

Citizens Concerned for Human Life
***Blair County
Life News***

Volume 3 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2011

PRO-LIFE TOWN HALL MEETING

Monday, April 11 ♦ 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**HOLY NAME CHURCH HALL
500 N. JULIAN ST., EBENSBURG**

**Hosted by Cambria/Somerset CCHL
(Citizens Concerned for Human Life)**

*Featuring Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo
and Education Director Maria Vitale*

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CCHL of Blair County will participate**



"We're bringing in our top-notch educational programs directly to the people, so they can be informed of the latest developments in pro-life legislation, the fight against health care reform, restoring protection for preborn children in Pennsylvania and fighting the new battle against medical rationing for seniors." ~ Michael Ciccocioppo



We are facing A VERY CRITICAL time both nationally and statewide with regard to pro-life legislation. The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is the largest pro-life advocacy group in the state and has been taking the lead on all matters of concern for the unborn. This is a great opportunity to meet all the pro-life leaders in our state and network with our pro-life friends from around the region. This is the first time that the Federation has engaged each region of the state in this format. If you have not been active in awhile, please do not take a back seat now—we need everyone of you—our country is not going to turn around unless we are all willing to do our part—babies lives are literally at stake. For more information, contact Heidi 814-536-7335.

News to Know

Gov. Corbett's Response to Philadelphia Abortion Center Scandal

The following statement can be attributed to Michael Ciccocioppo, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation:

"We applaud Governor Tom Corbett for his leadership in responding to the atrocities found at Kermit Gosnell's West Philadelphia abortion facility. The tragic loss of life there and the manner in which women were brutalized in that abortion center were truly horrific. We agree with the Governor that the state failed to properly oversee the facility, and we welcome the sweeping changes the Corbett Administration is making in an effort to protect women. The Gosnell case was a wake-up call for Pennsylvania and demonstrated the horrific conditions that can exist inside an abortion center. We are hopeful that the General Assembly will show similar courage in enacting legislation that will provide strict scrutiny of abortion facilities throughout the Commonwealth."

—Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation
Press Release, February 15, 2011

"Who would doubt that abortionists and their clients need divine grace to see the horror of their crimes and to have the courage to desist? Where can they obtain this grace? From God, of course. But in His ordinary providence, God uses persons who are in His friendship to merit for sinners—here the agents of abortion—the spiritual light and strength to return to the God from whom they have strayed."—Fr. John A. Hardon

Abortionist quits after authorities suspend clinics due to filthy conditions

A Philadelphia abortionist has decided to quit his practice altogether after Pennsylvania state authorities suspended operations at his two facilities owing to substandard conditions.

Abortionist Dr. Soleiman M. Soli, 73, quit and shut down his facilities, after state authorities recommenced the long-dormant inspections of abortion clinics, following the revelations of abortionist Kermit Gosnell's "house of horrors"—an operation that was busted thanks only to an illegal-drug investigation.

Soli operated two "Abortion as an Alternative Inc." clinics in Bensalem and the Germantown part of Philadelphia. He was ordered by the state Health Department to stop performing abortions owing to the dilapidated state of his clinics. Instead of fixing the problems, Soli instead closed the clinics and then retired on Nov. 19.

State health inspectors found drugs that expired decades ago (as late as 1970), poorly sterilized instruments, exposed needles on the floor, uninspected and faulty equipment, fetal tissue improperly disposed "with potential exposure to the public," and other unsanitary conditions. Even life-saving medical equipment was either missing or in disarray.

At the Bensalem clinic, inspectors discovered that Soli did not know how to use the clinic's oxygen tank, and an oxygen mask was coated in dust. It

took 10 minutes for Soli to figure out how to use the equipment—a lapse of time that could have proven fatal in a real situation. Also Soli did not have a transfer agreement with an area hospital, as he was required by law, in the event of an emergency. He did tell inspectors that he had admitting privileges at two hospitals.

The ultrasound machine, microscope, and blood pressure cuffs were also not in good working order.

However, none of these problems would have been addressed had not a Pennsylvania grand jury leveled a heavy indictment against state officials for letting Gosnell run a filthy clinic free of inspections, allowing him to commit hundreds of infanticides, illegal late-term abortions, kill a patient, infect women with disease through dirty instruments, and even potentially perform forced abortions on women.

Officials had failed to investigate Gosnell, despite numerous reports having been filed by former clients against him with the state health department.

Gosnell faces the death penalty for seven infanticides and the murder of an immigrant woman, Karnamaya Mongar, who died midway through an abortion.

The Pennsylvania Board of Medicine had no discipline history for Soli either.

—Peter Smith, LifeSiteNews.com
March 10, 2011

Kohls and Mrs. Fields Stop Donating to Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz

Strike two more corporations off of the list of companies that make financial donations to the Planned Parenthood abortion business.

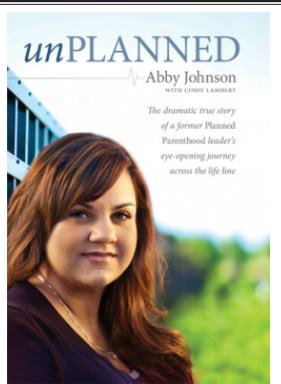
"Kohl's and Mrs. Fields are no longer boycott targets," explains Douglas Scott the president of Life Decisions International, a pro-life group that monitors corporations and whether they support the nation's largest abortion business.

