



EQUIPPED FOR LIFE COURSE



Understanding a pro-choice person's views often poses a difficult challenge. And, when it is difficult to understand a person's view, it is even more frustrating to have a conversation with them and share the pro-life message. But this is not a cause for discouragement, nor should it be an excuse to not share the dignity of life with others. It simply means we must learn what the pro-choice position is, and how to respond with the compassionate, life-affirming message.

The Equal Rights Institute (ERI) developed the Equipped for Life Course to provide a fresh and engaging approach to the dialogue about abortion. Relying on thousands of conversations with pro-choice people, ERI created this course

to help pro-lifers learn to defend the pro-life position with confidence and compassion. Using this method, many people shift their perspective on abortion, while still others experience complete mind changes!

If you or someone you know desires to learn more about how to engage in effective conversation about the difficult topic of abortion, we invite you to join Dubuque County Right to Life's FREE offering of the Equipped for Life Course! The course will occur every Monday night, beginning on September 29th to run through November 10th, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (with dinner included). The SAME course will also run every Thursday morning, beginning October 2nd to run through November 13th, from 10:00am to 11:45am. Both courses will be offered in person at the DCRTL office. When you sign-up, you will choose the day you want to attend (Monday nights or Thursday mornings). So, for example, if you sign up for the Monday course, you will only attend the Monday night sessions.

Each meeting includes learning the topic of the day, time for discussion, and practicing with fellow pro-lifers. If you can't attend a certain day during the course, we have a plan for you. The topics we will cover are: Habits of Highly Ineffective Pro-Lifers, Practical Dialogue Tips, Trot Out a Toddler, The Biological Case for the Unborn, The Philosophical Case for the Unborn, The Question of Rape, and Bodily Rights Arguments. Kids are welcome, so don't let that deter you! We hope to see you there!



Please RSVP by September 25th if you plan on attending! You can email Naomi Weiss at nweiss@dcrtl.org, or you may call her at the DCRTL office at 563-556-5960. We found that these courses are most effective and run best when we have at least five participants, so please note that each training session will only run if we have enough sign-ups.

August 2025

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Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

August 2025

Sunday, August 3	• DCRTL Pool Party, 5-7pm, Sutton Pool (1900 Hawthorne St., Dubuque)
Thursday, August 7	• Summer Picnic, 5:30-8pm, Asbury Park
Friday, August 15	• Deadline to submit names for Memorial for the Unborn
Thursday, August 21	• Board of Directors meeting
Thursday, August 28	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta

September 2025

Saturday, September 13	• National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
Thursday, September 18	• Board of Directors meeting
Saturday, September 20	• Day of Remembrance for Unborn 11 AM - Mt Olivet Cemetery at Memorial
Thursday, September 25	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta

Praying outside of the abortion facility

Every Thursday morning, Arthur Gilloon and other DCRTL members carpool down to Iowa City to pray and offer life-affirming options to the mothers entering Emma Goldman abortion facility. They leave by 5:45am and return to Dubuque by 12 noon. They have open spots in the car. If you would like to join them on any Thursday, give our office a call (563-556-5960) by Wednesday (day before) at 4pm to sign-up.





A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An Unexpected Election Result—and What It Means for the Pro-Life Cause

Sometimes, the most important story on the ballot isn't the one with the most press coverage. That was true in Wisconsin this past April. And the result of one quiet amendment might hold a lesson for us. A lesson about an unexpected group of people we need to reach if we're going to make progress toward making abortion unthinkable.

As many of you know, Wisconsin held a statewide judicial election in April 2025 (and no, I won't rant here about how judges' elections should differ from those for lawmakers). The pro-abortion justice won, mirroring the outcome from 2023. The margin was nearly identical: 11% in 2023, 10% in 2025. Both sides saw higher turnout in the 2025 election.

What I didn't know

Not long after the election, one of our members stopped by the office. He shared that a friend of his mentioned there was also a constitutional amendment on the ballot. Something I had completely missed. The amendment would add a requirement for photo ID to vote in Wisconsin elections. That requirement was already law, but this would insert the law into the state's constitution, making it much harder for any judge to overturn.

The interesting fact was that the Amendment passed by a whopping 25-point margin. The Amendment had received more total votes than the pro-abortion justice.

Why look so closely at a Voter ID Amendment?

