



Defenders of the Unborn

May 2021 Newsletter

P.O. Box 892
St. Charles, MO 63302

P.O. Box 892

Defenders of the Unborn
P.O. Box 892
St. Charles, MO 63302-0892

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Charles, MO
PERMIT NO. 99

*A Special Prayer
May God's shining Presence
Guide you, both day and night,
And guard your every step
and give you strength and light.*

*And may God uphold you
With His almighty Hand,
When tremors shake the earth
And nothing seems to stand.*

*May God supply your needs
In everything you do,
And may His joy be yours.
This is my prayer for you.*

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Perry Tanksley

May

Flowers are blooming, trees are turning green and the lawns need mowing. God has created such beautiful things. He has created precious babies. These babies are not created to die. They are created to be loved and cared for. But such places as Hope mill and others seem to think that they must die in order for them to live as they wish. WE MUST CHANGE THAT!
To change that we must make the commitment to be present when the babies are dying.
Hope mill has faithful warriors, please join them. Any day of the week and every Saturday.



Saturday Morning Prayer Warriors in May Hope Clinic

Prayer Warriors: 55
Hrs. Counseling/Praying- 144
Catholics Praying: 50



Saturday Hope Clinic Stats for May

Expectant Moms: 48
Children Died: Unknown -48 moms entered the death camp.
Confirmed Babies Saved: 1
Literature Handed Out: 7
Pregnancy Test: 0
Counseling for Abortion: 0
RU-486- 0
Turn a Way:
Alternative Ctr. for pregnancy test-0
Escorts 25
Saved Babies Born in May: 1
Abortionist: Shah, Erin King, David Eisenberg

Even though the calendar says it is Spring the weather says differently. The month began with a cold breezy day. But it didn't stop the faithful warriors to come and offer support and help to the moms going in.

The deathscorts are there on Saturday to circle the moms and dads who come to kill their innocent child in mom's womb. The deathscorts are like hungry vultures waiting for their prey. Once they are inside they look for the next victim

On the second Saturday we had a mom who wanted an ultrasound but the van had already left. The couple traveled to Fairview Heights to get the ultrasound. Mom was able to see her baby audition for her. Baby and mom are doing well.

One dad told a counselor that he was giving his baby back to God. That is how he rationalized this abortion. The man also told the counselor that he has given back another baby to God. So, this wasn't her first abortion. How Sad!

A group of five people came walked into the abortion mill without being checked. About an hour later they came out and left. Not sure if they were trainees or new deathscorts.

As another month comes to an end we reflect on the sadness that we see. So many moms and dads destroying their child. How they rationalize it. What are we to do?

We must continue to be present at the place where these babies dies. We must continue to offer help and support to all the moms going in. We must remain faithful to God's calling.

**To rescue those that are being dragged to the slaughter.
Remember: God is calling you to be faithful He is not calling you to be successful.**

Hope Clinic Weekday Stats for May

Warriors: 86
Expectant Moms: 179
Children Died: Unknown – 179 moms entered the death camp.
Second Trimester Abortion– Two day procedure: 4
RU– 486–0
Literature: 5
Alternative Ctr: 0
Hrs: 258
Saves: 3
Drive away: 1
Abortionist: Erin King, David Eisenberg, Shah

Most of the moms that come to this abortion mill are black moms.

One couple came from Indiana for the abortion. As they were leaving after the abortion they were arguing. Just think what it will be like driving home.

A mom came to abort her child with three family members with her. Before she went into the death camp she hugged each one. When she came out she hugged them and they all left together. I wonder what the conversation was as they drove home?

On the third Friday a mom and her daughter came to abort the young girls sibling. We talked approximately 15 minutes before the mom decided to leave. She agreed to see us in our office the following Monday. On Sunday she began bleeding and was taken to the emergency room. where she had a miscarriage.

I told mom that her baby died as God had planned. Not at the hands of the abortionist. No guilt on her.

A young woman came from Mississippi to abort her child. She was there three different days. On Saturday she returned to the abortion mill. We are not sure if she had complications after her abortion. No ambulance came during our watch time.

A young black girl was talking to a counselor when she told her that she was not going to abort. The mom said she would call if she needed help.

A couple from Tennessee came to abort their baby. The mom got out of her car walked to the passenger side to retrieve her young child from her car seat. Mom hugged and kissed him as they walked to the guard shack. Mom handed the baby back to dad, she went inside to kill his brother or sister while dad took the baby back to the car to wait for the dirty deed to be done. We must pray for this mom.

