



VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE

REVIEW

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Summer 2020

*John Klar Submits Freedom of Information Request for Documents from the VT Office of Attorney General and all Communications with Planned Parenthood

Vermont Right to Life Committee lobbyists witnessed first-hand the unusually close relationship between the Office of Attorney General and Planned Parenthood of Vermont throughout the 2019 legislative session. The session was dominated and consumed with passage of both pro-abortion legislation (H 57) and Proposal 5, an amendment to the Vermont Constitution to include unlimited abortion language.

Testifying numerous times before House and Senate Committees, Attorney General T.J. Donovan as well as members of his staff, devoted time and energy to support two of the most extreme abortion measures

in the country. Both proposals directly benefit Planned Parenthood of Vermont, the provider of 90% of the abortions performed annually in our state (in 2018, PP of VT performed 1,072 of the 1,204 abortions).

John Klar,* of Brookfield VT, has a legal background and volunteered to use his expertise to formally request the documents from both the AG's office as well as all communications between Planned Parenthood and Governor Phil Scott's office.

The article below is the full press memo released by John Klar on May 5, 2020:

John Klar Pays \$3,244.28 to AG Donovan for Planned Parenthood Records

Press Memo

Gubernatorial candidate John Klar has paid \$3,244.28 to the Vermont Attorney General's Office to view correspondence between that Office and Planned Parenthood during crucial legislative wrangling over the passage of Vermont's notorious abortion law, H57. Also requested are documents relating to Proposal 5, a Constitutional amendment to protect abortion procedures up until birth in Vermont.

Klar, an attorney, was originally quoted a fee of \$7,232.33 to view the records, but amended his November 2019 request to shorten the requested time frame and reduce costs. AG Donovan has defended the high fees charged by his office for copy requests, arguing he has a duty to save taxpayers money. Klar asserts taxpayers have a right to know whether important elected officials violate ethics or campaign finance laws in close relationships with powerful Political Action Committees like Planned Parenthood's.

Klar raised \$2,383.00 of the copy fees through a GoFundMe effort; the balance of

\$861.28 was provided by Vermont Right to Life, a pro-life organization that also wishes to examine the requested records.

Klar argues that paying large sums for a "Public Records Request" is a travesty that mocks the very title under which he asked for these documents: "If they are public records, how many times must the public pay for them in order to see them? AG Donovan argues that he is saving taxpayers money, by charging taxpayers money. In actuality, he is charging fees to prevent voters from obtaining the government transparency that Public Records Request laws were designed to provide. Mr. Donovan is much too cozy with Planned Parenthood -- an Attorney General should be impartial on important public policy issues, not openly advocating for one side, as AG Donovan has so brazenly done. We will see what we discover."

*John Klar is currently running as a candidate for Governor on the Republican Primary ballot to be held on August 11, 2020.

New Vermont Abortion Statistics

The Vermont Department of Health recently made the 2018 abortion statistics public. In 2018 the total number of abortions reportedly performed in Vermont was 1,204. Abortions performed on Vermont residents in 2018 were 986, while the other 218 were from out-of-state. Minors under the age of 18 having abortions totaled 41, though there is some question as to whether the clinics ask for identification and we already know that parents of a minor daughter are not required to be notified.

As anticipated, the statistics reveal a sharp increase in the number of abortions performed in a hospital setting, presumably at the UVM Medical Center. In the fall of 2017, the UVM MC dropped their long-standing policy of performing abortions only in limited cases and instead began engaging in offering and performing "elective" abortions -- meaning abortions for any reason or no reason, even in the later months of pregnancy contributing to an uptick in the number of abortions performed there. For example, in 2015 there were only 33 abortions performed at the hospital, but in 2018, the first full year of the new policy, the hospital reported having performed 122 abortions -- an increase of more than 3 times the number of abortions.

Ten abortions in 2018 were performed in a physician's office. As Planned Parenthood is the only "clinic" provider of abortions in Vermont, their clinics are responsible for the remaining 1,072 abortion deaths.

