

CITIZENS
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BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

Oratory Contest Winners, p. 8-11
Celebrate Life Banquet, p. 13

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

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Summer 2021

Did You Know?

Your Grandma Had a Mind-Blowing Role In Your Creation

Turns out, you began as a tiny egg in your mother's womb while she was growing inside your grandmother's womb. Here, a fertility expert breaks down what's exactly happening.

By Megan Falk

No two familial relationships are exactly the same, and this especially goes for grandmothers and their grandchildren. Some people catch up with their grannies at Thanksgiving and Christmas, then avoid speaking to them until the next holiday season rolls around. Others call them once a week and chat about their latest relationship woes and Netflix binges.

No matter which type of relationship you have, though, a new viral TikTok is showing that you may be closer to your grandma than you ever realized.

TikTok user @debodali posted a video with what she calls “earth-shattering information” about the female reproductive system. “As women, we’re born with all of our eggs,” she explains. “So your mom didn’t make your eggs, your grandmother did, because your mom was born with her eggs. The egg that made you was created by your grandmother.”

Confused? Let’s break it down, starting with some health class basics. In females, the ovaries (the small, oval-shaped glands located on the sides of the uterus) are responsible for producing eggs (aka the ova or oocytes), which develop into a fetus when fertilized with sperm, according to the Cleveland Clinic. These eggs are produced only in the womb, and the number of eggs tops off at roughly six million to seven million eggs 20 weeks into gestation, according to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG). At that point, the number of eggs begins to drop, and by the time a female baby is born, they’re left with just one to two million eggs, according to ACOG.

While it’s true that females are born with all their eggs, the rest of @debodali’s points weren’t entirely on the money, says Jenna McCarthy, M.D., a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist and the medical director of WIN-Fertility. “A more accurate description is that your mother created her eggs while she was still growing inside your grandmother,” Dr. McCarthy explains.

Think of it as a Russian nesting doll. In this instance, your grandmother is bearing your mother inside her womb. At the same time, your mother is producing eggs inside her ovaries, and one of those eggs is eventually fertilized to become you. Even though your mother and the egg that made you were technically in the same body (your grandmother’s) at the same time, you’re both made from a different blend of DNA, says Dr. McCarthy.

“Your mother’s eggs are created from her [own] genetic material, which is a combination of her mother and father’s DNA,” explains Dr. McCarthy. “If the egg you grew from was actually created by your grandmother, the DNA inside it would not include the DNA from your grandfather.”

Translation: It’s not true to say that “the egg that made you was created by your grandmother,” as @debodali suggests in her TikTok. Your own mother made her eggs all by herself—it just happened to take place while she was in your grandma’s uterus.

Still, this idea of womb-ception is seriously mind-blowing. “It is pretty cool to think about the fact that the egg that became you grew inside your mother while she was still growing inside your grandmother,” says Dr. McCarthy. “So, it is true to say that a part of you (the part from your mother) grew inside your grandmother’s womb.”

—Shape.com, February 23, 2021



Joe Biden's Trifecta of Medical Horrors

By Bradley Mattes, President, Life Issues Institute

As president, Joe Biden is eagerly doing the bidding of the abortion industry and funding unscrupulous research reminiscent of one of the darkest chapters in world history.

His administration wasted no time using your tax dollars to fund so-called medicine that is sinister, unethical, and deadly. Here are three particularly disturbing actions.

- **Ushering in the era of "baby in a bottle" research**, and we're not referring to the mythological genie in the bottle.
- **Abandoning vulnerable women** to a money-motivated abortion industry.
- **Dealing in body parts of aborted babies** harvested from the likes of Planned Parenthood.

First, with the encouragement of the Biden administration, the International Society for Stem Cell Research has announced a new protocol that impacts the way they experiment on human embryos.

Previously they operated under a "14-day rule" which stipulated that they could conduct unethical experiments on human embryos, just as long as they killed them once he or she turned 14 days old.

As if this protocol wasn't horrendous enough, they decided to jettison the two-week policy and replace it with no limit. The result is horrific "baby in a bottle" experiments on tiny babies with fully functioning hearts, developing brains, eyes, and ears.

As if to calm the troubled heart of research participants, these tiny human beings have been downgraded semantically to "ethically sensitive research material" in an effort to dehumanize their victims.

Second, the FDA, under the direction of the Biden Administration, is poised to abandon critically important protections for women who take the chemical abortion pill. This death drug is four-times more likely to require emergency intervention than surgical abortion. These protective measures were established to safeguard women from the profit-driven abortion industry.

Third, Joe Biden's reversal of a Trump policy unleashed your tax dollars to empower the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund experimentation using the body parts of aborted babies purchased from the abortion industry.

Reports of the Nazis making lampshades from the skin of their Jewish captives rightfully alarmed and repulsed people around the world. Recently, it was revealed that scientists from the University of Pittsburgh grafted the scalps of five-month-old unborn babies onto the backs of mice. This ghoulish experiment was funded by the NIH. (See article below.) How can the outrage of selling the scalps of unborn children be any less detestable than the atrocities perpetuated by the Nazis?

The NIH then rubbed salt into this wound by announcing it would no longer convene an Ethics Advisory Board to review proposals involving fetal body parts.

These heartless changes fly in the face of 47 states that have acted on the will of the people to protect their most precious renewable resource—unborn babies. Since the beginning of the year, a jaw-dropping 549 abortion protections have been introduced.

Consider this the people's response to the extreme and twisted pro-abortion agenda of the Biden administration. It's time Congress took our lead and grew the moral spine to bring Joe Biden's trifecta of inhumane medical practices to an end.

—Life Issues Institute, May 28, 2021

Fetal Experimentation at Pitt with Planned Parenthood Funded by NIH

By David Daleiden, Founder, The Center for Medical Progress

WATCH the new video recently released by The Center for Medical Progress about government-sponsored fetal trafficking and experimentation at the University of Pittsburgh with Planned Parenthood:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-JUzqswKZs>

Even though Pennsylvania is historically pro-life, the taxpayer-funded **University of Pittsburgh is the hub for some of the most barbaric experiments carried out on late-term aborted babies**—and the evidence indicates that **sometimes they are delivered ALIVE before being killed for organ harvesting.**

The government-sponsored fetal experiments at Pitt include **scalping 5-month-old aborted fetuses to stitch onto lab rats, exporting fetal kidneys across the country, and killing infants delivered alive for liver harvesting**—funded by U.S. taxpayers via the National Institutes of Health, and in particular Dr. Anthony Fauci's NIAID office.

Local Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania abortion providers supply the aborted fetuses, while Pitt sponsors the local Planned Parenthood's operations, in what looks like an illegal Quid Pro Quo for fetal body parts, forbidden by 42 U.S. Code 289g-2 and 18 Pennsylvania Statutes 3216. Pennsylvania law also makes it a felony to experiment on a living fetus or to fail to provide immediate medical care to an infant born alive.

