

Focus on Life Dinner

May 9, 2019

Guest Speaker: **Jay Watts**
founder of Merely Human Ministries



Kalamazoo Right to Life will once again host its annual fundraising dinner for the Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Now for the fifth year the dinner will be held at Kalamazoo First Assembly of God's Ministry Center. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the program will begin at 6:30 pm. Since our guest speaker speaks and ministers to students and young people, we really want student participation and have lowered our price for students (all levels) to \$10. We have also lowered our adult ticket price as well - now set at \$30 per person.

Jay Watts is a national speaker for a new pro-life organization Merely Human Ministries. The group's mission is to equip student's with the skills to educate and promote a pro-life ethic. More recently, Jay served as Vice-President of Development and Communications for another pro-life group, Life Training Institute. For three years Jay served as the Development Coordinator for Cobb Pregnancy Services in the Atlanta area. Jay speaks to college students at many universities including Harvard, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State, and the University of Illinois. He also speaks to high school students all over the country. Jay has appeared on radio and TV programs as well, representing the pro-life movement and its defense of unborn human life.

Jay Watts speaks to students. We have lowered our prices so that students (and their parents) can come and learn. This is a golden opportunity for the entire family to come to the dinner. Grandparents may want to invite their high school age grandchildren. Great price...great meal...great speaker...great cause. And we raise money for the Right to Life of Michigan Education Fund. A tax deductible donation. To purchase tickets to this great event, please call the office at 269-372-8123.

Kalamazoo First Assembly of God
Ministry Center
5550 Oakland Dr. in Portage

Ticket Prices:
(New lowered prices!!)
\$30 per person (adult)
\$10 student price
(college, high school, or younger.)

Pro-Life News Round-Up

NOTE: Pro-Life events have been coming fast and furious the last few weeks. The following is just a summary based on the detailed news from LifeNews.com.

New York Enacts Reproductive Health Act

On January 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the New York state Senate voted 38 to 24 for a sweeping new Reproductive Health Act. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the bill the same day. The statute had already been passed in the New York Assembly. This legislation was a decade in the making. Pro-choice lawmakers had long wanted to make New York more friendly to unlimited access to abortion. For a decade the bill had been defeated in a GOP-led Assembly. However, Democrats took control of the lower chamber in the November, 2018 mid-term election, thus giving them full power to enact pro-choice legislation. Though the charge that the law permits abortion up to the moment of birth is true, it belies the fact that the Supreme Court already provided for that exception. *Doe v. Bolton*, *Roe's* companion case, permitted state lawmakers to enact legislation to protect the unborn in the final trimester as long as did not interfere with the woman's life or "Health." Health was defined as psychological, emotional, familial, the woman's age...relevant to her "well being." Thus, abortion is permitted throughout all nine months of pregnancy. New York's new law removes any ambiguities and guarantee's full access to abortion. The law permits abortion: if performed before the 24th week of pregnancy, or "in the absence of fetal viability," or to "protect the patient's life or health." Although abortion-rights advocates argued (in the pre-*Roe* period) that only licensed physicians should be allowed to perform abortions, that policy has been discarded in the New York law. Now nurse practitioners and physician assistants can perform the procedure. Another troubling issue in the bill is that abortion was removed from the state's penal code and placed in the safety codes. As a medical procedure abortion is no longer a crime. Obviously, pro-lifers have been unanimous in condemning the bill and in lambasting the governor for signing it into law. Cuomo's defense was simple. In the wake of the Gorsuch and Kavanaugh Supreme Court appointments, the court now swings five to four in a conservative direction. If the court overturns *Roe*, Cuomo wanted to make sure that abortion rights were well protected.

Congress Fails to Pass Bill to Ban Infanticide

In response to New New's radical bill (and Virginia's attempt), on February 6 Rep. Ann Wagner of Missouri introduced a bill, the Born Alive-Abortion Survivors Protection Act. It would mandate that physicians and medical professionals provide medical care and treatment for babies who survived failed abortions. Pro-choice Democrats blocked the bill from a vote. Wagner reintroduced her bill on February 7 and 8 with the same results. Pro-life House members said that they plan to reintroduce the bill every day for the next 30 days. A similar bill was introduced on February 4 by Nebraska senator Ben Sasse. He asked for unanimous consent from fellow senators. Radical pro-choice Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) blocked the bill. Sasse's argument was simple: this bill is not about pro-life or pro-choice; it's not about first or second trimester abortions. It is about infanticide, the killing of babies already born. The actions by Murray and her pro-choice ideologues speak volumes about their regard for living children who need immediate medical care even if only to provide the love and care for an infant in the process of dying.

States Move Closer to Pass Late-Term Abortions

On February 6 the New Mexico House voted 40 to 29 to safe-guard abortion rights throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Without this new action, the state's former law would have gone into effect if *Roe* was reversed. Action now moves to the state Senate, also controlled by pro-choice Democrats. The governor has indicated that she will sign the bill if passed. It seems that pro-choice ideologues have jumped on the late-term abortion bandwagon in other states. In early February, a committee in Vermont approved a similar bill that would permit abortion up to the moment of birth. Also in February, pro-choice lawmakers in Massachusetts are advancing the "Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access Act" also called the ROE Act. It would change current state law that restricts abortions after 24 weeks except in cases of a woman's life or if the pregnancy threatens "grave impairment of her physical or mental health." The new law would strike the words "grave impairment" and open the door to third trimester abortions for less compelling reasons. The law would also scrap the requirement that girls under the age of 18 obtain parental consent. The ROE Act would also remove the existing law that requires doctors "to take all reasonable steps...to preserve the life and health of the aborted child." If passed, infants who survived botched abortions would be allowed to die without emergency life-saving medical treatment.