While most abortions are performed on babies who are under 9 weeks of gestation (874), babies aborted between 9-10 weeks totaled 149; those aborted between 11-12 weeks totaled 55 babies; and those between 13-21 weeks gestation totaled 126. The reports do not include how many babies died at or after 22 weeks gestation.

You can find the annual reports here:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/vital-records-population-data/vital-statistics-reports-and-maps>

From the Desk of the Executive Director: Mary Hahn Beerworth



Pro-lifers continue to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees of the UVM Medical Center to remind the trustees that their decision to engage in elective abortions is offensive and to register objections to that policy. Due to the current pandemic, meetings of the Board of Trustees are held online for the time being - preventing the usual opportunity to speak face to face. For now, members of the public are allowed to submit written testimony and assurances were given that the messages would be read aloud.

Along with the UVM MC elective abortion policy, there are now new concerns for pro-lifers as news of an hour-long presentation during Medicine Grand Rounds in February was a promotion of assisted suicide. Below is a copy of the letter sent to the new Chair of the Board of Trustees to be read at their April meeting.

To the UVM MC Trustees,

As the Executive Director of the Vermont Right to Life Committee I want to express my ongoing concern over the elective abortion policy adopted by this board in 2017. I am unaware of any actions taken by the board or the hospital administration in response to this consistent concern.

I want to further express dismay over the Medicine Grand Rounds held on Friday, February 28, 2020.

Entitled "An Update on Act 39: Medical Aid in Dying," the presentation was an hour-long promotion of the use of physician-assisted suicide by Dr. Diana Barnard and Dr. Jaina Clough.

First, that such a presentation would even be allowed in our state's largest teaching hospital is cause for concern for the most vulnerable patients in Vermont, and the fact that hospice leaders are promoting use of lethal drugs as a treatment is a double tragedy.

Second, the presenters promoted the acceptance of lethal medication for those who are not facing the imminent end of their lives and who are not suffering uncontrollable physical pain. Instead, they said that the time may be "right" for some people when they can "no longer walk to the bathroom."

Third, Dr. Barnard complained about a lack of support for the concept of assisted suicide from our "own institutions." To quote her directly, "One of the things I am dismayed about and still hoping to do is to get more support from our own institutions.....and we should have a more robust supportive program to help providers navigate this law."

Fourth, the presentation revealed the experimental nature of the new techniques being used to end a person's life. Dr. Barnard bemoaned the fact that "lovely" drugs such as Secobarbital and Pentobarbital that are "very quick acting....put you into a coma, cause respiratory depression and death," are no longer available in the US "due to terrible things like being used in executions." Dr. Barnard also presented new and experimental protocols including a 4-drug cocktail called DDMP2, as well as G-tube insertion of the drugs and rectal insertion, though admitting that she had never used the rectal version herself. Dr. Clough said complications can arise that include regurgitation or prolonged dying.

That assisted suicide is being sanctioned at the UVM Medical Center raises additional concerns about the direction in which the hospital is heading and further reduces confidence in the UVM Health Network as a healing institution.

Sincerely,

Mary Hahn Beerworth

Executive Director, Vermont Right to Life Committee

The hour long, pro-assisted suicide presentation in its entirety has been transcribed. Please email to vrhc@vrhc.net if you would like to request a copy for your own review.



Be Informed About Vermont Political Candidates Trained and Promoted by "EMERGE VERMONT"

A Burlington based, boot camp training program for new candidates to political office was founded by former Governor Madeleine Kunin for the purpose of recruiting and organizing behind women running for office in Vermont – but only for those women who take the most far left positions on social issues like unlimited abortion. The Emerge Vermont Board of Directors reads like a who's who of pro-abortion women.

According to their web site: "Emerge Vermont is the state's premier organization that recruits, trains and provides a powerful network to Democratic women who want to run for office."

The organization's success rate was evident in 2018 as great numbers of radical women won their races and immediately pushed for pro-abortion legislation like H. 57 and Proposal 5.

