



VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE REVIEW

Volume 50, Number 2 Winter 2022

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, January 28th, 2023

Roe vs Wade is on the ash heap of history, giving pro-lifers much cause for celebration after 50 years of faithful prayers and action.

Hurray!

However, more than 63 million unborn babies, unique and unrepeatable unborn babies, have lost their lives to abortion since the US Supreme Court Decision in January of 1973. That incontrovertible fact should inspire us to remind Vermonters that a baby dies in every single abortion.

This year, the March for Life, sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life's Educational Trust, will be the FINAL one to be held in the winter cold of January. On the occasion of this, the 50th Anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, we ask you to help us commemorate the loss of those unborn lives. Please invite others to join us as well!



Join us for the FINAL March for Life in Montpelier on Saturday, January 28, 2023

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Again 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.

• PRAY •

9:30am-Morning prayer services are sponsored by Lighthouse Christian Church and the Catholic Diocese

• **Lighthouse Christian Church,**
3 St Paul Street, Montpelier

OR

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

• MARCH •

10:45am-March to the State House steps for photo - Participants are to gather to begin the March behind City Hall at 10:45am for the March to the Capitol. Pro-life signs will be provided by Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust.

11:15 – 11:30am – Photo of participants on State House steps and short opening remarks.

• LEARN •

Noon – Join us for a deli-buffet luncheon with guest speakers 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 pro-life presentation will be made.

Reserve your seat now for a deli-buffet luncheon and a pro-life presentation by sending a check for your \$20.00 (per person) registration fee made out to Vermont Right to Life Committee, PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT or by calling VRLC at 802-229-4885.

Advance reservations are important.

The Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust will host various events throughout the year, but will consider hosting events in the future on the June anniversary of the US Supreme Court Dobbs decision that effectively OVERTURNED Roe v Wade.

Sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust Fund

What Happened?



Mary Hahn Beerworth,
Executive Director

Despite a statewide effort to expose the truth about Planned Parenthood's push to "enshrine" abortion into the Vermont Constitution, the vote passed in Vermont by a wide and disheartening margin.

Planned Parenthood used massive financial resources to launch a misleading advertising campaign on all Vermont airwaves. Voters were inundated with false messaging that successfully managed to hoodwink Vermonters into believing that they must support passage of Proposal 5 or abortions would be banned. Planned Parenthood even suggested that abortions would not be allowed in cases involving the life of the mother, ectopic pregnancies and most ludicrous of all, that somehow miscarriages would be suspect. Total lies.

In the wake of the US Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v Wade*, abortion proponents capitalized on that public fear of losing the right to abortion entirely. Proponents also neatly side-stepped the fact that abortion is legal in Vermont and has been since 1972. The amendment is entirely unnecessary and will lead to a host of problems that exploit young girls and women and further endanger unborn babies who will be aborted up to the moment of birth.

Sadly, the November 8, 2022 vote on Proposal 5 was the very first time Vermonters have voted directly on abortion and the support for unlimited, unregulated abortion was overwhelming – 77% to 23%, a three to one margin.

Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in the state of Vermont (performing 90% of all abortions) and passage of the amendment now permanently shields their abortion business

from any oversight or state limitations at any time throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Michigan and California passed similar amendments.

Abortion supporters, like Planned Parenthood, not only spent copious amounts of money, their strategy also included a refusal to participate in debates or forums. A strategy of "the less the voters know the better" ultimately succeeded. On the other hand, opponents of Prop 5 were fully prepared to examine the amendment in depth for greater public understanding and anticipated being involved in debates and public forums. But debates never materialized as proponents declined to participate in public discussion. Again, a strategy that left Vermonters with only a one-sided view of the proposed amendment'

The Vermont media coverage was unfailingly biased and unbalanced adding to voter confusion. Most local news coverage only included proponents of the amendment and often included abortionist, Lauren MacAfee, at the University of Vermont Medical Center as a source of "neutral" information. Not a single media outlet hosted a debate or forum from WCAX, WPTZ, ABC 22 to Vermont Public to online news outlets like Vtdigger and Seven Days. Nothing. A question of amending the Vermont State Constitution, adding a new article to Chapter 1 for the first time since 1786, and not a single forum or debate and only promotional media coverage. Disgraceful.

The Vermont Right to Life Committee is disappointed with the vote total and with this loss. However, pro-lifers can expect that our efforts to inform Vermonters about life in the womb and alternatives to abortion will continue undeterred and unabated.

What does the future hold?