Two years ago, sources told me that Pittsburgh was one of the hubs of the FBI's investigation of the human trafficking of aborted fetuses where they felt they had the strongest criminal fact patterns on Planned Parenthood selling aborted baby body parts. Attorney General Merrick Garland must allow the FBI's investigation to proceed to full prosecution of anyone involved in the illegal quid pro quo sale of aborted babies.

—Excerpted from *The Center for Medical Progress*, May 3, 2021



The Pill that Kills, delivered to your door by mail

By Bonnie Finnerty, Education Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

If a vaccine were to kill 24 people and injure 3,000 more, would that vaccine remain available? What about an abortion drug?

Despite the recognized danger of the drug Mifeprex (mifepristone), the Biden Administration has lifted safety restrictions on the abortion pill, erasing medically-necessary precautions that have been in place since FDA approval in 2000.

By tossing out these needed safeguards, the administration and the abortion industry are playing Russian roulette with women's lives, handing them "a loaded gun" in the form of chemical abortion.

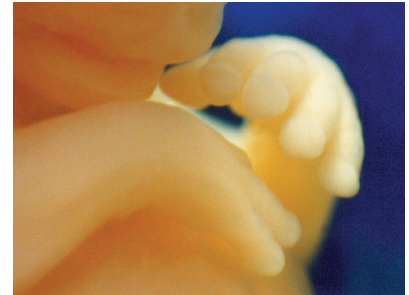
According to a statement released by the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), which represents approximately 7,000 women's healthcare practitioners, the abortion pill has led to at least 24 deaths and 3,000 injuries, with 500 more women at risk of dying had they not reached emergency medical care in time. Death due to abortion often goes unreported, so it is difficult to determine the true fatality rate of the drug.

Since the FDA stopped collecting data on the "adverse effects" of the drug in 2016, the complication rate could be much higher.

Earlier this month, a 23-year-old Argentinian woman died from a chemical abortion after it was made legal in her country.

Now, in our country, the most pro-abortion President in history jeopardizes the lives of unsuspecting young women as they are misled into believing they can safely abort at home.

No longer will an in-person exam be required to confirm the gestational age of the child or to rule out an ectopic pregnancy or multiple babies or other complicating conditions or to determine if a woman is RH negative and in need of a Rhogam injection.



Seven weeks from conception

Rather, the potent drugs can be delivered to a mailbox or pharmacy simply through a tele-health visit with an abortion provider. Planned Parenthood Keystone is already enthusiastically promoting this "service" on their website.

The two-pill abortion procedure is only approved up through 10 weeks, but many young women are frequently uncertain as to how far along they are. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology estimates that about 50% of women are wrong about their gestational age when relying on recall of their last cycle, which is why determining the baby's age by ultrasound had been standard practice in the past. Taking the drugs past 10 weeks significantly increases the chance of complications.



Eight weeks from conception

But the abortion drug is dangerous earlier in pregnancy too. AAPLOG notes,

"A Finnish study involving nearly 50,000 women who had abortions at 9 weeks or less showed that immediate adverse events were four times more likely with chemical abortion than surgical."

That is why the safety regulations, known as REMs (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation), were enacted in the first place. There is significant risk of hemorrhaging, infection, incomplete abortion, and more that can threaten a young woman's life.

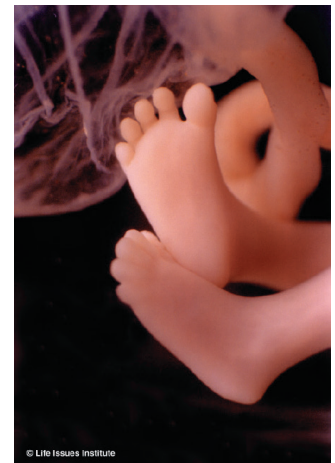
"This requirement is not restrictive—it is protective," states AAPLOG.

And while there is a definite physical risk to women, there is also a tremendous emotional and psychological impact. Young women are left alone to endure hours of severe cramping and bleeding to deliver and dispose of a dead child.

It's hard to understand that anyone could possibly think such trauma is part of "empowering women." Rather than given authentic support at a difficult moment, women are given a pill to kill, one that might kill them as well as their baby.

But under the misleading title of "reproductive justice," that seems like a risk the Biden Administration is willing to take.

—National Right to Life News Today, April 27, 2021



Eleven weeks from conception

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PA Legislative Update

Three Pro-Life Bills Advance to Pennsylvania House of Representatives

By Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director
PA Pro-Life Federation

On May 25, the PA House Health Committee, chaired by Rep. Kathy Rapp, convened a voting meeting to consider three different pro-life bills. All three were moved out of committee by a vote of 15-10 and will be introduced into the PA House of Representatives in the next several weeks.

House Bill 1500—Down Syndrome Protection Act would prohibit the abortion of any child due solely to a diagnosis of possible Down syndrome. In her remarks, bill sponsor Rep. Kate Klunk said that we have a responsibility to stand up to discrimination based on an extra chromosome. She has talked to countless families who see their child as a blessing, not a challenge and mentioned that many people with Down Syndrome are thriving. “We can’t discriminate outside the womb, so we shouldn’t discriminate in the womb,” she argued. Rep. Klunk also clarified that a woman would not be held criminally liable for seeking the abortion, but that doctors would not be able to perform an abortion for the sole reason of Down syndrome.



House Bill 118—Unborn Child Dignity Act would establish requirements to give parents final decision-making authority over the remains of their child, even if the child is lost prior to birth. Similar Indiana legislation was upheld by the United States Supreme Court. In his remarks, sponsor Rep. Frank Ryan recounted his own personal tragedy of losing a child at about 24 weeks gestation. When he requested his son’s body for burial, he was told it could not be located because it had been discarded as hazardous medical waste. Ryan offers this compassionate bill that would allow parents to have closure, giving them the option to bury or cremate their deceased child if they choose rather than have a health care facility dispose of the child. Ryan clarified that this act would be strictly voluntary and does not require a death certificate to be issued. The PA House of Representatives, on June 9, passed House Bill 118, which ensures the respectful treatment of the remains of preborn babies who die prior to birth. The bill now moves to the PA Senate for consideration.

House Bill 904—Heartbeat Bill would ban abortions when the heartbeat of the unborn child is first detected. Bill sponsor Rep. Stephanie Borowicz affirmed that where there are two heartbeats, there are two lives, noting that heartbeats can be detected 21 days after conception. Texas just passed similar legislation.



In her remarks, Rep. Rapp noted that there were over 30,000 abortions in PA in 2019, a number that should astound everyone. Even during the pandemic, the Governor and Dept of Health allowed abortion centers to operate when other medical services were shut down. She reminded the Committee that *Roe v. Wade* is a court case, not the Constitution, and that the right to life is the most fundamental right we have guaranteed to us by our founding fathers.

