

Kalamazoo Right to Life Oratory Winner takes First Place in State Contest

On May 31, 2024, Right to Life of Michigan held its annual oratory contest where teenagers from across the state present their speeches on pro-life themes. In an amazing and exciting development, Xander Yoder, a home-school sophomore from Richland, won the contest! This marked the first time that a KRTL student won the state title. Xander won our local contest back in March, and presented his winning essay at our May Focus on Life Dinner. Everyone was very impressed with the speech. Congratulations Xander! We are so proud of you.



Assisted Suicide Legislation on Hold (for now)

Democrats in Lansing have decided to postpone voting on legislation that would legalize physician-assisted suicide. This tactic may have been implemented for two basic reasons: (1) the majority of Michigan voters overwhelmingly oppose physician-assisted suicide. The Jack Kevorkian debacle is still fresh in many people's minds; (2) imposing an unpopular bill prior to the November election may jeopardize some Democratic House seats in swing districts.

Do not be fooled by this delay. Democrats in the state House and Senate, along with our pro-abortion governor, have a clear agenda. They want to legalize assisted suicide. But that is only one of three bills they want to pass. The other two are even more dear to their

cold hearts. Democrats desire to see our pro-life parental consent law repealed. They do not want parents to have any say in their minor daughter's supposed "reproductive autonomy." Democrats want to see our informed consent law with its 24-hour waiting period repealed as well.

If pro-abortion Democrats retain control of the state House this November, expect these three bills to be introduced and aggressively pushed. Our response to these threats is simple: we need to elect a pro-life majority in the state House. That will effectively stop any effort to advance a pro-abortion agenda. We can stop this insanity in November!

In-depth: West Virginia's pro-life success

West Virginia just released data on surgical and drug-induced abortions. Because of the state's 2022 law that prohibited abortion except for rape or incest (applicable in the first 8 weeks of pregnancy or 14 weeks for minors), for the life of the mother, or if the fetus was not medically viable, the number of abortions dropped significantly. During the 2000s, the state reported about 1800 abortions per year. That number trailed off starting in 2014 when the number of abortions averaged about 1500 per year. By 2021, West Virginia reported 1374 abortions. When the 2022 law took effect in the fall, the number of abortions nearly dried up. Only six abortions were performed in the final three months. That near total ban on abortions continued in 2023. Last year only 16 abortions were reported. Of that number, ten were drug-induced. These low numbers illustrate what can happen when conservative, pro-life lawmakers work with a pro-life governor to enact strong pro-life laws. Even though the 2022 law permits some exceptions, thousands of babies are saved.

Abortion and the 2024 Election

The pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List (SBA) has urged Republicans not to stick their heads in the sand ahead of the 2024 elections, but rather paint Democrats as unpopular and extreme on abortion.

But SBA said in a memo, sent to Republican leaders and committees in early June, that Democrats' message is more fearmongering than fact, and it wants GOP candidates to emphasize that Democrats want to place America "on a short list of the most pro-abortion countries in the world."

"There are no protections for the unborn that Democrats can bring themselves to support, and they are consistently on the record opposing the protection of unborn babies when they can feel pain, even legislation to provide basic health care for a baby born alive after a failed abortion," the SBA memo says. "In our test, the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) was characterized as sweeping federal legislation that would wipe away nearly all state limitations on abortion, even those that limit late-term abortions on healthy babies and ensure parental involvement when a young girl becomes pregnant," the SBA memo said.

The other part of the "winning" message involved support for pregnant women and help for mothers – including expanding child tax credits. "GOP support for mothers in need was characterized in our testing as offering women real options to choose life and embracing policies that would streamline adoption services, increase the child tax credit, make baby items tax-free, and provide funding to pregnancy care centers and maternity homes. Further, women should be informed about the financial help and adoption services available so she can make educated choices.

Thank You, Ann Brissette!



Ann Brissette, one of our long-time board members, has moved to the far distant state of Mississippi a few months ago. How did that happen? Maybe it was Michigan's cold and snow or Mississippi's warm climate. Ann had been on the board since the early 2000s. She served as KRTL president from 2004-2005, and then was vice-president for three years. Her most enduring contribution came serving as board secretary from 2008 to 2019, and then again from 2022 to 2024. Ann's training in nursing made her a valuable asset and her years as an administrator at Bronson Hospital helped make our board more efficient. Ann, you will be missed! **Terribly missed!**

An unborn child conceived in rape is still a baby who needs our love

People supporting or those opposing abortion do not always fit into black and white categories. Many people's opinions on abortion fall into that gray area. Some who espouse abortion rights are squeamish about partial-birth abortions since it is basically infanticide. Some pro-choice people favor parental consent legislation or oppose tax-funded abortions. On the other side, there is not unanimity among pro-lifers. Some support exceptions for rape or incest. Even many Republican politicians who vote pro-life want to carve out rape/incest exceptions to curry favor with independent voters.