As we come to a close for May we ask for your prayers for all the counselors that come during the weekdays to offer support and help to those moms going in.

It is a stressful time for all.

Planned Parenthood– Fairview Heights, Stats for May

Defenders of the Unborn has not be able to be at this mill in April We have put our resources at Hopeless mill and Planned Parenthood St. Louis. Hope someone is counseling at the Fairview Heights mill.

Planned Parenthood– St. Louis, MO May Expectant Moms– 12

Children Died: Unknown– 12 moms entered the death camp.

Literature: 11
Warriors:16
Birth Control: 3, DePo: 4
Pregnancy test: 0
Escort: 1
STD-: 3, Check-up: 1
Male Surgery– Vasectomy: 0
Hrs: 17



We must return to this place of death to send a clear message that we will not tolerate the actions of abortionist Colleen McNicholas.

A black woman stopped at the driveway to tell me if I was so worried about killing, then I need to stop shooting and killing black people. She forgets that five out of six abortions are black moms.

As a man was leaving the mill he stopped to talk with me. I asked him if he had anyone inside, he told me no but was there training the employees CPR. I reminded him that if he had not trained them they would not be able to be open—and no babies would die. He was not pleased with that thought.

Planned Parenthood is putting up cameras on the building. I reminded the man that was installing them that he was going to be paid with the blood of the children that would die today in an abortion. He also was not pleased with that thought. Guilt is a terrible thing!

Please join us on any given Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Constant Witness schedule

Hope Clinic Weekly

Tuesday– 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday– 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Thursday– 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Friday– 7:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Saturday– 6:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

We have added another constant witness to our schedule. Several faithful prayer warriors have been standing witness at the satellite office of Planned Parenthood at Big Bend and Hwy 141. The schedule has changed. They are there on the 4th Saturday from 11:00 a.m. –12:00 noon. Think about joining them.

Because these faithful warriors have been standing witness at this satellite office it is now closed on Thursday and the 2nd and 3rd Saturday.

Granite City– Hope Clinic

John: Friday 6:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Saturday 6:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m.

Mary– Friday—7:30 a.m.– 10:30 a.m.

Please join Defenders of the Unborn as we defend and protect

Planned Parenthood—St. Louis

Mary- Wednesday– 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Planned Parenthood is scheduling appointments on Wednesdays.

Please join us as we work to rescue the little ones.

Early morning 8:30– 11:00. Please send an email to register to rescue the innocent unborn child.

New Site for Prayer Warriors

Planned Parenthood Fairview Heights, IL

Mary- Saturday- When available

John– When available.

Be Not Afraid God will Lead You

Project Rachel & Project Joseph

The services of Project Rachel and Project Joseph are available to anyone who has been wounded by an abortion experience and is seeking healing. Services include: free, confidential, professional counseling, monthly spiritual support meetings, healing retreats, spiritual direction, and Reconciliation.

Project Rachel Spiritual Support Group

7:00 p. m. Contact Marisol at (314) 792-7451

Project Joseph Spiritual Support Group

Contact Chuck at 314-974-6787

Upcoming Events

Rosary Procession

June 19, 2021

Please join us as we pray and peacefully witness for life at our third Saturday pro-life Mass at the Cathedral Basilica starting at 8 a.m. Thank you to Fr. George Staley of St. Francis of Assisi (Oakville) for celebrating Mass and leading the Rosary procession to and from our state's last abortion facility.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

Father's Day

June 20, 2021

Please take time to come to Planned Parenthood and pray for all the father's who will not have a little one to hold and talk to, or give him a kiss or say Happy Father's day, dad.

National Bridge Overpass

July 15, 2021

During a pro-life bridge event, pro-lifers can reach tens of thousands of people on the highway by displaying a professionally printed sign on an overpass. Pro-lifers across the nation reach a million people each year during the National Pro-life Bridge Day.

We would like to expand our time proclaiming life. We will begin at 6:30 a.m. and end at noon. We have signs just need bodies. We will once again stand at the overpass in St. Charles. We will stand for two hours, facing the traffic coming East and the traffic going West. We will stand at the Convention Center overpass in St. Charles, MO . We are needing 4 folks each two hours to hold the sign. If you are able to join us please contact Mary at 314-346-9052. We will be taking two hour time slots.

