



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

June 2023

Editor & Writer: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

Donate Here

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

So Much Going On

Planned Parenthood is shrinking in the state, but doing more abortions. Court rulings last year give us the ability to protect more lives, but this year's court ruling kept us from enforcing existing state law. A movie that has waited years to get released is coming to theaters in time for Independence Day that focuses on a serious subject that has everything to do with freedom.

Lots of things are going on. This newsletter is two pages longer than usual, in order to say what all is happening.

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

Sept 16
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lutherans for Life of Iowa Fall Conference
Come for the Issues as We Age Workshop!
Where: Bethany Lutheran Church
2202 Forest Dr SE, Cedar Rapids, IA
More info: Coming Soon

Sept 27 – Nov 5
1-hour time slots

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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Abortion Recovery Month - Silent No More Awareness & Rachel's Vineyard Retreats



On April 13th, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation that declared the month of April in Iowa as "Abortion Recovery Month", to help raise awareness of the devastating affects abortion has on women, men, and families, and to promote resources of hope and healing. Thank you to our fellow pro-life friends for joining in support of this annual proclamation and a special thank you to Governor Reynolds for this opportunity!

Two Interdenominational retreats for those in need of healing due to the effects of an abortion will be held in the Dubuque area:

Local Host: Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center, Cedar Rapids - Retreat held in Galena, IL.
Friday, November 3, 2023 - Sunday, November 5, 2023
Website Address: bridgehavencr.org/abortion-recovery-support/take-courage/
Contact: Haley Brimmer, 319-364-8967 haley@bridgehavencr.org

Retreat Location: Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque, IA
Friday, October 6, 2023 - Sunday, October 8, 2023
Contact: Teresa Shepard 563-235-7794 psalmniv139@gmail.com
Contact: Amy Houselog 563-542-9548 houselog4@msn.com

For more information and resources, you can visit Silent No More Awareness website at <http://silentnomoreawareness.org/resources/support-and-recovery-groups.aspx#usa> or scan the QR code.



**Will you help us organize activities?
If so, please email us.**



Abortion Developments

It's been a year since some court rulings freed pro-lifers to protect lives. Some states have done so, while others threaten life more. Some states like Iowa have made no progress.

Cedar Rapids PP Gathering

Planned Parenthood invited their supporters to gather in Cedar Rapids at a time that led them to either celebrate the failure to enforce the Heartbeat Act or to be together when they may have faced another defeat. A few dozen people showed.

Iowa March for Life

To mark the 1-year anniversary of the Dobbs ruling, pro-lifers gathered for the Iowa March for Life in Des Moines. Pat Semelroth provided the photo above from the event. Rain was predicted near the time of the event, so they moved the speaking event inside. The rain parted ways, so the outdoor march remained dry. It appears to have been attended by many pro-lifers from around the state.

Closures & Expansions

Planned Parenthood released news that seems more negative locally, but positive overall. The bad news is that abortions will return to the Cedar Rapids site. The most they've ever been able to do is the pill-based abortions. I assume that's what will happen again.

They plan to close three of their nine sites in Iowa. One of those is the one in Cedar Falls, which had provided the pill abortions. That one is already closed. They claim the closures are temporary, due to staffing. The closures might be temporary, but they could always sell properties while closed, without people noticing.

I believe we can bring a greater presence on the sidewalk than they did in Cedar Falls, so that helps. But we have a larger population than Cedar Falls has. **We need to greatly increase our presence on the sidewalk by inviting more friends and family to get out there!**

Two other sites that will at least temporarily close will wait until

nearby sites to them prepare to increase their capacity. One is Council Bluffs, which will close when Omaha grows capacity. The other is much more significant, because it affects the south side of Des Moines. That's the site where surgical abortions took place. The other two sites in the Des Moines area are merely referral sites. They will close the surgical site when Ames can grow the capacity to handle more clients. That means Planned Parenthood may cease abortions in our state capital! That's also a larger population that Cedar Rapids has. Yes, people can go to Ames to get abortions, but some women won't. That makes this a very big deal.

Abortion Fundraisers

Planned Parenthood had an event at Lion Bridge Brewing Company. The Corridor Community Action Network organized a concert at the Old Neighborhood Pub to benefit the Iowa Abortion Access Fund and Emma Goldman Clinic. It was a small event. 🍷



Government Update

Iowa

Iowa's Heartbeat Law remains struck down as of June 16th. The Iowa Supreme Court upheld the permanent injunction.

If it goes in our favor, we will protect most lives in the womb. If it doesn't, there's a chance there could be a special session to pass a new Heartbeat Law, or it may wait until next year.

Read more about this on the next page of this newsletter.

Texas/National

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ruled against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in a case involving how they approved the RU-486 abortion pill. The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the pills to be distributed while courts handle the appeals. Another district court judge made an opposite ruling, which now places the districts in conflict. That makes it easier for the U.S. Supreme Court to accept such a case.

