



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

April 2026

Editor & Writer: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to our  
events and meetings

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

## Building Enthusiasm

Our board is finalizing our goals. We hadn't set goals for a while. I'm liking the energy our board has expressed toward our goals. When goals are established and there's mere agreement, but no excitement, such goals might be insignificant or might not be achieved due to disinterest. But with this level of energy, I think there's great potential. We still need to finalize and vote on the goals. But just a couple days after our last meeting, the local news did a story that focused on something one of our proposed goals addresses. This seemed like an affirmation that we one or more relevant goals.

Planned Parenthood recently closed two sites in Indianapolis and one in the state of Washington. The local affiliate finally put their site in Council Bluffs up for sale.

**KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! I came to find out that this PP affiliate wants to bring abortions to St. Cloud, MN—please pray for pro-life victory, there!** We want PP to sell their Cedar Rapids site. But until then, we pray outside their gutted building. We will keep an eye on matters.

# Upcoming Events



**First Mondays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Mondays)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** Contact us.

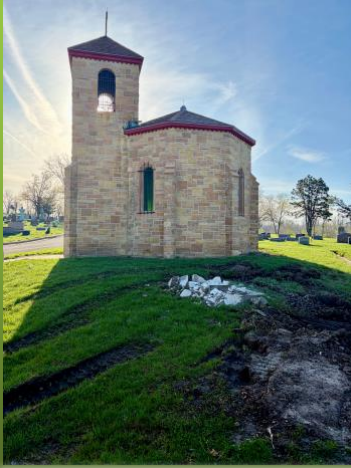
**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Sun, May 10**  
All Day

Mother's Day

**Sun, Jun 21**  
All Day

Father's Day



## Vandalism?

### Cemetery Monument

Recently, I received an email with a subject suggesting there was some sad or bad news. In the email, I saw a photo of the location where a memorial of the unborn had been in a local Cedar Rapids cemetery. In that place was some rubble. I chose to investigate matters.

I drove to the cemetery, and I saw what appeared in the photograph. However, it didn't look like vandalism. The longer I looked, the more it looked like a cemetery project. I saw piles of rocks one would usually use below a slab of concrete. I saw large attachments one would usually use with landscaping equipment. The tracks in the grass were of landscaping equipment, and it didn't look like anyone ran into the monument. In fact, the amount of rubble was roughly the amount one would expect of a slab one usually places underneath a monument. Vandalism looked unlikely.

Before I headed to the cemetery, I looked up a few things. I saw they had an upcoming project to install two columbariums in the area where the monument had been. Columbariums are resting places for the remains of people who have been cremated. This looked much more like an intentional moving of a monument out of the way of an upcoming project.

I saw a few workers standing outside of the main facility. I would pass by there on my way out, so I chose to roll down my window and ask them about the situation. Their response confirmed that the monument had been moved. I made sure to respond to the email so people included on the email would know there wasn't any vandalism. This was good news.

### Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood

While driving by the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood, I noticed their sign had some damage visible on the lower half of the sign when

driving northbound on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. I don't know the cause of this damage. I would hope it wouldn't be from any vandalism. Signs age, stay out in the heat and cold, plus weather like hail and ice. With the facility unoccupied for so long, properties often end up in a state of disrepair. I assume this is not vandalism. If it is vandalism, I wish people would avoid such acts. Not only is it wrong to do such a thing, but the harder it is to prepare the property for sale, the longer we have their presence in our city.

### Ohio Planned Parenthood

A Cincinnati Planned Parenthood experience a fire this month. It did not stop them from doing business. The fire appears to be a case of arson, and they are looking for possible suspects.

Violence and death are the ways of the culture of death. We stand for a culture of life. I'm honored to work with such loving people who use moral means to end abortion. 🇺🇸



## Euthanasia

Several years ago, someone asked me what was the next major attack against the culture of life. Assisted suicide and euthanasia stood out for various reasons. Recently, I realized I hadn't thought about the issues enough in the time since I answered that question.

