



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

June 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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

[Donate Here](#)

## Could Use Your Help

Would you be interested in a position on our board? We have a few members who just moved, and we will still have some openings. We need to know ASAP. So even if you just want to know more about it, please contact us.

Our calendar looks sparse right now, while we make preparations for this fall. We could use some help here as well. In addition to our normal events to plan, we have some more stuff coming up!

We surveyed our members and we'll try to get more detailed results out soon. But we saw a clear interest in pro-life apologetics. People want to know how to argue persuasively and effectively for the pro-life stance. We know of a program that should equip you. We're making plans and hope to have some training sessions in the future that incorporate one of the best resources we've found. This should be a really exciting and useful program, so we hope people help us where we need help!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

# Upcoming Events

## **Second Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## **Fourth Tuesdays**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop  
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Help us plan activities  
for the fall!**



## Anti-Social Media

Pinterest fired an employee who blew the whistle on the way the company put Live Action on their porn block list, which makes it [harder to share their content](#). After a little back and forth, Pinterest eventually permanently banned Live Action for being an immediate threat to people, spreading untrue medical information, and spreading anti-vaccination propaganda.

The latter thing is something they've never done. The medical information they share is absolutely accurate. And they are not a threat to people. They are only a threat to falsehoods and ideologies that depend on false information.

Twitter has previously banned Live Action from running paid ads on their platform. That is still in effect. They are very effective in their messaging, and social media outlets tend to block effective pro-life messaging.

To Live Action's credit, they don't just assume the worst of these companies. They know glitches happen and algorithms aren't

always perfect. When insiders bring hard evidence, then Live Action makes statements about the unacceptable behaviors.

GoFundMe has a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood. There are multiple reasons to avoid GoFundMe. A few years ago, the company withheld the funds from someone with a business that was in trouble after they refused to do something against their conscience and deeply held beliefs. Although the business wasn't denying to serve any particular person, but merely refusing to engage in something they found morally objectionable, people spin it as rejecting to serve certain people.

At that time GoFundMe said that businesses should not be able to serve anyone. Then they themselves denied to serve that business owner.

On a good note, they finally reduced their rates from taking roughly 8% of donations off the top to just the normal 3% credit card transaction fee. But that

pales in comparison to what else they do.

Google/YouTube leak reveals a comparison of pro-life and conservative people/organizations with Nazis.

While many technology and social media companies aren't exactly on our side and they often take actions that hurt our cause, it's important to reach people where they are.

Some people have first amendment concerns. Something that is very important to note is that the first amendment applies to the government, not individuals or businesses. A business can choose to limit speech, written content, etc. Businesses in the social media realm tend to post terms and conditions of use of their platform. When a business violates their rules, that's when there's a problem. Many of these platforms fail to live up to their rules and don't publicly declare their biases.



## Government Update

### Federal Government

The federal government has defunded fetal tissue research. Although the split Congress has led to no actions on most efforts to defend life, we continue to see gradual progress every few months from the President and the executive branch.

We hope to see even more positive steps like this in the future. It would be nice to see this solidified in law, but that takes actions from Congress. With the House and Senate not agreeing on any life-affirming laws, everything becomes an executive order or action. Those can be revoked in a single day if someone gets elected President who has different views. This is what happens with the Mexico City Policy regarding funding abortions internationally. That flips with each shift in the Presidency.

### Illinois

Many of us have heard claims that the bill that was approved by their legislature is more extreme than the bill that became law in New York. But do you know why?

New York removed abortion from their criminal code. With no real restrictions on abortion, it seems rather hard to believe there could be anything worse specific to abortion itself.

Illinois ensured a similar result for abortion, but it used a different approach. The bill declared that a “fertilized egg, embryo or fetus does not have independent rights.” This would have to be revoked in order to offer ANY future protections for unborn children.

By explicitly removing rights from the unborn, only the rights of the woman remain. When a woman has rights and no other person’s rights are in conflict with them, any other law would

appear to attack her rights, since the child’s rights are not be recognized. Also, if Roe vs. Wade gets overturned, abortion laws would shift to being entirely based on state laws. This law would ensure abortion would appear as if it was a right.

This could have serious implications on other aspects of law. Inheritance law usually gives consideration to a child in the womb. But if they don’t have independent rights, then what? If a pregnant woman is killed, the law would only see one person’s right to life violated.

Abortion advocates trash heartbeat laws by saying laws should use medically accurate terminology, and they say hearts don’t exist when the tissues that will become hearts begin beating and creating a one-way flow of blood. Yet the Illinois law refers to a “fertilized egg” instead of a blastocyst or zygote.

# What About Rape?

While praying outside of Planned Parenthood, I heard someone shout from a passing vehicle, “What about rape?” I would hope they would realize that we’ve thought about that quite a bit. I would have loved it if they had pulled over to talk to us about it.

This issue matters even more as some states are passing laws to protect the life in the womb even if the child came about as a result of rape or incest, which often get paired together. One of the worst things we can do is jump into statistics or strong arguments on the matter. One of my favorite quotes that applies to this situation is that, “people don’t care what you know, until they know that you care.”

Rape is often considered one of the two worst crimes along with murder. Many women have personally experienced rape. Most people know of one or more women who have been raped. So there is a ton of emotion involved, and jumping right into the argument is a big mistake.

Rapists commit the most serious invasion of a person possible. Victims may contract any number of diseases, damage to their body, and they could become pregnant. And we know pregnancy is just the beginning

of a life-long commitment to raise that child if one doesn’t choose alternatives, such as entrusting a child to adoptive parents. Memories of the violation can stick with a person for life.