Webster Groves 4th of July Parade

July 3, 2021

The 4th of July parade will be held this year. More information will come as soon as all the details are worked out. Please mark your calendar and join us.

We will be celebrating our freedom.

We ask for your prayers for a dear friends daughter who is in a convent in Italy. She is having serious health issues.

FRUITS OF OUR LABOR FOR FOR MAY

Delivered baby items to an expectant mom

Prayed outside the abortion mill the day before Mother's Day.

Paid rent for a mom- \$2,000.00

**Spent praying/counseling at Planned Parenthood– 17 hrs.
Spent praying/counseling at Hope mill– weekdays-258 hrs.
Saturday– 144 hrs. Total hours spent at area abortion mill in prayer or counseling– 419 hrs.**

Volunteers Needed

Defenders of the Unborn is in need of volunteers to help with day to day operation in the office plus someone to deliver baby items to moms.

Part Time Office Manager

We are also seeking to contract with a person to implement the day to day operations of our organization. Duties include working with volunteers, scheduling of projects, contacting supporters by mail and or email. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel helpful. Must be able to work two or three days a week. For more information about our organization visit our website stl-defenders.com Please email resume and letter of interest to defenseless68@gmail.com

Together we will rescue God's precious little ones.

DEFENDERS OF THE UNBORN REPORT

Mother's Day Prayers

May 9, 2021

On the Saturday before Mother's Day many prayer warriors were seen outside the death camp in their area. At the Hopeless mill and at Planned Parenthood St. Louis prayer warriors came to pray for their moms and all the moms.

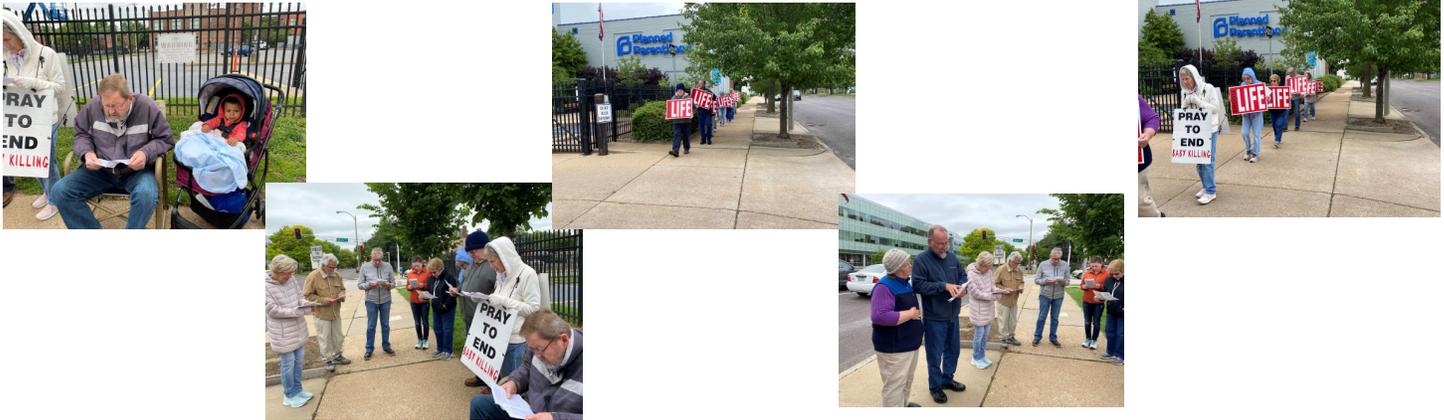
The sad reality is that when a mom aborts her child on that day she will always have that special day tarnished by the memory of her destroying her child. It will not be flowers and cards from family but a reminder of the loss. The child will never say Happy Mother's Day mom or give her flowers, gift. She will only have sadness.

Our prayers go out to all the mothers and for all the moms. We pray for the moms that did the unthinkable.

Walk of Jericho

May 29, 2021

The faithful prayer warriors were present to walk and pray for the final closing of this evil abortion mill. God provided a pleasant day. The mill was CLOSED on Saturday, no victims. But the mill needs to be close permanently. You are needed for this to happen. Please consider joining us on July 31, 2021 for our next Jericho Walk.



Joe Biden Won't Speak at Notre Dame's Commencement After 4,300 Students Sign Petition Rejecting Him

Joe Biden will not speak at the University of Notre Dame commencement ceremony this spring after thousands of students and alumni signed a petition protesting his radical pro-abortion views.

