



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

April 2018

Editor: Jim Burke

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**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events**

Avoid the Straw Man

The article “Understanding: Cut the Cord” in this issue of the newsletter gets into a few details about abortions. The article aims to help us think more critically about what we read, even when pro-life news sources suggest that people on the other side of the issue appear to be monsters.

Sometimes we misunderstand what is meant. It doesn't make abortion okay; we still oppose abortion because it takes the life of a living human being. But it doesn't help when people assume someone is saying something they aren't.

A straw man argument is one where we claim someone believes something that they don't believe, and then attack that weak position. We see this when pro-choicers claim we want to control women, take away their reproductive healthcare, etc. They lose credibility with us when they do that. The same happens when we make wrong assumptions or wrong conclusions. People respect us more when we are honest, and it keeps dialogue going. Truth is shared best when dialogue doesn't get shut down.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meeting (2nd Tuesdays)

Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop

120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Fourth Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Working Meeting (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!

Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop

120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Fri, May 11
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

An Evening with Bridgehaven Gala

Come to the annual fundraising gala for Bridgehaven!

Where: Cedar Rapids Marriott

1200 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <http://bridgehavencr.org/events/banquet>

Sun, May 13

Mother's Day

Tue, May 22
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Cedar Valley Guiding Star Gala

Come to the annual fundraising gala, featuring Abby Johnson!

Where: Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center

200 West 4th Street, **Waterloo**, IA 50701

More info: <https://guidingstarcedarvalley.org>

Sun, Jun 17

Father's Day



Leah Torres, MD
@LeahNTorres

No.

You know fetuses can't scream, right? I transect the cord 1st so there's really no opportunity, if they're even far enough along to have a larynx.

I won't apologize for performing medicine. I'm also a "uterus ripper outer," if that's how you'd like to describe hysterectomy.

Understanding: Cut the Cord

Here's a challenge. Read the Twitter post above the headline of this article, although this article won't address the last paragraph. Which cord do you think she's referring to?

Many people interpreted it one way, without asking for clarification. But someone who did talk with her says that she claimed she was referring to a different kind of cord. So before going into details and reasoning this through, re-read it and think of other interpretations before continuing to read beyond this paragraph. Now consider which type of cord makes the most sense in the context of an abortion procedure.

I'll admit that when I first read it, I visualized the spinal cord cuts that former abortionist Kermit Gosnell inflicted on newborn children. But I saw articles claiming she cut vocal cords, due to the mention of the larynx. But the umbilical cord is also an option.

Let's consider the options. Both the spinal and vocal cords are most accessible in the neck. The umbilical cord floats around and is longer than the neck. Abortions are provided in the womb, usually blindly maneuvering instruments. In this environment, the umbilical cord is much easier to cut. In the event the child is old enough to experience pain, it's also the one cord you could cut that would yield little or no pain reaction.

Many articles referred to the cord (singular) being cut as being the vocal cords (plural). The difference in plural versus singular should also cause us to consider whether we interpreted the statement correctly.

Cutting the umbilical cord while the child is in the womb is a common part of an abortion procedure. It suffocates the child of oxygen-rich blood. It is the cord that makes the most sense.

What about the larynx she

mentioned? Without a larynx, a scream might just sound like a sigh. She is making a separate point about how a scream might not even be heard if the child is too young. Also, without air in the womb, a scream wouldn't make audible noise. And she seems to suggest she cuts a cord regardless of whether or not the child has a larynx. She can't mean the vocal cords.

When clarifying to a pro-lifer, she said she meant the umbilical cord. This makes the most sense considering the full context of the statement and how abortions are performed.

Let's be careful how we read statements made by people with different views. Some sites updated their articles to say it's not clear which cord she meant, which is more fair than claiming vocal cords. But I find her claim to be reasonable.



Government Update: Session Ending

Iowa

April 17th should have been the last day of the 2018 session for the Iowa Legislature. But the budget needed to get approved. So the session has extended throughout the month of April.

Some people think a few matters not specifically related to the budget might pass. But time is really running down at this point. It's not likely that pro-life bills will get through the legislature this year. It would be wonderful to be wrong about this.

California

[SB320](#) remains in the California legislature. It aims to force college campuses to

carry and dispense abortion pills. It has already passed the California senate.

Planned Parenthood has made it clear that it plans to push many bills in several states. They are trying to build grassroots support. This year's elections could determine their success for a few years. Some of the legal challenges to laws passed that favor abortion are looking promising for us.

Nation

Taxpayers continue to fund Planned Parenthood. Congress had a good opportunity when the spending omnibus bill was up for a vote, but that opportunity has come and gone.

At least our US Senators and our representative in the US

House have proven themselves as voting more pro-life than most others at the federal level.

Death Penalties

At least four states have had some chance to abolish the death penalty this year with some hope of success. The lawmaker who proposed the bill in Utah withdrew it before the end of session. In Washington, time ran out to get it passed. In New Hampshire, their bill made it to their governor, but the governor promised to veto it. An override of the veto would require more supporters than originally voted in favor of the bill. Louisiana had their bill defeated in a house committee by a small margin.



Alfie — A Life

Late last summer, the world became aware of Charlie Gard. Charlie was a boy in the UK that died when the government prohibited treating him and wouldn't allow him to leave the country.

