

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 12 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2020

MARCH FOR LIFE

January 24th 2020

**March With Us!
Washington, D. C.
Friday,
January 24**

The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life has arranged bus transportation from the Altoona area to the March for Life, departing from St. Therese Church parking lot (Altoona) at 7:00 a.m., stopping at St. Mary Church (Hollidaysburg) at 7:20 a.m. and lastly, Walmart (East Freedom) at 7:45 a.m.

Cost: Adults \$15; Students \$10
Bring a bag lunch
A dinner stop will be made
on the return trip

Reserve a seat!
Call Pat at 946-0681,
Roxanne at 695-8008
or Jesse at 660-1052




MARCH FOR LIFE
#WhyWeMarch | MarchForLife.org

Not Just Numbers – An Appalling Loss of Human Life Pennsylvania Abortion Statistics for 2017

(The most recent statistics available)

Pennsylvania has been monitoring and reporting on abortion data since 1975. In 2017, there were 30,011 abortions performed in Pennsylvania. Nearly half, (14,726) of all abortions performed in Pennsylvania were to white women, and 12,865 were to black or African-American women. Abortions to women of Hispanic origin accounted for 3,038, or 10.1 percent, of all abortions in 2017. More than 87 percent (26,310) of the abortions performed in Pennsylvania in 2017 were to unmarried women.

As in previous years, the largest age group having abortions was 20-24, accounting for 9,047 (30.1 percent) of all 2017 abortions. Patients under age 20 accounted for 8.8 percent, and patients under age 18 accounted for 2.7 percent. Comparatively, in 2016, females under age 20 accounted for 9.1 percent, and females under age 18 accounted for 2.9 percent.

Similar to 2016, 94.1 percent of the abortions performed in 2017 were on Pennsylvania residents. Residents of other states, territories and other countries accounted for just 1,777 abortions in 2017.

Of the abortions performed in 2017 in Pennsylvania, 83.6 percent were performed in five counties: Allegheny, Dauphin, Delaware, Northampton and Philadelphia.

More than 39 percent of Pennsylvania residents receiving abortions were residents of Philadelphia County. Other counties with a large number of resident abortions included: Allegheny (3,120), Delaware (1,865), Montgomery (1,565), and Bucks (950). Of all 67 counties, 32 (47.8 percent) showed a decrease in the number of resident abortions performed in 2017 compared to 2016.

In 2017, there were 143 reports of complications from abortions that were submitted by physicians, representing 7.7 percent less than the 155 reported in 2016. More than 71 percent of the complications were related to retained products of conception, 15 percent to bleeding and 7 percent to infection.

Induced Abortions Performed in Pennsylvania by Residence and Age of Woman January - December 2017 (Central PA Region)

Residence	All Ages	Age of Woman (in Years)								Unknown
		Under 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40+	
Bedford	20	0	1	1	7	4	7	0	0	0
Blair	105	0	2	10	29	25	30	9	0	0
Cambria	134	0	5	16	47	33	15	10	8	0
Centre	149	0	1	9	73	29	24	10	3	0
Clearfield	54	1	3	2	13	14	13	6	2	0
Fulton	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Huntingdon	21	0	0	4	5	7	2	1	2	0
Juniata	15	0	0	1	6	4	3	1	0	0
Mifflin	24	0	0	1	8	10	2	1	2	0
Somerset	54	0	1	4	9	20	14	5	1	0

Notes: The source for the number of abortions reported in Pennsylvania in 2017 is the "Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy," which is an individual report filed for each procedure. The source for the complications data is "Abortions: Report of Complications," a separate reporting form completed by physicians who have provided medical care to a woman because of a complication resulting from an abortion or attempted abortion. Unknowns are excluded from all calculations.

—Pennsylvania Department of Health

For full details on these statistics, go to: https://www.health.pa.gov/Pennsylvania_Annual_Abortion_Report_2017

Regional Chapters Citizens Concerned for Human Life

The Bedford County Chapter is sponsoring a bus to the **March for Life**, on Friday, January 24. Meet the bus at 9:00 a.m. in the Walmart parking lot on US Route 30. Dress warmly and bring a bag lunch. A stop for dinner will be made in Hagerstown, MD, on the return trip. Call **Pam Lucas, 652-6755**, for reservations and additional information. Cost is \$20 for adults; \$10 for students. **Bedford CCHL's Annual Dinner** will be April 24, at Clear Ridge Independent Fellowship Church, on PA Route 26, south of Everett. More information will be forthcoming.

