



MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

MISSOURI'S BATTLE TO KEEP MISSOURI PRO-LIFE

Pro-abortion initiative petitions seek to enshrine "right" to abortion in Missouri Constitution

In March, initiative petitions (IPs) were filed with the Missouri Secretary of State's Office (SOS) that seek to enshrine a "right" to abortion in our Missouri Constitution. The IP is the process by which individuals can seek to put language on the ballot for voters to amend (change) our state's Constitution. To do so, they must file their petition with the SOS and then collect enough signatures in support of their petition that meet our state's statutory and Constitutional thresholds for such an effort. Presently, these petitions are in the courts. However, if they move forward, the next step is that pro-abortion forces will seek to gather signatures. If they get enough signatures throughout our state, their pro-abortion language to amend our Missouri Constitution will be on the November 2024 ballot for voters to decide. Should voters pass this into law, this language will cause a number of effects, as outlined below.

Please help us share this information. You can print copies of this information in a handout by visiting www.missourilife.org, calling Missouri Right to Life at 573-635-5110, or following this QR code:



PRO-ABORTION EFFECTS OF "RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM INITIATIVE"

James S. Cole, Esq., June 10, 2023

These consequences would appear to follow from the language used in the different versions of the Initiative, whether or not the drafters intended them. This summary does not purport to be an exhaustive list of the legal implications of the Initiatives.

1. Under all versions of the Initiative, the proposed amendment would--

- allow anyone to perform abortions without a health care license. Abortions would not even require a nurse or midwife. (This would also apply to licensing for providing prenatal care, childbirth assistance, postpartum care, and birth control.)
- forbid the state from requiring abortionists to offer mothers ultrasounds of their unborn babies.
- forbid the state from disseminating to anyone seeking an abortion evidence-based information about the life and growth of the unborn child at each stage of development.
- forbid the state from particular informed consent requirements and from requiring a reflection period before an abortion.
- forbid the state from enforcing health care regulations like those that apply to other health care providers.
- forbid fathers of unborn children to have any right to advance notice of a proposed abortion or to have any legal standing to prevent it.

- forbid the state from requiring health care professionals to take steps to save the life of a baby born alive after an abortion, because it would interfere with a chosen "pregnancy outcome" under the Initiative.
- forbid the state from regulating surrogate arrangements that relegate women to the status of rented wombs.
- allow abortions of babies of up to 24 weeks gestational age or up to "Fetal Viability" (as defined later in the Initiative) for any reason or no reason.

2. Under some versions of the Initiative, the proposed amendment would--

- allow abortions to be performed until the moment of birth - all 9 months.
- allow for the funding of abortions with public tax dollars.
- forbid the state from requiring the consent of, or notice to, parents of a pregnant minor about an abortion.

[See "Effects" | Back Page](#)

LIFE in the News

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/who-abortion-handbook-killing-saves-lives/>

WHO issues new abortion handbook after arguing that killing the preborn 'saves lives'

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a handbook for committing surgical and telemedicine abortions via the abortion pill regimen, while downplaying any impact on mental health.

In a press release, the WHO touted the handbook for "detail[ing] practically how health workers can apply human rights principles in their work to deliver abortion care." In reality, the WHO's "Clinical practice handbook for quality abortion care" outlines ways for physicians to systematically violate the preborn's human rights while endangering women's health.

The 66-page guidebook is intended to facilitate the application of the WHO's "Abortion care guideline," which insists on "[a]bortion care" being "timely, affordable, non-discriminatory and respectful." It contains information on surgical abortions, as well as dosage instructions for mifepristone and misoprostol, the two drugs typically used in the abortion pill regimen.

Telemedicine is included as a "recommended option as an alternative to in-person interactions with the health worker to deliver medical abortion services in whole or in part."

It adds: *This means that the assessment of eligibility for medical abortion, counseling and/or instruction relating to the abortion process, instruction for and active facilitation of the administration of medicines, and follow-up post-abortion care can all be provided through telemedicine. Telemedicine services*

should include referrals (based on the woman's location) for medicines (abortion and pain control medicines), any abortion care or post-abortion follow-up required (including for emergency care if needed), and for post-abortion contraceptive services, which may apply to both medical and surgical abortion.

WHO Head of the Comprehensive Abortion Care Unit, Dr. Bela Ganatra, touted medicinal abortions in a press release.

