61 Million Babies Have Died Because a Lie Became Law

Roe v Wade 1973
Showdown brewing on campaign to air-drop 1972 “Equal Rights Amendment” into U.S. Constitution

WASHINGTON (Jan. 12, 2020) -- A long-smoldering campaign to insert the Equal Rights Amendment into the U.S. Constitution has turned into a political-legal-media blaze.

At NRL News deadline, the Virginia legislature appeared to be mere days away from adopting a resolution that purports to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a proposed constitutional amendment submitted by Congress to the states in March, 1972, with a seven-year deadline for ratification.

In the view of pro-ERA activists, Virginia will be the 38th state to ratify the ERA, thereby meeting the constitutional requirement of ratification by three-quarters of the 50 states. Pro-ERA advocacy groups are already proclaiming that the Virginia legislature’s action will be the successful culmination of decades of struggle for constitutional “equality.”

However, there are many who find these claims implausible. “This is an attempt to air-drop into the Constitution a sweeping provision that could be used to attack any federal, state, or local law or policy that in any way limits abortion -- abortion in the final months, partial-birth abortion, abortions on minors, government funding

See “Showdown,” page 25

NRLC Dedicates Helen Boyle Lauinger Memorial Life Center

By Holly Gatling, Executive Director, South Carolina Citizens for Life

The Helen Boyle Lauinger Memorial Life Center, the new headquarters of the National Right to Life Committee, was dedicated Thursday, January 9, 2020, in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, with numerous members of Miss Lauinger’s family present along with NRLC officers and NRLC staff members.

NRLC Vice President Anthony (Tony) Lauinger, one of Miss Lauinger’s living siblings, thanked Helen’s sisters, Fran and Mary, brothers Phil and Frank, and her 25 nieces and nephews who made the purchase of the three-story, 14,000 square-foot building possible.

The large plaque with bronze lettering located in the main lobby of the building honoring Helen Boyle Lauinger reads: “Given by her sisters and brother, nieces and nephews in loving memory of her unrivaled devotion to children and her unwavering defense of that magnificent little masterpiece

See “NRLC,” page 20
Editorials

Guardians of God’s most precious creations

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“God, the God who built and preserves nations, who brings life and maintains it, who stands with those who suffer most at the hands of evil, He will remember us, too. He will remember America and He will bless her. God will bless us because we are the guardians of His most precious creations.

“We stand between America and the darkness, and we will march until that darkness is banished forever and all of our children can stand together in the sunlight.”—Ben Shapiro, speaking at the 2019 March for Life

A week from tomorrow, pro-life champions from around the United States and abroad will pause to honor the memory of the more than 61 million unborn victims of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. This year the date of the annual March for Life, which brings together over 100,000 in our nation’s capital, is January 24. The theme? “Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman.”

Before and after these dates, it is important that pro-lifers will assemble, typically at their respective state capitols, to pronounce unequivocally that they will never, ever quit. This faithfulness is a testimony to the perseverance, resiliency, and resolution of the greatest movement for social justice of our time. It is an honor for all of us.

I’d like you to reflect for a moment on that last statement. It is an honor—a privilege, actually—for each of us to toil with people who work in season and out, whose consistency does not depend on circumstance. They work to save unborn babies, their mothers, babies who survive abortions, and the medically fragile who are in the bulls-eye of the anti-life forces. Here are two quotes from Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), chair of the Bipartisan Congressional

Truth be told, the abortion lobby, and its think tank, is wildly out of step with the American people

If there’s a better example of the pot calling the kettle black than the Guttmacher Institute, I’ve yet to encounter it. Guttmacher used to be housed within Planned Parenthood but eventually spun off. Now it packages itself as an “independent” source of analysis, whose self-avowed commitment is “to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States and globally.” In English (or French or Swahili—Planned Parenthood is aggressively moving in Africa) that means multiplying the number of dead babies here and abroad. And they do so quite effectively, because their media cohorts accept their analysis as if it came down from the secular equivalent of Mt. Sinai, and because Planned Parenthood and International Planned Parenthood has access to gazillions in public and private dollars.

So what is it they are accusing us of that they are themselves most assuredly guilty? Extremism. You will never, ever in 10,000 years hear the New York Times or the Washington Post refer to Guttmacher as extremists, but that is exactly what and who they are.

I could offer any number of examples but here’s one cranked out just last week by Megan K. Donovan.

Here’s the headline—“Gestational Age Bans: Harmful at Any Stage of Pregnancy.” Just to be clear, in Guttmacher’s estimation, there is no stage of pregnancy at which states may say “No!” you cannot kill this child.

Before you read the first paragraph, you know how this would work. If you said abortions should be banned moments before birth, Guttmacher would find an instance—any instance—which (Guttmacher would tell you) means the ban is impermissible. It is a classic pro-abortion strategy: the exception swallows the rule, as thoroughly as a python swallows a mouse. And they are increasingly brazen about it because they are never called on it, except by the likes of NRL News.

See “Guardians,” page 31

See “Think Tank,” page 43
Are We Ready for the Super Bowl of Politics?

The end of football season is upon us. Tens of millions of football fans will soon be watching the Super Bowl to see which team gets the ultimate victory. Someone near and dear to me prefers politics to sports, saying that politics is “sports with consequences.” And the election to be held on November 3, 2020, is the greatest super bowl of all.

Are we ready? Are there people that we still need to talk to? To discuss the silent cataclysm that is taking place every day? Do we still have family, neighbors, and friends who could use encouragement to vote only for candidates who will protect unborn children?

As the new National Right to Life Committee office was being dedicated and blessed (see story on page one), our Vice President, Tony Lauinger, related a story from World War II. Railroad cars carrying Jews to the concentration camps would pass by a little church on Sunday mornings. Knowing who was on those trains and where they were being taken, and believing they could do nothing to stop the evil deed being carried out, the parishioners would sing a little louder so they couldn’t hear the cries of people on the train.

Thanks to you, I know that it is true that fewer and fewer Americans are “singing louder” to insulate themselves from the carnage. I am thrilled that, thanks to you, so many people are opening their eyes, and their hearts, to the plight of unborn children. And I am continually amazed at how much our Movement is accomplishing.

For example, we continue to enact pro-life legislation in the states-- many different types with different objectives but the same ultimate goal: protecting unborn babies and their mothers. We must educate the public about what is currently happening in their state.

We believe women should have accurate information about everything that happens during an abortion, what the complications may be, and what alternatives are available. We want a woman to know that if she starts the chemical abortion process, then changes her mind, she may be able to save her baby. So legislation is proposed that will provide this information, including information about “Abortion Pill Reversal.”

We want the public to know that living unborn children bleed to death as their arms and legs are torn off in a dismemberment abortion. And that unborn children, by at least 20 weeks gestation, can feel horrific pain during the abortion.

They learn these gruesome but necessary truths when bills are publicly debated.

Thus proposing and passing laws can both save lives and educate the public. Dedicated pro-lifers all over the country are accomplishing just that. So much so that the abortion industry has decided they need to fight back harder than ever. They have succeeded in getting a handful of states to enact radical legislation ensuring that unborn children can be targeted throughout the entire 40 weeks of pregnancy--and even after a “failed” abortion.

This combination of legislation and education has contributed to the steady decline of abortions in the country. We are at about half the number of abortions we saw in 1990. Every lost life is one too many, but this enormous reduction is a tremendous credit to hard-working right-to-lifers all across the country.

The elections this year will determine whether we continue on the path to providing full protection for unborn children and their mothers or if we take a step backward, prolonging the fight for many more years.

Will we have a president who issues pro-life executive orders and promulgates administrative rules to benefit Life? Currently, President Trump’s Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy (a much expanded version of what was formerly known as the Mexico City Policy) prevents our tax dollars from being funneled to foreign non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning.

Congress has passed many conscience protection laws over the past few decades, ensuring that medical personnel may not be coerced into participating in actions they find objectionable, such as abortion and assisted suicide. The Trump administration is working to enforce these conscience laws but some federal courts are trying to stop those efforts. Will the next president uphold or oppose conscience protection rights?

It is certainly possible that the president elected in 2020 could appoint two new justices to the Supreme Court, maybe even three. Will the next president look for judges who adhere to the text of the Constitution or who will uphold and maybe even expand the holdings in Roe?

Will the senators elected in November vote for pro-constitution judges or will they block any nominee who is not approved by Planned Parenthood?

Will newly-elected members of the U.S. Senate and House vote to protect unborn children, or will they pass a New York-style, no-limits-on-abortion-throughout-pregnancy, bill for the entire country?

There is certainly much to do. But instead of singing a little louder and pretending we don’t know what’s going on, the right-to-life movement has taken up the challenge.

We will be ready for the battle because we ARE ready to win, not for ourselves but for unborn children at home and abroad!
**Abortion Drop Continues**

There are two basic sources on abortion incidence in the United States:

- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** publishes yearly, but relies on voluntary reports from state health departments (and New York City, Washington, D.C.). It has been missing data from California, New Hampshire, and at least one other state since 1998.
- **The Guttmacher Institute (GI)** contacts abortion clinics directly for data but does not survey every year.
- Because it surveys clinics directly and includes data from all fifty states, most researchers believe Guttmacher’s numbers to be more reliable, though Guttmacher still believes it may miss some abortions.

Both the CDC and Guttmacher show significant recent drops and sustained declines over the last 25 years:

- Total abortions dropped 27.8% from 1998 to 2016 with the CDC, and fell 46.4% from 1990 to 2017 with GI.
- Total abortions fell below 1 million for the first time in the 2013 GI count and have continued downward to 862,320 in the most recent GI figures for 2017.
- The abortion rate for 2017 for GI was 13.5 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44), less than half what it was in 1981 (29.3) and even lower that when abortion was legalized in the U.S. in 1973 (16.3).
- Guttmacher says there were 18.3 abortions for every 1,000 pregnancies ending in live birth or abortion in 2016, 18.4 for 2017, lower abortion ratios than any since 1972.
- Guttmacher says that the number of abortion “providers” has dropped from a high of 2,918 in 1982 to 1,587 in 2017.
- Most of the reduction in abortions seen between 2008 and 2017 occurred in facilities performing a thousand or more abortions a year. A loss of 122 such facilities from 2008 to 2017 was accompanied by a decline of 346,280 abortions, virtually all of the drop between those years.
- The percentage performed with chemical abortifacients like mifepristone rose from 16.4% in 2008 to 39.4% in 2017.
Never rest and watch election miracles happen!

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

Every once in a while, a note comes my way which reaffirms why the work of National Right to Life and my affiliate, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, is so important—including the tireless work of our political action committees.

The missive invariably comes from a donor, who expresses deep appreciation for the legwork we’ve done to make it easier for rank-and-file pro-lifers to engage in the public square.

This week’s message of support came from a woman named Marie from Middletown, Pennsylvania. She had contacted the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation through our website at www.paprolife.org.

Marie lives in a district where a special election was taking place to fill a vacant seat in the Pennsylvania state Senate. Local media attention of the race had been scant, and Marie was searching for answers.

Marie wrote, “I just received your snail mail letter informing me (whom) you are endorsing for the election next week.

“I had just started to search online and hadn’t gotten very far when my mailman left your letter in my box…saves me a lot of time and I wanted to thank you for that very timely letter.”

Marie went onto explain why an endorsement from the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC is so crucial for her vote.

“My very bottom line for my election vote is, ‘Is this candidate PRO-LIFE?’”

Marie added, “If he/she doesn’t give enough information through voter guides or online websites to let me know that, they don’t get my vote either.

“Either you’re PRO-LIFE Proud or you can count me out. Carry on…Marie.”

Carry on! That’s exactly what National Right to Life and the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PACs intend to do in 2020.

To carry on means to question candidates about the life issues, and to disseminate their stands to the public.

To carry on means to elect strong pro-life candidates who will pass protective laws safeguarding innocent human life at both the state and the federal level.

To carry on means to never rest until every baby is cherished and welcomed under the law.

Be like Marie—support National Right to Life and your state NRLC affiliate.

And watch election miracles happen!
On the twelfth day of Christmas my first grandson was born. I was there to witness this little miracle being brought into this world, and it was beautiful, emotional, and unbelievably amazing. Prior to his birth I had chosen my Grandmother name to be “Lita” which is short for Abuelita which means Grandmother in Spanish. My first tongue.

The following day I started to think that he will be raised to speak three different languages: Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Then I started to think about how in Spanish, the term “give birth” is “dar a luz” which literally translates to “give a light” or “offer a light.”

I later found out that it is the same translation in Portuguese. How neat is that? This accurately describes what my daughter and her husband did. They brought a light into this world and named him Theo Amadeus. Theo means anything relating to God. Amadeus means love of God.

But this idea of a mother giving birth described as giving/offering a light, sat heavily on my heart. What if we looked at every person as a light? Do we see them as this little votive candle of light that we nurture into a huge candle of light to then a beacon of light? Do we see ourselves and others this way?

Then I was saddened when I thought about the millions of little lights extinguished by abortion. I was dismayed by the number of people that refuse to see these little lights in utero as having a right to continue to exist.

So naturally I thought in the beginning of this new decade for 2020, what if we perfected our vision? If someone does not see every person as a Divine light, let us gently challenge them to change their perspective.

Our birthright is that we carry the light of God inside of us. In Genesis chapter 1 of the Holy Bible we not only learn that we are made in the image of God but also that God tells us (in Genesis 1:3) “Let there be light” Here God is clearly talking about the luminous type of light but I do not think it’s a coincidence that in some cultures the birth of a baby is referenced as giving a light.

Furthermore, light is the first thing we experience when we come out of the womb. Nor is this understanding found only in the Bible. In the Bhakti tradition, there is a story in their sacred text (the Bhagavatam Purana) where there is a question posed to the sages about the Lord and His creations. The sages compare the Lord to a mine of gold and his cosmic creations are the gold rings, bracelets, etc.

So our Divine birthright of being made in the image of our Creator reminds us our own light and that we should nurture that light within us. Gandhi says, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Gandhi did not say you should but you must. So I am challenging those who do not see the beauty, the sacredness of unborn babies to change the way you look at them, others, and themselves.

As a family, we will all nurture that new light that has been gifted to us the day before Epiphany. We will always remind Theo Amadeus that he is beautifully and wonderfully made and that he has a divine light in him. We will give thanks to God for the opportunity to guide this light from that sacred heart space. We will always stand in amazement to God’s grace as his cosmic creations.

Welcome to the world Grandson. Let the adventures of Theo and Lita begin.
Video of boy singing to baby brother with Down syndrome captures hearts, goes viral

Posted on Facebook, the video has now been seen over a million times.

By Doug Mainwaring

CABOT, Arkansas, January 3, 2020 — A video of a young boy singing to his newborn brother with Down syndrome is capturing hearts across the nation as it goes viral on social media.

Nicole Powell posted a short video on Facebook of son Rayce cradling his baby brother Tripp in his arms, singing “10,000 Hours” by Dan + Shay & Justin Bieber.

