



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

August 2026

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/>

July Brought Some Changes

Our Annual Meeting in July added Tanner Richards to our board. He replaces Rick Delagardelle, who served us well on the board for many years. Tanner is also a field director for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, which is a pro-life organization that helps pro-life candidates get elected.

Jim Burke replaces Lisa Gignac as the president, after Lisa served in that role for a few years. Vanessa Milliman replaced Jim as vice president. We continue to have a full board, with all of the other people from the board and officers continuing in their respective offices.

The **Iowa City Planned Parenthood (PP) closed on July 31!** This left two abortion sites in the state. One is the PP in Des Moines, and the other is the Emma Goldman site in Iowa City. Claims that this closure greatly limits women's access to abortion is overblown, since they sites are less than 2 miles apart from each other.

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! We want PP to sell their Cedar Rapids site. But until then, we pray outside their gutted building.

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

Sep 23 – Nov 1
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>

Sun, Oct 11
2 – 3:30 p.m.

Cedar Rapids Life Chain

Take to the streets and spread the pro-life message!

Where: Meet at St. Matthew's parking lot, then spread out

2310 1st Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/>

Pre-registration is preferred. Contact Sue Martinek at 319-270-0054 / susjmar@aol.com

Sun, Nov 1
(save the date)

40 Days for Life Closing Rally

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>

Sat, Nov 21
Doors Open: 5 p.m.

Pulse Life Advocates Christmas Gala

Hear Jim Caviezel at this year's gala! (\$150)

Where: Iowa Events Center Hall B

730 3rd St, Des Moines, IA 50309

More info/Sign-up: <https://pulseforlife.org/christmas-gala-2026/>



PP Affiliate: Non-MN Sites

After the closure of the Iowa City site, the sites within the PP affiliate outside of the state of Minnesota include:

1. Lincoln, Nebraska
2. Sioux Falls, South Dakota
3. Des Moines, Iowa
4. Omaha, Nebraska

I listed them in the order I would expect future closures, unless circumstances change.

State capitals usually don't show up early in a list like this. However, Nebraska is the only state with more than one site within this affiliate, other than Minnesota. It's easier to close the second-last site in a state than to face the embarrassment of abandoning a state, entirely.

When choosing between Lincoln and Omaha, the decision would be easy. Omaha is much larger, and is positioned well. It sits at the junction of I-80 and I-29. It's near the border of Iowa, thus giving access to many Iowans. The population of Omaha is also significantly larger than Lincoln. Thus, Lincoln can't compete for this kind of accessibility. It's just an hour drive between the two cities.

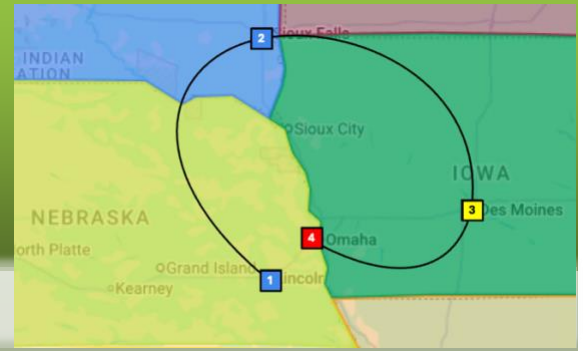
The next site in the list is Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The city is a bit smaller than Lincoln. Abortion is illegal in South Dakota, making it much harder to sustain a site in the state. It's also near enough to Minnesota to simply direct people from South Dakota to go to Minnesota or Omaha. If the order I list holds, this would make South Dakota the second state in the affiliate to have no PP sites, both being Dakotas.

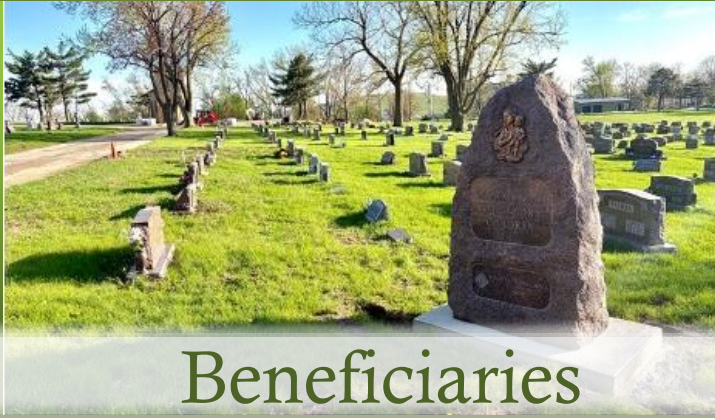
The population of Des Moines is fairly similar to some of these other cities, but the metro area is larger than the sites other than Omaha. Since Iowa still allows some abortions, and the population is larger in the Des Moines area, and with it being a capital city, this would be one of the later closures outside of the state of Minnesota within the affiliate. If the order of possible future closures holds, this would make Iowa the third state in the affiliate to be without a PP site.

