



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

June 2025

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Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
- Page 3 Statistical Depth
- Page 4 Statistical Depth
(continued)
- Page 5 June Activity Recap
- Page 6 Government Update
- Page 7 40 Days for Life

We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

Donate Here

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

Still Busy

We continue to see lots of activity after last month's major news. I returned our newsletter to its prior length (2 pages longer) last month. It seemed appropriate to fit all of last month's news, and it seemed like it would be a one-shot deal, such that I could return to the shorter length again this month. But this is June. This is the month Roe fell just 3 years ago. This is the month the U.S. Supreme Court issues new rulings. There are tons of things happening. Thus, the newsletter is as long as it was last month.

As I write this, the reconciliation bill is being debated in the U.S. Senate. The House version of the bill was passed with a 10-year ban of Medicaid funding for abortion providers. The Senate started with that, but unexpectedly brought forth a bill on June 28th that reduced that prohibition to just 1 year. That would lead to abortion businesses holding out hope they could get funds next year, and force pro-lifers to push for such a provision each year.

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! When an organization shrinks, there's room for further collapse. We encourage people to contact their lawmakers regarding defunding Planned Parenthood for 10 years, again. This bill is part of the reason the local site may not reopen.

Upcoming Events

First Mondays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sept 24 – Nov 2
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: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Yes, we still intend to pray outside of PP.

More about that in our 40 Days for Life article.

2162	3	537	4020	4557	196	147	1	11
2179	9	488	3989	4477	186	178	0	10
2251	3	538	3722	4260	133	129	0	10
2095	8	435	3269	3704	106	121	0	4
1945	1	1409	2849	4258	100	153	0	132
2404	24	1639	3566	5205	117	198	4	197
3222	1	1162	4058	5220	84	313	0	188

Statistical Depth

Abortion Pill Complications?

The Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) analyzed the largest group of pill-based abortion outcomes, ever. The FDA lists the complications for the abortion pill at 0.5%. But the EPPC study, dated April 28, 2025 finds 10.93% of women experience: sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious or life-threatening adverse event within 45 days after a pill-based abortion. That's more than 20 times the rate previously reported! That's roughly a 1-in-9 chance of needing to go to the emergency room! The Charlotte Lozier Institute found 84% of abortion pill complications were mislabeled as miscarriage.

More Iowa Miscarriages?

I've reported on how the number of miscarriages in Iowa appeared to increase from a tiny number to a large number a few years ago, and it remains high. Linn County used to have about 10 per year, until 2018 when it shot well over 100. Iowa used to have 500 or so per year, until 2018 when the numbers are usually around 1,000-1,500.

Doubling or tripling is notable, and increasing by at least an order of magnitude (10x or more) stands out.

If the miscarriages are all real miscarriages and recorded accurately, then we have a SERIOUS issue to address in our state, where we would need to figure out what unknown thing happened in late 2017 or early 2018 that has led to such a jump in miscarriages. This is especially the case since I don't believe prior reporting was underreporting.

Some might arise from more long-term contraceptive measures being used that might lead to failed pregnancies if they failed to prevent the pregnancies in the first place.

When so many pill-based abortions are administered from a group of pill-pushers (as I think of a Wheel of Fortune wrong solution), they dispense something with side-effects they can't fix. They tell their clients to go to an emergency room if there are problems, and then say they are having a miscarriage (not an abortion). I believe this is a major contributor to the garbage data the state is fed to then report. I don't believe the numbers are

accurate for real miscarriages. I believe the abortion industry's instructions to women to tell them to lie, combined with the high complication rate of abortion pills leads to us seeing the misleading data.

The abortion pill complication rates may also explain why Linn County had a higher rate of increase, since we have emergency rooms to serve nearby counties that lack them.

More Abortions?

People have cited statistics suggesting abortions have increased since the Dobbs ruling. One thing complicates these statistics. For at least one source of such statistics, pill-based abortions weren't tallied in past statistics. They added them in more recent statistics, since pill-based abortions constitute the majority of abortions, now.

One can't compare statistics with such a significant inclusion to numbers from before that inclusion. Of course, this means that some of the drops in abortions previously reported could mean they merely didn't count the abortions that still happened, simply using the other means (pills).

Statistical Depth (continued)

OB-GYNs in Pro-Life States

In recent years, we've heard abortion advocates claim that OB-GYNs are fleeing states with pro-life laws. They make it sound like laws that prohibit killing makes people who aim to heal leave for places where they can kill for a living. The problem for them is that it's not true.