In the video, Rayce can be heard singing:

I’d spend ten thousand hours
and ten thousand more
Oh, if that’s what it takes to
learn that sweet heart of yours
And I might never get there,
but I’m gonna try
If it’s ten thousand hours or
the rest of my life
I’m gonna love you.

Posted on Facebook on las Monday, the video has now been seen over a million times.

“He’s still their little brother regardless of what he has.”

Abortion was out of the question.

JJ Grieves, the boys’ father, revealed that doctors had “recommended that we terminate the pregnancy.”

His response: “I said absolutely not.”

“It takes a little bit longer to learn and a little bit more care and more loving,” he added, “but isn’t that what the world needs?”

“Love doesn’t count chromosomes,” continued Nicole, “or as Rayce says, ‘Aren’t we all different?’”

“I didn’t want our boys to be ashamed of him,” explained Nicole in a local TV interview.

“Love doesn’t count chromosomes,” continued Nicole, “or as Rayce says, ‘Aren’t we all different?’”

Editor’s note. You can watch the video and a local news story about it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAtJ-6MUCnE&feature=emb_logo

This appeared at LifeSiteNews and is reposted with permission.
Before you vote, be sure to find out where the candidates stand on abortion

By Karen Cross, National Right to Life Political Director

Life matters. Anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one knows the pain and heartache associated with that loss. They know that life matters.

More than 61 million unborn children have lost their lives to abortion in the United States since 1973. Their little lives matter, too.

As the presidential, congressional and state-level election dates are barreling toward us ever so quickly, we need to be mindful of that very fact: life matters. It’s our first right. Our fundamental right.

We know that passing anti-life legislation saves lives. Therefore, electing pro-life legislators saves lives.

Just weeks from now, Democrat voters in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina will vote to determine which of the remaining twelve “top-tier” Democrat presidential candidates will go on to challenge pro-life President Donald Trump in November. Each of those twelve candidates supports a policy of abortion on demand through birth.

Seven of the top-tier Democrat presidential candidates are listed in order of their polling averages in our 2020 Presidential Candidate comparison, which can be downloaded here: www.nrlc.org/uploads/records/2020POTUSComparison.pdf

You can download President Trump’s “Record on Life” here: www.nrlc.org/uploads/records/trumprecord.pdf

Congressional primaries begin on March 3, on “Super Tuesday,” although early voting for many of the states will be in February. Super Tuesday states include Alabama, Arkansas, California, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. Nearly one third of all voters will have the opportunity to vote in one day!

Before you vote, be sure to find out where the candidates stand on this issue.

Remember when you vote in the upcoming primaries and in November, that without the right to life, no other rights exist. Life matters.
ABORTION is not a "human right" when another HUMAN'S RIGHTS are taken away.
National Right to Life Praises Trump Administration for *Amicus* Brief in Support of Louisiana’s “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act”

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) praised the Trump Administration for filing an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Louisiana’s Act 620, known as the “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act.” The act, which passed by overwhelming margins in 2014, requires abortionists to have admitting privileges with a local hospital.

The U.S. Supreme Court case is *June Medical Services, LLC, et al. v Rebekah Gee, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.*

“We thank President Trump and members of his administration for supporting this reasonable law that protects women from sub-standard care,” stated Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life said, “Women who may suffer complications from an abortion such as hemorrhaging or a punctured uterus, should not have to wait for immediate emergency care.”

In the brief, the administration noted, “The critical inquiry in this case is thus whether plaintiffs have shown that Act 620 will create a substantial obstacle to obtaining an abortion for all or most Louisiana women. After a careful review of the record, the court of appeals correctly held that plaintiffs have not carried that heavy burden.”

In addition to the *amicus* brief filed by the Trump Administration, 207 members of Congress filed a brief in support of Louisiana’s law.

“Louisiana’s law is designed to protect women by ensuring that abortionists are held to the same standards as other doctors in the state,” Tobias added. “President Trump and 207 members of Congress recognize that women deserve better care.”

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life also filed an *amicus* brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Louisiana’s “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act.”

For more, please see page 33.
In Loving Memory & Honor

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

In Memory of

Raymond Abbamondi
Marlene McNees

Richard Burgmeier
Richard & Susan Lee Kolbe

Cecile Cloutier
Claudine Cloutier

Stephen Demidio
Family of Roseanne Demidio

Mary Pat Devel
Bob & Margie Hoertz

In Honor of

Mary L. Gilbert
Jeanie Harmon

Frederick Mosel
Charles & Lillyan Feller
David & Janet Jung
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Lange
Ted & Mary Loeffler
Shannon Theibs Moose
Roselyn Fritz Theibs
Betty Wanner

Ashley Pohlod
Carolina Tunez

Judy Speas
Bonnie Simms

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

In Loving Memory & Honor

Your name

In memory of___________________________ In honor of__________________________

Your address

Name/Address for acknowledgment card

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

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

Planned Parenthood may have closed a few clinics, experienced a major upheaval in top management, and even seen its revenues dip ever so slightly. But that hasn’t stopped the abortion giant from performing a record number of abortions and continuing to grab an ever increasing share of the U.S. abortion market.

In its just published 2018-2019 Annual Report, Planned Parenthood reports performing 345,672 abortions for 2018, the most the organization has ever reported.

That figure represents 40.1% of all the abortions the Guttmacher Institute says were performed in the U.S. in 2017 (the most recent year available). This continues to cement Planned Parenthood’s reputation as the country’s top abortion performer and promoter.

Closing Clinics, Yet More Abortions

Planned Parenthood doesn’t share exactly how many clinics it currently has, writing only they have “more than 600 health centers across the country.” That exactly the same phrasing that they used in last year’s report, though we know there were nearly 900 centers as recently as 2010.

Obviously, a large number of clinics have closed (for example, two recently closed in Ohio, according to ABC News, 9/9/19). However, Planned Parenthood has made sure to keep its abortion business humming, building giant new regional mega-clinics to pick up and possibly expand on the caseloads formerly going to the now closed centers.

The latest mega-clinic opened in Fairview Heights, Illinois in October of 2019. The stated intent here was to pick up abortion patients who could no longer visit Planned Parenthood clinics in Missouri. Though the media, egged on by Planned Parenthood’s relentless hype machine, thought this was some new sort of development, it was an increase in the number of abortions, that’s not been the case in the provision of other key Planned Parenthood services. Contraception, Planned Parenthood’s signature product, continued to decline for the sixth year in a row. At 2,556,413 in 2018, birth control services are down nearly 36% of what they were just twelve years earlier.

Other Non-Abortion Health Services Decline

Interestingly enough, while the expansion of these centers has been accompanied by an increase in the number of abortions, that’s not been the case in the provision of other key Planned Parenthood services. Contraception, Planned Parenthood’s signature product, continued to decline for the sixth year in a row. At 2,556,413 in 2018, birth control services are down nearly 36% of what they were just twelve years earlier.

This represents a whopping fall of more than 71.8% in just 14 years!

And those are just simple things such Pap smears and manual breast exams. Despite what you may have heard, Planned Parenthood does not and has never provided mammograms.

They’ve Got Plenty of Money

It isn’t as if Planned Parenthood lacks the money to buy a few mammogram machines. Revenues this year were down just a hair, from $1,665,100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 to $1,638,600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

“Government Health Services Grants Reimbursements & Grants” were up $53 million during that same period, from $563.8 million to $616.8 million. “Non-Government Health Services Revenue increased from $365.7 million to $369.6 million.

Private donations were very high, but appear to have flagged a bit from last year’s record. After reaching $630.8 million in 2018 with their latest “sky is falling” campaign, they fell back to “just” $591.3 million for FY 2019.

Planned Parenthood Won’t Say Wen

How much of this is a result of tumult at the top of the organization’s administration is unknown. Leana Wen, a medical doctor who, with great fanfare, took over as
Challenge to Tennessee’s 48-hour waiting period now in the hands of Judge Bernard Friedman

By Dave Andrusko

You have to give pro-abortionists in Tennessee credit for persistence. No matter how well-supported a law (or ballot measure such as Amendment 1) is, they will challenge it until the absolute last dog is hung.

Enter the 2015 informed consent measure that provides for a 48-hour waiting period for women and girls seeking an abortion after meeting with the abortionist.

Five abortion clinics essentially instantaneously filed suit, and, according to The Tennessean’s Anita Wadhwani, “Both sides submitted final written conclusions late last month. Senior Judge Bernard Friedman, a Michigan judge appointed to preside over the case, has no set timetable for issuing his ruling.”

Twenty-eight states require a reflection period of at least 24 hours. Pro-abortionists argue (surprise, surprise) that this period allowing time for reflection constitutes an “undue burden.”

The state Attorney General’s office countered in its legal filings that the waiting period “helps to ensure that abortion decisions are made knowingly, competently and voluntarily.”

The clinics “have not shown that the Challenged Law prevented even a single patient from obtaining a desired abortion. What is more, the evidence at trial revealed the law benefits prospective abortion patients by ensuring that they have the time and information necessary to make a deliberate and informed decision.”

How did we get here? As Nancy Flanders explained, “From 1978 to 2000, Tennessee had a 48-hour waiting period for abortion, which was done away with when the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that the state Constitution contained a right to privacy and therefore a right to abortion. However, in 2015 the constitution was revised [by a successful ballot measure, Amendment 1] to state that there is no right to abortion. The 48-hour waiting period went back into effect. While this is good for women and children, it’s bad for the abortion industry.”

Has the 48 hour waiting period made a difference? “Since the waiting period was enacted, the number of abortions obtained by women in Tennessee has dropped by 12%, from 9,861 in 2014 to 8,636 in 2017, the most recent data available from the Tennessee health department,” Wadhwani reported.
Down Syndrome, the Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb, and Abortion

By Nancy Valko

Editor’s note. This appeared on Nancy’s blog and is reposted with permission.


The order was founded in 1985 by Mother Line, now prioress, and Sister Véronique, who felt a vocation but could not find an order to accept her because she has Down syndrome. Now there are 10 sisters (eight with Down syndrome) who exist so that “those who are in last place in the world”—women with Down syndrome—can “hold in the church the exceptional role of spouses of Christ. In practice this means that able-bodied sisters devote their lives to ensuring their fellow sisters with Down syndrome can live their vocations.”:

“The smiling faces of our little sisters with Down syndrome are a great message of hope for many injured families,” Mother Line tells me. “Our smallness will also say that we are made for very great things: to love and to be loved.”

And while the rest of the world dismisses innocence as naïve or childish, Mr. McGurn writes that:

“the nuns choose to cherish and exalt innocence—and the unconditional love and trust that comes with it—as an example of how we are meant to live with one another.”

Down Syndrome and Abortion

In contrast to these wonderful nuns, U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs recently reversed his own ruling on a hard-fought pro-life abortion law passed in my home state of Missouri by blocking a provision that prohibits discriminatory abortions on unborn babies with Down syndrome. It is hoped that this decision will be appealed. As Justice Clarence Thomas has previously written about such laws that protect unborn babies from eugenic discrimination:

“… this law and other laws like it promote a State’s compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics.”

and

“Although the Court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever. Having created the constitutional right to an abortion, this Court is dutybound to address its scope.”

An “acceptable prejudice”?

Recently, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Disability Rights Project Susan Mizner defended abortion for unborn babies with Down syndrome writing that:

“There is no question that stigma, prejudice, and misconceptions about people with disabilities are widespread. But forcing someone to carry a pregnancy to term against their will does nothing to tackle underlying and systemic ableism and discrimination against people with disabilities.

“On the contrary, forced pregnancy threatens a person’s physical, mental, and emotional health, as well as the stability and wellbeing of their family, including existing children.”

As an RN and mother who had to fight medical discrimination against my daughter Karen who had both Down Syndrome and a heart defect as well as a past board member of the St. Louis Down Syndrome Association, I take great exception to this dangerously inaccurate statement. We can never eliminate prejudice by eliminating people with disabilities before or after birth.

Conclusion

I applaud the Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb in France who cherish their sisters with Down Syndrome who have so much to give to the world and I am horrified by the several states that have now passed laws that allow abortion for any reason at any time during pregnancy or even after birth. Although unborn babies with Down Syndrome are especially at risk, we must remember that ALL children enter the world with the “gift of innocence” and none deserve to be killed before birth.
By Dave Andrusko

It was understandable that doctors told Robyn Bryant to “prepare for the worse.” She’d already been told that Hallie, her unborn child, was on the small side and then, at the 20-week scan, “it was discovered that Hallie was measuring even further behind than predicted,” as Mark Smith and Sam Elliott wrote for the British tabloid, The Mirror.

But then it became even more worrisome and confusing for Bryant and her partner, James Dury, when all the subsequent tests came back normal. What could be wrong with their baby?

“I only realised when I went for the foetal medicine appointment that it was likely the baby had an extra chromosome. I was very upset,” Bryant told The Mirror. Then, as Smith and Elliott explain, “Doctors told her that Hallie was likely to have skeletal dysplasia, the medical term for dwarfism where the arms and legs are short.”

But despite being advised on several occasions to abort, “Robyn remained determined to continue with the pregnancy.”

She was advised to have more tests, including amniocentesis, which she resisted out of fear of inducing a miscarriage.

“But after further scans showed that Hallie had a number of complications, including a fused kidney, Robyn decided to go ahead with the test,” The Mirror reported.

On top of all this, on January 8, 2019, Robyn was taken back into hospital. She was only 28 weeks along.

The week before, Hallie weighed 490 grams. “If she was under 500 grams at birth, the doctors said there was nothing they could have done for her as the equipment would have been too big,” as Smith and Elliott report.

But then Robyn said she was completely overjoyed when Hallie was brought into the world “crying and screaming” on October 23, 2018, weighing 500 grams, or 1lb 1oz.

“I just remember crying happy tears. I knew that she wasn’t out of the woods yet but it was a really good sign.

“She was even breathing on her own which the hospital staff just couldn’t believe.”

After having a quick catch with her mum Hallie was taken to the neonatal unit and within weeks she was discharged home weighing a tiny 3lb 3oz.

Now a little over a year after Hallie was born, this happy, healthy child is about to begin walking. But what about the genetic tests suggesting major problems? After Hallie was born, the results of the new tests came back normal. It all is a mystery, or a miracle.

As with most moms, Robyn spent the first week after bringing Hallie home “constantly checking her chest to make sure she was still breathing,” as she told The Mirror.

“But now she’s grown so much and she’s doing brilliantly. She’s known as Miss Placid – she’s quite serious but she does have a fun side too,”
A national restaurant chain is once again going above and beyond the call of duty in promoting adoption. 

Wendy’s is donating money from the sale of its Frosty key tags at participating restaurants to further adoption of children from foster care. Each key tag costs $2.00 and entitles the customer to a free Frosty dessert with each purchase of other menu items. The tags carry a message of love for adoption.

The founder of the fast food giant, the late Dave Thomas, himself benefited from adoption, and credited his adoptive family for planting the seeds for his success.