VRLC will keep the historical record of how this all played out including the transcribed testimony of those who pushed to add abortion throughout pregnancy to our founding document. The ink has barely dried on the legislative apology for our state's role in the eugenics policy of over 100 years ago. Someday in the not-too-distant future there will be another apology demanded for what has happened here to our most innocent and vulnerable unborn children. VRLC is prepared for that day of reckoning and will have, at the ready, the names of those from all political parties who will be held accountable.

VRLC will continue to be a pro-life presence inside the State House in order to keep tabs on the next assault on life, on Vermont families and their minor children, and to inform pro-life supporters. One newly re-elected Representative, Emily Mulvaney-Stanak (D/P – Burlington) has promised to re-introduce legislation to shut down our friends who provide pregnancy resources. We cannot allow that to happen without resistance.

VRLC staff and volunteers will also be working with a force of young people and other newly discovered friends of life that we met on our journey across the state to inform Vermonters about the reality of abortion and the dangers of Proposal 5. It is important to note that over 64,000 Vermonters rejected Proposal 5 and that number includes some who are brand new to the cause of life itself. Many of the newcomers are energized and ready to join the cause to save innocent lives and we welcome them aboard!

VRLC intends to move forward and to continue to find new ways to educate and expand our reach so that, armed with information, more and more mothers will choose life for their babies!

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Mary Hahn Beerworth, Editor

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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!

Looking Forward ~ Moving Onward

by Maggie Kerrin

Director of Outreach and Advocacy



The dust is still settling in the aftermath of Vermont's Proposal 5/Article 22 passage. Shock is still setting in... but still very poignant in the hearts and minds of pro-life Vermonters. We here at VRLC share in that shock and dismay. Like the ground shaking under our feet, in mini tremors, after a profound earthquake, the ripple effect of this tragedy stays with us. Our hearts, minds, and souls are troubled. Yet, we know, we must strive on.

In our January 2022 Rally for Life we marched for the unborn. We stood against the frigid cold of winter, and we marched for the more than 63 MILLION unborn babies who were exterminated before they ever got to take in their first breath of air. We thank God for the states who press to hold sacred the lives of the unborn, and we pray for those state, like Vermont, that celebrate abortion and the taking of innocent lives. And we wonder, what would those children have

been like, what amazing gifts and talents would they have contributed to our world, and why is Vermont so focused on a killing culture instead of on supporting life.

There are many "why" questions regarding the passage of Proposal 5/Article 22. Why would such a majority of Vermonters support such a horrific constitutional amendment? The words voter apathy and lack of real knowledge come to mind. Our promise to VRLC supporters is that we will continue to educate and to do all that we can to prevent abortions. We hope you will join us in spreading the word and help us educate our friends and families about the realities about abortion ~ the truth about abortion ~ the fact that when a pregnant woman walks into a clinic there are two beating hearts ~ and when she walks out there is only one heart left beating. One life walking out the door. One heartbeat ~ one life ~ gone forever. A child's smile never seen ~ a child's laughter never heard. And a million hugs and kisses never known.

There is a teaching lesson about why the front windshield of a car is so much bigger

than the rear view mirror. In essence, it is because we need to focus largely on what is ahead, and look back only for the purpose of remembering, and learning from what has been.

We at Vermont Right to Life will remember to look back, and learn from what has been. But our focus will be looking forward. Our goal, as always, is to work to lessen the number of abortions occurring in Vermont, and to protect Vermont's unborn children. We hope you will all join us in wrapping our hearts and minds around the unborn ~ and continuing the effort to see our children born.

As Christmas nears, let's remember God and goodness. Let's remember miracles and blessings. Let's remember love, and peace, and joy. And may God bless and heal all those who have been harmed ~ mentally, emotionally, or physically ~ due to abortion.

And let's especially remember to pray, "Father ~ forgive them ~ for they know not what they do."

Planned Parenthood of Vermont closes 4 clinics ~ but is that good news?

Planned Parenthood used to operate 11 health centers in Vermont. Four of their clinics closed in June and they were located in Bennington, Hyde Park, Middlebury and St. Albans. Among them, Bennington was the only location that offered abortion services.

The remaining five Planned Parenthood clinics in the state will continue to perform abortions largely providing medication abortions.

Planned Parenthood announced that it is expanding the days of operation at its Barre, Brattleboro and Williston locations. There are no plans to change hours at the locations in Burlington, Rutland, St. Johnsbury and White River Junction.

There is good reason to believe that the closing of 4 clinics is not good news.

