



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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

Donate Here

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

Got Skills?

Would you like to do more for the pro-life movement? If you want to get involved, but you don't know how, feel free to contact us. There are plenty of things that could help us out. Sometimes it's hard to know what we could have someone do unless we know what you're interested in and what you're good at.

If you like staying updated on pro-life things and/or writing about pro-life things, perhaps you might consider contributing content to our newsletter. The length of our newsletter might vary in the coming months to reduce the amount of work it takes, unless there is more help.

We're also going to be planning some of the fall events, and some of those have grown nicely in the past year. We would like to continue to grow those events. That takes more coordination.

This is not all that we are doing. But we could always use 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 (2nd Tuesdays)
& CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

We are planning more events.

Care to join our planning efforts?



Wrong

Right

Abortion Morality

A recent Gallup poll led to the headline that a record 47% of people in the U.S. consider abortion morally acceptable. This has been spun a few ways. Yes, it's the highest percentage since they started tracking it about 20 years ago. The prior record was 45%, which was in 2015, when the percent saying it was moral and those saying it was immoral were equal.

The latest result is the first time that the percentage claiming it's moral outnumbered the percentage saying it's immoral. It only has a 1-percentage point lead. The article failed to indicate the margin of error, which all surveys have. It's often around 3% for many surveys. As much as we could claim that we might still have a slight edge, we could just as easily be at a greater disadvantage. Regardless, both positions have less than half of people claiming the particular position.

The numbers on each side usually bounce around within a 10-

percentage point range. The main gain in the moral side was in politically independent people who very quickly shifted their stance to align with the current administration.

Although the terms "pro-life" and "pro-choice" are considered vague, they are still used to identify the positions of people. Pro-choice has maintained the lead for most of the 26 years or so that they've tracked that statistic. Pro-life positions sometimes have the lead, but not as often. The latest numbers indicate 49% consider themselves pro-choice and 47% consider themselves pro-life.

The percentage of people who support abortion in all circumstances rose to 32%, which is edging very close to 1 out of 3 people. That number also rose sharply, although it's been that high before. But it hasn't been that high since the 1990s.

Many people change their stances when abortion ends up in the news. Sometimes political campaigns

draw attention to it. Sometimes something makes major news. Sometimes it leads people to be more pro-life, while other times leads people to be more pro-choice.

Many people only hear some one-liner arguments like, "my body, my choice" and don't get into deeper discussions. Some people might hear of someone's personal experiences, but those are often conveying just one side of the issue, whether for or against abortion.

This is yet another time when I think about how important it is for people to know how to defend the pro-life stance in a way that is convincing to others. Those methods should also be such that no one feels tricked, or they can easily flip back to their prior position. They might be more resistant to becoming pro-life a second time.

This is where we hope our members who have access to the Equal Rights Institute's Equipped for Life course have made good use of the course. There's plenty of minds who need to hear good arguments. 🙏



Government Update

Iowa

Judge Mitchell Turner from Johnson County permanently blocked a law from going into effect. The law placed a 24-hour waiting period on abortions. A woman would have had to wait 24 hours after requesting an abortion to have one performed.

The justification for blocking the enforcement of the law was two-fold, which included the alleged violation of a single-subject rule and that it allegedly broke precedent from the Iowa Supreme Court's ruling about a similar law just a few years ago.

Iowa has a single-subject rule when it comes to bills. Thus, if you added a highway project to a bill about education, that would be deemed unconstitutional. They could exist as two separate bills, but not combined into a single bill. It gets tricky when two things are much more similar, since a budget doesn't get passed one bill per line item of a budget. Similar things get grouped together.

The bill was [HF594](#), passed in 2020. The bill focused on medical procedures regarding the life and death of children. The first section focused on the withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures of a minor child. The second section REDUCED the 72-hour waiting period for abortions down to a 24-hour waiting period. Why was this period reduced by pro-life lawmakers? It was because the 72-hour waiting period was among the longest periods in the nation, and was the prior law that served as the precedent this judge used to strike down the 24-hour period, since the state supreme court struck the longer waiting period down on constitutional grounds.

One could argue that the waiting period is now among the lowest waiting periods in the nation, and within a state the size of Iowa, 24 hours is not unreasonable, especially when dealing with matters of life and death.

As for the two-subject matter, there is a way to view the two parts as one thing, similar to a budget not

having to be dealt with one line item per bill. But if the supreme court considers it as not abiding by the single-subject rule during the appeal, it would seem to me that the amendment to the 72-hour waiting period would be invalid, and I THINK it would revert back to 72 hours instead of 24. But it still wouldn't get enforced, due to the prior ruling on the longer waiting period.

This judge's actions could have been timed very well if the legislature had passed the Protect Life Amendment last year. That amendment that clarifies for judges that the Iowa Constitution does not contain a right to abortion in it. Many people consider a 24-hour waiting period reasonable. When they hear of a judge striking down such a short waiting period, that may have helped the pro-life side. Further, if anyone who doesn't like waiting periods knew that the judge struck down the shortening of the waiting period, they might have been upset. 🤔



Failure at the Top

A valedictorian in Texas gained national attention when she changed the topic of her graduation speech. Paxton chose to speak about abortion. Her stated fears don't align very well with someone in her position.

Students who are at or near the top of their class often feel significant pressure to succeed and to be the best. There is a tendency to try to avoid unnecessary and long-term challenges.

With this in mind, why would one say this doesn't align with someone in her position? People at and near the top of their class are used to facing all sorts of challenges and overcoming them. Although they may try to choose a path in life that keeps them aligned with success, we know mistakes happen, since no one is perfect. Yet, her examples focus on circumstances that could unexpectedly happen to her, such as rape. Unexpected challenges are where such people usually thrive.