National Legislation Update

By Jennifer Popik, J.D., Director of Federal Legislation
National Right to Life

The House remains in recess but continues virtual committee work. The Senate is in session and is expected to work on several items of interest below.

- ◆ **Biden Releases Pro-Abortion Budget**
- ◆ **Democrats Unveil Women's Health Protection Act**
- ◆ **The So-Called "Equality Act"—possible vote in the coming weeks**
- ◆ **S. 1 The So-Called "For the People Act—update**
- ◆ **Paycheck Fairness—vote update**
- ◆ **International Society for Stem Cell Research—updated guidelines**

117th Congressional Scorecards can be found at:
<http://cqrcengage.com/nrlc/scorecards>

Biden Releases Pro-Abortion Budget

President Biden released a budget request for FY2022 which removed or weakened numerous longstanding pro-life appropriations provisions. The proposal by the Biden White House stripped out Hyde Amendment provisions which has had over 40 years of previously unprecedented bipartisan support. The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funding within the LHHS Appropriations bill from being used to fund elective abortions. Since it first became law in 1976, the Hyde Amendment has saved an estimated 2.4 million lives. The law has been renewed every year since 1976 on a bipartisan basis.

In addition, the budget request increases funding for the Title X family planning program to \$340 million. The Biden Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a proposed rule on the Title X family planning program that allows grantees to be co-located with abortion clinics and requires referral for abortion. Under past anti-life administrations, Title X was a major funding source for Planned Parenthood.

Internationally, the budget calls for funding increases for population control programs. This money would flow to foreign organizations and domestically based organizations that also promote and may even perform abortion internationally. Additionally, the budget removes the abortion restrictions attached to funding of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNFPA supports China's population control program, which utilizes forced abortion and sterilization.

Women's Health Protection Act

The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) would invalidate nearly all existing state limitations on abortion, and prohibit states from adopting new limitations in the future, including various types of laws specifically upheld as constitutionally permissible by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Among the laws that the bill would nullify are requirements to provide women seeking abortion with specific information on their unborn child and on alternatives to abortion, laws providing reflection periods (waiting periods), laws allowing medical professionals to opt out of providing abortions, laws limiting the performance of abortions to licensed physicians, bans on elective abortion after 20 weeks, meaningful limits on abortion after viability, and bans on the use of abortion as a method of sex selection. These laws generally have broad public support in the states in which they are enacted, including support from substantial majorities of women.

The bill would also invalidate most previously enacted federal limits on abortion, including federal conscience protection laws and most, if not all, limits on government funding of abortion.

The So-Called Equality Act

In addition to other issues, H.R. 5 poses a significant pro-life threat. It amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act, adding language that could be used to make abortions more available, expand taxpayer funding of abortion, and weaken conscience protections for health care providers opposed to participating in abortions.

The so-called Equality Act would amend the Civil Rights Act by defining "sex" to include "pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition." It is well established that abortion will be regarded as a "related medical condition." Laws that protect unborn children or limit abortion funding could constitute discrimination on the basis of sex.

Historically, when Congress has addressed discrimination based on sex, rules of construction have been added to prevent requiring funding of abortion or nullifying conscience laws. Since no rule of construction is included in the Equality Act, National Right to Life opposes the bill.

Senate ACTION ALERT:

<https://cqrcengage.com/nrlc/action>

S.1/H.R. 1, the So-Called "For the People Act of 2021"

S.1, the so-called "For the People Act of 2021," is intended to make it as difficult as possible for corporations (including nonprofit, issue-oriented corporations such as NRLC) to spend money to communicate with the public about the actions of federal officeholders, by applying an array of restrictions on ads, as well as requirements that violate the privacy rights of donors.

The National Right to Life Committee opposed passage of H.R. 1, which passed the House, 220-210, on March 3, 2021 (House Roll Call No. 62). The bill was supported by 220 Democrats. It was opposed by 209 Republicans and 1 Democrat.

continued on page 13

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*I frankly don't care if you agree with my stand on abortion.
I take that stand because no other stand is consistent with decent principles,
and no other standard is consistent with the will of God.*

~ Alan Keyes ~

Scientists Vote to Allow Growing Babies in the Womb for 40 Days to Kill Them for Research

By Steven Ertelt

An international group of scientists has ditched ethical guidelines in order to allow them to pursue grisly experiments that would grow unborn babies in the womb for 40 days for the sole purpose of killing them for dubious research.

[On May 26], the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), an international non-profit and professional organization of stem cell scientists, issued new guidelines governing research with ethical implications. The guidelines lift restrictions on certain types of unethical research that manipulate, alter, or destroy human embryos. Some examples include:

- Removing the “14-Day Rule” for research on human embryos— In 1979, the Ethics Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare established the concept of the “14-day rule,” which stated that scientists may only conduct experiments on human embryos up until 14 days after fertilization and the embryos must then be destroyed. This “14-day-rule” has been the current policy in the United States and generally a scientific standard throughout the world. While this “14-day rule” was deeply unethical, the new ISSCR guidelines have removed all restraint. The guidelines abolish the 14-day rule, allowing human embryos to be experimented upon beyond this two week period and creating the potential for “baby in a bottle” experiments.
- Allowing research creating or using 3-parent human embryos— The guidelines allow for mitochondrial-replacement therapy to be used in medical research. This type of research involves creating a human embryo which contains DNA from 3 separate individuals. Since 2015, it has been annually prohibited in the United States by the Aderholt Amendment in the Agriculture Appropriations bill.
- Allowing human-animal chimera research—A human-animal chimera is an organism that may possess both human and animal cells, characteristics, or tissues. The new guidelines allow for unethical forms of human-animal chimera research, including research that may substantially destroy or alter human life, or that blurs human-animal species distinctions.

They both complained about the International Society for Stem Cell Research removing the longstanding prohibition against experimenting on human embryos more than two weeks past their creation and allowed the creation of chimeras that blur the line between human and animal.

“The ISSCR has shown an utter disregard for the value and dignity of human life,” said Rep. Smith. “Its previous rule allowing scientists to create and experiment on human embryos up to

14 days was already unethical and morally repugnant, but the ISSCR has now removed all restraint, allowing unborn humans at any stage of development to be experimented on, manipulated, and destroyed.”

The ISSCR has also removed restrictions against creating and experimenting on human-animal chimeras, organisms that possess both human and animal cells, characteristics, or tissues. The ISSCR failed to provide meaningful safeguards against unethical chimera research, including the creation of animals with human brains, human faces, human hands, or the ability to produce human gametes.

On May 25, Smith and Braun introduced the “Human-Animal Chimera Prohibition Act” (HR 3542/S.1800), which would prohibit research involving human-animal chimeras that blur human-animal species distinctions.

