



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

July 2025

Editor & Writer: Jim Burke

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

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## Progress is Made

In the “Not Going Back” article, I barely touched on some of the issues Planned Parenthood has had over the years. The full list could have filled several pages, if not an entire issue of this newsletter. But I think those issues are sufficient to make a point.

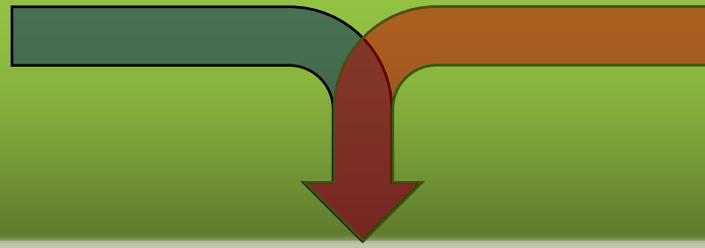
**KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP!** When an organization shrinks, there’s room for further collapse. We await the day a For Sale sign can go up, and really look forward to a Sold sign. But until then, we will pray outside the gutted building.

Planned Parenthood became dependent on government funding. Taking it away is like taking meat away from a wild, carnivorous animal. They grow more aggressive and determined, not less.

Planned Parenthoods are closing and consolidating after federal defunding became law for a year. A federal judge unilaterally decided to override the powers and authorities of Congress and the President, while providing justifications that don’t make enough sense to hold up if appealed. We have numerous pro-life activities coming up throughout the state of Iowa in the next few months.

# Upcoming Events

<p><b>First Mondays</b> 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CFLI Board Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Mondays)</b> Get involved in our organization! <b>Where:</b> Contact us. <b>More:</b> <a href="mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com">coalitionforlife@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sat, Aug 2</b> 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Pro-Life Storytime</b> Join in celebrating the gift of life with stories, crafts, and activities! <b>Where:</b> Iowa City Public Library: Room A 123 S Linn St, <b>Iowa City</b>, IA 52240 <b>More:</b> Johnson County Right to Life</p>
<p><b>Mon, Aug 4</b> 7:30 p.m. Start</p>	<p><b>Concert for Life</b> Pro-life concert raises funds for Pulse Life Advocates &amp; a PRC! (\$10) <b>Where:</b> Val Air Ballroom 301 Ashworth Rd, <b>West Des Moines</b>, IA 50265 <b>More:</b> <a href="https://www.dmdiocese.org/events/concert-for-life-2025?event=fc2283ab-8f82-483d-9e9d-5b0f3611aa65">https://www.dmdiocese.org/events/concert-for-life-2025?event=fc2283ab-8f82-483d-9e9d-5b0f3611aa65</a></p>
<p><b>Sun, Sept 14</b> 1 p.m. Start</p>	<p><b>Day of Remembrance for the Unborn &amp; 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally</b> Join a memorial service to commemorate millions of abortion victims! <b>Where:</b> Xavier High School, by Angel of Hope 6300 42nd Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More:</b> <a href="https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids">https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</a></p>
<p><b>Sept 24 – Nov 2</b> 1-hour time slots</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil</b> Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More:</b> <a href="https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids">https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</a></p>
<p><b>Sun, Oct 5</b> 2 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Cedar Rapids Life Chain</b> Take to the streets and spread the pro-life message! <b>Where:</b> Meet at St. Matthew's parking lot, then spread out 2310 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/">https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/</a></p>
<p><b>Sun, Nov 2</b> 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>40 Days for Life Closing Rally</b> Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! <b>Where:</b> Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA <b>More info:</b> <a href="https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids">https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</a></p>
<p><b>Sat, Nov 22</b> Doors Open: 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Pulse Life Advocates Christmas Gala</b> Hear from Students for Life founder Kristan Hawkins! (\$100) <b>Where:</b> Marriott Downtown Des Moines 700 Grand Ave, <b>Des Moines</b>, IA 50309 <b>Sign up Link:</b> <a href="https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E343960&amp;id=23">https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E343960&amp;id=23</a></p>



## Mergers

One sign Planned Parenthood expects to struggle is the mergers of their affiliates. I was mapping out their affiliates about a month ago, and some of them didn't make much sense. In particular, Florida's two affiliates had unusual boundaries. I figured they would merge, and they did just days after the defunding bill passed. Texas has three affiliates, and they have already announced the merger of two of them.

One also included the two sites in Louisiana, and they have yet to determine which affiliate will manage those sites. Most affiliates like to have contiguous territory. This leaves Louisiana with options including: trying to stick with Texas (unlikely in my opinion); merging with the affiliate to their east which covers most of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia; merging with the affiliate to their north which already includes Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and much of the middle of Missouri. But they could try to make it on their own, which would likely end disastrously for them.

There's one other option. There is an affiliate gradually gathering up unwanted or unrelated areas. They already manage the PP sites in Alaska, Hawaii, part of the Washington coast, southern Idaho, Indiana, and Kentucky. It's a strange affiliate, due to the vast areas they cover.

