

## Pro-Life Legislation Passes Across the Nation

### Mid- and Late-Term Abortions Under Fire

Texas recently passed a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Nebraska passed a similar law in 2010. The American Civil Liberties Union and NARAL are expected to challenge the law, just as they have sought to block similar laws in other states. But the profusion of state laws restricting abortion marks a steady shift in public opinion and in the tactics of the pro-life movement.

Six of the last nine Gallup surveys have found that people were more likely to describe themselves as 'pro-life' than 'pro-choice.' A *Washington Post-ABC News* poll reported that more Americans (56%) prefer limits on abortions after the first 20 weeks instead of 24 weeks (27%).

Activists suggest that recent legislation is partly a response to the grisly accounts of late-term abortions and sub-standard care for female patients that accompanied the trial of Kermit Gosnell, the Pennsylvania abortionist. He was convicted of murdering infants who survived abortions and neglecting to properly care for his female patients.

Ohio's recent budget appropriation identifies an unborn child as an 'unborn human individual' and directs abortionists to explain what the procedure involves to their patients, including medical risks and the probable gestational age of the unborn child.

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*Ten states have signed laws stating that when an unborn child reaches the point of development where he or she can feel pain, it is illegal to kill those babies by abortion.*

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In Wisconsin, the governor signed 'Sonya's Law' requiring women seeking abortions be asked if they wish to see their unborn child on ultrasound. The bill also requires abortionists to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of their practice. And, in several states, abortion clinics are being asked to upgrade their standards to hospital standards.

[Source: Joan F. Desmond, *National Catholic Register*, July 28, 2013. Dear reader: Keep up with Catholic issues by subscribing to the NCR at [ncregister.com](http://ncregister.com).]

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### *Do a bit more to help in our state*

*To receive alerts and useful information, join New Jersey Right to Life. Call 732-562-0562 or visit [www.njrtl.org](http://www.njrtl.org).*

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### Brothers Sue to Overturn Federal HHS Contraception Mandate

Michael (Catholic) and Shaun (Protestant) Willis and their Michigan-based law firm filed suit seeking to have the HHS mandate declared a violation of the Constitution and of federal law over religious-liberty concerns.

Willis Law operates under "a mission of Christian service" and is a donor to several charitable causes. The brothers gravely object to providing abortions and abortion-causing drugs in their employees' insurance coverage, as required by the federal contraception mandate. If the law is enforced the firm would suffer fines of \$547,500 every year.

The firm is one of nearly 200 plaintiffs in at least 50 cases that have filed lawsuits. "That our own government is knowingly displaying such a lack of tolerance for faithful Christians is outrageous," stated Erin Mersino, the lead attorney from the Thomas More Law Center. [Source: *National Catholic Register*, August 11, 2013.]

### As Individuals, What Can We Do?

Forty years of legalized abortion have desensitized Americans to the massive horrors of millions of abortions. It is a quick 'solution' to a human problem that destroys the human person instead of embracing the human in love - mother, father, baby. Abortion is the most performed 'surgical' procedure. Currently, one out of every three women will have a least one abortion. (Thank God two out of three will not.)

How do we face these challenges? Love is the most powerful tool to win the victory for the Culture of Life. This mercy and love must extend to all people - the ones who are wounded by the culture of death, and the misguided ones who promote it.

Not only do women and men suffer from the trauma of the abortion itself, but also many try to deaden the pain through addictions. Many suffer depression, anxiety and isolation. The rate of suicide is much higher for women after an abortion.

When a husband and wife decide to abort their own child, the internal bond of marriage is broken by mistrust and

betrayal of the gift of total giving one to another. The aborted baby's siblings may suffer from survivor guilt. So many men and women suffer from the wounds of abortion but are afraid to come forward for help. They are ashamed, afraid of being rejected, fearful of being judged. They are in our families, in our places of work, in the grocery store where we shop, in our church pews, in our neighborhood.

Each one of us needs to offer mercy, love, forgiveness, understanding and compassion now more than ever. It is already into the third generation of legalized abortion. The acceptance of this evil is carried from one generation to the next, through denial, and failure to admit the sacredness of the human child developing in the womb. [By Sister of the Good Shepherd Patricia Marie, *The Beacon*, July 25, 2013.]

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## Real Healing After an Abortion

For persons who have struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion, there is help. Call for Rachel's Vineyard's (973-437-9735) next weekend retreat.

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## Non-Believers Also Against Abortion

In Beijing, Wang Lin (a pseudonym) says he is 'spiritual' but not religious. Yet he is an anti-abortion activist in a country that has used forced abortion for 30 years to enforce its strict one-child policy. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, officials announced they would "propose plans to improve" the policy, which may lead to scrapping the policy altogether.

Wang is not entirely alone. Another group of activists bases its anti-abortion stance on Buddhist teachings. Other Chinese citizens object to forced abortions as cruel and against their human rights.

Some Christian groups run similar campaigns. In June police reportedly roughed up and briefly detained members of the Autumn Rain church in Chengdu, who were distributing anti-abortion pamphlets on the street.

Abortion also looms over China's dealings with the Vatican. Catholics in China's state-approved church must be cautious about discussing abortion openly, says a foreign Jesuit. Better to simply underscore the value of human life. [Source: *The Economist*, Aug. 10, 2013.]

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## UPCOMING

October 2013: Right-to-Life Month  
 January 22, 2014: plan now to join our parish trip to Washington, DC – March for Life.

## Lozier Institute Panel Probes

### Population Decline

With abortion on demand still the law of many Western lands, and nation after nation experiencing severe financial stress, new attention is being focused on sharply declining birthrates. Even the USA has been experiencing below replacement-level fertility. A panel at the recent Susan B. Anthony Summit in Washington, DC, shared the contents of their recent books on demographic decline.

In *The Merchants of Despair*, Robert Zubrin, a former NASA engineer, traces the history of those who view human beings as "a species whose aspirations and appetites are endangering the natural order." This deep despair about the human future has led to top-down population control policies and has given license to eugenics and practices like forced sterilizations and abortion.

In *What to Expect When No One is Expecting*, Jonathan Last, senior writer at *The Weekly Standard*, cites historical statistics as well as new trends like dog-grooming boutiques and summer camps, to underscore America's turn away from children.

## What is the Susan B. Anthony List?

When first-term New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte (R) got elected, she said: "Can you imagine a conservative pro-life woman winning in the Northeast? I want you to know that anything is possible. And the reason that I was able to do that is because of the work of the Susan B. Anthony List."

Since 1997, the SBAL organization works to get pro-life women elected to state and national office. Its membership has rapidly increased to over 365,000 individuals as a force for pro-life feminism and against the Culture of Death.

Its president, Marjorie Dannenfelser, has taken its mission to the studios of MSNBC, National Public Radio, and the Fox News Channel. She has debated Andrea Mitchell, sparred with Chris Matthews, shared insights with Shannon Bream, and squared off with the president of the National Organization for Women on CNN's John King Live.

SBAL provides training seminars for election candidates and a Pro-Life Manual. "The belief that being pro-life leads to natural eloquence is wrong. The stakes are too high for anyone to represent us to approach a podium or camera unprepared. [Source: [www.SBA-List.org](http://www.SBA-List.org).]