



VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE

# REVIEW

Volume 49, Number 2

Winter 2021

**Rally for Life**  
Saturday, January 22, 2022



This year there will be three opportunities to participate as pro-life individuals and families ~ all are welcome to join in one or more of the day's events that are taking place in Montpelier, VT

## Part One:

9:30am - Prayer Services Begin

Lighthouse  
Christian Church  
3 St Paul Street  
Montpelier



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Church  
Respect Life Mass  
16 Barre Street  
Montpelier



## Part Two:

10:45am

March to the State House steps for photo

Participants are to gather outside and behind City Hall at 10:45am for the March to the Capitol. Pro-life signs will be provided by Vermont Right to Life.

*You're invited*

## Part Three:

11:30

Join us for a hot buffet luncheon at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in the Governor's Ballroom ~ \$20 per person. The hotel is located across the street from the State House. After lunch, a presentation will be given by Vermont Right to Life staffers focusing on all of the dangerous aspects of Proposal 5 ~ including how YOU can impact YOUR community.

Reservations for the luncheon and workshop are a MUST as seating is limited to 200 participants. Reduced prices are available for young adults and students by calling 802-229-4885.

Reserve your seat now for a hot buffet lunch and a presentation on Proposal 5 by calling VRLC at 802-229-4885.



Capitol Plaza 100 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

**Commemorating the 49th Anniversary  
of the Roe vs Wade  
US Supreme Court Decision  
legalizing abortion in all 50 states, leading to the  
deaths of 63 million unborn babies**

*Sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust Fund*

## From the Desk of the Executive Director:

### Mary Hahn Beerworth



Planned Parenthood and their supporters in the Vermont House have now stated their intention to make final passage of Proposal 5 the first order of business when the new legislative session begins in January of 2022.

Under the rules for amending the Vermont Constitution, the House must hold a public hearing before the final vote is taken in the House. If it passes by a simple majority, Proposal 5 will become a public question and Vermont voters will see it on their General Election ballot in November of 2022.

While there are an unlimited number of unanswered questions about what the proposed language will mean, here are the top reasons to defeat the amendment

#### TOP SIX REASONS TO OPPOSE PROPOSAL 5

##### 1) INHUMANE

The amendment strips any opportunity

for future legislators to legally protect an unborn baby at any time throughout all nine months of pregnancy. While 215 plants and animals have legal protection in Vermont, unborn children will not be protected under Proposal 5, leaving them exposed to scientific experimentation, sale of baby body parts, and much more.

##### 2) DANGEROUS

Proposal 5 would effectively shield abortion businesses from state oversight or regulation. Planned Parenthood of Vermont is the largest provider of abortions in our state (annually they perform approximately 1,100 abortions in their VT clinics). Other abortionists could also freely commit abortions throughout pregnancy without regulation, oversight or accountability leading to harm for young girls and women. (See Gosnell movie.)

##### 3) EXPLOITATIVE

The following scientific practices would have constitutional protection: human cloning, 3-parent embryo creation, gestational surrogacy trafficking, trafficking in human embryo creation,

designer babies and womb transplants.

##### 4) BACKLASH

Proposal 5 would require taxpayer funding of all abortions. Taxpayer funding could also be required for sterilizations, transgender surgeries along with reversals of those surgeries.

##### 5) UNCONSCIONABLE

Medical professionals would be prevented from conscientiously objecting to participation in procedures that they find morally reprehensible or that go against their best medical judgement.

##### 6) CONSEQUENTIAL

Proposal 5 would prevent parents from any involvement in the most serious decisions regarding their minor children – from abortion to sterilization to transgender hormones and surgeries.

I urge all pro-life readers to learn more about the dangers of Proposal 5 at the workshop being offered at the Rally for Life on January 22, 2022.

Action Item: Call your Representatives now in the Vermont House and urge them to vote NO.

#### Estates and Memorial Gifts

When you consider your estate planning or donations in memory of a loved one, please consider Vermont Right to Life. What better cause to support than helping to uphold the sanctity of all human life, from conception through natural death!

That's what we do every day for Vermont, and we rely on your support to help leave a "Legacy of Life." Thank you and God Bless you!

## Federal Court Upholds Texas Law Banning Dismemberment Abortions



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in *Whole Woman's Health v. Paxton*, has reversed a lower court and upheld a Texas pro-life law banning dismemberment abortions that tear babies limb from limb. The court voted 9-5 in favor of the pro-life law.