The charitable campaign is a welcomed relief from the many companies that support Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion operation. Planned Parenthood has been skilled at promoting itself as a benevolent organization when, in fact, it takes the lives of more than 345,000 preborn children each year.

Adoption remains a loving alternative to abortion. So many families have been formed through the blessing of adoption. Yet adoption referrals from Planned Parenthood are few and far between, especially when compared with the operation’s staggering abortion rate. Just recently, news broke that Planned Parenthood had committed more abortions annually than ever before. It’s more evidence that the massive organization is not dedicated to “women’s health,” but rather to promoting and performing and profiting from abortion.

As a nation, we need to do much more to celebrate adoption. We need more government policies that streamline the adoption process and help support adoptive families. We crave more news stories, television promos, and social media posts that drive home the beauty of adoption.

Proudly displaying a pro-adoption key tag is just one small but important step that can be taken to further the cause. With each adoption, hearts are joined together, love blossoms, and a life is cherished and protected.

In donating to facilitate adoption, we are investing in not only a child’s future, but the future of America.
The Lessons of Andy
By Jean Garton

Editor’s note. Although it does truly seem like yesterday, we lost this pro-life giant three years ago. Jean, my friend of over 30 years, wrote many stories for NRL News and NRL News Today. Periodically, we run one of her terrific posts for those who were not privileged to read the magnificent work of the author of the pro-life classic, “Who Broke the Baby?” In so doing it would remind pro-lifers, especially younger ones, that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

This is a story about Andy whose life came to be known throughout the world. Born with stumps for feet, Andy couldn’t walk or swim. When Gene Fleming, an inventor in Nebraska, made customized baby shoes for Andy, he was soon toddling around and greeting everyone who came by. He visited schools and hospitals, encouraging disabled children for whom he was something of a role model.

Then one day in 1991, when Andy was four years old, he was kidnapped and brutally murdered. No motive or suspects have ever been found. Authorities called the incident “senseless destruction.” Andy’s death made news around the globe. It was featured on TV networks, and newspaper headlines read “Beloved Goose Found Murdered.”

Yes, Andy was a goose! He was discovered with his neck broken and his head and wings pulled off while still wearing the baby shoes made especially for him.

“Why would anyone do that to this poor little goose,” asked Andy’s owner, Nadine Fleming. “He was my pet,” she said, “but someone broke into his house, kidnapped and killed him.” It was a cruel, barbaric and tragic act, and his loss was mourned by many.

It seems ironic, doesn’t it, that it was his disability—the absence of feet—that made Andy special. Then when someone found a way to meet the challenge of that disability it made Andy famous and beloved.

Why don’t we do that for unborn children? Thousands are aborted when it is discovered that they may have a limitation, whether slight or large. Like Andy who was torn apart in a brutal way, in abortion the unborn are torn apart, dismembered, scalded, or killed in other horrific ways. Why don’t their limitations make them special instead of making them disposable?

Unlike Andy who was personalized by having a name, unborn children are treated as non-persons, not only in our culture but also in our law. Non-human entities such as corporations, trade unions, and ocean going vessels are accorded personhood. They are protected under the law, but living human unborn children aren’t!

Can a corporation have a blood transfusion? Can a trade union experience physical pain? Can an ocean going vessel have heart surgery?

Human unborn children can experience all of those while still in the womb!

When the category of “human being” changes from fixed to fluid, the certainties that biology teach us simply dissolve. Who is or isn’t a human being is inevitably up for grabs.

Inalienable human rights quickly become alienable. The word “inalienable” means “a right of which I cannot be deprived; a right of which I cannot even deprive myself.” That is why, in the past, the U.S. opposed abortion, suicide and euthanasia.

The key phrase in that sentence is “in the past.” Since 1973 the anti-life forces have targeted the little ones in the womb who are unwanted for any reason, especially those with a limitation (like Andy)—and children born with major medical problems. However increasing human beings at the other end of life’s spectrum are in the crosshairs when they become, like the unborn, dependent, disabled, nonproductive, or “unwanted.”

Are you a human being? By whose standard? In whose opinion? It gets very “iffy” for all of us when human beings are not recognized as deserving of legal protection, beginning in the womb and extending through natural death.

But for all the bad news, the far more important good news is that the unborn and the medically vulnerable have a legion of defenders, women and men, young and old, who will not rest until all are protected in law.

I once wrote a “Top Ten” list for National Right to Life News, those indispensable individuals who are the solid gold of our movement and who, at great sacrifice, have given us a foundation and a vision with which to shape the future.

With no order or ranking, since all are valuable and essential, here is my Top Ten List of Gifts to Unborn Children.

1. The Seasoned Warriors who were in the first wave of the battle and, 42 years later, are still standing and devoting their time, talent, and treasure to the defense of unborn children.

2. The Angels in supportive services who counsel and uphold women struggling with unwanted pregnancies while providing a loving and practical response to crisis situations.

3. The Influencers –– priests, pastors, teachers, speakers and writers who promote the sanctity of human life.

4. The Whistleblowers –– men and women of honor and conscience who have testified to the cruel workings of abortion clinics and the brutality of abortion procedures.

5. The Mind-Changers who once favored abortion as a woman’s right but who are now valuable witnesses in the vital struggle against an evil and killing movement that promotes death solutions to life’s problems.

6. The Pray-ers who faithfully call on the greatest Power of all and Whom we thank for each success, recognizing that our victories can only be explained in terms of the God.

7. The Parents who instill in their children an appreciation

See “Andy,” page ??
Media, Medical Associations Mischaracterize Study of Abortion Reversal Treatment: Chemical Abortion, Not Abortion Pill Reversal, is Dangerous

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

Read just the headline, or read the entire article, and you’d surely be convinced that a recent study of abortion pill reversal (APR) showed the process to be dangerous to women.

For example, the Washington Post’s Christmas Eve headline read, quite directly, that “Some lawmakers push ‘abortion reversal’ treatments. A study shows how dangerous they are.”

But that’s not true. That is the abortion industry and its media allies spin.

The truth is when undergoing a chemical abortion, taking the first drug only, and then doing nothing else, is what is dangerous to women. It is not the abortion pill reversal protocol where a woman not only does not take the second drug, she also takes another drug to ward off the impact of the first drug. APR is safer and more effective at reversal.

And contrary to the spin, that is exactly what the study they’re talking about showed!

Babies being saved

As NRL News Today has explained on many occasions, Heartbeat International has reported that over 900 babies have been or are in the process of being saved by APR. APR depends on a woman not taking the second of two drugs (misoprostol), and boosting progesterone in a woman’s system to overwhelm the effect of the first drug (mifepristone).

After reporting on a few successful cases in 2012, George Delgado and several colleagues published results of a much larger scale study in 2018 in which the APR method was linked to 257 successful reversals with subsequent healthy births.

Dubious of the success, noted abortion researcher and chemical advocate Mitchell Creinin announced that he would be doing his own “scientific” study to determine whether abortion pill reversal was possible. It began in December 2018 and was supposed to involve 40 women randomly selected for either a progesterone boost (APR) or a placebo.

But Creinin abruptly ended his study early after recruiting just 12 patients when three ended up in hospital with bleeding issues. The article by Post reporter Kayla Epstein (picked up or cited by newspapers all across the country) adopts Creinin’s spin and turns the results of the study on it head.

Compounding the confusion, Epstein seems to have the numbers reversed. She reports that two of the hemorrhaging women were receiving progesterone and that only one of the women with the bleeding problem was receiving the placebo. Creinin’s study and published data clearly show the two worst bleeding cases involving women taking the placebo, rather than the progesterone, which was involved in just one of the three cases.

The other patient with a bleeding issue who took the progesterone boost that was part of the APR treatment bled as her chemical abortion was completed but did not require surgery or transfusion, as did the other two who received the placebo.

To emphasize, there were bleeding issues, but the most serious ones tended to be associated with the placebo patients who never received with the APR progesterone boost.

This is quite a different message than the one popularized by the press.

APR Worked

Largely ignored is the original point of the investigation – to see if APR works.

Because the study was halted prematurely, Creinin told the Post that his team was unable to determine whether or not APR worked. Creinin told Epstein that he felt “really horrible” that he couldn’t finish the study, that “the women...had to go through all this.”

Creinin appears to have forgotten comments he made in an article that appeared in Vice News in April 17, 2019. There

See “Study,” page 35
Found in a Dumpster as a Newborn, Morgan Tells Her Story to Save Lives

By Nancy Flanders

Morgan Hill spent the first few moments after her birth like so many of us do. She was cleaned up, wrapped up, and fed by her mother. However, it’s the shocking moments after this that changed the course of her life.

Mired in an extramarital affair, Hill’s biological mother was the only person who knew she was pregnant. She was determined to keep it that way.

While her husband was at work and her stepchild was at school, she secretly gave birth in the bath tub. After feeding her baby and wrapping her in a towel, she put her in the car and proceeded to drive around town, wondering what she should do next.

She ultimately chose to place her newborn baby girl in a garbage bag, tied with a double-knot and placed in a dumpster outside of a medical center in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

It was a cool evening in October 1995. The dumpster was full and was scheduled to be picked up the next morning. Hill’s story could have easily been picked up the next morning. It was as a newborn and what happened right there in that dumpster. However—providentially—a nearby construction worker named Garold “Rocky” Hyatt heard a noise as he threw away some debris.

What Hyatt did next saved Hill’s life.

As the story spread across news outlets nationwide, Hill’s biological father won a hard-fought battle for custody. But, already a single father, he eventually placed his baby girl into the hands of an adoptive couple he’d come to know and trust.

A Turning Point in Life

Hill grew up knowing she was adopted, but was unaware of her amazing journey into her family. At her high school graduation party, her niece made an off-handed comment that led Hill to press for the full story.

For the first time, Hill’s mother shared with her the heartbreaking first hours of her life.

“Over the 18 years, she’d kept a binder full of article clippings from newspapers, online, and pictures as well as records of my biological mother that she showed me to explain who I was as a newborn and what happened to me,” Hill said. “I did reach out to different places trying to find the people who cared for me as I can and have it with me wherever I go,” Hill said. “I look at Rocky like my guardian angel. He’s the one who saved my life. He doesn’t believe in luck. But they went through the trouble of finding him and flying him out to meet me.”

Meeting Hyatt and Szafranski was a turning point for Hill. During their conversation, Hyatt gave her a commemorative golden angel pin the Department of Children and Families had given him on the last day he held her, when she was just three days old.

Hyatt had held onto the pin for 20 years. “I wear that pin as much as I can and have it with me wherever I go,” Hill said. “I look at Rocky like my guardian angel. He’s the one who saved my life. He doesn’t believe in luck. He believes that God gave him this opportunity. That God wanted him to find me.”

“That has changed my perspective so much because at the time of hearing my story for the first time, it made me think what a horrible world we live in.”

On a Life-Saving Mission

With a renewed perspective following the meeting with a handful of people who’d saved her life, Hill has become an advocate for state-level Safe

See “Dumpster,” page 43
of God’s creation – the innocent, helpless, living child waiting to be born.”

Mr. Lauinger quoted the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Mr. Lauinger commented, “Unless life itself is first protected, any other so called right or privilege is meaningless. It is important to note that these words were not listed in some random order. Life was the first right listed by our founding fathers. And it’s interesting to note, too, that they didn’t say we are endowed with the right to life by our Congress, or our President. We’re endowed with the right to life by our creator, by God.”

Mr. Lauinger continued, “Other downtrodden constituencies in our society are able to plead their own case… They can march in the streets or hold a news conference, or meet with their elected officials. The only downtrodden constituency in our society that can do none of these things is the unborn child. The unborn child is totally dependent on what others do, or do not do, on their behalf.”

NRLC President Carol Tobias welcomed the Lauinger family members, officers, and staff as Mr. Lauinger and Ernie Ohlhoff, NRLC director of outreach, unveiled the plaque. NRLC Executive Director David N. O’Steen, Ph.D., expressed gratitude to the Lauinger family for the decades of dedicated devotion to the right to life movement. He highlighted the efficiency of the new building—the third NRLC headquarters in 40 years—and said it will enable more funding for pro-life education, legislation, and political action “which we will need in 2020.”

Father Dennis C. Day, retired NRLC Treasurer, and a parish priest in Sandpoint, Idaho, concluded the dedication with prayers for the work of the staff and the organization, and blessed each room in the building.
A closer look at Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows how pro-life the public actually is

By Dave Andrusko

Earlier this month I posted an encouraging story under the headline, “Two-thirds of White Evangelical Protestants stand firmly against abortion; 79% approve of President Trump’s job performance.” My first sentence read, “A poll released Thursday affirmed that white Evangelicals remain staunchly pro-life and that they overwhelmingly approve of President Trump’s job performance.”

Everything about the story was accurate but, in retrospect, courtesy of a post at National Review Online, I should have taken a minute out to explain how the poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research seriously underestimated how much pro-life sentiment was hidden away by the manner in which the question was asked.

By way of introduction, the more nuanced—that is, the more carefully the question is phrased and then followed up—the more the pro-life number rises.

So just 37% of respondents—when asked whether they favored “making abortion illegal except in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the pregnant woman is at risk”—said either “slightly favored” or “strongly favored.”

But as we have documented dozens of times, other polls, by NBC News, Marist (for the Knights of Columbus), and Gallup show higher numbers.

In 2019, for example, Marist found that a total of 48% said that abortion should be available only in cases of rape, incest or to save the mother’s life (28%); only to save the mother’s life (10%); or should never be permitted (10%).

When you add, “Only during the first three months of pregnancy” (27%), the total reaches 75%.

Even more illuminating is that in 2019 Lynda Saad of Gallup (once the numbers were broken down from more general to more specific) found that 60% of Americans say abortion should either not be legal at all or only legal in a few circumstances.

We can’t flatly state that “a few circumstances” refers to rape, incest, and life of mother because it was asked. But that, traditionally, is what is meant—the “hard cases,” as it is often phrased.

As we alluded to at the beginning, the Associated Press, in its coverage of its own poll, “found that 67% of white evangelical Protestant would make abortion illegal except in cases of rape, incest or to threats to the mother’s life.” But when the AP went on to write those abortion limits drew 39% support from white mainline Protestants, 33% support from nonwhite Protestants, 45% support from Catholics and 37% of all Americans, according to the poll of more than 1,000 American adults from various faith backgrounds conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. …

it seriously misstated where the American public is on abortion.
How the slaughter of 300,000 people with disabilities paved the way for the Holocaust of the Jews

By Dave Andrusko

The perfect headline captures the gist of a story in language that blends immediacy with a spark of recognition. Enter “Before the ‘Final Solution’ There was a ‘Test Killing,’” a story written by Kenny Fries that ran January 8 in the New York Times.

NRL News Today has written (or reposted) many stories about how the murder of over 300,000 disabled people by the Nazis established the framework (radical dehumanization) for and produced the tools (most hideously gassing) for the Holocaust which claimed the lives of over six million Jews.