"Medical abortion has played a seminal role in expanding access to safe abortion globally, especially for women and girls in the most vulnerable situations who may lack access to health facilities or need to keep their abortion private by avoiding hospital stays, so it's important that healthcare practitioners can facilitate it as an option for abortion care," said Ganatra.

Pro-life doctors have repeatedly warned about the dangers of telemedicine abortions and the abortion pill more generally. After recent court decisions, blue states started stocking up on misoprostol and mifepristone as an insurance policy against nationwide prohibitions. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has liberalized access to the pill by eliminating the in-person dispensing requirement.

According to medical professionals, that in-person requirement is important for determining gestational age and ruling out ectopic pregnancies, among other things.

The WHO's handbook notes that "[n]either mifepristone nor misoprostol (nor both combined) will terminate an ectopic pregnancy." It also directs professionals to "[e]valuate the woman for an ongoing pregnancy as well as for ectopic pregnancy if she reports signs or symptoms of continuing pregnancy after medical abortion."

The true danger of the abortion pill is still unknown as the FDA has severely limited its reporting requirements, which it then used as a basis for loosening its regulations. Pro-life scholars have found purportedly troubling discrepancies in

the data. One study looked at Medicaid data and found chemical abortion-related ER visits increased at a faster rate than those related to surgical abortions.

Where better data has been found in Finland, researchers found bad news for abortion pill proponents. A 2009 study from the country showed that among 42,000 women, there was a *four times higher adverse event rate* for chemical abortions compared to surgical ones.

The WHO, however, is rabidly pro-abortion and argued earlier this year that abortion "saves lives." The months following Dobbs have indicated that the WHO is wrong in arguing that restrictions don't decrease the number of procedures.



<https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2023/05/tweeting-while-you-wait-for-your-chemical-abortion-to-be-completed-3/>

Tweeting while you wait for your chemical abortion to be completed

By Dave Andrusko

I am as shocked as I am sad, although I suppose I should not be surprised. A colleague passed along a tweet which generated plenty of approving responses from like-minded people.

I won't quote the tweet, but the sum and substance is the woman lovingly kisses her baby on the head, plays with him, and sings some songs all the while waiting for her chemical abortion to kick in. The final line reads "abortion IS parenthood, babes."

In a previous tweet, she celebrates the sense of community—the "love and care and joy"—for an "abortion patient" whose friends "set up a MealTrain for them." She encourages us to "bake pies and order takeout for your friends when they have abortions!"

Is it moral equivalency? Death and life? It's "better" than that. It's a shout-out to knowing what's "right" for you.

That it's fatal for the child can be ignored simply by holding the born child who "made the cut."

Sad. So very sad.

Missouri Right to Life News
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.... *I'm going to go. Would you consider going with me?....*

From the Vice President ~

The woman was in the fifth decade of her life, when she picked up the phone and dialed the young mother's number. It was winter time. Roe v. Wade was just four years old. "There's going to be a program on pro-life in Mexico, Missouri on Tuesday evening. I'm going to go. Would you consider going with me?"

After consulting with her husband to make sure he was available to stay with the two-year-old and four-year-old girls, she agreed to go with the lady who had extended the invitation.

That night, besides the two of them, there were only three other people in the room when the Wilke Slide Show started. A cassette tape played the narrative while one of the others in the room advanced the slides in the Kodak carousel slide-projector. Dr Jack Wilke's voice led the viewer through a step-by-step description of the development of the unborn child through the twelfth week of pregnancy. Then came a slide showing a photo of the hand of an unborn child laying on the back of a dime for size reference. How did that picture come to be? The viewer soon found out as Dr. Wilke began to describe the types of abortion and what happens to the baby's body in each one.

The young woman was thunderstruck by the brutality of the procedures, tearing an unborn child limb from limb. She was also wowed by the logical arguments that Dr. Wilke posed to answer the pro-abortion arguments. When it came to the Rape/Incest argument, he said, "How can you justify imposing a sentence of Capital punishment on the innocent child and letting the perpetrator get off scott-free?"

The reasons for killing an unborn child often parallel the reasons advanced for Euthanasia, Dr. Wilke said. We allow the big to kill the tiny; the strong to kill the weak; the more perfect to kill the less perfect; the wanted to kill the unwanted. And how can we justify that when there's no guarantee that we ourselves will never become unwanted, weak, and less than perfect?

