



## Keeping The Momentum Going!

Tremendous progress has been made. The number of abortions has dropped dramatically.

~ Carol Tobias, National Right to Life President

Sometimes I hear the question: "Isn't it time we move on from abortion and work on other issues?"

For those who have donated money and time to the cause, written letters to their elected officials, and voted for pro-life candidates, they want to know their efforts make a difference. Some ask, "If we haven't ended abortion yet, can we ever?"

Of course, those who keep themselves informed about pro-life issues know that tremendous progress has been made. The number of abortions has dropped precipitously. State legislatures across the country are passing record numbers of life-saving laws -- laws that for the first time in decades are actually banning abortions. Polls show young people are among the most pro-life Americans.

But for some, the question remains. "How much longer?" Few goals in an individual's life require decades of struggle; most of us succeed or fail much quicker.

March, Women's History Month, gave us a lesson about patience in trying

to bring about major changes in law and policy from efforts to give women the right to vote. (I am not comparing this issue to abortion; I am merely noting that changes in this area, like changes in abortion policy, did not come about overnight.)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton famously proposed women's suffrage at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, but the 19th Amendment giving women the right to

**Millions of precious human lives have been saved from abortion because of the tireless efforts of so many who did not give up, and who never will!**

vote throughout the U. S. wasn't ratified and made law until 1920 -- over seven decades later. At many points along the way, I'm sure many felt the efforts were simply never going to pay off. The victory that ultimately came did not seem like a foregone conclusion to many casual observers at the time.

Of course, some celebrating Women's History Month think that you and I

are a part of a "war against women," but this is a slander, really. The leader of the fight to pass the Amendment that finally gave women the right to vote, Alice Paul, once said abortion is "just another way to exploit women," a sentiment she shared with many other early advocates of women's rights.

Change may not come quickly, but we know that pro-life efforts are never in vain, especially to the little baby boy or girl who owes his or her life to our efforts and your support. Millions of precious human lives have been saved from abortion because of the tireless efforts of so many who did not give up, and who never will!

We're mindful in Women's History Month of the half-million little baby girls who will lose their lives to abortion this year, and of the countless mothers who will suffer deep physical and emotional scars from their abortions.

We wish every group claiming to represent women would stand with us in this fight. But sadly, they won't.

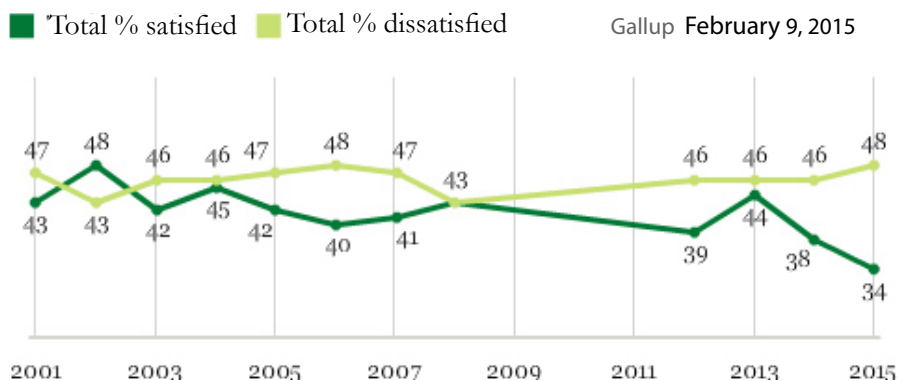
## Gallup: Americans want stricter abortion laws; satisfaction with current policy plummets

In the above article, Carol Tobias writes of the significant strides being made in pro-life areas. One question on a recent Gallup poll seems to verify that opinion as regards abortion.

The question Gallup asked:

How about the nation's policies regarding the abortion issue?

In the poll, only 34% of Americans said they are satisfied with U.S. abortion policies. This is the lowest percentage since Gallup first asked the question in 2001.





## Doctor Saves Premature Baby's Life Who Becomes Paramedic and Saves His Life 30 Years Later

On March 29, 2011, Dr. Michael Shannon was trapped in a burning car after a car accident with a semi-truck. California's Orange County Fire Department arrived at the scene and among them was Chris Trokey, a young paramedic. Thankfully, they were able to remove Dr. Shannon from the car, but he had to spend 45 days at Mission Hospital to recover from burned legs and internal injuries.

