



May 2021

Missouri Right to Life Fights for Critical Pro-life Language

After a successful year with pro-life provisions added to the budget, we continued our efforts to prevent our federal tax dollars from being used to pay for abortifacient drugs that end the life of a developing unborn baby. The path chosen to pursue this language was to attach it to the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA) legislation that is renewed every year. With the aggressive abortion agenda of the Biden Administration, the reality that the Hyde Amendment may be lost and an increase in the distribution of abortifacient drugs, this pro-life protection is needed now more than ever. This pro-life language is for abortifacient drugs only.

During the legislative session, several attempts were made by our courageous conservative pro-life caucus in the Senate to pass this language. Republican leadership in both the House and the Senate appeared on multiple occasions to shut down these efforts. Why would the Republican party with its pro-life plank want pro-life Missourians to pay for abortion causing drugs with their tax dollars? This is a question you might want to ask your Republican representative and senator. Those Senators leading this fight for the pro-life language on the Federal Reimbursement Allowance legislation were Senators Paul Wieland, Bob Onder, Andrew Koenig, Bill Eigel, Cindy O'Laughlin, Rick Brattin, Mike Moon and Eric Burlison. Please send them a heartfelt thank you for their efforts.

While stonewalling in the last days of the session prevented the passage of the FRA legislation with pro-life language, the conservative caucus, through the leadership of Senator Bob Onder, came up with several solutions but were unable to get it past Republican opposition. The final outcome of these pro-life protections will be determined in a special session called by Governor Mike Parson between now and mid-September. At that time, we will work even more aggressively to prevent pro-life Missourians from paying for abortion or abortion causing drugs.

While legislators work to provide help and incentives each year in state-funded programs for women to choose life for their unborn babies, they must also continue to address the harm that abortion does and that the abortion industry inflicts upon women and families. Abortion takes the life of an unborn child, harms women, and inflicts long-term pain and suffering for families and should not be funded through state or federal programs. While it's true that abortion numbers have dropped significantly in the State of Missouri, lives are still being lost. While babies' lives are being taken through the horrendous procedure of abortion, pro-life Missourians will not rest.

While we thank the House and Senate members for funding Alternatives to Abortion, Show-Me Healthy Babies and tax credits for pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes and tax credits for foster parenting to encourage care for children, we must protect the vulnerable moms and unborn babies that walk into the largest abortion provider in the United States. Opening a door to Planned Parenthood for a woman in a crisis situation will most probably end the life of a child and change that woman and her family forever.

Please contact your legislator and ask them to request House and Senate leadership protect unborn babies and the rights of tax-payers from funding abortion or abortion causing drugs in the special session this year. To find your legislator, go to the MRL website, missourilife.org. At the drop down box under "Legislation" will be "Find My Legislator."

Also, please contact Governor Mike Parson and ask him to support the pro-life language, requested by MRL, for the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA).

Governor Parson's phone number is: 573-751-1495.

The refusal to take sides on great moral issues is itself a decision. It is a silent acquiescence to evil.

The tragedy of our time is that those who still believe in honesty lack fire and conviction, while those who believe in dishonesty are full of passionate conviction.

~Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
May 1895 - Dec. 1979



<https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/planned-parenthood-soon-to-receive-title-x-funding-again-last-day-for-comments/>
Planned Parenthood Soon to Receive Title X Funding Again

[May 17th was] the final day for the public to make comments on the new Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rules, which would return millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood after the previous administration stripped the abortion business of its Title X funding. However, despite the call for public comments, the new administration's decision is likely a foregone conclusion.

In 2019, the Trump administration changed the Title X rules and required abortion clinics to separate their general health services and those related to abortion. Those that didn't, like Planned Parenthood, lost their Title X funding. At the time, that was to the tune of about \$60 million.

After introducing the newly proposed rules, HHS has given the public an opportunity to make comments either for or against, though it's unlikely to have much impact on the final decision.