The Blaze reports more than 4,500 people signed the petition urging university president, the Rev. John I. Jenkins, not to invite Biden or give him an honorary degree, as is university tradition.

"[Biden] rejects Church teachings on abortion, marriage, sex and gender and is hostile to religious liberty," the petition states. "He embraces the most pro-abortion and anti-religious liberty public policy program in history."

A White House spokesperson recently confirmed that the university did invite Biden, but he cannot attend because of a scheduling conflict, The Daily Mail reports.

The Catholic university traditionally invites sitting presidents to speak at commencement, and Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama spoke as did Vice President Mike Pence. Biden's decision not to attend breaks a 20-year tradition, according to the report.

Though Biden claims to be a devout Catholic, his policies on life, family and religious freedom openly defy the Catholic Church and the views of most Americans. They have drawn repeated criticism from pro-life leaders, Catholic bishops and other Christian leaders.

In their petition, the Notre Dame alumni and students said the university should not have invited Biden because "Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

The invitation sends a message that the university is "little troubled by Biden's actions," the petition states. "Catholics – including especially Catholic politicians — and others who share Biden's views would be confirmed in their ruinous error while others would be newly led astray."

The petition signers said Biden's actions "threaten grievous harm" to unborn babies and people of faith.

"We suggest that [the university's] responsibility ... is to guard Church teachings that are crucially important in today's society by conferring its honors upon those who support them rather than upon those who oppose them, especially the one person above all who has the will and the power to undermine them," the petition states.

Students and alumni also protested when the University of Notre Dame invited pro-abortion President Barack Obama to speak in 2009.

Biden professes to be a devout Catholic and frequently attends Mass. However, he openly defies church teachings about the sanctity of human life and family. After just 100 days in office, he surpassed Obama as the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history. His administration recently stopped enforcing safety regulations that protect mothers and unborn babies from dangerous abortion drugs. He also is forcing taxpayers to fund the billion-dollar abortion industry.

Ann Arbor Planned Parenthood Hospitalizes Third Woman So Far in 2021

The 40 Days for Life organization in Ann Arbor, Michigan, has reported that an ambulance was called to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility there for a woman who suffered abortion complications so serious that she required ambulance transport to a nearby hospital.

This is the third medical emergency at this Planned Parenthood facility so far in 2021.

Ambulances were also spotted at there on February 19 and 24, 2021.

Baby Saved From Abortion When Sidewalk Counselor Helps a Mom Choose Life

Pro-life sidewalk counselors provide a last ray of hope to mothers and unborn babies outside abortion facilities across the world.

Some never know if they have helped to save a baby's life. But last week, one pro-life advocate with Helpers of God's Precious Infants San Diego believes she did.

In a letter published at California Catholic Daily, the sidewalk counselor asked for prayers for the woman and her unborn baby after she watched the woman leave a San Diego Planned Parenthood abortion facility.

"Please pray for this woman to continue to stand firm in her choice to give life to her unborn baby," the pro-life organization wrote.

The sidewalk counselor said she watched a car pull up into the parking lot that day and saw a man inside. She said the woman was sitting in the back seat, so she did not see her initially.

When the man, likely the woman's boyfriend, approached the sidewalk counselor to ask if the abortion facility was closed, the sidewalk counselor responded, "No, it's open, but I wouldn't recommend going in there."

She shared information with the man about a baby's development in the womb and showed him images at different development stages. Then, she said the man returned to the car and began speaking with the woman in a different language.

The sidewalk counselor said the man appeared to be encouraging the woman to go into the abortion facility, but the woman got out of the car and stood beside her instead.

The sidewalk counselor said she shared information with the woman about a local maternity home and other support services available in the community. Then, she showed her a brochure with information about an unborn baby's development and told her that an unborn baby has a heartbeat by six weeks of pregnancy.

"Then the counselor explained how the abortion pill, vacuum aspiration, and D&E abortions happen, and depending how far along she was, Planned Parenthood would recommend one of those," the letter continued. "Her eyes got big a couple of times while the counselor explained the abortions and her boyfriend became impatient, shifting a bit and trying to interrupt."

Eventually, the pro-life counselor said the woman went inside with her boyfriend. To her joy, however, she said they came back out again just a few minutes later. She watched them sit on a bench and talk quietly for a few minutes and then get into their car and leave, she said.

Though they did not speak to her again, a glance from the woman and a nod from the man gave her hope that they chose life.

Though they did not speak to her again, a glance from the woman and a nod from the man gave her hope that they chose life.

