



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 14 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2022

Most Countries Do Not Allow Abortion Through All 9 Months *Dobbs* Can Give U.S. Chance to Join Rest of World

By Mary Szoch and Joy Zavalick

Only six nations in the world allow abortion on demand through nine months of pregnancy. Among those six are countries guilty of placing religious minorities in concentration camps, starving their own people, imprisoning political opponents, and offering people with disabilities an option for assisted suicide but not for care—and, the United States.

A case that will be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, has the potential to change that.

In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, an abortion clinic in Mississippi is challenging a 2018 state law that banned abortions after 15 weeks. If the Supreme Court finds that abortion bans prior to fetal viability are constitutional, *Roe v. Wade*, which has prevented states from legislating on abortion, will no longer be the law of the land.

As the beacon of hope for those “yearning to breathe free,” it is shameful that the United States joins human rights offenders North Korea, China, Vietnam and Canada, as well as South Korea. These are America’s abortion-policy peers who also allow a doctor to abort a woman’s child right up until the moment of birth.

In the 191 other countries across the map—regardless of the political system—the right to life for the unborn looks much different.

Around the globe, 77 nations outlaw abortion completely or only allow abortion where the woman’s physical health is at risk. Perhaps more surprisingly, 94% of countries (186) have national restrictions on abortion in the second trimester. Except in cases of rape, incest, fetal anomaly, or economic hardship, 56 countries—including 48 of 51 European countries—ban abortion after 14 weeks.

It is important to note that because of the exception allowing abortion of unborn babies with a fetal anomaly through 40 weeks, the population of people with Down syndrome in Europe has decreased by 27%. With no restriction on the gestational age at which an abortion can be performed, America is a clear outlier.

The nations that restrict abortion in the first trimester do so in recognition of the fact that an unborn child is a human being. Poland’s abortion law acknowledges “that life is a fundamental right of a human being.” Andorra’s Constitution “recognizes the right to life and fully protects it in its different phases.” And the Maltase Constitution states, “every person in Malta is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual...namely...life, liberty, the enjoyment of property and the protection of the law.”

These countries do not weigh the interest of the unborn child as greater than that of the mother. They merely strive, as the Philippines does, to “equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.”

Among the few nations that have taken on more progressive abortion laws in recent years, the United States is still an outlier. In 2020, Argentina legalized elective abortion through the first 14 weeks of pregnancy—or 10 weeks earlier in gestation than the viability standard in the U.S. allows for states to restrict abortion.



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PA Constitutional Amendment

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

The Constitutional Amendment to keep abortion out of the PA Constitution has now been introduced in the state legislature.

Senate Bill 956 would ensure that there is no right to abortion or taxpayer funding of abortion in the PA Constitution.

It is critically important that we contact our PA state representative and state senator and urge them to support this Constitutional Amendment.

The abortion industry has gone to court to try to establish a so-called right to abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion under the PA Constitution.

The case is now before the PA Supreme Court. If the abortion industry wins the case, all of our pro-life laws could be wiped out. That would mean taxpayer funding of abortion, no ban on late-term abortion, no parental consent for abortion, no 24-hour waiting period for abortion, no inspection and regulation of abortion facilities. Tragically, it could mean abortions up to the moment of birth in Pennsylvania.

In order to stop this disastrous scenario from occurring, we need a Constitutional Amendment to keep abortion out of the PA Constitution.

Please share this alert with your pro-life friends, family members, and all appropriate lists.

—December 18, 2021, www.paprolife.org

Texas Heartbeat Law

By Micaiah Bilger

The Texas heartbeat law has saved thousands of unborn babies from violent abortion deaths since it went into effect September 1, reducing abortions by 50 percent in the first month alone, according to one recent study.

A *National Catholic Register* report highlighted the effectiveness of the pro-life law, citing evidence that abortion bans and restrictions do reduce abortion rates and save lives.

One study from the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Texas at Austin compared Texas abortion numbers in 2020 and 2021 and found that abortions dropped 50 percent, the report found. According to the research, “2,164 abortions were provided in September 2021” compared to “4,313 in September 2020.”

Since then, Texas abortion facility directors have reported even bigger drops in their abortion numbers, as high as 80 percent compared to the previous year, according to the *Texas Tribune*. With more than 54,000 abortions reported in Texas in 2020, that equates to thousands of unborn babies’ lives saved thus far.

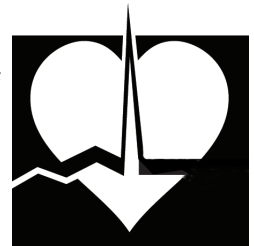
The law, which went into effect September 1, prohibits abortions once an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable, about six weeks of pregnancy. It also includes a unique private enforcement provision that allows individuals to sue abortionists who violate the law.

Though lawsuits against the law are on-going, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to block the law, first in September and again on December 10, and it looks like it will remain in effect at least through the end of the year.

Speaking with the *Register*, Michael New, associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and visiting professor at The Catholic University of America, said studies show that pro-life laws “do have a real impact.”

For example, New pointed to a 2004 study in the *Journal of Law and Economics* about abortion laws in Europe and the U.S. According to the study,

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MARCH FOR LIFE

January 21st, 2022

Washington, D.C.



March with us in Washington, D.C. Friday, January 21st

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.

Seating will be limited to 1/2 capacity of the bus. Masks will be required.

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 814-946-0681, Roxanne at 814-695-8008 or Kathleen at 814-591-0248.

(Donations to help with bus expense are appreciated! Mail to Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601.)