Smith said, “The United States now has the responsibility to decide how it will respond to this updated guidance. HR 3542, which would create a permanent, statutory ban on certain types of human-animal chimeras, is an important step. We also call on the Biden Administration to preserve the scientific integrity of our nation and ensure that the United States does not further weaken requirements protecting human embryos and requiring a strict code of ethical conduct from our scientists and researchers.”

“The National Institutes of Health should not lift their moratorium on funding animal-human hybrid experiments, and further I believe such research is an affront to the sanctity of human life that should be outlawed,” said Sen. Braun. “That’s why I’m proud to stand with Representative Chris Smith against unethical animal-human hybrid research and will continue to fight for bioethics restrictions that protect human and animal life from unethical experimentation.”

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) currently has a moratorium on funding experiments involving human-animal chimeras. On May 24, Smith and Braun led a letter with 32 Members of Congress urging the Administration not to weaken its stance on this important issue.

—LifeNews.com, May 27, 2021



No Longer Science Fiction

Embracing the Wild West of Human Embryo Research?

Two separate, but intimately related, stories show that scientific research is quickly outpacing civilization's attempt to uphold human dignity. It has been a long time since the sanctity of human life has been respected by many inside the scientific community, especially the leadership.

In a Friday afternoon news dump, the Biden Administration announced they were ending regulations President Trump put in place requiring an ethics board to oversee any federally-funded research projects using tissue taken from aborted babies.

This should be no surprise. Vice President Kamala Harris was the then California Attorney General who used David Daleiden as an example to burnish her election credentials. Daleiden and his team's undercover journalism exposed Planned Parenthood's human organ trafficking programs to the entire world. Naturally, it has earned him a multiple felony indictment from pro-abortion officials who would never treat other undercover journalists in such a way.

President Biden's pick to manage the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, was Harris' successor as California Attorney General. Becerra continued the case against Daleiden. His department's National Institutes of Health removed this rule.

President Trump's ethics panel only had the opportunity to oversee one annual round of grants, and the only project they approved involved using existing tissue in storage to develop an ethical alternative to using the perfectly functioning organs from babies whose bodies were broken—because they weren't seen as human enough.

What does it even mean to be human? For one team of Chinese researchers, that isn't an important question to ask. They took stem cells from an adult, implanted them in 132 monkey embryos, and watched as the human tissue grafted itself into the developing monkeys. The monkeys were all killed at 20 days of development.

Chimeras. Human-animal hybrids. Monkey-men. Call it what you will, scientists say the research is all about developing sources of organs for transplants, but most researchers will admit animals other than monkeys—particularly pigs—are prime candidates for developing an organ industry. So why did researchers want to break the species barrier if not for any medical benefit?

A more important question to ask: is there any ethical barrier we won't break in the pursuit of vague promises of miracle cures?

Chimeras Were Once the Thing of Legends

Thousands of years ago, the Persians on the edges of the Indian jungles told stories of the fearsome Manticore. The beast—which they believed preferred to eat human flesh—was said to have the head of a man, the body of a lion, and the tail of a scorpion.

Generations later the Greeks believed in a fearsome monster with the head of a lion, body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent. They named the creature the Chimera, and it is from this legend that we get the modern name for hybrid organisms created by scientists.

A chimera is an organism that contains at least two different sets of DNA. In recent decades scientists have made them from assorted plants and animals. In recent years, scientists have pushed this technology into an ethical quagmire. Scientists have worked on human-animal hybrids with mice, pigs, and cows. Now, a Chinese team has created human/monkey chimeras.

The stated goal of the experiment was to solve the shortage of organs available for transplant by determining if it is possible to grow human organs in monkeys.

How did they do it? Well, simply put, they inserted human induced pluripotent stem cells generated from an adult into monkey embryos and watched to see if they would grow. It is unclear just how many monkey embryos were implanted with human stem cells, but in 132 of them, the human cells began to multiply. The scientists watched the embryos grow for 20 days before they were destroyed.

This type of research raises a host of ethical questions:

How many human cells must be present for a life to be determined human? When does a monkey become a monkey-man? Can we kill monkey-men to harvest their organs?

Will scientists begin to try and fuse human and monkey DNA in their experiments?

What diseases could this research introduce to humans by creating a bridge across the species barrier?

What happens if the monkeys develop human reproductive organs?



continued on page 11

Congratulations, 2021 Oratory Contest Winners!

Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2021 Oratory Contest was held this past March. The first-place Varsity entry, by James Sicree, entitled *Choosing Life Over Death*, was printed in Blair County's Spring newsletter. To read James' presentation, go to: www.blaircountyprolife.com - Newsletters - Spring 2020.

Helena Sicree, Grade 9, and **Susan Steltzer**, Grade 10, tied for first place in the Junior Varsity category. Helena is homeschooled and is the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, of Boalsburg. Susan Steltzer is a sophomore and attends North Star High School. Susan is the daughter of Scott and Anna Steltzer, of Boswell. She and Helena were each awarded \$150. Matthew Levri, Grade 9, is homeschooled. Matthew was awarded \$100 for his second place entry in the Junior Varsity contest.

Printed below and on the following pages are the presentations of Helena Sicree, Susan Steltzer and Matthew Levri.



Beautiful Differences

By Helena Sicree

1st-Place, Junior Varsity Tie Winner



In this day and age, technology and medicine have advanced past all expectations. It is strange, then, that we still struggle with old problems. We have never been so aware of being considered replaceable and unequal as we have this year, with COVID confining our elderly to their homes and Black Lives Matter protesters in the streets. Yet still many of

us overlook those who rely on us the most, we ignore those in need, simply because they are different and hard to understand. The disabled unborn are like these people. They have been considered replaceable, like the only choice for them is to be aborted, and that because they are different and might have a harder life that they should therefore not be given life. Aren't we supposed to celebrate our differences?

"You're going to abort it, right?" was what Bertha, a pro-choice advocate, heard. She had been talking with her friend, Jackie, about Jackie's pregnancy. Two weeks earlier, her friend had gone to a baby shower for her little girl, Madison, but now she was in tears. She had taken a quad screen test to find out that her child was at a high risk for Down's Syndrome. Upon hearing this, nearly everyone who had been at the baby shower was pushing her to have an abortion, saying flippantly, "You can just abort it and try again. You can always try for a normal child." Even Bertha was indignant at this advice. Not so long ago, Madison had been readily welcomed by family and friends, but now she was degraded to an 'it,' with all of her personhood and identity revoked, simply because she had a risk of being born in less than perfect condition. Though Jackie did choose life for Madison after the test results proved her to be fine, the tragic part of this story is that everyone considered the child replaceable. People have grown to consider the disabled as a "burden upon the public," but they fail to see the joy that so many of these people bring to everyone.