It was during that time that Trokey realized he helped saved the life of the doctor who saved his when he was a baby. According to KTLA news, 30 years ago Trokey was born premature and weighed only 3.2 pounds. He was given only a 50% chance of survival; however, Dr. Shannon worked around the clock to save his life.

Trokey said he was very excited to be reunited with Dr. Shannon. He said, "I didn't know about this until I went to the hospital and started talking about it. And I was like, 'Oh my gosh, Dr. Shannon?'"

Dr. Shannon commented, "It's amazing to watch them all grow up, but to have one come back in your life, on a day you really need it, that's really incredible." Now, Trokey is a father, and Dr. Shannon is his son's pediatrician.

LifeNews 3/31/15

## British Columbia Court of Appeal upholds right to receive fluids and food

In Bentley v. Maplewood Seniors Care Society, Justice Mary Newbury agreed with a lower court judge, ruling that a woman, who has advanced Alzheimer's disease, is exercising her consent when she opens her mouth to accept food and water and that normal feeding constitutes basic personal care and not medical treatment.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

(EPC), represented by Hugh Scher and Geoff Cowper QC, were interveners in the case at trial and on appeal. Justice Newbury stated in the decision:

"It is a grave thing, however, to ask or instruct caregivers to stand by and watch a patient starve to death. It should come as no surprise that a court of law will be assiduous in seeking to ascertain and give effect to the wishes of the patient in the 'here and now', even in the face of prior directives, whether clear or not."

The Coalition advanced its position at the Supreme Court of British Columbia, which previously ruled that oral nutrition should not be considered health care or medical treatment, but rather as basic personal care and support. They found that patient Bentley is making the decision to accept oral nutrition and hydration and is "providing her consent through her behavior when she accepts nourishment and liquids."

The Supreme Court ruled spoon-feeding is "a form of personal care, not health care," and "withdrawing oral nutrition and hydration for an adult that is not capable of making that decision would constitute neglect within the meaning of the Adult Guardianship Act."

## ... and EPC's USA Update

On November 1, 2014, the assisted suicide lobby launched a national campaign to legalize assisted suicide throughout the United States with the death of Brittany Maynard.

On March 25, the assisted suicide lobby released a video of Maynard, even though she had died almost 5 months earlier, promoting assisted suicide for California.

Since January, assisted suicide bills have been introduced in 19 states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin.

State coalitions against assisted suicide and disability rights leaders are successfully lobbying the state legislators to oppose assisted suicide in nearly every state.

Special mention must be given to Not

Dead Yet and their team of local contacts including members of the disability rights group Second Thoughts.

*(Editor's note: MRL Legislative Liaison Susan Klein feels the Missouri bill will make no progress in this session. Assisted suicide bills lead us to rationalize our choices to devalue life. Missouri's pro-life legislators and pro-life citizens work together to protect the gift of and right to life from conception to natural death.)*

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition 4/15

## Abortion Groups Spend Over a Billion of Your Tax Dollars

More than a billion tax dollars were spent over a three year period on groups that promote abortion. In a report released from the Government Accountability Office, six abortion sellers, including Planned Parenthood, received \$1.5 billion.

Planned Parenthood and its affiliates received \$344.5 million in federal funds and another \$1.2 billion from Medicaid, which includes federal and state funds. That's a total of \$1.5 billion over the three year period.

The new data is part of a records request made by United States representatives in 2013. The report covers funding from 2010-2013.

"This report confirms what we suspected all along: hard-earned taxpayer dollars continue to be used to promote abortions," said Rep. Diane Black of Tennessee. "As a nurse for more than 40 years, I know that abortion is not health care. In light of this report, Congress should act swiftly by passing the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which would help cut off federal funding of organizations like these that promote the destruction of unborn life."

The six organizations researched are Planned Parenthood, Population Council, International Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Guttmacher Institute, Advocates for Youth, and Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

"Planned Parenthood is responsible for killing more than 6 million unborn children," Rep. Chris Smith explained, "and it is unconscionable that this organization continues to be subsidized by the American taxpayer."