Embryologist: there is a “live human being” at fertilization

By Sarah Terzo

Ronan O’Rahilly is an embryologist. Pro-life author Rick Garrett describes him this way: “Ronan O’Rahilly is the human embryologist who developed the classic Carnegie stages of human embryological development. He also sits on the international board of Nomina Embryologica (which determines the correct terminology to be used in human embryology textbooks).”

According to O’Rahilly: “the fusion of the sperm (with 23 chromosomes) and the oocyte (with 23 chromosomes) at fertilization results in a live human being, a single-cell human zygote, with 46 chromosomes—the number of chromosomes characteristic of an individual member of the human species, not a blob of cells that are part of the mother’s body.”

—Rick Garrett, *The Duping of America* (Maitland, Florida: Liberty Hill Press, 2021) p.114.

This appeared at Clinic Quotes [<https://clinicquotes.com/embryologist-there-is-a-live-human-being-at-fertilization/>]

—National Right to Life News Today, December 16, 2021



Elon Musk Says Depopulation is a Problem: “Civilization is Going to Crumble” if People Don’t Have More Kids

By Micaiah Bilger

Billionaire Elon Musk [named Person of the Year for 2021 by *Time* magazine] dismissed all the fear-mongering about overpopulation December 7th in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, saying people really should be concerned about rapidly declining birth rates.

Summit News reports Musk, the founder of Space X and CEO of Tesla, gave a wide-ranging interview to the *Journal* during its CEO Council in Washington, D.C.

Unlike other famous billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett who believe the world is growing overpopulated, Musk said depopulation is the real problem.

“I think one of the biggest risks to civilization is the low birth rate and the rapidly declining birthrate,” Musk said. “Please look at the numbers. If people don’t have more children, civilization is going to crumble. Mark my words.”

He said there are “not enough people” on Earth, pointing to labor shortages.

“And yet so many people, including smart people, think that there are too many people in the world and think that the population is growing out of control,” he continued.

When the *Journal* asked Musk if that is why he has six children, he answered, “I’m trying to set a good example,” later joking, “I practice what I preach.”

Rich and powerful voices have been stoking fears about overpopulation for more than a century, but, as Musk said, these fears have been widely overblown—sometimes with disastrous results.

Gates and Buffett, for example, donate massive amounts of money to pro-abortion groups that push abortion on families across the world. Worldometer estimates 42 million unborn babies are aborted every year.

And China’s notorious one-child policy, which was established in 1980 to curb the population, led to numerous human rights abuses including forced sterilizations and forced abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

The past several years have brought more voices like Musk’s warning of the threat of depopulation. A 2020 study in *The Lancet*, a prestigious medical journal, predicted the global fertility rate will drop drastically through 2100—with devastating consequences on the whole of society. According to the study, 183 of 195 countries are expected to have a fertility rate below replacement level by the end of the century.

“While population decline is potentially good news for reducing carbon emissions and stress on food systems, with more old people and fewer young people, economic challenges will arise as societies struggle to grow with fewer workers and taxpayers, and countries’ abilities to generate the wealth needed to fund social support and health care for the elderly are reduced,” said Professor Stein Emil Vollset, the lead author of the study.

Recent reports also highlight how older Chinese adults are worried about having no one to care for them in their old age. A number of other Asian and European countries also are beginning to focus on the growing problem as birth rates continue to decline and their populations grow old.

—*LifeNews.com*, December 7, 2021



Thank you to all who purchased and/or helped to sell our Pro-Life Christmas cards! We sold out!



Love WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS

Regional Chapters Citizens Concerned for Human Life

The Bedford County Chapter is chartering buses on Friday, January 21st, to the **March for Life in Washington D.C.**, departing the Everett Walmart parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and returning about 9:00 p.m. after dinner in Hagerstown. adult tickets are \$20 and student tickets are \$10. Participants should dress warmly and bring a bagged lunch.

On Saturday, January 22nd, the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Bedford County Chapter will sponsor a **Bedford March for Life**, assembling at the Real Life Assembly of God Church, corner of Pitt Street and US Route 220. Participants will view the program from the March for Life in Washington, D.C. the day before, and then march to the Bedford County Courthouse for a short program. For more information, contact Doug Braendel, 814-623-6887.

The Centre County Chapter is sending buses to the March for Life on January 21. For more information, contact Susan Rogacs, 814-238-9590.

Student Contests 2022



REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: February 25, 2022

Regional Competition: March 6, 2022

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 25, 2022** 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.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SPEECH CONTEST

PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION - BE A LIGHT FOR LIFE!

Submit video/written entry by April 15, 2022

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 15, 2022**. Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, **the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest and a chaperone will receive an all-expense-paid trip** to attend the **National Oratory Contest** at the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention, **June 24-25, 2022**, in Atlanta, Georgia. For complete contest rules: www.paprolife.org or call **717-541-0034**. The student will represent Pennsylvania in the National Right to Life Oratory Contest during the convention.

2022 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: March 1, 2022

The **2022 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 1, 2022**. 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 must be mailed (not by email) by January 21, 2022, and be postmarked by January 21. Mail to Scott Fischbach, 4249 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409.** For more information on the complete rules of entering this contest, please email Scott at sfischbach@aol.com or visit the NRLC website at nrlc.org.

Most Countries Don't Allow Abortion Through all 9 Months

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Ireland legalized abortion through the first trimester—three weeks earlier in gestation than Mississippi is attempting to restrict abortion in the *Dobbs* case.