For instance, a father in Cairo, Egypt, chose life for his son, Ibrahim, who had a special-needs condition. Even though it required sacrifices, Ibrahim's father was happy and willing to give anything for his son, whom he considered his "whole world." "He was only three pounds when he was born. He needed half a liter of milk per day. I'd skip my own breakfast just to buy it for him," the father said, "I took him to nurseries when he was very young because I wanted him to be comfortable with other children. I found a charity that offered speech classes, and I took him five days a week." Even with Ibrahim's disabilities, he is still a person with human dignity, and deserves to be treated as such. His father knew this, and so much more, as he said, "I love him a little more because he needs it a little more." This is what people like Ibrahim can bring into the world. Who could possibly replace him? Who could possibly replace anyone?

Not only does the thought that the disabled unborn are *replaceable* raise a problem, but also the thought that abortion is the immediate solution. No one stops to consider finding helpful parents who have raised disabled children themselves. No one even thinks about adoption, or the line of people waiting to adopt the handicapped children. Or the possibility that the test for disabilities could have been wrong. Just like Bertha heard, many women consider, "You can just abort it and try again" as their only choice when they get bad test results. However, many mothers have shared how they chose other options for their children, despite the test results, including one woman recalling, "When my niece was pregnant with her third child, the doctors told her that he had a kidney issue and would not survive delivery so she needed to abort him. She of course refused..[and]..she gave birth to this child who is now six years old." Another woman talked about a similar incident that happened to her, "During my pregnancy, we were offered and encouraged to abort our now 31-year old daughter. Doctors told us she would be profoundly disabled." In both cases, the children survived delivery and lived their lives happily. Now, this all shows that not only could the test results be seriously wrong, but that choosing abortion because of the test results could thus prove to be a serious mistake.

Even with this, people still choose to abort a child because of the child's disability. One woman, Lyndsay Werking-Yip, was writing about how she had a late-term

abortion because her child looked like she might have a disability. When asked how she could do such a thing, she, in *The New York Times*, replied with, “.....allowing her to live would have been a fate worse than death. Her diagnosis was not fatal, not incompatible with the bare mechanics of a living body. But it was incompatible with a fulfilling life. And that makes all the difference to me.” Other writers contributed to the talk, such as Amy, who also had an abortion and commented with, “Our daughter had Triple X syndrome, a genetic disorder, and possibly something irregular with her abdomen.” As if to sum up all their thoughts, another woman, Carole, added, “..We did so in order not to bring into the world a child who would know—at best—only pain, disability and misery.” These three women all aborted their children because the children were disabled, and would lead what their parents considered an “unfulfilling” life in the world. They were aborted because they were different and would have been harder to deal with and understand. This is wrong.

Christopher, another writer to *The New York Times*, replied to Lyndsay with, “As the parent of a child with a rare terminal genetic disorder, I understand the fears associated with an uncertain diagnosis. However, a diagnosis with a constellation of symptoms, medications and diagnostic tests tells only one part of the story.” Continuing, he pointed out that, “The most important parts are known only by those who love and care for these amazing and special people; those who do love and care know that a life can be fulfilling in spite of very real medical challenges.” Christopher had realized what the others had not. It doesn’t matter what challenges a person may have in the future. What matters most is whether or not you’ll be there for them in the future.

To end an unborn child’s life because the child has, or has a risk for having, a disability is wrong. They have their own dreams and futures, and just because they are different, just because they will face more challenges and a harder life than us, is not an excuse to end their lives. We are all different, aren’t we? Each of us has their own difficulties, and each of us goes through a miserable time sometime in our lives, but we also have our own victories, accomplishments, and joys. For every tear we shed, we discover something more about ourselves, perhaps an inner strength, or determination; all of which makes us who we are today. So just because a person might face a difficult and painful future does not give us leave to end the person’s life. Instead, we should be there for them, offering support and love every step of the way. As we do that, we will discover things not only about them, but also about us, that will give us a whole new view on life. In the end, no matter what pain we had to endure, no matter what scars they had to bear, it will all be worth it, simply because of their beautiful differences. ♦



One of the most serious abuses to children is to deny them birth.

~ Dallin H. Oaks ~

Life’s Values



By Susan Steltzer, 1st-Place Junior Varsity Tie Winner

In today’s culture, there is an increasing effort to normalize abortion by downplaying its severity and immorality. According to dictionary.com, abortion is “the removal of an embryo or fetus from the uterus in order to end a pregnancy.”

This definition avoids words like baby and human, or death and killing, because it is trying to hide the true nature of abortion. Abortion advocates defend their position by saying things like, “It’s just a regular medical procedure,” or “These babies don’t count as real humans.” Our society claims that abortion is not the purposeful killing and disposal of a child. However, the death of a precious baby, full of life’s potential, should not simply be cast aside as meaningless.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on Planned Parenthood’s website, 35 percent of abortions are performed after eight weeks of pregnancy. This percentage means that approximately 216,856 babies a year are aborted after eight weeks. By eight weeks, a baby has a steady heartbeat and most main organs are forming. By eight weeks, a baby has fingers and toes. By eight weeks, on the ultrasound, you can see that the baby is a baby. Yet, many still have no problem with abortion.

The leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease according to the CDC’s official website. Heart disease accounts for about 659,041 deaths per year. After heart disease is cancer, with 599,601 deaths in one year. After cancer the next biggest cause is unintentional accidents, then chronic respiratory disease, strokes, and the list goes on. Nowhere on that list is abortion mentioned. Yet, in 2018, 619,591 abortions were performed. Therefore, abortion is the true second leading cause of death in the whole of the United States. The CDC would have us believe that babies in the womb do not count as lives lost.

Recently, there has been a lot of death and hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of people who have died is 111,484 fewer people than were killed by abortion in one year. Our nation has been in a panic because of COVID-19. Why then, is abortion not eliciting the same response? There should be an even greater outrage because of the disposal of innocent children. Abortion is not portrayed in our culture as wrong or immoral. It is not even considered as death.

Thirteen years ago, I had a baby sister who died. She had a medical condition called Potter’s Syndrome which meant she had dysfunctional kidneys. As a result, she didn’t produce any amniotic fluid and her lungs were not able to develop properly. She lived for three and a half hours. At the twenty-week ultrasound, the doctors told my parents she would not be able to survive out-

continued on page 10

Life's Values

continued from page 9

side the womb. Doctors said that my parents could either carry the baby to term or get an abortion. At twenty weeks, my sister could swallow and hear, she had fingernails and toenails, as well as eyebrows and eyelashes. If my mom had decided to, she could have aborted my sister, even though the pregnancy was no danger to my mom's life. Some people would have supported killing my sister because she wouldn't live anyway. My mom chose to let her baby live. If she could go back, my mom told me she would make the same decision every time. She would go through the discomfort of pregnancy for the joy of bringing a new life into this world, if only for a little while. My family got to meet our precious little Hannah Gloria. We got to touch her tiny, perfect fingers and little feet. Though I do not remember her, I still have her tiny nightgown and a photo album with pictures of her. I look forward to the day when I will get to meet her again in Heaven.