These results tell an interesting story. In general, support for photo ID requirements is considered a conservative position (not exclusively, but generally). If that's true, then we saw a significant number of conservative or independent voters, vote both for voter ID and for a pro-abortion judge.

How did that happen?

In my conversations, I've heard many reasons. Some say, "I'm pro-life personally, but I wouldn't force that view on someone else." Others justify legal abortion because someone close to them might "need it" one day. Still others have absorbed media fear tactics, believing that if abortion isn't legal, women will die. So, they vote for abortion to stay legal.

My Challenge to You

Start asking people around you—those who are in the same political party as you, and even those in your church—what they believe about abortion.

Don't assume they agree with you. Ask their thoughts. Make your first goal to listen, to understand, and to find common ground where you can agree (e.g. it's important to help pregnant mothers in poverty).

Through conversations, we can plant seeds. And over time, with time and attention, these seeds will grow. Through honest, thoughtful dialogue, we can help change hearts and minds, and make abortion unthinkable in our communities.

We want everyone, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent; whether they attend church, or are unchurched, to recognize the violence of abortion for what it is and to join us in advocating for our preborn brothers and sisters in the womb.

If you want to be more equipped for these kinds of conversations, whether with a friend, family member, or even a stranger, I invite you to join us for the Equipped for Life course. You'll not only learn how to defend your pro-life beliefs with clarity and confidence, but you'll also encounter pro-choice arguments you may have never heard before—and how to respond effectively. You can find more details on the front cover.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



In Memory of:

Jim Besler.....	Ken & Darlene Besler
Betty & Tony Boland.....	Ken & Marianne Fiedler
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In Honor of:

Sr. Marie Barth (75 th Year Jubilee).....	Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek
Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek (45 th anniversary).....	Tom & Beth Simpson
Rev. John Haugen (Retirement).....	Joyce Honkamp
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When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque, displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you'd like the acknowledgement sent. We'll be happy to send a card.



- To Laura Dolehide, Sue Lansing, Colleen Meyers, and Katie McGuire for helping volunteer at the front desk!
- To all who attended our Generations for Life summer camp, and for all those who prayed for the attendees, or volunteered their time and resources to help make the camp a success!
- To our members who travel down to Iowa City on Thursdays to pray outside the Emma Goldman Abortion Center!

WISH LIST

Tall garbage bags



Dear Friends for Life,

Have you ever wondered why some lawsuits are accepted and others are rejected from consideration of the U.S. Supreme Court? I'm going to write (briefly I hope) to explain. Then one more case regarding abortion pills that will give us hope. Then you can go back to enjoying your summer!

U.S. Supreme Court - Why some cases are accepted, and some are not

The U.S. Supreme Court does not have to accept every case that comes to it. Let's look at one it recently accepted and one it didn't, keeping it simple. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 writs of certiorari (petitions) for review each year, but it only accepts and rules on about 65 to 70 cases.

Of note, even though there are nine Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court, only four need to vote yes for a case to be accepted for review. In other words, the majority of the Supreme Court cannot veto a desire by the minority to consider a case. Once the case is considered, however, all nine Justices vote on what the outcome of the lawsuit should be.

Now for two examples, one where the Court accepted a case, and one where the case was rejected. I will focus on two very recent decisions that both relate to abortion directly and indirectly to abortion.

On June 18, 2025, the Supreme Court published an opinion/ ruling upholding a 2023 Tennessee transgender law prohibiting hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and other treatment to enable a minor to identify inconsistently with the minor's biological sex. The law allowed such therapy if needed to alleviate precocious puberty or other physical or mental issues that treat gender dysphoria, but it denied doctors and therapists the right to perform mutilating surgery and other treatments if the goal was for the minor to transition or affirm an identity other than the gender of their birth. The Supreme Court ruled Tennessee's state law did not violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the federal U.S. Constitution. The Court noted that Tennessee's law was similar to 26 other state laws regarding transgender treatment, therapy, and surgery on minors. It was likely that if the court did not rule in this case, it would be deluged with other cases filed in one or more of the 94 federal district courts. The U.S. Supreme Court is the final decider of whether or not a state law violates the United States Constitution. One reason the Court accepted this case was to settle the legal issue presented to it once for all, so that courts around the country would have guidance if similar lawsuits were filed. In addition, state legislatures would have guidance. They would know exactly what kind of law they could pass on this issue that would be upheld by the Supreme Court. Any of the 26 states that have a law similar to Tennessee's can rest easy. Any state that wants to pass such a law can now do so without concern for the same arguments being raised against it. Finally, this case relates indirectly to abortion because it has rulings and analysis that will aid pro-life legislatures considering passing pro-life laws regarding abortion. (You can find this case on the Internet by googling *United States v. Skirmetti*, Case No. 23-477)

So that's an example of a case the court accepted and ruled on. What about one it declined? Well, that is the one directly related to abortion.