—LifeNews.com, January 3, 2011

"unPlanned"

by Abby Johnson with Cindy Lambert

This is the dramatic true story of a former Planned Parenthood leader's eye-opening journey across the life line. In 2009, Abby left the employ of PP and joined the local Coalition for Life as a volunteer. This book is a compelling story of crisis and change and is also a reminder of how grace finds us in unlikely places, and how we can all reach out with love to those who stand on opposing sides.



Pro-Life Student Essay Contest Winners

Junior High and Senior High teens won cash prizes in Central PA's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, or Embryonic Stem Cell Research. The contest was open to students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties. We want to thank all those who entered and congratulate our winners!

The first-place Junior High winner is **Teresa Sicree**, of Boalsburg, Centre County. Teresa is a freshman who is homeschooled; she is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Teresa was awarded a cash prize of \$150.

There was a tie for first-place winner in the Senior High Division. One of these winners is **Hannah Grimes**, a sophomore at Bedford High School. Hannah's parents are Mark and Tonya Grimes. Hannah was awarded a cash prize of \$200.

Our second winner for first-place in the Senior High Division is **Thomas Sicree**, of Boalsburg, Centre County. Thomas is a junior who is homeschooled; his parents are Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Thomas was awarded a cash prize of \$200.

The second-place Senior High winner is **Brea Neri**, of Somerset County. Brea is a senior at Windber Area High School. Brea's parents are Anna and Daniel Neri. Brea was awarded a cash prize of \$125.

The third-place Senior High winner is **Jessica Bence**, of Johnstown, Cambria County. Jessica is a junior who is homeschooled. Jessica's parents are John and Heidi Bence. Jessica was awarded a cash prize of \$75.

Printed below, and on following pages, are the winning essays.

First-Place Regional Junior High Essay

Abortion and the Life of the Mother

Case #1: A pregnant woman with pulmonary hypertension arrives in the emergency room of a Catholic hospital. This disease has a mortality rate of thirty to fifty percent among pregnant women: doctors usually recommend abortion. But the woman needs the approval of the ethics board before she can have an abortion.

Case #2: A pregnant woman is told by her doctor that she will die without an abortion. But she is a member of a "hippie" commune where all major decisions must be unanimous. She needs the approval of her commune before she can have an abortion.

Case #3: A pregnant woman is diagnosed with a tumor on her uterus. She is told that she has three choices: she can have a hysterectomy, surgery to remove the tumor plus an abortion, or just surgery without an abortion. If she chooses to save her child, she will be risking her life.

All of these true cases involve women who were told by doctors that they needed abortions to save their lives. This is the hardest situation for pro-lifers to defend the right to life of the unborn child for several reasons.

If we defend the child, we look as if we are "anti-life" by condemning the mother to death. If we excuse the abortion, we are "anti-life" by saying that the child is not worth as much as the mother. Polls show that between 80 and 88 percent of Americans approve of abortion in this case. Although such abortions are less than one percent of all abortions, they attract public attention, which makes people think that they are more common than they really are.

Pro-abortion people use these cases to attack pro-lifers and pro-life health care. Sadly, the widespread acceptance of abortion for mothers with serious health problems means that many doctors aren't willing to try new treatments that might save both the mother and the child. More mothers and babies die as a result.



*Teresa Sicree,
of Boalsburg,
Centre County,
is a Freshman
who is Homeschooled*

Most people will recognize Case #1, the pregnant mother with pulmonary hypertension, from news accounts this past year. Tragically, the ethics board at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona approved the abortion and allowed the baby to be killed at the Catholic hospital.

As a result, Bishop Thomas Olmsted declared that Sister Margaret Mary McBride, who voted for the abortion, had excommunicated herself, and he reluctantly revoked the Catholic status of the hospital. Because of this, the press reviled him. Nicholas D. Kristof in *The New York Times* called Olmsted "rigid, dogmatic, out of touch" and compared him to the Borgias. On the other hand, Kristof repeated descriptions of Sister Margaret as "a kind, soft-spoken, humble, caring, spiritual woman whose spot in Heaven was reserved years ago." Kristof even declared, "Compare their two biographies, and Sister Margaret's looks much more like Jesus's than the bishop's does." Here the person who voted to kill a child is called "saintly" while the person who condemned the killing is called "morally obtuse." See? A complete reversal of virtues. Read between the lines here, and you will find the not-so-hidden message: pro-lifers can't be trusted.

If pro-lifers can't be trusted, then who can? *ABC News* medical contributor Dr. Jacques Moritz stated that "the

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First-Place Junior High Essay

Abortion and the Life of the Mother

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bishop, rabbis, and other people have really no place" in life-of-the-mother decisions. "That decision is usually made by the health care professionals," he said, "and it's best if it's left that way." But can you trust doctors?

Dr. Dianne Zwicke developed a treatment for pregnant women with pulmonary hypertension that saved 45 out of 45 mothers and their babies. But when she presented her findings to the American College of Chest Physicians, she was attacked. Even a doctor who had successfully used her treatment said that he would still "strongly encourage termination." Why? If religion has "really no place" in the doctors' decision, then what does? Were they concerned about liability? Or were they unwilling to admit that previous abortions they had recommended had been unnecessary? Here the lack of pro-life values seems to be stalling medical progress.