24 States Would Protect Babies From Abortions if Supreme Court Overturns Roe v. Wade

If given the chance, half of the United States would protect unborn babies from abortion, according to the study "What If Roe Fell?" by the Center for Reproductive Rights.

And states may have that chance now that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a major abortion case out of Mississippi.

Many believe the case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, is a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that led to 62 million unborn babies' abortion deaths. *Roe* and subsequent abortion rulings prohibit states from protecting unborn babies before viability, about 22 weeks.

The justices agreed to reconsider that precedent and determine "whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortion are unconstitutional." The Mississippi law bans abortions on unborn babies after 15 weeks.

If the justices overturn *Roe*, the Center for Reproductive Rights predicted that 24 states and three territories likely would take swift action to ban abortions, *The Hill* reports.

According to its 2019 study, 21 states would keep abortions legal and five others likely would do the same but could be "vulnerable" to changing their laws.

"Eleven states have trigger bans in place," Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, told *The Hill*. "That means laws that say if the Supreme Court weakened or reversed *Roe* that, automatically, they would have abortion be made a crime in their states."

In recent years, other analyses have predicted anywhere from eight to 31 states would end abortions if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*. In 2018, the pro-abortion group NARAL predicted 13 states would immediately ban abortions if *Roe* is overturned.

A previous estimate by the Center for Reproductive Rights put the number at 31 states. Another analysis by attorney Paul Linton in the journal "Issues in Law and Medicine" in 2012 estimated between eight and 11 states would ban abortions.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the Mississippi case sometime during its next term. A decision is not likely until the spring of 2022.

The truth about the Hyde Amendment and taxpayer funding of abortion

The Hyde Amendment has been renewed each appropriations cycle—with few changes—every year for nearly 40 years.

The amendment has enjoyed bipartisan support over the years and has been supported by Congresses controlled by both parties as well as presidents from both parties.

It was estimated that before the Hyde Amendment took effect, approximately 300,000 abortions were paid for by Medicaid programs.

A 2019 Politico/Morning Consult poll found that 49% supported the Hyde Amendment while only 33% opposed it.

In 2020, a Marist poll found that those opposed to federal funding of abortions held firm with 60% of Americans opposed.

In a 2021 Marist poll conducted in January, those who "oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion"—58%—is solid and consistent with prior polling. What is noticeable is that 65% of Independents and even 31% of Democrats oppose federal funding of abortion.

Chattanooga, Tennessee Celebrates Being Abortion Free for 28 Years State

On May 17, pro-lifers in Chattanooga, Tennessee celebrated 28 years of being a city with no abortions.

The Chattanooga reports pro-life advocates rallied together in 1993 to help close the only abortion facility in the city, raising more than \$300,000 in a week to buy the abortion facility building at a bankruptcy sale.

This week, local pro-life advocate Thomas Snowden remembered how many people came together to pray, donate and work to protect unborn babies from abortion nearly three decades ago.

“We thanked God when the last abortion clinic closed, and we continue to thank Him that Chattanooga has been the largest city in the country without an abortion clinic for 28 years,” Snowden told the news outlet.

The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports pro-lifers converted the land on which the abortion facility stood into a memorial for aborted babies.

The National Memorial for the Unborn opened in 1994 as a place of remembrance for aborted babies and healing for their mothers, fathers and other family members. It includes a 50-foot granite “Wall of Names” with small plaques dedicated to babies by individuals across the country.

Mom With Cancer Refused Abortion to Save Her Unborn Baby Girl’s Life, 1 Year Later They’re Doing Great

In the fall of 2019, Alexandra (Alex) Belluzzi received a devastating diagnosis. At just 34-years-old, Alex learned that she had breast cancer. Her concern was not just for her own life but also for the life of her preborn child, as she was also 18 weeks pregnant with her daughter Daniella. Alex’s sister, Ashley Belluzzi shared the story of Alex’s cancer and treatment on the website Love What Matters.

Tragically, many women facing such a diagnosis are pressured to end their baby’s life through abortion because of concern that treatment might affect the developing preborn baby. Ashley shared that her sister had suffered two miscarriages before becoming pregnant with Daniella, and her first concern was for the health and safety for her preborn daughter. In the days immediately following the stunning diagnosis, Ashley asked Alex how she could force herself to eat meals as the family went from appointment to appointment in a daze. Alex responded, gesturing to her growing belly, “I need to make sure she is okay.”