Planned Parenthood is now a major player in all Vermont public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade so having multiple clinics is nothing more than overhead for the organization. The legislature passed a bill in 2020 requiring middle schools and high schools to make condoms freely available to students without parental involvement. The House bill (H663) is now part of Vermont Statutes and can be found at 16 V.S.A. § 132 Secondary schools; provision of contraceptives.

Lawsuit Challenges FDA Approval of Unregulated Abortion Drugs

A group of doctors and medical associations are challenging the federal government's decision to approve dangerous abortion drugs in a new lawsuit in November, saying authorities skirted the process and put patients' lives at risk.

In the lawsuit from the Alliance Defending Freedom, the doctors said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration "illegally" prioritized abortion politics over science and patients' health when it approved the abortion drugs mifepristone and misoprostol in 2000.

These drugs now are used to abort more than half of all unborn babies in the U.S. every year, or nearly half a million, according to the Guttmacher Institute. More than two dozen women have died and thousands more have suffered serious complications, according to FDA data.

The lawsuit accuses the FDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services of continuing to ignore safety issues, including by allowing the drugs to be sold through the mail without any direct medical supervision starting in 2021.

"Pregnancy is not an illness, and

“The FDA never had the authority to approve these dangerous drugs for sale.”

chemical abortion drugs don't provide a therapeutic benefit—they end a baby's life and they pose serious and life-threatening complications to the mother,” ADF Senior Counsel Julie Marie Blake said. “The FDA never had

the authority to approve these dangerous drugs for sale.”

Blake said the doctors know from personal experience and research how dangerous abortion drugs are, and they filed the lawsuit to protect their patients. Extreme examples of abuse of the abortion drug include men who spike their partner's drinks without the consent of the mother in order to force an abortion. (Emphasis added.)

According to the lawsuit, the FDA never should have approved the drugs in the first place; but it did so by mischaracterizing pregnancy as an “illness” and arguing that the drugs provide a “meaningful therapeutic benefit.”

It is important for Vermonters to understand that daughters of any age in our state can access these abortions drugs from Planned Parenthood without parental involvement. (Emphasis added.)

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Donations to Vermont Right to Life in Memory of the following dedicated, pro-life Vermonters:

In Memory of:

Brenda Pepin
Edwin Rivera
Jane Zurn

Lucien Paquette

Margaret Patch

Omer “Sonny” Villemaire

Raymond F. Brault

Thomas Howrigan MD

Unborn Humans

Zelma Opal Brooks

Contribution Made by:

Bonnie Potter
Franklin County Right to Life
John G. and Dorothy Bolduc
Ricky and Marie Burleson
Lillian Rainville
Diane Costes
John and Mary Schreindorfer
Karyn M. Rocheleau

Addison County Sugarmakers Association
Addison County Right to Life
Michael and Kathren Greco

William Patch

Bernard E. and Christine Pfenning

Bernard E. and Christine Pfenning

Al and Mary Anne Mercy

Charles J. and Michele Kelly

Zelma Loseke

Recapping the 2022 National Elections: The Fight for Life Goes On

By Karen Cross, National Right to
Life Political Director

The most important result of the 2022 midterm elections for the pro-life movement is undoubtedly that the Republican Party has retaken the U.S. House and have seized the gavel from pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

This key victory gives the pro-life movement the opportunity to stop pro-abortion measures coming from the Biden Administration and the Democrat-controlled Senate dead in their tracks. Republicans will have the power to prevent the passage of radical pro-abortion legislation like the so-called *Women's Health Protection Act*. This act aims to permanently enshrine abortion in federal law and policies, and strike down virtually all state-level protections for unborn children and their mothers like parental involvement and informed consent laws.

When the Democrats held the majority, they voted numerous times to eliminate longstanding pro-life policies and appropriations riders like the Hyde Amendment, which prevents the use of American tax dollars to pay for abortions in many federal programs. The Democrat vision of unlimited abortion nationwide for any reason until birth, funded with taxpayer money, is now far less likely to become a reality. Study after study confirms that pro-life measures like Hyde save lives. So, it is not an exaggeration to say that lives have been saved as a result of these elections!

Some may be inclined to point the finger at the pro-life movement as the cause of Republican under-performance in the 2022 elections. Contrary to what you may hear in the

media, standing up for unborn babies and their mothers did not encumber Republican candidates in the 2022 midterm-elections. For decades, abortion has played a decisive role in U.S. elections, impacting how millions of both pro-life and pro-choice Americans cast their votes. The Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* in June amplified the importance of the issue in 2022. In some battleground states and toss-up House districts, abortion even ranked among the top issues on voters' minds.