The Centre County Chapter of CCHL is hosting its **38th Annual Pro-Life Auction** on February 1st. See page 10 for full details!



Want Email?
Would you like to be put on our email list to receive up-to-date news on pro-life issues? Please email us at: blair@centralpaprolife.org with your email address. That's all there is to it!



2020 STUDENT ORATORY CONTESTS

REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: February 28, 2020
Regional Competition: March 8, 2020

The Citizens Concerned for Human Life Regional Oratory Contest is open to all 9th-12th grade students in **Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.**

Students must prepare a five to seven minute pro-life talk on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research. Speeches must be from a pro-life perspective and delivered as written, but need not be memorized. The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures but may not use props. A written copy of the speech must be emailed by **February 28, 2020** to: **Janet Creighton, contact@webparish.com.** In the email, send the following: name, address, city, county, phone, email address, school, name of parent(s)/guardian. Then call Jan, 814-623-1314, to let her know that you emailed your entry.

Awards

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12) - 1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75
Novice (Grades 9 & 10) - 1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

All regional contestants may also be a contestant for the state competition. Being a contestant for the regional competition does not automatically enroll you in the state competition.

Pro-Life Dinner Invite—All regional contestants will be invited as our guests to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner. The top two Varsity contestants will be invited to speak at the dinner.

PA STATE VIDEO/ORATORY CONTEST

PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION

Submit video/written entry by April 10, 2020

Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. A Novice Contest will be held for high school freshmen and sophomores. Students must write and give an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. Students must video record the speech and submit the video and written speech to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by **April 10, 2020.** Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, **the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest will receive an expense-paid trip for the winner and a chaperone to attend the National Oratory Contest at the National Right to Life / Teens for Life Convention, June 26-27, 2020, in Washington, D.C.** For complete contest rules: www.paprolife.org or call 717-541-0034.

2020 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: March 2, 2020

The **2020 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation "Be a Voice for the Voiceless" Essay Contest** is open to PA students in grades 7-12. Students must write a pro-life essay about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. There is a 500-word limit for essays submitted by students in grades 7-9 and a 750-word limit for students in grades 10-12. Each essay must include a cover page downloaded from the Federation website: www.paprolife.org/for-students. Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is **March 2, 2020.** Essays can be e-mailed to lifelines@paprolife.org or mailed to the **Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109.**



NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

The National RTL Essay Contest is open to students in grades 10-12 (Senior Essay) and grades 7-9 (Junior Essay). Prizes awarded will be: 1st Place-\$200; 2nd-\$150; 3rd-\$100 and will be awarded in each level. Essays shall be 300-500 words in length and answer the question: **"Why are you pro-life?"** Essays should be submitted by **January 21, 2020.** For more information on the complete rules of entering this contest, please visit the NRLC website: www.nrlc.org.

Meet Five People Who Survived Abortion and Lived to Tell Their Stories

By John Stonestreet

A chilling quote is often attributed to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin: “One death is a tragedy. One million deaths are a statistic.” Stalin is alleged to have said this in the days leading up to one of the largest man-made disasters and mass-murders in history: the 1932 Ukrainian famine.

It may be that the quote actually dates back even earlier, to a 1916 anarchist periodical. Either way, the line captures the awful reason that mass-murders like Stalin’s are so often overlooked or ignored while they’re happening. As the anarchist periodical explained, we tend to find the starvation of one child more shocking than the starvation of a million children because our minds are simply “unable to grasp” death on such a scale. “Suffering,” said the publication, “is so intimately personal a thing that it must be explained through the personal equation, if at all.”

Anyone who wants to truly communicate the horror of killing needs to do more than cite statistics. They have to tell stories. This holds true for any atrocity, including one that has claimed more lives than even the highest estimates of Stalin’s regime.

Princeton professor Robert George recently shared a collection of five abortion survivors’ stories on Facebook. The stories were compiled by the pro-life website Human Defense and include detailed videos of each man or woman giving their gut-wrenching, first-hand testimonies of an ongoing, legal mass-killing—and how they escaped it.