CitizenLink 3/31/15

*From the President ~*

## *It's a topsy-turvy world*

The world is upside down!

Abortion has become so ingrained in our culture that common sense and common decency are no longer common. Abortion on demand for 41 years has coarsened our respect for life. When you disrespect life at one juncture, you disrespect life at every juncture.

Since January 22, 1973, we have cavalierly taken the lives of well over fifty million innocent Americans. That cavalier attitude has bled into disrespect for the elderly and the infirmed through the growing trend of “assisted suicide.” Continuing in that trend, America is looking to emulate other countries that offer “post-birth abortion,” a term that would be called infanticide in a nation with common sense.

Abortion is so much a part of our culture that a woman can literally cut a viable, seven-month-old little girl from her mother's womb, killing the child, and in place of outrage, the state of Colorado said that little girl did not exist. *What?* In the eyes of the state, that beautiful, innocent child of God is *nothing*.

In their twisted logic, the state believes that laws to protect that little girl would infringe on abortion. What kind of a nation would tolerate such thinking?

It is precisely because of this type of insanity that we need your help. Missouri Right to Life has been instrumental in passing many laws that would stop that kind of madness ... and we couldn't have done it without you. You called your legislators, you came to Jefferson City for our Pro-Life Action Days, you donated to our efforts, you voted for MRL PAC-endorsed candidates, you worked at countless pro-life educational events, you helped in so many ways ... and you prayed for us.

Please continue to do all of these things, and together we'll bring America back!

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

God bless!

*Steve Rupp*



Steve Rupp



National Right to Life Affiliate

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[www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org)

“ When I think of losing you, Mom and Dad, it frightens and saddens me. But what truly disturbs me is the thought of not having the chance to take care of you when you need care, not being able to love you when you need love, not being able to give back just a little of the love you have given me for so many years.”

## Never a Burden

~ Greg Chesmore

Dear Mom and Dad,

I never dreamed I'd be writing this letter. I've always assumed that there is an unspoken bond by which parents know that their children love them deeply and would do anything for them. But as I listen to the news reports about the move to legalize so-called “aid in dying,” and hear people clamoring for this supposed “right” to help other people kill themselves (mainly the aged or the terminally ill), I realize that I need to share my heart with you.

The most common reason people favor assisted suicide is that they don't want to be a burden on their families. I know this fear is real, even for you. I've heard you say, “If I ever found out I was going to die, I'd just end it all. Better that than using up all our life savings and forcing the family to watch me die.”

The reason I'm writing you this letter today is to beg you to understand that even though caring for you may involve hard work and sleepless nights, I will never consider you a burden. Human beings are never “burdens” -- they're people with dignity. Assisted suicide and euthanasia aren't merciful. They are selfish acts that rob us all of our humanity. Mom and Dad, you will never be “burdens”; you'll always be Mom and Dad.

You have given me so much. I can't even begin to count the selfless things you've done to make my life better. You've sacrificed, you've worked, you've worried, you've loved. I'm asking you to allow me to do these things for you. Allow me to love. Allow me to sacrifice. Allow me to show you how much I care. Please don't take these opportunities away from me.

We all come into this world needing help with the simplest acts of life. We needed someone to feed us and help us get around. When we prepare to leave this world, many of us will need that same kind of assistance. Why do people think we lose dignity when we need care at the end of life? It's a natural part of life's path. Yet there seems to be a growing number of people who think that dignity depends on whether we're able to feed ourselves or use the bathroom on our own. They don't see every human being as having inherent dignity and inestimable value.

Sometimes it takes something very tragic and frightening to help you realize what you've got. This whole debate over assisted suicide has made me face my mortality and the mortality of those I love. When I think of losing you, Mom and Dad, it frightens and saddens me. But what truly disturbs me is the thought of not having the chance to take care of you when you need care, not being able to love you when you need love, not being able to give back just a little of the love you have given me for so many years.

Even in the most difficult times, I could never think of your lives as a burden to me -- please remember this! Please don't rob us of those precious hours, days, months, and years we have left together. Allow me, in my own small way, to be like Christ to you. Allow me to be Christ-like by serving you and rejoicing in the opportunity to show you how much I love you.

