneys' opinion, we sought to ask the biological father if he'd be willing to relinquish his rights before the hearing.

We were told: "It's impossible... it's the wrong venue...the judge will never allow it...you'll have to share custody the rest of your lives...there's no way this will happen."

The God of the impossible made it happen.

While I was sitting in the empty parking lot (clearly needed for all the people desperately trying to get some history), my wife was in the middle of a miracle unfolding. She called me, weeping, telling me that the biological "father" shockingly agreed to end his parental rights. The judge approved it, and my baby girl officially became a Bomberger! The four-year battle to free my daughter from confusion and chaos finally ended.

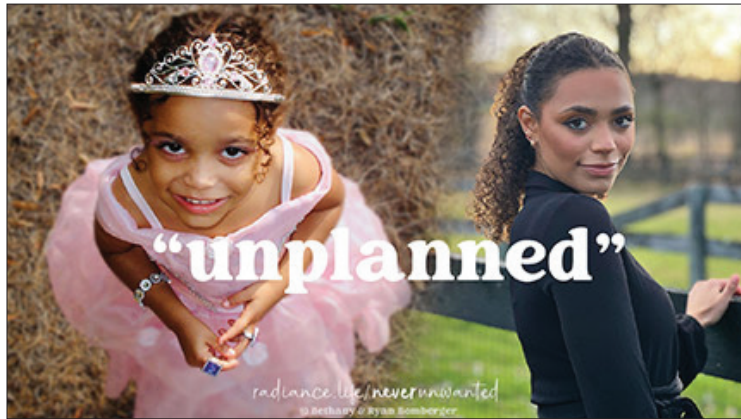
That precious baby girl wasn't exactly planned. Bethany, in her 20s, was a public school teacher in Philly. Her life had spiraled downward as she painfully distanced herself from her faith. She got involved with a guy who was emotionally abusive. She finally walked away from the toxic relationship only to discover she was pregnant.

He didn't want the responsibility. When he found out the baby was a girl, he pushed Bethany to have an abortion. He even offered to pay for the violence.

Bethany never considered abortion. She rejected it. The pressure on her, though, was rather intense. Fellow teachers questioned how she would remain

the rest of her life, that baby girl would never know any shame about how she came to be. She would never know anything other than being someone God meant to be.

Though Radiance's "father" didn't want her, she was not unwanted. I'm the only dad she's ever known. Bethany and I got



in her profession if she chose to be a mother. So much of the rhetoric centered on the lie that an "unplanned" pregnancy is the end of your life.

There's always a plan in the unplanned.

When Bethany went, alone, to an ultrasound appointment, she felt God's love in the coldness of the exam room. Seeing the flickering rice-sized heart beating helped shake the suffocating fear she had felt for so many weeks. When she went home that evening, she opened up a journal to write down all of her emotions and newfound hope. In the margin of one of the pages were the pre-printed words: "I sought the Lord, and he relieved me of all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant. Their faces will never be covered with shame (Psalm 34:4-5)."

That verse led her to name her unborn daughter, Radiance. She determined in her heart that, even if she had to be a single mom for

married when Rai Rai was only one. I married the love of my life and became an instant dad at the same time.

Back at the Historical Society parking lot, still being hounded by the staff who were ushering me to the exit, I'm reeling from the course of events that would change our family's life forever. As an adoptee, who was conceived in rape but adopted in love, I've lived a life that defies the myth of the "unwanted" child. And the day before my birthday, a God-sized miracle blessed me with the greatest birthday gift I could ever ask for.

Rai Rai would never know life without a loving father.

A few days ago, I watched my daughter speak with beautiful confidence at her graduation ceremony. Years of memories flooded my mind as tears raced down my face. She made people laugh and shout "Amen!", effortlessly letting her radiant personality shine. Big Sister. Athlete. Actress. Choir member.

Dancer. Teaching assistant. Artist. On-camera host. Leader. Child of God.

She exudes the strength and beauty of her mom. She knows who she is and whose she is. She thinks deeply and acts counter-culturally. Radiance is the tangible example of the beauty of possibility. When people insist "unplanned pregnancies" end in misery, I see nothing but victory.