In his Times essay, Fries reminds us that while there are minor differences of opinion over the exact day when “the mass murders of disabled people” began, most likely it was the first days of January 1940 when the notorious “Aktion T4” began its murderous rampage. He writes “Though the exact date is somewhat speculative, the words of those responsible for the murder of 70,000 disabled people in Aktion T4, and the 230,000 killed after the program’s official end, clearly speak to the main cause for what happened: the disvaluing of disabled lives. Eugenics, which was rampant before and during the Reich, provided the rationale for the killings, stigmatizing those with disabilities as not human.

When any category of human beings, born or unborn, is “disvalued,” their lives will eventually be in imminent peril. Fries quotes from the post-war testimony of various officials who were involved in the Aktion T4 program to help us grasp how utterly worthless they consider the lives of people with disabilities to be.

Here are two:

Dr. Albert Widmann, a chemist, forensic scientist and head of the chemical department of the central offices of the Reich Detective Forces, testified that he was asked to procure poison in large quantities. At a meeting with an unidentified representative of the Chancellery of the Führer, Widmann asked, “What for? To kill people?”

“No,” was the reply.

“Animals in the form of humans.”

And

It was the police chemist Dr. August Becker who prepared the carbon monoxide gas for what he called the “euthanasia experiment.” Testifying in the 1960s, Becker also echoed eugenic depictions of the disabled. He recalled looking through the gas chamber peephole and observing “the behavior of the delinquents,” as the gas filled up the chamber and the victims’ lungs. Becker’s depiction likens disabled people to the immoral and illegal.

One last lengthy quote to explain why Fries is doing what he is doing:

Unlike the Holocaust, there are no T4 survivors. We know about T4 and its aftermath mainly through medical records and from the perpetrators. Aktion T4 does not have its Elie Wiesel or Primo Levi.

That is the main reason I write about what happened to disabled people during the Third Reich. I want to be what Susanne C. Knittel and other scholars call a “vicarious witness.” Ms. Knittel describes this not as “an act of speaking for and thus appropriating the memory and story of someone else but rather an attempt to bridge the silence through narrative means.” This is my way of bridging the silence, of keeping alive something that is too often forgotten.

In January 2017, the Germany Parliament [Bundestag] commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of the inmates of Auschwitz concentration camp. The focus that year was on the more than 300,000 victims of Aktion T-4.

“For a long time, the euthanasia victims were the
Adorable website helpful to expectant parents

**Editor’s note.** This comes from our British friends at the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children–SPUC.

An adorable website can help expectant parents track the size of their unborn babies by comparing them to real (or not so real) objects.

Babysizer lets the user input how many weeks gestation their baby is at and choose from several different categories of objects to compare them to. As the creator explains:

“**Babysizer was created in the spring of 2015 during my wife’s first trimester.** On the first day of each pregnancy week, we would check the size of our baby in multiple pregnancy apps and sites to compare our baby to a fruit.”

But this didn’t cut it.

“**With a ruler in one hand, and a bit of time in the other, I compiled a list of iconic food items that would better reflect the average size of a baby each pregnancy week.** The list was meant to entertain myself during the pregnancy, but it quickly became apparent that choose is still food, for instance at 6 weeks…”

Perhaps the most fun is the geeky category, whether you’re a Harry Potter fan…

…or a Lego movie enthusiast. Or if the dad is struggling to visualise his baby’s growth, the manly category provides endless fun.

Think all this is silly, and just want to know how big your baby is in normal terms? Not to worry, the facts category has you covered.

Babysizer uses crown to rump measurements, which the creator says makes it easier to imagine the baby curled up inside the womb. As he also says, this shouldn’t be used in place of medical advice, but it’s a great way to relate to your growing baby!

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How the slaughter of 300,000 people with disabilities paved the way for the Holocaust of the Jews

*From page 22*

forgotten victims,” Maike Rotzoll, Deputy Director of the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine in Halle, told Deutsche Welle.

“That’s why it’s enormously important for us that this ceremony took place in the Bundestag. I think it’s also enormously important for the relatives, who experienced the topic being taboo for so many years, to be allowed to speak and for this group of victims to be honored in this way.”

Fries’s essay is a first-rate contribution to this remembering, a powerful reminder of the power of words—when unchallenged—to exclude an entire category of human beings from the protection of the law. You should read his essay in its entirety. I’d appreciate your thoughts. You can write me at daveandrusko@gmail.com

Fries’essay is part of the Times’ “Disability” series, described as “a series of essays, art and opinion by and about people living with disabilities.” Fries “is currently writing a book about disability and the Holocaust.”
The documentary “Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words” to open January 31

By Dave Andrusko

Somehow this went under my radar, but luckily there is still plenty of time to alert you to a very promising documentary that will be playing in theatres around the nation come January 31.

The title is “Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words,” and is produced and directed by Michael Pack. You can view the trailer at http://www.justicethomasmovie.com/#trailer

We learn that Pack interviewed Justice Thomas for more than 30 hours over a six month period. The documentary had what TIME magazine described as an “intimate advanced screening” in Washington, D.C., on November 5. I was totally surprised that the TIME magazine review made a pass at being fair while others, more sympathetic to Justice Thomas, found much more to praise.

Pro-lifers are familiar with Thomas for his eloquent and passionate criticisms of the legal “thinking” that produced Roe v. Wade. Most recently, Justice Thomas concurred with the Court’s decision not to grant certiorari on the question of Indiana’s “Sex Selective and Disability Abortion Ban.”

However, Justice Thomas used a 20-page concurrence to pointedly observe that laws like Indiana’s “promote a State’s compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics.” He then went on to explore the connection between eugenics and abortion:

The use of abortion to achieve eugenic goals is not merely hypothetical. The foundations for legalizing abortion in America were laid during the early 20th-century birth-control movement. That movement developed alongside the American eugenics movement. And significantly, Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger recognized the eugenic potential of her cause. She emphasized and embraced the notion that birth control “opens the way to the eugenist.”

As we’ve discussed on numerous occasions, pro-abortionists have never and will never make their peace with Thomas. A very conservative Black justice replaced a very liberal Black justice, Thurgood Marshall, and they and others of the left will always hold a deep seated grudge against Thomas.

But at the same time, they’re beginning to acknowledge that just because he rarely speaks during oral arguments does not mean Thomas isn’t hugely influential.

Last July, we wrote in response to a fascinating post written by Emma Green for The Atlantic—“The Clarence Thomas Effect.”

It is a very long piece, but in a nutshell, that “effect” included

• “[D]uring his time on the Court, Thomas has written prolifically and introduced ideas that have gradually gained influence among other justices.”
• “He wrote the most concurrences, dissents, and opinions of any justice during each of the past five terms, according to data from SCOTUSblog,”
• And, as I commented last July, “But the bulk of the profile is Justice Thomas incredible capacity to network, to find places for his former clerks here, there, and everywhere.”

His influence in the Trump administration is undeniable, and his legacy will live on long after Justice Thomas has left the bench.

I’ll be sure to remind you once again as the January 31 date for the playing of the documentary.

BTW, PBS is scheduled to air the documentary in May.
Showdown brewing on campaign to air-drop 1972 “Equal Rights Amendment” into U.S. Constitution

From page 1

of abortion, conscience-protection laws, you name it,” said Douglas D. Johnson, who directed NRL’s ERA-related efforts during his years as NRL Federal Legislative Director (1981-2016), and continues to do so today as NRL Senior Policy Advisor.

“Pro-abortion advocates have been unable to accomplish their goal by the amendment process provided in Article V of the Constitution – their proposal expired unratified 40 years ago -- so they are attempting to accomplish it through a brazen political campaign, dressed up in legal terminology,” Johnson said.

Johnson and other critics of the ERA “ratification” campaign got a powerful boost on January 6, when the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) of the U.S. Department of Justice issued a 38-page legal memo that firmly concluded that the ERA died without being ratified in 1979, and that neither state legislatures nor Congress have power to resurrect it.

The only constitutional avenue to adoption of an ERA would be for ERA proponents to start over, requiring two-thirds approval in each house of Congress, followed by a new round of consideration by state legislatures, the OLC memo concluded.

OLC’s function is to advise Legislative Branch agencies on major legal issues. Therefore, the January 6 opinion now governs the actions of the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, to whom it was directed. This means that when the Virginia legislature transmits its “ratification” papers to Ferriero, he will not certify that the ERA has been ratified and made part of the Constitution, which are functions that the Archivist would perform in the case of a genuine ratification.

In a January 9 statement, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the agency that Ferriero heads, said, “NARA defers to DOJ on this issue and will abide by the OLC opinion, unless otherwise directed by a final court order.”

The OLC opinion also forcefully rejected the theory that Congress could retroactively nullify the ratification deadline on the 1972 ERA, which is the premise of a measure that the Democrat-controlled U.S. House of Representatives is expected to take up soon (H.J. Res. 79).

The opinion says, “[The current] Congress may not revise the terms under which two-thirds of both Houses proposed the ERA Resolution and under which thirty-five state legislatures initially ratified it. Such an action by this Congress would seem tantamount to asking the 116th [current] Congress to override a veto that President Carter had returned. . . a power this Congress plainly does not have.”

U.S. HOUSE TO TAKE UP PRO-ERA MEASURE

Undeterred, the Democratic leaders who hold majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives plan to soon force a House vote on H.J. Res. 79, a measure that they claim would retroactively nullify the deadline.

The Democratic leaders say that this measure could pass with only majority votes in the House and Senate, even though Congress’s role in the constitutional amendment process is defined in Article V of the Constitution, which requires two-thirds votes in both houses.

The measure has been co-sponsored by more than half of the members of the House (although by only three Republicans), and therefore will pass the House. However, it is expected to encounter a cool reception in the U.S. Senate, where Republicans currently hold a 53-47 seat majority.

NRL’s Johnson said, “This resolution is a legislative mutant – nothing like it is described in the Constitution. Its authors claim it can reach backwards in time and change the terms of a constitutional amendment accomplishing this time-warping feat on the strength of simple-majority votes.”

Despite its legal implausibility, “The clear intent of the resolution is to air-drop the ERA into the Constitution – therefore, it is fair that lawmakers who vote for it should be held accountable for the likely legal effects of the ERA, including its likely sweeping pro-abortion effects – effects that leading abortion-advocacy groups now openly predict,” said Johnson.

See “Showdown,” page 46
The 10 most read NRL News Today stories of 2019

By Dave Andrusko

Each year on the last day we publish new NRL News Today stories, we run a list of the best received, most popular posts of the previous twelve months.

There is no magic to choosing 10, but 10 it is.

Common denominators? To no one’s surprise, stories about President Trump’s sterling record on life were very popular.

Likewise, posts about the marvelous complexity of unborn children were read in great numbers.

Second chance stories were inevitably well-received. That could take the form of women who changed their mind in the middle of chemical abortions to save their unborn children.

BTW, it is no accident that the Abortion Industry is furious with laws that require abortionists to inform women that, if they have second thoughts, there is hope. Planned Parenthood hates Abortion Pill Reversal laws with a passion.

Likewise posts about mothers and fathers who refused counsel from doctors to abort their babies (for whatever reason) resonated, not just in the Top Ten but in any lengthier list. Stories about women who did not abort and went on to complete their education warmed everyone’s heart (except abortion advocates).

But the most popular article of 2019 by miles was a story about four pro-life women running for office who were taking on the likes of pro-abortion militant Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

When you have a few moments, please read or re-read these 10 stories and forward them to pro-life family and friends.

I would love to hear your reactions. Send them to daveandrusko@gmail.com.

Abortion isn’t freedom: Why autonomy arguments for abortion dodge the real issue

“I graduated with him in my arms”: New Mom Finds Empowerment at Louisiana Pro-life Center

Tuesday’s hearing will expose the truth about the medical neglect of abortion survivors

Meet The “Conservative Squad” of Pro-Life Women Taking on Ocasio-Cortez and the Socialists

President Trump’s Wonderful Record on Judges

Kurt Kondrich–“Chloe looked right into my eyes, and I instantly fell in love with this precious gift God had given our family.”

“I know we did the right thing” – Mom and dad reverse chemical abortion, rescue their unborn baby

An Amazing Video of a Living, First Trimester Unborn Baby

“My Administration is dedicated to fostering opportunities for persons with Down syndrome, so they are better able to participate in our workforce and pursue their dreams”
**Her son saved from abortion, California mom reaches out with pregnancy help, raising awareness for APR**

By Gayle Irwin

Rebekah Hagen is grateful for the life of her six-year-old son, and she wants to give back by helping other moms facing adversity in pregnancy.

After making a courageous decision in the spring of 2013 to try and save her son’s life through Abortion Pill Reversal, the California mom of three speaks to audiences about her experiences, works to raise awareness about APR (see Editor’s note below), and helps other young women make their own brave choices.

Nearly seven years ago, Hagan began the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol after she had taken mifepristone, the first pill of the two-pill chemical abortion process, at a Planned Parenthood facility in Sacramento.

“I thought of all the reasons to abort,” she said. “I already had a child and was newly single. I was afraid of losing my home with my parents. I had a fear mind-set, and I didn’t plan to tell anyone.”

She’d had her first son, Eli, when she was 18 and still in high school. The father of this second child was also Eli’s father. However, “it was a toxic relationship,” she recalled. She had left the man and returned to her parents’ home.

“I knew Eli and I were not safe (with him),” Hagan said. Because of these circumstances, she thought abortion was her only option. “Sometimes abortion looks like hope,” she said.

After taking that first abortion pill, however, she immediately experienced regret.

“I thought to myself, ‘Oh, my gosh, what did I just do?’” she recalled. “You don’t know how to advocate for yourself. I didn’t think to ask questions. You are sent on your way with a little brown bag and are told, ‘There’s no going back.’”

This was March 13, 2013, and Eli had been born on March 14. The coincidence with the dates hit her hard.

“I prayed for forgiveness and then began searching online for how the abortion might be stopped,” she said.

She discovered information about Abortion Pill Reversal, originally spearheaded by Dr. George Delgado. With the help of a doctor in her area, she began the progesterone regimen.

Somehow, the Planned Parenthood facility found out; the staff contacted her and told her the baby would have birth defects if it survived the treatment, Hagan said.

They were proven wrong.

Rebekah Hagen’s sons and baby daughter Lydia

“I have a healthy and active six-year-old boy,” she said. She named him Zechariah. “I liked the meaning of the name,” Hagan said.

The Hebrew meaning is ‘The Lord has remembered.’ “I see God’s hand in it all,” she said.

Hagan recently had her third child, a girl whom she and husband Kramer named Lydia.

**Serving and raising awareness**

Hagan was raised in a Christian home. However, like some young people raised in a faith-based family, she made choices that went against her family’s beliefs. After finding hope and redemption with the assistance of Abortion Pill Reversal, she began sharing her experience with others.

Public speaking opportunities came, and she responded with enthusiasm.

“I wanted to give back,” she said. “The public speaking has grown. It was a natural progression because of the relationship with people involved.”

Hagan speaks between 15 and 20 times a year, in churches, pregnancy centers and schools. She has also testified before state legislators regarding informed consent bills.

