

# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

November 2012



Editor: Jim Burke

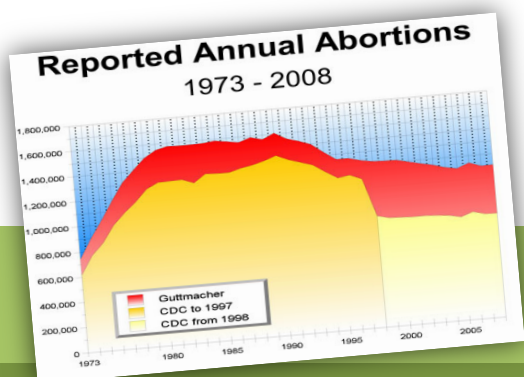
## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Dec 11 Monthly CFLI Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 8 Monthly CFLI Board Meeting

Sat/Sun, Jan 19/20 Local March for Life

Wed-Sun, Jan 23-27 March for Life WDC Trip, March on the 25<sup>th</sup>



## Survived Being Aborted

This February, Melissa Ohden will come to Cedar Rapids. Melissa was born as a result of a failed abortion back in the 1970s.

Abortion advocates don't like when children survive abortions, because it forces people to acknowledge the humanity of the child. When the survivor is a girl, the idea that abortion is about the woman's body falls apart.

We expect the event to draw hundreds of people. Mark your calendars for the event on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow in coming months. If you haven't ever heard the testimony of an abortion survivor, it's an event you won't want to miss!



Abortion Numbers Fall 5%

Largest Single-Year Drop in a Decade

## 40 Days for Life Closing Rally

Many participants of 40 Days for Life joined us for the closing rally. We prayed and had a chance to get to know each other better over pizza.

The next 40 Days for Life begins in mid February. We hope you can all participate again.

Imagine how much good we could do if we covered every hour Planned

Parenthood is open! They've already shifted some hours around.



## Hard Cases – Life/Health of Mother

Many people considering themselves pro-life make exceptions for hard cases, which include the life and/or health of the mother. As said before, abortion supporters often use these exceptions to back up their claims that most people support abortion in at least some cases, and then leverage exceptions to push the limits further.

People often demonize someone that would place more value in the life of a preborn child than the mother. Such people claim we are insensitive to women

and just let them die. It's important to consider this very emotionally driven scenario.

It's usually best to avoid biased sources. However, if the source has a history of bias against your view and they still support your views, then it's harder to oppose. So we will start by quoting former head of Planned Parenthood, Alan Guttmacher.

In his 1967 book, entitled, "Abortion Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," he stated:

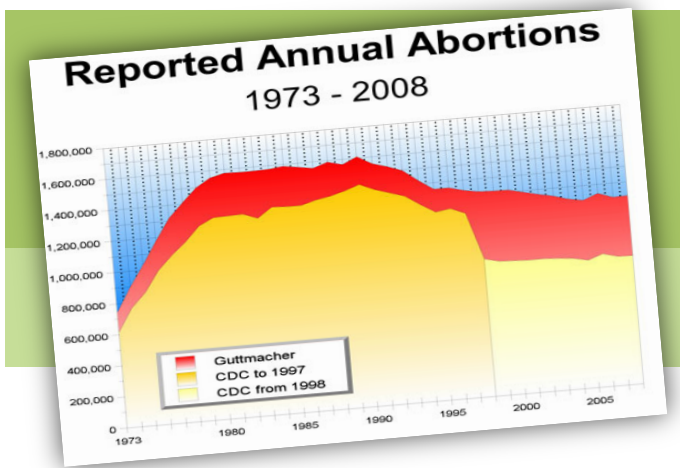
"Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal illness such as cancer or leukemia, and, if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save, life."

Since then, medical science advanced further, making abortion even less likely to save lives. Yet, Planned Parenthood began providing abortions while Alan headed the organization, and has grown to become the largest

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## Abortion Numbers Fall 5%

Largest Single-Year  
Drop in a Decade



It's official. Abortion numbers dropped 5% in 2009, continuing a downward trend. Some organizations have suggested causes for the drop, yet nothing is conclusive yet. Do their claims hold up? Let us look at what some people claim was the cause.

### **Claim 1: Bad economy.**

Typically, when the economy crashes, demand for abortions increases. Abortions are cheaper than giving birth, and babies come with a long-term set of ongoing expenses. When finances are tough, this is what people focus on, rather than the joys and other good things about children.

### **Claim 2: Contraception.**

People often assume contraception decreases the number of abortions.

Organizations including Planned Parenthood who people often trust to know about such things pushes this as a solution. But studies show the opposite because behaviors change.

Spain performed a 10-year study on the relationship between contraception and abortion. They went in with the hypothesis that more contraception leads to lower abortion rates. Such a study should help identify how much impact they get for the amount of money spent on promoting contraceptives. To their surprise, they found an increase in the number of

abortions. Many pro-lifers weren't surprised, as many of us knew of this correlation for many years.

But, one study could have flawed or misleading results. Soon after the study in Spain, California reported similar results in a study they performed.

### **Claim 3: Access to Family Planning.**

Access to family planning usually means access to contraception and abortion providers. When contraception increases abortion rates, it's hard to claim access decreases abortions. When abortion is made available, rates don't drop.

**These claims  
make no sense!**

## Hard Cases

### Continued from page 2

abortion provider in the United States. Oddly enough, if a mother's life is in danger, odds are that she goes to a doctor, and would never need an organization like Planned Parenthood to perform such an abortion.