This debate is similar to another situation in the 1800s. Mothers whose hips were too narrow often died in childbirth. Many doctors did craniotomies, in which they crushed the baby's head so that they could deliver it and save the mother, much like a partial-birth abortion. Catholic doctors who refused to do this were reviled because of it. Yet in was in Catholic countries that Caesarian sections were developed: French doctors were using them widely while English doctors were all still doing craniotomies. Early Caesarians were risky—but mothers who took that risk saved the lives of millions of other mothers and children as the surgeries became safer.

Doctors aren't always right. Take Case #2, the woman from the commune. Ironically, unlike the ethics board at St. Joseph's Hospital, the adults from the "hippie" commune all voted for life. Theo Stearns delivered a healthy daughter with no complications. Her commune eventually became Catholic because of the abortion issue and formed Catholics United for Life. They still work as pro-life activists to this day.

The mother in Case #3 also chose life. Although she could have morally chosen a hysterectomy, which would have indirectly killed her child, she chose the riskiest path, which gave her child a chance of survival but required her to have a Caesarian delivery. On April 21, 1962, she delivered a healthy daughter, but died a week later of infection following the Caesarian. In 2004, Pope John Paul II canonized Gianna Beretta Molla. Her husband and the daughter whom she saved were at the ceremony. St. Gianna's heroism continues to inspire people to this day.

No one ever said that defending life would be easy. This is nowhere more true than when we are defending the unborn child when the mother's life is at risk. We will be reviled for our principles, and some heroic mothers may die for them. But history has shown that in the long run we will save lives, just as the doctors who pioneered Caesarian sections did, just as Gianna Beretta Molla did.

First-Place Senior High Essay (TIE)

Truth Makes a Difference

Latisa, 18 years old, finds herself pregnant. She is scared and confused. She decides abortion is the solution and decides to visit the only organization she can think of, Planned Parenthood.

With sweaty palms, she anxiously sits with other scared women in the waiting room. A door opens. A friendly-looking lady with a broad smile says, "Latisa."

The family planning nurse escorts Latisa into a private room. It is determined that Latisa is about 12 weeks pregnant, the trimester in which 88% of all abortions occur.



*Hannah Grimes,
of Bedford,
Bedford County,
is a Sophomore
at Bedford High School*

The nurse caringly begins to unfold the details of an abortion. She tells Latisa, "There are many physical problems that will arise as a result of killing your baby. You can expect any of the following: abdominal pain, cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, spotting and bleeding. Serious side effects may include: heavy or persistent bleeding, infection, damage to the cervix, scarring of the uterine lining, perforation of the uterus, and damage to other organs. Although the chances are slim, you could also die."

The nurse continues to explain the long term effects of an abortion. "Latisa, you will be reducing your chances of getting pregnant in the future if you have this abortion. You see, scarring of the uterus and possible infection in the fallopian tubes could cause you to never be able to have a baby in the future.

Now that I've told you about some of the physical complications, you need to know about the psychological problems that may occur. These include: depression, long-term grief, anger, guilt, flashbacks, memory repression, suicidal ideas, and difficulty keeping close relationships. Do you have any questions so far?"

Latisa sits mortified at the information she just learned. She came into Planned Parenthood convinced she would have an abortion. Now she begins facing the reality of what abortion really is and how it effects its victims. Not being able to find words, Latisa just shakes her head no.

"Before you make a final decision, we are required to listen to the baby's heartbeat and also give you a sonogram." Latisa does what the nurse says and gets ready for these things. "Latisa, I'm going to put this heart doppler

on your tummy right now." Latisa listens as her baby's steady heartbeat begins to fill her ears.

"Now it's time for the sonogram. I'm going to turn this screen around so you can see what your baby looks like at three months." Latisa is wide-eyed as the nurse begins to explain the details in the pictures. "This is your baby's fingers and toes, which are fully developed. Here you can see his eyelids and they'll stay closed until the seventh month to protect the delicate optical nerve fibers. You can't see this yet, but babies this age have hair on their heads and soft fingernails and toenails have developed too."

As Latisa stares at the screen, all of a sudden her baby puts his thumb in his mouth and begins to suck it.

"Latisa, your appointment is just about over. I need you to come to my office to fill out some paperwork." Latisa follows the nurse to the office and takes a seat.

"For us to proceed with your abortion, we need you to read and sign these forms." At this point, having learned the truth about abortion, ending her baby's life is now the last thing on Latisa's mind. She tells the nurse she's made the decision to not have an abortion.

If this scenario played out within the Planned Parenthood organization, how many women would go through with an abortion? So why doesn't Planned Parenthood tell a woman the truth about abortion? Why don't they tell her about the physical and psychological problems caused by abortion? Why don't they tell her an abortion is actually killing her baby?

The answer?

Money.

Planned Parenthood made \$85 million in profit and had an operating budget of over \$1 billion for the 2007-2008 fiscal year according to their latest annual report. Included in that budget was \$350 million in government grants and contracts, which is a nifty way of saying your tax dollars. An increase in the number of abortions performed helped contribute to the profit. It boils down to big business. Abortion is a way for doctors and clinic owners to gain great wealth at the expense of many ruined lives.