Countless women have become mothers in more challenging

circumstances, even unexpectedly. Her attitude toward pregnancy is one that stresses ruin. Yet, parents learn a great deal as they experience parenthood. They grow in love. They rise to the challenge...just like the overachievers who tend to rank high in their class.

There are so many messages from people who advocate to keep abortion legal that make motherhood sound disastrous. It sounds like something that most women aren't equipped to handle, despite the vast majority of women in history raising their children.

Paxton didn't identify anything else that was insurmountable. This reveals just how powerful the message is from those who try to justify abortion. That message is weakening so many people by making them think they can't deal with what people have done throughout history. It also leads people to justify an intrinsic evil, rather than to do what is right.

Some people said it took guts for her to say what she said. But it

comes across more as someone who has allowed others to hold her back in life. It shows she fell for their rhetoric. It's a bit embarrassing on the personal level, and it reveals how harmful the advocacy of abortion can be.

One would hope that the school administrators would recognize this failure in how they are forming students who will soon go out into the world. Students should enter the world equipped to deal with whatever comes along. Some things they can handle alone. Some things may require the help of family, friends, and/or coworkers. But one way or another, they should rise to the challenges of life.

When your top student advocates for committing a violent and lethal action against innocent children, because she thinks that's the only way she could possibly find success in the world, that school has failed in a very serious way. Most schools have students who would think this same way. It stands out more when the top student with many honors falls for these lies. 🍷

**ABORTION
KILLS
CHILDREN**

**ADOPTION
THE
LOVING
OPTION**

**PRAY TO
END
ABORTION**

**Lord, Forgive
Us and Our
Nation**

**Abortion
Hurts
Women**

**JESUS
Forgives
& Heals**

Promoting Life

There are many ways people can support the pro-life movement. Some people pray. Some people hold up pro-life signs or wear clothing with pro-life messages. Some people learn how to defend the pro-life stance in ways that is more convincing to people with different views than our own.

Sometimes people come up with ideas, and it's great to get new ideas. Sometimes it helps to run ideas by others before implementing the ideas. I've seen a variety of things over time that aren't ideal, but might be on a good path.

I've even seen examples from the people who sometimes try to counter our efforts. I still remember a guy who showed up one day several years ago. He made his own sign that used explicit language that was negative regarding us. He had headphones in and he couldn't hear us over his music. This made it so he could put his message out there without having to talk with us or understand us better. But when I went to see what his message said, I noticed that he had an arrow on his

sign to point to the people he was trying to badmouth. The arrow pointed to his right, but he stood near the corner. That meant the arrow pointed at the credit union across the street, and away from those of us who were a few feet to his left. I knew it made him look like a fool, and I knew that if I was in his position, I would want to know that I made that kind of a mistake. But people don't like to hear from the people they are badmouthing. I made an attempt, but he pointed to his headphones and otherwise ignored me. I wasn't going to take extraordinary effort, so I let him look foolish; I made enough of an effort.

I've also seen messages that aren't very effective. I've also seen messages that are hard to read for a variety of reasons. We can't say we have the perfect solution to every problem or a perfect approach to implement an idea, but we can serve as a way to bounce ideas off people who have dealt with many things before. We've seen things that work and things that don't work. A few tips can go a long way.

In the pro-life movement, some statements aren't as powerful as one might think. Some messages can be taken in a negative way.

There are also things like graphic images. Such images can be useful in certain circumstances, such as on college campuses with warning signs and alternate routes available for people who would not be open to such images. At the same time, such signs aren't often good where abortions take place. In many cases, there's a time and a place for just about any idea; it's just a matter of figuring out the best combination to have the best result.

Feel free to run ideas by us. We'd rather help to mature an idea to make it as effective as possible than to have good ideas go to waste. At the same time, if we provide feedback that critiques some parts of your idea, please don't let that stop you from tweaking the idea or coming up with other ideas. Some critiques can come across badly, or we might say something in a way that gets taken personally. We really just want the best outcomes. 🙏



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; lawmakers & judges

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!



Iowa's Safe Haven

Iowa's Safe Haven law has saved another life. This makes 48 lives saved through Iowa's Safe Haven law.

The child was born on April 23rd. Iowa's Department of Human Services (DHS) gained custody of the child through this program.

The Safe Haven Law went into effect in 2002. The law arose from an Eastern Iowa case that made news throughout Iowa back in 2001. A woman at that time killed her child shortly after birth. Safe Haven Laws exist in many states.

Iowa's law allows parents or guardians to voluntarily place infants 30 days or younger into the custody of DHS. They can do so at a hospital or healthcare facility with no questions asked. People to use this program do not face child abandonment charges. DHS then places the child with a foster family or an adoptive family.

With this being the 48th child saved in just under 20 years, this program saves a few lives each year. We don't

mention each life saved when it happens, but this does do a great deal of good.

There is more to the program. You can read more about it on the official page the state has regarding this program.

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/safe-haven>

It's there that you can see there are some things that might get asked, but an answer is not required. For instance, it can be helpful to know some medical history of the child or parents, along with names. All of that may be asked for, but it's not required for them to ask, nor for the person entrusting the child to this program to answer.

It's often preferable for a child to grow up with their parents. But when there is danger of death, a program like this is better than the alternative. We hope this program continues to prevent some abortions. We also hope it continues to prevent some abuse or killing of born children. We don't want a repeat of the 2001 case. 🙏

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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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