VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE

Volume 52, Number 2 Spring/Summer 2024

Dobbs Decision 2nd BIRTHday Picnic ~ June 22, 2024 ~ State House Grounds

11:30 am to 2:00 pm

While Planned Parenthood shouts "who loves abortion," pro-lifers will be singing Happy Birthday! The event will feature games and prizes, informational tables, music, short speeches and fellowships. Hotdogs, BIRTHday cake, and ice cream provided. This is a family friendly event so do plan to bring your children, students and friends, and more picnic food.

Respect Life Mass to be offered at St. Augustine Church in Montpelier Saturday, June 22, 2024 ~ 10:30 am to 11:30 am

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Pack a BIRTHday Picnic lunch and join us on the State House Lawn! In case of rain Join us in the St Augustine Hall in Montpelier to celebrate BIRTHdays!



Join us on Saturday June 22, 2024 for Dobbs Decision 2nd BIRTHday Picnic!



Can you make a "Summer Sustaining" donation?

By Mary Hahn Beerworth, Executive Director, VRLC

Summer months are traditionally slow months for giving as families are preoccupied with children and grandchildren, vacations, plans and pursuits.

Mary Hahn Beerworth, Executive Director

The pro-life work of the Vermont Right to Life Committee will

continue throughout those months and we hope to see you at our Dobbs Decision 2nd BIRTHday Picnic (June 22, 2024) at a pro-life booth at the county fairs, working on church outreach, actively involved in local races for House and Senate, and so much more.

I can personally assure you that VRLC is frugal with the funds we receive. Our budget is based on the work of volunteers across the state and their work in their local communities. It has always been our mission, and our hope, to be the "Voice of the Unborn," as we have been since 1971. Now is not the time to let up using our voices for these precious little ones.

Many of our supporters made generous gifts during our 2024 Membership Drive campaign back in January. If you gave in January, please consider a "Summer Sustaining" gift - of any amount -to help us meet our obligations through the summer.

If you missed the Membership Drive, please consider using the enclosed envelope to send a "little something" \sim and please add a prayer when you do!

From all of us at VRLC, we wish you and yours a blessed and joyful summer! Mary

PS Please use the enclosed return envelope to make a "Summer Sustaining" gift today!

Update on Constitutional Amendments to Secure Unlimited Abortion

Although Article 22 was overwhelmingly approved by two different sessions of the Vermont Legislature and voters approved adding the amendment to the Vermont Constitution to secure unlimited abortion rights, other states are proving to be wiser by rejecting similar attempts. Vermont's neighboring states, New Hampshire and Maine, have both blocked efforts to garner enough votes in their respective legislatures to qualify for the ballot.

Most recently, the Minnesota Legislature failed, narrowly, to pass an extreme ERA proposal that would put abortion-up-to-birth in the Minnesota Constitution.

Spokespersons for Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life called their success, "A massive victory for unborn babies and their moms! For the time being, at least, those babies won't be permanently excluded from protection by our Constitution."

Similar attempts in Louisiana and Connecticut both failed this past year.

However, 11 states have followed Vermont's reckless lead and will have

Vermont Right to Life Review Vol. 52 No. 2 Spring/Summer 2024 Mary Hahn Beerworth, Editor The Vermont Right to Life Review (ISSN #1086-7384) is published regularly by the Vermont Right to Life Committee, Inc., PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601. Phone (802) 229-4885. Subscription price is \$15.00 per year and should be directed to VRLC, PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601 abortion ballot initiatives before the voters in 2024. Those states are Florida, Maryland, New York, Arkansas, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Nebraska, South Dakota, Hawaii and Iowa.

"The right to kill a child should never be up to popular vote. The right to life is an inalienable right that comes from God, not government. All human life is sacred. Human life begins at the moment of fertilization," Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman, Mat Staver. The right to kill a child should never be up to popular vote. The right to life is an inalienable right that comes from God, not government. All human life is sacred. Human life begins at the moment of fertilization,

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman, Mat Stave

"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

-George Orwell

Planned Parenthood of Vermont Attempted to Expand Their Deadly Services in Vermont

Planned Parenthood lobbyist, Jessica Barquist, testified in favor (along with the usual cadre of likeminded pro-aborts power houses) of House Bill 721. The bill, with over 70 co-sponsors, proposed to increase eligibility for the Dr. Dynasaur program and for Dr. "We did some modeling, and even without increasing the percentage of patients on Medicaid we provide care for, we estimate this would generate about an additional \$1.5M in annual revenue for our Vermont health centers," Barquist stated in her committee testimony.