It is our duty as Christians and citizens of this country to get the truth out to these women. Each time a woman chooses life over abortion, she saves herself from future physical and psychological problems and she also preserves the life of her baby...all of this is a cause worth fighting for. ■

First-Place Senior High Essay (TIE)

Hammer and Scalpel

Imagine that a Soviet long-rang bomber, the Tupolev Tu-160, armed with nuclear missiles is flying towards Philadelphia.

No F-14 fighters are scrambled to intercept it.

No surface-to-air missiles shoot it down.

The Tu-160 launches a single missile and then returns home unchallenged.

A mushroom cloud erupts over Philadelphia, incinerating one and a half million souls.

The president says nothing. There is no retaliation. Everyone goes on with their lives pretending the city-sized crater that used to be Philadelphia does not exist.

The same thing will happen to another city the next year and the year after that without fail.

Nobody seems to care...

Fiction? Yes.

Ridiculous? Not really. While it would have been unthinkable, during the Cold War, for the United States



*Thomas Sicree,
of Boalsburg,
Centre County,
is a Junior
who is Homeschooled*

to sacrifice a city to the Soviets without a fight, we do exactly that with abortion every year. In 1994, the year that I was born, about 1.4 million American babies were killed by abortion—which is roughly the population of Philadelphia.

International Communism, which killed millions worldwide, was one of the greatest threats to American lives and freedoms in my parents' generation. With the breakup of the Soviet Union, Communism is not the threat that it used to be. But abortion remains, killing innocents at a horrific rate around the world. The pro-abortion movement is disturbingly similar to International Communism in more ways than their death rates. It is important to recognize this so that we don't let the threat of abortion go unchallenged.

First, both pro-abortion activists and communists are willing to kill real people now for imaginary people in the future—people who may never exist. In its sixty-nine years of existence the Soviet Union killed over 58 million real people in wars, planned famines, and in gulags in order to create a "new socialist man"—a man who never came into existence. That comes to almost 850 thousand people killed a year. This may strike us as horrific until we remember that for the last 38 years the United States has killed an average of 1.4 million babies per year by abortion. And why are these real babies being killed? Pro-abortion activists argue these real, "unwanted" babies must die so that a future "wanted" child may have a happier existence—a "wanted" child who may never exist.

Both the pro-abortion movement and communism have been supported by aggressive international organizations that ceaselessly work to expand their evil worldwide, especially to Third World countries. The expansion of com-

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First-Place Senior High Essay (TIE)

Hammer and Scalpel

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munism first into Korea, then into Vietnam cost the lives of thousand of U.S. soldiers in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. They fought and died because we recognized the "Domino Effect," which is that the fall of one country to Communism endangered all of its neighbors. Pro-abortion activists have been equally tireless in trying to legalize abortion everywhere from Ireland to Kenya. For instance, the most dangerous man in the pro-abortion movement, Comrade Obama, used U.S. tax dollars to push a pro-abortion constitution in formerly pro-life Kenya.

Within a country, both Communists and pro-abortion activists work to destroy any civil rights that people could use to oppose them. Freedom of the press and freedom of assembly were non-existent in the "Workers Paradise," of the countries behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains. Just ask the hundreds who were crushed by Chinese tanks in Tiananmen Square. Pro-abortion activists who claim to be pro-choice don't care when thousands of Chinese women are brutalized by forced abortion. They say that they support freedom of religion, except when pro-life doctors ask for the protection of conscience clauses. They say that they support freedom of speech, except for the "bubble zones" some courts have tried to put up in front of abortion clinics.

The pro-abortion movement and Communism are similar in who they hate. Karl Marx called religion "the opium of the people," and Communist countries worldwide persecuted religious believers of all faiths. Believers with loyalties outside of the state, such as Catholics and Jews, were considered the most suspect. The pro-abortion movement likewise demonizes religious believers, particularly Evangelicals and Catholics. Former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson, in his book *Aborting America*, told how NARAL [National Abortion Rights Action League] deliberately appealed to anti-Catholic bigotry in its push to legalize abortion. The traditional family is also an "enemy" targeted by both movements. Communist countries encouraged children to turn in their parents to the state. Pro-abortion activists encourage children to have abortions without parental knowledge, and fight parental notification and parental consent laws vigorously.

Why is the pro-abortion movement so similar to Communism? Perhaps it is because it because both have faulty views of human nature. Communists believe they can make all men equal and create a perfect society by eliminating private property. Pro-abortion activists believe they can make men and women equal by eliminating pregnancy. Both are dangerous dreamers who are willing to kill innocent people to create their utopias. It is not surprising that Communist countries have the highest abortion rates in the world, nor that pro-abortion activists are the most enthusiastic supporters of socialized medicine in our country.

Evils arise in every generation, but we cannot always know what form they will take. My parents' generation expected the greatest danger that America would face

would be nuclear war against Communism. Instead most of the Communist states have withered away. We need to show people that there is a new "Red Menace" an even greater threat to American lives and freedom. The great battle of our time is not against communism but against abortion. ■

Second-Place Senior High Essay

"When They Say..."

I am sure that everyone has at one time or another, heard the phrase, "You can't always believe everything you hear." When what you hear are the words of an abortion advocate, this phrase proves undoubtedly true. The struggles to abolish abortion in our country are combated by numerous arguments going to extremes trying to justify it. As advocates of life, standing up for what is virtuously right, it is necessary that in the war to end abortion, each of us be adequately equipped to defend our stance and to counter any of the fictitious arguments we are bombarded with. In essence, we must be prepared on what we should say, when they say...