Omaha has the advantages listed earlier. The accessibility to the north and south with I-29, and the east and west with I-80 gives them a huge advantage. Their metro area

includes millions of people, rather than the mere hundreds of thousands of people the other sites have, all of which are in areas with metro populations under half a million people. Warren Buffett also contributes to PP rather heavily, along with other members of his family. He lives in the Omaha area, and thus this adds an extra reason to remain local to a vast funding source.

A few years ago, the Nebraska unicameral (one-chamber) legislature advanced a bill to make their laws similar to Iowa's laws, by proposing the Heartbeat Act. One lawmaker supported it until the final vote, when he flipped. The bill needed every vote it had prior to that point to succeed. This left the state without protection from heartbeat onward. They rushed to get a 12-week protection in place. Most abortions occur within 12 weeks of pregnancy. Thus, outside of Minnesota, the only state in the affiliate territory allowing abortions after heartbeat is Nebraska. One lawmaker ensured Omaha would be a significant provider of abortions, and likely keep PP in their state for many more years. 🍷





Beneficiaries

As we deal with matters of life and death, I thought I would address our own preparations a little. A few years ago, I attended an event on the topic of end-of-life preparations.

Perhaps the simplest action involves designating beneficiaries for financial accounts, since it often doesn't involve a lawyer. Doing so bypasses probate and the costs and delays often associated with probate. For this entire article, keep in mind that I'm not a lawyer, nor a financial advisor of any sort.

However, most people can benefit from designating beneficiaries. I realized my older financial accounts lacked beneficiaries, since they were created before it was common to designate beneficiaries. The person/people you designate receive the funds upon proof of your death.

Consider bank accounts, investment accounts, and similar accounts. Life insurance involves policy holders and people who receive payment upon death.

Without beneficiaries, probate deals with your home, vehicles, the contents of said properties, contents of a safe deposit box, and financial accounts. With beneficiaries, the financial accounts avoid probate.

Designating beneficiaries doesn't require a lawyer, although you may consult them for your case. For some people, it may not add up to much, but it adds up for others.

Trusts & Estate Plans

If you have a trust, consult your lawyer, since you likely have already set things up correctly, and you don't want to mess things up. However, I've seen people with trusts end up with banks and insurance companies mess things up—an account not switched to their trust, or their trust owned the life insurance rather than being the beneficiary. Trusts don't die like people do, so the rules are different. If you have an estate plan, make sure you match that plan.

Primary & Contingent Beneficiaries

You are always able to designate at least one primary beneficiary. Most institutions allow you to designate more than one. Some institutions allow you to designate contingent beneficiaries. These only receive funds if all of the primary beneficiaries already died.

Per Stirpes

If allowed to designate "per stirpes", enabling this makes it so if

the particular beneficiary precedes you in death, their portion passes down to their lineal descendants (children). If you have the option and do not choose it, then if the person precedes you in death, their portion goes back into the total to be shared by the other beneficiaries.

Per Capita/Percentages

If allowed to allocate percentages, you can choose how much everyone gets as a percentage. If not, the amount is split evenly (per capita).

Spouses

In many areas, spouses have automatic rights upon the death of their spouse.

Minors

Designating a minor can often lead to legal complications, so consult a lawyer if doing this.

Information

Different institutions request different information. Be ready with full legal names. Some may ask for their social security number, date of birth, or mailing address. Many request the relationship of the person to you. The more information they request, the easier things can be, later. But much of that information is not requested. 🍷



Government Update

National

The president nominated a pro-life person to the position of Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner. Dr. Heidi Overton still requires confirmation by Congress.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Planned Parenthood's (PP) appeal regarding a case that could cost PP roughly \$1.8 billion if they lose the case. The case addresses alleged Medicaid fraud from 2016 to 2020.

The federal government continues to fund Planned Parenthood. There are serious concerns about whether a pro-life majority can remain in the U.S. House and/or Senate. This election is critical!

There are still many federal candidates pushing the pro-abortion rhetoric. Many of them push for abortion at any stage for any reason with no safeguards. Politics tends to polarize this issue, despite most people being somewhere in the middle. Four years ago, the Dobbs ruling energized the abortion movement, but that's fading.

