



A Reminder for you...

If you are not already registered, please **Register to Vote** in the August primary election and the November general election. The registration deadlines are July 6th for the primary election and October 12th for the general election.

Information for absentee voting and other helpful voting information is available on the MO Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/howtovote>.

Missouri Presidential Primary on March 15

For the first time in many years, Missouri will hold a presidential preference primary on Tuesday, March 15th. The following is information from NRLC PAC with the candidates' positions on life. (Current candidates as of 2/10/2016.)

Be sure that you are at your polling place to vote for your preferred pro-life presidential candidate!



Where Do The Candidates Stand On Life?

Republican Presidential Candidates

- Jeb Bush (R)** Jeb Bush had a strong pro-life record as governor of Florida. "When we see life not yet born, we should welcome it with love. When we see life compromised by disease or near its natural end, we should treat it as a treasure, not a burden."
- Ben Carson (R)** "I am unabashedly and entirely pro-life. Human life begins at conception and innocent life must be protected."
- Ted Cruz (R)** Ted Cruz has a 100% pro-life voting record since joining the Senate in 2013. "There is no place for taxpayer funding of organizations that profit from taking away innocent life, much less profiting off the bodies of the lives they have stolen."
- John Kasich (R)** John Kasich had a strong pro-life voting record in the 18 years he served in Congress. As governor of Ohio, Kasich has signed 16 pro-life laws.
- Marco Rubio (R)** Marco Rubio has a 100% pro-life voting record since his U.S. Senate term began in 2011. "The dignity of each and every human life is fundamental."
- Donald Trump (R)** "Let me be clear — I am pro-life... I did not always hold this position, but I had a significant personal experience that brought the precious gift of life into perspective for me."
- #### Democrat Presidential Candidates
- Hillary Clinton (D)** As a U.S. senator, Hillary Clinton maintained a 0% pro-life record, voting against the pro-life position on every vote. In 2003, Clinton voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, and voted to endorse Roe v Wade, which allows abortion for any reason.
- Bernie Sanders (I)** (Although running as a Democrat, Sanders has been a declared Independent since 1979) Bernie Sanders has maintained a solid pro-abortion voting record, voting against the pro-life position more than 100 times in his federal legislative career.

6 Ways to Help a Pro-Life Candidate Win

- 1 Don't fall in love with your candidate so much that if he/she loses the primary to another pro-life candidate, you don't support the pro-life candidate who won!
- 2 Don't be convinced your candidate is the only "real" pro-life candidate in the race and bash other pro-life candidates.
- 3 Don't support a really nice candidate who is pro-life but has no chance of winning.
- 4 Don't expect a candidate to sound like a Right to Life chapter chairman.
- 5 Don't expect the candidate to always make abortion the major campaign issue.
- 6 Don't vote for a third party or independent candidate who has no chance of winning. That just splits the pro-life vote and makes it easier for the pro-abortion candidate to win.



Simon's Law: "To Be Heard"

by Sheryl Crosier

Editor's note: Missouri State Rep. Bill Kidd has filed HB 1915, Simon's Law. It has two basic components. First, a health care facility must let a patient, resident, or a prospective patient or resident know if they have a futility policy that will limit care in any way. Second, a do-not-resuscitate order cannot be placed in a minor child's medical file without the written permission of at least one parent or legal guardian.

On September 7, 2010, God blessed us with a beautiful baby boy named Simon. His name means, "To be heard." Even with a bilateral cleft lip, he was absolutely perfect to our family.

Did you know that having one extra chromosome could lead to denial of treatment and care withheld? On Simon's third day of life, he was diagnosed with trisomy 18. Many doctors declare that trisomy 18 is "incompatible with life," despite evidence of the contrary in those who survive for months, years and even decades.

On December 3, Simon's oxygen saturation levels began to fall. We were told this is the end, nothing could be done. As Simon drew his last breaths, I asked again what could be done and I was told "nothing." At 10:45am December 3, 2010, Simon died.