Dynasaur-like coverage to include income-eligible young adults up to 26 years of age.

In her written testimony, Barquist asked for the House Health Committee to specifically include abortion services and transgender services in the language, hoping to expand revenue



Jessica Barquist, Planned Parenthood's Vice President of Public Affairs / Planned Parenthood in White River Junction, VT

for Planned Parenthood services. (Planned Parenthood clinics across the country are among the largest providers of "transgender services.") Naturally, the committee felt obliged to comply with the request.

Barquist also stated that the extra revenue was needed in order to help the organization cope with a \$3.9 million dollar defict.* Noticeably, Barquist made no mention of the taxpayer funding from both the state and federal government that the Vermont organization has been granted annually for decades.

Despite the high number of co-sponsors and despite the fact that H.721 passed

on the House floor, and was passed out of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the bill was ultimately sent to Senate Finance where it was never taken up.

For now, the failure of H. 721 to pass and be enacted into law, means less taxpayer reimbursement for Planned Parenthood's gruesome "procedures" with their life-altering hormones and deadly abortions.

Legislative Outcomes and Federal Court Challenge Defending Pregnancy Resource Centers and Right to Free Speech

By the end of the 2023 – 2024 legislative session nearly everything on Planned Parenthood's wish list was accomplished. As predicted by prolife leadership, the new amendment to the Vermont Constitution, Article 22, was the underlying reason given for prioritizing issues involving "personal reproductive autonomy."

Working in tandem with the Vermont Medical Society and the UVM Medical Center, Planned Parenthood of Vermont promoted, lobbied for and gained passage of two "shield laws" to protect providers of abortion throughout pregnancy and those engaging in transgender hormones and surgeries. (See Acts 14 and 15 in Vermont statutes.)

But lesser-known provisions include fines that could reach \$10,000 per violation over the free speech rights of Vermont Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs). Shutting down the Pregnancy Resource Centers is a priority for not only Planned Parenthood but for VT's Attorney General Charity Clark. Under the provisions of the new law, the Office of

the AG is granted the sole authority to decide if the PCRs are engaging in



(Burlington) Photo courtesy of Sharon F. Toborg, VRLC Shown here is Jean Marie Davis along with her son Jonah, along with lawyers for Alliance Defending Freedom lawyer Kevin Theriot.

(Continued on page 4)

2024 Pro-Life Lobby Day Draws Large Crowd to the State House

Over 80 pro-lifers attended "Pro-Life Lobby Day" in February, including an encouraging number of young students. The day-long event included fellowship, tours of the State House, writing letters to legislators and an introduction on the House floor. Patricia Blair, mom of twins who died in a car crash with an impaired driver vowed to continue the fight for as long as it takes and she recorded a message Gone but not forgotten

to continue the fight for as long as it takes and she recorded a message for Lobby Day participants that can be found at <u>www.vrlc.net</u>.

Kaleb and Harley would have been 15 years old this year had the very much loved twins survived the crash.

Participants wrote letters to their Senators and Representatives to encourage passage of bills that would bring Vermont in line with 38 states that protect the unborn from those who engage in criminal activity. Entitled, "*An act relating to crimes against an unborn child,*" such a law, if enacted, would acknowledge the humanity of the child in the womb. Both the House and Senate Committees refused to take action, deferring as always to Planned Parenthood, but the fight continues. Kaleb and Harley ~ August 2009





Two national legal teams (Alliance Defending Freedom and the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates) filed a challenge to the law in Federal District Court on July 25, 2023. The state filed a motion to dismiss and arguments for and against were heard on May 16, 2024. Staff and board members from the PRCs and Vermont Right to Life were in attendance.