*Brea Neri,
of Windber,
Somerset County,
is a Senior
at Windber Area
High School*

"It is uncertain when human life begins; that's a religious question that cannot be answered by science." We would say...It is absolutely certain when life begins; at conception, and it can, without a doubt, be defended by science and medicine. Medical evidence clearly shows that at just 56 days after conception, regular heartbeats can be detected, brain waves can be measured, and all organs are functioning. At this point, all of the features of a grown human being are present in the unborn therefore reinstating how life does, in fact, begin at conception.

Additionally, the *Roe v. Wade* decision passed in 1973 legalizing abortion on demand in America, does not take a Pro-Life or a Pro-Choice stand on when life begins. Instead, it blatantly neglects to answer the question. The verdict states, "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to an answer." Is it simply convenient that the legislation that continues to allow babies to be killed throughout the country fails to define the simplest of questions and the very core of the debate about abor-

tion—when life begins? Perhaps, if these proponents could have been specifically defined and not elusively evaded in the making of this decision, then we could have spared the lives of the [over] 50 million babies who have been killed by abortions since 1973.

When they say...“The fetus is just a part of the pregnant woman’s body, like her tonsils or appendix.” We say... Interesting at best, but please take into consideration that the unborn baby has its own set of genetic characteristics in the DNA that is present in the babies’ very first cell. To say that the developing baby is no different from the mother’s appendix is scientifically inaccurate. A trained geneticist can distinguish between the DNA of an embryo and that of a sperm and egg. But that same geneticist could not distinguish between the DNA of a developing embryo and a grown human being. Abortion is not the mere removal of cell tissue; it is the death of living, growing human beings. From conception, the new person is as deserving of the full protection of the law as any other person.

When they say...“Every person has the right to choose. It’s unfair to restrict a woman’s choice by prohibiting abortion.” We say...If every person has a right to choose, and a baby is a person just as much as a grown woman, then where is the baby’s choice in the matter? Would it not be unfair to take away the life of an innocent child? Paragraph two of the Declaration of Independence reads, “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.” Without life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are not possible. All men are wholly equal, born and unborn, and life is an exclusively inalienable right. The one-time choice of abortion robs someone else of a lifetime of choices and prevents him or her from ever exercising his or her own rights.

These are only but a few of the arguments that advocates of life are faced with each and every day. Boldly, we must assert the only truths of abortion; truths of the value of every life, so that those who listen can believe everything that they hear. For we, who have voices in the matter, must speak up about this injustice and say what the unborn cannot. ■

Third-Place Senior High Essay

Being a Pro-Life Teen

Because I was born into such a strong pro-life family, I pretty much grew up with a great passion for the pro-life movement. I would always help out with whatever was going on: voter guides, yellow ribbons, editorials, Life Chains, fairs, etc. Recently though, I had an experience that completely shook me and gave me a whole new perspective on being pro-life. I visited an abortion clinic for the first time.

We rode to Pittsburgh early on a Saturday morning in a van packed with enthusiastic pro-lifers. I’m not exactly sure what I was expecting, but what I saw was definitely a shock. It was absolutely frigid outside and felt worse as we stood on the sidewalk across from the clinic in the building’s cold shade. I guess I was expecting some

confrontation and shouting to be happening, but there was absolutely none. Little groups of pro-lifers stood, surrounding the clinic, each like a little oasis of peace and hope in the midst of that place of suffering and death. The groups were singing, praying, some silently holding signs, others kneeling directly on the rough pavement, all oblivious of their own discomfort, only thinking of the horror occurring inside.

In stark contrast to the beautiful witness of the pro-lifers were the pro-abortionists who also surrounded the clinic. They stood by the door and the corner, all wearing bright yellow t-shirts that read “Pro-Choice Escort.” Every time a woman (client) would start approaching the clinic, they would immediately surround her, linking hands to form a sort of barrier around her, and then walk her to the clinic apparently trying to “protect” her from seeing something that might be “harmful.” Something that might make her change her mind.



*Jessica Bence,
of Johnstown,
Cambria County,
is a Junior
who is Homeschooled*

When I saw this happening, again and again, it struck me how completely bizarre the whole situation was. Here we were, standing quietly and respectfully only hoping to show these women that we were there for them, if they would only accept our help. The “Escorts,” though, made it seem like we were the ones wanting to harm her, when in fact they were the ones helping her to a place that would ultimately harm her and kill her baby. It just didn’t make sense. Needless to say, I was completely blown away.

What I saw that grim, chilly day will stay with me forever. I wish there wasn’t a reason for me to have seen it, but I think there was. Watching those poor women, confused and misled, welcomed into that abortion clinic affected me more than I thought it would.

It, to say the least, “jolted my engine” and these days, I have been getting more and more involved in the pro-life movement. Visiting college campuses to spread the word and hand out literature, planning a pro-life teens group in my area, and organizing monthly protests at the local Planned Parenthood have been my most recent activities. Through it all I have discovered that this, working for the defense of human life, is my greatest passion.