Her mama shredded the lies of pro-abortion (fake) feminism as she balanced being a full-time teacher and a mother. Bethany became the homeschooling mama to four children (two of whom were adopted). She is the co-founder and Executive Director of The Radiance Foundation, a nationally acclaimed non-profit organization. She has modeled what it means to be a woman of God who will lay down her life for those she loves.

And now, the Class of 2023 has someone whose light shines brightly. Our college-bound Radiance aspires to be an elementary school teacher like her mama. She could've been a tragic statistic but instead is a triumphant statement: Life has purpose!

To those who face the fear of an unexpected pregnancy, you're not alone. You deserve much better than a culture of exploitation and defeatism. (See [www.pregnancycenters.org](http://www.pregnancycenters.org) for help and hope.) You are stronger than your circumstances.

An unplanned pregnancy isn't an obstacle. It's an opportunity for you to become more than you ever thought you could be.

*Editor's note. Mr. Bomberger is Co-Founder, Chief Creative Officer of the Radiance Foundation. This appeared here and is reposted with permission.*

# A devastating headline from *NBC News*: “Note cards and shorter stairs: How Biden’s campaign is addressing his age”

From Page 2

*A plurality of Democrats who don't want Biden renominated (39%) say their aversion is due to his advanced age, while another 20% say he hasn't done a good enough job to earn a second term. Still another 14% said they would prefer someone new.*

Speaking of the *New York Times* latest poll [[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/01/us/elections/times-siena-poll-registered-voters-crosstabs.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/01/us/elections/times-siena-poll-registered-voters-crosstabs.html)], two questions are extremely pertinent. They asked, “Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?”

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	42%

Notice first that only 39% approve of the president versus 54% who disapprove. But what jumps out at you is that twice as many people strongly disapprove, 42%, compared to only 21% who strongly approve.

Some tentative conclusions. One by one—and this a very deliberate process—the legacy media is coming to grips with his obvious shortcomings. Even *NBC News* is grudgingly admitting the truth, captured in this headline and subhead: “Note cards and shorter stairs: How Biden’s campaign is addressing his age: Aides appear to be making concessions to Biden’s age, hoping to avoid viral moments that would reinforce voters’ worries about his fitness.”

Here’s the opening sentence: “WASHINGTON — The president of the United States tripping and falling is never a

good moment in the throes of a re-election campaign. But when the president is 80 years old and already faces concerns that he’s too old for another term, it’s something of a crisis.” That is a mouthful but the illustrations



*Pro-abortion President Joe Biden*  
Photo: Gage Skidmore

Carol E. Lee, Peter Nicholas, and Monica Alba use to document that conclusion make it undeniable.

Here are just a few of the comments made off the record, of course.

*Biden’s answer to voters who question whether he’s up to the rigors of a second term is simple: “Watch me.” The trouble is, voters are watching, and what they’re seeing is hardening impressions that it’s time for him to step aside, polling shows. Apart from being the most taxing job on the world stage, the presidency is also the most public, and signs of advancing age are tough to miss.*

And

*Apparent to anyone paying attention is that the Biden*

*they may remember from the Robert Bork Supreme Court confirmation hearings of 1987, or the vice presidential debate with Sarah Palin in 2008, is a different man today.*

*His gait is less steady, his speech not as fluid. He has confused Iraq with Ukraine and Rolling Fork, Mississippi, with “Rolling Stone.” At a conference last year, he looked out at the audience and called for a congresswoman who had recently died in a car crash.*

Two more.

*“Physically, he’s quite frail and he falls off his bicycle, or whatever,” said a former Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity to talk more freely. “He doesn’t have the stamina levels of an Obama or a younger president. People worry about his physical frailty and running from age 82 to 86” — the age*

*Biden would be at the end of a second term. “That is really old by European standards. Really, really old. We don’t have anyone that age.”*

Finally

*In a social media age when presidential slip-ups are grist for viral videos, Biden’s advisers recognize he has little room for error. Any president can forget a name or place, mangle a sentence or tumble over a tripping hazard. And they have. With Biden, displays of frailty are bound to get more scrutiny given the propensity of many voters to believe he shouldn’t run again.*

Sorry, one more.

*They gave a collective groan when Biden fell at the Air Force Academy, knowing the episode wouldn’t soon be forgotten. It turns out the sandbag had been camouflaged so that it would blend in, making it easier to miss, a senior White House aide said.*

*“It happened in seconds,” another aide said, “but it’s going to be in front of us for months and maybe years.”*

This is by no means an original thought on my part. It’s obvious to anyone with eyes to see. When you watch the President lose another battle with the teleprompter and then shuffle off without taking a question from reporters, the only conclusion you can draw is that is elderly abuse.