A press conference was held immediately following the hearing at which Jean Marie Davis, Executive Director of Branches Pregnancy Center in Brattleboro, and Deb Couture, Executive Director of Aspire Now in Williston, laid out the case.

We now await the decision of Judge William Sessions. VRLC will update you when that decision is released. Be sure you are getting email updates by sending your address to vrlc@ vrlc.net



Lobby Day participants write letters to their Senators and Representatives encouraging passage of "An act relating to crimes against an unborn child."



L ittle Ones O Ider Ones Ulnerable Ones very One

For daily statewide current events, including pro-life issues, consider subscribing to the Vermont Daily Chronicle: <u>news@vermontdaily</u> <u>chronicle.com</u>

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New Hampshire man charged in death of an unborn child after killing of pregnant woman

William Kelly, 28, appeared in Carroll County Superior Court in Ossipee, NH in March of 2024 to face charges that he killed a pregnant woman and her unborn child by means of multiple blunt force injuries. New Hampshire enacted a law in 2017that defines a fetus at 20 weeks of development and beyond as a person for purposes of criminal prosecution of murder. The law took effect in 2018.

According to AP press accounts, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Mitchell Weinberg determined that Christine Falzone, 33, was about 35 to 37 weeks pregnant at the time of her death. Kelly's case is the first time New Hampshire had charged someone with murder in the death of a fetus, said Michael Garrity, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office. Kelly was indicted by a Carroll County grand jury on two counts of second-degree murder.

Two Vermont Supreme Court Cases in Conflict ~ Legislature Needs to Act

Vaillancourt vs Medical Center (1980) The court held in Vaillancourt that there exists statutory liability for the negligently-caused death of an unborn viable fetus.

Oliver v State of Vermont (1989) This case involved the death of a viable unborn child as a result of a crash involving a drunk driver. In Oliver, the court did not find the child to be recognized as a person under the law in Oliver v State.

"Vermont's legislature has still not fixed the problem noted by its Supreme Court in *Oliver v State*. Thus a doctor can be sued for neglecting a fetus that a drunk driver or spousal abuser cannot be charged for killing. I submit that these two situations chiefly do address *mothers*' rights (and fathers' rights) as much as they do fetal life –because the two are inextricable. It's not an either/or. The mother and father in *Vaillancourt* lost their child; so did the couple in *Oliver*.

John Klar. Attorney and Author, Brookfield, Vt. 2019 Testimony to Vt Legislature regarding H.57 (Act 47)

In *Oliver v State of Vermont*, Vermont Supreme Court Justices concluded: "That task must be accomplished by the legislature."

In December of 2023, a Vermont woman who was 6 months pregnant told police "that George C. Grant punched her in the stomach about three times with his fist and then poured turpentine on her exposed skin." She stated that Grant was trying to kill her unborn baby.

Editor's Note: Despite the rise in crimes and homicides among pregnant women, the Vermont Legislature declined to give even hold a hearing on the House and Senate bills to confront the matter, deferring once again to pressure from the abortion lobby. Justice requires the Vermont Legislature to take long overdue action.

Pro-Life Advertising Campaign a Success!

Vermont Right to Life kicked off a statewide media campaign in January of this year entitled: "Empowering Women." Using the latest in social media strategies, with the advice of professional consultants, the campaign reached over 100,000 Vermonters. The campaign is designed to demonstrate that pro-lifers are both prowoman *and* pro-life.

The video ad can be found on the home page of our web site: <u>www.vrlc.net.</u>



2021~2023 - Physician-Assisted Suicide Deaths Skyrocket in Vermont

Act 39 reports 84 deaths by lethal ingestion for the latest two-year figures available, up from 42 deaths in the prior two years.

WHY? Patient Choices Vermont actively promotes ingesting the lethal dose to vulnerable patients and actively promotes removing safeguards.

<u>Claims made:</u> In 2013, when the suicide law finally narrowly passed here in Vermont, the prediction from promoters of the law was that it would be used by about 10-15 people annually.