The University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health and other universities studied this, and they aren't usually considered right-wing. They found that pro-life states increased the number of OB-GYNs at a rate FASTER than pro-abortion states.

States with pro-life laws grew their number of OB-GYNs by 8.3%, while states making abortion a protected "right" only grew by 7.7%. They compared current numbers versus the numbers before the Dobbs ruling. The results make sense, and suggests that states like Iowa should be in a better situation than if we hadn't passed and enforced the Heartbeat Law. Of course, we still haven't achieved the better protection that comes from protecting life at conception.

Of course, the difference is only 0.6%, which even the study correctly points out that it's not a significant difference. But if people are claiming the numbers favored keeping abortion legal, then they really need to know that the numbers suggest the opposite.

Latest Gallup Poll

I occasionally look at the Gallup polls regarding pro-life topics, and each May, they usually address the topic of abortion. This year, pro-lifers noticed some significant changes the broke along particular age groups. The overall change shifted in our favor.

From 2024 to 2025, we saw a statistically significant shift in when people think abortion should be legal. Those wanting it legal in any/all circumstances dropped 5 percentage points (35-30), while gaining 5 percentage points for those allowing it only in some circumstances (50-55). The "no answer" group dropped a percent, which appears to have moved into the illegal in all cases (12-13) category.

A similar 5 percentage point shift away from thinking abortion was morally acceptable occurred, and the morally wrong category rose by 3 percentage points.

The age-specific statistics get much more interesting, though. We know the way the next generation thinks can affect the future of the movement. So where do young adults stand on the abortion issue?

Gallup asked young adults if they identified as being on one side or the other, and this is the age group from 18-29. The percentage of them identifying as pro-life increased by 8 percentage points! The same age

group answered the question about when abortion should be legal. The category of being legal "under any circumstance" dropped by 14 percentage points!

It looks like the investment pro-lifers are putting into the next generation might be starting to pay off. Organizations like Students for Life are reaching more students each year with effective apologetics. We've also worked with the Equal Rights Institute (ERI), who also reach several campuses (some overlap between the two organization) and they have had good results from their programs.

Overall Summary

Many studies occur each year, and people find ways to use facts to prove just about anything. Many times, they don't even cite studies, or they cite studies that weren't done well. But when we dig into the claims, we find that many of the statistics aren't quite what they originally seemed. Some of these statistics favor the pro-life movement, while others show we have plenty of work ahead of us.

I value having good data and good statistics. Knowing the truth helps us start analysis and find solutions that can benefit the real world. False data wastes everyone's time and blinds people to the truth. Fake data makes it hard to have the desired effects. 🙏



June Activity Recap

We have several activities in June. After the Dobbs ruling struck down Roe vs. Wade, June became a month for a march for life. But we had some other activities, too.

Iowa March for Life

We brought a bus of pro-lifers to Des Moines for the Iowa March for Life. The day was hot, but the bus had air conditioning, the capitol building was a reasonable temperature, and we were only outside for a short time.

We heard several speakers talk about the current situation for the pro-life movement. We also had a chance to check out some parts of the capitol building. Many pro-life organizations had tables at the event, allowing us to see what other groups have to offer. We had our own table, allowing others to see what we had to offer.

Our group managed to march right behind the banner that led the event. We weren't holding it, but appear nearest the front of the pack. We normally appear later in the pack, and it was nice to have a spot so near the front!

Linn County Fair

The Linn County Fair had their Community Appreciation Day on Friday, June 27th. We expanded on what we did last year with our booth.

We added some engagement to this year's booth at the Linn County Fair. There were activities for children to do. Children could color or add stickers to a variety of educational sheets. One pointed out when the heart starts beating, with a heart to color. One pointed out when the stomach forms, with stickers of food to put into the stomach. Another pointed out when we get finger prints, and they could use ink pads to color the hands with their own fingers.

We spoke to several people, and enjoyed the art of many children. We also had free items for people to take home. To further educate people, we had our fetal models on display in the center of our booth.

It was nice to hear what parents would say to their children when they examined the models, since they had things to say about it.

They might say how the child was that small when they were born or other good things that connected them to what they saw. It was a good sign that parents know true and pro-life things to share with their children. Sometimes, people just need something to trigger the lesson. If only we had more things to trigger pro-life discussion in our lives, we could really share the message.