# Tearful Post-abortion woman: “If only one person had asked me not to do it”

By Sarah Terzo

Pro-life activist Richard Exley told this story:

Some time ago I was speaking to a right to life rally. When I had finished, a young woman came to the front of the auditorium and asked to speak to the audience. Noting her obvious distress, I hesitated before giving her the microphone.

Tearfully she confessed that eight years earlier she had aborted her baby... The father had wanted nothing more to do with the young woman or her unborn child. In shame and desperation she has scheduled a legal and inexpensive abortion...

Trembling, she told us that on the way to the abortion clinic she had “prayed” that someone would stop her.

“If only one person has asked me not to do it,” she sobbed, “my baby would be alive today.”

Listening to her story, I couldn’t help but wonder how many other babies have been killed simply because no one was there.

Richard Exley, *Abortion: Pro-Life by Conviction, Pro-Choice by Default* (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Honor Books, 1989), pp. 67 – 68.

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



# Canadian push to euthanize veterans branded “disgusting and unacceptable” by veteran with PTSD

By Right to Life UK

Kelsi Sheren was sent to Afghanistan aged 19, after enlisting in the Canadian army in 2009. She developed PTSD as a result of her experiences and, since her return, has become an outspoken critic of Canada’s euthanasia laws, branding them “disgusting and unacceptable”.

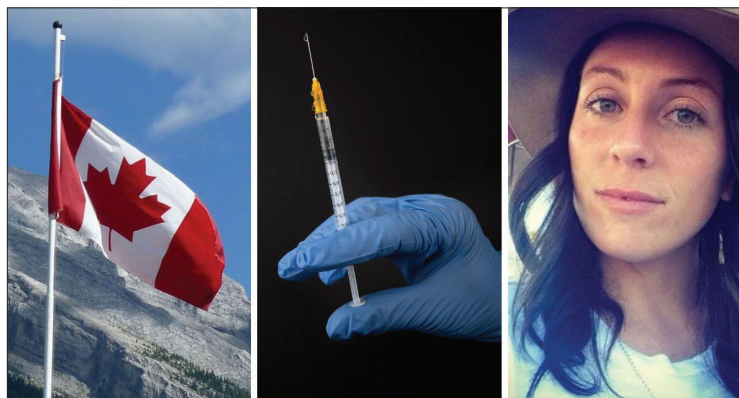
The army veteran, who witnessed a fellow soldier be blown to pieces by an IED, returned from service with the tell-tale symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. After finding help through art therapy, Ms. Sheren has set out on a mission to support other veterans who return from the field in need of help.

## Canada’s euthanasia laws are “disgusting and unacceptable”

As part of her mission, the former artillery-gunner has been a harsh critic of Canada’s euthanasia laws. Aware of stories of veterans with PTSD who have been pushed to consider euthanasia, Ms. Sheren has lambasted her home country’s laws as “disgusting and unacceptable” and has argued

that authorities see it as an easier option to euthanize veterans rather than support their recovery.

Ms. Sheren shared that she personally knows of nearly a dozen veterans who have been offered euthanasia. She railed



against this injustice, saying “When you take people who were willing to put their lives on the line for you, for your safety, then you have the audacity to tell them it’s better if you just die ... it is one of the most disgusting things”.

Her story has been documented in her new book *Brass and Unity* which was released earlier this month.

## Assisted suicide for mental health

Despite its already permissive laws, Canada is due to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia on mental health grounds in March 2024. In 2021, over

10,000 Canadian citizens ended their lives by assisted suicide or euthanasia. This accounts for 3.3% of all deaths in the country.

## A year to see a psychiatrist but only two weeks for euthanasia

*The Telegraph* recently published a ‘Letter to the Editor’ in which a reader from Canada outlines that a family member had to wait a year for a psychiatric

appointment but that it’s possible to make an appointment for euthanasia in two weeks.