It was a powerful presentation! At the end of the program, someone in the room asked the young woman, "Would you like to learn to present the Wilke slides in your area?" Her heart had been touched and her Irish temper was up. "Yes!" she responded.

She obtained a set of the Wilke Slide presentation, borrowed her parents' own Kodak carousel slide projector, and began practicing the dialogue so she could give presentations to groups. Two or three years later, she helped start a chapter in her town, and went on to become a region chairman, member of the State MRL board of Directors, member of the MRL PAC, and ultimately, successfully ran for a seat in the Missouri Legislature!

And it all happened because someone extended an invitation to an event that the young woman had no clue was even happening.

How about you? Who will you invite? How will you ensure there will be people to defend YOUR right to life?



Therese Sander
MRL Vice President



.... *How to move forward in a post-Roe America*



Sherry Lee
MRL Director of
Communications &
Development

During the 2022 National Right to Life (NRLC) Convention in Atlanta, the Dobbs decision came down, overturning Roe, while pro-lifers from across the country and the world were together, learning, teaching and equipping each other. We had the opportunity one year later to come together at the NRLC Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, June 23-24, to see what has happened, what hasn't, and how to move forward in a post-Roe America.

Here is an overview of topics discussed at the NRLC Convention this year:

- Communication in a Post-Dobbs World has never been more important.
- Preparing for the 2024 elections--Right to Life PAC Strategy techniques.
- Emphasis on the Digital Voter Guide Lookup Tool on our website.
- Having a personal relationship with Christ as we

adapt, improvise and overcome challenges in pro-life conversations.

- Euthanasia prevention strategies and discussions.
- Boots on the Ground: Local Voices and Local Action.
- Achieving an Abortion-Free America Post-Dobbs.
- Engaging a Secular Audience on Beginning and End of Life Issues.
- Social Media Skills for Pro-Life Activists.
- Religious Outreach: Establishing a Pro-Life Presence in Community Churches.

We closed out this year's NRLC Convention with satire from Seth Dillon (Baby-lon Bee) and with Super Bowl Champion Benjamin Watson as he inspired us all to break free from being Divided Hearts of America! A great ending to the week and an inspiration for us all in Missouri!



Sherry Lee

A Cause for Praise - How Far We Have Come

Remembering Roe: The Stories We Will Tell

On Saturday, June 24, pro-life groups across the nation gathered to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Roe's passing. MRL-Western Region was one of them. Below is the first in a three-part adaptation of the transcript of our Praise and Prayer Event.

By Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR

In the years to come, we may look back on June 24, 2022 and tell many stories about the day we heard the words, "Roe v. Wade has been overturned."

- We will describe, of course, where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news.
- We may tell about the most pro-life President in American history and the power of the pro-life vote.
- We may talk about those members of the Supreme Court who stood for common sense, science, justice, and the sanctity of life.
- We may recount the dedication and the hours, which turned into years, of hard work by pro-life citizens who gave a voice to the voiceless and defended the powerless to bring this decision to fruition.
- Some may tell a story of good triumphing over evil, the righting of a wrong, a goal accomplished, or the dawning of a new era.
- But ultimately the story, and its glory, belong to God as the Creator and Sustainer of life and the orchestrator of these events. We give praise to the Lord who "works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed" (Psalm 103:6). We thank God for establishing the work of our hands and bringing forth fruit from our labors.
- We may question why it took so long...as the Israelites did during their 40 years wandering in the desert, but who are we to question the sovereignty of God? In his wisdom, the time was now. And we praise him that we could be a small part of this monumental time in history.
- We grieve the millions of lives lost, yes, but know they are in his tender care.



- In the aftermath of Roe, we call on his strength to carry out the work that still needs to be done, not just to change laws, but the greater work of transforming hearts.

Pro-Life Victories since Roe Reversal

- As of the end of May, 14 states have full abortion bans, with 5 more full-abortion bans pending. Two states prohibit abortion after 6 weeks, with 2 more heartbeat-bans pending.
- Even with 24 states fully protecting abortion and experiencing a rise in their numbers, abortion overall in the United States has decreased at an average of about 5,000 per month since Roe's reversal (NY Times, 4/12/2023).
- Now that Dobbs and not Roe is our controlling precedent, we will have more victories in court because abortion proponents will be forced to defend abortion on its own merits.
- We have become a polarized culture, which at first glance would seem like a negative. However, it has become more difficult to be neutral, forcing us to take a stand. This is actually a positive for us because as the pro-aborts become more vocal and extreme, common sense and science prevail. The "right" to abortion has no constitutional or historical basis. But for 50 years, abortion advocates didn't have to justify that abortion was right; they simply hid behind the legality of abortion "rights." Since we are no longer under the blanket of legal access, abortion as a moral issue must be addressed. In the aftermath, we have seen the left shift their tactics to justify abortion as each of their argument's is debunked, while the truth of life in the womb remains consistent.