Iowa

This is an election year when we will elect a new governor and U.S. senator. We also have many unchallenged seats for the Iowa House in the Cedar Rapids area. State and national happenings could swing votes. We encourage people to become active in the political process. Some pro-life organizations are paying \$20/hour when you get involved with helping the pro-life movement in a political way.

New Jersey

The governor of New Jersey signed into law a bill prohibiting pro-life speech, press, and assembly outside of abortion providers. Similar buffer laws have been found to be clear violations of the First Amendment, which prohibits laws against speech, press, and assembly. The bill should be challenged and waste their state's funds to deal with passing it and handling legal challenges. Limiting speech based on the content of it—choosing one side over another—that's not allowed by our constitution.

Massachusetts

The governor of Massachusetts signed into law a bill allowing abortion up to birth. This is another state dominated by pro-abortion lawmakers that took an opportunity to make their state one of a few with the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Most nations protect life in the womb more than states like Massachusetts.

Oregon

Oregon will now subsidize PP's involvement in the mutilation of minors often referred by the category of transgender services. When people experience the physical mutilation, they become pharmaceutically dependent for the rest of their life, since they need hormones. Even if they try to detransition, they need hormones their body used to produce, but no longer produce at the level they did before, if at all. It's the opposite of healthcare to make someone who was healthy into someone who is dependent like that for life.



Government Update (continued)

Kansas

Judge Christopher Jayaram placed a permanent injunction on the Kansas Women's Right to Know Act earlier in the day on the day he was sworn in as a Kansas Supreme Court justice. The effects of his action eliminate several health and pro-life protections. The 24-hour waiting period for abortion is gone. Requiring the disclosure of the risks that abortions have is also gone. Imagine not being told of the risks of a medical procedure, and the law that required it was struck down in the name of abortion. There is no longer a need to have a fetal ultrasound available, nor is gestational dating.

Kansas had a requirement for abortionists to listen to the preborn child's heartbeat 30 minutes prior to performing an abortion. It used to be required to provide abortion-minded women information about abortion pill reversal. This one judge put an end to that. Statistical information is useful. Kansas used to require patients to provide information about the reason they

were seeking abortion. This makes it easier to determine how women are being failed in society, and it can make it easier to figure out how to reduce abortions. But again, one judge ended this, too. Judges matter.

CA/AK/TX Surrogate

A topic I haven't tended to touch on in the past is surrogacy. It's another serious matter. This time, it spans the states of California and Texas.

The biological parents live in California, and contracted with a surrogate mother who lived in Alaska to carry their child to term. Surrogacy involves contracts, and it subjects women to the terms of those contracts. When a prenatal exam made it clear the child had a treatable heart condition, Gabriel's biological parents insisted on an abortion. The surrogate mother didn't want that.

The surrogate mother fled to Texas, where life is protected, and the child could be treated. Gabriel was born on August 12th, and is in the hands of his biological parents in Texas. However, the surrogate mother is suing for custody.

Utah (Active Abortion Case)

Utah has an abortion case addressing constitutionality. This case could decide if life is protected from conception or not. Abortion is allowed up to 18 weeks (most abortions are legal) for now. This case could go on for several more months.

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!



More Closings

As In addition to the Iowa City Planned Parenthood closing since our prior newsletter, Michigan has three closures and New Mexico has one closure. This means Michigan has seven Planned Parenthood sites remaining. They closed four last year, which means they closed HALF of their sites within the past year! Unfortunately, Oakland County in the Detroit area allocated 1.5 million dollars of their county funds to ensure the Planned Parenthood in that county remains open.

Sometimes when progress is made rather quickly, it leads people who were used to the status quo reacting in ways to restore the old status quo, or they may see changes in other places and do what they can to prevent similar changes in their area. This is what happened in the Detroit area. Rather than allowing a massive business to close that has spread thanks to massive subsidies from the government, and people shift to using better options, their residents are forced to fund the nation's largest abortion provider to keep them in business, instead of closing.

New Mexico draws clients for abortions from nearby states, such as Texas. Albuquerque in particular draws significant numbers of women for abortions. Planned Parenthood had two sites in the city. The primary site remains, but their other site closed in July. The closure is welcomed, but the other site performs far too many abortions.

Although we welcome closures, the abortion industry has pivoted significantly in the past few years. The abortion pill was approved in a sketchy way. The reporting of side effects was mostly eliminated during the Obama administration, making it nearly impossible to claim it's safe or unsafe for women who take it. Under the Biden administration, the regulations that previously made it easier to detect circumstances that can lead to lethal outcomes for the woman were revoked, and it became significantly easier to get the abortion pill. The change led to a significant increase in the number of abortions right around the time the Dobbs ruling made abortion less common. 🌱

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P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406