Arkansas Legislature Passes Human Life Protection Act

If (and hopefully “when”) *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the Supreme Court, states will be in a position to draft new laws governing abortion policies. A few states like Michigan already have pro-life laws on the books. The day after *Roe* is scrapped, Michigan’s old law takes effect again. However, not all states have old laws to outlaw abortion. One is the state of Arkansas. In mid-February, the state House approved the bill. The state Senate already approved it in January. Governor Asa Hutchinson promised to sign the bill before the end of the month.

Iowa Advances Pro-Life State Constitutional Amendment

On February 7, an Iowa state Senate committee passed the Life Amendment which, if enacted, would add the following to the state’s Constitution: “The constitution does not secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.” This amendment is similar to the one approved by the voters of West Virginia in the November, 2018 election. Supporters in Iowa felt compelled to push for the amendment after the state’s Supreme Court rejected a bill that would have imposed a 72-hour waiting period.

Kentucky Committee Approves Heartbeat Bill

Even though state laws that prohibit abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected have been routinely blocked by both state or federal courts, this has not stopped pro-life lawmakers from introducing or enacting more heartbeat bills. The latest comes from Kentucky. On February 14 a state Senate committee voted 10 to 2 that abortion doctors would be required to check if an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable before performing an abortion. If the heartbeat could be detected the abortion would be prohibited. Pro-life and pro-choice activists testified at the committee hearing, including a pregnant woman who allowed lawmakers to hear her 18-week baby’s heart-beat through a microphone. Said the senate sponsor of the bill, “What you’re hearing is a child’s heartbeat. It’s telling us it’s alive.” The Kentucky ACLU promised to challenge the bill on day one. This seems to be the plan all along. The only way the Supreme Court is going to reverse *Roe* is to have another case -- another legal challenge to *Roe*’s constitutionality. Whether it’s through a heartbeat bill or a 20-week Pain-Capable Child Protection Act, or a dismemberment bill, or some other law, pro-life attorneys and legislators hope

that one will be the test case to execute *Roe* once and for all.

Supreme Court Temporarily Rules Against Louisiana Law

In a five to four decision, the Supreme Court temporarily decided to uphold a lower court ruling that blocked implementation of a 2014 Louisiana law that imposed hospital admitting privileges for abortion doctors. The February 7 decision is similar to a previous 2016 ruling in which a Texas law requiring admitting privileges and clinic safety standards was rejected by the court. In this Louisiana case, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the four liberal justices in upholding the stay. This will probably not be the final decision by the court. The justices may revisit the case this year or next and make a final, more permanent ruling. Some court observers believe that the chief justice is in an awkward position-- becoming the swing vote on some cases (as he was in affirming the constitutionality of ObamaCare), preferring to guide the court to a generally conservative interpretation while not undoing the court’s institutional integrity. Many observers still contend that Roberts may well be the fifth vote to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, but it may come very incrementally, not in one major case.

More Abortion Clinics Close in 2018

In 2018 forty abortion clinics closed their doors or no longer qualify to perform abortions, continuing a trend that has seen 159 such clinics close since 2012. According to Life News, there are now 697 abortion clinics in the US, seven fewer than at the end of 2017. The news agency also reports an astounding statistic: 79 percent of all abortion clinics open in 1991 have shut down. This good fortune parallels the situation that fewer medical schools are teaching new physicians how to perform abortions. Consequently, the number of abortionists continues to decrease as older practitioners retire and are not replaced by younger doctors.

40 Days for Life

This prayerful witness begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6 between 8 am and 8 pm. in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic and ends on April 13 (the day before Palm Sunday). If anyone is interested in participating please contact Brenda Sinkovitz at 269-491-0377.

President's Corner

Rob Karrer

Is it just me, or have we been bombarded by abortion-related news since the beginning of the year? The Covington Catholic High School students at the March for Life and the sidebar with the charges of racism got the ball rolling. The media's rush to judgment in accusing the students of bigotry is just another example of left-wing bias. Unfortunately, the uproar over the "confrontation" between the students and the Native-Americans almost completely derailed the positive news coming from the March for Life. Again, another huge crowd descended on Washington, DC. Again, a large percentage of attendees were high school and college students. Speakers included Vice President Mike Pence and popular radio host and author Ben Shapiro. The radical, pro-abortion agenda then came into full view when New York passed a bill that bordered on infanticide, cheered by lawmakers and celebrated by glowing pink lights on prominent New York landmarks. The governor of Virginia entered the fray with his own defense of infanticide. Other states have begun to follow suit trying to outdo each other in depravity. President Trump condemned these laws in his State of the Union Address. It seems that whenever the other side wants to remind us that *Roe* is settled law and that we must get over it and move on to other pressing issues, they fall off the cliff proposing or enacting laws that are supported by less than 20 percent of the population--third trimester abortions and infanticide. As the nation views this radical extremism, pro-lifers have their own offense. In March, the movie *Unplanned* will be released. It tells the story of former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson's journey from pro-choice zealot to pro-life activist. When confronted with the truth that abortion kills children, Johnson became a convert. Yes, truth always wins when given a chance to speak.

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