Mexico's recent decriminalization of abortion has given states the jurisdiction to create their own restrictions on abortion legality—a right that American states have been fighting for since seven men on the Supreme Court stole their autonomy in 1973.

As the world waits for the court to determine the future of abortion in the U.S., it offers Americans an opportunity to reconsider vital questions: What is an abortion? And why does almost every nation who values human rights restrict it?

Current U.S. abortion law rests in the outdated scientific knowledge accessible to doctors and the Supreme Court nearly 50 years ago when Justice Harry Blackmun wrote, "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer."

The medical advances in ultrasound, the fetal doppler, and the ability to operate on babies in the womb continuously verify that the unborn child in the womb is—as countries around the world acknowledge—a human being.

While the women of China and North Korea, whose oppressive regimes use abortion as a form of torture, have had the atrocity of abortion through birth thrust upon them, here in the United States, the culture has voluntarily taken up the mantle of manipulating women into killing their children. If this seems farfetched, just look at the number of women arguing they would never have reached their education level, career goals, or even marital status without abortion.

The time for ignorance has come and gone. The United States must stop allowing the killing of an unborn child in the womb.

America's abortion policies are a drastic departure from the truths Americans—and people of dozens of other nations around the world—hold dear—that "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Supreme Court must seize the opportunity that *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* presents to embrace modern science and separate America from human rights violators by defending life.

Mary Soch is director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Washington-based Family Research Council, where she researches, writes, and coordinates efforts with other pro-life advocates on policies related to life and human dignity.

Joy Zavalick is a research assistant for the Center for Human Dignity at Family Research Council.

—*The Daily Signal*, November 30, 2021



Prayer for the Supreme Court

Holy Trinity, Source of LIFE and TRUTH, we entrust our nation to you. We ask for mercy for the decades of legalized abortion that has been permitted in our land. We ask that the sacredness of every human LIFE be protected and upheld both in law and in culture. In a special way, we commend to you the justices of the Supreme Court. Please grant them clarity, wisdom and right reason. Overthrow, at last, by your power, the scourge of abortion in our land and usher in a new era of protection for the unborn. By the power of Christ's Passion,

Death and Resurrection, may Your perfect justice be established on earth. Amen.

Foster Care Adoption Changes Lives

By Bradley Mattes

For women facing an unexpected pregnancy, adoption is a life-affirming alternative that both she and her baby can live with. The option of adoption opens a plethora of choices for women. She can choose a closed or open adoption—or anything in-between. The expectant mom has options and the ability to make a placement plan for her child: she can choose an adoptive family with a specific religion, location, or family size. And she has the option of being involved in the baby's life. Additionally, the expectant mother can choose to work with an adoption agency that cares for her needs during the pregnancy and post-placement. It is critical that agencies provide post-placement care and counseling for birth mothers.

Another wonderful avenue of adoption is through the foster care system. This simple focus is providing impressive results.

Louisiana has set a record for the most foster care adoptions. The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services announced that 912 children were placed in permanent homes in 2018. Not only is adoption life-changing for the child, it provides untold blessings for families that open their hearts and homes to children who need a forever family.

The Tampa Bay area was also noticed for their efforts and success toward the permanent placement of foster kids. They have changed the lives of 60 children by matching them with forever homes.

The stability of a permanent family provides blessings that you and I routinely take for granted. For example, a stable family affords a safe and secure environment where abuse and addiction are only a memory, which instills hope and confidence in children. There is food on the table, clothes to wear and most importantly of all,



someone who unconditionally loves them for the rest of their lives.

Kathryn McCuistion Harkender is a living, breathing testimony for foster care adoption. She has experienced both worlds of foster care and permanency. Adoption gave Kathryn more than a loving family. It gave her the opportunity to serve her nation in the Army and later pursue an education. She is now a family nurse practitioner in the Dayton area. Kathryn is also able to give back to her community by coaching pee wee cheerleading.

Kathryn wants people to know that foster care adoption is a "beautiful thing." She added, "Because of my placement, I was able to live a healthy safe life."

Adoption is a blessing that will positively impact future generations. Just like saying no to abortion, adoption not only changes the trajectory of the lives involved, it potentially opens unlimited possibilities for their children and grandchildren.

Is there room in your heart and home for a child who desperately needs a forever family? Please give prayerful consideration to adoption, which can bless everyone involved. If you feel God's gentle whisper in your ear, contact your local foster care agency today to see if expanding your family is in your future.

—Life Issues Institute

Grateful Adoptee Counts Blessings

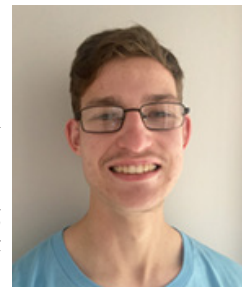
By Camden Hardesty

With Thanksgiving {having recently been celebrated}, I [was] concerned with thankfulness and things we tend to take for granted. For me personally, I have so many things I can be grateful for; first and foremost, it's my life.

I am thankful for the fact that my biological parents, halfway around the globe in a little town in Ukraine, chose life for me 21 years ago. I am also thankful that God led two amazing people to become my proud adoptive parents and give me a better life in arguably the greatest country in the world: America!

Throughout these years, I have been taught the importance of gratitude for many things in my life. I was taught about the sacrifice our soldiers made to preserve the freedoms we have in this great country. The idea of freedom has always been an American value from the very beginning; when the thirteen colonies rebelled against the King's unjust abuse of power. However, in Western culture, the idea of freedom is so comfortable to the point of entitlement even though gratitude should be given every due. I realize I often take freedom for granted, and I don't realize how good I have it. I take my life for granted. How many times have I woken up in the morning and thanked God for that first breath?