Some of these are names you may have heard before, like Gianna Jessen who survived a saline abortion at seven months gestation. As a result, she was born with cerebral palsy. Gianna has overcome her disability to become a powerful speaker, a household pro-life name, and one of the world’s most effective advocates for the unborn.



Other survivors on the list you may not have heard of. Melissa Ohden survived a second-trimester abortion attempt because she was actually older than doctors thought. Ohden was subsequently adopted and only found out about the abortion as a teenager. She responded by tracking down her birth parents and forgiving them. Since then, she's linked up with over 200 others with similar stories through her organization, Abortion Survivors Network. [Read Ohden's testimony printed below.]

Then there's Nik Hoot. A botched abortion that destroyed parts of both of his legs and several fingers. Nik was adopted by an Indiana family and soon learned, faster than anyone expected, how to get around on prosthetic legs. In 2013, he made it to his state high school wrestling championship and finished the season with 24 wins. He's also played baseball, basketball, and football, and says he considers his life a miracle.

But it's more than a miracle. His life, and the life of every abortion survivor is a profoundly powerful testimony to the humanity of the millions whose lives end when abortion succeeds. The scars and disabilities many survivors bear are a silent witness to the grisly reality of what our society calls "choice."

Among the miracles of these stories are how many abortion survivors make a very different choice. In story after story, the children of abortion say they've forgiven their birth parents—often even in person. Can you even imagine that? Well, with God, even this is possible. Many survivors of abortion are outspoken about their Christian faith and they'll share it with anyone who will listen.

Come to BreakPoint.org, and I will link you to these stories of survival. I hope you'll read all of them and watch their videos. These incredible men and women have a razor-sharp moral clarity about abortion. After all, for them abortion is not an issue. It can't be understood merely by the scale of the numbers. Abortion is part of their biography.

I'm convinced that if we are to see this legal atrocity end in our lifetimes, it will largely be because enough people come face-to-face with the real victims who find themselves on the other end of the so-called right to choose.

John Stonestreet writes for BreakPoint.org.

—LifeNews.com, March 13, 2019

Timely medical care is of the utmost importance for a child who survives an abortion— *It should not depend on which doctor is on call*

The following testimony was submitted by Melissa Ohden to a special House Committee that conducted a hearing September 10, 2019, on "End Infanticide: Examining the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act." Mrs. Ohden is herself an abortion survivor.

Thank you so much for your continued commitment to the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. I wish that I could be there in person today to thank each of you personally for fighting for survivors like me and for all children who will continue to survive abortions in our country, but I had prior engagements. Please know that I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.

This bill is vitally important because not only are we learning more and more about the incidence of this happening, as more states begin to collect data on children surviving, but also because the more late-term abortion is aggressively expanded throughout our nation through all nine months of pregnancy, the greater the likelihood will be that a child survives.

As if the number of children surviving abortions wasn't enough, as if the reality of the lack of consequence for failing to provide timely medical care to survivors or even killing them post-birth wasn't enough to convince me of the importance of this bill, my own life story most certainly does.

I'm an abortion survivor, myself. In August of 1977, my birthmother, as a 19-year-old college student, had a saline infusion abortion forced upon her against her will by her mother, my maternal grandmother.

The saline infusion abortion was the most common abortion procedure performed at the time, which involved injecting a toxic salt solution into the amniotic fluid surrounding me in the womb. The intent of that toxic salt solution was to poison and scald me to death. Typically, that procedure lasted about 72 hours—the child soaked in that toxic solution until their life was effectively ended by it, and then premature labor was induced, expelling the deceased child from the womb. My medical records indicate that I didn't soak in that saline solution for

just three days, but actually five, while they tried numerous times to induce my birthmother's labor.

No matter what people believe about abortion in our society, most people agree that what happened to me was horrific. But I also hope that people recognize that what happened to my birth mother during those five days was also horrific. Abortion ends the life of its primary victim—most of the time, and dramatically impacts the life of the secondary victim—the woman.

Her labor was finally successfully induced on the fifth day, and I was delivered in the final step of that abortion procedure at St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. However, instead of being delivered as a "successful" abortion—a deceased child, I was miraculously born alive.