I believe that every baby is important and valuable—before they are born, after they are born, and even from the moment of conception. Our culture must no longer be blinded by the lies around us, by those who tell us that fetuses are not babies, or do not have the right to live or say that it is not wrong to kill them. God says in the Bible, in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart." We must not miss out on the joy of all the lives that God has made. ♦

A Father Means...

A Father means so many things...

An understanding heart,

A source of strength and of support

Right from the very start.

A constant readiness to help,

In a kind and thoughtful way.

With encouragement and forgiveness,

No matter what comes your way.

A special generosity and always affection too.

A Father means so many things,

When he's a man like you...

Happy Father's Day!

—author unknown

The Mandalorian



By Matthew Levri

2nd-Place Junior Varsity Winner

Just want to let you know: we have some spoilers for *The Mandalorian* TV show.

So, my mom and I were talking about how popular *Star Wars* is, especially since *The Mandalorian* TV show came out in 2019. Nielsen announced that *The Mandalorian*


was the most watched streaming series. Disney Plus has over 60 million subscribers and *The Mandalorian* is the most popular streaming series on that service. It's popular! How interesting it is that people argue about pro-life and pro-abortion, and then we have this TV show that everybody seems to like, both pro-life and pro-abortion people. And it looks like it has quite a pro-life message.

The Mandalorian is a bounty hunter. He's a complicated character. The creators said they wanted to, "blur the lines between good and evil." It's not exactly a Jedi-Sith thing where this half of the characters are good and this half are bad. For example, quoting "A New Hope," "Mos Eisley space port, you will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy." It's more like real life. You're going to some of the worst parts of the galaxy.

I find it very interesting that the Mandalorians who rescued the Mandalorian, as a child, were terrorists. In the *Clone Wars*, another *Star Wars* TV series, this specific clan of Mandalorians, called Death Watch, was doing acts of terrorism on the planet Mandalor. In some ways, they have very strict rules. Such as, they are forbidden to remove their helmets. Yet, they are still terrorists and don't seem to care that they are killing people to convey their message. Despite their extreme brutality, they rescued him as a child. He was a foundling. That means he was orphaned and he was adopted by this certain clan of the Mandalorians. He is only considered a Mandalorian because he swore the Mandalorian creed. As a bounty hunter, he is hunting down people who may or may not deserve to be caught.

The Mandalorian is doing things to get credits (that's money), and those things might not be the most moral. He is handing the bounty over to warlords or gangsters for credits and The Mandalorian doesn't know what they are going to do with the bounty at all. There is this rule in the bounty hunter guild that he works for: he is not supposed to ask questions. So, you can see that he might not be the most pro-life character when we meet him. He is a bounty hunter and that's how he meets baby Yoda. Baby Yoda is introduced as a "child" with no known parents or family. And it's very interesting to see how when the Mandalorian needs help, he comes to different characters across the show. And they help him to "protect the child." They don't seem to question "protecting the child." This seems very pro-life and also...adorable.

So then we have Dr. Pershing. He is in a very interesting moral predicament. His boss, The Client (I found no



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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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website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

canon name for him), is explaining the job to The Mandalorian. The Mandalorian is on a mission to turn Baby Yoda in for Baskar. Baskar is a really valuable and rare steel which The Mandalorian wants to improve his armor. Whatever Baskar is left over from making the armor is used for foundlings.

Dr. Pershing insists on The Mandalorian bringing baby Yoda back alive. But then The Client says, "Proof of termination is acceptable." Dr. Pershing says, "That wasn't the arrangement." He wants baby Yoda to remain alive. It may be easier for him to do the experiments on him, or he actually valued baby Yoda's life. Later in the show, after The Mandalorian turned baby Yoda in to The Client and Dr. Pershing for payment, The Mandalorian regrets it, comes back and takes baby Yoda. When The Mandalorian is rescuing baby Yoda, Pershing tells The Mandalorian, "Don't hurt him, he's just a child, if it weren't for me, he'd be dead."

Back when The Mandalorian rescued baby Yoda, he seemed to play with him, by sticking his finger out, and it seemed like baby Yoda was about to grab it—which I think would make a great poster. But, getting back to the point—this is pro-life. Playing with and enjoying people. Even the directors', putting that in the show, wanted that to happen in the show. They made it pro-life.

This series has been called, "Disney's Accidental Pro-Life Masterpiece." Disney is not expected to be pro-life. We would expect them to be pro-money. Not pro-truth. When my brother told me that they were making a new *Star Wars* TV show, called *The Mandalorian*, I thought, "Great! I'd love to see it!" But, I really didn't expect it to be so popular. I thought it would only make one season and that'd be it, just because it wouldn't make enough money. But, I was wrong—it's incredibly popular. I'm positive it's because of baby Yoda.

God seems to have used the gifts he has given these writers, directors and producers to his own glory, even if they don't realize it. People really do love babies, not just puppies and kittens. Maybe unintentionally, maybe accidentally, but this series is pro-life. ♦

Regional Chapters Citizens Concerned for Human Life

The **Bedford County Fair** is back for its 147th year. **The Bedford County Chapter of CCHL** will be hosting a table in Jordan Hall from **July 25th until July 31st**. If anyone would like to help work at our table, they would be admitted free and have free parking. To volunteer, contact Pam Lucas at 814-652-6755.

The Cambria/Somerset Chapter of CCHL will hold its **2021 Annual Pro-Life Breakfast** on **October 16**, at 9 a.m., at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall in New Germany. Keynote speaker is to be Steve Deace, well-known conservative Talk Radio host and author. More information will be forthcoming in Blair County's Fall newsletter, or call 814-472-8584.

No Longer Science Fiction

continued from page 7

While this type of research is not yet at the stage of merging human and animal DNA to create a truly distinct new organism, the technology to do so exists, and experiments have already occurred. It is only a matter of time. As we warned in 2008 when stem cell researchers successfully passed an amendment to the Michigan Constitution to allow destroying human embryos for research, a lack of regulations and guidelines inevitably leads to further ethical abuses. Concerns about human-animal hybrids have been mocked in the years before such a thing was possible, and now that the impossible has become possible, the mocking turns to dismissing those with ethical objections as "anti-science" or "flat-earthers."

In one article, Sarah Norcross, director of Progress Educational Trust said, "there is a clear need for public discussion and debate about the ethical and regulatory challenges raised." Sadly, it is unlikely the concerns of anyone not considered a scientist will be heeded by the scientific community.