If I am going to truly be a voice for the Pro-Life Generation, I must be vocal in celebrating every aspect of life. Fighting for the rights of the preborn is a great cause, and the fight for and appreciation of life should never stop. The simple



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Every Life Matters (ELM)

Pregnancy Support Services

Services we offer: Free Pregnancy Tests, Limited Obstetric Ultrasounds

Parenting and Prenatal Education, Post-Abortion Recovery and Material Resources

We are ALWAYS looking for women who are pregnant and wish to have a FREE ultrasound.

We DO NOT look for gender of the baby.

We are working on offering life skills courses in the near future—better budgeting, meal planning, etc. No dates have been determined.

Our Bright Course/Earn While You Learn lessons can be done virtually. If you live far from the center or the weather is bad, you can call us and set up a time to view the videos from the comfort of your home. Call 814-650-7899.

Carol Steffen, Executive Director

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686 ♦ Phone: 814-650-7899

TheELMPSS@gmail.com ♦ www.elmcenters.org

All material and monetary donations to ELM are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to *Every Life Matters (ELM)*.

Texas Heartbeat Law

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“in both Eastern Europe and the United States, legalizing abortion reduced the birth rate by perhaps 10%” while “modest restrictions on abortion in Eastern Europe reduced abortion rates on the order of 25%.”

Meanwhile, in Texas, pro-life organizations that support families in need have been seeing an increase in calls for help since the law went into effect. According to the *Register*:

Loveline, a Houston-based pro-life charity aimed at helping women deal with unplanned pregnancies, told *Fox News* in October that it saw a 50% nationwide increase in calls after the Texas law was enacted, and 33% of those increased calls were from Texas. Houston Pregnancy Help Center (HPHC), a pro-life pregnancy center, compared data from September 2021 when the law was in effect to numbers from September 2020 that showed ultrasounds increased with the law in place 50% (244 to 365), client visits increased 42% (1,026 to 1,466), and there was an increase of over 20% in pregnancy tests provided. New said this support, coupled with the law, creates a supportive environment where women are “a lot more likely to carry unintended pregnancies to term.”


Along with passing the heartbeat law this year, Texas state lawmakers also increased support for pregnant and parenting mothers and babies, ensuring that they have resources to choose life. This included \$100 million for the state Alternatives to Abortion program as well as additional funding for the Healthy Texas Women program.

While some Texas women are traveling to other states to abort their unborn babies, many others who otherwise might have had abortions are choosing life instead. And even abortion activists admit that pro-life laws do stop abortions.

“... recent studies show that the majority of women who are prevented from reaching an abortion provider due to travel distance give birth as a result,” a group of 154 pro-abortion economists and researchers told the U.S. Supreme Court recently in a brief.

The Texas law has the potential to save tens of thousands of unborn babies from abortion every year. In 2020, about 54,000 unborn babies were aborted in Texas, and about 85 percent happened after six weeks of pregnancy, according to state health statistics.

—*LifeNews.com, December 16, 2021*



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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.
2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Grateful Adoptee Counts Blessings

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fact that I can wake up in the morning should be a reason for a shout of thanks.

I have so many things to be grateful for: my parents, my freedom, my adoption, and my country. The person who deserves all of my gratitude is the One who is the giver of the first breath I take in the morning. He is the reason that I am thankful for the gift of life.

Camden Hardesty is a member and treasurer for Sycamores for Life at Indiana State University.

—*Students for Life of America, November 26, 2021*



In the same way that labels alert consumers as to whether products have been tested on animals, or whether products contain animal products, pharmaceutical products should have labels indicating whether they've been tested on the cell lines of unborn children.

~ Rev. Mark Goring ~

FDA axes in-person requirement for abortion pills

The new policy alters the FDA's previous Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for mifepristone

By Nicholas Marmalejo

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is loosening restrictions on the dangerous chemical abortion drug mifepristone by removing the in-person dispensing requirement and allowing the abortion pill to be received by mail.



The drug was previously available only at specified medical facilities where it could be provided only under the direct supervision of a doctor. The precautions were taken to ensure that the woman

really was pregnant when she took it, that she was not more than 9 or 10 weeks pregnant, that the pregnancy was not ectopic, and that she was not being coerced into the abortion. It also usually prevented the pills from being used to kill the unborn babies of unsuspecting pregnant women.

The new policy alters the FDA's previous Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for mifepristone. According to the FDA, its REMS safety protocol is designed to regulate "certain medications with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits of the medication outweigh its risks." The protocol change now permits pharmacies to dispense the drug with a prescription from an approved medical provider, allowing it to be received by mail.

"Abortion activists' longtime wish has been to turn every post office and pharmacy into an abortion center," said Sue Liebel, State Policy Director for the Susan B. Anthony List, in a condemnation of the decision. "Women who take chemical abortion pills are significantly more at risk of serious complications and more likely to require a visit to the emergency room. Some women even die."

The FDA also states that there have been numerous complications from using mifepristone, including 24 recorded deaths and thousands of other adverse events reported to the FDA. Analysis of the FDA's adverse event reporting system concludes that that these figures are dramatically under counted, although by precisely how much is unknown.

A recent peer-reviewed study by the Charlotte Lozier Institute provides even more alarming statistics. It concluded: "The rate of abortion-related emergency room visits following a chemical abortion increased over 500% from 2002 through 2015, according to an analysis of Medicaid claims data." Additionally, the study also found that "the rate of abortion-related ER visits is growing faster for chemical abortions than [for] surgical abortions."