I thank God for giving me the opportunities to be a witness and work for the sanctity of human life. I hope and pray that I will live to see the day when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned and human life is protected, especially in its most fragile state. ■

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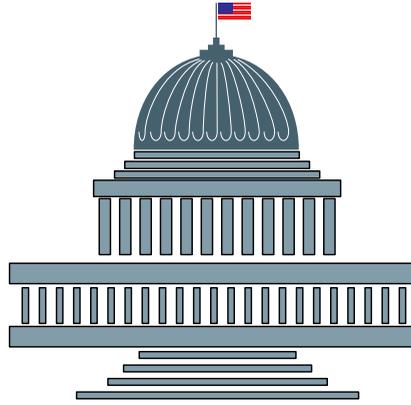
The Honorable Jerry Stern

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Democrats Oppose Bill De-funding Planned Parenthood

As the Senate works to pass a House-approved short-term bill funding the federal government and debate begins on a long-term measure, a group of Senate Democrats have promised to not support anything de-funding Planned Parenthood.

On March 15, the House approved the latest short-term continuing resolution on a 271-158 vote margin that does not de-fund Planned Parenthood. The Senate is expected to approve the bill and the battle over Planned Parenthood funding remains.

Some 54 Republicans voted against the measure because they wanted to see the Pence Amendment de-funding Planned Parenthood and the pro-life riders that stop abortion funding in various instances included in the measure. However, Senate Democrats have balked at those pro-life provisions and Republicans hoped to avoid being blamed for a government shutdown by insisting they be included in the short-term bill.

Going beyond voting against the first long-term bill House Republicans sent them with the Pence Amendment, 19 Senate Democrats sent a letter to Vice-President Joe Biden vowing to vote against any federal funding bill that contains the Pence Amendment.

"We wanted to offer our support in rejecting the ideological, divisive riders passed by the House of Representatives, which serve only a purely political agenda," according to a report in *The Hill*.

The stalwart pro-abortion Democrats say the Pence Amendment would "effectively shut down health centers that serve three million women each year and provide nearly one million lifesaving screenings for cervical cancer, more than 830,000 breast exams and nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV."

Senators signing the letter include Daniel Akaka (Hawaii), Max Baucus (Montana), Mark Begich (Alaska), Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut), Barbara Boxer (California), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Dianne Feinstein (California), Kirsten Gillibrand (New York), and Frank Lautenberg (New Jersey). Others signing the letter include Patrick Leahy (Vermont), Carl Levin (Michigan), Robert Menendez (New Jersey), Jeff Merkley (Oregon), Barbara Mikulski (Maryland), Bernie Sanders (Vermont), Charles Schumer (New York), Jeanne Shaheen (New Hampshire), Debbie Stabenow (Michigan) and Ron Wyden (Oregon).

However, the letter ignores the fact that a new report the Planned Parenthood national abortion business recently released shows the embattled agency did more abortions in 2009 than it has done in any prior year. The report also shows it providing fewer pregnant women with non-abortion services.

This document, dated February 2011, shows Planned Parenthood affiliates nationwide did 332,278 surgical abortions or abortions using the dangerous RU 486 abortion during in 2009. That's 2.5 percent more abortions than the September 2010 report the abortion business released covering 2008. With approximately 1.2 million abortions done annually in the United States via surgical abortions or the mifepristone abortion drug, Planned Parenthood has increased its share of the abortion industry to 27.6 percent of all abortions done annually.

The new document the abortion organization posted shows Planned Parenthood provided prenatal services to merely 7,021 women and referred only 977 women for adoption

services. These numbers were a 25 percent drop in prenatal care clients and a whopping 59 percent decline in adoption referrals from the 2,405 adoption referrals in 2008. The abortion business helped only 9,433 prenatal clients in 2008, down substantially from the 11,000 women it provided prenatal care to in 2007—showing health care given to pregnant woman has fallen substantially over the years.

As a result, 97.6 percent of pregnant women going to Planned Parenthood are sold abortions while less than 2.4 percent of pregnant women received non-abortion services including adoption and prenatal care. That's up from 96.5 percent of pregnant women going to Planned Parenthood getting abortions in 2008.

Planned Parenthood has been on the receiving end of significant negative publicity related to undercover videos showing its officials helping investigators posing as sex traffickers obtain abortions and STD testing for underage girls who are victims of the sex trade. The abortion business has defended itself in part by attempting to show that abortions constitute a small percentage of its overall services.

The long-term bill the House passed, HR 1, had also reinstated the Mexico City Policy, stops abortion funding in the District of Columbia and de-funds the pro-abortion UNFPA, which works hand-in-hand with Chinese population control officials who use forced abortions to enforce the one-child policy.

The latest short-term bill would fund the federal government mostly at current levels through April 8 and the idea is for House Republicans and Senate Democrats to

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S NUMBERS PROVE "CHOICE" KILLS.

(2009 STATS FROM THEIR OWN ANNUAL REPORTS)

332,278

babies killed by America's largest abortion chain, continuing its upward trend (305,310 in 2008).

7,021

pregnant women provided with prenatal care, continuing the downward trend (9,433 in 2008).

977

adoption referrals made; that's 340 abortions per ONE adoption referral.

363.2

million taxpayer dollars annually fund a billion dollar corporation that deliberately fails.

63.4

million dollars in profit made by this "nonprofit" taxpayer-funded organization.

