

## Membership: Renew...Now More Than Ever!

**Kalamazoo Right to Life needs you. All of you!**

With a new pro-abortion president, Democrats are emboldened to advance a very liberal agenda. That includes abortion rights. President Biden has already expressed a desire to see the Hyde amendment abolished. Since 1976 it has prohibited tax dollars from being used to pay for Medicaid abortions. Congress has passed it every year with bi-partisan support. Repealing the Hyde amendment has long been a cardinal doctrine for pro-abortion politicians. If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* and returns the matter to the individual states, Democrats want to make sure that abortion will be protected within state jurisdictions. New York, California, and a few other states have already passed such legislation to codify *Roe*. Fortunately, Michigan's 1846 law (currently not enforced because of *Roe*) prohibits abortion throughout an entire pregnancy except for the life of the mother. If the 1973 abortion decision is reversed then our 1846 law stays in effect again! Democrats are also pining for revenge because President Trump replaced their hero Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with pro-life Justice Amy Coney Barrett just weeks before the election. Democrats see the apocalypse with six conservative justices and desperately want to reconfigure the Court and dilute its right-leaning tilt by increasing its size to 13 or 15 members. President Biden could nominate five or seven new liberals to the bench stripping away our pro-life majority. For these reasons and more, we need to make sure that all pro-life voices be heard and respected. To that end we ask everyone to renew their membership to Kalamazoo Right to Life. We need to stand strong in our community when we confront the pro-abortion forces trying to reverse our 1846 law. In these challenging times we must continue to elect strong pro-life lawmakers in Lansing to defeat the governor's pro-abortion agenda.

You may have already received your 2021 Membership Renewal Form in the mail. If not, it's coming soon. Thank you in advance to those who will renew. For pro-lifers who haven't renewed, or have not renewed in a few years, let 2021 be the year that you jump back into the fight. You can renew online by visiting our website ([kazoortl.org](http://kazoortl.org)) or return the printed form with your payment. You can be the voice for the voiceless. REMEMBER: WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.

### Check Out the KRTL Website: [kazoortl.org](http://kazoortl.org)

For timely updates, recent newsletters, and short videos, the Kalamazoo Right to Life website is the go-to place. Renew your membership, make a donation through Paypal, reserve a place for our annual fundraising dinner (in a few months), or just be better informed on the life issues.

### Forty Days for Life Announces Next Prayer Vigil

February 17, 2021 begins this year's 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic on West Michigan Avenue. If anyone is interested in participating contact Joe Magalski (989) 992-6085 or Brenda Sinkowitz (269) 491-0377 to schedule a weekly hour of prayer for life.

## *The Year in Review: Top Ten for 2020*

### ***1. Amy Coney Barrett Joins Supreme Court***

The year 2020 was a momentous year (COVID, impeachment, George Floyd, Antifa, Black Lives Matter, Israeli peace treaties with several Arab neighbors, the presidential election). For the pro-life movement, however, the nomination and confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court was the top news item of the year. When Justice Ginsburg passed away on September 18, the Trump administration wasted little time in picking a worthy successor. On September 29 President Trump formally nominated Barrett for the Court. A law professor at Notre Dame Law School and a Judge on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Barrett had long been a favorite of conservative and pro-life Americans. Because Ginsburg died about seven weeks before the election, Democrats argued that the appointment should be held over until after the election and permit the next president to fill the vacancy. GOP senators disagreed. Senate Judiciary Committee members conducted hearings in mid-October. Judge Barrett's demeanor and knowledge of the law was unsurpassed. Citing cases and explaining legal terms and doctrines without using notes, she proved that she was well-qualified for the Court. From the start, every single Democratic senator, whether on the committee or in the full chamber, announced their total opposition to Barrett. On October 26, the Senate voted 52-48 to confirm. Only one GOP senator voted "no" on the appointment. Barrett joins five other conservatives on the Supreme Court. The now 6-3 right-leaning court is positioned to reverse long-standing abortion-related cases, including *Roe v. Wade*. Even though Chief Justice Roberts has waffled lately (see #2), he may be more inclined to vote pro-life along-side his conservative colleagues to make an unequivocal rejection of the supposed "fundamental" right to abortion.

