



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

June 2022

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

Donate Here

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

Shifting Gears

This month, the U.S. and Iowa Supreme Courts ruled in ways that explicitly rejected the claim that their respective constitutions contained a fundamental right to abortion. This has led to rapid changes throughout the country in a matter of very few days. It's already making a difference in Iowa, since the 24-hour waiting period before getting an abortion will soon be enforced and is already being practiced.

For nearly 50 years, we have mostly been able to pray, but we had very limited other things we could do to change the abortion landscape. That now changes. Now, it feels like our work is just beginning as we shift gears to what we can do now that our hands are no longer tied. If we do not do what we can now, things could get worse than before the rulings, because lawmakers could codify laws that are stricter than Roe was.

On another matter, we will have at least one opening on our board, starting in July. If there's any way you would like to help us achieve our mission, we would love to hear from you. We would appreciate whatever help we can get. We have other positions that would also help us transform our culture into a culture of life!

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

*We are planning events for fall
and winter.*

*We encourage pro-lifers to pray
for an end to abortion
throughout the summer, and
especially for the current court
cases.*

*Please also pray as we look to
fill some positions on our board,
and consider if you would be
willing to fill such a position.*



Updates on Changes

Unionizing Planned Parenthood?

The Planned Parenthood affiliate that includes Iowa and four other states is allowing employees to vote on whether to unionize. They are currently voting by mail. The tallying of votes will occur on July 21st. Under their current circumstances, employees may desire the benefits of a union.

Of course, the laws that limit our actions outside of an abortion site would also apply to them if they ever sought to strike. Anything else would result in unequal treatment under the law.

Shifting Abortion Sites?

The Red River Women's Clinic based in Fargo, ND has land secured in Moorhead, MN. This is just a few miles from where they are today, but over a state border. They hope to open the new site soon, knowing they won't be able to perform abortions in North Dakota beyond 30 days following

the overturning of Roe. They have been the only abortion provider in that state for decades.

They have a Go Fund Me goal of \$1 million, and have raised about 85% of that amount with roughly 11,000 donors. If the clinic ever stops doing abortions, Planned Parenthood has made it clear that they would start doing abortions in Moorhead.

Executive Orders?

The Biden administration suggested the possibility of issuing executive orders that would benefit the abortion industry in the event that Roe vs. Wade gets overturned. There have not been any orders issued on this subject in the days since the ruling that overturned Roe and Casey. We hope no orders are ever issued, but will watch for any actions on this matter.

Planned Parenthood Cooperating?

When laws and rulings work against Planned Parenthood, they usually get their lawyers involved. They usually get judges to prevent enforcement of laws so they can keep doing business as usual.

With the fall of Roe, we are seeing some efforts to prevent enforcement of some laws. However, Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers have been quick to adhere to laws like the 24-hour waiting period in Iowa. Even if enforcement might not begin for a few weeks, they have been cooperating with the law more than we usually observe.

It makes sense, though. If the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Roe, that means they can't be certain of success in cases where they violate any laws. With Roe no longer providing protection, and a court that offers them no favors, they have had to quickly get their act together. It has been refreshing to see the barely regulated industry rapidly conforming to the law. 🍷



Government Update

This month was not dull!

National

The Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling came at 9:10 AM on Friday, June 24th, 2022. The 6-3 ruling preserved the Mississippi law that prohibited abortions after 15 weeks. In addition to the overall ruling, the request to reassess the Roe and Casey precedents and consider overturning them led to overturning both with a 5-4 ruling. Chief Justice Roberts supported the overall ruling, but opposed overturning precedent.

For roughly half of the past century, states couldn't do much to protect life in the womb, because the court prevented states from regulating abortion in most meaningful ways. This ruling means states can establish laws to protect life. Thus, there is still much for pro-lifers to do.

It's also important to vote in the next few elections to put and keep pro-life lawmakers in office.

Candidates who support abortion will have lots of support because emotions are high on the other side. Redistricting made it so we must elect ALL of our lawmakers in our state. If we don't vote pro-life, then we could end up with laws like New York or Illinois that codify Roe or worse within a single year! Support pro-life candidates with time and money, and remember to vote!

Much has been said and done in reaction to the ruling. What has slipped into relative silence is the matter of the leaked ruling. People still want that matter investigated, since people in the legal field are expected to maintain confidentiality, whether on a pending ruling or between clients and their lawyers. The court needs to be independent and not influenced by outside forces outside of the judicial process.

Iowa

One week to the day before the federal ruling on Dobbs was issued, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled on the challenge to the Planned

Parenthood of the Heartland v. Kim Reynolds case from a few years ago. Even with Roe and Casey remaining as precedent at the time of the ruling, the Iowa Supreme Court overturned their prior ruling. Like the federal court, the Iowa court rejected the claim that the constitution contains a right to abortion:

“[We]...reject the proposition that there is a fundamental right to an abortion in Iowa's Constitution subjecting abortion regulation to strict scrutiny, we do not at this time decide what constitutional standard should replace it.”

A future ruling could always reverse this. Therefore, we still need the Protect Life Amendment to solidify this position on the constitution.

Governor Reynolds has asked the court to allow the heartbeat law to be enforced and to further reconsider an abortion-related case now that Roe is no longer in effect as a precedent. 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Central Minnesota's PP sites; 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!



Bill Brennan

One of our former board members died this month. Bill Brennan died on June 6th. Bill worked hard in the pro-life movement for many years.

Although he was still alive when the leak suggested that Roe might get overturned, he died less than three weeks before the ruling would be official.

Bill brought a great balance to our board. When he agreed with you, then you could rest assured that things would move forward and be successful. If he disagreed with you, then you'd find yourself challenged to defend your position. This helped shut down bad ideas, and improve the justification for doing any good things that we proposed. Either way, the movement would come out stronger and better for what he did.

Have you participated in 40 Days for Life in any way? If so, then be thankful for Bill. When we first heard about 40 Days for Life, we prayed in local churches for 40 days. After a few years of doing that, Bill suggested that we pray outside of Planned Parenthood. We chose to

mimic 40 Days for Life, but didn't initially pay the fee to become an official 40 days site. He and I (Jim) co-led this effort in the spring of 2011. As much as praying in churches was better than nothing, seeing what was happening on the sidewalk gave me hope and inspired me. I strongly supported the idea of participating in 40 Days for Life officially for the fall 2011 effort as a result of what I saw that spring. I led it for a few years before handing off the role to Pat.

Yet, without Bill, we may not have done anywhere near what we've done on the sidewalk. When we have had a few people tell us of a few lives saved as a result of us being on the sidewalk. Although many of you played a part in those results, it's highly unlikely that those lives would have been saved if Bill hadn't helped lead us to the sidewalk in 2011.

We learned that his obituary indicated that in lieu of flowers, people could donate to our Coalition for Life of Iowa. Although Bill has not been on our board for several years at this point, his legacy will be remembered. He will be missed. 🕊

CFLI Board

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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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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