The letter draws attention to the ease with which one could end their own life through assisted suicide compared to the difficulty of receiving genuine medical care. Its author, Susan Postill, from Toronto, Canada, said “Here in Canada, a member of my family was recently told there would be a one-year wait to see a psychiatrist, despite a serious psychiatric history. During the same time frame, a woman I know of was able to make a euthanasia appointment within two weeks”.

Right To Life UK spokesperson Catherine Robinson said “It is truly alarming to hear how former service men and women have been offered euthanasia rather than support on their return from combat. Evidence from Canada shows that once assisted suicide and euthanasia are legalized, the practice becomes more widespread, and the eligibility criteria readily expanded. Vulnerable individuals need further support and protection rather than being encouraged to choose euthanasia”.

# Canada's Suicidal Slide

By John Stonestreet and Shane Morris

If it is true, as Richard Weaver famously put it, that “ideas have consequences,” it is also true that bad ideas have victims. On no other contemporary issue today is the connection between a bad idea and its victims clearer than assisted suicide. In no other nation today are the bad ideas and their victims more aggressively embraced than in Canada.

In a lengthy and powerful essay at *The Atlantic* this month, David Brooks exposed just how monstrous Canada's so-called “medical aid in dying” regime has become since it was enacted in 2016. Originally, Canada only permitted the request for medical aid in dying to those with serious illness, in advanced or irreversible decline, unbearable physical or mental suffering, or whose death was “reasonably foreseeable.” The criteria are vague enough.

Since the law went into effect, however, the number of Canadians killed annually has gone from 1,000 to over 10,000. In 2021, one in thirty Canadian deaths was by assisted suicide, and only 4% of those who applied to die were turned down.

Were all these people terminally ill or suffering from serious and irreversible conditions? Hardly. In fact, Brooks tells the story of a man whose only physical condition was hearing loss yet who was “put to death” over the objections of his family. Another patient had fibromyalgia and leukemia yet wrote that “the suffering I experience is mental suffering, not physical. I think if more people cared about me,

I might be able to handle the suffering caused by my physical illnesses alone.”

One otherwise healthy 37-year-old who suffers from schizoaffective disorder and is unemployed said, “logistically, I really don't have a future. ... I'm not going anywhere.” As of Brooks' writing, that man was awaiting approval for assisted



suicide.

Simply put, Canadians who need help are instead being helped to kill themselves because they're depressed, lonely, or mentally ill. And the slope keeps getting slipperier. Brooks described patients who have been pressured by doctors and hospital staff into killing themselves to avoid medical bills. Earlier this year, the Canadian Parliament's Special Committee on Medical Assistance in Death recommended extending the program to mature minors” as young as twelve.

Brooks observed, this is what happens “when a society takes individualism to its logical conclusion.” The core question “is no longer, ‘Should the state help

those who are suffering at the end of life die?’” It is now whether any degree of suffering is worth living with. He concludes, “The lines between assisted suicide for medical reasons ... and straight-up suicide are blurring.”

Brooks clearly identified the bad idea behind these victims: what he calls “autonomy-based liberalism.” In its place,

he proposed something called “gifts-based liberalism,” which acknowledges that each of us is a “receiver of gifts ... including the gift of life itself.” That life, Brooks insists, is “sacred” because each of us is endowed with “dignity,” and society has a duty to say, “No, suicide is out of bounds. ... You don't have the right to make a choice you will never be able to revisit. ... We are responsible for one another.” At least, that is, in most cases, according to Brooks.

He is so close to getting this one right and articulating the sanctity of life in the way Christianity does. That's why it's frustrating that Brooks seems to think it's possible to climb back up the slippery slope and

re-establish assisted suicide only for “extreme” cases. He writes, “I don't have great moral qualms about assisted suicide for people who are suffering intensely in the face of imminent death.”

But, David, the moment you begin setting criteria for when a life is no longer worth living, no longer sacred, and a person no longer deserving of love instead of lethal injection, you let the bad idea that led to all those victims right back in the cultural door!

For all his admirable reporting on how bad it has gotten in Canada, Brooks never gets around to answering his core question: Why did Canada's “medical aid in dying” law—which supposedly limited victims to only those he agrees should have the right to die—become government-sponsored mass suicide in just seven years?

The answer is simple: because the value of human life is not based on any extrinsic quality. Period. It's instead based on the fact that humans are made in God's image. We belong to Him, not to ourselves. This is ultimately why the slope from accepting some suicides to all suicides is so slippery.