Planned Parenthood is already celebrating this change.

The idea that an abortion business considers taxpayer dollars fair game is troubling, especially as Planned Parenthood already has billions in the bank.

Throughout the year, Planned Parenthood consistently asks the public for funding to support their efforts, last year raising \$510 million in just private donations alone—however, most of those funds never go to support actual low-income women who need health care. Instead, it all goes into the corporation's war

chest so it can lobby on the local, state and federal level for pro-abortion, LGBT and other pieces of progressive legislation.

This could be seen with the closing of two non-abortion Planned Parenthood locations in Ohio after the then Title X rules went into effect. Based on Planned Parenthood's assets, it should have been able to easily keep those clinics afloat until a new administration came in and reversed the policy. But it didn't. To make a political point, the abortion business allowed those two locations to close and denied the community health care because its corporate headquarters was more interested in hoarding its funding.

In reality, Planned Parenthood only wants to pay for abortion lobbying. When it comes to health care services, the business is more than willing to let taxpayers pick up the tab.

Unfortunately, with the changing of the administration and with radical pro-abortion supporter Xavier Becerra helming HHS, Planned Parenthood can look forward to millions more in unnecessary funding coming its way soon.



<https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2021/05/supreme-court-agrees-to-hear-decision-blocking-2018-mississippi-abortion-law/>
Supreme Court agrees to hear decision blocking 2018 Mississippi abortion law

After months of internal deliberation, in a one-line notice the U.S. Supreme Court this morning announced that the justices had agreed to hear ("grant certiorari") the appeal by the state of Mississippi in the case of its "Gestational Age Act," a law enacted in 2018, but blocked by Judge Carlton W. Reeves of Federal District Court in Jackson, Mississippi. Judge Reeves's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* was subsequently upheld by a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

As several reports noted, however, even though the appeals court panel was

unanimous, Judge James Ho "issued a reluctant concurring opinion expressing misgivings about the Supreme Court's abortion jurisprudence," The New York Times' Adam Liptak explained. Judge Ho wrote, "Nothing in the text or original understanding of the Constitution establishes a right to an abortion," adding, "Rather, what distinguishes abortion from other matters of health care policy in America — and uniquely removes abortion policy from the democratic process established by our Founders — is Supreme Court precedent."

Judge Ho went on to write that he was "deeply troubled by how the district court [Judge Reeves] handled this case. The opinion issued by the district court displays an alarming disrespect for the millions of Americans who believe that babies deserve legal protection during pregnancy as well as after birth, and that abortion is the immoral, tragic, and violent taking of innocent human life."

Judge Ho concluded that "it adds insult to injury" for "a federal court to go further and to impugn the motives of those good faith Americans. When that occurs, citizens may rightfully wonder whether judges are deciding disputes based on the Rule of Law or on an altogether different principle. Replacing the Rule of Law with a regime of Judges Know Better is one that neither the Founders of our country nor the Framers of our Constitution would recognize."

The Supreme Court said it would address one of the three questions posed to the justices by Lynn Fitch, the Mississippi Attorney General: "whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortion are unconstitutional."

As National Right to Life's Jennifer Popik, J.D., federal legislative director, explained in NRLC's press release, "But there is, of course, precedent in the Court's jurisprudence for prohibiting abortions before viability. The 2003 Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act banned a particular abortion procedure that was used both before and after what is considered viability. It was found to be constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007."

The case will be heard in the fall.

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Thank you for spreading the message of Life!

~ From the President

His story and your story are unique

I wish I could write about ALL of the many supporters of Missouri Right to Life. You are the lifeblood of what we do. You quietly defend life in both simple and remarkable ways. I've met or spoken with many of you, and I'm always humbled and inspired.