Judges on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals defended a Texas law that protects unborn babies from brutal dismemberment abortions, ruling in August that unborn babies should at least be afforded the same protection from cruelty as animals are under the law.

"It is ... illegal to dismember living animals," Judges Jennifer Walker Elrod and Don R. Willett co-wrote in the majority decision. "... The state urges that SB8 (Texas law) would simply extend the same protection to fetuses."

Including Texas, 13 states have passed dismemberment abortion bans. However, most are being challenged in court by the abortion industry.

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Mary Hahn Beerworth, Editor

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## When Sex Trafficking, Prostitution, and Abortion Collide – More Unborn Babies Die

by Maggie Kerrin, Director of Outreach and Advocacy

Vermont lawmakers are actively working to fully decriminalize prostitution in our state. Both Burlington and Montpelier City Councils are working, in stride with state lawmakers, to repeal portions of their city ordinances that reference illegality of prostitution; to include buyers, sellers, and brothels.

If prostitution is fully decriminalized in Vermont, there will be more exploitation of men, women and children, more pregnancies, more forced abortions, and more unborn babies will die.

Sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery in which men, women, and children are forced to participate in commercial sex acts. Manipulation, threats, fraud, coercion, and numerous other tactics are used to maintain the trafficker's control over these individuals.

Prostitution is often perceived as someone's willful choice to participate in indiscriminate sexual activity with another in exchange for monetary or other material

gain. In fact, prostituted people are often among our most vulnerable, who tragically find themselves under the control of a pimp or "manager."

There is a distinct intersectionality between being sex trafficked and being prostituted. Frequently women are lured into relationships, smuggled, lied to, or manipulated, and/or forced into prostitution. They are most often isolated from family or friends, relocated to unfamiliar areas, and unable to leave the situation they find themselves in. Rarely do women freely choose a life of prostitution, but far too often are forced into the life with little to no means of escape.

This life includes dangerous, and often forced - unprotected sex, resulting in unexpected pregnancy. And these pregnancies often result in forced abortions.

Care Net Abundant Life Blog (October 2016) stated "The prevalence of forced abortions is an especially disturbing trend in sex trafficking." It goes on to say, "While in

forced prostitution...I had forced unprotected sex and got pregnant three times and had two abortions." This same article reflects on a groundbreaking study that revealed "that fifty-five percent of these (sex trafficked) women had undergone at least one abortion while being trafficked and more than thirty percent underwent multiple abortion."

A Connecticut Post article (CTPost - February 2021) reported that three brothers were charged with forcing women into prostitution in Connecticut along with other states. "The women were allegedly kept in prostitution with beatings, forced abortions, and threats of violence against their families."

Vermont Right to Life asks everyone to contact your House Representatives and Senators and tell them that the exploitation of trafficked/prostituted victims, and their subsequent forced abortions, have no place in our society and urge them to vote no on any and all proposed aspects of decriminalization and/or legalization of prostitution.

## Expert Opinion on Proposal 5 and Conscience Protection for Healthcare Professionals



Farr Curlin, MD, author of  
"The Way of Medicine"

"The language of this proposed amendment, on face value, threatens to require clinicians to cooperate in practices (whether abortion, gender affirmation therapies, or other) that they have good reason to believe contradict the purposes of medicine.

The clause does not say what it means to infringe, or who is forbidden from infringing. If passed, it will invite claims that clinicians who will not cooperate with practices that violate historic medical ethics norms are thereby somehow violating Vermont patients' constitutional rights. That will be bad for Vermont clinicians and bad for the patients who need conscientious clinicians to care for them."

*Farr Curlin, MD | Josiah C Trent Professor of Medical Humanities | Professor of Medicine | Co-Director, Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative | Duke University*

## New Trend ~ Paid Leave for Having an Abortion

In mid-September, Pittsburgh became the first U.S. city to pass legislation to provide employees and employees' partners up to three days of leave due to causes like miscarriage, in vitro failure or termination. The leave applies equally to parents regardless of gender, as well as to same-sex couples.

Since then, Portland, Oregon and Boston, Massachusetts have followed suit.

According to a report by The New Boston Post (11/15/2021), "If you're employed by the City of Boston and you have an abortion or your child is aborted, you can now get up to 12 weeks of paid leave from your job. That's thanks to an amended version of the city's paid leave ordinance that passed unanimously through a voice vote during a meeting of the Boston City Council on September 15, 2021.