Pro-life Republican candidates fared best when they acknowledged the heightened importance of the issue and clearly articulated their position while contrasting it with the extremism of their pro-abortion opponents. Conversely, Republicans who attempted to hide from the issue squandered their opportunity to accurately convey their position to voters. By not taking a position or going radio silent, these candidates allowed their pro-abortion opposition to define them on the issue. It also allowed the abortion extremism of their opponents to go unchallenged. Virtually every Democrat running for federal office embraced a policy of unlimited abortion for any reason until birth and paid for with tax dollars.

In many races, pro-abortion Democrats who support abortion without limits, even late in pregnancy, were able to gain the upper hand on the issue by portraying Republican candidates as "extreme" on the issue. Yet, polling consistently shows that the Democrats' stance in opposition to any and all limits on abortion is the one that is most at odds with the views

Encouraging Election News from Across America

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, 2022, the landscape of abortion in the U.S. has dramatically changed.

According to a survey of all abortion facilities nationwide conducted in October and November of 2022, there are currently 683 abortion facilities/businesses operating in 36 states and the District of Columbia. **This represents the lowest number of abortion facilities in the U.S. in nearly five decades.**

In 1991, there were 2,176 abortion facilities in the U.S. Since that time, the number of abortion facilities have decreased a remarkable 68 percent. There can be no doubt that the Pro-Life movement is winning the long battle to end abortion on the national level.

of the voters. Many Republicans opted not to seize the opportunity to defend themselves and shift attention to their opponents' out-of-touch views.

Nationally, pro-life candidates also had to contend with massive, well-funded onslaughts of misinformation and outright lies by the abortion industry that went unchecked by most members of the press. In Congressional races as well as state referendum and ballot initiative fights, pro-abortion forces made outrageous, factually inaccurate claims. That included the wholly inaccurate statement that the pro-life movement advocates for the punishment of women who have abortions (see the NRLC open letter condemning any such statute), that

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Lawsuit Challenges FDA Approval of Unregulated Abortion Drugs

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The Wall Street Journal reports the following:

The lawsuit said the FDA didn't have adequate data on mifepristone use by girls and some of the clinical studies the FDA relied on required more safeguards for patients, such as an ultrasound to confirm gestational age, than the agency later required.

The lawsuit also said rates of complications from using the drug—such as bleeding and infection, which are mentioned on the drug's label—haven't been adequately studied, and that emergency-room visits following use of the abortion pill are more common than following surgical abortion.

A few of the findings from the complaint:

- *The use of these two chemical abortion drugs causes significant injuries and harms to pregnant women and girls.*
- *For example, upwards of ten percent (10%) of women who take chemical abortion drugs will need follow-up medical treatment for an incomplete or failed chemical abortion, with an average of thirty-nine percent (39%) of women requiring surgery if taken in the second trimester.*
- *Chemical abortions are over fifty percent (50%) more likely than surgical abortions to result in an emergency department visit with thirty days, affecting on in twenty females.*
- *Given the FDA's refusal to require an ultrasound, abortionists can egregiously misdate the gestational age of a baby with devastating consequences. One young woman has alleged that she did not receive an ultrasound or any other physical examination to determine her baby's gestational age prior to receiving chemical abortion drugs from Planned Parenthood. The abortionist misdated the baby's gestational age as six weeks, resulting in the at-home delivery of a "lifeless fully-formed baby in the toilet," later determined to be around 30-36 weeks old. Because of this chemical abortion, the woman alleges that she "has endured significant stress, trauma, emotional anguish, physical pain, including laceration and an accelerated labor and delivery unaided by medication, lactation, soreness and bleeding."*

Excerpts taken from LifeNews, NRLC News and the complaint.

Physician-Assisted Suicide Expansion Lawsuit Challenges Vermont Residency Requirement

In August, a Connecticut woman with cancer sued the state of Vermont for allowing only its residents to utilize Act 39, the law passed in 2013 legalizing lethal prescriptions to end their own lives. Assisted suicide is not legal in Connecticut.

Lynda Bluestein, the Connecticut woman has joined Diana Barnard, MD in filing the lawsuit. Barnard, Vermont's prime promoter of not only legalizing assisted suicide in Vermont, but of prescribing the lethal dose herself, is Vermont's leading force for assisted suicide statewide.

The agenda behind the lawsuit is the expansion of availability of the lethal dose to people in states that have

declined to legalize assisted suicide for the very serious reasons that passage will lead to abuse of those most vulnerable – the elderly, the disabled and the terminally ill. This kind of expansion is now being seen in other states, as well as Canada, and several other countries. In Canada, death is being normalized as a "treatment" even if a patient is not dying.