My medical records actually state "a saline infusion for an abortion was done but was unsuccessful." They also list out a complication of pregnancy as a "saline infusion."

continued on page 7

Be Informed! Read!

20 Answers: End of Life Issues, by Jason Negri

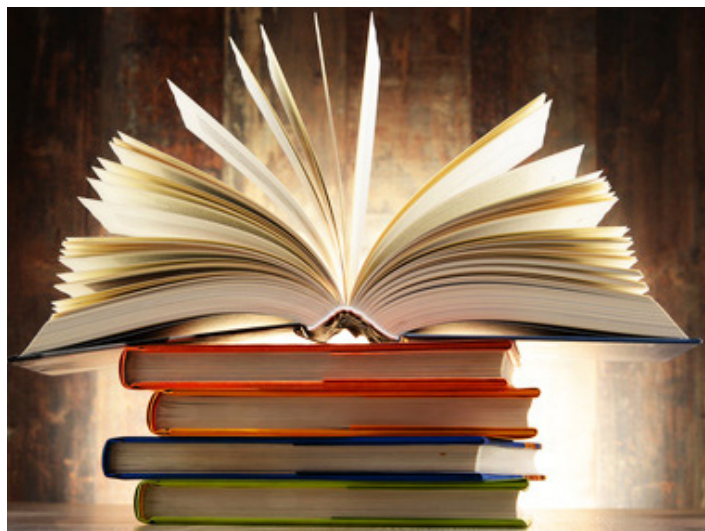
This booklet unravels the controversies and confusion surrounding euthanasia, assisted suicide and the rights of patients in our uncertain health care future.

Abortion Questions and Answers, by Dr. and Mrs. John C. Willke

The basic pro-life primer. A necessity for all those new to the pro-life movement and a refresher for those who have been seeking protection for all human life for years.

Choice, by Martina Marie Parisi

A full color, fully researched book designed by the author to educate people. She spent countless hours collecting reliable information from court documents, doctors, medical reports and diagrams, published reports from scientific studies and other primary sources.



Culture of Death: The Age of “Do Harm: Medicine,” by Wesley J. Smith

Included in this new edition of *Culture of Death* is an update on assisted suicide and euthanasia, futile care theory and health care rationing. New discussion is included on medical conscience protections and the threat to health care professionals. The future of western medicine and the continuing morality of our society are at risk.

Defenders of the Unborn, by Daniel K. Williams

The pro-life movement before *Roe v. Wade*.

The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, by Neil Gorsuch

A scholarly work written by Supreme Court Justice Gorsuch that provides a thorough overview of the ethical and legal issues raised by assisted suicide and euthanasia, as well as the most comprehensive argument against their legalization.

Gosnell: The Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer, by McElhinney and McAleer

The story of the abortion doctor who was a pillar of his community, an advocate for women’s “reproductive health,” and a respected member of Philadelphia’s professional elite. His Women’s Medical Society Clinic looked like admirable community outreach by a brave doctor committed to upholding women’s rights. Meanwhile, inside the filthy building, Gosnell was casually murdering born-alive infants, butchering women, and making a macabre collection of severed babies’ feet. His accomplices in crime were a staff of dropouts, drug addicts, and unlicensed medical professionals posing as doctors. Gosnell was sentenced to life in prison for causing deaths of women and unborn children and an additional 30 years for running a pill mill out of the clinic.

Prescription Medicide, by Jack Kevorkian

For many years Dr. Kevorkian was at the center of the red-hot debate over physician-assisted suicide. His much-publicized campaign to assist the terminally ill to commit suicide eventually led to his prosecution and imprisonment. *Certainly not a pro-life book, but clearly shows how the ground work was laid for today’s push for physician assisted suicide and euthanasia.*

The Shape of the Eye, by George Estreich

The Shape of the Eye is a memoir of a father’s love for his daughter, his struggle to understand her disability, and his journey toward embracing her power and depth. “This book is beautifully written, poetically insightful, and personally transformative. To read it is to rethink everything and to be happy because of the journey.” — *Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D., Chairman, CEO, Special Olympics*

Students for Life, by Ensor and Klusendorf

A guide for students at the high school and college level on how to establish a Respect Life group on their campuses and bring the pro-life message to the students.