If I had to make the decision for them, I would likely stick to the other Deep South states, and merge with Georgia. I would also think Tennessee would want in on that, since the affiliate there is small, and includes a tiny part of northern Mississippi, despite not having any PP sites in that state.

Likewise, Missouri has a strange split between the central region with ties to Kansas City, and the rest being handled by another affiliate. It would make sense for them to merge, but mergers come with loss of control. Might the sites in St. Louis dominate, or would Kansas City call the shots? When Iowa's affiliate merged with the Minnesota affiliate, Des Moines lost their influence, and they went from 3 sites to 2, and now down to 1 in their metro area.

In prior months, affiliates merged in parts of Washington and in Nevada. The number of affiliates is dropping at a rather rapid pace. Many of the consolidations form statewide affiliates.

The state of Virginia has two affiliates, with one having very few sites, but the other spanning states. Ohio has two affiliates, with one in the southwest part of the state recently shrinking to a point that mergers could arise out of that situation.

If states like New York and California close enough sites, we could see them consolidate some of their affiliates. The states of Washington and Oregon also have at least two affiliates, each. Pennsylvania is primarily split between east and west, which might make sense unless they shrink too much, too. But they also have an affiliate in the Philadelphia area.

We will continue to watch the activities of Planned Parenthood. They seem like they are quickly consolidating their affiliates to align with state boundaries or collections of states. 🌐



## Closures

### Closures

We previously reported the closures of 4 PP sites in Iowa and 4 in Minnesota. There were also 4 sites closed in Illinois. Then another 4 sites in Michigan. All of that was before the defunding of abortion providers.

After the defunding, things continued. Some states refuse to close any sites, hoping to survive the year of no Medicaid funding. Others may close just one or two sites, figuring that might suffice, or selling the land of closed sites could offset some of the losses. But several closures have been announced.

Ohio announced the closure of two facilities in affiliate that covers the southwest part of the state, plus one in the other affiliate that covers the rest of the state. Indiana closed their southern-most site.

Northern California announced the closure of 5 PP sites, primarily in the vicinities between San Francisco and Fresno. Texas closed two sites in the Houston area, and the other four in that area will join the Greater Texas affiliate. The Greater Texas affiliate announced the

closure of their Tyler facility just days prior to the merger and closure announcements.

Wisconsin has yet to announce closures. That state in particular stands out because of the numerous PP sites, most of them don't provide abortions (but some do), and the majority of their revenue comes from Medicaid. If over half of their money comes from a source that is cut off, we could expect many closures. However, the funding cut is only one year, unless renewed or extended.

If the defunding had remained at 10 years, we would see many more sites closing. Instead, we see a few here and there, and Planned Parenthood is ramping up efforts to get funding back.

### Factors

Like any business, Planned Parenthood wants to reach as many people as possible. That's why they have many sites in major cities. They also try to have sites as accessible as possible. So, they have sites spread over any given area. They often like to have a presence in the places of political power.

They also want to avoid losing the last site in any state.

The latter point could keep the Sioux Falls site open in South Dakota longer than if they didn't have such pride. The political power aspect can keep them in cities like Lincoln, Nebraska, despite other issues that could justify closing it sooner.

The balance of larger cities versus geographical coverage is perhaps the most challenging. Take Minnesota for instance. If they had to close one more site, based on current conditions, Saint Cloud would make lots of sense. The population isn't as big as the other sites that don't provide abortion. However, Eden Prairie is a suburb of the Twin Cities, and if they would close that site, their clients could easily seek another PP site. But not all of them would, and it would add even more demand on sites that already have to handle large demand. If they were to close Saint Cloud, they would lose the physical presence in a college town near the center of the state. But it can't compete in terms of population with sites in the Twin Cities metro area. 🇺🇸



## Not Going Back

Planned Parenthood (PP) advocates often say, “We’re not going back!” They want abortion legal and PP funding. We recognize PP has many issues, and the world is very different today than in the 1960s.

### Issues with Planned Parenthood

First, PP ends the lives of hundreds of thousands of children per year. This is our primary objection to PP. A study several years ago found a 99% positive correlation between federal funding of PP and the number of abortions they perform. The more money PP gets, the more abortions to expect, regardless of what is done with the money.

PP employees who quit have previously revealed how PP has goals to increase abortions, even though people who want abortion to be legal don’t usually think of it as something they would want women to have to endure. That’s why making it rare (although legal) used to be a goal of many people.

Massive fraud allegations and audit reports have been found over the years. Wisconsin’s auditor nearly a decade ago found that over half of

Medicaid reimbursements to PP involved fraud! Sue Thayer alleged double-billing of Medicaid here in Iowa, along with excessive mark-ups. Even the abortion-friendly 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit court found PP guilty of fraud in California back in 2011.

More recently, the federal government made money PPP funds available during the 2020 pandemic. The bill was intentionally amended before passage to prevent organizations like PP from getting those funds. Yet, PP affiliates applied for funds, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) staff broke the law by issuing at least \$80 million to PP affiliates. This illegal action has been pointed out, but PP has never given back the funds, nor has anyone been held accountable.