The attempt being made here in Vermont is similar to a successful attempt in Oregon, and that same recipe is being tried here.

As most states have blocked attempts to legalize assisted suicide, promoters view these kinds of legal challenges as a way to get around passage of laws

through state legislatures. The lawsuit suggests that accessing medical care across state lines is a "fundamental" right and that patients should not have to reside in Vermont to access the lethal drugs.

To date, assisted suicide is legal in California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

Vermont Right to Life was involved in the 12-year fight in the Vermont legislature against legalization of assisted suicide. But the testimony that raised the question of whether Vermont could become a "destination" state for the lethal drugs was brushed aside by proponents. In 2013, assisted suicide, or Act 39, narrowly passed the Vermont Senate by just two votes.

Recapping the 2022 National Elections: The Fight for Life Goes On

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treatment for miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies would become illegal, and that access to contraceptives would be threatened. Members of the media, many of whom do not even try to hide their pro-abortion leanings, proved to be uncritical or just uninterested in correcting the erroneous claims coming from the pro-abortion side. (*Editor's note: all of same tactics were used in Vermont in the fight against Proposal 5.*)

With the *Dobbs* decision granting states greater opportunities to pass protective measures for unborn children and their mothers, abortion became a central issue in many of the most competitive gubernatorial races.

However, Republican governors with strong pro-life records, who advanced protective measures for unborn children and their mothers in their states, scored decisive wins at the ballot box.

Notably, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, who signed the Ohio law protecting unborn babies when their heartbeat can be detected, won re-election by a 25-point margin. In Georgia, Governor Brian Kemp, who signed a similar bill into law, defeated well-funded Democrat rising star Stacey Abrams by more than 8 points. In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis, who signed a law protecting unborn babies 15 weeks and older on account of their capacity to feel pain, won by nearly 20 points. In fact, not a single incumbent pro-life governor lost his or her bid for re-election. Additionally,

pro-life candidates prevailed in two gubernatorial races with open seats: Sarah Huckabee Sanders in Arkansas and Jim Pillen in Nebraska.

While the results of the 2022 elections did not match the “massive red wave” predictions of many conservative media personalities and right-leaning pollsters, there is a lot to be thankful for. The importance of retaking control of the House alone, even if by a small margin, cannot be overstated. This shift in power all but ensures top pro-abortion priorities like passage of the so-called *Women's Health Protection Act* and the elimination of the Hyde Amendment are dead on arrival in the new Congress.

The fight for life goes on! We have come too far, and life is still worth defending!

Local Election Results



Victoria Strong



Samantha Lefebvre



Sally Achey

Vermont lost three strong defenders of life in the 2022 elections. All three, Rep. Vicki Strong, Rep. Samantha Lefebvre and Rep. Sally Achey had their districts re-drawn by the Democrat super-majority currently in power at the State House. All three new legislative districts were re-drawn in a way that was calculated to place each of the women at a disadvantage over their far left, pro-abortion opponents. Vicki, Samantha and Sally served Vermont honorably

and cast their votes in defense of the unborn at every turn. VRLC extends a warm and grateful thank you to these brave women – you, and your voices, will be greatly missed!

Two other pro-life women, Rep. Anne Donahue (Northfield) and Rep. Mary Morrissey (Bennington) came in top vote-getters, despite a tough fight in their respective districts and we congratulate them both for winning re-election.

Two other pro-life women retained

their respective seats in this tough election year: Rep. Lisa Hango (Berkshire) and Terri Lynn Williams (Granby), along with several other incumbents who support most pro-life initiatives. It takes courage to stand for life knowing that they are out-numbered in the State House by the super majority of pro-abortion legislators.

VRLC offers each of them our gratitude for their service to unborn babies and their mothers.

A Reflection on Article 22

By Rep. Anne B. Donahue

Rep. Anne Donahue, Northfield, was a spokesperson for Vermonters for Good Government and worked against passage of Article 22/Proposal 5. Proponents of the amendment declined to participate in forums or debates with Rep. Donahue for obvious reasons.

Eric Metaxas, author of *Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness*, in 2015, said, “Each era has the fatal hubris to believe that it has once and for all climbed to the top of the mountain and can see everything as it is, from the highest and most objective vantage point possible.”

We have been certain in the past: It was a norm to take land and slaughter its people; to sell people; to sterilize those we believed should not be procreating.

None of those actions were taken in the belief of doing wrong. They were in accord with society’s values at that time.

Now, as Vermonters, we have adopted an amendment to our constitution that has established that personal reproductive autonomy supersedes giving weight to whether another human right is also at stake.

