

Focus on Life Dinner: Another Great Success

On May 11, 2023 over 300 people attended Kalamazoo Right to Life's annual Focus on Life dinner to raise needed funds for Right to Life of Michigan. Once again, the event was held in Kalamazoo First Assembly of God's Ministry Center. The following photos offer a glimpse of the room, the many tables, and the attendees. We had two guest speakers. The first was Tracy St. Clair who shared a personal and compelling testimony. The last speaker was Pastor Lee Cummings of Radiant Church. In the face of our loss from Proposal 3 last November, he offered words of hope and encouragement.



Natalie Shank, KRTL's high school oratory winner, gave her speech before an attentive audience. KRTL president Jean Talanda also spoke, urging greater support and a need for more volunteers as we continue to change hearts and minds on abortion and deal with next year's election.



The 2023 Focus on Life dinner was another stunning success! Great food provided by Mike Leeuw and his staff at EMA Catering, dessert by Boonzaaijer Bakery, and student volunteers by Light of Christ Academy of Augusta, and the St. Mary's Youth Group who helped to set up and later "tear down" the room. Thanks to all who attended. Thanks to all who volunteered to make the dinner a special event, especially the KRTL Board of Directors. The Focus on Life dinner is always the highlight of the year. Encouraging messages, wonderful fellowship with friends, beautifully decorated room, and great food! What could be better than that?



KRTL President Jean Talanda



Oratory winner Natalie Shank



Pastor Lee Cummings



Tracy St. Clair



Our featured speakers: Pastor Lee Cummings and Tracy St. Clair

Pro-Life Scorecard Since *Dobbs* Decision

The following states have enacted far-reaching pro-life laws since June 24, 2022 when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision.

June, 2022 The very day *Dobbs* was decided, **Missouri** became the first state to ban all abortions including in cases of rape and incest. Initially, the law had been approved in 2019 but was blocked by court injunction. Once *Dobbs* was decided the Missouri law automatically took effect.

June, 2022 Ranked as the most pro-life state in the country by Americans United for Life, **Arkansas's** recently passed very restrictive pro-life law took effect just hours after Missouri's law.

June, 2022 **Utah** lawmakers passed a bill banning abortion after 18 weeks in 2019. Later that year a federal judge blocked its enforcement. In 2020 the legislature passed another law that would ban all abortions except in certain situations. A state judge blocked this new law. Meanwhile, four days after the *Dobbs* decision the judge who put the injunction on the 18-week ban, lifted his stay. Utah's 18-week abortion ban is now law.

June, 2022 The leaked draft opinion of the *Dobbs* case, penned by Justice Alito in February but not leaked until early May, 2022, led **Oklahoma** lawmakers to pass a total ban on abortion in late May. The law banned abortion from the moment of conception. It automatically became law with *Dobbs*.

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July, 2022 **Florida** lawmakers passed a 15-week abortion ban in April, 2022, just weeks after Arizona passed its 15-week abortion ban. Florida's law took effect in early July, about a week after the *Dobbs* ruling.

July, 2022 **Mississippi's** 2016 law that prohibited abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy was challenged in federal court, making its way to the Supreme Court. *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* originated in Mississippi. The state's 2016 trigger law took effect in July.

August, 2022 The legislatures in **Idaho, Tennessee, North Dakota, and Texas** passed pro-life laws that had been previously enacted but blocked by court injunction. Lawmakers in these states expected their laws to take effect immediately back in June, but judges ruled that a 30-day period could not begin until late July.

August, 2022 In 2019 **Alabama** voters approved the Human Life Amendment Act which banned all abortions with few exceptions. It was unenforceable until the *Dobbs* decision.

September, 2022 **West Virginia** became the second state to pass a new pro-life law post-*Dobbs*. It permits abortion up to the 8th week of pregnancy or 14 weeks for a minor in cases of rape or incest. It took effect in December, 2022.

September, 2022 In March, 2022 **Arizona** lawmakers passed a bill that prohibits abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy. It contained no exceptions for rape and incest. The law took effect 90 days after the *Dobbs* decision.

September-October, 2022 Several states that had passed laws banning abortion in almost all situations saw their laws take effect in the post-*Dobbs* era. These "trigger" laws refer to pre-*Dobbs* laws that had been blocked by state or federal courts that became law once *Roe v. Wade* had been reversed. The states include **Louisiana, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin**.

April, 2023 The **Florida** legislature passed its Heartbeat Protection Act that prohibits abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, around the 6th week of pregnancy.

April, 2023 The **Kansas** legislature passed a bill that required physicians and other staff to provide medical care to babies who survived an abortion. The bill was vetoed by the pro-abortion governor. The legislature overrode the veto.

April, 2023 **North Dakota** lawmakers revised and improved the wording of their heartbeat bill. The previous 6-week ban had been halted by the state Supreme Court. Not one abortion facility operates in the state.

May, 2023 The **Montana** legislature passed five pro-life laws including conscience clause protections, a born-alive bill, a bill to prevent tax dollars to fund abortion, and restricting dismemberment abortions except for medical emergencies.

May, 2023 The **North Carolina** legislature passed a bill that restricts abortion after the 12th week of pregnancy. The pro-abortion governor vetoed the bill. Pro-life lawmakers overrode the veto.

Delays Imposed by Courts

Georgia enacted a fetal heartbeat bill in 2019. It was legal until November, 2019 when a state judge ruled it unconstitutional. The judge applied a legal principle that states you cannot pass an unconstitutional law even if it becomes constitutional later. The matter is still in legal limbo.

In August, 2022 **Indiana** became the first state to enact a **new** and very restrictive pro-life law since the *Dobbs* decision. It banned abortion throughout pregnancy except for rape, incest, fatal fetal medical conditions, and the life of the mother. It took effect in September, 2022. One week later a county judge blocked the law. In January, 2023 the state Supreme Court heard oral argument on the status of there law. No decision has been made.

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Ohio's Human Rights and Heartbeat Protection Act, passed by the state legislature in 2019 but blocked by the court, became law just days after *Dobbs*. It prohibits abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected. However, in November a county judge put an injunction on the law. In March, 2023 the Ohio Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Wyoming's lawmakers passed a very restrictive law in 2022 that banned abortion except for rape and incest. In March, 2023 a county judge imposed an injunction just days after the law took effect.

Iowa passed a fetal heartbeat law in 2018 that was blocked the next year. The state already had a law prohibiting abortion beyond the 20th week of pregnancy. After *Dobbs*, the judge refused to lift his injunction. The governor has appealed to the state Supreme Court. No action as yet.



*From the Board
Of
Kalamazoo Right to Life*