

States Limiting Abortions Due to Fetal Pain

Fetal Pain Facts and Falsehoods

- By 7 weeks, pain “sensory receptors appear in the perioral [mouth] area.” (*New England Journal of Medicine*)
- By 10 weeks, “All components of the brain and spinal cord are formed, and nerves link the stem of the brain and the spinal cord to all tissues and organs of the body.”
- By 12 weeks, “Electrical activity of the nervous system is discernible” and “attempts to suckle” are observed “in utero and in aborted fetuses.” (*Encyclopedia of Human Biology*)
- By 14 weeks, “limb movements ... become coordinated.” (*Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology & Birth Defects*)
- By 14 weeks, preborn humans exhibit conscious “motor planning” and “social behavior.” (*PLoS ONE*)
- By 14 to 22 weeks, “a physiological fetal reaction to painful stimuli” occurs. (*Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy*)
- By 18 weeks, pain sensory receptors spread to “all cutaneous [skin] and mucous surfaces,” and the cerebral cortex (the portion of the brain responsible for higher functions like reasoning and language) has the same number of nerve cells as a full-grown adult. (*New England Journal of Medicine*)
- By 18 to 20 weeks, the human fetus “elaborates pituitary-adrenal, sympatho-adrenal, and circulatory stress responses to physical insults.” (*Anesthesiology*)

These scientific facts show that by 20 weeks, humans have pain receptors, consciousness, and physical responses to painful events. Yet, that humans cannot feel pain by 20 weeks has been reported by the *NY Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, CNN, Slate, and the Daily Beast, all citing a single paper published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) in 2005. But none of them mentioned that at least three of the JAMA paper’s five **authors have been involved in the abortion industry**, including lead author Susan J. Lee who worked as a lawyer for the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, which is now known as NARAL Pro-Choice America; Eleanor A. Drey, abortion clinic medical director; and Mark Rosen, who worked in an abortion clinic.

These **media outlets also violated journalism ethics** which require them not to omit “facts of major importance or significance.” They did this by failing to reveal that the JAMA paper’s central argument was refuted by medical journals less than two years after it was published. [James D. Agresti, JustFactsDaily.com, 5/25/16]

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States Move to Protect Fetuses

Utah became the first state to enact a law requiring that unborn babies 20 weeks and older **receive anesthesia** prior to abortion. Utah Senator Curtis Bramble pointed out that protection from pain for the unborn is the same protection that our society offers convicted murderers on death row, and to animals euthanized in animal shelters.

Dr. David Prentice of the Charlotte Lozier Institute said science conclusively shows that “young babies still in the womb at 20 weeks after conception, and probably even earlier, do indeed feel pain, and in fact, may feel more intense pain than a newborn or an adult.” He explained that unborn babies may feel excruciating pain during abortions because they have a high density of nerve receptors but lack pathways to tone down pain.

But some pro-lifers argue that methods of making abortion more humane and acceptable **miss the point**, since a painless killing still results in death. Others argue that as long as abortion is legal, the baby should be spared unnecessary pain. A November 2014 poll from Quinnipiac found that 60% of Americans support legislation limiting abortions after 20 weeks, including 56% of Independents and 46% of Democrats. [LifeNews.com, M. Bilger, 5/9/16]



Pro-lifers in New Jersey have initiated a grass-roots campaign called the **20/20 Project** to raise awareness about the humanity of the baby in the womb.

It is part of a collaborative campaign to gain public support for banning abortions past 20 weeks by the year 2020. The project offers a **free, round, magnetic bumper sticker** showing 2 baby feet to anyone upon request. Their website also has a link to a detailed study regarding fetal pain.

[BabiesintheWombFeelPain.com]

Other states have passed laws that restrict abortions after 20 weeks. But they are not going unchallenged as pro-abortion groups try to use the courts to block their implementation. Sixteen states passed pro-life legislation to restrict abortions and protect unborn babies in 2015, according to the abortion advocacy group Center for Reproductive Rights. [LifeNews.com, 12/8/15]

March for Life Inspires Other Nations

The Washington, DC, March for Life has inspired a worldwide movement. Since the March began in 1974 in the nation's capital, millions of people around the globe have participated in these peaceful demonstrations which are a celebration of life.