Some are touting this victory as an historic gain. History should give us a cautionary lesson. How sure should we be that we have climbed to the top of the mountain and can see everything as it is?

Perhaps now is a safe opportunity to reflect more deeply on the profound issues at stake.

Our human race, worldwide and for centuries, has been wrestling with the issues of women’s rights and abortion. Is it exclusively a right of health care and autonomy? Is a developing embryo or fetus also a person, who therefore also has rights deserving of protection by society?

The history of humankind is deeply engrained with the stain of dividing between fit and unfit, those deemed less than fully human.

Our founding fathers allowed Black slave lives to be counted as three-fifths the value of a white life. Those lives were not recognized as having equivalent value or humanity. Slaves could be hunted down and killed because individual property rights were at stake.

Colonialism and the massacre of indigenous people was not recognized as wrong, because conquerors had the right to claim new lands and new property rights and to kill for that purpose.

Less than 100 years ago, the Supreme Court allowed “unfit lives” – Black, poor, indigenous, sexually different, disabled – to be denied the right to procreate, upholding eugenic sterilization. Respected citizens did not recognize eugenics as wrong, because people unfit to reproduce did not have equal value, and society had a right to prevent unwanted children from becoming a burden on society.

Planned Parenthood removed the name of Margaret Sanger, a eugenics supporter, from its New York affiliate building in 2020 with an acknowledgement that it was, “both a necessary and overdue step to reckon with our legacy and acknowledge Planned Parenthood’s contributions to historical reproductive harm within communities of color.”

In other words, the planning of parenthood was part of an agenda to curtail the growth of unwanted groups of people, persons of lesser value.

We have always used different labels to distinguish the wanted and the unwanted. Likewise, with how we talk about whether there is independent life in the womb.

When a wanted pregnancy ends in a miscarriage, we say, “she lost her baby,” not her embryo or her fetus; pharmaceutical companies warn us about risks to “an unborn baby.”

When parents share pictures of their baby in the womb they don’t say, “look at our fetus” -- yet many people recoil at the thought of requiring someone to look at the same photo before deciding

to abort. We don’t want that humanity to be visible if it is unwanted.

The criteria of being wanted or not defines one as a fetus and the other a human baby.

It does not seem very different from deeming unwanted indigenous people or Black people or Jewish people or poor people as being less fully human in order to assuage consciences over adopting the priorities of society at the time.

Refusing to recognize that there may be both autonomy rights of a person carrying a baby and a right of protection once that new life is in development, demeans value of that life in favor of a societal priority of personal control over pregnancy.

We all voted on November 8 with the intent of doing the right thing – to protect human rights. We simply saw those human rights under very different lenses. That intent should be recognized on both sides, not vilified.

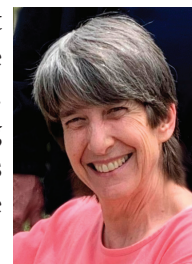
Good people, however, have in the past made grievous mistakes that violated human rights.

For the prevailing side of Article 22, the question should be asked: What will time tell us about decisions we make in our era? What might we need to apologize for; be forgiven for; be asked to make reparations for?

What we should not do is to have that fatal hubris to believe that we have once and for all climbed to the top of the mountain and can see everything as it is, from the highest and most objective vantage point. The way any of us see things is not necessarily everything there is.

Whether perceived as victory or loss, let each of us have the humility to consider our votes with a slight bit less certainty that our perspective will stand the judgement of time.

Anne Donahue was recently re-elected as state representative for the Washington-1 House district and was a spokesperson for Vermonters for Good Government lobbying against passage of Article 22.



Abortion Recorded and Aired on National Public Radio in November

A leading pro-life group, Priest's for Life, held a Day of Mourning to honor the baby killed in an abortion that was broadcast on an National Public Radio (NPR) show.

NPR listeners heard a baby being killed in an abortion as the mother moaned and cried. The shocking audio came from an abortion facility in Michigan where an NPR journalist watched an abortionist perform an 11-week abortion. NPR is a taxpayer-funded news organization and it came under heavy fire for glorifying the live killing and death of a human being.

Priests for Life called for Saturday, Dec. 3 to be a Day of Mourning in honor of the baby whose life was taken on that November 3rd broadcast. Pro-life leaders have named the child Baby Amanda Marie. "The recording picks up the moans of the mother, but her child's scream is silent," stated Father Pavone of Priest's for Life.

"The staffer with the mom says 'You did it,' and 'You did great,' when the killing was complete. There is no mention of the baby who has just died in a brutal way at 11 weeks. The baby's humanity is not even an afterthought.