Elected legislators and other office holders who trained with the Emerge program include the following Representatives and Senators:

*Representatives; Sarita Austin (D-Colchester), Mari Cordes (D-Lincoln), Charen Fegard (D-Enosburg Falls), Marybeth Redmond (D-Essex Junction), Carol Ode (D-Burlington), Emilie Kornheiser (D-Brattleboro), Kathleen James (D-Manchester Center), Jessica Brumsted (D-Shelburne, Chelsea), Kari Dolan (D-Waitsfield), Jill Krowinski (D-Burlington); Senators Rebecca White (D-Windsor), Debbie Ingram (D-Williston), Becca Balint (D-Brattleboro), Ruth Hardy (D-East Middlebury, and Sarah George, Chittenden County State's Attorney (Burlington), to name just a few.**

Emerge Vermont's purpose is "to increase the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office through recruitment, training, and providing a powerful network."

Their website boasts of helping to elect women to local races for Justice of the Peace and local Select Boards races, as well as statewide races for the Vermont House and Senate. The program provides "cutting-edge tools and training."

**Editor's note: This is frightening. Emerge Vermont is well funded and has been very successful in winning seats. Be sure to ask any candidate running for any office, from Justice of the Peace to the US Senate, if they have been trained by this radical, leftist and pro-abortion organization. To find out which current candidates are in training for 2020 check out their web site at: <https://vt.emergeamerica.org/2020-class/> or call the office for a list at 802-229-4885.*

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Mary Hahn Beerworth, Editor

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Powerful Video: Names of Women Killed in Botched Legal Abortions Read at Democrat Hearing

Silent No More Awareness Campaign Co-founder Georgette Forney, testified before a congressional panel on February 12, 2020, and read the names of women who have been killed by legal abortion in the last several years.

The Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce convened a hearing on H.R. 2975, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2019, a bill that could reverse many state and federal protections for the unborn and imperil conscience rights for health-care workers.

Mrs. Forney and law professor Teresa Stanton Collett* were invited to give testimony against the bill. Three abortion supporters – Nancy Northup, CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights; military veteran Holly Alvarado who had to travel out of state to have an abortion, and Alabama abortionist Dr. Yashica Robinson – spoke in favor of the bill during the four-hour hearing.

In opening remarks, Rep. Jan. Schakowsky, (D-Illinois), said legalizing abortion meant “the end of women dying from abortion.” But in her testimony, Mrs. Forney read the names of four women who were among many others to have died in recent years from legal abortion.

“There are the women who can’t be Silent No More, because they were forever silenced by deadly complications from abortion,” she said.

“Keisha Atkins died at 23 in Albuquerque. She was in distress for more than nine hours after a late term abortion before the abortionist transferred her to a hospital where she died.

“The Planned Parenthood in Chicago let Tonya Reaves bleed for hours after three botched attempts at abortion before sending her to the hospital, where she died. She was 24 and the mother of a little boy.

“Jennifer Morbelli was 33 weeks pregnant when she had an abortion in Maryland. Her abortionist was already in another state, performing more abortions, when she went into distress. She was 29.

“Cree Erwin-Sheppard, 24, was the victim of an incomplete abortion in Michigan that killed her two days after the procedure.

“Tell the families of these women abortion must be protected.”

Mrs. Forney also pointed out in her testimony that most of the women for whom abortion was fatal were women of color. “You say abortion restrictions impact women of color, but the inconvenient truth is that the majority of women killed in recent years have been women of color, like Cree, Tonya, and Keisha,” Mrs. Forney said. “Or how about Lakisha Wilson and Jamie Lee Morales, and Maria Santiago. Do their black and Hispanic lives matter?”

Both Mrs. Forney and Ms. Collett called for stringent reporting requirements for abortion so that every state would be mandated to report the number of annual abortions, as well as all injuries and fatalities. “We need the facts,” Mrs. Forney said. “Trust women with facts, not rhetoric.”

After the hearing, Mrs. Forney said she felt as though the House members who supported the bill only cared about the women who testified in support of their pro-abortion agenda. “They are still trying to silence us,” she said. “But we will not be silenced.”