### ***2. Supreme Court Strikes Down Louisiana Law***

Pro-lifers were greatly disappointed when on June 29 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 striking down Louisiana's pro-life law. The 2014 law required that abortion doctors have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals as a reasonable measure to protect women's health. In *June Medical Services v. Russo*, the Court rejected the state's arguments claiming that the law imposed an undue burden on a women's right to terminate a pregnancy.

While President Trump's newest Supreme Court justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh voted pro-life, Chief Justice Roberts joined the four liberal justices in deciding against the law. His explanation was weak. Since the Louisiana law was very similar to a Texas law struck down by the Court in 2016 in *Whole Women's Health*, Roberts stated (even though he disagreed with the majority's reasoning) that since precedent had been set, he had to abide by the 2016 opinion. On the other hand, Justice Thomas wrote a blistering dissent, attacking *Roe* and other abortion cases. "Those decisions created the right to abortion out of whole cloth," Thomas wrote, "without a shred of support from the Constitution's text. Our abortion precedents are grievously wrong and should be overruled."

### ***3. Biden Elected President, Democrats Take Senate***

Former Vice-President Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump to become the 46th president on November 3. Though Trump had commanding leads by midnight in key swing states like Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Wisconsin, the tables turned through the morning hours as election workers began counting mail-in and absentee ballots. Not everyone agrees with the final outcome. Here are some troubling facts. Trump received almost 11 million more votes in 2020 than 2016, the first time since 1888 that an incumbent president won more votes the second time yet still lost. By comparison, in 2012 Obama lost 5 million votes from his 2008 victory and still won reelection. Trump improved among minority voters: 13 percent of blacks and 35 percent of Latinos. Trump had a 30 percent enthusiasm gap over Biden. On election eve some polls showed Trump with a 52 percent approval rating. No incumbent with that number has ever lost an election. Biden won 524 counties (17 percent) while Trump won 2,497 (admittedly in many rural areas). In 2008 Obama won 877 counties yet received 11 million fewer votes than Biden. Finally, it is hard to believe that an aging 78-year old Joe Biden who "campaign" from his basement for six months received 11 million more votes than a youthful, energetic Barack Obama. Despite these oddities, Biden will be our next president. Democrats took control of the Senate, although that was not a guarantee until January 5, 2021 when voters in Georgia elected two Democrats, defeating incumbent Republicans in a run-off election. The final make-up of the Senate is 50-50. With a tie, the vice-president casts

the tie-breaking vote. Since the incoming vice president is a Democrat, they take control. Back in November political pundits expected several GOP senators to lose reelection. In the end two were defeated and one Republican defeated an incumbent Democrat for a net loss of one seat. Of the Republicans up for reelection in the Senate, all were pro-life except one (Susan Collins of Maine).

#### ***4. Trump Speaks at the March for Life... In Person!***

For the first time since Nellie Gray started the March for Life in January, 1974, a sitting American president graced the platform to speak to a large and appreciative audience. Donald Trump became the first president to attend and speak at the March for Life. Two years Trump spoke to the crowd by way of a live-stream broadcast from the Rose Garden at the White House. That was a “first” too since all previous pro-life presidents made phone calls to address the crowd. The fact that the former pro-abortion New York City businessman would attend the March speaks volumes about his embrace of the pro-life cause. That Trump has been the most pro-life president in US history was not lost by the millions of pro-life Americans who wanted to thank him for putting two conservative pro-life justices on the Supreme Court: Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

#### ***5. Pro-Life Republican Women Close Gap in House***

Even though in the November election Democrats retained control of the House of Representatives 222-212, their share of the congressional pie is much smaller thanks in large part to pro-life gains in many states. No Republican incumbent suffered defeat. A few races were extremely close. In one district in Iowa the GOP candidate won by six votes. She is pro-life. In all, about 20 new pro-life Republican woman will be heading to Washington to advance a pro-life agenda, or at least to stop a Nancy Pelosi-led pro-abortion agenda. This was truly the year of the pro-life Republican woman.