Ashley writes, “From the day of diagnosis, it was always clear Alex was going to do everything and anything to not only fight for her own life, but to fight for two. At the first few doctor appointments, the only question I can remember Alex asking the doctors was, ‘What about the baby?’” Alex initially wanted to delay treatment, but doctors thought an aggressive treatment would be the best approach and did not think they could delay.

Three weeks after receiving the diagnosis, Alex, along with Daniella still developing in the womb, began chemotherapy. Ashley writes movingly about witnessing her sister’s courage. She said, “From the day she first sat in that chemo chair, it became clear she was more than equipped to fight for her life.” Even so, the sudden turn of events was hard on Alex. When she went to chemotherapy and opened the bag of gifts her family gave her to

help endure the excruciating hours of treatment she shed tears, commenting, I should be opening baby gifts, not cancer gifts.”

This year, Daniella turned one-year-old, and her mother continues to be monitored after rounds of chemotherapy and extensive treatment. Ashley describes Daniella as “the driving force behind Alex’s strength.” Ashley wrote for Love What Matters, “Alex still has a long road ahead of her, but she still has so much fight left in her. Her determination and will to live is greater than any fear.”

Abortions in Illinois Spike as More Than 46,500 Babies Were Killed Last Year

About 4,000 more unborn babies were aborted in the state in 2019 compared to the year prior, according to newly released statistics from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In total, more than 46,500 abortions were done in Illinois in 2019, an almost 10 percent increase from 2018, the Chicago Tribune reports.

Pro-life leaders blamed the increase, in part, on a 2018 state law that forces taxpayers to fund abortions and a 2019 law that allows unborn babies to be aborted for any reason up to birth and forces every state insurance plan to cover abortions.

According to the statistics, Illinois also saw an increase in women coming from other states to have abortions. In 2019, about 7,500 abortions were done on out-of-state women and their unborn babies, about 2,000 more than 2018, the data shows.

That year, Planned Parenthood opened a huge new abortion facility on the border near St. Louis. Missouri has pro-life laws that help prevent abortions, and currently there is only one abortion facility in the state.

The spike also coincides with the pro-abortion laws that passed the state legislature in 2018 and 2019. Abortion numbers rose in 2018 as well after the law forcing taxpayers to fund abortions went into effect.

Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel for the Thomas More Society, a pro-life legal group based in Chicago, said the legislature does not represent state residents’ views.

“The abortion industry in Illinois now has a stranglehold on our state government, and those radical elected officials should be responsible for the hike in abortions in Illinois,” Breen told the newspaper. “The views of the people of Illinois on abortion are not being represented by our elected officials.”

Though Illinois has radical pro-abortion laws, abortion activists want more. Right now, they are pressuring state lawmakers to end one of the few protections left: a law that requires parental notification before an underage girl may have an abortion. Without the law, young girls could get secret abortions – or be forced into them by an abuser – without their parents’ knowledge or consent.

Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and the Guttmacher Institute indicate that abortions have dropped to an all-time low in recent years as pro-life advocates pass laws, educate people about the truth and provide hope and help mothers and babies in need. The latest report from the CDC found a 2 percent drop in the abortion rate from 2016 to 2018.

Still, almost 1 million unborn babies are aborted in the U.S. every year and nearly 63 million have been aborted since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Aborting People With Down Syndrome Deprives Our Society of Love And Joy

On November 8, 2020, Chris Nikic became the first man with Down syndrome to complete an Ironman Triathlon. An Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile open-water swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile run — a full marathon. It's an endurance test that less than 0.003 percent of able-bodied Americans can complete.

When asked why Chris became interested in the triathlon, his parents responded, "Ever since Chris was born, the doctors have told us that he'd never walk, that he'd never make friends, that he'd be confined to bed all day, and that his life would be miserable. Chris showed them that those were lies."

Grace Mehan is a young woman with Down syndrome who lives in Glendale, Missouri. For years, she commuted by bus to community college, her volunteer activities, and two jobs using the same bus stop in Glendale.

Every holiday, she and her father would dress up in costumes and decorate the bus stop, waving at passers-by. They dressed up like turkeys on Thanksgiving, as Santa Claus and an elf on Christmas, and even like trees on Arbor Day. Everyone who drove past the bus stop would honk and wave on those special days.

Eventually, the City of Glendale named the bus stop after her: Grace's Glendale Bus Stop. I've been fortunate to spend time with Grace and witness firsthand her warm personality and contagious laugh.