Excerpts LifeNews.com

*Professor Teresa Stanton Collett was instrumental in passage of a Parental Involvement legislation in Vermont House in 2001. The bill was blocked in the Vermont Senate but Professor Collett submitted the case in favor of passage of the bill to the Vermont Law School and was accepted for publication. The law review article is entitled “Protecting Our Daughters: The Need for Vermont’s Parental Notification Law.” A copy of the article can be emailed upon a request to vrlc@vrlc.net.

Save the Date

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REGISTER NOW

The Life Symposium conference was originally scheduled for this fall but due to current circumstances has now been postponed until October 2, 2021. All guest speakers have agreed to attend. The new date gives pro-lifers a full year to learn about the dangers of Proposal 5 before it appears on the General Election ballot in November of 2022.

National Right to Life Praises Office of Civil Rights for Statement Against Discrimination in Care

WASHINGTON—The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a bulletin directing covered entities to follow the law to ensure that civil rights are not violated in the treatment of those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Recent news articles highlighted healthcare providers and “ethicists” discussing the possibility of rationing care based on the age and ability of those affected by COVID-19. Others raised the possibility of instituting mandatory “do not resuscitate” orders for COVID-19 patients, even if doing so overrode a patient’s advanced directive or the family’s wishes.

Early last week, National Right to Life sent a letter to President Trump, HHS Secretary Alex Azar and OCR Director Roger Severino sounding the alarm about the danger of planned discrimination and the need to protect persons with disabilities, the elderly, and individuals with chronic conditions.

OCR Director Roger Severino said, “Our civil rights laws protect the equal dignity of every human life from ruthless utilitarianism. HHS is committed to leaving no one behind during an emergency and helping health care providers meet that goal. Persons with disabilities, with limited English skills and older persons should not be put at the end of the line for health care during emergencies.”

“We praise OCR Director Roger Severino and the Office of Civil Rights for issuing the bulletin and for directing that covered entities ensure that people are treated equally under the law,” said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. **“No one should face discrimination in their health care when dealing with a diagnosis of COVID-19.”**

According to the OCR press release, “OCR is particularly focused on ensuring that covered entities do not unlawfully discriminate against people with disabilities when making decisions about their treatment during the COVID-19 health care emergency.”

“It is vital that during this crisis, Americans can trust that they will receive the care they need without regard to their age, health, or ability,” said Jennifer Popik, J.D., legislative director for National Right to Life.

Several news sources have reported on the rationing of care in other countries, whether it could happen here in the United States and how some hospitals and locales are considering it:

The link states should use if you want to alert HHS to concerns about rationing can be found here: <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html>

Sign the petition to oppose Proposal 5

Check out our web site at www.vrlc.net



The bumper sticker design was given to Vermont Right to Life courtesy of artist David Millson.

The language of Proposal 5 as it will appear on the ballot in November of 2022:
Article 22. Personal reproductive liberty.

That an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

What Happened to The Price is Right?



One of America’s favorite game shows “The Price Is Right” donated nearly \$100,000 to the abortion chain Planned Parenthood on the show that aired on Monday, May 12, 2020.

Yahoo News reports the CBS special “The Price Is Right at Night” featured celebrity guest drag queen RuPaul playing for donations to the billion-dollar abortion group. According to the report, the show matched the contestants’ winnings with a donation to RuPaul’s charity of choice, and the contestants won prizes valued at \$97,266.

On the show, RuPaul said he chose Planned Parenthood because it “provides vital and often free services to both men and women.” But many fans were not happy about the donation to the abortion chain, Decider reports.

“Giving away \$97K to Planned Parenthood – you have got to be kidding me!! You’ve lost a lifelong fan!!” one viewer responded on Twitter. “Price is Right on CBS is raising money to ABORT BABIES tonight in primetime,” another added.

“Do you realize how much money Planned Parenthood already gets handed to them from the government?!?!” another former fan wrote online. “Now you give the abortion clinic MORE money?? You should be ashamed of yourselves. You lost a longtime viewer.”