The Walls are Talking—Former Abortion Clinic Workers Tell Their Stories by Abby Johnson with Kristin Detrow

This book narrates the harrowing and life-changing experiences of former abortion clinic workers, including those of the author, who once directed abortion services at a large Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas.

Literature for Life Book Club



Literature for Life, a pro-life book club was initiated recently, by Bonnie Finnerty, Education Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, with the idea of enjoining pro-lifers in a common conversation by reading the same pro-life book, discussing it with friends, church ministries or a pro-life group.

Not only will we readers expand our knowledge and strengthen our resolve, we will be better equipped in the battle to build a pro-life culture. We will be more informed, more articulate, and more committed, becoming agents of change in a world that so needs our voices and activism.

The Winter recommendation is *Won by Love: Norma McCorvey, Jane Roe of Roe V. Wade, Speaks Out for the Unborn As She Shares Her New Conviction for Life*, by Norma McCorvey.

This is her story of being used by the abortion lobby to legalize abortion and then years later becoming pro-life and Christian. The book is available at Amazon: www.amazon.com/Won-Love-McCorvey-Speaks-Conviction/dp/0785272372.

A two-minute Lit for Life video book review for each book will be posted on social media—Twitter and Facebook and also in Online News, sent to those on the PA Pro-Life Federation email list.

Email Bonnie Finnerty for more information: lifelines@paprolife.org.

Abortion Survivors

continued from page 5

I weighed a little less than three pounds, which indicated to the medical professionals that my birth mother was much further along in her pregnancy than the 18-20 weeks pregnant that was estimated in medical records. In fact, a neonatologist remarked that he estimated me to be about 31 weeks' gestational age.

Whether the abortionist simply estimated the gestation wrong based on my birthmother's self-reporting, or he was lying in order to proceed with the abortion, we'll probably never know. What we do know is that when I was delivered alive that day, there was argument about whether I would be provided medical care. My adoptive parents were told that I was "laid aside," and that a nurse intervened to save my life.

I am one of the lucky ones—to not only survive an abortion, but to have someone fight to save me. But no one should have had to fight for me. They should have been expected and mandated to do so.

Despite the miracle of my survival, my prognosis was initially very guarded. I suffered from severe respiratory and liver problems, seizures...the doctors actually thought I had a fatal heart defect initially because of the amount of distress that my body was under. They indicated they didn't know how long I might live, and if I continued to live, that I would suffer from multiple disabilities.

Yet here I am today, overall healthy.

Timely medical care is of the utmost importance for a child like me who survives an abortion. I truly believe I'm alive today not only because I was miraculously saved from death in the abortion, but also because life-saving medical care was right down the hallway for me, once someone decided they couldn't leave me to die.

I'm blessed to be alive, and I've been united with my biological mother and many members of both her family and members of my biological father's family. I can say on behalf of my birth family, my adoptive family, my husband, Ryan, and daughters, Olivia and Ava, we are thankful for your support of this bill.

Passage of The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act will ensure that the fate of survivors like me, or the nearly 300 survivors that I've connected with through The Abortion Survivors Network, aren't left in the hands of their abortionist or the "luck of the draw" in what medical professional is working that day.

Thank you for supporting the bill and for all that you do for lives like mine through your legislative work. Abortion survivors fight for our lives in the womb. We shouldn't have to fight for them again when we're born alive. —*National Right to Life News Today*

September 12, 2019

Connor Semelsberger, Legislative Assistant for Pro-life Issues at Family Research Council, remarked: "The patchwork of state laws protecting abortion survivors will not suffice. That is why it is necessary for the U.S. Congress to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Republicans in both chambers have taken the lead in pushing this bill through Congress, but due to Democrat obstruction this bill can't even get a hearing, let alone a vote, in the House of Representatives."

—LifeNews.com, October 7, 2019

Crisis Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available; contact:

Precious Life, Inc.

1716 12th Ave., Altoona

814-944-2669

Every Life Matters (ELM)

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone

814-650-7899

The.ELM.PSS@gmail.com

Real Alternatives, Inc.

1-888-LIFE-AID

www.realalternatives.org

For post-abortion counseling:

Project Rachel

814-884-8000

ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org

Rachel's Vineyard

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)

www.rachelsvineyard.org/

Family Life

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown

Offers pastoral guidance:

814-886-5551

familylife@dioceseaj.org

State of the States

Americans United for Life is proud to present its 2019 Life List. The Life List is AUL's annual state ranking based on its comprehensive legal analysis of each state's legal protections for human life from conception to natural death.