In recent weeks, marches have been held in:

- Ottawa and Victoria, Canada
- Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Columbia (in over 40 cities)
- Brussels
- Prague
- Rome

“The March for Life – in any country – is culture-changing because of the profound truth about life and the inherent dignity of the human person we uphold, often against a negative cultural backdrop. The sheer number of pro-lifers at these events is a witness to others who are confused about the beauty and gift of life. Plus, participants experience solidarity and hope which are so necessary for working against this **most critical human rights abuse.**”

[Jeanne Mancini, President, March for Life Education and Defense Fund, 5/19/16]

In **Lima, Peru**, 750,000 people filled the downtown streets. For the 4th year in a row, **record-breaking crowds** came out in support of the right to life. The March was the largest public demonstration of any kind in Peruvian history, and likely the largest gathering of any kind in the world this year.

The respect for life runs so deep among Peruvians that March 25 (when the March is held) is designated by federal law as “The Day of the Unborn Child.” Just days after, 80 congressional candidates signed a pledge defending life, family, traditional marriage, and the right of parents to choose the best education for their children.

[*Population Research Institute Review*, May-June 2016.]

Suicide Becoming Increasingly Accepted

Steady inroads are being made at the state level for physician-assisted suicide. It is **now legal in five states**, and 19 states so far this year are considering, or have considered, similar so-called “death with dignity” statutes. Catholics are compelled to fight such momentum, lest we find ourselves citizens of a country where death both at the beginning and end of life not only is legal but is championed.

Regrettably, the new laws are propelled in part by rapidly shifting public opinion. According to a survey held 1st May, 68% of U.S. adults support physician-assisted suicide for those terminally ill and living in severe pain. Among young adults, the number leaps to 81%. These numbers are understandable when stated as “mercy” but when looked at

more closely, there are many inherent dangers that lurk behind this false veneer of compassion:

— As with abortion, physician-assisted **suicide equates “health care” with the taking of a life**, a dangerous premise for all who rely on medicare care in this country.

— The elderly & disabled increasingly may view themselves as a financial, emotional or physical burden to their next of kin and may see ending their own lives as an act of service. This is coercion.

— In Belgium & the Netherlands, once the door to assisted suicide is cracked, it continues to widen. **Minors in Belgium may now choose to end their own lives.** In the Netherlands, the number of people suffering from mental illness who chose to euthanize themselves has quadrupled since 2011.

As people of faith, we have the responsibility first and foremost to work to **protect the weakest and most vulnerable among us.** If assisted-suicide legislation comes to our state, we also must advocate that conscience protection for both individuals and Catholic institutions be included. Finally, we must seek to educate and form ourselves & our children on the Church’s humane end-of-life teachings.

[excerpts from an editorial by *Our Sunday Visitor*, 6/5/16]

News Squelched by Mainstream Media

If we sometimes find ourselves seeming to agree with those who hold pro-abortion and pro-death views, it may be due to the one-sided reporting that we receive. Here is a sampling of stories that were generally ignored in radio, newspaper & television news reports.

- Dr. Martin Luther King’s Niece Opposes Abortion
- Planned Parenthood Loses Case to Stop Pro-Life Pastor From Speaking Outside Its Abortion Clinic
- Pro-Abortion Web Site Defends Sex-Selection Abortions
- Actress Patricia Heaton Promotes Pro-Life Perspective on Twitter: “Choose Life, Celebrate Life”
- Abortion as Birth Control: Report Shows Half of Women Having Abortions are Already Mothers
- New Evidence: District Attorney Who Indicted David Daleiden Colluded With Planned Parenthood
- 34% of “Pro-Choice” Women Who See This Viral Video Turn Against Abortion
- Minnesota Legislators Kill Bill to Make It the Next State to Legalize Assisted Suicide
- While the World Sleeps, Scientists are Moving at Full Speed Towards Human Cloning

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