She is also able to personally connect with women who find her on Facebook, and she’s able to provide them encouragement.

For example, 25-year-old “Samantha”* was in an emotionally abusive relationship and though she started a medical abortion, she changed her mind.

“Although she wasn’t with the guy anymore, he still controlled her,” Hagan said. “I’d recite truth to her. She delivered a baby boy at the end of November. Even when you choose life, things don’t just go away. (But) she is grateful she didn’t go through with the abortion.”

Additionally, 17-year-old “Jessica”* who had gotten involved with the “hook-up culture” on the East Coast, according to Hagan, was put in contact with her.

“Her main concern was disabilities,” Hagan said. “There is so little information, truthful information, out there online. Women wonder if they will be okay and if the baby will be okay. I want to help them.”

Hagan said she is grateful to help women like Samantha and Jessica.

“These moms have been spared the trauma of abortion,” she said.

*See “Saved,” page 36
Emily Norris has a genetic condition so rare it has no name, but her parents unconditionally rejected suggestion she be aborted

By Dave Andrusko

Emily Norris, now seven, was born with a condition so rare it literally does not have a name. Whatever it might be, Emily is thought to be among only 13 people in the world to have the genetic condition.

That lack of diagnostic precision did not stop doctors from advising her mother, Nicol Nicholls, to consider an abortion when a lung malformation was spotted when Nicholls was 20 weeks pregnant.

“Doctors didn’t have the chance to influence our decision because as soon as they mentioned abortion we shot it down, as it was not something we’d ever consider,” Nicol told Faima Bakar of Metro.uk. “And thank God we didn’t, as she’s doing really well now.”

While Emily is now doing so well she has attained a Red Belt in Karate, it’s been a long and complicated haul for the youngster of Norwich, a city in Norfolk, England.

Her 31-year-old mom told Bakar that Emily had a “miswritten” gene associated with lung and kidney problems. “Common factors with other cases are small stature, failure to grow and low weight gain — meaning Emily needed a feeding tube for her first few years,” Bakar explained.

On top of that Emily’s right lung was made up of cysts due to a condition called congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation, and 70% of it was removed before her first birthday.

Doctors then discovered she had a multicystic dysplastic kidney which was removed when she was three.

Through all that Emily just keeps on keeping on, including winning a medal at her first karate competition.

“I don’t know what the future holds for Emily,” Mrs. Nicholls told Lauren Cope, “as not much is known about her genetic condition, but one thing we do know is that she has always been a fighter.”

The Lessons of Andy

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for the gift of life and the importance of protecting all members of the human family.

8. The Wounded — women and men who are also victims of abortion and, having been deceived by the seductive rhetoric of abortion, are now willing to publicly share their pain to save others from the suffering.

9. The Legislators — who continue to hold to their convictions and to seek legal protection for unborn children.

10. The Disabled — who are the greatest of teachers of the truth that human life is valuable regardless of age, stage, or condition because it is — simply and wondrously — human life.

The Bible says: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” (Eccl. 3:1) The time is now; the season is now; the activity is righteous.

A lesson is gradually being learned throughout this land: abortion kills babies, hurts women, and is a violation of every core principle that we believe in as Americans.
Expect many news roundups surrounding abortion as we approach anniversary of Roe, opening of state legislative sessions

By Dave Andrusko

Right around this time each year—with the impending anniversary of Roe v. Wade and with the opening of state legislative sessions right around the corner—we are inundated with a slew of news articles predicting what will or at least might, take place. And that’s all to the good. While we don’t need to be reminded, it’s important for the average citizen to know the battle is about to be joined yet again.

Reid Wilson offered a fairly typical piece that appeared in the publication, The Hill under the headline, “States gear up for abortion fights with eye on Supreme Court.”

To be clear every piece of pro-life legislation is intended to educate the justices, to help them clarify the mess that is abortion jurisprudence and acknowledge commonsense protective laws. This year’s big case is Louisiana’s Act 620, the “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act.”

As NRLC and Louisiana Right to Life explained in their joint brief, the law requires abortionists to have admitting privileges with a local hospital. “Act 620 was passed in 2014 in response to the extensive health and safety violations found in Louisiana abortion clinics. Louisiana already requires doctors who perform surgery at outpatient surgical centers to have hospital privileges. Act 620 extends that requirement to include abortionists.”

Wilson correctly observes that pro-abortionists intend to be active, first in the many briefs they have filed in opposition to Act 620, and in passing their own legislation. There are states (as Wilson notes), such as Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have already passed radical pro-abortion measures. It is difficult to imagine how much further they can go, but no doubt they will find other ways to facilitate the deaths of unborn babies, hopefully (from their perspective) paid for by taxpayer. (Massachusetts is in the wings with its own “ROE” act that is equally extremist.)

Wilson blandly remarks, “Virginia represents perhaps the most promising ground for abortion rights advocates. Democrats won control of the state House and Senate in elections held last November, and party leaders are contemplating several proposals.”

Well, yes, indeed. As NRLC explains on page one, it is expected that later this month the Virginia legislature will “submit papers purporting to ‘ratify’ the ERA.” Pro-abortion Democrats in the Commonwealth “intend to present bills to strip away Virginia’s parental consent law, the reasonable 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, and the hard-won ultrasound law,” according to Olivia Gans Turner, president of the Virginia Society for Human Life. And that likely is just the beginning.

But the emphasis—as it should be—is on pro-life legislation. “In 2019 alone, 17 states passed a total of 58 new measures restricting abortions,” Wilson writes. “About half of those would ban most or all abortions, while the remainder focused on new restrictions on abortion clinics or doctors who perform the procedures.” He then quotes Elizabeth Nash, who directs state policy at the Guttmacher Institute, saying, “Abortion restrictions are still a front-burner issue in many states.”

One fascinating omission. Wilson writes, “After a virtual stalemate for much of the first decade of the century, the last 10 years have seen a spike in abortion restriction measures.” He doesn’t bother to tell you why. That’s when pro-life Republicans began winning majorities in both houses of state legislatures.

They are many lessons from all this, beginning with “Elections Have Consequences!” Be sure to come to NRL News Today on a regular basis.
Communicating a Message of Life

By Laura Echevarria, National Right to Life Director of Communications and Press Secretary

From *American Heritage Dictionary*

3. *communications* (used with a sing. or pl. verb)
   a. The art and technique of using words effectively to impart information or ideas.
   b. The field of study concerned with the transmission of information by various means, such as print or broadcasting.
   c. Any of various professions involved with the transmission of information, such as advertising, broadcasting, or journalism.

Communications is a complex process but at its most basic it is simply presenting or transmitting information from a sender to a receiver. NRLC is busy educating the public with our message of love for both mother and unborn child which means we work with reporters from many and varied outlets.

Of course, it’s not simple. Filters, such as a writer’s bias, the editors who edit the story, or television/radio producers who only interview certain people or organizations—or maybe they only ask loaded questions—all can and do influence what ultimately gets sent out to the public.

The Communications Department here at National Right to Life focuses on communicating our pro-life message to people all across the United States and around the world. We are the sender and a worldwide audience is our receivers.

After forty+ years, we understand that it is foolish to place our spokespersons in situations where they can’t possibly express their opinion fully and without having a fair chance to make our argument without constant interference.

For example, what sense would it make to book a spokesperson on a show where the host is known for interrupting and talking over guests he or she may disagree with? Of course, we’re not talking about every overly talkative host who disagrees with us, but it does apply to a handful who are determined not to give us a fair shake.

For whatever reason or whatever motivation, newspaper articles do misrepresent our position on an issue or misrepresent the organization. This must be handled directly. For example, if a reporter characterizes National Right to Life as an organization that cares only about abortion, the role of the Communications Department is to help the reporter realize that NRLC, from its very origins, has vigorously fought against euthanasia.

Several years ago, we had a newspaper explicitly state that National Right to Life had only recently become involved in end-of-life issues. Communications staff patiently explained that this was not new terrain for us. The reporter and the editor, however, refused to believe us and demanded proof in order for us to get a correction.

That was easy to demonstrate. We simply made copies of some of the earliest *NRL News* articles from the 1970s (including the very first issue) that flatly demonstrated NRLC’s opposition to euthanasia. (Assisted suicide was not an issue in those days.) We sent copies of those articles to the editor and the reporter who’d written the story. About a week after the initial story ran, we received a correction, but it was astonishing to see how both reporter and the editor “knew” they knew our position on these issues better than we did!

Today’s communication world is vastly more complicated and much, much more fast-paced. NRLC utilizes every outlet, from traditional press releases to tweets on Twitter to Facebook posts, to name just three. In some ways, communication in today’s world is more direct than it was in the past but barriers and filters still exist.

With social media, there is no filter but individuals may block messages they disagree with. Press releases can go out to hundreds of reporters but only 15% may actually open the email. The challenge is always getting as much accurate information to as many people as we can with the least amount of interference.

Whether it be NRLC’s Communications Department or one of NRLC’s 3,000 state affiliates, it is vital to continue to send information to the press (and therefore, hopefully, to the public) promoting the right to life, explaining the humanity of the unborn child, and defending the elderly and those with disabilities who are often considered less “worthy” of life.

We—all pro-lifers—do so in the hope and expectation that when people are exposed to the truth, recognize it, and embrace it, it will hasten the day legal protection is returned to unborn children.
Pro-Life Caucus, at separate March for Life rallies that get to the heart of our Movement and why we do what we do.

The most dangerous place in America today for an unborn baby girl or boy is in a Planned Parenthood facility. Someday future generations of Americans will look back and wonder how and why such a seemingly enlightened society could have permitted over 60 million to be exterminated by abortion, often with government enabling and subsidy.

But history and generations of survivors will note that you stood your ground, you pushed back, and you endured any and every sacrifice, any and every smear, so that the least of these might live.

And “Everyone here today is part of the greatest human rights struggle on the face of the earth. It is the only human rights abuse that the abortionists dare call a human right, it is Orwellian, and yet it happens here and all over the world.”

“I know I’m speaking to the choir, but we need to double down on our prayer for healing. We need to increase our fasting, and we need to ask God for wisdom for healing, so that we will do our duty to protect the weakest and most vulnerable.”

Our Movement is alive and well and growing. You will see that not just in the huge attendance at the March for Life, and not only in all the state-based rallies. You’ve seen this growth manifested in all the protective legislation passed in the past decade... and in the laments of pro-abortion leaders that younger women are more passionately committed to the pro-life cause (by double!) than their “pro-choice” counterparts.

We thrive because, to quote Congressman Smith one more time, because ultimate failure is not an option. “Despite these and any obstacles, we will never quit. In adversity our faith and trust in God is tested, but it also deepens and overcomes and forgives an indomitable yet humble spirit.

“The pro-life movement is comprised of some of the noblest, caring, smart and selfless people I have ever met. They make up an extraordinarily powerful, non-violent, faith-filled human rights struggle that is growing in public support, intensity, commitment and hope.

“The pro-life movement is not only on the side of compassion, justice, and inclusion; we are on the right side of responsible science and of history.”

Guardians of God’s most precious creations

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head of Planned Parenthood in September of 2018, was ousted by the board of directors in July of 2019 after less than a year on the job.

Wen was as committed to abortion as anyone, but made the “mistake” of seeing it as part of a broader health care mission. When she made clear that she didn’t see abortion as the be all, end all of Planned Parenthood’s existence, she and Planned Parenthood parted ways over “philosophical differences.” Wen wrote in the New York Times 7/19/19, “I believe abortion is about health care, not politics. Many of my colleagues disagreed.”

Wen somehow manages to go unmentioned in this latest report. Planned Parenthood installed Alexis McGill Johnson, a reliable abortion advocate, as “Acting President and CEO” and kept the abortion mills humming. No official word on when or if the acting president will be replaced.

Abortion as the Clear Theme

The organization’s latest annual report makes it plain that Planned Parenthood continues to be all about abortion, in more ways than one. The record number of abortions speak for themselves, as do the declining figures for genuine health care services.

In the report, PPFA trumpets their legal and political successes in opposing “abortion bans.” They celebrate “technology” allowing them to perform webcam abortions in 16 states and research on these abortions and other topics they were able to get published in national medical journals.

They talk about their work promoting “sexual and reproductive services” and “reproductive rights” around the world and among ethnic minorities in the United States, “organizing and mobilizing” on college campuses and rallying against the nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

In addition to stopping or delaying pro-life legislation they didn’t like in Florida, West Virginia, South Carolina, Kansas, Montana, Missouri, Wisconsin and North Carolina, Planned Parenthood expressed pride in being able to enable “proactive legislation to protect and expand access to safe and legal abortion” in Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington state.

Planned Parenthood says that its doctors, educators and activist wake up each day with one mission: Care, No Matter What.

When it comes to the lives of tender, innocent, precious unborn children, however, this report makes is clear, once again, that Planned Parenthood “Doesn’t Care” – “No Matter What.”
Indiana AG issues preliminary report on the remains of over 2,400 babies aborted by Ulrich Klopfer

By Dave Andrusko

While it was only a preliminary report, there is a great deal to be learned from Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill’s investigation into the bizarre hoarding behavior of the late abortionist Ulrich Klopfer.

As NRL News Today readers know, the remains of a total of over 2,400 aborted babies were found in his garage in Crete Township, Will County, Illinois and in the trunk of an old Mercedes Klopfer kept in storage in Dolton, Illinois. The following is an overview of the AG’s preliminary report, released last week, after which I will add a few additional details and background.

Attorney General Curtis Hill has released a preliminary report on his office’s investigation into 2,411 medically preserved fetal remains and thousands of medical records discovered in the fall of 2019 among the personal belongings of the late Dr. Ulrich Klopfer, who performed abortions at clinics in Fort Wayne, Gary and South Bend.

Amid new details in the report is the fact that, based on the poor condition of the fetal remains and unreliable nature of the accompanying records, it is not possible to make an independent verification of the identities of the individual fetal remains. Accordingly, Attorney General Hill intends to have the fetal remains interred in a respectful and dignified manner in accordance with state law. Further, the Office of the Attorney General will follow state law in maintaining and safeguarding the medical records until such a time as they can be disposed of properly.

In addition, investigators have determined the remains appear to be from abortions Dr. Klopfer performed in Indiana from 2000 through 2003.

“At an earlier stage of the investigation, authorities believed the remains came from abortions performed from 2000 through 2002.

“From the time we first learned of the gruesome discovery of these remains,” Attorney General Hill said, “we have sought to exercise our statutory authority with great care and prudence. This case exemplifies the need for strong laws to ensure the dignified disposition of fetal remains, like those passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2016 and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019.”

The preliminary report, which will be followed by a final report in coming months, is attached. It is also published at the Attorney General’s website.

Three points.

#1. We all know the abortion industry will fight to its last breath any legislation that requires a dignified and humane disposal of the remains of aborted babies. It’s who they are, it’s how they think. Aborted babies are barely refuse in their minds.