Americans United for Life is excited to announce that Arizona has gained its highly coveted #1 ranking, closely followed by Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Sadly, for the tenth year in a row, Washington remained the state where women and their children, and vulnerable persons across the spectrum of life issues, have the fewest legal protections, followed by California, Vermont, New Jersey, and Hawaii.

Nebraska, Alabama, and Virginia made notable gains as well, each moving up in the rankings by three places after fighting hard to pass significant protections during the 2018 legislative sessions.

Steve Aden, AUL's Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, said that legislators across the country are continuing to fight back against an "increasingly corporate abortion industry, that is determined to put their profit margins before the health and safety of women and children."

Americans United for Life is proud to have worked with lawmakers and policy leaders across the country to help pass these important, life-affirming measures and, with your support, will continue to accumulate victories, build momentum, and advance a culture of life in America in 2020.

MOST PROTECTIVE STATES

1. Arizona
2. Arkansas
3. Louisiana
4. Oklahoma
5. Kansas
6. South Dakota
7. Mississippi
8. Georgia
9. Michigan
10. Nebraska

LEAST PROTECTIVE STATES

1. Washington
2. California
3. Vermont
4. New Jersey
5. Hawaii
6. Oregon
7. Nevada
8. New York
9. Connecticut
10. Massachusetts

PENNSYLVANIA RANKING: 12

Pennsylvania's efforts to protect women and unborn children from the negative consequences of abortion have been ground-breaking, as memorialized in the landmark case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Pennsylvania has led the way for other states by enacting such measures as informed consent, parental consent, and state funding of abortion alternatives. Moreover, Pennsylvania is also one of a small number of states that prohibits destructive embryo research.

ABORTION

◆ In the landmark case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Pennsylvania's informed consent requirements, mandated 24-hour reflection period prior to an abortion, and parental consent requirement for a minor seeking an abortion were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

◆ Pennsylvania requires abortion providers to state in their printed materials that it is illegal for anyone to coerce a woman into having an abortion.

◆ The state's parental consent law requires one-parent consent unless there is a medical emergency or a minor obtains a court order. The law permits substitute consent by any adult standing in loco parentis if neither parent is available.

◆ Pennsylvania requires that abortion facilities meet the same patient care standards as facilities performing other outpatient surgeries. Despite the not-forgotten Kermit Gosnell scandal and following the Supreme Court's decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, Planned Parenthood challenged Pennsylvania's health and safety requirements for abortion facilities.

◆ Only physicians or doctors of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in Pennsylvania may perform abortions. Abortion providers must also maintain transfer agreements with local hospitals to facilitate the treatment of abortion-related complications.

◆ Pennsylvania has an enforceable abortion reporting law but does not require the reporting of information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The measure applies to both surgical and nonsurgical abortions and requires abortion providers to report short-term complications.

◆ Pennsylvania follows the federal standard for Medicaid funding for abortions, permitting the use of federal or state matching Medicaid funds for abortions necessary to preserve the life of the woman or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

◆ Pennsylvania does not provide public funding or public facilities for an abortion unless the abortion is necessary to preserve the woman's life or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

◆ No public funds for legal services or IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Account) funds may be used to advocate for or oppose abortion.

◆ Programs receiving funds through the state Department of Public Welfare Women's Services programs may not be used to promote, refer for, or perform abortions, or engage in any counseling to encourage abortion. Physical and financial separation of recipients of these funding programs from entities providing abortion services is required.

◆ Pennsylvania prohibits the use of family planning funds for abortion-related activities and requires family planning services providers and subcontractors to keep a state-funded family planning project physically and financially separate from abortion-related activities, with exceptions for abortions in cases of life endangerment, rape, or incest.

◆ Pennsylvania prohibits abortion coverage in its state health insurance Exchanges required under the federal healthcare law.

◆ Health plans funded by the state may not include coverage for abortion unless the abortion is necessary to preserve a woman's life or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

◆ Pennsylvania also requires any insurance providers offering healthcare or disability insurance within the state to offer policies that do not cover abortion except when necessary to preserve a woman's life or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

◆ Pennsylvania has allocated millions of dollars to pregnancy resource centers and other abortion alternative programs. Entities receiving the funds cannot perform abortions or provide abortion counseling.