—Excerpt from *LifeSiteNews*, December 17, 2021



Back alley abortion comes home

By Bonnie Finnerty

The two red lines sent her into a state of panic.

A call to Planned Parenthood confirmed she need not come in for an examination. A tele-med appointment would now suffice. And it would cost less.

Within an hour, the prescription was ready. Two little pills would be her "lifeline."

No one will ever know. This is safe. This is easy. They told me so. This will give me my future back.

She wanted to believe all that. Hours later, reality proved otherwise.

Tears rained down her face while she tried to muffle cries and endure excruciating cramps.

Blood. Everywhere. Severely weakened, all she could do was lay on the cold floor for hours.

Hemorrhaging and pain would last for weeks. The trauma forever.

No one told her.

No one told her that women have died from these pills. That thousands have serious complications.

No one warned that the "tissue" she passed would have a little nose and perfectly formed upper lip.

No one explained she'd deliver a tiny baby, her baby into a toilet, an image she would never be able to unsee.

She was further along than suspected. But a doctor never examined her. Instead, a stranger prescribed an abortion via computer.

She never felt more alone. Scared. Wounded.

This is mail-order abortion. This is what the FDA, the agency that is supposed to safeguard our health, is now allowing.

This is what the abortion industry is selling. "Tele-health" that kills preborn babies and seriously puts women's physical and emotional health at risk.

Back alley abortion has come into the home.

We mustn't let it. We must warn all the young women susceptible to the lies and deceptions of the abortion industry. We must assure them of our help and support.

We must protect them and their precious children, even when our government will not.

—Bonnie Finnerty is Education Director, PA Pro-Life Federation.

—December 17, 2021

OBGYN Group Endorses Abortion Pill Reversal Method That Saves Babies After Abortions Begin

By Micaiah Bilger

The largest organization of pro-life obstetricians and gynecologists in the world is working to expand access to the life-saving abortion pill reversal treatment and save babies' lives.

The American Association of Pro-Life OB-GYNs (AAPLOG) just launched a new page on its website with information for doctors who may want to begin providing the treatment, according to *National Review*.

Created in partnership with Heartbeat International and Live Action, the new resource explains how the treatment works and includes studies showing that it is safe and effective for both the mother and her unborn baby. The page also answers frequently asked questions and includes a video with extensive information about the abortion pill reversal (APR) treatment.

The treatment works by counteracting the abortion drug mifepristone, the first of two drugs typically taken to abort and then expel the unborn baby. Mifepristone makes the uterus inhospitable to new life by blocking the hormone progesterone. The reversal procedure involves giving the mother doses of progesterone to counteract the abortion drug. The abortion pill reversal procedure does not work after the mother takes the second drug, misoprostol, one or two days later.

According to AAPLOG, the treatment works very similarly to a hormonal treatment that has been used for years to help prevent miscarriages.

Here's more from *National Review*:

[Yet, pro-abortion groups] claim that telling women about APR is akin to medical malpractice. They insist, contrary to all available evidence, that APR harms pregnant women—even though doctors regularly prescribe progesterone to pregnant women with a risk of preterm birth or a history of miscarriage. Surely, progesterone wouldn't be used as a corrective in such cases if it were dangerous for pregnant women.

Meanwhile, using progesterone for the purpose of APR has never been shown to have any safety risks. In fact, the chief study that abortion supporters cite when arguing that APR is unsafe demonstrates the exact opposite: Mifepristone poses significant risks to pregnant women, and APR treatment appears to do nothing but help.



Another study found that nearly 70 percent of women who underwent the treatment were able to reverse the effects of the abortion drug and save their babies' lives. The study did not find any increased risks of complications or birth defects.

AAPLOG's new outreach is happening at a critical time. Abortion drugs are being sold by the abortion industry at increasingly massive rates, and pro-lifers fear the trend will continue after the Biden administration recently began allowing abortion drugs to be sold through the mail without a woman ever seeing a medical professional in person.

The abortion pill has killed at least 24 women and 3.7 million unborn babies in the U.S. alone, while the abortion pill reversal treatment has saved more than 2,500 babies' lives so far, according to Live Action.

However, the APR treatment also is up against a huge misinformation campaign. Abortion activists have been attacking it as unsafe despite evidence to the contrary, and Google recently banned two pro-life organizations' ads about it.

Research and medical experts confirm that the abortion pill reversal treatment is safe and effective for both mother and baby. Thousands of mothers' and babies' stories are proof as well. One mother, Rebekah Buell, said her son Zechariah is alive today because of the abortion pill reversal procedure.

Anyone who has taken the first abortion pill and wishes to stop the abortion is urged to immediately visit www.abortionpillreversal.com or call the Abortion Pill Reversal hotline at 877-558-0333.

—*LifeNews.com*, November 8, 2021

63,459,781 Babies Have Been Killed in Abortions Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973

By Steven Ertelt

A new factsheet that tallies the number of babies killed in abortions since 1973 presents heart-breaking news for pro-life Americans. The new figures from the National Right to Life Committee show that almost 63.5 million babies have been killed in abortion since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., is the director of education and research for the pro-life group, provides further analysis of the chart and the horrifying figures. [See following page.]

Although abortion totals per year have gone down since their highs just after *Roe*, almost 900,000 babies are killed in abortions every year and those totals have increased slightly in the last two years because of the COVID pandemic and massive uncertainty in the world, according to NRLC's projections.

