

Coalition For Life of Iowa Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
May 17, 2013

### **IRS Treatment of the Coalition for Life of Iowa**

Recently, the IRS admitted treating organizations that align with conservative values in ways that delayed or rejected their application for tax-exempt status. The Coalition for Life of Iowa has been identified as one of the earliest organizations that faced unnecessary demands from the IRS.

Coalition for Life of Iowa was founded in 2004. We have organized and sponsored educational forums. As we grew, we sought 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. We submitted Form 1023 to the IRS in October of 2008. After a few communications with our exempt organizations specialist and the responses from her supervisor/supervisors, the IRS agent indicated what we could not do. In June of 2009, she said we needed to send in a letter with the entire board's signatures stating that under perjury of the law we would not picket/protest or organize groups to picket/protest outside of Planned Parenthood. Upon receiving such a letter, the IRS would allow our application to go through.

When we requested where in the Form 1023 it stated we could not protest at Planned Parenthood, the IRS never answered our question. Clearly, IRS Form 1023 does not mention the name of the nation's largest abortion provider.

Since we focused on educational forums and not picketing or protesting, some board members were willing to sign the requested letter. But others refused to sign a statement that unfairly restricted first amendment rights, so we sought legal help. With the help of the Thomas More Society, the IRS backed off, granting us tax-exempt status in July of 2009 without us having to sign such a statement.

We are grateful for the help of the Thomas More Society for their work that allowed us to receive tax-exempt status. Without their help, we may not have been able to raise as many funds to put on educational forums, while participating in prayer activities outside Planned Parenthood that we believe have helped reduce the abortion numbers in our county by over 37% in just 3 years.

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Vital Statistics of Iowa report the number of abortions performed on women living in Linn County, Iowa (Region 10). In 2011, 202 surgical and 146 medical abortions yielded a total of 348 abortions. In 2008, 333 surgical and 223 medical abortions yielded a total of 556 abortions.  $100\% - (348/556) = 37.41\%$  drop.

Data appears in Table 55, page 127 in 2008, and Table 56, page 135 in 2011:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/common/pdf/health\\_statistics/2008/vital\\_stats\\_2008.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/common/pdf/health_statistics/2008/vital_stats_2008.pdf)

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/common/pdf/health\\_statistics/2011/vital\\_stats\\_2011.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/common/pdf/health_statistics/2011/vital_stats_2011.pdf)