PP fights against basic minimum medical standards and doesn’t always meet them. In Texas, they fought against a law that required them to meet those minimums. They closed many sites, because it was too hard to meet what real health providers must meet. In Iowa, we don’t inspect PP sites.

### The World is Different, Now

In the late 1960s, we started to see Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) emerging. Now, they outnumber abortion providers by a big margin. Thus, women have access to free support (paid for by willing donors) more easily than PP services that are often available at a cost to the women and/or taxpayers.

For reproductive health, we now have NaProTechnology to address underlying medical issues. We also have Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that also outnumber PP. These can provide services at a lower cost than PP and the taxpayer.

The advancements in the medical field also make it easier to avoid serious issues with pregnancies. Anti-biotics are in wider use than they were before abortion was made legal. It was increasing in use before abortion was legalized, and the number of deaths from illegal abortions thus decreased.

The world is much better off, now. When abortion is made illegal, things will be better, not worse. 🍷



## Government Update

### National

The reconciliation bill was signed into law on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The law includes the provision to remove abortion providers from Medicaid funding for one year. Although it doesn't fully defund abortion providers, it affects the vast majority of the government funding to such entities.

As expected, Planned Parenthood (PP) sued to force continued funding. This temporarily kept some funding for them, followed by a permanent injunction affecting all PP sites that needs an appeal. Most affiliates perform at least some abortions, so the temporary measure had limited benefit for PP. The permanent measure affects all PP sites. But an appeal is expected.

This law led to mergers of PP affiliates and closures of PP sites. An appeal is needed in order to defund PP, again. Activist judges exist who favor PP and do as they wish. Once the matter is ruled on, it's expected that funding will again get cut off for all affiliates that don't do abortions, due to their

connection to the massive abortion business. Congress has the constitutional power to tax and spend how they choose. Once a ruling is made, it will provide a clear precedent if this is attempted in the future. Such a tactic may have made more sense if the original 10-year funding ban had become law. If such a law gets passed in the future, such a delay tactic won't work as well.

### Wyoming

A few months ago, the Wyoming Supreme Court heard arguments that could decide if abortion in that state is banned or not. They must issue a ruling by August 14<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for a favorable outcome that protects human life. This is one of very few states with an active case that is as consequential as to allow or prohibit abortion.

### North Dakota

The North Dakota Supreme Court is deciding if an abortion ban is constitutional. There is no deadline for the ruling, but it should be soon.

### Missouri

In the last election, Missouri struck down their life at conception laws. There is an effort to have voters decide if they want to ban abortion, again. Many people consider themselves pro-life, but also want abortion in some cases. Ballot wording can lead people to vote in contradiction to what they might actually want. This could make a big difference in a neighboring state. It would also grow the geographical area of states that outlaw abortion.

### 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:

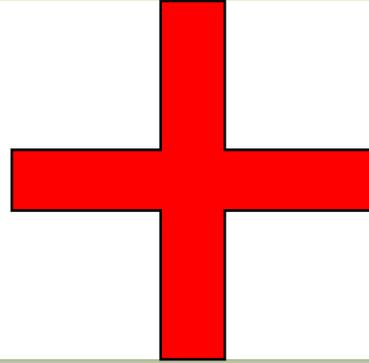
For people to prioritize the value of human life;  
Students for Life in Iowa;  
lawmakers & judges;  
religious leaders

## 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!



## Medical Victory

In the pro-life movement, we see hope and advancement in the medical field. In the abortion movement, death is offered as a “solution” for many challenges. When we value life and avoid intentional killing, it can lead doctors to advance the medical field.

Doctors at Indiana’s Riley Children’s Health performed a corrective surgery involving a serious form of spina bifida. It was an act of “medical innovation” for an especially serious form of the condition. It’s the first case of this kind of fetal surgery in the state.

Fetal myelomeningocele repair is an extremely complex fetal surgery procedure. The success of this case is good news for Indiana, since people there should be able to get this kind of treatment without leaving the state in the future. A diagnosis of this condition without repair would be devastating.

Although states like Indiana protect life from conception, they do offer exceptions for certain scenarios. But when doctors focus on protecting life and real healing, it pushes the medical

field forward. Not only do patients get treated with respect, but more lives get saved. More procedures get developed and mastered. This is how we advance as a society.

When death is offered as a standard “solution”, advancement slows or regresses. When there is a fetal abnormality, one might just prescribe abortion, and hope the parents have better luck the next time, if there is a next time. Doctors can lose skills if they don’t get used to performing life-saving surgeries and procedures. They can even stop respecting patients as much.

As mentioned in last month’s issue of this newsletter, the claims that OB/GYNs are leaving pro-life states is untrue. If anything, they are growing in numbers slightly faster in pro-life states. This makes sense, since most doctors want to heal, and OB/GYNs want healthy babies. A tiny percentage of them perform abortions. Most of them don’t ever want to be forced to perform abortions. Thus, they are safer in pro-life states than in other states. Thus, pro-life states should benefit. 🇺🇸

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## 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
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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.

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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