#2. According to Dan Carden, “After Klopfer died Sept. 3, his family found 2,246 bagged fetal remains stored in molding boxes and old Styrofoam containers alongside boxes of personal items, rusting cars, pop cans and random garbage stacked to the ceiling in the garage of Klopfer’s Will County, Illinois, home, according to the report.”

Who does that remind you of? Kermit Gosnell, of course.

The only thing missing is this from the Grand Jury report that investigated Gosnell’s “House of Horrors”: “There was blood on the floor. A stench of urine filled the air. A flea infested cat was wandering through the facility, and there were cat feces on the stairs.”

But, you say, that was Gosnell’s abortion clinic, not his garage. In fact, the preliminary report on Klopfer’s three Indiana abortion clinics talked about them as pigsties. Although all three were disgusting, take this about the Fort Wayne clinic where “The ground floor was extremely cluttered. Boxes, garbage, cleaning supplies, clothing, unopened food and drinks, magazines, and other miscellaneous personal items were strewn about.”

And let’s not forget what police found when they raided Gosnell’s West Philadelphia home. While it had high-end appliances and a piano,


“He would leave plates of food on the floor. There was stuff everywhere in the bedroom. You couldn’t see the bed.”

Of course this squalor was precisely what authorities found at his abortion clinic.

“As soon as they [his investigators] went down into the basement, they were covered in fleas,” Taggart said. “He actually gave us a bottle of flea repellent and said, ‘See what a nice guy I am? I told you there were fleas in the basement.’” He said “I didn’t have to tell ya’s”

#3. To state the obvious, these were (or, in Gosnell’s case, are) sick, sick, men. To state the equally obvious, while they may be extreme even for the baby killing industry, you have to be devoid of basic human empathy to do this day in and day for decades, whether it be killing dozens of babies a month or killing tens of thousands of unborn babies.
National Right to Life News

January 2020

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life File Amicus Brief in Support of Louisiana’s Requirement that Abortion Doctors Have Hospital Admitting Privileges

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) and Louisiana Right to Life (LRTL) have filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Louisiana’s Act 620 “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act” which requires abortion doctors to have admitting privileges with a local hospital. Act 620 was passed in 2014 in response to the extensive health and safety violations found in Louisiana abortion clinics. Louisiana already requires doctors who perform surgery at outpatient surgical centers to have hospital privileges. Act 620 extends that requirement to include abortionists.

The case before the U.S. Supreme Court is June Medical Services, LLC, et al. v Rebekah Gee, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

"Despite the arguments from pro-abortion groups in this case, there is no constitutional right to a sub-standard abortion facility," stated Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. "Women who suffer from complications from an abortion, such as hemorrhaging or an incomplete abortion, require and deserve immediate emergency care."

The “Unsafe Abortion Protection Act,” was passed to ensure that women who experience complications from abortion, such as hemorrhage, uterine perforation, or infection from an incomplete abortion, are given the highest standard of care possible at a local hospital without any delays.

Benjamin Clapper, executive director of Louisiana Right to Life, said “Together with State Rep. Katrina Jackson, Louisiana Right to Life passed the 2014 Unsafe Abortion Protection Act by a bi-partisan majority in our legislature to protect the health of Louisiana women. In Louisiana, admitting privileges are a basic standard in every other type of outpatient surgery other than abortion. Abortion facilities should not receive special loopholes when it comes to common-sense safety standards.”

June Medical Services, the petitioner in June Medical Services, LLC v Gee, (along with other abortion facilities in the state), was found to have violated multiple patient health and safety regulations. As documented in Statements of Deficiencies by the Louisiana Department of Health, abortion clinic violations in the state include but are not limited to: failures to verify the medical history of patients, failure to monitor how long or how much nitrous oxide was given to patients, failure to perform or document a physical exam of each patient, failure to properly store and safeguard medications, failure to have qualified personnel administer anesthesia, failure to properly sterilize equipment, and failure to ensure that single-use IV fluid was used only once.

In addition, abortion clinics in the state failed to have on hand the proper equipment to deal with patients experiencing hemorrhaging and failed to follow mandatory reporting laws in the cases of rape or incest of a minor.

“If the abortion industry truly cared about women, they would work to ensure that women in the state of Louisiana and across the nation receive the best of care,” stated Tobias. “Instead, we repeatedly see the industry oppose laws like Louisiana’s ‘Unsafe Abortion Protection Act’ that are designed to protect women.”

James Bopp, Jr., of The Bopp Law Firm, PC, is General Counsel for National Right to Life and lead counsel for NRLC and LRTL. Bopp stated, “The Louisiana case demonstrates the abortion industry’s utter disregard for the lives and health of women by recklessly hiring abortion doctors who are obviously unqualified to perform abortions. The Louisiana hospital-admitting-privilege law addresses this problem by insuring that abortion doctors are subject to close scrutiny by other physicians. The abortion industry’s objections to such laws, that are necessary to protect women’s lives and health, should be rejected by the Supreme Court.”

The amicus brief can be found at www.bopplaw.com/images/nrlc-june-acbr-final.pdf
“He’s very healthy, very cute.” Pro-life doc rescues baby with Abortion Pill Reversal

By Katie Franklin

Dr. Poppy Daniels was at her son’s football game one Saturday morning when she got the call.

“Mariah” had taken the first drug in the chemical abortion pill regimen and was hoping to save her unborn child by stopping the in-progress abortion in its tracks.

Over the past five years, Daniels had received similar calls from about 10 other women. Some were too far along in the abortion to be helped. Others never called back. One decided to proceed with the abortion anyway.

But Mariah’s story ended differently, thanks to the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol, a treatment which uses the natural hormone progesterone to maintain a healthy pregnancy.

Because of Mariah’s quick call to the Abortion Pill Rescue helpline (877-558-0333), Daniels was able to get her started on the treatment immediately.

Over the course of the next several weeks, Daniels would monitor Mariah’s blood levels and check in on her baby via obstetrical ultrasound scans, ensuring that both mom and baby were healthy and thriving. Once Mariah reached the second trimester, she was transferred to another doctor for regular prenatal care, keeping in contact with Daniels throughout her pregnancy.

Then, a few months ago, Mariah gave birth to her baby boy, making him one of many babies rescued by Abortion Pill Reversal.

As a show of gratitude, Mariah visited Daniels with baby-in-tow.

“He’s very healthy, very cute,” Daniels told Pregnancy Help News. “Developmentally, he was completely normal. No major issues.”

Daniels says that although the father isn’t very supportive, Mariah is doing well, too.

“She really, really wanted women to know that this (Abortion Pill Reversal) was something that they could act on,” Daniels said. “They could change their mind. They could access this program.”

With that in mind, Mariah gave Daniels permission to post an anonymous photo of Daniels and her son on the doctor’s Facebook page.

“This is a very special day,” Daniels wrote. “This is the first successful medical abortion reversal that I have had the honor of participating in. I have been a Progesterone expert for many years & knew that progesterone could reverse the effects of RU-486/mifepristone if it was instituted quickly. We are respecting mom’s privacy by keeping it anonymous but if she wanted me to share her story & pictures in the hopes that it could encourage other women who take the abortion pill & regret it or change their minds. In her case, she is so happy she instantly knew that she didn’t want to go through with it & called the Abortion Pill Reversal hotline who connected her with me. She has chosen to parent & as she said ‘I knew everything would end up working out.’ A true #miraclebaby, #happytears”

Speaking from experience

From the beginning, the Abortion Pill Rescue Network seemed like a natural fit for Daniels.

For the majority of her career, she has specialized in using bioidentical hormones like progesterone to assist women experiencing fertility issues.

Having learned about the use of bioidentical progesterone through the esteemed NaProTechnology of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, she has become thoroughly familiar with the use of the hormone to support pregnancies.

With that experience in her back pocket, she joined the Abortion Pill Rescue Network in 2014, joining hundreds of other medical providers in the effort to save babies, as well as their mothers, from the devastation of abortion.

Now operated by Heartbeat International, the network and 24/7 helpline (877-558-0333) consists of more than 800 providers.

With their vast medical knowledge and passion, many of these providers are speaking out alongside Daniels, sharing the stories of the hundreds of babies rescued by the reversal treatment.

George Delgado and Matt Harrison, the pioneers of Abortion Pill Reversal, were the first ones to blaze that trail. Now, William Lile, Brent Boles and others are regularly telling their stories, sharing pictures of the babies they’ve helped rescue all across the internet.

Daniels’s post, which she made in November 2019, quickly gained traction with over 4,000 likes and over 1,000 shares on Facebook.

The post’s popularity reflects the importance of social media in Daniels’s larger efforts to stand up and be a voice for the voiceless within the medical community.

See “Baby,” page 47
he gave the following criteria for determining whether or not APR worked:

“If there’s a difference between the groups and it shows that the group with the progesterone continued the pregnancy more and the group with the placebo lost the pregnancy more, then that shows the progesterone does something.”

Though the numbers are smaller because of the study’s hasty ending, this is still precisely what Creinin’s data showed. Four of the five patients (80%) receiving the APR progesterone boost were still pregnant at the end of their two weeks on the trial. This was true of only two of the five patients (40%) who received only the mifepristone and the placebo.

The Real Risk in Abortion Industry’s Protocol
Creinin tried to shift the focus elsewhere. He said they were able to uncover a “very significant safety signal” about disrupting the approved chemical abortion protocol. He found his limited study data sufficient to determine that “patients in early pregnancy who use only mifepristone may be at high risk of significant hemorrhage.”

Though the Post article is written as if this was one of the reversal options being considered, it has been abortion advocates, not APR providers, who have suggested that taking mifepristone [the first drug] and simply foregoing the misoprostol [the second drug] would be just as effective as the progesterone boost (see Grossman, New England Journal of Medicine, 10/18/18).

Clearly, given the data from Creinin’s study, that advice from abortion pill advocates is both inaccurate and dangerous. If a woman takes mifepristone and changes her mind about abortion, it appears to be much safer and more effective for her to take the APR progesterone boost than to skip the misoprostol and hope the chemical abortion fails.

Epstein writes that Creinin believed his study showed the “dangers of antiabortion laws” that push “disinformation and unproven treatments.”

If anything, it was abortion advocates who were pushing “disinformation and unproven treatments.” They were claiming that women desiring to reverse their chemically-induced abortions could just avoid taking any further drugs and hope they were ones for whom the mifepristone failed. The APR method with the progesterone boost referenced in these laws was, on the other hand, demonstrated by Creinin’s own study to be both safer and more effective for these reversals.

Medical Associations Ignore the Science
Epstein cites a statement from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) that claims of abortion reversal “are not based on science and do not meet clinical standards.” While providing a link, it does not directly tell the reader that the ACOG statement was from August 2017, before Delgado and colleagues published a study involving more than 250 successful cases of reversal in the Spring 2018 edition of the peer reviewed journal Issues in Law & Medicine.

American Medical Association President Patrice A. Harris also joined in the chorus complaining about laws requiring women be told about the abortion pill reversal procedure. Harris told the Washington Post last July that such laws “actually compel physicians and other members of the health-care team to provide patients with false or misleading information that’s not based on evidence, that’s not based on science.”

If we consider Delgado’s 2018 results and those from Creinin’s more recent study, the “science” appears to support Delgado’s APR progesterone boost protocol, not the abortion industry’s dangerous “wait and see” approach.
What’s in a word? How “fetus” helped usher in abortion on demand

By Dave Andrusko

As one of the first NRL News Today posts of 2020, I briefly talked about an article that had been kindly forwarded to me a while back. It ran online at salvomag.com and was titled simply, “Fetus.”

I learned a lot. For example, “The first recorded use of the word ‘fetus’ dates back to 1398. Before then, an unborn human was almost always referred to as a ‘child’ (or some variation thereof).” In fact, “even up until the sixteenth century, ‘fetus’ wasn’t in common use; indeed, there’s evidence that as late as 1594 people were still using ‘child’ to refer both to the born and to the unborn.”

While it’s hard to tell, according to the article, “when ‘fetus’ finally became the preferred term for the unborn, we do know that beginning in the 1970s the word took on a whole new meaning, sharply distinguishing the unborn from the born child so as to suggest that the former was not fully human.”

We’re reminded that “abortion advocates often talk about the pro-life movement’s ‘love affair with the fetus at the expense of the born child,’ as if the two were distinct entities. Such semantic mis-direction was one of the consequences of the [1973] Roe decision, which solidified this supposed distinction between the born and unborn.”

Why is that important? Because through the constant repetition of “fetus,” the “target of abortion” was reduced to something other than a child. “Fetus” is at one and the same time vague, semi-dehumanizing, and off-putting.

“Fetus” served two key roles in the campaign to dehumanize the unborn child, opening the gate to abortion without limitation. First, it “strip[ped] the unborn child of his humanity so that killing him could be excused.” Second, it allayed the guilt the mother would feel because she could tell herself “that the life inside her was not yet human.”

In briefly summarizing the argument, I have omitted many helpful and subtle points. I would very much recommend you go to salvomag.com for a delightful and educational read.

Her son saved from abortion, California mom reaches out with pregnancy help, raising awareness for APR

From page 27

Hagan also serves at a California pregnancy center.

For the past three years, she has worked as the community outreach coordinator for Sierra Pregnancy & Health in Roseville, near Sacramento. This year, the center plans to add Abortion Pill Reversal to their services offered to women.

As a decade dawns, more than 900 babies’ lives have been saved thanks to APR and courageous women like Hagan.

The Abortion Pill Rescue Network is now coordinated by Heartbeat International, with support from Dr. Delgado and many other medical professionals.

Hagan continues to advocate for APR, saving women and babies from the horror of abortion, giving women another choice and a second chance for themselves and their unborn children.

“The reality is the majority of women are conflicted … in this decision. APR gives women another choice and a second chance,” Hagan said. “It’s life-changing and life-saving.”

*Samantha and Jessica are pseudonyms.

College students have their babies and succeed despite pro-abortion pressure

By Sarah Terzo

An article in *The American Feminist* talked about how difficult it is for pregnant college students to have their babies because they get so much pressure to abort, and because they are often made to feel they must choose between their babies and their education. The article says:

“Student parents on campuses across the country often find that practical resources and emotional support are missing.”

The article quotes student parent Amanda Sykes:

“I was told repeatedly that I would never be able to be both a mother and a student; I would have to choose.

“Classmates, certain acquaintances, and even some perfect strangers told me that I would regret having my son because he would ruin my life. They were wrong. My son, and now my child due in February, has made me more motivated than ever to be a success in all things.”

Another student, identified only as Levesque, talked about the pressure she got from family to abort her child:

“They said I would end up as trailer trash and on welfare because I couldn’t possibly do it all. I wanted to get an abortion and my family wanted me to [get an abortion] talk me out of it. If he had encouraged me to get an abortion, too, I would have done it….

“My family, immediate and extended, saved for only a few individuals, heavily pushed abortion, telling me that I was a disappointment and I had so much potential that I was wasting. I graduated this past May at age 23 with a BA in sociology, magna cum laude, and the highest GPA in the department. I am now the first individual on that pro-abortion side of my family to graduate from college.”

