



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

November 2020

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

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Change is Coming

This issue of our newsletter includes several things that could lead to changes in the future.

A pro-life group at Iowa's 3rd largest public university gained official recognition by the university. This could bring a stronger pro-life presence in a city where abortions take place.

The election outcome could greatly affect the public policies regarding abortion and the funding of abortion providers. The next several years could bring about many serious challenges.

We continue to operate in an environment with challenges, due to restrictions on the size of groups gathering. We also find ourselves in environments where people with opposing views make it difficult to work together to seek truth. Truth isn't always obvious until we hash through opposing views that make it clear what holds up to scrutiny and what does not. We continue to make available resources to help bring change to such circumstances.

- 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 (2nd Tuesdays)
& CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sun, Jan 24
Save the Date!

Cedar Rapids March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January!

Where: St. Matthew’s Church to Planned Parenthood and back
2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html

Feb 17 – Mar 28
1-hour time slots
24 hours/day

40 Days for Life ~ Prayer Vigil

Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/>



**STUDENTS
FOR LIFE**
OF AMERICA®

UNI Students for Life by Jean Biermann

In October, UNI student Sophia Schuster submitted a request to start UNI Students for Life, a campus chapter of the national organization. Students for Life is a pro-life organization seeking to abolish the violence of abortion.

The University of Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) has the authority to register or deny new student groups on campus. In short, they denied recognition of UNI Students for Life. UNI Students for Life then appealed to the NISG Supreme Court which upheld the previous denial. Both denials were based on the free speech of student senators who erroneously perceived Students for Life as a hate group, citing the website of the national organization as a basis.

Well, upon review the “About Us” page of StudentsForLife.org includes the following verbiage:

“(We) advocate for programs that educate, equip and empower students to build a culture of life, reaching out in love and compassion to those who are considering abortion or are engaged in that tragic industry.

(We) are active in building relationships and programs to take back the culture for life and to affirm the dignity and worth of all human beings. This requires respectful interaction...

The tragedy of abortion in the lives of women, their preborn children and even those who mistakenly pursue pro-abortion activism must not be made worse by a violent response. To create a culture of life, we must begin by lovingly and respectfully engaging with all we meet.”

It seems quite a stretch for the NISG and NISG Supreme Court to construe such webpage content as that of a hate group. So what was really going on here? Who was hating who?

It seems the NISG and NISG Supreme Court denied UNI Students for Life based on something other than their website. Of major concern is that during their discussions, the student senators actually compared the pro-life group to the KKK, which is so wrong and simply upside-down! Pro-lifers are lovers of people, not haters.

In the end, UNI Students for Life tried a third time, this time by appealing to the University President, Mark Nook, who decided to grant their appeal and overturned the NISG ruling. On October 26th, UNI Students for Life was granted the rights and privileges of a valid and registered organization on the UNI campus.

In his letter of response to the many who wrote to him in support of Students for Life, President Nook states, “This learning moment will extend into the future as we continue to understand the impacts of the final decision of this appeal.” Well, if UNI Students for Life reaches any portion of their goal to “abolish abortion in our lifetime,” supporting unsupported women and saving their babies, that will have a tremendous impact for the good!

A big congratulations goes out to Sophia Schuster and UNI Students for Life! Thank you for your perseverance and now, let your good work begin! May God bless you as you work to “Abolish Abortion in Our Lifetime.” Go Panthers!



Government Update

Election Results

At the state level, the Iowa House of Representatives gained more pro-life representatives. The Iowa Senate maintained its pro-life majority. The governor was not up for election, so that office remains pro-life.

At the federal level, Iowans will continue to have pro-life Senators. Iowa's 1st Congressional District flipped, so we will have pro-life representation. Iowa's 2nd Congressional District was very close. A recount was called for when the difference between the two major candidates was fewer than 50 votes, and the more pro-life candidate ended up with 6 votes more than her opponent.

While Iowa has chosen predominantly pro-life candidates, the national balance has shifted some. The U.S. House of Representatives gained more pro-life members, despite media predictions that it would go the other way. The U.S. Senate was also expected to flip. However, the

party that maintains a pro-life party platform has at least half of the Senate seats, although not all of their members are pro-life. The Georgia runoff election will determine if the Senate is split between parties with a 50-50 split, or a one- or two-seat majority. If it yields an even split, then the Vice President breaks the tie.

The certification of votes is not complete in some states. The current vote totals prior to legal challenges and certifications suggests a very pro-abortion candidate has won, and an even more pro-abortion candidate will be the Vice President.

What to Expect

For several decades, when there is a change of party in the presidency, the funding of abortion providers internationally tends to flip. In this case, we should expect to spend money funding abortion providers all around the world with U.S.

taxpayer funds again. Sometimes when that funding stream starts up again, presidents try to compensate for the lack of funds in prior years, and thus send even more than the average amount out of our country to support abortion providers.

Anticipated changes in leadership in the medical departments could lead to approval of pill-based abortions throughout the country, and possibly enabling them to go national with sending deadly abortion pills through the mail. If this happens, then the face of abortion will change more in the next few years than it has in the past several decades.

If women can get abortions via the mail, then abortion storefronts won't be as necessary. The idea of having pro-lifers making a difference on sidewalks could be less common, depending on how many abortions still occur in abortion facilities. Time will tell. Elections have consequences. At least Iowans voted pro-life.