Imagine watching your child take his last breaths, his oxygen saturation levels plummet, and the medical professionals do nothing.

Later, we found out there was a do not resuscitate (DNR) in his medical file which explains why the medical professionals stood around and did nothing.

On top of that we found out Simon was only getting comfort feeds -- the least amount of food, not intended for nourishment. It means they starve you to death. If Simon hadn't stopped breathing, he might have starved to death.

It was a battle we fought to defend our son's life and dignity. Not only were Simon's human rights violated, as he was

a victim of genetic discrimination, but also our parental rights were taken away. When our son Simon was a living, breathing human being, he brought incredible joy to his family; and he experienced love and joy from us. Did he *not* deserve the right to live?

Someone else decided our son's life didn't have value. Care was withheld and a do-not-resuscitate order was placed in our son's chart, without our knowledge or consent as Simon's parents. Ultimately, our wishes were ignored and Simon's death was expedited.

I can't bring my son back. But, I want to make sure this doesn't happen to another child, your child and my other children. In my opinion, no one loves their child more than their parent. Do not let this happen to your child.

NRLC News 2/2016

Hillary's litmus test for Supreme Court picks: they must "preserve Roe v Wade"

Hillary Clinton has a litmus test for Supreme Court nominees - several, in fact. At a Democratic event on Feb. 3rd, Clinton unveiled her criteria in selecting a judge for the nation's highest court.

"I do have a litmus test, I have a bunch of litmus tests," she said.

"We've got to make sure to preserve Roe v Wade, not let it be nibbled away or repealed," she said.

That echoes her recent call-to-arms speech before Planned Parenthood last month, when she stated that taxpayers must fund abortion-on-demand in order to uphold the "right" of choice.

All Republican presidential hopefuls say they are pro-life and will defund Planned Parenthood.

Her husband, Bill Clinton, raised the makeup of the Supreme Court early last month in New Hampshire, saying it receives "almost no attention" as a campaign issue.

On Wednesday, Hillary said, "the next president could get as many as three appointments. It's one of the many reasons why we can't turn the White House over to the Republicans again."

At one time, most politicians frowned upon any "litmus test" for

judicial nominees, emphasizing the independence of the third branch of government. But with the rise of an activist judiciary in the middle of the 20th century, constitutionalists have sought to rein in the power of the bench.

LifeSite News 2/5/16

Rep. Hartzler rejects call to end probe into abortion providers

Missouri Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler pushed back against calls from Democrats to end congressional investigations into abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood.

Hartzler serves on a special House panel tasked with investigating whether abortion providers are profiting from the sale of fetal tissue and whether they have violated any federal laws, among other aspects of the abortion business.

The panel was formed in October after an anti-abortion rights group released undercover video of officials from Planned Parenthood discussing how they harvest fetal tissue for medical research.

Hartzler said Congress has a duty to investigate in the interests of the American people.

"Our investigation is not aimed at any specific entity, and if critics of this investigation actually read the resolution they would understand that," she said.

Hartzler was responding to a letter sent this week to members of Congress by a group of Democrats, including Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, and Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York. The letter called for an end to what they described as politically motivated investigations into Planned Parenthood.

The letter said the congressional investigations should be dropped following a Texas grand jury's decision to indict the activists who created the video and not Planned Parenthood.

Hartzler disagreed. She said her panel's probe is the result of the American people's desire and right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

"The horrific videos showing a disregard for human life raise issues of great public importance," she said.

(*excerpts*) McClatchyDC 2/4/16



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From the President ~

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

YOU, Missouri Right to Life Members, are the reason abortions have decreased in Missouri. YOU made the calls, donated the money, lobbied your legislators, and talked to your neighbors. The pro-life movement in Missouri has saved children from violent deaths and mothers from the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain associated with abortion... because of YOU!