A few months later, we see another case with Alfie Evans. Alfie died on April 28th. He was taken off of a ventilator that doctors said was needed to keep him alive. They expected him to die within minutes or at most hours. But he lived for a few days.

Doctors do what they can to make an accurate assessment of the chances of survival of their patients and the likelihood of success of various treatment options. But doctors can be wrong.

Offers were made to take

the child to receive treatment in Italy. He was even granted Italian citizenship. The future costs of Alfie's treatment would not have had to be paid by the UK government.

This led to even greater confusion by people throughout the world when the government not only refused further treatment of Alfie, but also forbade the family from leaving the country. Alfie was not allowed to leave the hospital until after he died. Guards were posted to ensure no one would interfere with Alfie's outcome.

The case points out the dangers of having a government in charge of the health of each person and the power to prohibit travel to other places of treatment. However, Terri Schiavo also had guards posted for a

similar reason, and the government didn't protect her life. But it can be better to have a greater degree of separation between the people who make the medical decisions, and the people who fund the care, and the people who permit or prohibit travel.

The unexpectedly long survival after the removal of the ventilator reveals a problem that arises when states make assisted suicide or euthanasia available. When doctors are wrong, it can lead people to choosing deadly options.

Alfie's case is unusual in that it's a young child. Nations will face greater pressures to refuse care for the sake of cost. It will be exacerbated by the growing availability of lethal drugs and doctors who prescribe them.



Cecile Richards

A while back, Cecile Richards announced that she would leave her position as CEO of Planned Parenthood. She has now officially left her position at Planned Parenthood.

We will keep an eye out for who will replace her and how they handle the position. Planned Parenthood became very political under Cecile's leadership. It grew much more wealthy. While she bragged about their non-abortion services, those services rapidly decreased in the last several years.

Many scandals have arisen across the country's many Planned Parenthood abortion sites. Some of them hurt some of their affiliates. But their lawyers kept many others out of trouble.

Some people wonder if Cecile foresees trouble for the abortion giant. Although Planned Parenthood's supporters like to point out that no convictions have resulted from the videos that revealed evidence about the sale of baby body parts, they haven't made it through any trials. But businesses they sold the parts to have settled out of court. There is enough evidence that the federal government is still examining it. It's very likely it will result in a tremendous challenge for Planned Parenthood.

She was plagued by her contradicting claims. She would say they provided mammograms, only to have it revealed that they don't have any mammogram machines. When asked later, she claimed she never said that they provided mammograms.

During her time running the business, Planned Parenthood handled undercover videos poorly. When videos caught them not handling cases of rape well, Planned Parenthood provided training to their staff. That sounds like it is appropriate so they could learn how to handle such situations correctly. But the training merely taught them how to spot undercover investigators, rather than helping women who are victims.

She led Planned Parenthood for 12 years. She made it stronger in some ways. But it's hard to say it's a better organization. But it's possible that many of the crimes and bad operations might have been preexisting conditions of the organization. People from the abortion industry have reported issues for many years.

Pro-Life Challenge



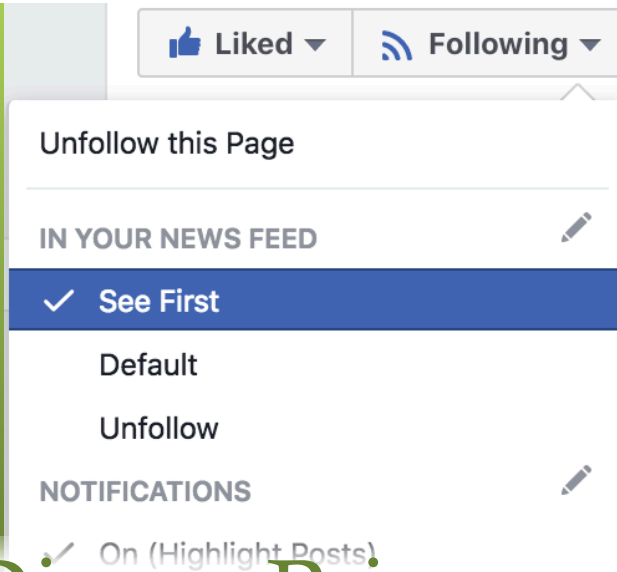
Help us out!

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!



Disney Princesses

Around the end of March, Planned Parenthood made it public that they thought Disney should create a story with a princess that has had an abortion. People's reaction led them to delete their post.

Princesses are seen as someone girls strive to become. Such a character might help Planned Parenthood in their effort to normalize abortion in society. But girls don't grow up wanting abortions. Most people see abortions in a negative light. Some people recognize the taking of life. But even people who don't see it that way still think of it as something that is done to address something they see as a problem.

Disney would not be wise to introduce such a character. It

would create enough outrage that many people would boycott such a movie, and likely Disney itself. But it would also go against the typical characteristics of a princess, even in the minds of people who are okay with abortion.

But there's more to this story. The women to portray Disney princesses have various backgrounds of their own. One of the women who portrayed such a princess released a video about her past abortion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNqF1NJU8J4>

She tells the rest of the story better than any article we could write. So watch the video for the rest of this story.

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- 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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