"As you see in the accompanying chart, we have made substantial progress in reducing the number of abortions and lowering the abortion rate over the past thirty years. At the same time, though, as long as abortion is legal, each year we will keep adding to the total of lives lost to America's greatest holocaust," he said.

The most accurate abortions figures for the United States come from a pro-abortion group that was formerly a part of Planned Parenthood because those figures come straight from abortion centers that kill babies. The CDC also collects annual abortion figures and their totals are reflected but their annual data is incomplete because California and a couple other states are not included.

"The latest reliable national annual figure we have comes from the Guttmacher Institute which, although pro-abortion, does the most complete data gathering. For the year 2017, Guttmacher estimated the number of abortions performed in the U.S. was 862,320," O'Bannon noted. "That is the lowest figure Guttmacher has reported since 1973 when the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationwide. That number is just a bit more than half of what the toll was in 1990 when Guttmacher recorded more than 1.6 million abortions."

"Numbers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have not included data from California, New Hampshire and at least one other state since 1998, so its annual abortion totals are always much lower than Guttmacher's," he said.

Even the Guttmacher figures are lower than the likely actual abortion count.

"An additional 3% is added to totals from 1973 through 2014, reflecting a 3-5% undercount Guttmacher has estimated for those figures," he said. "Another 12,000 abortions were added for each year since 2015 to reflect the caseload of 'providers' Guttmacher says it may have missed in its 2015-2017 counts."



20 weeks from conception

O'Bannon says the increase in abortions is also due to increasing reliance on the abortion pill, which makes killing babies cheaper and easier.

"If an increase occurs, it will likely be to the increased promotion and use of chemical abortions which have risen steadily since the FDA's approval of the abortifacient mifepristone in 2000. So-called "medication abortions" have increased even while surgical abortions have been declining and the number of clinics has been shrinking in the U.S.," he noted. "Efforts of the abortion industry and its political allies to promote telemedical chemical abortions, where abortionist never sees the woman in person, will surely exacerbate this trend."

The ultimate figure of 63,459,781 babies killed in abortions is greater than the populations of a couple dozen states and larger than many of the biggest countries in the world.

"This is more than the population our country's most populous state (California) and a number greater than the combined population of our 23 least populous states," O'Bannon says.

"To get another take on the enormity of that loss, a nation with a population of 63.5 million would rank about twenty third on the list of the world's most populous countries. In terms of population, a nation that size would rank ahead of such countries as Italy, Spain, Kenya, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Argentina, Columbia, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Cambodia, South Korea, or Canada," he added.

The pro-life advocate says pro-life Americans must step up their efforts to end abortion and build on the success of lowering abortion rates in half over time.

"To reiterate, the long term trend in the number of abortions is definitely downward, even in the midst of overall population increases. It is clear that the legislative, educational, political, and outreach strategies of the pro-life movement have been effective," he concluded. "The numbers make clear both that we have come a long way and that we have a long way left to go."

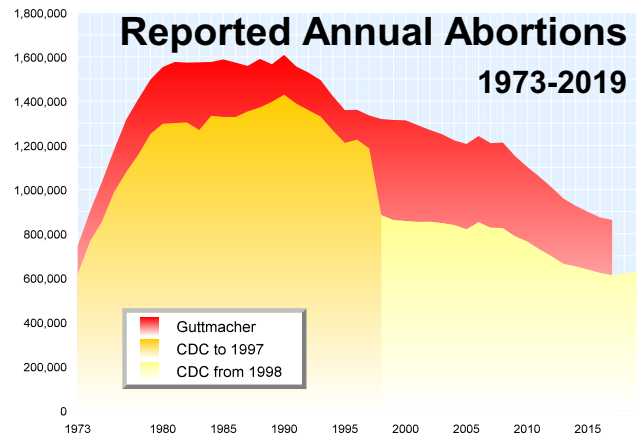
—LifeNews.com, January 7, 2022

ABORTION statistics

United States Data and Trends

1973	744,610	Guttmacher	615,831	CDC
1974	898,570		763,476	
1975	1,034,170		854,853	
1976	1,179,300		988,267	
1977	1,316,700		1,079,430	
1978	1,409,600		1,157,776	
1979	1,497,670		1,251,921	
1980	1,553,890		1,297,606	
1981	1,577,340		1,300,760	
1982	1,573,920		1,303,980	
1983	1,575,000		1,268,987	
1984	1,577,180		1,333,521	
1985	1,588,550		1,328,570	
1986	1,574,000		1,328,112	
1987	1,559,110		1,353,671	
1988	1,590,750		1,371,285	
1989	1,566,900		1,396,658	
1990	1,608,600		1,429,247	
1991	1,556,510		1,388,937	
1992	1,528,930		1,359,146	
1993	1,495,000		1,330,414	
1994	1,423,000		1,267,415	
1995	1,359,400		1,210,883	
1996	1,360,160		1,225,937	
1997	1,335,000		1,186,039	
1998	1,319,000		884,273*	
1999	1,314,800		861,789*	
2000	1,312,990		857,475*	
2001	1,291,000		853,485*	
2002	1,269,000		854,122*	
2003	1,250,000		848,163*	
2004	1,222,100		839,226*	
2005	1,206,200		820,151*	
2006	1,242,200		846,181*	
2007	1,209,640		827,609*	
2008	1,212,350		825,564*	
2009	1,151,600		789,116*	
2010	1,102,670		765,651*	
2011	1,058,490		730,322*	
2012	1,011,000		699,202*	
2013	958,700		664,435*	
2014	926,190		652,639*	
2015	899,500		638,169*	
2016	874,100		623,471*	
2017	862,320		612,719*	
2018	871,806§		619,591*	*excludes NH, CA and at least one other state
2019-21	886,677§		629,898*	

§ NRLC projection for calculation



There are two basic sources on abortion data in the U.S.: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) publishes yearly, but relies on voluntary reports from state health departments (and New York City, Washington, D.C.). It has been missing data from California, New Hampshire, and at least one other state since 1998.