<u>Reality today:</u> The number of deaths by ingesting a lethal dose doubled in the last two years. Facts:

- <u>S.74 (Act 97)</u> was signed into law in April 2022. S.74 eliminated important safeguards that were promised by proponents. Safeguards that were in the original law required an in-person consultation with a primary physician. Now Act 97 allows patients to make the request for a lethal dose over the telephone.
- Patient Choices Vermont advertises and actively promotes use of the lethal drugs, has staff members in attendance at most of the deaths, gathers their stories, and produces promotional videos.
- <u>H.190 (Act 10)</u> was signed into law in May 2023. It eliminated the requirement to be a Vermont resident. Passage of the law in Vermont now effectively undermines the laws in neighboring states whose state legislatures have declined to eliminate protections at the end of life for vulnerable patients by passage of such a law.
- According to Patient Choice Vermont, promoters of the law, "the flurry of news surrounding both of these campaigns greatly increased public awareness of the existence of Act 39. We believe that in-depth local and national stories of patients and families, along with many recent books, podcasts, and other media have contributed to the increase in numbers."

First non-resident travels to Vermont to die

A Bridgeport, Connecticut woman is the first non-resident to travel to Vermont to die as part of the state's assisted suicide law, also known as Act 39. **Lynda Bluestein** was a cancer patient who had filed a lawsuit demanding that she be allowed to end her life in Vermont even though she was not a Vermont resident. Before the lawsuit was settled, the Vermont legislature passed H.190, a bill that eliminated the residency requirement.

Bluestein traveled with her husband to a small town in Vermont and took the drugs to end her life on January 4, 2024. News coverage stated that Bluestein feared she had waited too long and that she would die before ingesting the lethal drug cocktail to end her life.

Editor's note: Actions by the Vermont legislature, enacted into law by Governor Scott, open the door to anyone in the world coming to our state to end their lives. Of interest to readers is this information from Patient Choices VT (PVC) in their latest online fundraiser: "The PCV Helpline team is able to consult with our medical team to address any clinical questions that may arise. We are grateful to **Dr. Diana Barnard**, **Dr. Jaina Clough**, and **Dr. Zail Berry** for their ongoing guidance." Editor's note continues: VRLC recommends that you not allow these physicians to have care over you or your loved ones.

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!

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Stop by and visit the Pro-Life Booths at the VT Country Fairs!



Canada's so-called "Medical Aid in Dying"

Canadian abortionist and MAID (Medical Aid In Dying) doctor Ellen Wiebe was recently featured in a BBC documentary on assisted-suicide.

BBC: How many deaths have you been involved with?

Ellen Wiebe: Over 400.

BBC: That sounds like a lot. Is that what you do now?

Ellen Wiebe: No, I still run a contraception and abortion clinic in addition to my MAID work.

Later in the interview, Wiebe states, *I love my job!* ... This is the very best work *I've done in the last seven* years!

"Human rights advocates have criticized Canada's euthanasia laws for lacking safeguards, devaluing the lives of disabled people, prompting health workers and doctors to suggest euthanasia to people who would not otherwise consider it, and killing people who were not receiving adequate government support to continue living. Equally troubling, advocates say, are instances in which people have sought to be killed because they weren't getting adequate government support to live." (AP 2022)

Euthanasia "cannot be a default for Canada's failure to fulfill its human rights obligations," said Marie-Claude Landry, the head of its Human Rights Commission. (AP 2022) Is Vermont far behind?

Vermont's Baby Safe Haven Law

In May of 2006, then Governor Jim Douglas signed a baby safe haven law, making Vermont the 47th state in the nation with a law designed to allow parents to abandon newborn babies in safe locations without fear of prosecution.

Attending the ceremony was then-14-yr-old Danielle Leonard of Northfield who was found abandoned as a newborn in Montpelier's Hubbard Park by then-Secretary of State Deb Markowitz, who helped push the Legislature to enact the law.

"In my circumstance, I ended up fine," Danielle Leonard said after the signing. "But I'm sure there could have been a chance that nobody would have been in the park that day, and I could have died."