Based on observation of their behavior, it has been a long time since the sanctity of human life has been respected by many inside the scientific community, especially the leadership. Even when their fantastical promises of cures for everyone fail to materialize, the ethical boundaries that were breached are never restored, and new ethical boundaries are targeted for elimination. Is there any moral line they won't cross involving the destruction of human life and genetic engineering?

The International Society of Stem Cell Research has broad influence in the field of biotechnology, and they are in the process of revising their guidelines to allow more experimentation on human embryos. Their previous guidelines only banned impractical experiments. Now that they can do it and they have domesticated the population into accepting the latest ethical violations, they move on to the next boundary.

With that in mind, only one question remains: how long until the creatures of legend become real?

—Right to Life of Michigan, April 20, 2021

Need help in a crisis pregnancy?

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

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
Pastoral Guidance

814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org

How to Best Determine Whether Abortion Contributes to Maternal Mortality



By Mary Szoch and
Ingrid Skop, M.D., FACOG

The best type of study to answer whether abortion contributes to an increase in maternal mortality would link records for all deaths in reproductive-aged women with all medical records of all pregnancies so that no deaths were missed. The only study done this way in the U.S. examined the records of California Medicaid recipients. Those women who had an induced abortion or delivery of a baby were followed for eight years. Compared with those who delivered a baby, those who aborted had a significantly higher age-adjusted risk of death from all causes (162 percent higher), from suicide (254 percent higher), as well as from natural causes (144 percent higher).

Similar studies in Finland found that following an abortion, a woman was two to three times as likely to die within a year, six times as likely to commit suicide, four times as likely to die from an accident, and 14 times as likely to be murdered compared with a woman who carried to term. Ninety-four percent of abortion-related deaths and 73 percent of maternal deaths were not identified on death certificates, demonstrating the clear inadequacy of death certificate data alone. The risk of death in a given year for a woman who was not pregnant was 57 in 100,000 women, but after an abortion, the risk was 83 in 100,000, after miscarriage 52 in 100,000, and for those who carried a pregnancy to term, 28 in 100,000.

Danish studies also confirmed these findings. A woman who had a first trimester abortion had an 84 percent higher risk of dying within 180 days and a 39 percent higher risk of dying within 10 years, compared with one who carried to term. After a late-term abortion, she had a 341 percent higher risk of dying within a year and a 131 percent higher risk of dying within 10 years.

Is Abortion Necessary to Save a Mother's Life?

The pro-abortion movement argues that there are cases where abortion is necessary to save the mother's life. If this were true, it would clearly improve health outcomes for the mother to the greatest extent possible; however, this argument is based on a dated knowledge of medicine.

There are times when ending a pregnancy is recommended to save a mother's life; however, carrying out an abortion is only one way of ending a pregnancy—and a dangerous way at that. The most common situation in which pregnancy termination is required to save a woman's life is an ectopic pregnancy, when the unborn child is implanted in an extra-uterine location. An unborn child located out-

side the uterus can never reach viability. As previously discussed, thanks to the improvements in ultrasound, ectopic pregnancies can be identified earlier and earlier in pregnancy. Sadly, this pregnancy results in an inevitable miscarriage, and there is no controversy in removing this embryo in order to protect the mother. Such a procedure would not be considered an abortion.

Other rare scenarios in which delivery is required include severe preeclampsia early in pregnancy or uterine infection from extremely premature rupture of membranes. Even cancers do not often necessitate delivery because they can usually be treated with chemotherapy or surgery that does not disrupt the unborn child.

It is clearly a moral imperative, regardless of the law, for a physician to intervene in a pregnancy that poses a threat to the life of the mother. Abortion, by definition, is the intentional ending of the life of an unborn child. Premature parturition, otherwise known as premature birth, is the treatment of choice in these situations. The purpose of the delivery is not to kill the unborn child but to save the lives of the mother and the child, or to save the life of at least one of them. Therefore, it is not abortion.

A woman's own obstetrician can perform these deliveries by induced vaginal delivery or C-section, and the neonatal intensive care unit team can evaluate if the unborn child's life can also be saved. If the unborn child is too premature to live, perinatal hospice providers can ensure that the child remains comfortable and can be held and loved by the parents until passing away. If a woman is truly at risk from her pregnancy, she should be cared for in a high acuity hospital, not transferred to an abortionist's clinic with potentially inadequate emergency equipment. Abortion is not the solution to a high-risk pregnancy.

Abortionists themselves will attest to this. In 1992, Dr. Don Sloane stated, "If a woman with a serious illness... gets pregnant, the abortion procedure may be as dangerous for her as going through the pregnancy. The idea of abortion to save a mother's life is something that people cling to because it sounds noble and pure, but medically speaking, it probably doesn't exist." Since 1992, medical care has advanced significantly, so this statement is even more accurate today.

If those in the pro-abortion movement want to improve health outcomes to the greatest extent possible, then instead of focusing on promoting abortion—which increases the likelihood of maternal death and is never necessary to save a woman's life—the movement should focus on changing the circumstances surrounding women seeking abortions so that those women can carry their child to term.

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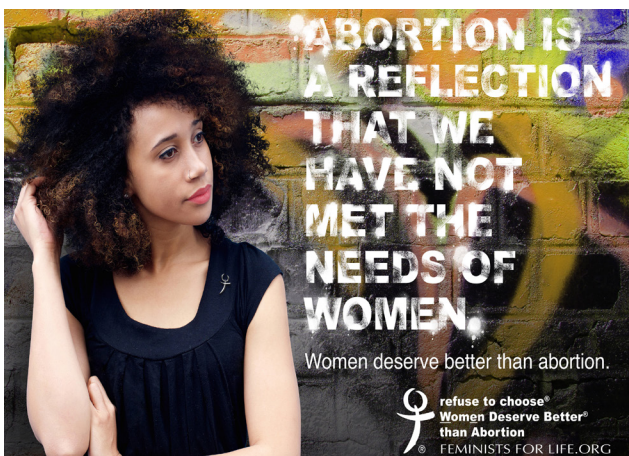
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This is an excerpt from an article entitled *Abortion Is Not Health Care*. Mary Szoch serves as the Director of the Center for Human Dignity at Family Research Council. Ingrid Skop, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. has been a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist for 25 years. Dr. Skop is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a former Board Member of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), and a Charlotte Lozier Institute Associate Scholar.



Federal Legislation Update

continued from page 5

Paycheck Fairness Act

On June 6, 2021, the Senate voted on the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7). While the legislation is meant to address potential discrimination regarding the gender pay gap, the legislation contains language that could be construed to require employers to cover elective abortion in their healthcare benefits. National Right to Life opposed this legislation.

H.R. 7 states that it constitutes discrimination to provide disparate wages based on sex, and the legislation creates more opportunities to seek remedies for those challenging compensation. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has defined equal pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to include all forms of compensation, including healthcare benefits.