In 2015, because of YOU, Missouri Right to Life was instrumental in:

- Increased funding for Alternatives to Abortion program for pregnancy resource centers.
- Continued tax credits for contributions to pregnancy resource centers.
- Continued insurance for unborn babies of low-income mothers through the Show Me Healthy Babies Program.
- Pro-Life protection on life sciences research appropriations.
- Working with the Missouri House and Senate Committees on investigations of Planned Parenthood.

And because of YOU Missouri Right to Life is confident that we will:

- Ban dismemberment abortions in Missouri.
- Pass a comprehensive abortion clinic inspection bill.
- Redirect federal funding of family planning dollars to federally qualified health centers and state rural health agencies for expanded health care for women.
- Ensure universities who receive state funds do not enable abortion by giving hospital privileges to abortionists.
- Ensure there is an accounting of every baby body and body part from an abortion and that those babies are buried and not sold for research.
- And more!

We are at a historic time in the abortion fight. Planned Parenthood, through undercover videos, has been exposed to America as the people who dissect small children. We in the pro-life community have known this for decades. Now the rest of America knows it. As a result, many local and national investigations are underway to further expose Planned Parenthood and their evil practices.

This is not a good time to be Planned Parenthood.

But in spite of the horrid things they have been caught saying and doing, Planned Parenthood has incredibly willing accomplices in the press and in the White House who have painted Planned Parenthood as victims. Victims? Really?

No, the victims are innocent children who are dismembered, dissected, and sold. The victims are mothers who many times find out that their abortions will prevent them from having children in the future.

We are on the cusp of elections in 2016 that may well chart the course for America for decades. What will we tell our children and grandchildren that we did in this crucial time?

Please support Missouri Right to Life in every way that you can as we pass lifesaving legislation, generate educational materials, communicate to YOU, our members, that this is our time to turn the tide on abortion, and make a difference in elections through our MRL PAC work. We can and will do it... with YOUR help!



Steve Rupp

Thanks for all you do and God bless!

Steve Rupp

National Right to Life Annual Report Examines State of Abortion in America

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of 50 state right-to-life affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters, released its third annual report on the state of abortion in the United States. The report summarizes legislative developments at the state and federal level, finds that the annual number of abortions continues to decline, and shows a majority continue to oppose the majority of abortions allowed under the doctrine of *Roe v. Wade*.

“Even after seven years of pro-abortion policies from the Obama Administration, the right-to-life movement is making tremendous gains on behalf of mothers and their unborn children,” said Carol Tobias, president of NRLC. “As the November election approaches, the right-to-life movement stands ready to protect our pro-life majorities in Congress and elect a pro-life president.”

Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate the annual number of abortions continues to decline. Their most recent report found that in the 47 jurisdictions that volunteered data there was a 4.2% drop from 2011 to 2012.

The National Right to Life report also provides analysis of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s (PP) annual report, which covers a one-year period ending June 30, 2015. NRLC’s analysis finds that while the nation’s largest abortion provider performed slightly fewer abortions than the previous year, their abortion business is still a major cornerstone of their billion dollar empire.

Planned Parenthood’s annual report covers the period ending just before vid-

eos from The Center for Medical Progress surfaced that exposed the harvesting and trafficking of baby body parts, often involving Planned Parenthood affiliates.

The PP videos underscore the need to enact NRLC’s legislative priorities: the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.

NRLC’s report details efforts to pass the bills at both the state and federal level. Twelve states have passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would generally protect unborn children from abortion beginning at 20 weeks fetal age (the start of the sixth month), based on their capacity by that point, if not earlier, to experience excruciating pain. The U.S. House passed a version of the bill,

“Even after seven years of pro-abortion policies from the Obama Administration, the right-to-life movement is making tremendous gains on behalf of mothers and their unborn children.”

based on the NRLC model legislation, on May 13, 2015, 242-184. In a nearly party line 54-42 vote in September, Senate Democrats blocked consideration of the bill.

Some of the extensive evidence that unborn children have the capacity to experience pain, at least by 20-weeks fetal age, is available at www.nrlc.org/abortion/fetalpain and also at www.doctorsonfetalpain.com/.

Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act

During the spring state legislative session, Kansas and Oklahoma became the first two states to enact NRLC’s model legislation prohibiting the use of dismem-

berment abortions.

On September 15, 2015, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) introduced the Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act.

The federal bill would prohibit “dismemberment abortion,” defined as “with the purpose of causing the death of an unborn child, knowingly dismembering a living unborn child and extracting such unborn child one piece at a time or intact but crushed from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments that, through the convergence of two rigid levers, slice, crush or grasp a portion of the unborn child’s body in order to cut or rip it off or crush it.”

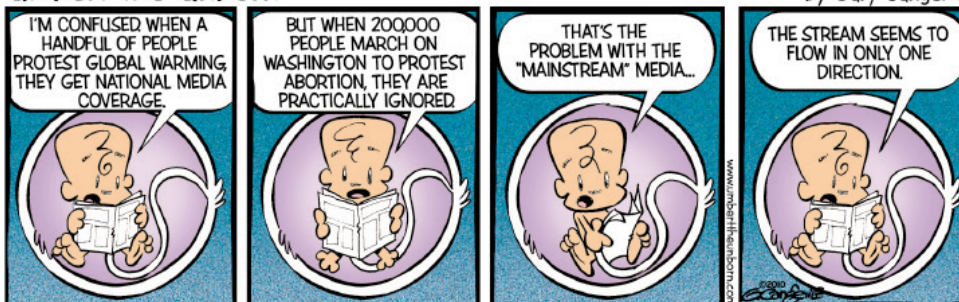
“Dismemberment abortion kills a baby by tearing her apart limb from limb,” said NRLC Director of State Legislation Mary Spaulding Balch, J.D. “Before the first trimester ends, the unborn child has a beating heart, brain waves, and every organ system in place. Dismemberment abortions occur after the baby has reached these milestones.”

In his dissent to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2000 *Stenberg v. Carhart* decision, Justice Kennedy observed that in D&E dismemberment abortions, “The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would. It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off.” Justice Kennedy added in the Court’s 2007 opinion, *Gonzales v. Carhart*, which upheld the ban on partial-birth abortion, that D&E abortions are “laden with the power to devalue human life...”

Materials on the bill are available on the NRLC website, www.nrlc.org/statelegislation/dismemberment. Included is the testimony of Anthony Levatino, M.D. before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. He described in detail the D&E dismemberment abortions he once performed.

The report is available from the NRLC at <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2016.pdf>.

Umbert the Unborn



Your Missouri Right to Life is Hard at Work

~ Susan Klein
MO Right to Life Legislative Liaison

Thank you to all who came for Pro-Life Action Day on February 9th! We hope to see you again in Jefferson City on April 5th for another Pro-Life Action Day!



Pro-lifeActionDayattendeesinclude(lefttoright) MRL PAC Chair Dave Plemmons, Legislative Liaison Susan Klein, Legislative Chair Jerry Nieters, Guest Speaker Stacy Washington, President Steve Rupp, and Executive Director Patty Skain.

On April 5th, we will enter the important final five weeks of the 2016 legislative session. Your attendance and participation will be essential to defund Planned Parenthood from receiving our federal tax dollars.



Missouri Right to Life 2016 Priority Legislation:

- Expanding abortion clinic inspections, accountability for disposal of baby body parts, ensure no selling or buying of baby body parts is happening in Missouri from in-state abortion clinics, and ensure that any publicly funded state institution is not buying baby body parts from out-of-state abortion clinics with our tax dollars.
- Accountability for licensing of abortionists and abortion facilities as well as oversight of connections between abortion facilities and public institutions.
- Ban Dismemberment Abortions.
- Defund Planned Parenthood.

There are many other great pieces of pro-life legislation we are working on that will save innocent human lives.

To see the complete list go to our 2016 legislation page at: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/index.html>.



Above - Pro-lifers listen as Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder addresses life issues at the Noon Rally on Pro-Life Action Day.