It's also why “gifts-based liberalism,” until it acknowledges the one who gave us life, will never be able to keep its footing or help those intent on throwing away the very gift.

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

# Newborn Twins Found Dead in Chicago Day Care Bathroom

By Illinois Federation for Right to Life

On Thursday, July 6, newborn twin girls were found dead in a bathroom at Bernice Lavin Early Childhood Education Center on the campus of Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Just before 7:00 pm, the bodies were discovered by a janitorial crew who spotted a trail of blood on the bathroom floor. The janitors followed the trail to a cabinet. The unresponsive babies were found inside a trash bag stuffed in the cabinet. They were rushed to Lurie Children's Hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

According to the authorities and the education center, the twins' mother (a 29-year-old

who works at the education center) experienced a medical emergency leading to unexpected delivery. About an hour before the janitorial staff discovered the babies, the mother was found in the first-floor bathroom covered in blood. Someone called 911, and the mother was taken to the emergency room.

Neither the education center nor the authorities commented on whether the children died before delivery. No information is publicly available explaining who stuffed the children in a trash bag or why.

Regardless of whether they survived birth, these babies were

treated without the respect human life deserves. If there was concern that the mother could not care for her children, she could have found support at a pro-life pregnancy center or surrendered her children to first responders under Illinois's Safe Haven law.

An alarming trend of stories regarding abandoned infants has been in the news recently. As a culture of abortion and dehumanization persists, more babies die tragic preventable deaths.

- Teen pleads guilty after taking abortion pills and burning baby's body

- Woman arrested after leaving her newborn in toilet to die
- Woman arrested after leaving newborn baby in hospital trash can
- Mother arrested four years after newborn rescued from plastic bag
- Woman finds her dead twin grandbabies in garbage can
- Dead newborn found on Flint, Michigan roadside



# Newborns who survive abortion now hidden from view in Minnesota, denied right to lifesaving care

By Paul Stark, Communications Director, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL)

On Tuesday a law went into effect hiding from the public the fate of infants who survive abortion. Under the new version of Minnesota's abortion reporting law, practitioners of abortion will no longer report when abortions result in live births and what measures are taken to care for such infants. The change comes as the legislature has also repealed a guarantee that born-alive infants receive appropriate lifesaving care.

"Minnesota lawmakers have revoked basic protection for newborn babies, and now the fate of newborns who survive abortion will be hidden from the public," said MCCL Co-Executive Director Cathy Blaeser. "Why do lawmakers want to keep us in the dark? This appalling extremism is not what Minnesotans asked for. Our elected officials must restore protection for newborns who are at risk."

The weakened version of Minnesota's abortion reporting

law, which took effect Aug. 1, repeals the requirement that practitioners report "whether the abortion resulted in a born alive infant," "any medical actions taken to preserve the life of the born alive infant," "whether the born alive infant survived," and "the status of the born alive infant, should the infant survive, if known."

In recent years, five born-alive infants were reported in 2015, five in 2016, three in 2017, three in 2018, three in 2019, and five in 2021, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. This information will no longer be available.

Lawmakers this year also repealed Minnesota's requirement that reasonable measures be taken to "preserve the life and health" of born-alive infants, replacing it with a requirement for "care," which the bill's House author, Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester), has described as mere "comfort

care. Under the new language, an infant could be denied lifesaving care and allowed to die.

to save the infants' lives. Instead, the repealed law simply required "reasonable measures consistent



In support of repealing the protection for newborns, some lawmakers falsely claimed that the repealed language required inappropriate or futile attempts

with good medical practice." Disabled babies, whose lives are often devalued, could be especially at risk from the denial of this basic protection.

## Trafficking survivor says her trafficker 'took all his girls to Planned Parenthood'

From Page 27

No type of privacy or anything. He's on edge all the time, you know?"

### Missed opportunities to save women and girls

Beverly, who was trafficked for *eight years*, said, "I visited Planned Parenthood *very often*" (emphasis added), explaining that she went to a Planned Parenthood "every 4-5 months" for STI and STD screening. She said Planned Parenthood was "always pretty expedient about the process" of giving her pregnancy tests and a Depo-Provera birth control shot, which has been shown to increase a woman's risk of contracting HIV by up to 40%.

