Kansas, Idaho, and Oklahoma Legislatures Vote to Protect Pain-Capable Unborn Children

As of April 7th, Idaho became the latest state to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The Idaho state House of Representatives, by a 54-14 vote, approved the bill backed by the state’s Senate chamber. Also, on April 6th, the Oklahoma state Senate voted 38-8 to pass similar legislation, and it is expected to have full passage and a Governor’s signature soon. Kansas, having passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in late March, will have their bill signed by Governor Sam Brownback on April 12th. The bills are modeled after legislation enacted last year by the Nebraska legislature.

“The science behind the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act is sound, and when faced with the evidence, state legislatures recognize their responsibility to protect these smallest members of our society,” said Mary Spaulding Bach, J.D., director of state legislation for the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). “For several years, we have seen a growing trend of state legislatures moving to enact legislation that aids mothers and protects their unborn children.” Further documentation and links to the scientific studies can be found at: www.doctorsonfetalpain.com.
The Family Tree That Almost Didn’t Grow

Every human life is of inestimable value to God’s ongoing act of creation. . . . We have lost immeasurable benefits because of the killing of 53 million aborted babies in our country alone.

This is the story a young girl’s strong moral courage and the 101 people who enjoyed life as a result.

The year was 1896. The location was Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Now, imagine being a 13 year old house cleaner who suddenly finds herself pregnant as the result of a violent rape. Lilly Clarke was undoubtedly terrified. She received no encouragement or support from anyone around her and her prosperous employer, who was the father of the child, tried to pressure Lilly to “do away with” the baby.

But Lilly was made of sterner stuff. At 13 years old, she left home on her own. She found her way to Philadelphia and gave birth to a baby girl who she named Elizabeth. Lilly and Elizabeth later moved back to Johnstown where Elizabeth grew up and married Arnold Trabold. Elizabeth and Arnold had four children, Florence, William, Robert and Richard.

Three of Lilly’s grandsons all served in the military. William served in the Navy and was part of the “D” day invasion of Normandy. Robert was a Navy musician who served in a military band during WWII and Richard served in the Navy during the Korean War.

Lilly’s granddaughter, Mrs. Florence Bischof, who recently wrote a letter to the editor about her grandmother, was the source for this story. Florence has a long history in the pro-life movement which dates back to 1973 when she joined the Virginia Society of Human Life (VSHL). She was chairman of the Potomac Chapter in Vienna, VA. Later, the family moved to Williamsburg, VA, where Florence started, and was the chairman of, the Williamsburg Chapter of VSHL. Florence and her husband Ted were unable to have children so they adopted five. One of whom was a Vietnamese baby girl, Lien, who Ted brought home from Vietnam in 1967. Lien had been suffering from a lack of love and affection, and had numerous rat bites including the partial loss of one ear. After a long hard struggle, Lien graduated college and is now a school teacher and has four children.

Jeffrey George Trabold, one of Lily’s great grandsons has served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-five years and was just promoted to Chief Master Sergeant and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Another great grandson, Lt. Damien Trabold, earned a Bronze Star in the Persian Gulf War for his ingenuity and guidance in supervising the capture of six hundred Iraqi prisoners with no loss of life. Other descendents include an engineer, five nurses, musicians, a dairy plant supervisor, teachers, an office supply store manager, and an architect, to mention just a few.

Lilly Clarke is the root of a family tree which over the last 115 years has produced 4 children, 24 grandchildren, and 73 great grandchildren. This entire family tree was made possible by the courageous decision of a lonely and frightened thirteen year old girl. And the tree is still growing.

Author’s note:

As I interviewed Florence Bischof, I realized Lilly Clarke’s story presented a wonderful opportunity to show how one person’s actions can change the world. At present, 101 individuals form Lily’s family tree, but as time goes on, the tree will continue to grow to thousands and tens of thousands, etc.