The city's paid parental leave policy now includes 12 weeks of paid leave for both men and women for pregnancy loss, including all abortions for any reason.

# A Life Symposium Success Story

THE VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND  
PRESENTS:

*a* Life  
SYMPOSIUM :

*Theme of the Symposium: Understanding the issues impacting human life at the crossroads of law, medicine and your community.*

On Saturday, October 2, 2021 over 200 Vermonters attended a day-long conference at the Doubletree by Hilton in Burlington sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust Fund.

Excellent guest speakers presented valuable information on the impact of amending the Vermont Constitution with the language of Proposal 5:

*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.*

**Helen Alvare**, author and Professor of Law at George Mason University and constitutional expert **Catherine Glenn Foster** M.A., J.D. of Americans United for Life,



Savannah Dudzik, of Illinois Right to Life, presented two high energy workshops aimed at generating enthusiasm and action for students and young adults in the pro-life movement.

outlined concerns should the amendment pass. Those concerns ranged from unlimited, unregulated abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy to violations of conscience protection and leading possibly to becoming a priority of health care resources should "personal reproductive autonomy" become a constitutional right.

A workshop presented by **Maureen Curley**, Ph.D., APRN, a former faculty member of the University of Vermont, delved into the impact of abortion on women's mental health. Maureen has a practice in reproductive psychiatry with a focus on abortion and mental health.

**Vermont Right to Life** staff presented a workshop with information about how to get involved in the fight to defeat Proposal 5.

VRLC can make transcripts of guest speakers available on request to [vrhc@vrhc.net](mailto:vrhc@vrhc.net) or call us at 802-229-4885.

Leaders in the Vermont House have publicly promised to bring Proposal 5 up for the final vote of the House of Representatives as the first order of business in January of 2022.

We urge you to call your legislator(s) in the Vermont House and tell them to vote NO on Proposal 5.



*Look for your VRLC Membership Drive fundraising letter to arrive in January of 2022.*

*Vermont Right to Life will need your financial help to Fight Against Proposal 5 Now more than ever!*

**Marta Kokozyńska, MD**, emcee of “A Life Symposium,” and Pro-Life Prints

Marta came to the United States when she was just 8 years old with her mother and sister under terrifying circumstances. They were refugees barely escaping Communist rule in Poland in the 1990’s. Today, Marta, or Dr. Koko, as her patients lovingly call her, is also Chair of the Catholic Medical Guild of Vermont and on the faculty at the UVM MC.

Vermont Right to Life was honored to have her emcee the conference!

The painting next to Marta is a beautiful rendition of a pregnant woman holding off the storm with one hand and protecting her unborn child with the other. **Artist Elizabeth Miller**, of Shelburne, Vermont, also attended the Life Symposium and provided prints of her painting to be sold to benefit the pro-life cause. The painting is entitled “No End!”.

Numerous prints of "No End!" sold at the Symposium. The Vermont Right to Life office can make more prints available. Email [vrhc@vrhc.net](mailto:vrhc@vrhc.net) or call 802-229-4885



At the Life Symposium, an expert panel took questions from attendees. Left to right, Catherine Glenn Foster, Helen Alvare, Representative Anne Donahue, Maureen Curley and David Wilkinson (shown lower left). The panel was moderated by Marta Kokozyńska, MD.



Dave Wilkinson



Marta Kokozyńska, MD, Emcee of “A Life Symposium,” and Pro-Life Prints

## Beware: Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing “Alliance for a Better Vermont” & “Repro Liberty”



Two newly formed groups, (Alliance for a Better Vermont) and (Repro Liberty), are both basically fronts for Planned Parenthood’s campaign to push for passage of Proposal 5. The organizations have an active social media presence and

they refer to Proposal 5 as the “Reproductive Liberty Amendment.”

The purported mission of Alliance for a Better Vermont and Repro Liberty is to elevate “Vermont voices on the most pressing issues to advance a collective vision and

create a more prosperous future for Vermont.” Their corresponding Facebook page is full of references to the “need” for passage of Proposal 5 and greater access to abortion.

# Three Groups Have Recently Organized to Defeat Proposal 5/Article 22

For more information about the three new organizations that have filed with the IRS in order to inform Vermonters about the dangers of amending the Vermont Constitution, please check out the links below and sign up to get their updates. Find them on social media and please offer your support!