National

Around the anniversary of the Dobbs ruling, the administration for the federal government renewed its commitment to doing what it can to enable children in the womb to be slaughtered. If there is anything they can do without the legislative branch and process, they will do what they can. If they can get abortions to take place in states that enacted laws to protect human lives, they will do it. There are many ways they can try. It's critical that states and individuals push back against this ruthless administration of death.

There are also some members of Congress who have contacted some of the nation's largest grocery stores that also have pharmacies in them. They want to use their influence to try to get them to make the same mistake that CVS and Walgreens made by trying to provide the abortion kill pill. None of them have said they were that foolish, yet, and we hope they never do. It's important that they push back against the pro-abortion fascists.

If you think I'm using an inflammatory term, keep in mind that fascism centralizes power, often works through regimented businesses (Congress members trying to control them), isn't concerned about what the people want or need, tries to suppress opposition (look at what the FBI, IRS, and other agencies have been doing in the past decade and a half).

The companies they are pressuring include: Walmart, Costco, Kroger, Safeway, and HealthMart. If we hear of any of them choosing sales over what is right, we will try to let you know. This year has been a good year in showing what can happen to businesses that go against what their customers like. Some companies have tanked in value. Many other companies have been more cautious this month in what they have said publicly or what they have done. We know change is possible. We just need to speak up and make sure we don't support companies that value profits over lives. I was a bit more blunt this month, but the pro-abortion fascists and businesses must be stopped! 🇺🇸

Prevent Heartbeat Law Enactment

Recused

Allow Heartbeat Law Enactment



Christensen



Waterman



Mansfield



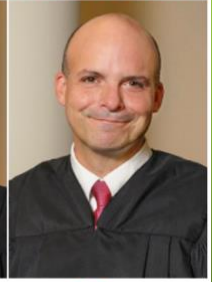
Oxley



McDonald



McDermott



May

Iowa Heartbeat Law Aborted

The Iowa Supreme Court has ruled on the Iowa Heartbeat Act of 2018. The Heartbeat Act never went into effect, and now it cannot go into effect. But this ruling was based on process, not based on abortion, itself. Thus, an identical law could have a chance to be enforced, if passed again. The link at the bottom of this page has all of the info for this case, with the video of the oral arguments, and the ruling below it.

As the image at the top of this page indicates, Justice Oxley recused herself from this decision, since she worked for a firm that challenged the law in the first place, on behalf of an abortion provider. It's not clear what part, if any, she may have had in that effort. With her not taking part in the ruling, it left an even number of justices, which allowed a 3-3 tie. In the event of a tie, the prior judgement prevails, which prevented enforcement of the law.

The way law is intended to work is to have a constitution that lays out

the structure and entities which constitute the government. It then identifies the powers of those entities. Laws are built upon the constitution, by those in authority to do so. To add consistency in the application of laws, legal precedents also build up to guide legal rulings. If a law is ruled unconstitutional, then it has no legal foundation.

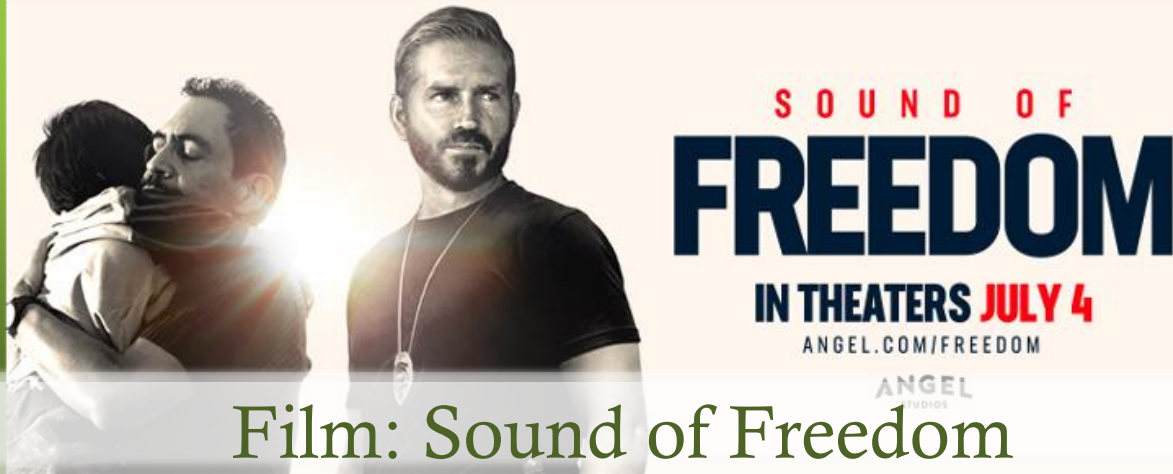
The matter that makes this case unusual is that the 2018 law was ruled unconstitutional based on a prior legal precedent. In 2022, the legal precedent that was used to rule the 2018 law unconstitutional was itself overturned. Thus, a law that was thought to lack a solid legal foundation really did have that foundation.