RuPaul has been an abortion activist for years. In 2017, he told Marie Claire magazine that his mother used to work at Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion group in America. He organized a fundraiser for the abortion chain that year, too. But Planned Parenthood does not really help women and it does not need any support. Its most recent annual report recorded \$345,627 abortions and \$1.6 billion in revenue.

The abortion chain also has been caught up in numerous scandals, including allegedly selling aborted baby body parts for profit, discriminating against pregnant employees, Medicaid fraud, botched abortions and more.

Isn't It Ironic?

- When asked about the protests outside the State House by those who feel the state needs to reopen, Vermont Governor Phil Scott said he is going to do what his team feels is best for all Vermonters.
- **"The pressure can't be the reason to do the wrong thing. And we have to continue to do what we think is right, regardless of the political ramifications,"** Scott said. *WCAX TV Apr 21, 2020*
- *Isn't it ironic that when Governor Scott signed H. 57 into law, he surely must have recognized that he was doing the wrong thing for fear of the political ramifications by Planned Parenthood's powerful political arm?*

Isn't It Ironic?

- New Jersey recently became one of the seven states including Vermont (plus the District of Columbia) to legalize assisted suicide by statute. In effect, these states sanction suicide for some residents through its public policy.
- But now, with COVID-19, officials in those very same states are worried about a spike in suicides caused by the coronavirus shutdown. So now suicide is a public safety concern? According to an online Vermont news outlet (4/2020), "State officials are monitoring a potential uptick in suicides in Vermont as the state battles the coronavirus pandemic." Public Safety Commissioner Michael Schirring said the Department of Mental Health, together with his department, is "enhancing efforts around prevention and messaging and encouraging all Vermonters to connect virtually with everyone in their family, friend, and neighbor networks to check in on them during this difficult time."
- *Isn't it ironic that some suicides are a cause for great concern, while Vermont's largest teaching hospital is promoting doctor assisted suicide? (See article on page 6)*

Isn't It Ironic?

- H.99, as introduced to the House, **"proposes to prohibit the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell of any item that a person knows or should know is a covered animal part or product.** A covered animal product would be defined as an item that contains, or is wholly or partially made from, a covered animal. A covered animal would be defined as any species of: cheetah, elephant, giraffe, hippopotamus, jaguar, leopard, lion, mammoth, mastodon, pangolin, ray, rhinoceros, sea turtle, shark, tiger, or whale."
- *Isn't it ironic that while our legislature reviews H.99, which extends broadly to deter the killing of wildlife and the trafficking of their body parts, the majority of legislators have exhibited little concern for human life. For the unborn. Where is the outrage over the killing of our human unborn babies and at the potential selling of their tiny bodies/body parts?*

Questions I Wish Journalists Would Ask About the Life Issues

By Maria Gallagher, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

When I worked for the mainstream media, even before I was pro-life, I noticed a double standard when it came to covering the core life issues.

Planned Parenthood was considered to be the irrefutable expert in all matters related to abortion. Their assertions were seldom questioned; their pronouncements were accepted uncritically.

Pro-life advocates, on the other hand, were viewed with high skepticism. Anything they said was assumed to come from a place of religious faith and, therefore, suspect. Grilling of pro-lifers was encouraged and, in fact, expected—grilling of abortion advocates frowned upon.

Now, as a pro-life advocate, I find I wish there were questions that the news media would pose to spokespeople for the abortion industry and their allies. The answers to these questions would make for more interesting, more informative articles and broadcast news stories.