## 1) They Have Gone Too Far

[www.theyhavegonetooofar.com](http://www.theyhavegonetooofar.com)

Defining 9-Month Abortions as a Right in the Constitution?

**They Have Gone Too Far.**

## 2) Vermont Family Alliance



Mission Statement:

- Vermont Family Alliance was established as a means to distribute information to Vermonters regarding current and proposed policies and laws that infringe on parental rights, and to expose the potential harms that could occur when such policies and laws are made.
- Vermont Family Alliance believes parents have the right and responsibility to raise their children, and to protect

them from exploitation, to the absolute best of their abilities. And we firmly believe that the majority of Vermont parents do exactly that.

- Vermont Family Alliance believes that parents are the best advocates for their children. Parents have a deeper understanding of their child as individuals, and recognize that each situation requires individual decision-making based on the love and depth of knowledge parents have for their children. For this reason, we oppose policies and laws that circumvent or allow for the circumvention of parental involvement.
- Vermont Family Alliance believes that the actions and policies of Vermont government, including public schools, should not usurp the family structure or interfere with parental rights. Vermont Family Alliance believes that the vast majority of Vermont families love and care for their children in a way that government and public schools can never do. And we recognize that there are numerous state programs and legal options available for those families who need intervention.
- The Vermont Family Alliance formed out of concern that Proposal 5 could negatively impact the rights of parents over the care of their minor children.

For more information on the Vermont Family Alliance find them on Facebook and follow them for updates!

## 3) Anti-Proposal 5 Organization Arranging for New Name

A recently organized group that duly and legally registered with the State of Vermont as "Vermonters for the Common Good, Inc." is committed to opposing Proposal 5.

However, on December 13, 2021, this group informed VRLC and others that they have been threatened with legal action if they do not stop using that name. A Vermont law firm represents an organization that claims the name is too similar to their client.

We look forward to sharing with you the new name as soon as it has been determined.

The group remains committed to their original mission of helping Vermonters understand the hidden dangers in Proposal 5, and to galvanize like-minded Vermonters to safeguard our State Constitution and represent the common good of all citizens.



In  
Memory



Donations to Vermont Right to Life  
have been given  
*In MEMORY*  
of the following loved ones:



**In Memory of Andrew Rainville**  
Maurice and Gisele Montcalm

**In Memory of Fred List**  
William and Sharon Toborg  
Ethel List  
Julia Ann Miller  
Charles Penn  
Mary and Steve Beerworth

**In Memory of Georgianna Adam**  
Bernard and Christine Pfenning

**In Memory of Loretta Magnant and Elizabeth (Betty) Casavant**  
Denise Messier

**In Memory of Louise King**  
Bernard and Christine Pfenning

**In Memory of Mary Parent**  
Richard and Pauline Gadbois  
Geoffrey and Mary Jackson

**In Memory of Raymond Racine**  
Eugene and Shirley Flatt  
Douglas and Veronica Hershberger  
Robert and Kathy Bessette  
Louis and Joy Bissonnette  
Michael and Lise Lantagne  
Edward and Anne Marie Lowe  
Raymond J and Laurel Tanguay  
Bernard and Christine Pfenning

# SHOULD VERMONT ADD A NEW ARTICLE TO CHAPTER 1 OF THE VERMONT CONSTITUTION? THE GUESSING GAME!

1) What year was the original Vermont Constitution established?

- a. 1777
- b. 1786
- c. 1904
- d. 1856

2) When was the last time a new article was added to Chapter 1 of the Vermont State Constitution?

- a. 1793
- b. 1786
- c. 2004
- d. 1872

3) How many states have added language to enshrine unlimited abortion rights in their state constitution?

- a. 25 states
- b. 4 states
- c. 12 states
- d. 0 states

4) What does this proposed amendment to the Vermont Constitution mean?

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.[2]"

- a. unlimited, unregulated abortion throughout pregnancy
- b. the courts will decide what else it means
- c. what the courts could interpret the language to mean is "anyone's guess"
- d. all of the above

5) If amended with the proposed language, would an unborn child at any stage of pregnancy have any legal protection in Vermont?

- a. An unborn baby would have no legal protection until birth
- b. An unborn baby would have legal protection after she or he can live outside the mother's womb
- c. An unborn baby would have legal protection after his or her heart begins to beat
- d. An unborn baby would have legal protection after the child's brain waves can be detected

6) Which founding document contains this phrase?