Prayers were offered for the mother who chose abortion, for the abortionists and the staffers who helped, and the NPR employees who took part in the broadcast. An open letter will also be sent to the radio network, pointing out the many things about the baby, and about abortion, that the broadcast left out. By 11 weeks of pregnancy, unborn babies already have all their major organs, heartbeats and brain waves. They can respond to touch, hiccup and even suck their thumbs.

The report did not mention any of these details as it played the sound of the machine killing the unborn baby and the woman's moans. Afterward, the abortion staff could be heard laughing as the woman sighed and thanked them.

Here is link to register your complaint about the NPR broadcast with the Federal Communications Commission:

<https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>

Editor's Note: While you can search for the NPR recording online, I declined to include a link to the recording as it is very tough to listen to. Excerpts for this story came from LifeNews.com



Vermont Right to Life on Twitter for regular updates
<https://twitter.com/TheVRLC>

Vermont Right to Life on the web: www.vrlc.net

Find us on Facebook

Vermont Right to Life Invites you to participate In our Vermont 101 Workshop!

This workshop has been developed to help Vermonters learn key aspects of our Vermont General Assembly website.

Participation in our workshop will increase your ability to maneuver to up to date, critical, legislative information.

In addition, we will bring in-person updates regarding legislative matters as they occur throughout the 2023 legislative session.

VRLC staff would be happy to bring this workshop to your pro-life chapters, church groups, and other organizations!

Education is power • let's become powerful!

If you are interested in scheduling a training please contact us at vrlc@vrlc.net

BY THE NUMBERS

There are, as of this writing, 14 states that are considered Abortion-Free. Those states include Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. (While abortions are still legal in North Dakota, there are currently no abortionists operating in that state.)

Newly Re-Elected Representative in Burlington Pledges to "Crack Down" on Pregnancy Centers in Vermont

According to an article (July 27, 2022) in the Vermont newspaper, Seven Days, attempts will be made both nationally and locally to "crack down" on the pregnancy resource centers, charging that the centers give out false information.

According to the July article written by Alison Novak, "Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last month, pro-abortion-rights legislators have weighed actions to bolster reproductive freedom. In late June, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced legislation that aims to crack down on the use of misleading advertising by crisis pregnancy centers. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is a cosponsor of the bill."

The article continues, "On the state level, retiring state Rep. George Till (D-Jericho), an ob-gyn, introduced a similar bill during the most recent legislative session. It didn't make it out of committee. Rep. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak (P/D-Burlington), who is running unopposed for another term in the legislature, said she hopes to promote a similar bill next session."



Over the summer, pro-abortion activists protested in front of the Barre Care Net Center carrying the signs like the one above.

Vermont Students for Life Forms New Group in Norwich

The newly-formed group sent Vermont Right to Life the following message:

“The purpose of this club is to provide a space for students to talk about the issue of abortion and discuss ways of impacting the current climate and conversation. SFL at Norwich pushes for more involvement from college students in their local pro-life groups and seeks to help prepare them for future engagement inside the larger pro-life movement. Beyond pushing for involvement on one’s own, SFL at Norwich seeks to find opportunities for students to be involved in local pro-life movements, such as being at the Vermont Rally for Life on January 28th 2022!”

Vermont Right to Life encourages young people to meet up at the Rally for Life and connect with the Norwich Students for Life!

**We Need to be Able to Tell Our Children,
and Our Grandchildren, That
WE DID NOT STAY SILENT!**

New “All-Trimester Abortion Clinics” Opening in Maryland and California

**Will Vermont
Be Next?**

According to news coverage (9/1/2022) from National Public Radio (NPR) an “all trimester” abortion clinic will be opening in Maryland called Partners in Abortion Care.

Partners in Abortion Care will be one of only a handful of clinics in the United States that offer abortions into the third trimester. When their “all-trimester clinic” opens, the abortionists expect to have about 10 clients each week.

For one abortion worker, offering abortion through all-trimester’s means “providing basic, essential health care,” according to the NPR report. “I know that it can be controversial to some people, but it is part of the scope of women’s health. And I am very passionate about women’s health, and I’m very passionate about safe abortion care,” she said.

Plans are underway in Los Angeles California for opening an “all trimester” abortion clinic as well. According to the Washington, DC DuPont Clinic, abortionist there are “thrilled to announce” that they are expanding to Los Angeles, California and hope to open the late-term clinic by the fall of 2023. California also recently passed Proposal 1, a constitutional amendment very similar to Vermont’s Proposal 5, opening up abortion throughout pregnancy with no age limits even for the youngest of minor children.