You've been so strong, Mom and Dad. You've taught me how to face life's challenges with grace. As we all reach that time when our Lord calls us out of this imperfect world, let me be strong when you are weak. Please allow me the honor of bearing your burdens. Allow me to show you how much I love you.



## Stealth Euthanasia Warnings

### WATCH OUT FOR MISUSE OF OPIOIDS AND SEDATIVES

Every day terminally ill patients die naturally from their illnesses.

These patients oftentimes are sedated and given opioids or other pain relieving drugs as needed to keep them comfortable and as pain-free as possible while they are approaching death.

This is not euthanasia.

Euthanasia is an action or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering. Hastening death, by neglect or intention, while pretending to provide appropriate end-of-life care is called “stealth euthanasia.”

When clinically unnecessary doses of opioids or extreme increases in dosage are administered with the intent to hasten death, it is stealth euthanasia. The adverse effects of a clinical overdose conveniently -- for the perpetrator -- mimic some of the signs and symptoms of the end-stage of a terminal illness, making a cover-up easy.

Deep continuous sedation (otherwise known as “terminal sedation,” “total sedation,” “palliative sedation,” etc.), while withholding food and fluids in order to cause death by dehydration, is also stealth euthanasia. Sometimes deep sedation is done to increase the level of patient acuity<sup>1</sup> as a means to bill for a higher level of care or make a patient appear to be in need of hospice services. This is Medicare fraud and, when the patient dies as a result, it is stealth euthanasia as well.

Doctors who do not recognize the sanctity and inviolability of every human life cannot be trusted to safely treat you or your loved ones.

The difficulty facing patients, families and healthcare agents is that they do not know how to discern which healthcare providers can be trusted to care and never to kill.

It is crucially important, therefore, that they question the advice, orders, and actions of health care providers whenever they feel that something is not right.

If you are unsure of what to do, please call Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, 651.484.1040. We have physicians and nurses willing and ready to provide reliable pro-life healthcare advice.

<sup>1</sup> “Patient acuity” is a measure of the intensity of care required by a patient, ranging from minimal care to intensive care. Patient acuity determines how much the hospice is reimbursed for providing care.

### Your Doctor's Ethics

It is incumbent upon patients to explore the ethical principles of their doctors.

- Do they uphold the sanctity of life from conception to natural death?
- Do they understand that treatments can be deemed burdensome, but human life is never burdensome?
- Do they view nutrition and hydration as ordinary care as long as a patient can derive a benefit from it?
- Do they reject all justifications for intentionally causing the death of their patients?

If your physician does not answer unequivocally “yes” to each of these questions, can you really trust him with your life?

From “Informed” a publication of Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, A Program of Human Life Alliance. For information or assistance, reach them at 651.484.1040.

“Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to  
get better. It's not.”

~ Dr. Seuss

And we know you do!

Please return the enclosed  
envelope with your most  
generous donation.

Thank you!



Kenall Kf Thehall photography/2015

### GOOD NEWS ~

Babies who were scheduled to be aborted are alive today ... because God blessed your prayers and peaceful vigil during the spring 40 Days for Life. In fact, the campaign knows of 402 babies saved from abortion and their moms saved from tragedy!

The fall 2015 campaign will be September 23 – November 1. Plan to attend!

### When They Say You Say

When They Say:

“If assisted suicide and euthanasia become legal, I won't be affected.”

You Say:

“You will be affected because your doctor will fill the dual role of healer and killer. Your doctor will feel obligated to give you the ‘choice’ of death, even when it may not be warranted.

“HMOs and hospitals may encourage your death to save money.

“You will become fearful of family and medical professionals who are more interested in accelerating your death rather than relieving your pain or preserving your life.”

# 2015 Legislative Session Enters Final Weeks

At press time, important pro-life bills await action.

While the House has passed a critical abortion clinic inspection bill (HB 190) and sent it to the Senate, we await action by the Senate on this very significant legislation.

The House has also moved the budget forward with funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program (HB 5) and has placed pro-life protections on the Department of Economic Development budget bill (HB 7). The House also amended SB 24, an assistance bill for families in need, to include more funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program.

The Senate has moved SB 302, expansion of our current informed consent law, to the Senate calendar and discussions are ongoing on this bill.