One such regular supporter of Missouri Right to Life is Bill Johnson. I called Mr. Johnson to thank him for a donation. I got his answering machine which said, "You've reached the Johnson residence, I'm either on the phone or away from the recliner. Please leave your name, 16 digit credit card number and expiration date, and I'll call you when I get back from Sikeston, Missouri the home of the throwed rolls." I laughed out loud. I had to meet this guy!



Steve Rupp with Bill Johnson

I called to thank Mr. Johnson a few more times and always smiled at his message. And then I got through. I told him I'd like to meet him. We made those arrangements.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, I stopped by with a Schnucks fruit basket in hand. Mr. Johnson was very grateful as he took the fruit to the kitchen and put it in the refrigerator. He navigated his way flawlessly from the front door to the kitchen. I didn't know it, but Mr. Johnson is blind.

Bill, (he asked me to call him Bill), is 91 years old, a widower for many years and lives alone. He said that as an African American, he gets some flack for his support of life. He said some people in his community say they are pro-life but never do anything about it. He said they almost always support pro-abortion legislators. Bill does not back down from his ardent defense of life. He said that he doesn't know how anybody could approve of the destruction of innocent human life. He is a proud supporter of Missouri Right to Life.

Bill and I have become friends. He has made donations to Cardinal Glennon Hospital and Children's Hospital in my name. I am truly humbled by our friendship.

Bill Johnson is warrior for life. His story and your story are unique. Thank you on behalf of Missouri Right to Life. But more importantly, thank you on behalf of the many moms and babies whose lives you've affected — and even saved. They are the real recipients of your generosity and dedication.

Thanks for all that you do for Life and God bless!

Steve Rupp

Rachel's Story

#shoutoutyourmotherhood

by Beth Henson

I was six months pregnant when I found out my unborn baby had Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. (There was no left ventricle.) I laid in an ultrasound room that was completely silent for 45 minutes while two ultrasound technicians, a high risk OBGYN, and two Pediatric Cardiologists took their turns using the ultrasound machine and looking at the screen. No one told me or James what was going on. You could hear a pin drop. I had tears streaming down my face, but I couldn't tell you why. I didn't know what was happening, but I knew it wasn't good. After those agonizing 45 minutes one doctor told me to get dressed and meet them across the hall. I was in a daze. We sat down and waited another eternity until a group of doctors entered the room. At that time we were told the diagnosis. I don't know how long we were in there. I don't even know what they said. I remember they were talking, but it was like hearing Charlie Brown's teacher. Blah blah blah blah. Their mouths were moving, sound was happening, nothing was being comprehended. After leaving the room we somehow managed our way to the car. I don't remember walking out. We sat in the car and cried. Hard. Together we both could only remember a few things they said: "heart defect" "heart transplant" "death." Stunned, we drove home.

I don't remember walking out. We sat in the car and cried. Hard. Together we both could only remember a few things they said: 'heart defect' 'heart transplant' 'death.' Stunned, we drove home.

I received a call the next morning from a doctor telling us that altogether they found 5 things wrong with the baby's heart: Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, a pinch in the aortic arch, bicuspid valves (instead of tricuspid), the blood flowing backwards in the heart, and aortic stenosis. We were told to come see a specialist right away. We went in later that afternoon. The doctor was nice and friendly and then recommended I get an abortion quickly, "before it's too late." Huh? "Too late?" He said, "you know- too far along." Abortion? What? Why? "Because IF your child survives past a few days, they will not have any quality of life." But, they already HAD quality of life. Right now. In my womb. I could never love something more and now, knowing about their defect, I loved them even more. I simply told that doctor that we would not be returning and out we went. One more time during my pregnancy a doctor urged me "for the sake of your child" to abort.