- The Guttmacher Institute (GI) contacts abortion clinics directly for data but does not survey every year.
 - Because it surveys clinics directly and includes data from all fifty states, most researchers believe Guttmacher's numbers to be more reliable, though Guttmacher still believes it may miss some abortions.
- Both the CDC and Guttmacher show significant recent drops and sustained declines over the last 25 years.
- Total abortions dropped 28.8% from 1998 to 2019 with the CDC, and fell 46.4% from 1990 to 2017 with GI.
 - Total abortions fell below 1 million for the first time in the 2013 GI count and have continued downward to 862,320 in the most recent GI figures for 2017.
 - The **abortion rate** for 2017 for GI was 13.5 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-44), less than half that of 1981 (29.3) and lower than when abortion was legalized in the U.S. in 1973 (16.3).
 - GI says there were 18.3 abortions for every 100 pregnancies ending in live birth or abortion in 2016, 18.4 for 2017, lower **abortion ratios** than any since 1972.
 - Guttmacher says that abortion "providers" have dropped from a high of 2,918 in 1982 to 1,587 in 2017.
 - According to the CDC, the percentage performed with chemical abortifacients like mifepristone rose from 9.6% in 2004 to 43.7% in 2019.

The Consequences of *Roe v. Wade*

63,459,781

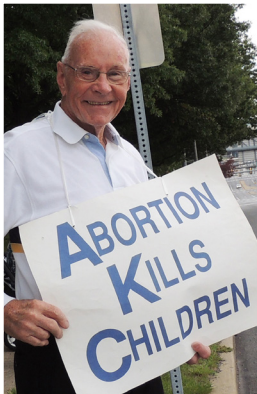
Total abortions since 1973

Based on numbers reported by the Guttmacher Institute 1973-2017, with 3% added for GI estimated possible 3-5% undercount for 1973-2014. Another 12,000 per year added for 2015-2021 for abortions from "providers" GI says it may have missed in 2015-2017 counts. 1/22

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Save the Date!
Sunday, October 2,
2022!



Mom Refused Doctors' Suggestion to Abort Two of Her Quadruplets Now They're All Healthy

By Maria Gallagher

Once, while scrolling through my emails, I came upon a fascinating find. It was a message from a man named Michael.

Michael came to his pro-life convictions naturally. You see, he is a quadruplet.

I will let Michael take up the story from there:

"When my parents discovered they were expecting four children at once, their doctors tried to pressure them into "reducing" to twins.

"To the medical system, the lives of my brothers and me didn't count—literally—unless our parents chose to carry us to term. And twins were 'less risky' for the doctors and the hospitals than quadruplets were."

But Michael's parents were convinced that all four of their children deserved a chance at life. Michael says that, despite scare tactics, "including telling my mother that she and all four of us would die if they didn't choose abortion, my parents' faith and belief in the equality of unborn life led them to protect us all."

Michael's parents dismissed the pro-abortion doctors and searched for new ones who truly respected the gift of life. The result? All four babies were born safely, without any complications or health issues.

Michael added, "Knowing that I was only born because of my parents' commitment to valuing all life, and willingness to put their lives on the line for those beliefs, I've always considered it my responsibility to defend unborn children. My right to life shouldn't have depended on parents who would hold to their beliefs in the face of immense pressure from the medical system, and other children shouldn't lose their lives because their parents lack those beliefs."

So I would like to salute Michael's family and all families of multiples who bravely rejected a doctor's pressure to abort their precious offspring. The world is a better place with you in it!

—LifeNews.com, November 22, 2021



Pennsylvania Abortion Totals Increase Pandemic Partly Responsible for the Rise

By Maria Gallagher

The number of abortions in Pennsylvania increased in 2020 by 3.5% according to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, the Keystone State affiliate of National Right to Life.

Statistics released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health show 1,105 more abortions occurred in 2020 compared to 2019. In all, 32,123 abortions took place in 2020—a year when the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the Commonwealth.

In a year when the Wolf Administration refused to allow Pennsylvanians to undergo elective surgeries, abortion operations were permitted to perform abortions unabated.

"The increase in abortions in Pennsylvania is truly alarming," said Maria Gallagher, legislative director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. "When many other businesses were forced to shut their doors, the abortion industry, led by abortion giant Planned Parenthood, continued to operate.

"Every abortion represents the tragic loss of an innocent human life. In addition, mothers are left to grieve children who are lost to abortion. It is a family tragedy of epic proportions," Gallagher added.

In Pennsylvania, abortion totals would be much higher were it not for the many pregnancy resource centers which provide free counseling and material assistance for pregnant women facing challenging circumstances. Pennsylvania's state-assisted Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program offers true alternatives and options to women in their time of need.

"No pregnant woman in Pennsylvania should feel as if she is alone. Pregnancy help centers stand ready to offer no-cost assistance and the emotional support every pregnant woman deserves," Gallagher added.