**I wish reporters would ask the simple question: What is abortion? And not be willing to accept a ridiculous answer such as "the right to choose."*

**It would also be helpful if reporters would ask Planned Parenthood why their abortion totals keep rising—even as overall abortion numbers are declining nationwide.*

**I think it would be beneficial if the media asked the abortion industry what specific help it provided to pregnant women who chose to keep their babies. In addition, inquiring minds want to know what abortion facilities are doing to facilitate adoptions.*

**I wish reporters would ask what abortion businesses are doing to combat domestic violence—since research shows as many as 60 percent of abortions are coerced.*

**I would like a reporter to ask an abortionist to describe, in detail, the process of abortion and its aftermath—and not accept euphemisms as valid responses.*

A free press is a time-honored way to preserve democracy. For far too long, the free press has given a free pass to the abortion industry. Let's challenge the news media to take on a watchdog mentality when it comes to abortion. After all, lives are at stake.

Editor's Note: Now is a great time to challenge elected officials and reporters to expose the truth about abortion. Listen to local talk radio programs, write letters to the editor of your local paper and post on Front Porch Forum's.

Meet Melissa Ohden – Abortion Survivor



Melissa Ohden is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived. With a Master's Degree in Social Work, she has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, and child welfare.

Melissa will be a featured guest speaker at the Life Symposium to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Burlington, Vermont on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

Melissa was formerly a College Outreach Speaker with Feminists for Life and is the former Patron of Real Choices Australia. She has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, and the Australian Parliament. Melissa is on the Board of Directors for the Vitae Foundation, a national organization which uses media to advance a culture of life.

In 2012, Melissa founded The Abortion Survivors Network (ASN). ASN seeks to educate the public about failed abortions and survivors while providing emotional, mental and spiritual support to abortion survivors. Since ASN's inception, Melissa has been in contact with over 210 survivors.

Melissa has been featured on television and radio programs including: The 700 Club, EWTN, Fox News, Focus on the Family, American Family Radio, the Mike Huckabee show, and the Teresa Tomeo show. She is the author of *You Carried Me, A Daughter's Memoir*, which was released in January of 2017.

Governor Phil Scott Signs Radical Abortion Law and Approves Additional \$759,560 in State Funding for Planned Parenthood's Abortion Business

Despite the outcry from pro-life Vermonters along with pro-life members of the House and Senate, Governor Scott endorsed H. 57 by signing what is now widely considered the most radical abortion legislation in the country. A huge turnout of pro-lifers at a public hearing on H. 57 combined with hundreds of emails and phone calls to his office did not dissuade Scott from adding his signature to legislation and thereby sanctioning unlimited, unregulated abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

"By putting his signature on H. 57, Governor Phil Scott endorses unlimited, unregulated abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy," stated Mary Hahn Beerworth, Executive Director of Vermont Right to Life in a press statement. "His signature signals his preference for protecting the business of abortion over other life-affirming options in Vermont statute," continued Beerworth.

While Scott has always identified himself "pro-choice," throughout the years he has expressed support for parental involvement legislation for minor daughters considering an abortion, concern for abortions occurring in the later in months of pregnancy, and shielding taxpayers from funding them. With his signature, Gov. Scott has rejected any regulation of abortion, abortionists, and abortion clinics, including measures to protect the health and safety of girls and women. Scott has embraced without reservation the agenda of the powerful pro-abortion lobby.

While abortion advocates claim that H.57 merely codifies current abortion practice in Vermont, that is not true. "H. 57 goes beyond Roe v. Wade, and may well be the most radical anti-life law in the nation," stated

Sharon Toborg, Policy Analyst for Vermont Right to Life. **"H.57 grants abortion providers and clinics the right to sue the State if they are not allowed to establish a new abortion practice in Vermont. Unlike providers of any other medical procedure, H. 57 grants abortion providers this private right of action against the State."**

After the roll-call votes in the House and Senate displaying the power of the pro-abortion super-majority, it was apparent that H. 57 would become law. However, by putting his signature on H. 57 Governor Phil Scott has capitulated to the demands of the abortion lobby. Going forward, Gov. Scott shares responsibility for harm to girls and women, rising numbers of abortion in Vermont, as well as the violent harm done to unborn children.