We tend to look at the world around us and focus on the immediate, the here and now - - people, places and things that we deal with that seem to have an immediate impact on our lives. In the greater scheme of things, there exists a broader perspective which is part of the ongoing act of God’s creation. The single rain drop that falls from the sky can becomes part of the ocean, or a lake, or a river, and can provide sustenance for living things. That single drop of rain is important to our world.

Everything we do ultimately affects the world around us. Acts of kindness and charity benefit our world. Selfishness, acts of omission and sin have a negative impact on the world. These acts are not isolated events and do not end with the act itself. Like Lilly Clarke’s family tree, our actions go on and on and can have many unforeseen consequences in the world.

That is why abortion is not simply a decision between a woman and her doctor. Every human life is of inestimable value to God’s ongoing act of creation. Each person is part of a family tree and is an integral part of God’s plan. We may never know what blessings the Lord intends to bring forth from any person’s life, or how that life will impact future generations, but we do know that God has a unique plan for each life that He creates. As John Cardinal O’Connor once said, “God draws straight with crooked lines.” We have lost immeasurable benefits because of the killing of 53 million aborted babies in our country alone.

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May 1 – The American Medical Association, which in the 19th century led the effort to protect unborn children, today lends its prestige and support to those of its members whose daily occupation is to kill them. (Atty. Burt Balch, director of the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics.)

May 8 – As we celebrate Mother’s Day, let us renew our struggle to make the following quote applicable to all mothers: “Every child…brings us God’s smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care always and at every moment.” Pope Benedict XVI

May 15 – Anthropologist Margaret Mead wrote about the epochal significance of the Hippocratic Oath now set aside by many medical schools: “For the first time in our tradition there was a complete separation between killing and curing. One profession…was to be dedicated to life under all circumstances, regardless of rank, age, or intellect.” NRL News, 9/09.

May 22 – “Society is always attempting to make the physician into a killer—to kill the defective child at birth, to leave the sleeping pills beside the bed of a cancer patient. It is the duty of society to protect the physician from such requests.” Margaret Meade, NRL News, 9/09.

May 29 – As we remember the sacrifice of all American war veterans, we might also pause a moment to consider that more Americans have died because of abortion than have died in the Civil War, both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War. NRL News, 1/07

June 5 – For all those in public office that they may seek God’s enlightenment on how they can help build the Culture of Life, we pray

June 12 – When the time comes when parents are able to select the genetic traits of their offspring, “I would not oppose selecting for intelligence. We could assume that people of higher intelligence would have good consequences for society.” This statement from Peter Singer, philosopher, author and professor of bioethics at Princeton University, led columnist Jeff Jacoby to question the good consequences produced by Mr. Singer’s intelligence through his advocacy of a 28-day period during which newborns could be killed and his conclusion that breeding children for spare parts is “not something really wrong in itself.” (Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe, 3/4/09)

June 19 – Although most research has focused on the negative effects of abortion on women, there is another, often overlooked victim: the father. Although some fathers may push the pregnant mother into choosing abortion, there are others who desperately want their baby to live. Imagine the helplessness of these fathers unable to save the life of their unborn child—a situation that can lead to long-term mental health issues.

June 26 – Commenting on the shocking discoveries at a Philadelphia abortion mill, Rich Lowry of National Review Online observed, “Legal abortion was supposed to end ‘back-alley abortions,’ both their dangers and their entanglements with shady characters. But the practice and the mores of the back alley are with us still, tolerated by people for whom the ready provision of abortion trumps all else.” (NRL Online, 2/4/11)
Register now for the National Right to Life Convention!

The annual National Right to Life Convention is coming to Jacksonville, Florida, this summer. June 23-25, 2011, the premiere pro-life educational event in the nation gathers grassroots leaders and experts in a unique forum to share experience and ideas to truly make a difference and bring America back to Life!

Where: Jacksonville Florida
When: June 23-25, 2011
More Info: www.nrlconvention.com

This Year’s Guest Speakers will include such notables as:

- Mr. Fred Barnes, Editor of The Weekly Standard and FOX News Contributor
- Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, MD, President of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute
- David Prentice, Ph.D., Family Research Council, Senior Fellow for Life Sciences