Above is the Washington DC, Dupont clinic advertisement for All Trimester abortions: “We look forward to partnering with local abortion funds, practical support organizations, providers, clinics, and community members to provide the best possible abortion care to all.”

According to California abortionist, Forrest Owen Smith, MD writing for The Federalist, the entire campaign to promote Proposal 1 in California was all about Planned Parenthood’s “cash flow, not health care.” Smith performs abortions himself, but opposed “enshrining abortion until birth” in the state constitution abhorrent.

Editor’s Note: One can only wonder if Vermont will be next to open an “all trimester” clinic in view of passage of Proposal 5? The new constitutional amendment is an open invitation if there ever was one.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO
BRING OUR
PERSON-CENTERED
MODEL OF
ALL-TRIMESTER
ABORTION
CARE TO THE
WEST COAST.

Bishop Christopher Coyne's statement regarding the passage of Article 22



Bishop Christopher Coyne, November 9, 2022

The passage of Article 22 amending the Vermont State Constitution to enshrine abortion without restriction up until birth as a fundamental right and value of our state is deeply troubling and tragic.

As a result, no future laws or restrictions that protect the life of the child in the womb may be enacted by the legislature or government. This certainly does not bode well for the future.

Yet we Catholics and others who share our love for all human life will continue to do what we have been doing: encouraging, supporting and forming a greater culture of life. As I wrote in my pastoral letter of Sept. 14, 2022, abortion is a choice made in desperation. Women experience higher rates of poverty than men, often have to sacrifice a career to raise children, make less money than men and lack sufficient maternity leave and affordable childcare and healthcare.

Add to this the high cost of housing, inflation and lack of affordable higher education opportunities, and you can begin to understand the hopelessness some pregnant women face.

We must increase our efforts to support pregnant women, new mothers and families. While others are promoting

abortion as a solution to poverty, we must offer other options. We must continue to create a culture of life.

On March 25, 2020, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative through the office of its Pro-Life Committee. The initiative supplied guidance and goals to prepare every Catholic parish to connect local pregnant and parenting women in need to every helpful resource. I hope that we can establish "Walking with Moms in Need" in every parish and strengthen our charitable outreach to families in crisis through our emergency aid program, St. Joseph the Provider Project and food ministries in all of our 68 parishes throughout the state.

I thank all those who worked so hard over many months to educate people about the ramifications of a "yes" vote for Article 22 and the necessity of voting "no." In this most pro-choice of states, a significant number of citizens did vote "no" to no avail. Yet, while we cannot change the decision of Vermonters to remove all protections from an unborn child, we can provide a safe haven and resources to mothers who want to make another choice.



Enclosed is my 2023 membership contribution of:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ |



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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**The red rose is the symbol of the pro-life movement.
Please send in your 2023 membership today!**

Vermont Right to Life





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Vermont Media Outlets Feature Abortionist Lauren MacAfee as “Neutral” Source on Article 22

Lauren MacAfee, MD, testified in favor of “no limits” abortions in Committees of both the Vermont House and Senate and yet was regarded as a neutral source by every Vermont media outlet.

Here is her testimony before the Vermont House Human Services Committee on January 22, 2019. MacAfee was responding to a question about babies that may survive an abortion.

Lauren: “Yes absolutely. So, abortions in the second trimester and beyond which are exceptionally rare and make up less than 10 percent of all abortions that take place in the United States are, can be done in one of two ways: one is an induction abortion which is similar to a labor induction having a vaginal birth and then the other is through a Dilation & Extraction or Evacuation procedure which is a surgical procedure. In the induction process above viability, in the circumstances in which those abortions take place, almost exclusively all providers will **inject a feticidal injection** ahead of time so they will

*inject something into the pregnancy or the fetus to **stop the heartbeat prior to the induction taking place so that the fetus dies on the inside prior to being delivered.** In a Dilation and Evacuation the medical/surgical procedure often times what happens is the umbilical cord is clamped and transected prior to the procedure starting **so again effectively stopping the heartbeat of the fetus** before any further action is taken.”*

There are some regulations in that.....I don't know if Brynn has that, around partial birth abortion act in the US Constitution, or not Constitution but.... Legislative Counsel Brynn Hare:it is a Congressional act

*“A Congressional Act that has specific stipulations that requires that we all abide by that so that the scenario that you are describing where a fetus may be born partially alive does not take place...**and then exterminated....**”*

Editor's note: I took the liberty of bolding certain words to convey the callous tone MacAfee exhibited. There is also a video tape available of the interview.