Because of last year's ruling that made it clear that there was no fundamental right to abortion in the Iowa constitution (nor the U.S. Constitution, thanks to the Dobbs ruling one week after the Iowa ruling), Iowa's governor asked the

court to allow the enforcement of the law.

The main point raised by abortion advocates was that there was no process to lift a permanent injunction, and that when the law was struck down, it should be considered as not being in the law books. Thus, there was no law on the books to enforce. It reminds me of those who push for the pro-abortion Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that failed to meet the deadline date for ratification. That amendment is dead, and simply trying to change the deadline is invalid, because it's too late to change the deadline.

Many pro-lifers find it awkward that a law was struck down because of a right that was once thought to exist according to a prior set of court justices, but does not exist. When the basis for striking it down no longer exists, it seems odd that the law would still be unenforceable. It will take fresh legislative action to protect life, even if they pass the same law. 🗳️



Film: Sound of Freedom

What is the fastest illicit business in the world? Human trafficking. It's already bringing in \$150 billion or more per year, and rapidly increasing. That's more money than the GDP of nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's nations (not combined).

Somewhere on the order of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people are pulled into the international trade each year.

We often focus on abortion more than other issues, in major part because of how common it is, and because of the grave nature of it. Human trafficking is another serious issue that also happens in numbers that would shock most people. It has strong connections to the abortion issue. A film entitled Sound of Freedom is coming out in time for Independence Day. It won't focus on the abortion side of things, but on human trafficking.

Jim Caviezel portrayed Jesus in The Passion of the Christ, and he considers this the most significant role he's played since that film. Jim portrays the real-life hero of trafficking victims, Tim Ballard.

Tim started out by working with the US government to deal with trafficking matters involving US citizens. However, he would find himself unable to help in cases that didn't involve US citizens, even when he had good leads. The government employed him, so he was only allowed to do what was in scope for the government's program. This wasn't good enough.

He quit his job, cashed out as much as he could to afford to make a difference on a global scale. He created an organization that helps governments around the world to tackle this issue. They have gone into places where no one else would dare to go.

The movie was filmed prior to the global shutdown in 2020. But multiple things got in their way. The shutdown didn't help. But Disney had acquired the rights to the film when they bought out another company. They had NO intention of releasing the film. We know the perverted goals of the executives of that company.

Something that reveals the evils of the illegal sex trade was not in their interests to make people know about. They intentionally inject sexual content into films, and people with disordered sexual interests. Thus, the original makers of the film had to buy back the rights for millions of dollars. That left them with a need for millions of dollars to get the movie released. When Angel Studios stepped up, they finally had a pathway to get the film to theaters.

Please watch this film. Help theaters sell every seat in the first week. We know abortion is bad. But human trafficking brings in even more money per victim, because they can profit off a victim multiple times per day, and they can do this year, after year, after year. If a victim gets pregnant, they often get abortions, being victimized yet again.

Celebrate freedom by watching a film about those who are enslaved today. There are more slaves today than ever in history. 🇺🇸

Pro-Life Challenge



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

Rockford, IL abortion site; Central Minnesota's PP sites; UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges



Help the Culture

Last year gave us hope. We saw the shackles fall away that kept us from being able to do much on the public policy front in the past. That allowed things to improve. But nothing has changed in Iowa. Some people thought the fall of Roe would mean abortion was a thing of the past. But all it did was pass things back to the states. We still have laws that don't protect most lives in the womb. We also have too many women seeking abortions regardless of the laws.

We need help. Some people have organized events like 40 Days for Life or other activities for several years. It can tire people out. I remember when I led for a few years, and I continued to lead it a few years after feeling worn out. I was relieved when someone stepped up to lead. But we almost didn't plan to do 40 Days for Life this fall because we needed some relief for the current leader, but we DO plan to organize 40 Days for Life again this fall. But it's much less likely for early next year, unless others step up.

This is a terrible time to scale back when we know this is the prime time

for us to have opportunities that we haven't had for half a century! Now, we see abortion returning to Cedar Rapids.

What can you do to help?

What are skills you have that might be used to help the cause, even if you don't think such skills are usually needed for this type of work?

I will always do what I can to promote a Culture of Life. If I burn out, I will always come back to it, and will even do some while burned out. But that's not a good way to operate. The rewards are great that one sees when lives are saved and when minds are changed in a way that turns them from the evil ways the world has indoctrinated into the minds of people today. I love inviting more people to join in these efforts.

We need your help. It's great to see people attend our events. But can you help us organize and carry out the life-saving work we do? We would love to see more people join us in a more significant way. Invite more people to attend our events. 🙏

VOLUNTEER



Help out where and when you can! Contact us!

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann
Jim Burke (President)
Mary Cherion (Secretary)
Rick Delagardelle
Lisa Gignac (Vice President)
Sue Martinek
Brian Saunders
Melissa Schechinger (Treasurer)
Pat Semelroth



Spread the Word!

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

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406