Left - Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-15) hosts a reception for pro-lifers attending the Feb. 9th Pro-Life Action Day. Thank you, Sen. Schmitt!

Memorials

In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.

In memory of ~

Helene Becker
Til Brenneman
Cindy Brooks
Art Cullifer

Maria Grace Hronick
Mary Therese Ismert

E. LaVerne Travers
Loretto Wagner
Ruben Willner

Given by ~

Eugene & Karen Walton
Katherine Bauer
Mart Orf
Mary Wilt
Linda Cullifer
Dick & Peggy Hronick
Greater KC Community Foundation, Little Flower Fund
Mary Ann Rohan
Katherine Bauer
Mary Orf



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

We Remember...

Editor's note: This young woman shared her story at the Sedalia chapter's Jan. 22 Roe v Wade Memorial. Her touching words are a mirror of what is reflected in each of the pictures on this page -- and in many other communities across our country. We remember. We mourn with her.

My Story

Hello, my name is Jamie Taylor. I am not much of a public speaker and truly wish I didn't feel compelled to be standing before you today on the 43rd anniversary of Roe vs Wade.

I've heard abortion is a choice, a way out if you will from an unwanted pregnancy. What they do not tell you, though it should be obvious, is that abortion is a forever choice.

I was 19 when I made that "choice." To avoid another 34 weeks of pregnancy, I took a pill and stopped the beating heart of my unborn child. At 6 weeks in utero, my baby had a beating heart. Just one of many revelations I have had in the years since my abortion.

"While I hung pink butterflies and framed sonogram photos of this new baby, I had driven hours to give my first child death."



Missouri Right to Life at the 2016 March for Life in Washington, DC remembering 43 years of abortion on demand.

For years I went on with my life as if nothing had happened. Yet when I became pregnant a second time, the full realization

of what I had done came crashing over me. As I prepared for motherhood and anxiously anticipated the weekly updates of my baby's development, a devastating truth hit me -- my first baby deserved to be loved no less.

While I hung pink butterflies and framed sonogram photos of this new baby, I had driven hours to give my first child death. It wasn't until this point in my life that I ever took the time to let it sink in that I wasn't just "pregnant" at 19; I was a mother.

When I took RU486, the abortion pill, I robbed my child of his or her first breath... of the chance to have what every one of us standing here has had -- a birth day. I thought I was saving myself from the shame of an unwanted pregnancy. Turns out I robbed myself of hearing a million times "I love you, Mommy," of the precious weight of a little hand in mine, and the genuine, unconditional love I have only experienced as a mother. Twelve years ago I took a pill and it

haunts me to this day. My choice was forever and it was final.

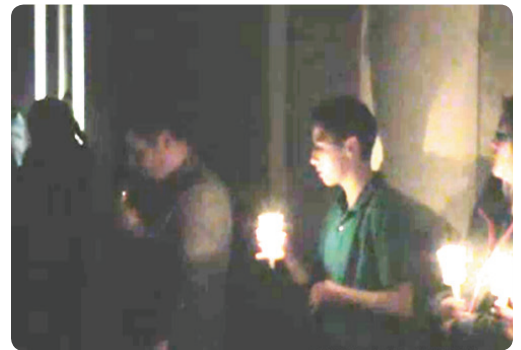
Abortion is marketed as the "easy way out." Twelve years later I am still trying to find my way out. Out of this nightmare where I wake every morning with the awful truth that I purposely ended the life of my unborn child.

When I am 70 (should I live that long), I will still be a woman that killed her child. It is a devastating truth to live with.

As I've learned since my abortion, many women do not "live" with this truth as the suicide rate for post-abortive woman is up to 3 times higher than women who carried their babies to term. You see abortion

isn't just deadly to babies; it can be to women as well. This is why I joined Missouri Right to Life -- because women and children deserve better than a death sentence or a lifetime of guilt, shame, and remorse. I am not here to condemn those who have had an abortion, but to hopefully save one woman from the turmoil that has become a part of the fabric of my very being. From the pain and mourning for the life of a child that I will never know.