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable **Rights**, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.***

- a. The Bill of Rights
- b. The Federalist Papers
- c. The Declaration of Independence
- d. The Constitution of the United States

7) How many countries allow elective abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy?

- a. 35
- b. 102
- c. 7
- d. 50

8) How many animals and plants have legal protection in Vermont?

- a. 15
- b. 21
- c. 51
- d. 215

9) At how many weeks after conception can electrical brain wave patterns be detected in an unborn baby?

- a. 26
- b. 21
- c. 16
- d. 6

10) At how many days after conception does the heart of an unborn baby beat regularly?

- a. 26
- b. 21
- c. 16
- d. 6

11) Who referred to poor people as "imbeciles," "human weeds," and "morons"?

- a. Fidel Castro, the former dictator of Cuba
- b. Donald Trump, the former U.S. President
- c. Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood
- d. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the shrewd businessman

## Answer Key

- 1) (a) 1777
- 2) (b) 1786
- 3) (d) 0 states
- 4) (d) All of the above
- 5) (a) An unborn baby would have no legal protection until birth
- 6) (c) The Declaration of Independence
- 7) (c) Only seven out of 198 nations allow elective abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. They are: Canada, China, Netherlands, North Korea, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.
- 8) (d) 215
- 9) (d) 6 weeks
- 10) (b) 21 days
- 11) (c) Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood

# Biden Administration Drops Lawsuit Filed Against University of Vermont Medical Center



Steven Ertelt, Washington, DC

Joe Biden's administration has dropped a lawsuit that former President Donald Trump had filed on behalf of a pro-life Vermont nurse who was forced to participate in an abortion. The decision to quit representing the nurse, whose conscience rights were violated, continues to underscore just how important it is to have a president who governs pro-life and the crucial setbacks for pro-life advocates when an ardent abortion activist gets into the White House.

Last December the Trump administration filed a lawsuit against the University of Vermont Medical Center, which forced a nurse to participate in an abortion. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the lawsuit then as part of its efforts to protect health professionals from being forced to participate in abortions.

In 2017, a Vermont nurse was forced into participating in an abortion that went against her deeply held religious beliefs because she opposes killing unborn children.

The lawsuit maintains that the public university hospital violated federal law. The Church Amendment, federal law enacted

in the 1970s after the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court rulings, prohibits hospitals funded by the Public Health Service Act from discriminating against doctors and nurses who refuse to participate in abortion. The Church Amendment protects abortion-related conscience rights of both individuals and institutions.

In a Complaint, the ACLJ legal group indicated that its client, an operating room nurse at the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC) in Burlington, was coerced into assisting in an abortion in 2017 even though her name was on a list of nurses who, for religious or moral reasons, were conscientiously opposed to assisting abortions and even though other non-objecting nurses were available who could easily have taken her place.

But the Biden administration recently dropped the case and will no longer fight for that nurses' rights under federal law. The one-page notice filed by the Justice Department in U.S. District Court in Burlington gave no reason for its decision.

The University of Vermont naturally praised Biden for the decision to not hold it accountable.

In a Monday statement, UVM Medical Center CEO Dr. Steve Leffler said officials were pleased by the Justice Department's decision.

"We are committed to meeting the medical needs of our patients, while respecting

the religious and moral beliefs of our employees," Leffler said. "Our opt-out policies and practices for employees who object to participating in certain medical procedures, including abortion, are strong and in full compliance with federal law, and we have only strengthened them over the past two years."

A top pro-life legal group said the case is one of the worst it has seen, as the nurse was intentionally misled into thinking she would be doing a procedure to remove the body of a dead baby following a miscarriage, when in reality she was being forced to assist in an abortion.

"In the more than two decades of work that ACLJ has done to defend the rights of conscience of pro-life health care workers, this is by far the most outrageous case we've ever seen. Our client's most fundamental beliefs about the sanctity of life were simply brushed aside," said ACLJ lead attorney Jay Sekulow.

"Worse, her superiors deliberately misled her into thinking she was assisting in a procedure following a miscarriage. But once trapped inside the OR she discovered that it was, in fact, an elective abortion and that this had been known all along by her superiors who then callously refused to relieve her. To say that she was emotionally traumatized by this event is putting it mildly," he continued.