Some people may reject a single statement, regardless of the source. Clearly, mothers can face life or death situations while pregnant. Ethicists have studied such decisions and how to approach them.

Abortion requires the intentional taking of the child's life. Even Iowa legal code defines it in a way that requires intent in chapter 146.1, “*abortion*” means the termination of a human pregnancy with the intent other than to produce a live birth or to remove a dead fetus.”

It's possible to take measures to save the life of the mother, and the child dies without the intention of killing the child. This is called “double effect.” We should strive to save both mother and child.

If we make efforts to save

both patients and the child dies, it's no different than when a doctors do their best to save any other patient and death results. It's not murder. Death is natural and happens to everyone. It's the intentional taking of life that's wrong and constitutes murder.

In many cases, medical conditions allow waiting a few weeks to induce early birth and then treat the mother's condition. People arguing to keep abortion legal to save the life of the mother rarely consider these ethical perspectives, and say we will force women to die, even though that's not true.

Abortion has no place in health. Health affirms life, aiming to restore life to optimum function, not destroy it.

Abortion advocates claim we value the life of the child over the mother. It's wrong to place the value of one life over another. Sound bites like this build support, but THEY are the ones placing the life of one over the other. They focus entirely on the mother's life at the expense of the child's life.

We agree with the Declaration of Independence that states we are all created equal by our

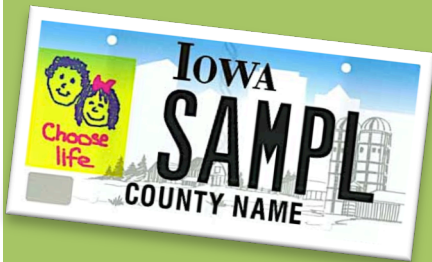
Creator. We treat mother and child equally, not allowing the denial of the rights of either. Our rights end where the rights of others begin. The child has the right to life, and taking it violates that right.

As for the health of the mother, health fluctuates over time and can be restored without taking a life. Also, the definition of health extends to mental health, which in turn allows any abortion. Abortion providers step clients through the reasoning that carrying their baby to term would cause them mental anguish, which then justifies abortion under the guise of health.

If we want to value all life equally, we should oppose abortion, even in cases where the life of the mother is in danger. There are alternatives that prevent parents from authorizing a doctor to end their child's life, and the doctor can avoid taking lives. No one has to die unnecessarily, and no one takes part in taking life. Wouldn't you prefer a doctor that seeks to affirm all life, rather than giving into hopeless pessimism, taking an easy way out when challenges arise?



## Pro-Life Challenge



### Register for Choose Life License Plates

Many people who wanted Choose Life plates still haven't submitted the application form. Help us reach the minimum by submitting the registration form soon. Contact us at [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com) if you have questions.



### Let Others Know About Choose Life Plates

Many people still don't know such plates can become available if a few more people register for them. Let others know!

# Change

After the outcome of this month's elections, many pro-lifers faced disappointment and concern for the future. Many people still want to make positive changes, but wonder how we can do so with the current political climate.

We need to continue to educate our friends and others in the community about life matters. Lawmakers are elected by the majority vote of the people. They also often vote based on what their constituents support. If they don't, they risk losing their next election.

If we change the views of people, women may choose life. They will be more likely to implement or support pro-life policies in businesses or laws.

If we fail to act, abortions continue by default. This means abortion prevails unless we take actions to educate people.

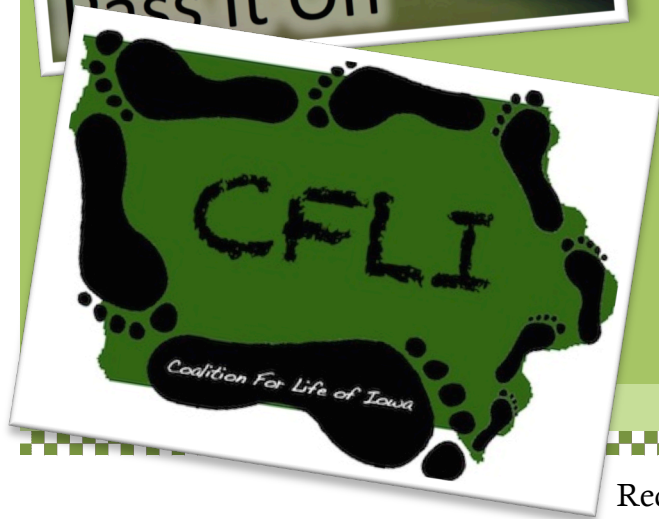
Like lawmakers who are pro-life but are unwilling to legislate according to their principles of defending life, we must be willing to bring up the subject. Some people

don't feel educated enough about the issues to defend the life-affirming position. We hope this newsletter helps to educate you and others.

We will continue to explain the so-called hard cases and how they aren't as hard as people think. Knowing that logical reasoning isn't as useful when people have a strong emotional connection with one side or the other, we've also tried to identify emotional arguments in addition to the logical arguments. They all work together to affirm life.

If you have stories of sharing the pro-life message, contact us and share them. If you've never spread the word, please, make an attempt. If you have spread the word before, challenge yourself to reach a few more people or do so in new ways. You can create change.





## Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people that might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Request electronic copies by email: [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

## Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406