



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

June 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## Special Edition!

Last year we switched from having a monthly newsletter to having an online blog. But enough things have happened of great enough significance that it justified a special edition.

I also missed writing the newsletter. I am presently considering whether to resume the monthly newsletter, make it quarterly, or just have special editions on occasion. Many of our members have also indicated that they miss the newsletter.

Various laws were signed into law. A large percentage of Planned Parenthood sites will close this summer. But there are important things that need to be done.

- Jim Burke

# Upcoming Events

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| <b>Sun, Sep 24</b><br>(Time is TBD)          | <b>40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally</b><br>Join us to kick-off our 40 days of prayer and fasting!<br><b>Where:</b> (TBD)<br><b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a>   |
| <b>Sep 27 – Nov 5</b><br>24 hours / day      | <b>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil</b><br>Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!<br><b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood<br>3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA<br><b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a> |
| <b>Sun, Nov 5</b><br>5 p.m. – 7 p.m.         | <b>40 Days for Life Finale Rally</b><br>Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting!<br><b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood<br>3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA<br><b>More info:</b> <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</a>                |
| <b>Second Tuesdays</b><br>7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | <b>CFLI Board Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)</b><br>Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!<br><b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop<br>120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA<br><b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Fourth Tuesdays</b><br>7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | <b>CFLI Working Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)</b><br>Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!<br><b>Where:</b> St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop<br>120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA<br><b>More info:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>~ 2018 ~</b>                              |  |
| <b>January</b>                               | Midwest March for Life in Des Moines   |
| <b>January</b>                               | Cedar Rapids March for Life  |
| <b>January</b>                               | National March for Life (March is Jan 19)  |
|  |  |



## More Closings!

In mid-May Planned Parenthood (PP) announced the closure of FOUR more facilities! This brings the number of Planned Parenthood locations down to eight.

The map shows non-PP abortion facilities in orange, PP surgical abortion facilities in red, PP webcam abortion facilities in yellow, and PP referral facilities in blue. Closings appear in green. Iowa will have three referral facilities, three webcam abortion facilities, and three surgical abortion facilities, two of which are run by Planned Parenthood. The other abortion facility is the Emma Goldman facility in Iowa City—the first abortion site to open after *Roe vs. Wade*.

### Excuses, Blame, etc.

They blamed the cutting of Medicaid funding. They depended heavily on the government funds. If they didn't close four facilities, then they would have struggled even more. But the facilities weren't performing well. Sioux City periodically struggled to get abortionists, and people in that area don't support Planned Parenthood much compared to the rest of Iowans.

The Keokuk facility was always a small business with very few hours of operation. Burlington offered webcam abortions, and they expanded their hours quite a bit. But it

wasn't enough. The Quad Cities housed their top-notch abortion facility, but even that will close soon after the others.

### Old Affiliate Closed

What many people overlook is the closing of the last facility that was operated under the old Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa affiliate. The affiliate operated the facilities south of Iowa City. Planned Parenthood of the Heartland merged with them on June 30, 2011. The last of what remains of that affiliate will close on June 30, 2017—that's six years to the day

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## Government Update: Historic Legislation

The 2017 legislative session in Iowa seemed to take forever. Some people loved the laws being passed, while other people felt the blow of each passing week.

Some pro-life bills were introduced in February, but then they seemed to stall. But Iowa did see a pro-life bill related to abortion pass. It also saw the passage of a bill addressing the shifting of funds away from abortion providers. This session lumped bills into weeks with a theme, and abortion was no different. Both bills passed the legislature during the same week.

### **Reallocating Funds**

The health budget bill ([HF-653](#)) was signed into law just before the Mother's Day weekend. It established a state program that frees the state of the federal rules imposed by Medicaid with regards to the Medicaid Family Planning Network Waiver. Opponents cite the higher costs that come with losing out on the "free money" that we receive from the federal government that we pay for in federal taxes. But this shift allowed the state to prevent reimbursing medical expenses paid to abortion providers. Since Planned Parenthood forced each affiliate to offer abortions at one or more of

their sites, this has the effect of ensuring taxpayer funds will not pay for services at Planned Parenthood or the Emma Goldman Clinic. As noted elsewhere in this month's newsletter, Planned Parenthood blames this bill for the closing of four facilities this summer. Unlike a typical budget bill, this part of the bill will remain in effect year after year.

### **20-week Abortion Ban**

A bill ([SF-471](#)) banning abortions after 20 weeks post-fertilization was signed into law one week earlier. One great feature in the law is the way it will bump the timing of the

**Continued on next page**



## Government Update (continued)

### Continued from page 4

limit up as medical science advances. As viability gets earlier in pregnancy, the ban will shift to match viability.

Although viability isn't the thing that gives human life value, this is better than what Iowa law previously allowed. Pro-life lawmakers know there's more work ahead.

The law did not include many of the exceptions often demanded by lawmakers. We typically see exceptions for rape and incest. But lawmakers heard good arguments why those exceptions are not needed, including hearing from a woman who was conceived in rape. The law does include a few exceptions, however. One exception allows

abortion to save the life of the mother, even though abortion should never be required in order to accomplish the valuable action of saving the life of the mother.

A second exception allows abortion in a medical emergency. Since abortion requires intent to prevent a live birth, one shouldn't need this exception either. But it is in the law.