*Review Editor's Note: Only two states, Vermont and New Hampshire, are without conscience protection laws for health care workers and others. Under the Biden Administration, the need for a specific statute is more necessary than ever before. The situation will worsen if Proposal 5, (Article 22), is not defeated.*

## Constitutional expert warns that Proposal 5 could add to the shortage of health care workers in Vermont



".....there's already a struggle to get sufficient numbers of people to be OB/GYNs in particular.....in fact, if you look at countries like Spain, or Ireland, etc, which have recently allowed it (abortion), their greatest struggle is finding people who are willing to do it.... But if you have a pre-emptive conscience statute or a pre-emptive constitutional amendment on this that makes it clear that conscientious objectors you know, people who are free to freely think or religiously or morally believe on this are not welcome in Vermont, an already extant shortage in OB/GYNs could be dramatically more because so few of them are willing to participate."

*Helen Alvare, Professor of Law, in answer to a question during a panel discussion at the Life Symposium.*

# 30,000 Doctors Tell Supreme Court: Unborn Babies are Human Beings, They Deserve Human Rights



Tens of thousands of medical professionals are calling for restored legal protections for unborn babies as the U.S.

Supreme Court

prepares to hear a major abortion case on Dec. 1, 2021.

The message from the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which represents more than 30,000 doctors and other medical professionals, is simple: Unborn babies are patients, too, and they deserve the same rights and protections as every other human being.

"In the nearly 50 years since the court wrongly decided *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v.*

*Bolton*, medical science has progressed significantly and has increasingly supported the pro-life position," the medical alliance said in a statement earlier this month. "It is time that the law of our land caught up with advances in medical science and supported the human rights of all of our patients."

According to the alliance, the science is clear that a distinct, living and whole human being comes into existence at the moment of conception, and an abortion ends the life of that human being.

"As physicians and other healthcare professionals, we know that when we care for pregnant women, we are caring for two distinct patients," the alliance said. Abortions are not health care; more than 90 percent of OB-GYNs do not even do them."

Abortions also can harm mothers, sub-

jecting them to increased risks of future preterm births and mental health disorders, even death, the alliance continued. In the second trimester, the risks are even greater, the alliance noted.

This is significant because the case before the Supreme Court centers around whether states may prohibit abortions in the second trimester. The 2018 Mississippi law at issue in the case would ban abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. However, legal precedent prohibits states from banning abortions before viability, which currently is about 22 weeks.

*The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine represents more than 30,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals who recognize that their duty is to protect and preserve the lives of all patients.*

## Did you know...

### VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION ENDORSES PROPOSAL 5

#### Codifying Protection for Women's Reproductive Rights

*As adopted at the VMS Annual Meeting on November 2, 2019*

"RESOLVED, that the VMS supports protecting women's reproductive rights, including the right to contraception and to safe legal abortion, through Vermont law and/or through a Vermont Constitutional amendment."

### VERMONT HEALTH NETWORK ENDORSES PROPOSAL 5

#### Statement of endorsement:

"At the University of Vermont Health Network, decisions about reproductive health, including abortion, are the concern of the patient and their provider, as is the case with all other medical care. We support state laws, including a constitutional amendment, that protect reproductive rights. This includes the right to contraception and to safe legal abortion. We also support the right of individual health care providers to elect to not participate in abortion procedures."

## Conscience Protection for Health Care Workers is Paramount



"We see conscience rights for healthcare professionals as foundational to the practice of medicine, and have assisted lawmakers across the country in ensuring these rights in state law. As more and more states and cities seek to force healthcare providers to participate, facilitate, and advertise for procedures to which many have deeply held conscientious objections, it is even more important that conscientious objectors be free from discrimination, and never have to choose between violating their conscience and losing their job."

Catherine Glenn Foster, Americans United for Life

## Former President of Planned Parenthood Exposes the Organization's Obsession with Abortions



Dr. Leana Wen

Planned Parenthood has repeatedly (and incorrectly) argued that abortion makes up “only 3%” of its “services.” But a new book from the former head of the organization suggests that it dictates their direction 100%.

In her published memoir Dr. Leana Wen details her time spent as president of the nation's largest abortion provider: Planned Parenthood. Wen offers readers an insider's view of the organization's obsession with abortion in “Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health.” Among other things, she says she was told to say “abortion” in “every media interview.” Someone else also warned her that “If we

don't talk about abortion openly, loudly, and proudly, as a positive moral good, then we are further stigmatizing it.”

Wen served as president for eight short months before Planned Parenthood suddenly “ended” her employment during a “secret meeting” in 2019. At the time, she shared that she left because of “philosophical differences,” namely abortion. “The new Board leadership has determined that the priority of Planned Parenthood moving forward is to double down on abortion rights advocacy,” she wrote in a statement.