I was put on bed rest, more for my mental state than anything else. James and I looked at this from different angles causing

friction and arguing. He said to think positive, I said to think realistically. We were advised to have funeral plans prepped and ready. How can that plan make me think positive? We were told IF the baby made it through birth, which was a big if given the pressure a baby goes through during labor and given that our baby didn't have a heart designed for that kind of pressure, then we had some choices that needed to be made. Choice #1- bring your baby home. Do nothing. No medical intervention. Likely the baby will live a few days, maybe a week, and pass away at home with us. Choice #2- immediately get put on the heart transplant list. Choice #3- send the baby to surgery at one day old to put a stent in their heart. If they survive and make it to 6 months, they would have another open heart surgery to replace the stent for a new one. If they survived that surgery and made it to 18 months, they would have a third open heart surgery to once again replace the stent. This stent changing would occur again and again as the child grew. Some options, huh? Well #1 I couldn't do nothing. I couldn't just bring them home and let them pass if I knew

I had other choices. #2 I couldn't bring myself to put them on a heart transplant list. I just could not pray for another baby to die so that mine could live. I couldn't wish for another mother to mourn her child so that I could celebrate mine. I just

couldn't. So, option 3 was truly the only option. Surgery, then into God's hands.

One evening while eating dinner and inevitably discussing our after birth plans and crying incessantly, James told me something that changed me. Seriously. It changed me. "Don't you think we're lucky?" Excuse me? Lucky? Look at our options! I stared at him like he had grown an extra head. "Beth, God picked us out of all the people in this world to raise a baby with health issues. He knew that baby needed us." I was so blown away. I fell in love with James in that moment more than I ever thought possible. How selfish I was. He was seeing blessings and love where I was seeing despair and hopelessness. I was angry at God because I did everything right in my pregnancy and didn't deserve to have this happen, instead of praising Him for trusting me. From that point on it was so different. I was happy. James and I were on the same page and our love for our baby and each other grew exponentially. I went from the breaking point to nothing can stop us.

I went into labor prematurely, about 7 weeks early. I was

scared because not only was the baby's heart defective, now they would have prematurity to overcome. Luckily they were able to stop the labor and put me on complete bed rest.

On January 31, 2002 my water broke. Ready or not at four weeks early it was game on. It was a blur of excitement, fear, joy, anxiety, happiness, uncertainty. The baby was coming. It was time. The fight starts NOW. We were warned that the baby would be purple in color and wouldn't cry due to lack of oxygen from a slow pumping heart. The show began. I had what felt like a stadium full of people in my room. I wouldn't have been surprised to see hotdog and soda vendors to keep the masses happy! There was a team of NICU nurses, about three of them, my OB, my high risk OB, a Pediatric Neonatologist, two Pediatric Cardiologists, my labor nurse, two medical students, my husband on one side, and my mom on the other side. I should have sold tickets.

At 2:12 a.m. my baby girl was born! A GIRL! I thought it was a boy the whole time!! I caught a glimpse of the back of Rachel's head as they ran to the warmer to start the medicines for her heart. It was a flurry of activity with voices and medical jargon and doctors and nurses and seriousness. Then there it was. A cry. Quiet at first. Then louder. Then even louder. Tears just rolled down my face. I had a fighter. Girl power!

After about 45 minutes or so I got my first chance to see her. They allowed me to hold her just for a bit. She stopped crying as we just laid there in awe of one another. Studying each other. Memorizing each other. Would this be the only time I get to see my baby alive? When they take her from me would that be it? I held her so tightly and studied her so closely. Just in case. I whispered how proud I was of her already. She was here. She made it. I told her that in these arms there would be love forever. They would always be made for her. I told her that I loved her and that together we can do anything. Anything. I told her I was proud to be her mom. Then it was time to hand her over. I kissed her with every ounce of love I ever had and handed her over. Then I hugged and kissed James as he went with Rachel to Children's Hospital. I delivered her at St. John's Mercy so they had a trip to make. I couldn't go.