These two stories show that, with support, college students can have their children and still graduate. They also highlight the immense pressure that college students can be under to abort their babies.


Editor’s note. This appeared at Clinic Quotes and is reprinted with permission.
In for one abortion, why not two abortions in three months?

By Dave Andrusko

One of many things I’ve learned over the years in reading the accounts of “people” (aka women) justifying their abortions is that they loathe the very suggestion that they need any reason, let alone a justification, to do what they want with the unborn children they typically have created out of carelessness. Sometimes they offer a reason but before

long, it’s nothing more than the equivalent of clearing their throats.

And, if you think about it, there is a momentum—a logic, if you will—to going from grudgingly hinting you may regret what you’ve done to the victims of abortion to celebrating abortion as “necessary self-care.”

Rewire.news specializes in these “I’ll raise your one abortion with my multiple abortions” narratives. But even by their standards, such as they are, “What It’s Like to Have Two Abortions in Three Months: having multiple abortions—and you’re not reckless or stupid for becoming pregnant again,” is a head-scratcher.

The author, Paige Alexandria, tells us about how “being there” for one of her best friends who’d had two abortions in three months “was a powerful moment for me…”

Why, you might ask? because years earlier she supported me

through my own abortion. Back then, she didn’t think she’d ever be able to make the decision I did.

So (a) Alexandria gives “Chelsea” support, and making it more “powerful” is that (b) once upon a time Chelsea didn’t think she could abort once, not to mention twice.

These people are nothing if not utterly lacking in self-awareness. To say they are oblivious would give them too much credit. Alexandria tells us her friend’s first abortion was “a surgical abortion, a procedure she found comfortable.

“When she found out she was pregnant again three months later, Chelsea said she had no doubt this time that an abortion was the right decision for her. The most frustrating part of the experience, she said, was learning she was pregnant a second time after having unprotected sex once after her first abortion. This time, she preferred to complete the process in her own home, through a medication abortion. Why?

“My first experience taught me that it was difficult to be away from my children for hours while I waited at the clinic, so I decided to go with a medical [chemical] abortion, which didn’t take as long

Get it? It was difficult for Chelsea to be away from the children she’d allowed to be born while she was away snuffing out their sibling. Better for everyone (except the second hapless baby) if she aborts at home in her bathroom.

Finally, Alexandria quotes a Dr. Jennifer Wider who told Glamour in 2016 that multiple abortions (even within a short time frame) generally don’t affect fertility, nor is there any medical reason to encourage fewer abortions. Still, much judgment and stigma remain.

Despite being exposed to anti-choice rhetoric and imagery on social media, Chelsea refuses to harbor any negativity over her decisions. She credits her attitude in part to the power of storytelling and activism by others who’ve had abortions.

Why harbor any negativity? That’s so 1990ish. The next thing you know someone might talk (as the Clintons did up until about the time Hillary decided to run for President) about abortion being “safe, legal, and rare.”

But that is silly, right? After all, tissue is tissue, empowerment is empowerment, and dead is dead.

As Chelsea put it bluntly, “If you’re comfortable having one abortion, then there’s no reason not to be comfortable with others. You’re not reckless or stupid for becoming pregnant again.”

A coldblooded, coldhearted crew, if ever you met one.
Lone Massachusetts abortion clinic that kills unborn babies up to 24 weeks in dire financial shape

By Dave Andrusko

The ultra-pro-abortion Boston Globe would lament the possible closing of any abortion clinic in what Globe writer Stephanie Ebbert describes as “progressive Massachusetts.”

But when it is Women’s Health Services in Brookline launching a GoFundMe page to raise $250,000 fast, it’s time to panic.

It’s not just that Women’s Health Services is “the state’s third busiest abortion clinic [that] could close soon without financial health.” It’s that Outside of hospitals, Women’s Health Services is the only standalone clinic in the state that offers abortions up to the state’s legal limit of 24 weeks. Comparably, three Planned Parenthood clinics in Massachusetts stop offering abortion services 20 weeks, six days after a woman’s last period.

Evidently even the powerhouse Planned Parenthood, which took the lives of 345,672 unborn babies in 2018 (according to its annual report released yesterday), is wary of the blowback when you abort huge, pain-capable unborn children.

If you go to The Endowment for Human Development, you’ll be amazed at what the unborn child is capable of at 24 weeks. Moreover, “The 24-week fetus weighs about 1¼ pounds and measures about 12 inches from head to heel.”

Back to the woe-is-me Globe article about the Women’s Health Services. So why did Laurent “Lolly” Delli-Bovi, medical director, write “We are at a crossroads”? The answer is fascinating. According to Ebbert

The crisis at Women’s Health Services does not stem directly from a cut to government funding, but from the failure to win a grant of several hundred thousand dollars it had requested for debt relief from the National Abortion Federation, Delli-Bovi said.

But it reflects the pressure that the clinic was already under, providing abortions at less than cost, and the realities of today’s landscape for reproductive rights organizations. With clinics dwindling in states like Missouri and Louisiana and behemoths like Planned Parenthood competing for donors nationwide, it has been hard for abortion rights advocates to grab attention in a blue state like Massachusetts.

Consider this. Massachusetts has already elevated abortion promotion to an art form. But that’s not enough. Massachusetts has already elevated abortion promotion to an art form. But that’s not enough. The legislature is primed to pass a bill in which ALL limitations would be axed. More, not fewer, abortion clinics would be needed if parental consent requirements are eliminated and the state funds abortions, to cite just two of the devastating impacts should “the ROE act” become law.

In summary, the thrust of the story is that Women’s Health Services in Brookline does the noble work of performing late abortions for which it is not compensated sufficiently; passage of pro-life legislation elsewhere means the attention is paid to places such as Missouri and Louisiana, not to “progressive Massachusetts); and that “behemoths like Planned Parenthood” are attracting big donors.

Of course not a word—not a syllable—in the story about the overall sharp decline in the “market.” Back in September, the Guttmacher Institute, the Abortion Industry’s think-tank, released a report showing there were 862,320 abortions performed in the U.S. in 2017. This signaled a decrease of almost 64,000 a year from the 926,190 Guttmacher reported just three years prior, a decline of 7%.

Ebbert’s penultimate paragraph tells her readers

So far, the GoFundMe page has raised nearly $30,000, and a November fundraiser brought in $65,000, Delli-Bovi said. She’s not sure how long that will stave off financial realities.
My very first anti-euthanasia column, published in Newsweek, warned that societal acceptance of assisted suicide/euthanasia would eventually include organ harvesting “as a plum to society.” I was called an alarmist and a fear-monger, but alas, I was right. In Belgium and the Netherlands, mentally ill and disabled people are killed in hospitals at their request, and then, their bodies are harvested — with the success of the procedures written up with all due respect in organ-transplant medical journals.

Our closest cultural cousins in Canada are enthusiastically following the same utilitarian path, not only allowing organ harvesting to be conjoined with euthanasia, but “medically assisted death” is being boosted increasingly as “a boon.” Note the celebratory lead in this Ottawa Citizen story:

Ontarians who opt for medically assisted deaths (MAiD) are increasingly saving or improving other people’s lives by also including organ and tissue donation as part of their final wishes. In the first 11 months of 2019, MAiD patients in the province accounted for 18 organ and 95 tissue donors, a 14 per cent increase over 2018 and a 109 per cent increase over 2017. (Figures for December 2019 are not yet available.)

According to Trillium Gift of Life Network, which oversees organ and tissue donation in Ontario, the 113 MAiD-related donations in 2019 accounted for five per cent of overall donations in Ontario, a share that has also been increasing. In 2018, MAiD-related donations made up 3.6 per cent of the province’s total donations, and in 2017 just 2.1 percent.

Many of these killed organ donors will not have been imminently dying. They will also generally not have been provided suicide-prevention services as the suicidal ill and disabled who ask for euthanasia are increasingly abandoned to the “death with dignity” mindset in Canada.

It doesn’t even have to be the patient’s idea. Trillium Gift of Life Network, Ontario’s donation organization, actively solicits the organs of those soon to be killed by doctors! Canada decriminalized medically assisted death in 2016, and Ontario, through Trillium, immediately moved to the forefront of organ and tissue donation through MAiD, becoming the first jurisdiction in the world to proactively reach out to those who had been approved for assisted death to discuss donation. When a death is imminent, whether through a hospital or MAiD, Trillium must by law be notified.

“And, as part of high-quality end-of-life care, we make sure that all patients and families are provided with the information they need and the opportunity to make a decision on whether they wish to make a donation,” [Trillium CEO Ronnie] Gavsie says. “That just follows the logical protocol under the law and the humane approach for those who are undergoing medical assistance in dying. And it’s the right thing to do for those on the wait list.”

The clear message being sent to suicidal ill and disabled Canadians — with the active support of the organ transplant community — is that their deaths can have greater value to Canada than their lives. In other words, organ donation as an offshoot of euthanasia has indeed been defined “as a plum to society.”

Someday, Canada will probably dispense with the euthanasia part altogether and go straight to killing by organ harvesting — already being proposed bioethics and medical journals. That would make for more viable organs, don’t you know. Once one gets past what bioethicists denigrate as “the yuck factor,” there is indisputable logic to that idea, which we could call fruit from a legally poisonous tree.

Those with eyes to see, let them see.

Editor’s note. Wesley’s great columns appear at National Review Online and are reposted with his permission.
A poll released January 2 affirmed that white Evangelicals remain staunchly pro-life and that they overwhelmingly approve of President Trump’s job performance.

A poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 67% of white evangelical Protestant would make abortion illegal except in cases of rape, incest or to threats to the mother’s life.

According to the Associated Press’ coverage of its own poll, which was conducted among 1,053 U.S. adults from Dec. 5 to 9.

Those abortion limits drew 39% support from white mainline Protestants, 33% support from nonwhite Protestants, 45% support from Catholics and 37% of all Americans, according to the poll of more than 1,000 American adults from various faith backgrounds conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. …

Americans without any religious affiliation registered stronger opposition in the poll than people of specific faiths to abortion restrictions (72%)

Evangelicals, most of whom are solidly pro-life, were a key component in the coalition that elected Trump President in 2016. Writing for the Washington Post on November 9, 2016, Sarah Pulliam Bailey explained

Exit polls show white evangelical voters voted in high numbers for Donald Trump, 80-16 percent, according to exit poll results. That’s the most they have voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 2004, when they overwhelmingly chose President George W. Bush by a margin of 78-21 percent.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll acknowledged, “President Trump enjoys his strongest support among white evangelical Protestants, with 79% approving of his job performance.”

Several of the stories emphasized that White Evangelical Protestants did not agree with the President on other issues in the same numbers they do on abortion. This, of course, is part of the long-standing effort to distance the President from one of his core constituencies and to suggest that other issues are as important as abortion. Franklin Graham, Billy Graham’s son, put that in perspective in a December interview. “I don’t think evangelicals are united on every position the president takes or says, but they do recognize he is the most pro-life-friendly president in modern history,” Graham said. “He has appointed conservative judges that will affect my children and grandchildren’s lives, long after he’s gone.”
NY Times Pushes Assisted Suicide for Baby Boomers

By Wesley J. Smith

We can always count on the New York Times to promote destructive public policies and social agendas. In the latest example, the “paper of record” published a piece that pushes assisted suicide as a solution to the significant challenges we will face from Baby Boomers getting old.

First, Susan Jacoby recounts the familiar costs and predicted problems associated with increasing numbers of elderly people. But when the time comes to suggest solutions, the piece is very weak. Her inner feminist rails at “A Place for Mom” ads because it implies women will be taking care of “dad.” That just will not do. She also suggests that the elderly who want to work be accommodated by companies and policies to stay productive. A-okay with me.

Then, she gets to the true point of her piece; a call to “create a better reality for the old and their families” by opening the door to legally killing the old birds. From, “We’re Getting Old, but We’re Not Doing Anything About It”:

A healthier attitude toward aging also means examining moral issues. Physician-assisted suicide, for example, is the source of a fierce ethical debate that matters greatly to anyone who can imagine growing old. Questions about the end of life, like those about abortion, should be posed in every national forum.

How would allowing old people to be assisted in suicide promote “a healthier attitude toward aging?” To the contrary, it would denigrate the elderly by transforming them into a killable caste when they need care.

Back to Jacoby:

According to a Gallup poll conducted last year, 72 percent of Americans agree that doctors should be allowed to help end a patient’s life painlessly if there is no hope of a cure and the medical assistance is requested by patients and their families. The support drops to 65 percent if the phrase “doctor-assisted suicide” is used instead of “end a patient’s life” — yet another case of the American preference for euphemism.

Jacoby’s piece is a thinly veiled call for the normalization of elder suicide, perhaps even the creation of a societal expectation that the dependent old “choose” to die in order not to “burden” their families and society. And be very clear: “No hope for cure,” is far broader than a diagnosis of imminent death from a terminal illness — and indeed, could include many common conditions of old age, from early Alzheimer’s, to speech difficulties caused by stroke, to a broken hip leading to morbidity, to loss of vision or hearing.

As for family participation in the decision to die, has Jacoby even heard of the elder abuse crisis? That point aside, no law in the world requires that families request euthanasia along with the patient. Indeed, families are kept in the dark because of privacy issues, and legalized assisted could become a means of scouring society of dependent and expensive-to-care-for elderly, described by Jacoby as those who “live long but not necessarily healthy lives.” Kind of gives the ageist meme, “#OKBoomer,” a whole new meaning, doesn’t it?

Editor’s note. Wesley’s great columns appear at National Review Online and are reposted with the author’s permission.
Truth be told, the abortion lobby, and its think tank, is wildly out of step with the American people

From page 2

Here’s what Guttmacher calls the third “highlight”: “States such as Oregon and Vermont are leading the way in enacting laws that prohibit government interference in abortion care throughout pregnancy.”

What does that mean? Exactly what it says: “throughout pregnancy.”

And it is, as the Marxists used to say, no accident that at the very same time states such as New York are legalizing abortion all the way to birth, they are also removing abortion from the criminal code. So when a man brutalizes a woman and her unborn baby is killed, he cannot be charged with a crime for the child’s death. On top of that, these laws remove requirements that abortion survivors be treated like any other baby born prematurely--infanticide by neglect.

One other point, again under the “committing the very offense you charge others (in this case, us) with” heading.

“Gestational age bans are nothing more than a smokescreen,” Donovan tells us. Since the goal of pro-lifers is to eventually protect all unborn babies, pro-abortionists insist it’s perfectly okay to go in the opposite direction--to kill babies up until birth, and (they’re disingenuous about this) perhaps afterwards.

They are the ones employing the smokescreen to hide the absolutely undeniable logic of their own position: it is open season on babies up through the 40th week of pregnancy, as the sponsor of a 2019 bill in Virginia admitted under questioning.

It’s our job to clear away the smoke and the rhetorical underbrush in order to educate the American public to this truth. By any measure, the abortion lobby, and its think tank, is wildly out of step with the American people.