Additionally, the Senate has maintained the funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program and the pro-life protections on the Department of Economic Development budget bill.

The Senate has moved Simon's Law (SB 466 & SB 422) to the calendar for debate and passage. Simon's Law is named for Simon Crosier, born in 2010 with the genetic disorder Trisomy 18 and prompted by discoveries made after his death when Simon's mother wrote a book about his short life. In doing research for the book, she found that doctors had placed a "do not resuscitate" order in her son's records without her knowledge and that he also was ordered to receive nutrition as a comfort measure only.

The Crosiers discovered they were not alone. Several other families shared stories of not being informed whether the hospital had a fertility policy and what rights they had as parents in making decisions for their children.

Simon's Law will ensure that parents are involved in the health care decisions made for their minor children. It will also ensure that children with special disabilities are given the same consideration for medical treatment and organ transplants as every other child.

Many great pro-life bills have been filed, and we look forward to working these bills through the process. If passage does not happen this session, then we look forward to seeing these bills through the process of passage in the years to come. If it were up to us, they would all pass this year and serve to save innocent unborn lives. We are truly grieved when a bill does not make it through the process.

Action is very fluid in these last weeks of session, so watch your weekly Lifeline alerts for updates.

And ... keep MRL and your legislators in your daily prayers! Anything is possible in these last weeks!



## Celebrate a lifetime of giving...

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beyond a  
lifetime!

A planned gift to  
Missouri Right to  
Life through your  
will, trust, or an  
annuity is a gift  
that lives on —  
and saves lives.

For information or to request  
a confidential consultation,  
contact Patty Skain at  
573. 635.5110 or email  
[patty.s@missourilife.org](mailto:patty.s@missourilife.org).



## Memorials & Honorariums

*In memory or in honor of loved ones or friends,  
these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

### *In honor of ~*

Pam Fichter  
Colleen Elizabeth Saladin  
Neil Venneman

### *Given by ~*

Sedalia Chapter - MRL  
Jan Boyle  
Joseph & Kathy Venneman

### *In memory of ~*

Mary Ann Berwanger  
Bernard DeGhelder  
Jim Herr

### *Given by ~*

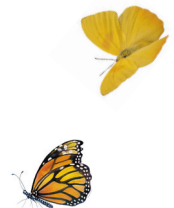
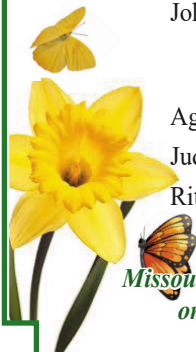
Mary Ornella  
Jan Boyle  
Mary Ann, Gary, JoAnn, Nancy, David,  
Janice, and Jeff

John Halloran

Leon Gaschen  
Jim & Mary Sue Karl  
Mary Vandenoorn

Agnes Hermeyer  
Judy Kauser  
Rita Manzelli

East Central Area Chapter - MRL  
Jim & Joyce Monroe  
St. Clement of Rome Pro-Life Committee



*Missouri Right to Life thanks those who honor their deceased loved ones  
or who celebrate an important event by making a gift to MRL.*



# Pro-Life Across Missouri

save  
date

**May 10, 2015**     **MRL-Western Region Annual Carnation Sale** ~ Time to order carnations for your church or organization! To place an order or for more info call our office 816.353.4113. Orders due by May 1.

**May 15, 2015**     **2015 Missouri Right to Life ED Fund – Western Region Golf Tournament**  
Please join us as a golfer or a sponsor. Eagles' Landing Golf Course, Belton, MO. Free lunch, BBQ dinner, driving range. Gifts and Prizes! To sign up for golf and/or sponsor, call 816.763.5247 or 816.353.4113.

**June 20, 2015**     **Missouri Right to Life Statewide Education and Leadership Meeting**  
All are welcome. Immaculate Conception Parish, Pleus Hall, 1206 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, 10:00 a.m. Lunch provided with free-will offering. Call 573.635.5110 or email [righttolife@missourilife.org](mailto:righttolife@missourilife.org) to register.



Cold weather didn't keep East Central Area Chapter-MRL members away from their annual Candlelight Vigil on Jan. 22. Over 80 hearty souls stood for LIFE on the Washington MO sidewalks.