A growing number of states push for assisted suicide, while some manage to keep it from taking hold. Assisted suicide gets abused and can even pave the way for legalized euthanasia. People often use emotional arguments to justify these causes of death. They may not want the person to suffer, or they may not want to suffer watching the person suffer. Some people are convinced they are or will be a burden on others, and they don't want to be a burden.

It costs very little money to take a life using drugs. This can create a financial incentive to end life prematurely. With generations of children having been killed via abortion, the ratio of retired people to people who are working will put financial pressures on insurance companies and on governments with socialistic healthcare. When

governments can control if you live or die, it creates the further danger of trapping people in the government's solution. We saw when England refused to help a child several years ago. Another country offered to help the child. If they had succeeded, it would have embarrassed England. Nations can deny people from crossing international borders, and they kept the child from the freely offered help. That child died.

When I mentioned to someone that I was pro-life, he said he was pro-life, too. After a short discussion, the topic shifted to assisted suicide and euthanasia. He knew these were bad, but the emotional arguments of the other side stuck in his mind. He wondered what the pro-life responses exist, or what the arguments are from a pro-life perspective.

It wasn't an ideal situation to talk at length about the topic. However, I also realized so much of the pro-life apologetics focus on abortion. Although there are arguments for other pro-life topics, pro-lifers don't bring these arguments to the public very much. Also, just like with

abortion, some arguments are specific to certain religions, while some are not.

In particular, the Catholic teachings on suffering can make it easy to discuss the topic. But it requires the other person to agree with those teachings. In a world with atheists, non-Christian religions, and prosperity gospels, one can't expect everyone to agree with such teachings. The idea of carrying YOUR cross, daily is lost on many people. The idea of immense love/charity seeking to help those in the most need, helping them feel the value inherent in each of us, this is an idea people who don't read and follow Matthew chapter 25 might overlook.

I've been meaning to focus on these topics more for many years. I'm realizing I need to dig deeper into the subject matter. Like any topic, the arguments are out there, and there are many aspects to each topic. There are the practical matters, theological matters, ethical matters, legal matters, and potentially other aspects to consider. I hope to provide more meaningful content about this in the future. 🍷



## Government Update

### National

More states are trying to combat the abortion pill in federal courts and in their state laws. The FDA continues to do very little about the abortion pill, and the Comstock Act remains unenforced elsewhere in the government.

The current administration is restoring Title X funding, which avoids legal challenges, but funds Planned Parenthood with tens of millions of dollars. However, proposed changes to Title X could shift it away from contraception and toward conception. This would be a very welcome shift. Planned Parenthood wouldn't likely receive much, if any funding if funds focused on helping couples conceive children.

A proposed budget would defund abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood. It is just a proposed budget, and it's early in the process. Other news suggests defunding will not be in a reconciliation bill. Without action, abortion providers regain funding on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Iowa

The Iowa legislature has introduced HF2563 to restrict the distribution of abortion pills to in-person dispensing. This is thought to have support to pass the Iowa House.

This is an election year when we will elect a new governor and U.S. senator. State and national happenings could swing votes. We encourage people to become active in the political process.

### Kansas

The Kansas governor vetoed five pro-life bills. The Kansas legislature voted to override the vetoes and succeeded. Kansas has a pro-life legislature, but governors get in the way of pro-life laws. In the past 30 years, each political party holds the seat for eight years before it flips to the other party.

This year's election could give Kansans the opportunity to elect a pro-life governor. Governors appoint supreme court justices. Two years ago, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled abortion was a "fundamental" right.

### Illinois

The Illinois legislature is pushing five pro-abortion bills. HB 4834 stops monitoring the negative effects of the abortion pill. Studies show they have higher rates of complications than the makers reported. HB 4839 stops issuing fetal death certificates when preborn children die prior to 20 weeks.