#### ***6. Trump's Record of Confirming Pro-Life Federal Judges***

One of President Trump's lasting legacies will be his imprint on the federal courts. In last year's January-

February issue of the KRTL Lifeline, the top ten pro-life stories of 2019 were listed. At that time the president had confirmed 172 judges. Since then the number has jumped significantly. As of December 20, 2020, Trump has appointed 231 judges since he took office in January, 2017. Three (Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett) have been confirmed and now sit on the Supreme Court. Fifty-four now sit on one of the Appellate Courts. (Actually we have dropped to fifty-three since Amy Barrett's spot on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals is now vacant). At the District Court level, 174 judges have been confirmed, many by voice-vote or by strong bi-partisan support. Many of these judges were recommended by the Federalist Society, a conservative, pro-family, pro-life organization.

#### ***7. Michigan Election: Pro-Life Gains in Lansing***

In the lead up to the November, 2020 election pro-life lawmakers held a two-person majority in the state House of Representatives. With the fear that anti-Trump votes might jeopardize that slim lead in down-ballot state and local races, pro-lifers doubled down, trying to make sure that the pro-life majority would hold. On November 3 pro-life Michiganders came through. Not only did they retain that two-person advantage, they grew it to four. Now Governor Whitmer will have an ever harder time in trying to push her pro-abortion agenda. Her dream of seeing the state's 1846 pro-life law overturned by new legislation is probably a lost cause.

#### ***8. Abortion Clinics Remain Open During COVID-19***

In March, President Trump announced a partial shut-down of essential departments. The US economy suffered a severe blow. Millions of Americans lost their jobs and tens of thousands of small and large businesses shut their doors. In many states (including Michigan) only essential businesses were permitted to remain open. Restaurants, health clubs, fitness gyms, schools, college and universities, dentist offices, some other health centers all closed. However, in states like New York, California, and Michigan health clinics remained open: abortion clinics. Michigan's Governor Whitmer even claimed that abortion clinic workers were “essential.” It seemed the height of hypocrisy. On one hand, the governor was promoting wearing masks and using social distancing in order to protect and save lives, while in the same breath allow abortion clinics to remain open in order to kill lives.

***9. RLM Dismemberment Petition Drive Fails***

In 2019 Michigan Values Life (MVL) launched a petition drive to ban dismemberment abortions, a procedure used in the second trimester of pregnancy. Using volunteers, MVL hand delivered some 380,000 signatures to the State Board of Canvassers in December, 2019. COVID-19 arrived in March and put everything on hold...including temporarily dismissing the staff responsible of certifying the signatures. That process resumed in late May when the Bureau of Elections picked 500 random names to check. On June 15 the Bureau reported that we had come up short of the percent that we needed by only three names. MVL appealed to the State Board of Canvassers asking that a second sample of 500 names be drawn. In a highly unusual (and very appreciated) decision, the Board unanimously ruled in our favor for a second sample. The Bureau of Elections picked 1,371 names. However, by late July the Bureau reported that MVL had fallen short again. Apparently several names were discounted because

they were not registered to vote. This was a huge disappointment for Right to Life of Michigan and Michigan Values Life. Some petition circulators were careless in their assignment by not asking the right question about voter registration.

***10. Little Sisters of the Poor Win at Supreme Court***

On July 8, the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that the federal government cannot compel the Little Sisters of the Poor to subsidize artificial birth control and abortion-inducing drugs in their health insurance as required by the Department of Health and Human Services. The nuns have endured years of fighting against the contraceptive mandate embodied in the Affordable Care Act. Only two liberal justices (Ginsburg and Sotomayor) dissented. Fellow liberals Kagan and Breyer joined the five conservative justices to give the Little Sister of the Poor the legal protection they sought.

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