◆ Pennsylvania offers "Choose Life" license plates, the proceeds of which are used to fund adoption and abortion alternatives services.

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN AND NEWLY BORN

◆ Under Pennsylvania law, the killing of an unborn child at any stage of gestation is defined as homicide.

◆ Pennsylvania defines a nonfatal assault on an unborn child as a criminal offense.

◆ It allows a wrongful death (civil) action when a viable unborn child is killed through a negligent or criminal act.

◆ Pennsylvania has created a specific affirmative duty for physicians to provide medical care and treatment to infants born alive at any stage of development.

◆ Pennsylvania funds drug treatment programs for pregnant women and newborns. It also ensures adequate care for babies determined to have been prenatally exposed to alcohol or illegal substances.

◆ Pennsylvania law provides for "fetal death registrations."

BIOETHICS LAWS

◆ Pennsylvania does not prohibit human cloning, but it does prohibit destructive embryo research.

◆ Pennsylvania prohibits experimentation on a live human fetus, but allows experimentation on a dead fetus with the consent of the mother.

◆ A healthcare professional providing services to a pregnant woman must advise her of the option to donate umbilical cord blood following delivery, and all healthcare facilities and providers must permit the woman to arrange for an umbilical cord donation.

◆ Pennsylvania requires quarterly reports of assisted reproductive technologies data, including the number of women implanted and the number of eggs fertilized, destroyed, or discarded.

PATIENT PROTECTION LAWS

◆ In Pennsylvania, assisting a suicide is a felony.

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE PARTICIPATION IN ABORTION

◆ If an objection is made in writing and is based on religious, moral, or professional grounds, a physician, nurse, staff member, or other employee of a hospital or healthcare facility is not required to participate in abortions and cannot be held liable for refusing to participate. Medical and nursing students are also protected.

◆ Except for facilities that perform abortions exclusively, each facility that performs abortions must prominently post a notice of the right not to participate in abortions.

◆ A private hospital or other healthcare facility is not required to perform abortions and may not be held liable for this refusal.

◆ Pennsylvania also specifically protects healthcare providers who object to providing drug-induced abortion.

continued on page 10

State of the States—Pennsylvania

continued from page 9

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH HARMFUL TO HUMAN LIFE

◆ Pennsylvania currently provides no protection for the rights of healthcare providers who conscientiously object to participation in human cloning, destructive embryo research, or other forms of medical research that violate a provider's moral or religious beliefs.

DID YOU KNOW?

◆ In 2017, Pennsylvania passed legislation that included a prohibition on abortions after five months and the dismemberment abortion procedure. It was vetoed by Governor Tom Wolf.

◆ In 2019, Pennsylvania passed legislation that would prohibit abortions based on the unborn child's diagnosis of Down syndrome. It was vetoed by Governor Tom Wolf.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER *ROE* IS OVERTURNED?

◆ Abortion will be legal up to at least 24 weeks of pregnancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS for Pennsylvania WOMEN'S PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITIES

- ◆ Enhanced penalties and enforcement mechanisms for the state's abortion-related laws
- ◆ Drug-Induced Abortion Information and Reporting Act
- ◆ Parental Involvement Enhancement Act
- ◆ Child Protection Act

INFANTS' PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITIES

- ◆ Unborn Infants Dignity Act
- ◆ Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act
- ◆ Perinatal Hospice Information Act

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT PRIORITIES

- ◆ Joint Resolution Opposing Suicide by Physician
- ◆ Charlie Gard Act (formerly the Life Sustaining Care Act)
- ◆ Pain Medicine Education Act

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ABORTION

- ◆ Defunding the Abortion Industry and Advancing Women's Health Act

BIOETHICS

- ◆ Human Cloning Prohibition Act
- ◆ Prohibition on Public Funding of Human Cloning
- ◆ Destructive Embryo Research Act

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

- ◆ Healthcare Freedom of Conscience Act
— *Americans United for Life, Defending Life 2019*
Reprinted with permission

Copyright © 2019 by Americans United for Life
To read AUL's entire report, go to: aui.org; see *Defending Life: America's 'Pro-Life Playbook' for State Law.*



38th Annual Pro-Life Auction! February 1st

State College
Knights of Columbus Hall
850 Stratford Dr.