The law allows distraught parents to leave their babies in what are considered to be safe places, such as police and fire stations or houses of worship. Markowitz, who lives in Montpelier, was walking in the park when she heard what she thought was a kitten. Instead she found a newborn baby. "If anything, this should be called Danielle's bill. This is the baby that I found when she was in Hubbard Park, abandoned," Markowitz said as she put her arm around Leonard. "As you can see, she's precious."

Another abandoned baby case occurred in Northfield 43 years ago and authorities have recently closed the case using modern DNA testing.

"A baby boy was found dead in a garbage bag on the side of a road in Northfield in April 1982. Four Northfield children were waiting for a school bus about 7 a.m. on April 1, 1982 when they discovered the abandoned baby along Mill Hill Road, state police said at the time," according to the Vermont Daily Chronicle.*

The baby, initially called "Baby Boy Doe," was later given the name Matthew Isaac Doe by a Northfield minister who conducted a funeral at St. Mary's Church in Northfield with about 80 people attending.

No charges will be filed in the case as according to press accounts the biological father was unaware of the pregnancy, and the biological mother stated to the authorities that the baby boy was delivered with the umbilical cord around his neck and deceased.

The National Safe Haven Alliance,

another nonprofit dedicated to infant abandonment prevention, estimates that more than 4,500 babies have been relinquished under safe haven laws since 1999.



A grave stone was dedicated to Matthew Isaac Doe where he was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery.

New Concept ~ Safe Haven Baby Boxes

In 2016, baby boxes became an acceptable addition to the Safe Haven laws and currently 12 states have adopted such laws.

If a parent does not want to be seen, they can place their baby in the box and leave; the boxes trigger an alarm that brings someone to collect the baby. Currently, the boxes can only be installed in fire departments and hospitals.

A Safe Haven Baby Box in Little Rock, Arkansas welcomed two infants in just a few weeks, before the box was even dedicated in a blessing ceremony. "In just the last few weeks, we have had two instances of parents who have surrendered their newborn babies at our fire stations because they believed they had no other choice, for whatever the reason," Mayor Frank Scott Jr. said.

The Safe Haven Baby Box organization installs temperature-controlled units in the side of fire stations or similar buildings in various states throughout the country. When a child is placed inside, the box automatically locks and triggers a silent alarm alerting first responders who retrieve the child within minutes. The baby is often taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure, and then later placed for adoption.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes was founded by Monica Kelsey, who was herself abandoned as a baby after her mother was raped at age 17. Kelsey, a firefighter and medic from Indiana, has stated that this is the motivation behind the baby box concept and for her work as a pro-life speaker.



Monica Kelsey, Founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

"Emerge Vermont" Behind Radical Make-Up of Vermont Legislature

Puzzled about how the state you once knew and loved became the most leftist, radical state in the US, comparable only to California?

For answers look no further than Emerge Vermont by using this link: <u>https://vt.emergeamerica.org/</u>

The radical organization supports women who agree with their extreme agenda including adherence to Planned Parenthood's deadly pro-abortion legislative strategy.

The following is taken from their website to prove their effectiveness in the political arena:

- 186 women and non-binary individuals have completed our Signature Training or Bootcamp.
- Currently 98 alums hold 123 elected or appointed public offices.
- Today, 45% of alums and trainees are in office, 54% have been in office, and 67% have run for office.
- 71 Emerge Vermont trained women ran for office in 2022.
- 69 Emerge Vermont trained women were elected to public office in 2022, including US Representative, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State, and Attorney General.
- 81% win rate for Emerge Vermont alums running for office.

Emerge Vermont also lists those who have "graduated" from their "boot camp" training program including:

Becca Balint — U.S. House of Representatives,

Sarah Copeland Hanzas - Vermont Secretary of State

Charity Clark - Vermont Attorney General

42 Members of the Current Legislature:

Julia Andrews — State House, Chittenden-25, Angela Arsenault — State House, Chittenden-2 (Champlain Valley Union School Board 🤣 Justice of the Peace), Williston, Sarita Austin — State House, Chittenden-19 & Justice of the Peace, Colchester, Daisy Berbeco State House, Chittenden-21 (Justice of the Peace), Winooski, Alyssa Black — State House, Chittenden-24 (Justice of the Peace), Westford, Tiffany Bluemle — State House, Chittenden-13, Michelle Bos-Lun — State House, Windham-3, Jana Brown — State House, Chittenden-1, Jessica Brumsted — State House, Chittenden-7, Tesha Buss — State House, Windsor-5, Ela Chapin — State House, Washington-5, Sara Coffey - State House, Windham-1, Mari Cordes - State House, Addison-4, Leonora Dodge - State House, Chittenden-23 (Justice of the Peace), Essex, Karen Dolan — State House, Chittenden-22, Kari Dolan — State House, Washington-2, Chea Evans — State House, Chittenden-5 (Justice of the Peace), Charlotte, Rey Garofano – State House, Chittenden-23 & Justice of the Peace, Essex, Leslie Goldman – State House, Windham-3 & Justice of the Peace, Bellows Falls, Edye Graning — State House, Chittenden-3 (Mt. Mansfield Union School Board), Martine Gulick — State Senate, Chittenden County (Burlington School District Board), Ruth Hardy — State Senate, Addison County, Wendy Harrison — State Senate, Windham County, Kesha Ram Hinsdale — State Senate, Chittenden County, Rebecca Holcombe — State House, Windsor-Orange-2, Kathleen James — State House, Bennington-4, Stephanie Jerome — State House, Rutland-9, Emilie Kornheiser — State House, Windham-7, Emilie Krasnow — State House, Chittenden-9, Jill Krowinski — State House, Chittenden-16; Speaker of the House—State House, Chittenden-6 (Justice of the Peace), Shelburne, Saudia LaMont — State House, Lamoille-Washington, Josie Leavitt — State House, Grand Isle-Chittenden (Selectboard, Grand Isle), Kate McCann — State House, Washington-4, Kate Nugent - State House, Chittenden-10 (Justice of the Peace), South Burlington, Carol Ode - State House, Chittenden-18, Monique Priestley -State House, Orange-2 (Justice of the Peace), Bradford, Katherine Sims — State House, Orleans-4, Gabrielle Stebbins — State House, Chittenden-13, Dara Torre — State House, Washington-2, Anne Watson — State Senate, Washington County (Mayor of Montpelier), Becca White — State House, Windsor-4-2 & State Senate, Windsor County (Justice of the Peace), Wilder.

Please use the enclosed return envelope to make a "Summer Sustaining" gift today!

Biden Administration Jails Pro-Life Protestors

According to online news outlet, LifeNews (May 2024), the Biden administration has already put a dozen pro-life Americans in prison for protesting abortion, but that's apparently not enough for Biden and the radical abortion activists in his administration.

The Justice Department filed suit against two prolife groups and several pro-life advocates on by falsely

The Justice Department is seeking financial damages, including \$20,516 for first violations and \$30,868 for subsequent offenses as well as injunctive relief as provided by the FACE Act.

claiming their abortion protests are intimidating and somehow violate the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) law that limits the free speech rights of pro-life Americans.

Biden officials claim the two groups, Citizens for a Pro-Life Society and Red Rose Rescue, along with seven pro-life Americans, violated the FACE law. After putting a dozen pro-life Americans in prison

on bogus charges, these new charges now seek tens of thousands of dollars in "fines" for violating the law that infringes on pro-life free speech.

The Justice Department is seeking financial damages, including \$20,516 for first violations and \$30,868 for subsequent offenses as well as injunctive relief as provided by the FACE Act.

Thomas More Society attorneys representing pro-life advocates Lauren Handy and Monica Miller responded to Biden's latest attack on pro-life Americans. "Hardly one week has passed since Lauren Handy was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison, and the Biden Department of Justice is already coming after her again using the FACE Act," pro-life attorney Martin Cannon told LifeNews.

He added: "This time, the DOJ is seeking to impose crushing fines to the tune of the tens of thousands of dollars, and other penalties, on her and veteran pro-lifer Monica Miller—for utterly peaceable and compassionate pro-life conduct at an Ohio abortion business. 'Red Rose Rescues' are peaceful events where participants counsel outside the abortion business or walk in and sit with pregnant mothers in abortionists' waiting rooms, giving them red roses and offering them the help and assistance they need to choose life—in the exact moment when they're in dire need of compassionate support. These are not threatening or intimidating actions that violate the FACE Act, despite the caricature that the DOJ would like the public to believe."