Those with Down syndrome bring unique joy, beauty, and diversity to our society. Chris Nikic and Grace Mehan are only two of many examples. Yet those with Down syndrome are one generation from complete elimination.

For decades during the twentieth century, people with Down syndrome faced appalling discrimination from the medical community. They were institutionalized, neglected, abused, and even experimented upon. Doctors routinely denied simple, life-saving treatments to children with Down syndrome. In 1982, during the notorious Baby Doe case in Indiana, the physician described children with Down syndrome as "mere blobs" who did not deserve to live.

This discrimination was lethal. The average life expectancy of a person with Down syndrome in 1960 was ten years. Now it's over 60 years. That difference didn't result from advances in medical technology, but vast improvements in the way we treat born persons with Down syndrome — with common decency and as complete humans. It was parents and disability advocates, not the medical community, who exposed the horrors faced by those with Down syndrome and changed society's view of them.

Despite these advances, the Down syndrome community today faces an existential threat even greater than the medicalized discrimination of the twentieth century. Due to advances in prenatal screening technology, persons with Down syndrome are targeted for abortion at extreme rates before they are born.

In the United States, somewhere between 67 and 91 percent of all infants with Down syndrome are eliminated by abortion. In many western nations, the abortion rate is even higher — approaching 100 percent in Iceland, and over 90 percent in several European nations.

Empirical research demonstrates that the genetic counseling received by parents who learn that they are expecting a child with Down syndrome is heavily biased in favor of abortion. Several literature reviews reflect an overwhelmingly negative message to such parents at their moment of greatest vulnerability, creating enormous pressure to choose to abort their Down syndrome child.

This "counseling," presented with the veneer of medical authority, contributes greatly to the genocidal epidemic of Down syndrome abortions. As one study commented, "When it comes to testing for Down syndrome, the impact of genetic testing and counseling is clear: abortions."

I am the parent of a severely disabled child, and I know first-hand the pain, the heartache, and the challenges of raising a child with special needs. My son Stephen was born with a rare genetic disease called Tuberous Sclerosis, causing tumors on his major organs. As a result, he is also on the autism spectrum, is non-verbal, and suffers from seizures.

Despite the struggles he's faced, Stephen always has a positive, energetic attitude and brings immense joy to those around him. Coming home to see Stephen waiting for me on the porch with a big smile on his face never fails to brighten my day. Looking back on my life with my son, I wouldn't change one single thing.

The same is true of parents and siblings of children with Down syndrome. While many in the medical community present expectant parents with a deeply negative picture of life with a Down syndrome child, empirical evidence demonstrates the exact opposite.

Multiple surveys of parents and siblings of Down Syndrome children show an overwhelmingly positive view of their lives and the lives of their Down syndrome child, brother, or sister at rates approaching 99 percent. One parent in a recent study provided the following typical description of the experience of parenting a child with Down syndrome: "It is the most beautiful experience of my life. I have no regret and would not change anything if it was possible."

When an entire group of people is targeted for elimination solely because of an immutable characteristic, such as race or disability, that is considered genocide. People with Down syndrome are facing genocide through abortion and biased genetic counseling. That genocide must stop. Our society is great enough to welcome all persons, regardless of disability.

If people with Down syndrome are eliminated, the loss to society would be incalculable. Their contribution to society is unique and irreplaceable. Glendale without Grace Mehan would be a less vibrant community. The Ironman Triathlon without Chris Nikic would be less inspiring. Their diversity strengthens us, their courage emboldens us, and their beauty inspires us to be better ourselves.

As Chris Nikic neared collapse during the marathon leg of his Ironman Triathlon, his father asked him, "Are you going to let your pain win, or let your dreams win?" He responded, "My dreams are going to win." He completed the triathlon with 11 minutes to spare.

Doctors had told his parents he would never walk and his life would be miserable. Now he tells Runner's World, "My dream is to buy my own house, buy my own car, and get a smoking hot blonde wife from Minnesota." Chris's parents defied the bias against persons with Down Syndrome to raise a champion.

LifeNews Note: Eric Schmitt is the Attorney General of the State of Missouri. Elected in 2020, Schmitt has focused on protecting all six million Missourians and defending the rule of law. This article originally appeared at The Federalist.

PLEASE JOIN US TO RESCUE THOSE THAT ARE BEING DRAGGED TO THE SLAUGHTER