Ann said she often went to Planned Parenthood as well, where she "[g]ot birth control. So, I wouldn't get pregnant. I had my abortions..." She added,

"They changed my birth control because one wasn't working because of my blood or whatever. So, I couldn't take the pill. I had to take a different kind of pill. Then, I got the shot. So, the stuff that they said would be done, was done. *They made sure that they kept checking me for STDs.*" (emphasis added)

Despite the frequency of their visits, the survivors didn't receive actual help from Planned Parenthood to escape their traffickers.

Planned Parenthood is required to report even suspected child abuse. According to its website, it may give information to law enforcement "[i]f you are the victim of a crime and we are unable to obtain your consent; ... In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the

identity, description, or location of the person who committed the crime."

It also states, "We may disclose health information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following: ... To report child abuse or neglect; ... To notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law."

Planned Parenthood also states, "All medical providers are mandated reporters. If there is an issue [of] abuse or neglect, the law mandates that medical professions notify the Department of Children and Family Services. Moreover, health care providers have ethical and legal obligations when it comes to informed consent and

ensuring that a patient *is making decisions free from coercion.*" (emphasis added)

Yet, survivors are making it clear that Planned Parenthood consistently failed to help them. Former Planned Parenthood manager Ramona Treviño has also spoken out about how the organization turns a blind eye to sex trafficking.

Treviño told Live Action president and founder Lila Rose in 2016 that Planned Parenthood lied when it claimed that it was actively retraining staff to identify sex traffickers and sex trafficking victims. The organization instead, she claimed, trained staff on how to not get caught on recordings by undercover investigators.

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



# Pro-life pushback prevents all-trimester abortion facility from opening

By Nancy Flanders

Following pushback from pro-life organizations and individuals, including Live Action, an all-trimester abortion facility preparing to open in Beverly Hills, California, this fall has lost its lease agreement.

news at the planned pro-life rally outside the building on July 29.

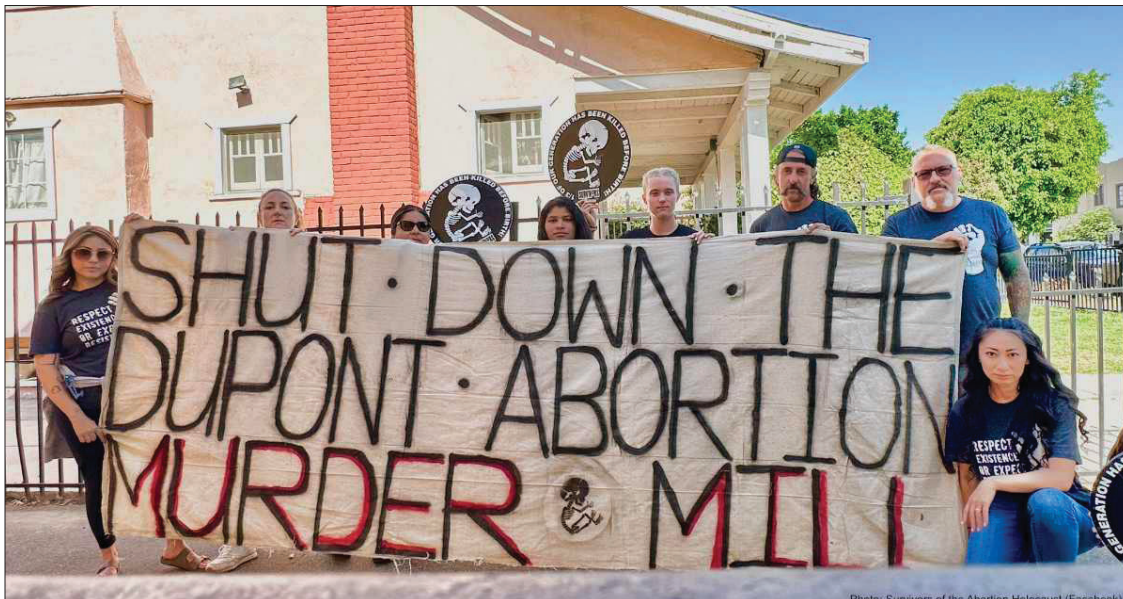
The pro-life win comes after pro-lifers launched prayer and protest efforts to stop the facility from opening.