Linda Verhulst

Keep Missouri Pro-Life!
Banquet
2023
Thursday, September 7, 2023



*Champion of Life
Award Recipient*
Raymond Leo
Cardinal Burke



St. Charles Convention Center St. Charles, MO
Social Hour 6 p.m. ~ Dinner & Program 7 p.m.
Banquet Ticket ~ \$100
Register online at MRLBanquet.com
by August 31st



*Featured
Speaker*
Actor
Jim Caviezel

MISSOURI
RIGHT TO LIFE

Questions?
314-434-4900
mrl.eastern@yahoo.com

The banquet will include
an opportunity to financially
support Missouri Right to Life

Join Us in St. Charles
September 7, 2023!

Learn more & register
online by August 31:





MRL hosted a relaxed pro-life community event June 20 called "Life, Learning & Leadership" at Perkin's Restaurant in Jefferson City. It was an opportunity to introduce family and friends to MRL and help educate and build our statewide grassroots advocacy efforts.



MRL was invited by Tracy Dougan (above, middle), Concerned Women for America of Missouri State Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator, to speak with her prayer action chapter group in Nixa in May. MRL Executive Director Susan Klein (above, left) and MRL Director of Education & Development Sara Walsh (above, right) shared a prolife update with the group (below).



MRL was invited to speak at a pro-life educational event organized by Amanda Wiley, President of TPUSA Johnson County High-school Hub. Pictured above, MRL Director of Education & Development Sara Walsh, and MRL Director of Communication & Development Sherry Lee, pose with the group of young pro-lifers at their event.

Throughout The State

LIFE

Missouri Right to



(Above, left): MRL's Eastern Region hosted its Golf Tournament in May. What a wonderful day!



Pictured above (left to right), MRL Johnson County Chapter President Virginia Campbell, MRL Director of Education & Development Sara Walsh, MRL Johnson County Vice President Jacquelin Langston, and MRL Director of Communication & Development Sherry Lee visit at a pro-life educational event organized by TPUSA Johnson County High-school Hub.

(Below): MRL's Exec. Dir. Susan Klein speaks with members of the Trinity Lutheran Life Team in Columbia in June.



Pictured (left) is MRL President Steve Rupp and Missouri State Treasurer Vivek Malek.



Missouri Right to Life hosts statewide meeting



MRL Board Member Dave Plemmons speaks at MRL's statewide meeting, June 10 in Holts Summit.



MRL hosted its semi-annual statewide meeting, in Holts Summit, June 10. Attendees heard updates on the battle to fight the pro-abortion initiative petitions and to Keep Missouri Pro-Life.



Cass Bowen Anderson, Executive Producer of "Wake Up Springfield" on 93.3 FM/ 560 AM KWTO, shared her pro-life story at MRL's June 10 meeting.

Missouri Right to Life at National Right to Life Convention



MRL Leaders at the NRLC Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Left to Right: Susan Klein, Exec. Director, John Heck, Director of Advancement, Maggie Bick, National Right to Life Delegate.



Left to Right: Maggie Bick, MRL National Right to Life (NRLC) Delegate; Karen Cross, Political Director of NRLC; Susan Klein, Executive Director of Missouri Right to Life (MRL); Sherry Lee, Director of Communication & Development of MRL at the National Right to Life convention June 23-24 in Pittsburgh, PA.



Susan Klein, MRL Exec. Dir., with former NFL tight end Benjamin Watson at NRLC Convention June 23-24 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Memorials & Honorariums

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

In memory of ~
William Allen

Given by ~
Michael & Georgia Ferretti
Sharon Purcell
Thomas Prebil
Ed & Ann Barnidge

In memory of ~
Betty Ann Huber

Given by ~
Walde Orthodontic Associates, P.C.