HB 4966 requires foster parents for out-of-state placements of children in Illinois to affirm support for abortion. HB 5295 prevents portions of medical records pertaining to abortion from being transferred out of state. HB 5408 would create the Abortion Access Fund Grant Program reported last month.

### Virginia

Virginia continues to use their trifecta to swiftly make changes in their state. After putting an amendment to enshrine abortion into their constitution onto their ballot, they have now approved redistricting that could turn five current pro-life congressional seats into pro-abortion seats.



## Government Update (continued)

### Indiana

After a judge in Indiana ruled that their state's abortion ban is unconstitutional on religious grounds, the case is now going to the Indiana Supreme Court. Religious liberty should not deny other people the right to life. Hopefully the Indiana Supreme Court can rule justly on this matter.

### Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court ruled a ban against their state's funding of abortion through Medicaid was unconstitutional. Thus, the state will now be able to use state funds within Medicaid to fund the destruction of their next generation. This depended on their prior Equal Rights Amendment. The federal government nearly had a similar amendment several decades ago, but it was clear it would lead to situations like this, where abortion would be treated as a right. Pennsylvania managed to confirm what people suspected would occur if the federal ERA had been ratified by a few more states before the deadline.

### Arizona

The state of Arizona had a bill to legalize assisted suicide. Their lawmakers in the Arizona House voted against it. The culture of death is persistent. Bills will arise many times, year after year, pushing for legalizing killing in different ways. We must maintain consistent opposition and promote life, using peaceful and loving approaches. It's good to see life prevail in this case, but it's just one of many fronts where life is on the line.

### Court Cases

Nearly a decade has passed since David Daleiden was charged in association with exposing unpopular and illegal activities of Planned Parenthood. The last of the charges against him has been dropped.

Mark Houck won a 7-figure settlement in his case against the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ was weaponized in the last presidential administration against pro-lifers, including Mark. Hopefully, this might reduce such weaponizing for a while.

### Utah (Active Abortion Case)

Utah has an abortion case addressing constitutionality. In this case, it could decide if life is protected from conception or not. Until the case works through the courts, abortion is allowed up to 18 weeks (most abortions are legal).

### 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. Pro-life lawmakers help, but don't always 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; success for other pro-life groups

## 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!



# Ebbs and Flows

Various reports finally show data regarding abortions in 2024. The state of Iowa produced state-level statistics a few months ago. Those numbers show there were 1,455 pill-based abortions plus 337 surgical abortions were committed in Iowa in 2024, for a total of 1,792 reported abortions. In 2023, those numbers were 1,937 pill-based, 834 surgical, and a total of 2,771 abortions. The numbers are only as good as the reporting, which is problematic when it comes to pill-based abortions available through the mail. Yet, the numbers are down by nearly 1,000 abortions, statewide, thanks to the enactment of the Heartbeat Act.

Statistics about women who lived in Linn County are also available. In 2024, there were 188 pill-based abortions, plus 35 surgical abortions, for a total of 223 abortions. This continues a downward trend. In 2023, there were 204 pill-based abortions, plus 68 surgical, for a total of 272 abortions.

Nationally, Planned Parenthood's annual report shows they performed 434,450 abortions in 2023-2024 (their

12-month fiscal year spans the two years). This reveals an increase of just over 32,200 from the prior year. They continued their downward trend regarding providing real medical services. Many of their other services dropped by more than 1/3, plus some services dropped by over half. During that time, they received \$832 million in government funding.

Thus, the reported abortion numbers in Linn County and in Iowa have been dropping. Planned Parenthood's national numbers have increased.

Nearly a decade ago, Iowa's pro-life groups gathered together and made plans in a meeting to move things in a better direction. We saw people from across the state, who we might only have seen at statewide events, without realizing they were pro-life leaders in their parts of the state. Soon after that, we saw some victories, with some setbacks. The Heartbeat Act was passed, but not allowed to go into effect, until years later when an identical bill was passed. New Mexico pro-lifers now want to copy the success of Iowa. We hope it goes well as we continue to push on. 🙏

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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
- 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