Kalamazoo Right to Life is a proud affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan. We do not support exceptions for rape or incest. We believe that the circumstances surrounding a baby's conception SHOULD NOT be used to justify killing that child. If some form of punishment is going to be meted out, it should be directed at the rapist, not the baby.

Rape or incest exceptions are frequent talking points for pro-abortion lawmakers or members of the liberal media. They are convinced that the majority of Americans agree with them. That may be true of the general population. But these politicians never talk about their own EXTREME positions on abortion. They want to paint us as the radicals or extremists because we oppose rape/incest exceptions.

The Charlotte Lozier Institute, a strong pro-life group, released a new study on reasons why women seek abortions. More than 95 percent of all abortions are performed on healthy women simply out of convenience. [NOTE: "convenience" does not mean an "easy decision." Many women are pressured to abort. Or these moms are too young and don't have support from parents or boyfriends. Or they are exploited by abortion providers into thinking that abortion is the only realistic solution. If women know that they have genuine options, many of them will choose life for their babies. Indeed, our message: "Life, the Other Choice" must be stressed when talking to young women facing unplanned pregnancies.] Of the remaining four percent of all abortions performed, just 0.4 percent are done as a result of rape or incest.

Numerically, if 800,000 abortions are performed

annually in the US (either surgical or medication methods), 0.4 percent of that number is about 3,200 per year. Abortion for reasons of rape or incest is tragic but 0.4 percent does not constitute an epidemic. While every single child is deserving of life regardless of how they are conceived, the fact that abortion in cases of rape or incest is exceptionally rare—a fact that most people are unaware—shows just how far pro-abortion liberals will go to justify open and unapologetic infanticide.

Parental Consent

Parents in Michigan should be on notice! The Governor and her allies in the state legislature are determined to further chip away at parental rights, intent on overturning parental consent for a minor girl seeking an abortion in Michigan. This is not the first time that parental consent for abortion has been threatened in Michigan. Last summer, abortion activists and legislators stated through various news outlets that they support the repeal or intend to repeal parental consent for abortions. On Tuesday, March 26, when referring to the Reproductive Health Act, Governor Gretchen Whitmer told Michigan Public Radio the removal of parental consent for abortion "was a part of the original package, and I was advocating for the whole package to get to my desk." Doing so flouts the will of Michigan voters. Parental consent for a minor girl seeking an abortion is supported by 70 percent of Michigan voters according to a Marketing Resource Group poll that was conducted last fall. The ACLU and the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) released a report, "In Harms Way" on March 28 that is actively seeking to remove parents from one of the most important decisions a minor girl could face, one that everyone acknowledges will have a lifelong impact regardless of the decision. Currently, minors seeking an abortion must get a parent's consent or seek a judicial bypass prior to obtaining an abortion. The Parental Consent for Abortion law has been the law of the land since 1990. It was put into place through a citizen initiative petition, meaning Michiganders gathered together to collectively fight for the rights of parents and the protection of children. Without this law, parents could be completely taken out of the equation when it comes to a dangerous drug/surgery. Now is the time to inform your family, friends, and community to let them know how dangerous this is for children and parents.

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Veep Corner Rob Karrer

We are now five months away from the general election. In five months we will find out if voters have chosen incumbent Joe Biden or former president Donald Trump for the next four years. While the Republican candidate has a quiver full of character flaws, we must not forget to see the big picture. And that big picture leads me to conclude that another four years of Joe Biden would be disastrous for unborn babies. Let's be clear: Joe Biden is the most pro-abortion president in history. Bill Clinton preferred that abortion be "safe, legal, and rare." It's obvious in 2024 that the word "rare" is rarely used by Democrats. In fact, never. Even Barack Obama's uncertainty when asked, "At what stage of development does an unborn baby receive rights?" His answer, "It's above my pay grade," showed a level of ambiguity. However, Biden's devotion to reproductive rights is all encompassing. He has made abortion one of the key pillars of his campaign. What are his three campaign messages? Donald Trump is a bad person (now he's a "convicted felon"), Donald Trump will destroy our democracy, Donald Trump and his three Supreme Court picks have taken away women's reproductive rights. According to Democrats, that's all voters need to know. Voters should not be concerned about the ten million people illegally crossing into America. You shouldn't care that food prices have risen 25 percent since 2021. People wanting to buy a home shouldn't worry that mortgage interest rates have doubled since 2021. You shouldn't be concerned that fentanyl kills nearly 100,000 people every year. There are too many issues to list in this short column. But you get the drift. Joe Biden wants to codify Roe in all 50 states. Forget that Dobbs gave the right to determine abortion laws back to state lawmakers or the citizens. Biden wants unlimited abortion...well into the third trimester. There is not one single abortion restriction that he supports. The answer for November is simple: defeat Joe Biden and send him into retirement back home in Delaware. Elect pro-life senate candidates who can put a stop to legislation that would make abortion legal once again. Babies lives are on the line.