The final exception prevents charges of abortion when a medical procedure intends to prevent the death or preserve the life of the pregnant woman, but the child dies in the process.

The bill included a 72-hour waiting period between receiving information about abortion and having the abortion performed. The information includes the

following:

- Ultrasound of the child has been done
- The woman had an opportunity to see the child
- The woman has an option to hear a description of the unborn child, based on the ultrasound and hearing the heartbeat
- Information developed by the department of public health
- Materials that offer alternatives to abortion

The 72-hour provision of the law is being challenged in court, based in part on the lack of information from the department of public health. But the remainder of the law is in effect. It was a great session, but we can't stop now! Support pro-life lawmakers.



## More Closings (continued)

**Continued from page 3**  
after the merger.

The merger allowed them to survive longer by draining the financial resources from the more profitable locations. A similar thing happened when Planned Parenthood of East-Central Iowa merged with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. The Monticello and Dubuque facilities nearly drove the affiliate that was based in Cedar Rapids out of business. The closing of one facility then the other and the merger helped keep them open.

### **Stark Contrast**

In 2011 Planned Parenthood of the Heartland announced their intention to expand to at least five new cities. They didn't open facilities in any of those cities. But they did close the

majority of the facilities they had. They will only have the Council Bluffs facility in the western half of Iowa. The Cedar Falls facility is the only one that will remain in the northern half of Iowa.

They span Nebraska and Iowa. But they only have two facilities in eastern Nebraska along I-80. If we include Council Bluffs in that pair of metro areas, then that just leaves a loop containing their other facilities. This leaves them with: Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, three sites in the Des Moines metro area, and Ames. Only sites in major cities remain.

It seems likely that the closing of four facilities is just another of the many steps as

they shrink into obscurity. It would not be surprising to see them close a couple more facilities in the year or two ahead. Might the Cedar Rapids site be one of them? Only time will tell.

But we cannot expect them to fade away on their own. They are fighting harder than ever. This is not the time to become complacent. We need to match their efforts. We need to keep praying. We need to keep contacting our lawmakers. We need to learn how to talk about the abortion issue with everyone we can. There is much work to be done!

We hope women find far better health options. There are so many wonderful options!

## Pro-Life Challenge

## VOLUNTEER



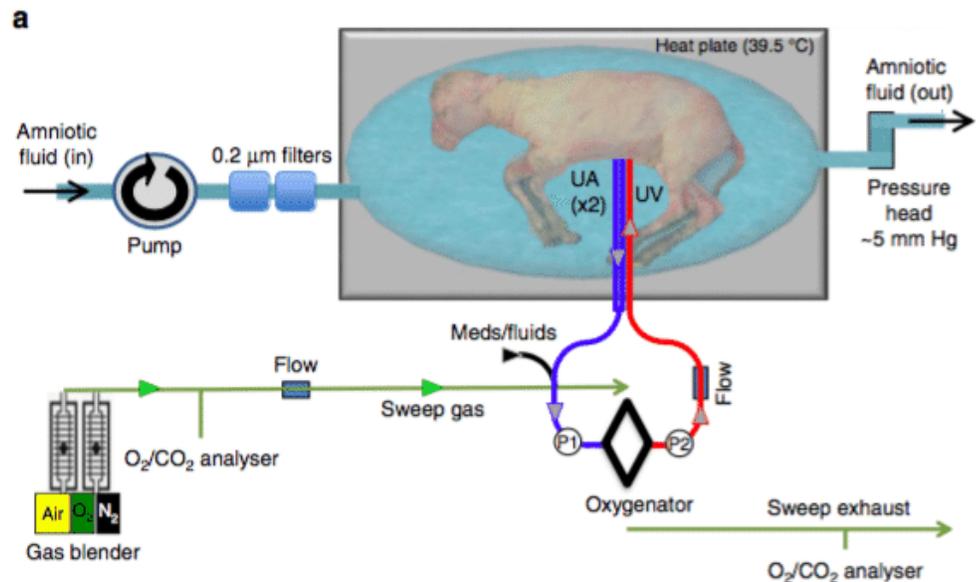
## Help us out!

The pro-life movement is experiencing greater success than we've seen in the past several decades. But with success comes an even greater need for help. Please help us build a culture of life! Volunteer!



## Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. There are many needs. The harvest is plenty; harvesters are few. Many hands make for light work!



## Artificial Wombs

Scientists have developed a system that has kept animals alive while in a stage of development that would typically require the animal to still reside within a womb. The artificial womb is not advanced enough to support development in the earlier stages of development.

Like any technology, this could bring benefits or harm. If this is tried in humans, it could help the development of children who might be born prematurely. Lungs stop their development after the first few breaths of air. An artificial womb could allow children to continue to use the umbilical cord while remaining in fluid, and thus avoid many complications.

But it could also lead to the dehumanizing of pregnancy. Science fiction has plenty of stories of humans being created and formed in ways that avoid the natural methods. Fertilization could occur apart from any conjugal act. If technology greatly advanced, the child could grow outside of their mother.

What could draw the most interest is the potential for greatly shifting the stage of viability. Although viability isn't a good argument for a person suddenly possessing the right to life, an artificial womb could make survival outside of one's mother occur much earlier. Iowa's law that adjusts based on viability could protect increasingly more lives.

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## Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who 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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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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