Found in a Dumpster as a Newborn, Morgan Tells Her Story to Save Lives

From page 19

Haven laws that are meant to give women in her birth mother’s situation a way to safely relinquish their newborn babies.

Since the first Safe Haven laws were first enacted in individual states in 1999, birth mothers have rescued over 3,527 newborns through Safe Haven laws. In that same stretch of time, 1,393 babies were abandoned nationally— more than 750 of whom died before they were found, according to statistics kept by the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA).

“Morgan’s story touched my heart, I cried, I smiled and I thanked God for the people that found and saved her,” NSHA executive director Heather Burner said. “I think her story offers a unique perspective from a young woman that has been raised by a loving family and knows her father and his love, but her story is so very rare and I think God can use it for something good.

“Her close call became a miracle of life for her, her father, her adoptive family and I think a woman in crisis may hear this and choose life over different alternatives.”

For Hill, the Safe Haven laws that have come into existence since her birth offer a ray of hope for expectant mothers who are too scared to tell anyone about an unplanned pregnancy. Rather than abandoning their babies, mothers can bring their newborns to a Safe Haven location, including hospitals in every state.

In Illinois, where Hill was born, a person can take their child up to 30 days old to a hospital, medical center, a staffed firehouse or a staffed police department. Laws vary from state-to-state, and one reason NSHA—which runs a hotline (1-888-510-BABY)—exists is to provide updated information on where mothers can go in each state.

“At the time that this happened to me there wasn’t a Safe Haven law,” Hill said. “But now that it’s passed, so many babies have been saved. It makes a big difference that the Safe Haven law has been passed. So many lives have been saved.”

While Burner, Hill and others celebrate the lives saved through Safe Haven laws so far, there’s plenty of work to be done—particularly when it comes to making women aware that the option exists to safely, anonymously place their baby into the arms of first-responders and medical personnel.

In fact, during one five-day stretch this February, four babies had been found dead in dumpsters throughout the U.S.

With her story to tell, Hill is on a mission to get the word out about Safe Haven.

“My main reason for speaking out is to show that there’s help out there—that no one’s alone,” Hill said. “I don’t want any other child to be put in a dumpster like I was. If my story saves at least one life, it was definitely worth telling.”

Editor’s note. This appeared at Pregnancy Help News and is reposted with permission.
Canada has no abortion laws. That statement is why we, alongside a local group called ARPA Oxford, are taking the City of London to court.

This story began in 2018 when we put up 33 billboards across the country that simply said, “Canada has no abortion laws.” We wanted to educate Canadians about the reality that, since the 1988 Morgentaler Supreme Court Decision, abortion is legal for any reason, at any gestational age.

This education is much needed as one survey showed that 77% of Canadians are unaware of this. The reaction when we tell this to Canadians – whether they are pro-choice or pro-life – is shock and disbelief.

Many find it difficult to believe there really is no law – especially immigrants who are used to the way laws operate in their country of origin. Canada is the only democratic country with no abortion law. While hospitals or individual physicians may self-regulate, there is no legal consequence for performing an abortion – for ending the life of a pre-born child – right up until birth.

It was well publicized that a woman obtained an abortion in Montreal at 35 weeks and no one faced legal repercussions.

With this in mind, we thought it was important to make sure Canadians are aware of the reality. Canada has no abortion laws. We need a law!

Almost immediately after our simple billboards went up, we saw pro-abortion activists get upset. They encouraged their supporters to complain about the ads to Ad Standards. Ad Standards is not a government body – it a self-regulatory body that the Morgentaler decision had left Canada with no formal abortion legislation. But, they informed us, “that fact obscures the reality.”

At the end of the day they explained that they weren’t concerned with literal truth, but some vague “general impression.” And the “general impression” of our billboards, they felt, was inaccurate.

By the time Ad Standards ruled on our billboard, we had completed our contract, meaning we didn’t face any loss due to this baffling, illogical decision.

We are going to court to challenge that decision to terminate the contract, which relied solely on Ad Standards’ recommendation to remove these bus ads.

The City of London has the obligation to respect ARPA Oxford’s Charter guaranteed freedom of expression unless they have a justification for not doing so. The Ad Standards decision – a baffling, illogical decision from an irrelevant body with no authority whatsoever – does not amount to justification.

Our hope is that if we win this case it will become easier for the pro-life movement to advertise without interference from Ad Standards. Our hope is to be able to share the truth: the truth that Canada has no abortion laws. The truth about the 100,000 pre-born children who lose their lives each year because they have no legal protection. The truth that a country that takes human rights seriously needs to recognize human rights for all human beings.

We ask that you keep this case in your prayers….

We also ask that you continue to use your voice wherever you are to speak the truth. Whether we win or lose this case, we need to make sure we are spreading our message in whatever place we are in. In whatever way you can, we urge you to use your voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.
Believe it or not, Snopes accurately analyzes a question about abortion

By Dave Andrusko

In the “even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while” category, as I live and breathe Snopes actually got something right about a question related to abortion. This is a site so ponderously self-important that it once solemnly fact-checked a parody written by the satirical Christian web site The Babylon Bee. (You can’t make this stuff up.)

And with the rarest of exceptions, Snopes come to the politically correct conclusion which includes virtually always giving a thumbs-up to pro-abortion charges and a thumbs-down to pro-life contentions.

Perhaps it was because the analysis was posted Christmas Eve, but not this time.

The question (or “claim”) Dan MacGuill checked out was the following: “In her Netflix stand-up comedy special ‘Joke Show,’ Michelle Wolf joked that having an abortion made her feel ‘very powerful’ and akin to God.” Rating for this claim? “Correct Attribution.”

So, to be fair, since I routinely hammer Snopes for its one-sided conclusions, let me give them a Rating of “Correct Attribution.”

To be equally fair, it would be nigh on impossible to come to a different conclusion. You just watch her awful brand of humor, type out what she said, and voila you are treated to a disgusting monologue made worse by an audience that cheered on her tastelessness.

MacGuill quotes the relevant portion of Wolf’s routine in its entirety:

We don’t talk about abortion in a real way. We talk about it in a very legislative way, but not in a real way. So I think a lot of women have a lot of apprehension surrounding it. You know, we talk about it so negatively that you feel like you should have this sense of shame after you get an abortion. Well you can feel any way you want after you get an abortion. Get one, see how you feel. [Audience laughs]. You know how my abortion made me feel? Very powerful. You know how people say you can’t play God? [Gestures, audience laughs]. I walked out of there being like ‘Move over Morgan Freeman [a reference to the movie ‘Bruce Almighty’], I am God!’ [Audience laughs]. And then I crossed the street very carefully. ‘Cos that was the perfect time for God to be like ‘You’re not God, b__ch, here’s a bus.’ [Audience laughs].

MacGuill, to his credit, notes that the “Right-leaning websites” [the Daily Wire and Newsbusters], not only accurately quoted Wolf but also “both acknowledged that her comments came in the context of a stand-up comedy performance. NewsBusters reflected that by specifying, in its headline, that Wolf had ‘joked.’”

Two quick thoughts. First, MacGuill concludes with a different example where the websites gave two other comedians a pass for jokes that some considered “offensive.”

You’re supposed to come to the politically correct conclusion that joking about experiencing God-like powers for having annihilated an unborn child is no more big a deal than something else that some would find offensive. Get it? Selective outrage.

Second, this, too, shall pass.

The next time something related to abortion that is not black-and-white clearly and inescapably accurate—as was the case here—Snopes will defend the pro-abortion perspective.

It’s what they do, it’s who they are.
Showdown brewing on campaign to air-drop 1972 “Equal Rights Amendment” into U.S. Constitution

From page 25

In a letter to the U.S. House, National Right to Life said, “In our communications with our members, supporters, and affiliates nationwide, a vote in favor of this resolution will be accurately characterized as a vote in favor of inserting language into the U.S. Constitution that could invalidate any limits whatsoever on abortion, including late abortions, and to require government funding of abortion.”

MULTIPLE LAWSUITS

Ultimately, the federal courts, and quite likely the U.S. Supreme Court, will sort out the irreconcilable claims about the viability of the ERA. The Archivist has already been sued by two different groups, and further lawsuits are expected after Virginia transmits its “ratification” papers.

On December 16, 2019, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, joined by the attorneys general of Louisiana and South Dakota, sued the Archivist in federal court in Alabama. That lawsuit asks the court to order the Archivist to stop accepting papers that purport to ratify a long-expired amendment. The lawsuit also asks the court to declare as valid the actions of five state legislatures that rescinded their ERA ratifications, prior to the 1979 deadline.

On January 7, a pro-ERA group called Equal Means Equality filed a suit in federal court in Boston, arguing that the deadline that Congress included in the 1972 ERA resolution should be regarded as unconstitutional. The group’s lawyer, Wendy Murphy, has criticized efforts to pass a deadline-nullification measure in Congress as unnecessary and diversionary.

Additional lawsuits are expected from the pro-ERA side after Virginia approves its “ratification” resolution. The legal issues surrounding the ERA’s ratification process may ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, although that could take some time.

“There is really only one constitutional route for those who want to put an ERA into the Constitution,” said NRL’s Johnson. “They must begin the process over again, which would entail congressional consideration of possible revisions to the 1972 ERA language. They would need to muster a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress for the final resolution -- and then, approval by at least 38 state legislatures.”

THE E.R.A.-ABORTION CONNECTION

National Right to Life long has opposed ratification of the 1972 ERA, because of the predictable likelihood that pro-abortion groups would use it as a powerful legal weapon against state and federal policies that place any limits on abortion.

In 1983, the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives denounced pro-life lawmakers who had expressed concerns about the ERA-abortion connection. For example, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) told a House Judiciary subcommittee, “The Equal Rights Amendment has absolutely nothing to do with abortion… saying so is just divisive and a tool to try to defeat it.”

In response, Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.) read into the record a sampling of recent statements by pro-abortion groups, including NARAL, NOW, Planned Parenthood, and the Women’s Law Project, proclaiming that the ERA should or is likely to sweep away laws limiting abortion.

For example, in a national alert sent out on March 13, 2019, NARAL Pro-Choice America asserted that “the ERA would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion . . . [it] would require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws . . .”

The National Organization for Women circulates a monograph on the ERA that makes numerous sweeping claims about its hoped-for pro-abortion legal effects -- stating, for example, that “an ERA -- properly interpreted -- could negate the hundreds of laws that have been passed restricting access to abortion care . . .”

Moreover, the Associated Press on January 1, 2020 reported that Emily Martin, general counsel for the National Women’s Law Center, “affirmed that abortion access is a key issue for many ERA supporters; she said adding the amendment to the Constitution would enable courts to rule that restrictions on abortion ‘perpetuate gender inequality.’”

In 1983 and since, National Right to Life has said it will strongly oppose any start-over ERA in Congress, unless an “abortion-neutralization” amendment is added, which would state: “Nothing in this Article [the ERA] shall be construed to grant, secure, or deny any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof.” ERA proponents have vehemently rejected such a revision.
“He’s very healthy, very cute.” Pro-life doc rescues baby with Abortion Pill Reversal

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Considering the abortion industry’s control of the media and popular medical institutions, she says, that’s difficult.

“Unfortunately, the abortion side has way more visibility on social media and the mainstream media, which is how they control the narrative,” she said. “Those of us who are on the frontlines, it’s almost like we’re a drop in the bucket. But I do believe that with social media, that has been able to elevate more pro-life messages than ever before. As much as they try to censor us, you can’t because of the nature of the forum.”

Standing up

Daniels, who has served as a practicing OB-GYN for the last 17 years, says she has always been pro-life.

“Really, it didn’t seem like it was that unusual to be an OB-GYN doctor and pro-life,” she said. “I’ve always thought of it as treating mother and baby, treating two patients. And so that’s just always been part of who I am.”

But Daniels realizes she is a bit of an anomaly.

“For the most part, a lot of OB-GYNs do not talk about being pro-life,” she said. “And I have always talked about being pro-life, and I think that it’s just a thing that I feel very strongly about. I haven’t always been conservative. I used to be pretty liberal. But even when I was very liberal, I was not for abortion. I was always pro-life, even as a liberal.”

As an outspoken pro-life medical practitioner, she says there are plenty of threats that squelch the voices of her peers.

“The reason more people don’t (speak out), is because, of course, you get backlash,” Daniels said. “You know, it’s like anything else, if you stand up and you speak up, then you’re going to be attacked. And some of it’s just trolls and stupid stuff, but professionally, there’s some people online that are ‘so-called professionals’ and they’re brutal and they will go after you… That’s just the way they do it. That’s their tactic. They will try to discredit you however they can.”

The intolerance of the pro-abortion medical community has left many physicians feeling ostracized.

“They (abortion advocates) are everywhere, they have infiltrated every aspect of all of the major academic centers, all of the mainstream medical journals,” she said. “They’re all pro-abortion. Which is why I left ACOG, why I’m not paying dues to ACOG. Because they don’t represent me.”

Instead, Daniels is a member of the American Association of Pro-life OB-GYNs (AAPLOG), a group of more than 2,500 members and associates.

Recently, Daniels sounded off on ACOG’s pro-abortion biases on Facebook, poking holes in an extraordinarily flawed study the group published this month on Abortion Pill Reversal.

In that study, pro-abortion researcher Mitchell Creinin set out to determine whether the reversal protocol is actually as ineffective as he believes.

“This doctor intended to study 40 women,” wrote Daniels. “They were going to give women who took the first abortion pill and then given them either progesterone or a placebo. If the baby survived, they would be offered a surgical abortion two weeks later. They only enrolled 12 patients, 2 dropped out. 5 received progesterone [the abortion pill reversal treatment] and 5 received placebo. One patient who took progesterone went to the ER but needed no intervention. 4 had continuing pregnancies. 2 patients who took placebo went to the ER, one had a D&C and one required blood. 2 patients had (continuing) pregnancy. So let’s recap! This is an insanely small sample size & wouldn’t have been published by most except the most ideological journal. Those who took the abortion pill had significant bleeding! That points to the riskiness of the abortion pill! But that’s not what the headlines said.”

Based on the study’s complete failure, Daniels couldn’t believe ACOG published it.

“It’s like… ‘Are you kidding me? This is not science,’” she said. “But when your buddies in the mainstream media are willing to write whatever headlines you tell them to write because they’re on your side, they’re not trying to be objective in any way. So it’s laughable. It’s laughable, and yet, they’re going to keep doing it…unless there’s more people like me that will speak out and say, ‘This is ridiculous, and you people are lying, and you’re biased and you don’t care about women, you just care about money, honestly.’”

Daniels says that providing a woman with progesterone costs all of $40—a small fraction of the cost of a chemical abortion, which can reach up to $1,000.

“We’re not making money off of this,” she said of Abortion Pill Reversal. “We’re doing it because we believe it’s the right thing to do.”

For women like Mariah and babies like her son, that commitment is both life-changing and life-saving.

“This is a real person,” Daniels said of Mariah. “This really happened. She really did access the program and it really did work. And now her baby’s here and everything is fine.”

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