DONATE

End of Year Giving

With Thanksgiving having passed, the season when people look to provide end-of-year giving to charities. We would appreciate it if you would consider the Coalition for Life of Iowa. Our biggest fundraiser of each year did not happen this year, due to COVID. We still had most of our normal expenses.

Someone recently pointed out that if nothing else, if even one life is saved, one's life has had great purpose. Some of us have seen people walk into a building to get an abortion (in another city), just to walk out, thanking the pro-lifers outside. Even in Cedar Rapids, we know our presence outside of the local Planned Parenthood has saved a few children's lives.

Each financial donation helps us bring life-affirming messages to people and save lives. We've seen one of the other pro-life groups in the state greatly decrease what they are able to accomplish due to a significant decrease in giving to them starting a few years ago. We don't want the same to happen to us.

We serve the second-largest city in Iowa, and there's always more we could do. With a little help, we can accomplish great things.

Our members should have received an email during the week of Thanksgiving that provided an idea that helps us financially while shopping online. It doesn't cost you any extra, and it could even save you money in some situations.

If you have the ability to give financially, then we would appreciate your consideration. If you are unable to give at this time, then we hope you will consider us when your circumstances improve. We understand the challenges of this year all too well.

Please Donate Here:

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Struggling to be Heard

I usually don't talk very openly about people who argue with me in ways that aren't good. Many people witnessed some dialogue between two strangers who pulled up and me. Since no one recognized them, I thought I might share a little here. My early impression suggested that any conversation would not last more than a minute or two.

As I approached, I wanted to provide some distance, since people with strong emotions often need a bit of space. Plus, under COVID conditions, it's good to maintain a few feet of separation. They told me to stay so far away that I would have had to raise my voice and I could have had issues hearing them if we talked at a normal volume. Therefore, I kept walking a few steps closer than they wanted, but stopped before they would consider fulfilling their threat to spit on me. This is clearly not a good way to talk with people.

They were shouting and didn't seem willing to listen for the first few minutes. Even later, they would shout over each other, without regard to what the other was saying. They would rattle off lots of different things very quickly, making it almost impossible to respond to most of their concerns.

At one point, I went to make the most useful argument to help

people understand why it's reasonable for men to weigh in on abortion matters. I admit that I could have said a few more things to lead into the analogy. But with the way they tended to interrupt and say so much, it was hard to do everything perfectly. Like any analogy, some details differ, and they both interrupted the analogy, failing to follow it. They said it wasn't the same thing, because the child in my example was already born—it's not the same thing! Well, yes, that's how analogies work. Because we don't agree about abortion, an analogy to address something that doesn't have to be tied to abortion is best made by using a non-abortion-related analogy. But I was never allowed to help them understand. They shut down meaningful analogies.

When one of them said, "my body, my choice," I asked for clarification. In the process, I made the mistake of telling them that the phrase is vague (which it is). They fired back with how it was not vague. I knew that phrase could mean several things, and wanted to hear what it meant to them. I had said some of that, but they keyed off me saying it's vague. When someone says we are vague, we should recognize that they can't figure out what of two or more things we meant. That's where clarification is needed.

Most arguments go much better, but they were both very hot-headed, perhaps because the election was just two days away, and they admitted to being involved with political campaigning. They argued like people do in bad political environments. They had some legitimate concerns, but they had some views that I found contradictory. But we couldn't really make good progress on anything. They did calm down a great deal. But it was the least fruitful discussion I've had in at least a decade. They made it harder than anyone ever has to relate to each other in positive ways because they were inconsiderate/disrespectful and not open-minded.

Despite all of that, I was willing to talk, and did make some good points. But we were cut short after about 30 minutes.

We had a few pro-lifers listening who thought I did rather well. There is more I could say about the interaction. I'm just glad I learned effective pro-life apologetics, or it would have just been a few minutes of listening to people shout. Apologetics don't ensure successful conversions of everyone you talk to, but it helps more discussions go better, and that in turn makes the less close-minded people see what is true.

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites; a good start for UNI Students for Life

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!



Unchallenged Law

Nebraska passed into law Legislative Bill 814. This law prohibits dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortions.

Such abortions suck pieces of the unborn child until the womb is empty. This method of abortions is used in an estimated 95% of second-trimester abortions.

The same Planned Parenthood affiliate that oversees operations in Nebraska manages the Planned Parenthood sites here. That affiliate says they have no intention of filing any lawsuit against this law. That's rare for them to avoid such a filing. They fight practically every law that limits them in any way.

Even LeRoy Carhart, who is known for late-term abortions in Nebraska and Maryland hasn't filed any case against the state. He hasn't ruled out such action, but has not filed anything at this time.

Carhart claims he is not affected by this law, because he altered his

approach many years ago. He made that change in response to the laws prohibiting partial-birth abortions, which are also known as dilation and extraction (D&X) abortions.

It seems very likely that the abortion industry might be concerned that if the current U.S. Supreme Court rules against them, it could create legal precedent for all of the other states to pass identical laws. Therefore, it's easier for them to adhere to the current law without challenging it.

They challenged the D&X abortion law when Nebraska passed such a law before the federal law took effect. So, it's not that they don't typically sue the state of Nebraska. The main difference right now is the balance of the highest court of this nation. Although the court has not yet faced an abortion case, the latest appointment appears to already be providing some benefit to children in the womb.

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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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