Pro-lifers have been fighting back against the opening of the facility, which plans to commit “all-trimester” abortions — up to 31 weeks and six days — for any reason. In the third trimester (typically starting at week 28),

reasons, the truth is that many women have abortions in the third trimester for non-health related reasons, which DuPont Clinic’s patient director Karishma Oza calls “beautiful”.

She said

*“I think abortion in all trimesters is beautiful. And you know, there is also a myth that abortion in the second and third trimester is only for people experiencing anomalies. That’s also not true. Of course, we serve people who have anomalies at our clinic, and we do it with a whole lot of heart and compassion. But there’s this misconception that there also has to be something wrong with the pregnancy in order to have an abortion, and that’s just not true.”* (emphasis added)



According to an Instagram video shared by the pro-life group The Battle Cry, the landlord of 8920 Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills has rescinded the lease for the DuPont Clinic. The landlord’s attorney sent an email regarding the property and his decision to Tim Clement, Director of Outreach for the Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust, who announced the

“I think the property management for the building didn’t realize what they were signing up for when they agreed to lease to DuPont,” said Clement. “Being home to a first-of-[its] kind abortion business is not what this city wants to be known for and they definitely weren’t pleased with the presence of protestors taking to their streets every day.”

preborn human beings are most often killed via lethal injection, which causes cardiac arrest. The mother, who, according to DuPont is sedated, would then give birth to a stillborn baby.

Babies born *as young as 21 weeks* have survived outside the womb.

While abortion advocates claim that abortions are only carried out this late in pregnancy for medical

While the DuPont Clinic has lost its Beverly Hills location for now, it is likely working to secure a new location in California. The abortion business continues to commit abortions into the third trimester at its location in Washington, D.C.

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

# New school year, new lessons...and an updated prolife school curriculum supplement

By Right to Life of Michigan

August is such a great month. In Michigan, the flowers are bright, the weather usually good, the lakes warm. For small towns, the season for founder's day parades, fairs, and festivals is in full swing. Families get together and take vacations. Fall sports begin gearing up, and for Detroit Lions fans, hope springs eternal.

For children, they know school is just around the corner, and they are trying to soak up every last bit of summer possible. For teachers, they know it's time to head back to school even sooner to prepare for another year.

We have a prolife school curriculum supplement, Life Lessons, for all ages that can help teachers and parents who understand the importance of kids learning about the value of human life—and

the value in protecting life.

Life Lessons is a series of 13 lesson plans which can be incorporated easily into any curriculum. Every lesson is connected to a Michigan curriculum standard. So, it's not only good for homeschooling parents and private schools, but also possible to implement many of the included lessons in a public school setting.

Our Life Lessons resource is available for free and can be downloaded and printed for your use in helping reach the next generation with a life-affirming message.



## Kansans for Life Upholds Promise to Never Abandon Women and Babies

(Overland Park, KS – August 2, 2023) – Just one year exposed the sad truth. The last 12 months proved supporters of the Value Them Both Amendment correct and unmasked the lies of the profit-driven abortion industry.

Despite their claims that a “no” vote on the amendment would keep all existing pro-life regulations in place—which received little to no “fact-checking” from the media—abortionists quickly pivoted to continue removing even basic protections for both women and preborn babies.

- **clinic sanitation and licensing standards**
- **limits on live dismemberment abortion**
- **in-person doctor**

### requirements

- **informed consent requirements**
- **measures to protect women from being coerced to abort their preborn children.**

Abortion numbers skyrocketed, the largest year-over-year increase in recorded history, as the abortion industry funneled a staggering 117% increase in the number of out-of-state residents to abortion facilities in Kansas.

Through it all, abortionists lined their pockets and filled litigation war chest coffers.

“As Kansans see the reality we predicted unfolding before them, we observe this sad day by rolling up our sleeves and encouraging our members

to volunteer to help serve women facing unexpected pregnancies,” said Danielle

anniversary into a day dedicated to service that will aid women facing unplanned pregnancies:



Elevate life.

Underwood, KFL Director of Communications.

“Last August 2nd, we promised we would continue to expose the lies of the profit-driven abortion industry and that we will never abandon women and babies. That is why we are turning a sad

Women and Babies Wednesday.”

KFL has partnered with 20 pregnancy resource centers across the state for the August 2nd Day of Service. Photos from the Day of Service will be made available on our social media channels throughout the day.