50

states targeted by Planned Parenthood's millions of dollars in lobbying and litigation to prevent any parental notification or consent, fathers' rights, women's right-to-know, ultrasound, abortion clinic standards, waiting periods or common-sense protections of any kind.

49

percent of pregnancies are "unintended." Planned Parenthood hasn't affected this number since 1995.

0

potential parents trained or parenting classes listed in their Annual Reports revealing how important parenthood actually is to Planned Parenthood.

VISIT WWW.TOOMANYABORTED.COM/CHOICEKILLS



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come up with a long-term bill that both sides can agree to—or they may be forced to approve a third short-term continuing resolution to fund the government until they can reach an accord.

During the coming weeks, pro-life groups—some of whom opposed the short-term bill because of the lack of the pro-life provisions—will call on members of Congress to include them in a long-term bill.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said GOP leaders are focused on passing another long-term bill, that pro-life groups hope will have the same amendments attached.

—LifeNews.com, March 16, 2011

The Supreme Court's Back Alley Runs Through Philadelphia

How the abortion industry became the least regulated in America

By Clark Forsythe

We can thank, in large part, the Supreme Court, after 38 years of *Roe v. Wade*, for the lurid reports coming out of Philadelphia.

Since the fall of 2009, officials have investigated the conditions in an abortion clinic run by Dr. Kermit B. Gosnell.

The Philadelphia District Attorney has charged Gosnell with murder for killing an abortion patient and seven babies after they were born. The grand jury report found, among other things, that there had been reports of the exceedingly vile practices at the clinic for nearly 20 years without any action being taken. Philadelphia's clinic conditions and lackadaisical approach to regulating clinics are the direct result of the "fine print" in *Roe*.

Because the Justices who decided *Roe* foolishly believed that abortion had few risks and that doctors should have complete discretion to decide how to do abortions in the first trimester, they basically said that state and local officials can't regulate in the first trimester, when 90 percent of abortions are done, and that they can try in the second trimester—if they dare.

But the Justices then empowered the federal courts and attorneys for abortion providers to thwart every effort by public health officials to regulate.

Federal courts across the country spent the next decade implementing that edict, and by the end of the 1980s, the federal courts had struck down attempts by Chicago and many other cities to regulate clinics in the first trimester. As Edward F. King, the Deputy Director of the Chicago Medical Society told the *Chicago Sun Times* in 1978, "The courts very effectively knocked the Department of Health out of the picture.

We're not even entitled to cross the threshold of these clinics."

This is how the Justices have hobbled public health officials for the past 38 years in dealing with abortion clinic conditions, in Philadelphia and many other cities.

The Supreme Court compounded the problem in 1983 by extending its edict in *Roe* and invalidating regulations even in the early second trimester.

Roe also empowered any back-alley abortionist with an M.D. to go into court after January 22, 1973 to challenge clinic regulations as an "unconstitutional burden."

...the Justices who decided Roe foolishly believed that abortion had few risks and that doctors should have complete discretion to decide how to do abortions in the first trimester...that state and local officials can't regulate in the first trimester...and that they can try in the second trimester—if they dare.

In Chicago, for example, the federal appeals court struck down Chicago's clinic regulations, and three years later, in November 1978, the *Chicago Sun Times* published a 12-part series on terrible abortion clinic conditions, based on an undercover investigation with the Better Government Association.

When Illinois tried to enact new regulations to deal with the findings of the *Sun Times* and the BGA, an abortion provider again challenged those regulations and got the federal courts to strike them down in the 1980s.

The Justices also empowered abortionists to challenge clinic regulations in court and to speak for women about the care that women want and need, as though the interests of abortionists and those of women are identical.

Is that true for any other area of medicine?

On top of all that, a federal law (the Civil Rights Attorneys Fees Act of 1976) has been interpreted by federal courts to require that the attorneys for the abortionists get their attorneys' fees paid by state tax dollars when they get the clinic regulations struck down. That too inhibits public health

officials from doing anything unless the most extreme conditions in clinics are discovered.

Some states have some clinic regulations and there is, of course, some political and administrative discretion in enforcing some clinic regulations. The Philadelphia grand jury concluded that "...[t]he Pennsylvania Department of Health abruptly decided, for political reasons, to stop inspecting abortion clinics at all.... With the change of administration from Governor Casey to Governor Ridge, officials concluded that inspections would be 'putting a barrier up to women' seeking abortions."

But the Court ultimately holds all the cards and decides whether any laws on the books are actually enforceable. As Justice O'Connor pointed out in the Court's 1983 *Akron* decision: "As today's decision indicates, medical technology is changing, and this change will necessitate our continued functioning as the Nation's 'ex officio medical board with powers to approve or disapprove medical and operative practices and standards throughout the United States.'"

The problem is that the Court is a passive institution. It dictated this public health vacuum and now can't do anything about it. It can't regulate. It can't fill the vacuum it created. It can only wait on lengthy and expensive cases to get appealed to the Court, and it has imposed conditions that inhibit any case from getting to the Court.

If the history of the past 38 years is replayed in Philadelphia, as it has been in Chicago and other major cities, the current furor will die down, some legislative body might pass new regulations, the ACLU or the Center for Reproductive Rights will file suit, the federal courts will strike down the regulations, the state will use tax dollars to pay attorneys fees to the clinics, the papers will turn a blind eye, and the case will never get to the Justices.