Furthermore, in August of 2019, pro-life advocates in the State House discovered that Governor Scott also gave his approval to allow additional state funding to go to Planned Parenthood of Vermont's abortion business under the guise of "family planning." The nearly \$760,000 dollars were directed to the organization to make up for the federal Title 10 monies that Planned Parenthood rejected as they refused to comply with the enforcement of the rules that prohibit using the funds to provide abortions as a method of family planning. As Planned Parenthood of Vermont was already receiving \$800,000 annually in state taxpayer dollars, the total has for the organization has now reached \$1.4 million.

Tax records reveal that Planned Parenthood of Northern New England diverts hundreds of thousands of dollars annually from their "health care" fund to their "political advocacy arm."

Pharmacist in Vermont Prescribes Lethal Doses in Vermont

The presenters of the pro-suicide doctors included the information that they work exclusively with one pharmacist in Rutland by the name of Smilin' Steve. Furthermore, the pro-suicide group Patient Choices Vermont, recently shared in their online newsletter that, *"we are also pleased that the compounding pharmacy in Rutland, a primary supplier of Act 39 medications, is personally delivering state-wide so that patients meet the pharmacist and receive instructions."*

did? YOU! know

According to the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), "Elective abortion, both surgical and drug induced, generates more patients to be seen in already overburdened emergency rooms, and most abortion providers instruct women to go to an emergency room if they have any concerning symptoms after the abortion. Approximately five percent of women who undergo medication abortions will require evaluation in an emergency room, most commonly for hemorrhage. Surgical abortions can also result in hemorrhage. Emergency room personnel – who are already struggling to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic – will be further strained to provide care to these women."

Joe Biden's official campaign site includes the following on his list of priorities in his 2020 campaign:

Supports working to codify *Roe v. Wade* (which means unlimited abortion on demand);

Supports the repeal of the Hyde Amendment (which means taxpayer funding of abortion on demand).

Supports restoring federal funding for Planned Parenthood, including through Medicaid and Title X (which is taxpayer funding to the nation's largest abortion provider and promoter).

Supports the Democratic platform of unlimited abortion through birth? In 2019, Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said, "At a time where the fundamental freedoms enshrined in *Roe* are under attack, we need full-throated allies in our leaders." She added, "We're pleased that Joe Biden has joined the rest of the 2020 Democratic field in coalescing around the Party's core values — support for abortion rights..."



www.vrlc.net

The White House Pro-life News and Actions

Administration Denies COVID-19 Funds to Planned Parenthood

The Trump administration has acted to ensure that no funds from the new Paycheck Protection Program, set up to assist small businesses battered by COVID-19, will go to Planned Parenthood.

“President Trump is committed to ensuring Paycheck Protection Program money is used for saving jobs at small businesses, not getting the government into the business of funding abortion,” a senior administration official announced.

“While not all Americans share President Trump’s pro-life beliefs, there is broad bipartisan support for the idea that American taxpayers should not have to fund abortion,” said the White House official.

Trump Demands Churches Be Allowed to Resume Operations and Refers to Abortion Clinics

President Donald Trump told reporters in a press conference that the Center for Disease Control, at his direction, was releasing guidance for reopening houses of worship as essential operations.

“Some governor’s have deemed liquor stores and abortion clinics as essential, but have left out churches and other houses of worship — that’s not right,” said Trump. “So I’m correcting this injustice and calling houses of worship essential.”

“These are places that hold our society together and keep our people united. The people are demanding to go to church and synagogue, or go to their mosque,” he said.

Trump Administration Issues New Pro-Life Rules to Protect Doctors and Nurses Being Forced to Participate in Abortions

On May 2, 2020, the same day as the National Day of Prayer, President Donald Trump issued new rules that further protect doctors, nurses and medical professionals who do not want to be forced to do abortions or refer for them. Trump announced new regulations through the Department of Health and Human Services that will more effectively enforce existing federal laws that protect the conscience rights of healthcare providers.

Despite current law that has protected conscience rights for over 30 years, the lack of regulations resulted in confusion and a lack of awareness within the healthcare community, leaving healthcare personnel

vulnerable to discrimination and forcing them to drop their specialties at a time of healthcare scarcity.