H.R. 7 makes definitional changes to "sex" to include "pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition." It is well established that abortion will be regarded as a "related medical condition."

Under H.R. 7, if an employer provides health coverage for male-specific items, a person could make a claim that an employer's failure to provide health coverage for abortion is discriminatory.

International Society for Stem Cell Research

On May 26, 2021 the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), an international non-profit and professional organization of stem cell scientists, issued new guidelines governing research with ethical implications. The guidelines lift restrictions on certain types of unethical research that manipulate, alter, or destroy human embryos.

The U.S. moratorium on funding human-animal chimera research has remained in place, but reports indicate that the NIH was awaiting the May release of the International Society for Stem Cell Research's new stem cell research guidelines to help inform its decision-making on this matter.

The new ISSCR guidelines do several things, but namely they: 1. Remove the "14-Day Rule" for research on human embryos. This "14-day-rule" has been the current policy in the United States and generally a scientific standard throughout the world. While this "14-day rule" was deeply unethical, the new ISSCR guidelines have removed all restraint; and 2. Permit human-animal chimera research. The new guidelines allow for unethical forms of chimera research, including research that may substantially destroy or alter human life, or that blurs human-animal species distinctions.

—Excerpted from National Right to Life Committee, June 9, 2021

◆◆◆
*If we took a moment of silence
for each person lost to abortion,
we would be silent for over 100 years.*

~ Frank Pavone ~

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From the President's Desk

Spiritual Health Care

Those of us who are Catholic look to our bishops for guidance with respect to our spiritual health.

All of us realize that President Biden claims to be a faithful Catholic who publicly and actively disagrees with the Church's position on abortion and marriage.

The U.S. bishops are scheduled to meet by Zoom this week to discuss whether to prepare a document on "Eucharistic Coherence." If they agree, a committee will be established to prepare a working document to be discussed at their next meeting in November.

Sixty-seven bishops, including Bishop Mark Bartchak, have urged that this item be removed from the agenda at the forthcoming meeting. Bishop Bartchak states that he has no problem with the preparation of a document on the "Worthiness to receive the Eucharist," but believes this issue should be discussed in person—thus delaying the resolution of the issue.

The good news is that over two-thirds of the bishops want the agenda to remain the same so that a document can be prepared and possibly voted on in November.

The Church teaches that abortion is a grave sin. The Church also teaches that if one has knowledge that he has committed a grave sin, he should refrain from receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

Cardinal Ratzinger, the future Pope, in 2004, gave instructions to the U.S. Conference of Bishops on how to deal with politicians whose cooperation with evil has become manifest. If they persist in their obstinacy after being counseled, they were to be refused Communion.

These instructions were downplayed by the now disgraced Cardinal McCarrick and according to some sources, the present Cardinal Gregory, who soft pedaled the directive misleading the bishops as to the content of the communication.

That was seventeen years ago. Since that time Joe Biden served as Vice-President during which time he strongly supported not only abortion but same sex marriage, both being considered grave matters by the Church.

President Biden is not an unintelligent person; he knows of the Church's opposition to what appears to be his primary agenda, to ensure that abortion remains the law of the land. Obviously, he knows that he is flaunting

the Church's teaching. Hopefully, with the proper guidance from his Shepherds, he will repent and change his position; otherwise, the scandal continues.

Let us pray that this week a substantial majority of the Bishops vote to go forward with the preparation of a working document to be voted on in November instructing Pastors and the laity about eligibility to receive the Most Blessed Sacrament. None of us, including President Biden, are getting any younger. We need God's mercy and his love as shown in the Eucharist. Most importantly, babies' lives and adult souls are at stake.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life

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Abortion from an over-looked perspective: grandparents

By Dave Andrusko, Editor, *National Right to Life News*

Over the Easter weekend, we had visits from all three grandkids. Now that we are, so to speak, second generation parents, I realize that grandparents rarely get talked about in the abortion context.

Imagine yourself grandparents whose grandchild is about to be obliterated by the very child they'd hoped and prayed they'd raised to honor life, even—especially—in the tough times. It is, if possibly, even more painful. I honestly cannot imagine the horror and the sense of helplessness.

I was reminded of this when I re-read (again) “Eyewitness to Abortion.” It is a story from an unnamed grandmother told to Amanda Cable of the *Daily Mail*. We will call her “Gladys.” It can be read—and should be read—in its entirety here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-299146/Eyewitness-abortion.html>

But in case you can't, let me quote just a few passages. The story begins....

My first granddaughter would have been six by now. I often watch children in the local playground and wonder what she would have been like. Other times, at night, I dream about her vividly, and know the answer.

Blonde-haired, blue-eyed and with a shy smile. Time and time again, I dream that she has just been born, and as she is handed to me, I name her Katie. Just as my heart is about to burst with joy, I wake up and realise that she does not exist. I shall never know my granddaughter because her life was extinguished before it even had a chance to begin.

The story is chilling, on many levels. Her daughter thought she could never get pregnant. When she did, she decided she must—must—have an abortion, even though it turned out she was not 15 or so weeks along but 23 weeks pregnant—one week short of the ostensible legal limit in Great Britain!

Gladys becomes persuaded that in spite of everything she has done and said (including the willingness of her husband and herself to raise the child), her daughter will have an abortion—by herself, at an abortion clinic, if necessary.

With a sad and heavy heart, she reluctantly accompanied her daughter. What followed was something out of Dante's *Inferno*—or Kermit Gosnell's Women's Medical abortion clinic.

Young, very, very frightened girls huddled around Gladys like chicks around a mother hen. (She refused to leave her daughter.) Afterwards, her daughter was never the same. The memory of that baby never left her or her parents. That awful day came crashing back when Gladys' daughter-in-law went into premature labor at 26 weeks.

“I sat by Megan's incubator alongside my son and family, and I happened to glance at the baby next to us. A tiny, red scrap lay fighting for life, her body a mass of tubes and wires.

“How old was that baby when she was born?” I asked a passing nurse. ‘Just 24 weeks but she's a real fighter,’ was the reply.

“I stared at the baby's chest moving in and out and realised that it was the same age as Susie's baby. I felt physically sick. Outside, in the corridor, I burst into tears.

“My family assumed that I was worried about my premature grandchild. Only my husband knew that I was crying for the baby who had not survived.”

After all this, Gladys concludes, “If my story persuades just one family to seek counselling—and to be prepared for the reality of abortion—than I feel I am right to have spoken out.” By “counselling” she means what the abortion clinic did not offer: some explanation of what was to come.

But counselling wouldn't change “the reality of abortion.” It would still be brutal, unloving, and (in the case of this baby) inflicted on a baby capable of experiencing the excruciating pain of being torn apart.

How horrible for everyone involved, but most of all, that defenseless baby.

—*National Right to Life News Today*, April 5, 2021