(L - R) MRL Legislative Chairman Jerry Nieters, Senator Roy Blunt, MRL Legislative Liaison Susan Klein, and MRL PAC Chairman Dave Plemmons at Lincoln Days in Kansas City.

## "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day Attracts Hundreds to State Capitol

ThankstothehundredsofMissourianswhojoinedtogetherattheStateCapitolforPro-LifeActionDay2015!Aseaofredfilledthehalls as grassroots members of Missouri Right to Life called on their elected legislators and urged them to support pro-life legislation.

GuestspeakerCarolTobias,NationalRighttoLifePresident,addressedtheenergeticcrowdofpro-lifepeopleatth noon rally. Shere mindedthosegatheredthatMissourihasalonghistoryofchallengingRoevWade.ItwasaMissourilawthatwasupheldbytheU.S.Supreme Courtin1989,WebstervReproductiveHealth,thatsentshockwavesthroughtheabortion movement.Newsarticleswerewrittenthatthenation'sabortionlawhadbeenweakened;Roev Wade should no longer be considered "settled law."

AsCarolcommented,"MissouriRighttoLifeandourwonderfulgrassrootspro-lifersin Missouri continue to grow and continue to make a difference!"



(L - R) MRL Legislative Liaison Susan Klein, State Senator Wayne Wallingford, and National Right to Life President Carol Tobias at Pro-Life Action Day.



Hundreds of Missourians joined together at the State Capitol for "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day 2015.



(L - R) State Rep. Kathy Swan and State Sen. Wayne Wallingford, House and Senatesponsors of legislation to require annual inspections of abortion facilities, speak with those gathered for Pro-Life Action Day.

## Inside ~

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## ***ABORTION PILL REVERSALS ARE SAVING UNBORN BABIES!***

Andrea Minichini cried as she sat with her boyfriend in a New Jersey Planned Parenthood office. Eight weeks and one day into an unplanned pregnancy, Minichini didn't want to take the RU-486 abortion pill in her hand.

"I can't do this," she told the abortionist, who said she had to -- it was a bad time for her to have a baby. He clapped his hands when she swallowed it. Minichini, still crying, ran out and tried to throw up the pill outside the building. Nothing happened.

She was to take another pill the following day, but instead she recruited her family to find a way to reverse the abortion. The Planned Parenthood staff said it was impossible. The local hospital staff said her baby would be deformed ...

A Google search gave Minichini the hope she sought: Culture of Life Family Services connected her with a local pro-life doctor who said it was possible to save the baby if she could still find a heartbeat. An ultrasound revealed a heart beating 170 times per minute -- normal range for a healthy baby.

The doctor administered five shots of progesterone, the pregnancy hormone, to neutralize the mifepristone, a drug intended to detach an embryo from the uterus, and sent her home with progesterone pills. The treatments worked. On Dec. 31, 2014, she delivered a healthy baby boy, Gabriel David.

Minichini recounted her story during a news conference to promote the success of abortion reversal. Between May 2012 and

December 2014, physicians in 34 states attempted 223 reversals, resulting in 78 babies born and 51 ongoing pregnancies.

Dr. George Delgado, medical director of Culture of Life Family Services, said more than 40 women per month are calling his hotline or visiting his website to inquire about abortion reversals.

"Obviously women are changing their minds," said Delgado, noting none of the babies has been born with a major birth defect.

So far, 230 doctors are available to administer the procedure.

"We have women coming in, but we need more physicians," said Dr. Sandy Christiansen, who appeared with Delgado and several other doctors at the news conference. They unveiled a new "Emergency Abortion Pill Reversal Kit" they would like to see placed in emergency rooms and urgent care clinics around the country.

About 1 in 4 abortions performed before eight weeks is a medical abortion, as women seek to avoid the risks of surgical abortion. Dr. Mary Davenport noted women experienced complications in about 1 in 5 medical abortions, so many still undergo a surgical abortion anyway. Davenport has participated in five abortion reversals.

"It's one of the best things I've ever done in my practice."

**For more information on Abortion Pill Reversal**, to join the network of physicians or pregnancy resource centers, or to inquire about the new Abortion Pill Reversal Kit, please visit: <http://www.abortionpillreversal.com>.