Photo by Maria Oswalt on Unsplash

A DOJ press release does not mention criminal charges, but nothing prevents Biden officials from bringing them.

Miller said her pro-life activities – which include protests outside abortion centers

as well as handing women inside abortion centers red roses with information about abortion alternatives, do not violate the FACE law because they do not threaten anyone nor do they block "access" to abortion

Miller said they "never block anything or anyone – and if the Department of Justice is coming after us for our peaceful, life-saving efforts, it's because they will simply play fast and loose with the FACE language having to do with 'physical obstruction' that prevents 'freedom of movement.'"

For daily statewide current events, including pro-life issues, consider subscribing to the Vermont Daily Chronicle: <u>news@vermontdailychronicle.com</u>

Poll Shows Majority of Americans Support Harrison Butker's Pro-Life, Pro-Family Message

(Washington, DC) A firestorm of controversy was unleashed in May when Kansas City Chiefs placekicker Harrison Butker gave a graduation speech at a Catholic college, expressing traditional Christian views about family and a pro-life message.

But new polling shows most Americans aren't offended, however.

The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone and online survey finds that 58% of American Adults approve of Butker expressing his religious beliefs, including 38% who Strongly Approve.

Only 29% disapprove, including 15% who Strongly Disapprove. Another 12% are not sure.

Voters also criticized the National Football League (NFL) for releasing its statement criticizing the pro-life player for condemning abortion and celebrating motherhood.

By a margin of 51%- 37%, voters said they disapproved of the NFL's condemnation of Butker.

A further question found 43% said what's most important to women is marriage and children, while 30% chose a successful career. Rasmussen said 58% approved while 29% didn't for telling students, "Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world, but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

After coming under fire from football fans from across the country, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell ultimately walked back the league's criticism of pro-life football player Harrison

"Listen, we have over 3,000 players," Goodell said in his statement. "They have diversity of opinions and thoughts just like America does."

"I think that's something we treasure. That's part of what ultimately makes us as a society better," he added.

Butker, a three-time Super Bowlwinning kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, slammed Joe Biden during a commencement speech at Benedictine College recently that

has gone viral on social media.

Butker and the college are both Catholic and the NFL player ripped Biden for being a hypocrite – claiming to be Catholic while ignoring the pro-life teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Chiefs player said, "Our own nation is led by a man who proudly proclaims his Catholic faith, but at the same time is delusional enough to

Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world, but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world.

Harrison Butker, Benedictine College commencement speech, May 17, 2024

make the Sign of The Cross during a pro-abortion rally."

"He has been so vocal in his support for the murder of innocent babies that I'm sure to many people it appears you can be both Catholic and pro-choice," Butker added.

In his remarks, Butker also urged the Christian church to stand up stronger for Christian values.

"We need to stop pretending that the church of nice is a winning proposition," Butker said. "... We must always speak and act in charity. But never mistake charity for cowardice."

He continued: "The world around us says that we should keep our beliefs to ourselves whenever they go against the tyranny of diversity, equity and inclusion. We fear speaking truth, because now, unfortunately, truth is in the minority."

Excerpts taken from <u>www.</u> <u>LifeNews.com</u>



Harrison Butker





Church Flyer Project Aims for Respect Life Month

A pro-life team is working together to produce a fourpage, full color flyer for the Respect Life Month of October. The goal of the project is to reach every church attendee but especially those young families in the church pews with middle to high school age children. The aim is for the flyer to prompt discussions at home about the value of their own lives and the lives of others. Feature will include a quiz on life issues and Vermont stories of

Proposed Church Bulletin insert

- Take the informational quiz
- Read stories of young people facing challenges
- Vermont Pregnacy resources....and more

challenges and courage.

Look for the insert or flyer in your church and begin the discussion.

The project will be sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust Fund under the DBA registered name of Pro-Life Vermont and will include pregnancy resource information.