There is fear of a recurrence, fear when one doesn’t know which of the side effects they might experience, and with so many rapes being perpetrated by someone the victim knows, there’s a sudden shift in perspective of that person and others they know. Someone they trusted just betrayed them in one of the most serious ways possible. Who else might do the same?

Most rapists are either never brought to justice, or the penalties for everything they just caused to happen seems trivial in comparison to what they did.

One could go on much longer, but let’s look at how people handle the argument. Some people make the mistake of starting with the statistics. Florida has some good statistics from 2018 that show 101 abortions due to rape and 8 due to incest, or 0.14% and 0.01% respectively. But for the 109 women, it’s a serious matter, and they chose abortion as their way to deal with it. Abortion

advocates are making a similar mistake when claiming no one survives abortion, despite the testimony from Melissa Ohden, Claire Culwell, and others. Just like how pro-lifers often make rape seem like it’s not a big deal statistically, people who want abortion legal can believe the lies that no one survives abortion.

Some people say the child might be a perpetual reminder of the rapist. When a child is born, one might see some of the physical traits of the father. But what if a mother chose to raise the child? What if the child takes a few years to really exhibit many of those physical traits? Is it okay for her to kill her child at that time? Most people would say no. If asked why, they will likely say because it’s a child/human being.

This made use of the “trot out a toddler” method. It draws the argument back to the question, “what is the unborn?” If abortion is not okay for other children at that point, then rape or incest do nothing to make it okay to end a life, since we wouldn’t allow it for a two-year-old child.

As already mentioned, rape causes all sorts of problems. But abortion does not undo a rape.

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## Saint Louis Planned Parenthood

Missouri is in a very unique situation. Planned Parenthood (PP) planned to expand abortion services into a couple of their sites in the southwest part of the state. In the past few years, they discontinued abortions at two sites.

The site in the Kansas City, Missouri area ceased their abortions when PP couldn't find a replacement abortionist. The site in Columbia failed to comply with state codes/laws, and thus lost their ability to provide abortions. This led to the state having only one abortion site. That site is in Saint Louis.

Iowa does not inspect abortion businesses. But Missouri does. Abortion providers also have to renew a license annually. The Saint Louis Planned Parenthood's license was set to expire on the last day of May.

The site failed more inspections than it passed. Certain issues led the state to seek information.

They wanted to interview seven doctors. Two of the people they wanted to interview worked for PP, and they could talk. But the others had other associations with the business, such as through colleges.

The people who didn't work for PP directly refused to talk. This was unprecedented. The state refused to renew the license, which meant Missouri could have become the first state since 1974 to have zero abortion providers. PP submitted their renewal request later than usual, but on time. But by being later than usual, it reduced the time to address concerns.

PP went to a judge to effectively make their expiration irrelevant, at least for a while. They said they couldn't compel people who weren't working for them to participate in any interview regarding the state's concerns. Judges can do many things; ensuring abortions continue at a site with concerns beyond the

expiration date doesn't make much sense to me. However, it's good to have judges who seek the time it takes to make an informed decision (unlike abortion providers who fight against waiting periods before abortions).

Since PP was unable to compel non-employees to talk, the state issued a subpoena. The lawyers for the people subpoenaed argued against having them talk. PP took their side and also suggested that the doctors should not have to respond to the subpoena.

This should raise suspicion. Remember, PP was allowed to operate because the judge needed time for the doctors PP wasn't able to get to talk. But now PP argues against that. They say that evolving interpretation of law could bring liability to the doctors. But if they were allowed to operate while waiting for what they now oppose, should they even get that extension?

## Pro-Life Challenge



### Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-life with health issues);  
Maddie (PP worker);  
St. Louis, MO PP;  
Council Bluffs, IA PP;  
Columbia, MO PP

## VOLUNTEER



### Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!

# Rape (continued)

Continued from Page 5

Loving people often makes us want to alleviate their suffering. But we shouldn't take lives to alleviate someone's suffering.

Many people claim that pro-lifers cause an injustice by forcing women to be mothers. But they are already mothers. Somehow, people seeking the protection of life get blamed for what is rightfully the fault of the rapist. Remember, the rapist is the person who caused the woman to become a mother, with a lifetime of responsibilities. Again, those criminals should face appropriate punishments for their crimes. If someone breaks something of yours, we wouldn't blame someone who stopped you from stealing a replacement item from a store. Pro-lifers shouldn't be blamed for a rapist's crimes.

If blame should go in either direction, it should go back to many people and businesses in the abortion industry. There are laws requiring the reporting of rape, especially statutory rape. Live Action used undercover videos several years ago to show Planned Parenthood violating such laws.

After being caught on camera, Planned Parenthood announced that they would retrain their staff and claimed they reported those incidents to the police. But police records that were pulled after the incidents showed that only one report was made in one state. The

others were never reported. But this wasn't the worst of what happened.

When a manager in Texas named Ramona Treviño went for the training, she noticed something unusual. They played the undercover videos one after another. Asked if anyone had any questions. Ramona was confused, since she was waiting to learn how to handle such cases and report the abuse, and that wasn't covered yet. She asked when they were going to cover such things. They responded by saying that wasn't part of the training. They were there to help Planned Parenthood's employees identify when they are being recorded. They would not be taught how to identify cases of rape, learn how to report it properly, or learn how to handle such a sensitive situation.

This led Ramona to quit her job at Planned Parenthood. She worked at the site in Sherman, Texas. That site was so dependent on her that they had to close that location shortly after her departure.

Those laws are there to help bring rapists to justice, and to keep victims from being victimized again. Planned Parenthood sent women back to be victimized again. Ramona could tell that Planned Parenthood cared more about money than they cared about women. Rape is a serious matter, and abortion hides it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phocsMQsFC4>

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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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