In memory of ~
Richard Luebbering

Given by ~
M. Janet Evers

In memory of ~
William Aldin Allen

Given by ~
Larry & Deborah Roberts

In memory of ~
Katherine Gunn

Given by ~
Dan & Betsy Carlsen

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



Independence Day, 2023



The Missouri Right to Life Capital Chapter had a blast with their first float in Jefferson City's "Salute to America" Independence Day Parade. The parade theme was movies and the float theme was "Babies are our National Treasure."

Pro-Life Across Missouri

save the date

August 10-20

Sedalia - Stop by the Missouri Right to Life, Sedalia Chapter, booth at the Missouri State Fair, August 10-20! Thank you to all of our chapters who are hosting booths and/or participating in their county fairs this summer!

September 7

St. Charles - Keep Missouri Pro-Life MRL Eastern Region banquet. 7:00 p.m. at the St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza. Featured Speaker: Jim Caviezel. 'Champion of Life' Award Recipient: Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke. Register online at MRL-banquet.com

September 27 -
November 5

Columbia - Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign - Is your church, youth group, or organization looking to adopt a day or multiple days to join trained prayer supporters on the sidewalk? Now is a good time to start planning! There are prayer opportunities year-round! Call 573-821-5130 for more information.



Ethan Jacobi and Grace Tuley, members of Capital West Christian Church, Jefferson City, shared their musical talents through worship during MRL's Celebrate Life Day, June 24.



Pictured below & above, Rev. Mike (Staff Evangelist) & Becky Quinn (Director of Women's Ministry), Concord Baptist Church, Jefferson City, closed their address to the crowd with an emphasis on LIFE.

MRL "Celebrate Life" Day at the Missouri State Capitol

Pro-life Missourians gathered at the Missouri Capitol on June 24th, the 1-year Anniversary of the overturn of Roe v. Wade, to celebrate life, to champion life-affirming resources, and to pray to Keep Missouri Pro-Life. This year's showcased-booths were the Pregnancy Help Center of Central Missouri, Crossroads Family Ministries, Life House of Springfield & Cape Girardeau, & Birthright. Speakers included Father Richard Frank, Retired Priest of the Jefferson City Diocese, Rev. LP Cook, Lead Pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church, Holts Summit, Pastor Dallas Henry, Capital West Christian Church of Jefferson City, Rev. Mike (Staff Evangelist) & Becky Quinn (Director of Women's Ministry) of Concord Baptist Church of Jefferson City, and Rev. Charles Klein, Pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Holts Summit. The message from the pastors was clear: The battle is the Lord's... keep praying, working and standing for LIFE!



Celebrate LIFE



Left, Patty Skain, MRL Assistant to the Executive Director, welcomes attendees (above, middle) to MRL's "Celebrate Life" Day, June 24th at the Missouri State Capitol. Above, right, Rev. LP Cook, Lead Pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church, Holts Summit, shared his family's pro-life story before offering a prayer for life.



P. O. Box 651
Jefferson City MO 65102-0651

Inside -

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MISSOURI'S INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS*



*Note: During this process, lawsuits can be filed by both sides.

After proposals are filed...

1

The Secretary of State approves the petition form and drafts ballot title.

The petitioner circulates petition, gathering signatures until May 5, 2024.

2

3

The petitions are submitted to the Secretary of State by May 5, 2024 (6 months prior to the election).

The petitions are distributed to local election authorities.

4

5

Local election authorities verify the signatures.

The Secretary of State issues a certificate of sufficiency or insufficiency by 5 pm, Aug. 6, 2024 (13 weeks before election).

6

7

If there are a sufficient number of valid signatures, it is then placed on the ballot for the November 5, 2024 general election.

...Effects of "Right to Reproductive Freedom" Initiative

(...continued from Page 1)

3. The Initiative is so broadly worded that courts might interpret it to allow the following:

- Pregnancy Resource Centers might be forced to be licensed by the authorities and to refer for abortions.
- The Initiative could deny any woman harmed by an abortionist her right to sue for malpractice. (The immunity may also apply to negligent providers of prenatal care, childbirth assistance, postpartum care, and birth control.)
- Cloning for reproduction could become constitutionally protected. Even the weak restriction against it in the cloning amendment adopted in 2006 could be rendered a nullity.
- The Initiative could allow experimentation on unborn children with or without parental consent if performed as research to assist people in "exercizing their right to reproductive freedom."

**STAND WITH US
TO KEEP MISSOURI
PRO-LIFE!
DECLINE TO SIGN**