



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

July 2022

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

Donate Here

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

Fresh Start

With last month's rulings from state and federal Supreme Courts, we have a chance to make more progress in the pro-life movement than we have had in half a century. Abortions are still legal. The rulings did not end abortion. Even if abortions were illegal, there would still be work to do to keep abortions from happening or to keep people from changing things back. Yet, there are also other pro-life matters beyond abortion. So, there is still plenty to do. The 24-hour waiting period for abortions has taken effect in Iowa, but women from neighboring states are coming to get abortions.

We had our annual election, and we now have a new board member and treasurer, with both roles filled by Melissa Schechinger. We still have one vacancy on our board. If there's any way you would like to help us achieve our mission, we would love to hear from you.

We are also planning a training session to help you defend the pro-life position, since we know the topic is coming up frequently. We need your help to 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

Sat, Sept 10
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Learn to Defend the Pro-Life Position!

We're bringing in a national speaker to help teach pro-life apologetics, which are critically needed in this post-Roe environment.

Save the Date! More information coming...

*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.*



More Changes

Planned Parenthood (PP) Union

The Planned Parenthood affiliate that includes Iowa and four other states allowed employees to vote on whether to unionize. The tallying of votes occurred on July 21st with an overwhelming vote to unionize. Only 26 of the hundreds of employees voted against unionizing.

Many PP employees don't last long. It's hard to work for an employer that kills more innocent children than any other business in the nation and expect good treatment. PP will now have to treat their employees better, which will likely include higher pay, breaks, and more reasonable hours. Time will tell the full shift in treatment and benefits. This will make things financially harder for PP.

Shifting Demand

With states like Missouri, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota making abortions

illegal in all or most cases, women are already traveling to Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. This is putting strain on staff in those states. They see many more patients, work more hours, etc.

It's even greater in Iowa, since the 24-hour waiting period has gone into effect. This leads to two visits per abortion, instead of one. They used to be able to pressure women to abort on the first visit by offering to not charge for certain things. But they must wait a day regardless, now. So their offices process clients twice.

Abortion advocates often say abortion should be between the woman and her doctor. But as mentioned earlier, the abortion tended to occur on the same day she first asked for an abortion. There is little to no interaction with many abortionists until the procedure itself.

Executive Order

Biden signed an executive order to try to find ways to benefit the abortion industry. The order had very limited power to do much, since executive orders must remain within the limits laid down by other laws. Pro bono lawyers are expected to defend women trying to cross state borders or otherwise seeking abortions who face legal issues.

Abortion Sites Closing

The Dobbs case involved a Mississippi law and arose from the state's final abortion provider challenging the law. The abortion business at the heart of the Dobbs case has closed their doors.

Abortion providers in other places are also closing, seemingly for good. Some PP sites may just become referral sites. However, without abortion, PP has much less income, and it puts further strain on the business. 🗳️



Government Update

This month was yet another interesting month! There has been a great deal of misinformation in the weeks since the Dobbs ruling. In many cases, it's people repeating concerns they've heard from others who either don't know or don't understand the laws (or intentionally seek to create panic).

There are people pushing for unlimited abortion, often appealing to wanting to prevent women from dying. We have no need to go to such an extreme as to make all abortions legal nationwide just to handle the rare circumstances that already tend to have laws that protect the lives of women.

One of the most common concerns leads to the claim that women will die. However, when people looked at the laws in each state, they found that only Vermont and Oregon lacked an explicit mention of the life of the mother exception. However, both of those states allow abortion in all cases. So there was no need to provide exceptions or some list of circumstances where

abortion is allowed when they are always allowed.

Life of the mother exceptions tend to allow the moral principle of double effect to take place. A good example is when an ectopic pregnancy occurs. Doctors may treat the damaged section of the fallopian tube. They should not seek the intentional death of the child. But if the death of the child is foreseeable by treating the tube, that is not classified as an abortion.

Dr. Anthony Levatino used to perform abortions and appeared as the abortionist in the movie *Unplanned*. After he discontinued work as an abortionist, he worked at a center that specialized in difficult pregnancies. In the many years he spent at that job, he never once found a situation where abortion was required. Children may die naturally, but we never have to kill them intentionally, and thus never need abortion.

Miscarriage treatment is another concern that has been raised. However, miscarriage is different

from an abortion, since the child is already dead. Abortion takes the life of a child. Many states also make specific mention of miscarriage treatment, just as Iowa does, to ensure it's not confused with the legal term for abortion. This clarification is important, since the medical term for a miscarriage is a spontaneous abortion. The legal definition for abortion in Iowa and many other places includes the term "intent". If you mix the medical and legal terms, a spontaneous abortion would seem to be something that lacks intent, but also has intent...it's confusing. Thus, both abortion and miscarriage are clearly defined, and places where abortion laws appear tend to also include the clear distinctions from miscarriage, so as to not lead medical personnel to mistakenly think they can't help a woman prevent infection, and end up not treating a miscarriage.

Don't let misinformation mislead you. Don't let rare cases lead you to approve of all abortions. The coming election is critical for defending life. 🇺🇸

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!



Defending Life Now

Although we have made online pro-life training available to our members, we recognize the importance of live training and getting practice. If something isn't clear, you can ask questions of a live instructor. If you get practice, you can more quickly stop doing what isn't good and get much better at what does work. With the fall of Roe, people are talking about abortion more than we've heard in many years. This makes for an important time to know how to talk about the issue in a way that helps people understand the pro-life position and how reasonable it is.

We are in the process of planning an event that we plan to have on September 10th. We will provide more information soon.

The trainer is Emily Albrecht from the Equal Rights Institute (ERI). She recently appeared on the BBC, and she has taught people how to defend the pro-life position in very effective ways all across this country. She led a pro-life group in Minnesota when she first encountered ERI's Equipped for Life course online. After hearing just a few minutes of the material, she was

hooked and sent through the rest of the training. She would make sure her group also took the course. Their group used the methods and it transformed the campus culture at St. Olaf. Students that used to protest anything pro-life quickly stopped doing that. The group became highly respected.

Even when ERI speaks on college campuses, there tend to be protesters, just as most pro-life speakers in such venues are protested. But the protests fade very quickly, usually within the first few minutes. ERI really considers where people on the other side are coming from, how they think, etc. Thus, their methods appeal to them, and they are intrigued. They listen. Sure, they may not all convert on the spot; who does? But they often have questions and may convert after given some time.

With a few basics, it can be easier than you'd think to change minds on the issue of abortion. Although we should seek to do so in person, I once led to the conversion of a friend online by using these methods. Please come and learn! 🙏

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