The 440 pages of new regulations, issued by HHS Secretary Alex Azar, provide regulatory backbone to the First Amendment conscience rights of Americans working in the medical profession and will help ensure that no doctor or nurse will be forced to violate their conscience while serving patients.

Leading pro-life groups also praised the rule:

National Right to Life President Carol Tobias told LifeNews: “There are many statutes that would protect the conscience rights of health care workers, such as the Weldon amendment. Unfortunately, the previous administration refused to enforce them and looked the other way when violated. We thank President Trump and his administration for enforcing these laws and protecting health care workers who object to participating in the taking of innocent human life. We applaud the president for following through on another promise.”

Editor’s Note: Here in Vermont, nurses filed complaints against UVM Medical Center for conscience violations involving the hospital’s elective abortion policy implemented in 2017. According to a local news source, (vtddigger; 8/28/2019)

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100
☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$

Contributions to VRLC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution, you must make your check payable to the VRLC Educational Trust Fund.

- ☐ *I cannot contribute at this time, but I support your goals so please count me as a member of Vermont Right to Life and keep me informed.*

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We are facing our greatest challenge...

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Dangerous New Proposals Could Be Enacted This Year *With Potential to Increase Abortion Rates in Vermont*

Here are just a few of the objectionable bills that may still be passed into law. Despite the fact that the State House is shutdown during the current pandemic, lawmakers continue to pass bills and vote online. While Vermont lawmakers state that they only intend to deal with bills related to Covid-19 and budgets, legislative observers will not be surprised if there is a last-minute attempt to pass favorites priorities of the far-left and Planned Parenthood, including a renewal of Planned Parenthood of Vermont's funding in the budget.

Legalizing Prostitution

H. 569: The statement of purpose includes the repeal of laws against prostitution.

Just as the statement of purpose reveals, H. 569 is an attempt to decriminalize prostitution in Vermont. "It is the intent of the General Assembly to repeal the laws pertaining to prostitution between consenting adults, while retaining strict prohibitions and criminal penalties for human trafficking." For more information about how young girls and women are lured into prostitution, often wind up with abortions, and find themselves unable to get out, check out: New Englanders Against Sexual Violence at: <https://www.neersagainstsxualviolence.org/>

H. 568 An act relating to human trafficking and prostitution

Both of the bills above were introduced early in the 2020 legislative session and led to much consternation especially over H. 569, which openly purports to allow prostitution in Vermont. For this year H. 569 seems to have been set aside though the resolve to allow prostitution in our state was evident. Chair of House Judiciary, Maxine Jo Grad, of Moretown, Se-lene Colburn of Burlington, Diana Gonzalez of Winooski and Emilie Kornheiser of Brattleboro are the 4 co-sponsors of H. 569, the proposal to fully decriminalize prostitution.

As is often the case, legislature leaders begin the process that leads to passage of a controversial proposal by convening a "summer study committee." H. 568 provides for a summer study committee to meet under the guise of "modernizing Vermont's prostitution laws and making recommendations to legislature of their findings." H. 568 also contains the creation and funding of a "Sex Work Study Committee" and the bill passed the House of Representatives on a vote of 126 – 19. If H. 568 is taken up by the Senate, expect the summer study committee to "find" that the proposal to legalize

prostitution is recommended by the committee members to the General Assembly. Members of the committee are paid a per diem to participate. It is also worth pointing out that inside the State House it is politically incorrect to use the term prostitutes – they are now referred to "sex workers."

Free Contraceptives for Secondary School Students

H. 663 would require school districts to make free over-the-counter contraceptives available to all secondary school students and would direct the Department of Health to coordinate with stakeholders to make free over-the-counter contraceptive available in a variety of settings statewide. The bill also requires that condoms be placed in locations that are safe and readily accessible to students including the school nurse's office. Please note that children as young as 12 years of age are in secondary school systems. Naturally, Planned Parenthood of Vermont testified in favor of H. 663. The bill passed the House of Representatives ON A VOICE VOTE? and now awaits action by the Senate.