—January 24, 2011

Clarke D. Forsythe is senior counsel of Americans United for Life.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

We held the annual pro-life oratory contest this past week. The student presentations were varied and good, but as I looked around the room, what really impressed and inspired me were the judges. Don Byrnes, Audrey Blodgett and Jim Roland (who judged the Varsity contest) and Sharon Frola, Pam Lucas and Marge Bradley (who judged the Junior Varsity competition) are six individuals who were willing to give of their valuable time at a moment's notice to judge the contest and give their insights to the students. Each has been involved in the pro-life movement for years—praying and demonstrating at abortion clinics, passing out pro-life literature, leading prayer and rosary services, wearing precious feet or roses for life, having vehicles with pro-life bumper stickers, writing letters to the editor about the life issues, participating in the March for Life, attending prayer breakfasts and other pro-life events while daily witnessing to their friends and families about the sanctity of life. May we all learn from their example and dedication.

—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President, Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Supreme Court Justice Scalia: Roe v. Wade Not in Constitution

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia frequently talks about his views on abortion and the high court case that allowed for unlimited abortions throughout pregnancy for any reason. As the nation marked the 38th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* this year and the 53 million abortions it has ushered in, Scalia said in a news interview that the case is an "absurdity." "You want a right to abortion? There's nothing in the Constitution about that. But that doesn't mean you cannot prohibit it," he said in an interview with *California Lawyer*. For those wanting to make abortion legal, "Persuade your fellow citizens it's a good idea and pass a law. That's what democracy is all about. It's not about nine superannuated judges who have been there too long, imposing these demands on society." Scalia reiterated his position that the Constitution's 14th Amendment doesn't guarantee equal protection for women in a way that could be construed as allowing abortion on demand.

—LifeNews.com, January 5, 2011

Baby Joseph gets tracheotomy, can go home

Joseph Maraachli, who had been set to have his ventilator removed against his parents' wishes at an Ontario hospital last month, received a tracheotomy and is doing well, says his family. His parents took Joseph to Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri after trying unsuccessfully to get him the simple procedure at his Ontario hospital, London Health Sciences Centre. The Maraachli's daughter Zina died from a similar neurological disorder eight years ago, and in that case the family took her home after doctors performed the simple procedure. They wanted the same for Joseph.

Cardinal Glennon hospital said that Joseph is currently in the pediatric intensive care unit, "where tracheotomy patients routinely spend 7 to 10 days following the procedure." "After he is discharged from SSM Cardinal Glennon, Joseph will travel to Ranken Jordan—A pediatric specialty hospital in St. Louis—before being transported to his family home in Windsor," said the hospital. Priests for Life covered Joseph's U.S. medical expenses and his family's accommodations.

The London hospital's decision to remove Joseph's ventilator against his parents' wishes was backed up in January by the Ontario Consent and Capacity Board, and again on February 17 by the Ontario Superior Court. After the Superior Court ruling, the hospital had appeared set to remove Joseph's ventilator on February 21. The move was delayed when the family hired an expert lawyer with the financial backing of Canada's Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

—Excerpts, LifeSiteNews.com, March 21, 2011

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Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.

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Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. Membership Form

- Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 10.00 _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601.** For more information, call **814-946-0681**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

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Pro-Life Student Oratory Contest Winners

Central PA Citizens Concerned for Human Life recently held its Regional Pro-Life Student Oratory Contest on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, or Embryonic Stem Cell Research. The contest was open to students in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.

In the **Varsity Division** (Grades 11-12), the first-place winner is **Thomas Sicree**, of Boalsburg, Centre County. Thomas is a junior who is homeschooled; his parents are Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Thomas was awarded a cash prize of \$200. The Second-place winner is **Brea Neri**, of Windber, Somerset County. Brea is a senior at Windber Area High School. Brea's parents are Anna and Daniel Neri. Brea was awarded a cash prize of \$125. The third-place winner is **Jessica Bence**, of Johnstown, Cambria County. Jessica is a junior who is homeschooled. Jessica's parents are John and Heidi Bence. Jessica was awarded a cash prize of \$100. The judges in the Varsity Oratory Contest were Audrey Blodgett, James Roland and Donald Byrnes.

In the **Junior Varsity Division** (Grades 9 and 10), the first-place winner is **Hannah Grimes**, of Bedford, a sophomore at Bedford High School. Hannah's parents are Mark and Tonya Grimes. Hannah received a \$150 cash prize. Second-place winner is **Teresa Sicree**, of Boalsburg, a freshman who is homeschooled. Teresa's parents are Andrew and Rebecca Sicree. Teresa received a \$100 cash prize. Third-place winner is **Erin Servey**, of State College, a sophomore, who attends State College Area High School; Erin's parents are Ken and Vivian Servey. Erin was awarded a \$50 cash prize. The judges in the Junior Varsity Oratory Contest were Sharon Frola, Pam Lucas and Marge Bradley. Congratulations, winners, and thank you, judges!

Varsity Winners



Thomas Sicree ♦ 1st Place



Brea Neri ♦ 2nd Place



Jessica Bence ♦ 3rd Place

Junior Varsity Winners



Hannah Grimes ♦ 1st Place



Teresa Sicree ♦ 2nd Place



Erin Servey ♦ 3rd Place