I was brought to a room down at the far end of a hall. It felt lonely. I asked the nurse why I was so far away from everyone. Literally, the other moms were several doors down with plenty of empty rooms separating us. She quietly told me that they didn't think I would want to hear the babies crying in the mother's rooms. Oh. So there I sat. Alone in my small, dark room with my husband across town, my baby across town, my whole world across town. The next day was long. Social workers coming in to try to explain to me symptoms of separation anxiety, several nurses and doctors that were there for the birth coming in to say hi. They were so kind. But I didn't want to be with them. I wanted to be at Children's looking at and loving my little peanut. James called me throughout the day to

keep me updated. She was doing good. Crying loud, wetting diapers, all the baby stuff she's supposed to do. That night, James came to the hospital to stay with me. He was exhausted. Emotionally spent. Wanting to be with his wife, yet needing to be with his daughter. We hugged, cried, laughed, and prayed. A lot. Finally we fell asleep.

At about 6:30 am we were awakened by the Pediatric Cardiologist. The expression on his face was one I had never seen from him. My heart sank. He's here to tell me that my baby girl has left. I started crying before he even uttered a word. "I don't know what to even say. Rachel is something of a miracle." Huh? A miracle? Do those really still happen? I prayed for one, but really? "We did quite a few tests this morning. Rachel's heart is beating beautifully. She is pink in color and looks wonderful. She even has a left ventricle. Small, yes, but there." What?!?! "No surgery needed, no heart transplant list, just a perfect baby. Mr. and Mrs. Henson, we KNOW what we saw. We all saw it. We KNOW our diagnosis was right. I know medicine. This wasn't medicine. This was God." A miracle. A true miracle. In an unprecedented move pushed forth by Rachel's doctors, Children's Hospital released Rachel and sent her back to the St. John's NICU. Why? "Because this little girl needs to be with her mom." The best reason ever in my opinion. We had her baptized in the NICU because, do miracles last? Are we tempting fate?

My miracle, Rachel, born on the most perfect of days, Thursday January 31 at the lovely hour of 2:12 am, is now a nursing major and a music minor at Truman State University. She received a full ride to the college of her dreams. She wants to be a pediatric oncology nurse and is even kicking around going further and becoming a doctor. She plays the piano, the oboe, the bassoon, the tenor saxophone, and the baritone. She is wicked smart, incredibly funny, beyond kind, sincerely humble, and absolutely the most loving miracle on this Earth. In the first semester as a freshman in college she became the secretary of the Students for Life organization. She put together a lecture for the college inviting the President of the Missouri Right to Life (who just so happens to be her Grandpa) to teach and answer questions. Even inviting other clubs who do not share in her passion or beliefs. She has straight A's and is loving every minute of college. It's been amazing, yet bitter-sweet watching her spread her wings and become the person God created her to be. She is a miracle. God has such plans for her. He saved her for a reason, and she's already proving why.

Abortion? What would I have done to this world if I followed that advice? What I would have missed out on! What this WORLD would have missed out on! If Rachel would have died in my arms that day, if God would have taken her home, I would be no less honored to be her mother. I would be no less overjoyed at her life. I would be no less touched by her presence. And I would have always cherished the overwhelming amount of love we shared in those few minutes of time.

Abortion? Oh my word. I can't even imagine

2021 Midwest March for Life

More than 1,000 people took part in the 2021 Midwest March for Life on Wednesday, April 14, in Jefferson City. The theme was "Together Strong: Life Unites, Hold the Line." Marchers gathered for a pre-rally on the Capitol steps and south lawn, followed by a rousing march around the Capitol, past the



Many faithful Missouri Right to Life chapters and members came to Jefferson City on April 14 to March for Life. Lincoln County Chapter members were among those who attended.

Governor's Mansion, and back to the Capitol on High Street for prayers, presentations and activities. Speakers, including Missouri Right to Life's Executive Director Susan Klein, lauded Missouri's innovative spirit and success toward ending abortion in the state.



Missouri Right to Life Executive Director Susan Klein speaks to the crowd at the Midwest March for Life.