Come Early to Eat & Check Out Our Items!
Doors Open at 9 a.m.

Gift Baskets Galore!
Antiques, Collectibles
Original Art, PSU Football Game Tickets
PSU Celebrity Autographed Footballs...

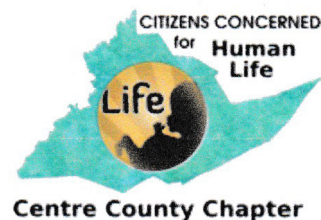
Other items
too numerous to mention!



Indoor Garage Sale
Silent Auction
50/50 Drawing

There is **SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!**

Lots & Lots of Food!
Enjoy our Hot Dogs,
Pulled-Pork Sandwiches,
& Homemade Desserts!



Centre County Chapter

Email: cchlcentrecoc@comcast.net
Phone: 814-237-3213

From the President's Desk

ACLU and Ethics

Last Tuesday, at a rest stop on Route 80, I saw a byline that startled me. The *USA Today* front page article concerned the Supreme Court's refusal to accept a challenge to the Kentucky law that required doctors to display and describe ultrasound images to women seeking abortions.

The law was upheld by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on the grounds that women are entitled to informed consent.

The ACLU cried foul and said that the law was unethical.

I started to think about ethics and how I became active in the Pro-Life movement. I remembered a photo that I saw years ago about a morning's work in a Canadian teaching hospital. Before my eyes was a garbage can filled with what appeared to be full-term babies. How can this be, I thought. What about the doctors or medical students who were performing abortions? Was there an ethical dilemma for any of them?

I wanted to show you what I saw. I googled "Aborted babies in a Canadian teaching hospital." The site I was directed to was "Lifezone," but the censors wouldn't allow the photo to be shown—too politically incorrect.

Thinking about the ACLU, abortion and ethics—I can't remember an abortion that the ACLU thought was unethical.

Why would the ACLU be so opposed to a law that offers true informed consent? Why would Google not allow me to see what I saw almost 40 years ago?

Is the political climate getting a little too hot for their liking? Let's pray that it is.

Sincerely,

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

A donation has been made—

In Honor of:

Sylvia Leslie Hatch and her family

Requested by: Pat Hatch

In Memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Boslet

Requested by: Richard and Cheryl Williams

Deceased Family and Friends—

McNelis All Stars

Requested by: Christopher McNelis

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601**. Thank you. God bless you!



Thank you!

To everyone who supported our pro-life Christmas Card fundraiser by purchasing cards and/or helping to sell them!
You are a shining star!



Blair County Life News

Blair County Chapter

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Winter 2020; Vol. 12, No. 1

President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.

Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley

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.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681

email: blair@centralpaprolife.org

website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

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

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 our quarterly newsletter.

_____ Annual Membership \$10.00

_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00

_____ In Memory of: _____

_____ In Honor of: _____

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.



BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.
2715 Third St.
Altoona, PA 16601

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Altoona, PA
Permit No. 150

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mothers

*Worthy of all respect and admiration,
Of whatever age, race, creed or nation;
Precious, first of all, for what they are
And above all, for what they bear...
For days, weeks, months, carrying
A treasure, a soul, growing within
Body, blood, heart and brain
Bond so intimate, not without pain.
Theirs, the joy of total giving
Selfless love, always forgiving;
Dreams beyond understanding
Shadows of divine planning.*

*O, the mystery of motherhood!
Ever sacred, never fully understood,
Women in their unique creative role
Within the mosaic of the Creator's goal.
If only we knew the sufferings endured,
Many sacrifices lovingly offered!
Being faithful, with tender care
For husbands' and childrens' welfare.*

*They do deserve worldwide praise
For facing life with courage and grace;
In poverty or wealth, ready to share,
Sickness or health, victory in prayer.
Indeed, their cries do reach the sky
Willingly heard by the Most High;
The prayers of our Heavenly Mother
Interceding for them, now and forever,
Invoking blessings on all mothers
Who live and die for others.
—Fr. Louis-Marie Navaratne, O.S.B.*