Defund PP Rally

On Saturday, June 28th, the U.S. Senate began debating the bill that could remove funding from abortion providers. Many pro-lifers gathered outside the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood.

The rally included prayer, music, and plenty of pro-life signs. Someone showed up at the very end who was also pro-life and we enjoyed talking with him, too. That morning, the reconciliation bill still had a funding ban for 10 years, but it changed to just 1 year, unexpectedly. Pro-lifers now push to get it back to 10 years of not funding Planned Parenthood. 🙏



Government Update

National

This newsletter is being written shortly before the U.S. Senate brings the reconciliation bill to the floor for discussion, and to vote on it. The bill still includes the provision to remove abortion providers from Medicaid funding. Although it doesn't fully defund abortion providers, it affects the vast majority of the government funding to such entities.

The Senate made numerous changes, which means that if they pass it, then they would have to send it back to the U.S. House to pass the modified version. The House passed the bill with only one vote more than voted against it, and some of the Senate changes could risk not getting it passed in the House. So, this bill has some rough times ahead. Yet, they still have the defunding of abortion providers in the bill.

Despite the many ways Planned Parenthood (PP) brings in money and can avoid paying taxes on it, many of the PP affiliates operate near the edge of profits and losses.

Granted, the affiliate covering this area still has tens of millions of dollars stashed away in another 501c3 they created several years ago, but they still depend heavily on government funding. Thus, cutting funding will force somewhere close to 1/3 of their over 600 facilities to close, which is over 200 sites!

California

Gavin Newsom is the governor of California. Many people believe he wants to run for president at some point. His state had budget surpluses while the federal government subsidized various things when his state shut so many things down in 2020. But the budget looks bad without those subsidies. California voters approved tons of additional funding for PP. Gavin usually supports PP very heavily, but the budget matters more to him right now. He is allocating about 1/3 of the funds PP was expecting to receive. PP considers it the biggest defunding they've experienced.

Imagine if the federal government ALSO defunds PP... The combination could close many sites.

South Carolina

South Carolina won their case in the U.S. Supreme Court. The state prohibited funding abortion providers with Medicaid funds, but the federal program prohibits that. This led Iowa to create their own program to avoid that rule. But South Carolina cleared the way for other states to defund PP regardless of what the federal government does. If states prohibit funding and the nation does so, too, then it's extremely hard to undo it.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states. Pray for an end of the culture of death. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in governments in our nation and world. Even when pro-lifers are in positions to set public policy, it's possible that others will prevent them from achieving good things. We need to pray and to contact lawmakers to let our voices be heard. The abortion industry adapts. It's important to achieve results this year! 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



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

For people to prioritize the value of human life;
Students for Life in Iowa;
lawmakers & judges;
religious leaders

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!



40 Days for Life

In the latter part of 2023, some people saw the temporary closure of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood (PP) as a sign we can scale back our activities. When they gutted the building and boarded up the entry, even more people thought that way. The latest news is that the local PP will permanently close.

If you looked at our upcoming events, you saw that we still plan to participate in 40 Days for Life again this fall, and we haven't had any official event marking the closure of the local PP. Why? The funding cuts aren't official, yet, and we don't know if they will last just 1 year, 10 years, or something else.

We've also noticed past situations when this affiliate had "permanently closed" their site in Sioux City. It remained closed for at least 3 years, but they never sold the property, and they reopened it. It's also among the sites they are closing (again). We don't want to declare victory, early. So, we will wait for that property to be sold. As long as Planned Parenthood remains, even if they are closed, we plan to remain on the

public sidewalk, praying. We can pray for the site to remain closed and leave the hands of PP. We could also pray for other sites, like those in Iowa City and Des Moines, which will remain open. Our prayers can lead God to act at those sites, while remaining present with us, while we pray in the presence of the local PP.

It should be easier to pray outside of a site we know should never open again. We still need people to participate, since we don't want circumstances to change in such a way that they would reopen at some point. But now, one can pray with even greater hope of permanent closure and success for the pro-life movement.

When they sell the site, we will be able to celebrate. We will still have to promote pro-life culture, since there are other threats to life, and since anyone who spends time outside the local PP knows there are still many hearts shaped by the culture of death, who would love to see abortion return to Cedar Rapids. For now, our focus remains on the local PP, while promoting life-affirming solutions. 🌱

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- 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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