But, as she reveals in her book, Wen faced opposition from Planned Parenthood from the very beginning for how she handled abortion. “One of the main points I wanted to get across was that health care shouldn't be political,” she remembered from when she prepared for her first media appearance as president on ABC's *The View*. “I had to come to this job as a doctor, and my charge was patients' lives.”

Excerpts from this article taken from LifeNews.com

## Study finds that almost 74% of post-abortive women were coerced



A study on post-abortive women found the following:

- 73.8% of post-abortive women surveyed admitted that they experienced at least subtle forms of pressure to terminate their pregnancies.
- 58.3% indicated that they decided to abort in order to make others happy.
- Nearly 30% of survey respondents admitted that they were afraid that they would lose their partner if they didn't abort
- 66% said they felt abortion was wrong.
- 67.5% said it was one of the hardest decisions of their lives.

Priscilla K. Coleman, Ph.D., Kaitlyn Boswell, B.S., Katrina Etzkorn, B.S., Rachel Turnwald, B.S. “Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences.” *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, Volume 22 Number 4 Winter 2017

*(This study was based on anonymous surveys of 987 women who sought post abortion counseling at pregnancy centers. Because these women regretted their abortions, the results may not be generalizable to all women who have had abortions. Nevertheless, the study shows that coercion is a problem.)*

## Abortion Hurts Women



Maureen Curley, Ph.D., APRN and an expert in post abortion trauma in an interview with WCAX-TV at the Life Symposium.

From the interview:

One speaker, Maureen Curley, says she used to be pro-choice but has lost too many people to suicide after the procedure.

*“I feel very committed to ensuring that women are safe and their mental health is protected and that they're adequately informed of the risks,”* said Curley.





## Vermont parents are being kicked out of the Village, one law at a time.

In early November, both local and national media reported that Vermont is now the first state to mandate that condoms be made "readily available" and free of charge to all 7th through 12th-grade public school students.

Again, parental permission or knowledge is not required, becoming the accepted norm here in Vermont. Legislation such as this is a blatant disregard of the Vermont Supreme Court's detailed ruling of parental rights and responsibilities. Once again, parents' rights and responsibilities are being transferred to unknown adults within the public school health offices, classrooms, athletic trainer's offices, guidance offices, and other locations in the school according to the Agency of Education "Condom Availability Programs" guidelines. Everyone in the public school will have an active role in the Condom Availability Program. Everyone except the parents. Is it too onerous to ask parents to choose the adults they know and trust as they choose their doctors?

The Condom Availability Program was created in collaboration with the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and Planned Parenthood of New England- substantive parent representation and input was and continues to be absent.

This bureaucratic collaboration justifies their program using "Results from the 2019 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is an anonymous survey distributed to middle and high school". The bureaucratic alliance has taken sexual anonymity data and they have created a radically public program dependent on unknown adults- putting students at potential risk. There has been no attempt to identify and address those risks.

Sexual liberty advocates, beginning with Planned Parenthood, assume any adult willing to take a minor for an abortion, hand them condoms, or teach sexualized material in the guise of sexual liberties- without parental permission- are the

adults acting in the child's best interest- the only adults kids can trust to protect their sexual liberties.

Governor Scott and the Agency of Education are responsible to write laws and regulations in accordance with the Vermont Supreme Court's ruling on parental rights and responsibilities, acquire parent input and science. It's not too late. Understand a teenager's brain before asking minors how many condoms they want. "A Teenager's Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults" by Amy Ellis Nutt and Francis E. Jensen should guide every program regarding minor sexual liberties. If this concerns you educate yourself on Proposal 5. Proposal 5 will be on the ballot in November of 2022.

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**Inside:** *A Life Symposium Success Story*

## 40 Days for Life Campaign in Vermont

The 2021 40 Days fall campaign ran from Wednesday, September 22 through Sunday, October 31, 2021. Since it began in 2007, the 40 Days campaign has been in 63 countries and over 1000 cities including Barre, Burlington and Rutland. The campaign focuses on twice yearly 40 day periods of prayer and fasting, a public vigil typically at a Planned Parenthood facility for community outreach. The next campaign will take place from Wednesday, March 2 through April 10, 2022. More information is available at [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com). Join us as we pray to end abortion!



*40 Days for Life participants gather outside the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Barre, Vermont*