—PA Pro-Life Federation, January 4, 2022

Maria Gallagher is the Legislative Director and Political Action Committee Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and she has written and reported for various broadcast and print media outlets, including National Public Radio, CBS Radio, and AP Radio.

From the President's Desk

Some Thoughts on the March for Life

Nellie Gray, a Washington, D.C. attorney and government employee, was stunned by the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions on January 22, 1973 and made up her mind to do something about it.

She and a group of friends met at her home and decided to organize a one-time protest march around the U.S. Capitol on the first anniversary of the infamous decision which permitted abortion until the day of birth.

Nellie, who spoke in Altoona on two occasions, was a stalwart Pro-Lifer who would not compromise her position on the issue. Her battlecry was "No Exceptions."

In 1979, I got invited by Ann and Richard Zelnosky to lead our bus trip to Washington. My recollection was that we took two buses that day and that a group of marchers got lost.

Since then, I missed two Marches, one for a jury trial and one for a medical exemption and the death of my mother-in-law.

Each March is different and unique. Something always stuck out to remind you of the seriousness of the issue and why you were there.

Sometimes the weather is bright and sunny and sometimes it is bitterly cold.

One March only a few of us went because of the frigid weather—my friends, John Murray and Chet Kowalski—who are no longer with us, were there that day.

I remember distinctly the first time I saw the photo of a fully developed aborted baby on top of an American flag—it brought tears to my eyes.

Who can forget the Tradition, Family and Property contingent usually near the front of the March with their banners and instruments playing "God bless America."

Who can forget the young people marching from many colleges and high schools enthusiastically shouting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, *Roe v. Wade* has got to go."

Who can forget the music from the Sounds of Liberty and others on stage before the program began.

Who can forget Rabbi Levin blowing his shofar immediately before the March to the Supreme Court begins.

Who can forget in 1987 getting stuck in a snow storm in Germantown, Md. and finding shelter in two newly opened hotels thanks to the generosity of Bernadine Riley. That year we didn't get to march but we were there in spirit.

What a journey Nellie has led us on over these 49 years since the Supreme Court allowed the slaughter of the innocent by a seven to two vote.

Thanks, Nellie, for what you started and for inspiring millions to join the fight for the babies. Maybe this year "*Roe*" will go. Let us pray that it does and that there are "NO EXCEPTIONS."

R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life

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Requested by: James M. Kilcoyne

In Memory of:

Margaret Mary Petracca

Requested by: Fr. Anthony Petracca

Florence and Dennis Kovach

Requested by: Jacqueline Frew

McNelis All-Stars

Requested by: Chris McNelis

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Requested by: Dr. Pinaki & Ingrid Das
Helen Hoover

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, 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 and God bless you!

Need help in a crisis pregnancy?

Every Life Matters (ELM)

1351 Logan Ave., Tyrone

814-650-7899; TheELMPSS@gmail.com

Precious Life, Inc.

1716 12th Ave., Altoona

814-944-2669; preciouslifeinc.com

Real Alternatives, Inc., 1-888-LIFE-AID

realalternatives.org

Post-abortion counseling

Project Rachel

814-884-8000; ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org

Rachel's Vineyard

877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)

rachelsvineyard.org/

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

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The Supreme Court's Chance to Get the Science Right

By Donna Harrison M.D.

For the first time in fifty years, the Supreme Court has been asked directly to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the decision which took away the ability of the American people to protect preborn human beings.^[1] The scientific information available to the Supreme Court in *Roe* was based primarily on the medical imagination of Justice Blackmun, who was neither a scientist nor a physician, but who relied on his own research to determine facts about preborn human beings, which was pivotal in the Court's decision to refuse to allow states to protect their preborn children.

And despite the patently absurd claim by Justice Sotomayor during the oral arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that nothing has changed in medicine over the last 30 years regarding fetal pain,^[2] the scientific reality is that fetuses at 15 weeks exhibit the same physiological reactions to pain^[3] that Justice Sotomayor would experience: withdrawal from painful stimuli, increase in heart rate, etc. That is why when we operate on a fetus, that fetus is given separate anesthesia and the fetuses who have anesthesia do better than fetuses without anesthesia. The science is clear. The court has no excuse any longer to deny the reality of the human being in utero.

What was also clearly presented to the court is the information about the harms of abortion to women.^[4] Fifty years of abortion in America has left a disaster of increasing preterm birth^[5], increasing mental health problems including suicide, drug abuse and depression^[6], and increasing breast cancer^[7] in women who abort and subsequently delay bearing children.

And for the first time, the scientific and medical evidence regarding the harms of abortion was presented directly to the Supreme Court. We hope they don't choose to ignore the facts. And the facts all point to one decision: The Supreme Court needs to catch up with the science and allow the people to decide for themselves. *Roe* must go.

Donna Harrison M.D. is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG).

[1] <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/>

[2] https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/2021/19-1392_gfbi.pdf page 17-19

[3] <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PG-2-Fetal-Pain.pdf>

[4] https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/185350/20210729163532595_No.%2019-1392%20-%20American%20Association%20of%20Pro-Life%20Obstetricians%20and%20Gynecologists%20-%20Amicus%20Brief%20in%20Support%20of%20Petitioner%20-%20207-29-21.pdf

[5] <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PB-5-Overview-of-Abortion-and-PTB.pdf>

[6] <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FINAL-Abortion-Mental-Health-PB7.pdf>

[7] <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FINAL-CO-8-Abortion-Breast-Cancer-1.9.20.pdf>



Members of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists before the Supreme Court during the December 1, 2021 oral arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.