Never too young to work for life -- and in Missouri we do encourage them to start early! Above, the Diefendorf grandchildren are helping to bag 12-week baby models for hand-out at the many educational events and fairs that the Sedalia Chapter staffs every year.

Not A member
of MRL?

Or haven't sent a
donation for awhile?

Or ever?

**You should join -- or
rejoin -- us!**

**Be a member of our
life-saving team.**

**It's as easy as returning
the envelope included in
this Missouri Right to Life
News with your donation.**

Saturday, June 5 - Lee's Summit Missouri Right to Life-Western Region presents, "Life in Bloom," a ladies pro-life event 5:00-9:00 at Lee's Summit Community Church. All proceeds will go to Missouri Right to Life to defend the rights of the unborn and facilitate pro-life education. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.mrl-wr.org> or call (816) 353-4113. Tickets \$25.

Wednesday, Sept. 22 through Sunday Oct. 31 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign
40 Days Missouri and surrounding area vigils -
Columbia MO
711 N. Providence Rd.
St. Louis MO
4251 Forest Park Ave.
Fairview Heights IL
317 Salem Pl.
Overland Park KS
4840 College Blvd.

Happy Father's Day!



**"He didn't tell me how to live;
he lived and let me watch him do it."**

Clarence Budington Kelland

Memorials

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



In memory of ~

Mary Baldwin

Given by ~

George & Helen Colwell
Maris & Joe Haster
John & Cindy Seberger
James & Patricia Baldwin
Linda Byrd
John & Jeanne Ford

Ruth M. Bentz

Given by ~

Leon & Dianne Stelling
John & Brenda Kimbrough
Jerry & Susan Rigdon
Jason & Wendy Stephens
Adam & Terry Telford
Ann Hamlet

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Given by ~

Marilyn Wilde
David & Alice Bonnot
Shirley Boyer
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Lincoln County Chapter-MRL

Monica Byrne

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Charles & Anna Smrt

Doris Callahan

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Mary Wilson
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Robert & Kathy Caffrey
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Mr. & Mrs. Ed Ewing
Mary Ernstmann
Ms. Mary Gerau
Jerry Nieters
J. C. & Ellie Dillon
Jan Boyle

Deacon Ted Rodis

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Mr & Mrs. Bruce Prinster
Ms. Jule McDevitt
Ms. Esther Rhodes
Mr. & Mrs. David McDermott
Theresa Brierton
Joseph & Mary Lee Schutte
Stephen Covington
Mr & Mrs Alan Ferner
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Barket

Adam Jay Patterson

Given by ~

Tina Patterson

**Minister Willie Pippins of
Impact Agape Ministries**

Given by ~

William Johnson

Betty Tochtrop

Given by ~

Richard & Linda Tochtrop

Marie A. Weber

Given by ~

Craig Weber

Sharon Weideman

Given by ~

Carl Alcancia

Shirley White-Schieberl

Given by ~

Sedalia Chapter-MRL

Inside ~

- **Missouri Legislative Wrap**
Information inside on pro-life protective language and the Governor's call for special session
- **Supreme Court to hear Mississippi case**
- **Rachel's Story**

South County Chapter completes their billboard project

South County Chapter and members of the Billboard Club, step right up and receive sincere and heartfelt gratitude for your countless pro-life billboards!

For many years the South County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life-Eastern Region and their Billboard Club have sponsored a pro-life billboard in the southern St. Louis county area. To say that they "sponsored" one is to give faint praise -- they did the fundraising to pay for the boards, they designed the message, chose the location where they would be placed, and oversaw the placement of the billboards.

Many eyes have seen the fruits of this labor of love and many minds have been awakened to the sanctity of life by viewing these simple, powerful, and effective messages. Shown at the right are just two of their numerous billboards.

The chapter has now decided not to go forward with the billboard project. The Missouri Right to Life Board and all of our members thank the chapter for their years of diligence in educating the thousands of passersby who have viewed these billboards.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