I have lost friends for my pro-life stand. I have been called a hypocrite, obsessive, and told to just let it go. The fear of what others might think might have stopped me from speaking out years ago and may have driven me to an abortion clinic in Tulsa where I left part of my heart behind. But holding two precious children



Lincoln County Chapter-MRL Prayer Service remembering 43 years of abortion on demand.



East Central Area Chapter-MRL Candlelight Vigil remembering 43 years of abortion on demand.

in my arms, feeling my heart fill with more love than I ever knew possible, has taught me a lesson I learned several years too late: a mother will do anything for her child.

So I stand here today for my first precious child. "I'm sorry" a million times can not erase what I have done. I can only ask God for forgiveness and pray somehow sharing our story will help one more woman find the strength and love to make one more birth day possible.

Pro-Life Across Missouri

save date

Feb. 10 - 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign
March 20 Sites in Missouri and Overland Park KS are participating.

St. Louis MO vigil information:
info@coalitionforlifestl.com
Columbia MO vigil contact:
Kathy and Mike Forck
573.340.8444
Overland Park KS vigil contact:
fortydayskc@gmail.com

Sat., April 2 Nexus Pro-Life Student Conference Chaminade High School, St. Louis. Contact Coalition for Life for information at 314.827.4039.

Tues., Apr. 5 MRL Pro-Life Action Day Missouri State Capitol. We need you in Jefferson City! This will be the day to emphasize defunding Planned Parenthood.

Fri., May 13 MRL Ed Fund Spring Golf Tournament, Eagles' Landing Golf Course, Belton MO. For information, contact MRL-Western Region at 816.763.5247 or 816.353.4113

MRL Executive Director speaks at Midwest March for Life



Missouri Right to Life Executive Director Patty Skain addressed participants at the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City on Jan. 30th. She reminded those attending that the fight for life is an inherently grassroots effort, and Missouri Right to Life is a true grassroots organization. "Educating, legislating, and activating citizens for life" -- that's what we all should do as members of Missouri Right to Life!

"Pro-life people from across the state form our chapters and our regions and elect delegates to our state board of directors," said Skain. "It is that board of directors that make the decisions on our legislation and our policies."

Legislation saves lives! All pro-lifers need to join the battle.

Tom Lacey receives Loretto Wagner Memorial Award



Above - Congresswoman Ann Wagner, MRL's delegate to NRLC Maggie Bick, and MRL President Steve Rupp look on as Tom Lacey accepts the Loretto Wagner Memorial Award.

Can you imagine attending every March for Life every year with the Missouri Life Caravan? That's what Tom Lacey has done!

One of Loretto Wagner's earliest efforts was the leadership of the Missouri Life Caravan, the annual bus trip to Washington, D.C. at the anniversary of Roe v Wade to meet with federal legislators to express concern for protecting innocent human life and to participate in the March for Life.

And she challenged as many as possible to come with her.

The Loretto Wagner Memorial Award has been established to recognize a person who has gone above and beyond in hearing her plea to be part of the Caravan.

Tom Lacey answered that plea as few others have done. Thank you and congratulations, Mr. Lacey!



Sedalia Chapter-MRL's float in the Sedalia Christmas parade. The parade theme was Christmas around the world, and life is the perfect gift no matter how old you are or where you live! Of the 96 entries in the annual parade, the Sedalia Chapter float took first place in the civic division.



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- Remembering Roe v Wade: One Woman's Story

Action Changes Things!

Missouri Right to Life

"Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda ~ Jefferson City

We need you to ACT!

- Plan now to come to Jefferson City on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, for Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation and defund Planned Parenthood.
- Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. Lobby your legislators and then join the noon rally.

Priority Legislation

- Ban dismemberment abortions.
- Tighten abortion clinic inspection requirements.
- Redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars.

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

Transportation is available from many areas of the state.

Contact the Missouri Right to Life State Office, 573.635.5110, or visit www.missourilife.org for transportation and additional information regarding Pro-Life Action Day.