On July 3, 2025, the Supreme Court did not accept a petition by the state of Montana regarding abortion. Montana passed a law in 2013 (yes, nine years before Roe was reversed by Dobbs) requiring abortionists to obtain parental consent before performing their baby-killing surgery on a minor. Of course, Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit in Montana state court seeking to stop the law, claiming that the law was inconsistent with Montana's state constitution.

PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE, COURT & OTHER LEGAL NEWS

...continued from page 5

Montana’s pro-life parental rights law was then struck down. After Dobbs threw out Roe, Montana asked the Supreme Court to overrule the lower court. So why would the Supreme Court reject this abortion case, especially when a majority of the Justices on the Court appear to be basically pro-life? Justice Samuel Alito explained that the case was rejected because the attorney general for the state of Montana did not argue that striking down the Montana law would violate every Montana parent’s federal Constitutional rights. He only argued about his state’s constitution. In the lower courts, Montana presented and argued based on Montana state constitutional rights without considering whether it should be upheld on federal constitutional grounds. In its denial order, the U.S. Supreme Court hinted that the Court likely will accept a case if it presents an issue of parents’ federal constitutional rights. Then the Supreme Court can accept it like the Tennessee case above (which in the end is a parental rights case). The Justices can rule whether or not parents have federal constitutional protections to guard and protect their children from abortion. Indeed, Justice Alito noted in his order that “because of the way this case was litigated below, it provides a poor vehicle for deciding that question. It is therefore especially important that the denial of review is not read by interested parties or other courts as a rejection of the argument, that the petition asked us to decide.”

In other words, this case did not present a clear federal constitutional issue that the court could decide once and for all, and, like the Tennessee case above, give guidance to the other 49 states. Hopefully the State of Montana will refile and make federal constitutional claims.

GOOD NEWS ON THE ABORTION PILL

In a federal appeals court case in which our pro-life Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird participated, a 3 judge panel of the Federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected the claim of an abortion pill manufacturer that the FDA regulations allowing abortion pills overrules West Virginia’s ban on such pills in their state. It is a small victory that is not final, as the decision is from a 3 judge panel. The case may be appealed to the full 4th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals. The 4th Circuit covers North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and South Carolina. For full details on this case which the country is watching do a google search for *Genbiopro, Inc. v. Putman, Raynes, Morrisey, and Sorsaia*, 4th Circuit case No.23-2194.

That’s all for now. Thanks for reading and stay informed! DCRTL will help you do just that.

Arthur F. Gilloon



THANK YOU SEVEN WEEKS COFFEE!

We want to extend a special thank you to Seven Weeks Coffee for their support of DCRTL through a special grant! We are so grateful and blessed to partner with them to fight to protect mothers and their preborn children. Seven Weeks Coffee works tirelessly to donate 15% of every sale to pregnancy resource centers, and just recently, they celebrated donating \$1 million to pregnancy resource centers since their inception in 2019! Congratulations Seven Weeks Coffee! We encourage our supporters to offer their support to them as well!



DCRTL POOL PARTY

Don't forget—DCRTL is hosting a pool party on August 3, from 5-7pm, at the Sutton Pool (1900 Hawthorne St, Dubuque, IA)! Join us in celebrating life with the pro-life community! Feel free to bring your favorite food, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages to share. We only ask that you do not use glass containers for safety. We look forward to seeing you there!



Remembrance Service for the Unborn

To honor and remember the unborn babies' lives lost through stillbirth, miscarriage, or abortion, Dubuque County Right to Life is hosting a remembrance service at the Memorial for the Unborn in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Saturday, September 20. We will begin with a prayer service at 11am to pray for the lives lost as well as for healing in the hearts of parents who grieve and mourn the loss of their child. Following the prayer service, we invite you to join us for a potluck lunch at St. Joseph parish in Key West. Please bring a dish to share! You are welcome to join us for all, or part, of this event as your schedule allows.



SUMMER PICNIC

Our annual summer picnic is fast approaching! On Thursday, August 7, DCRTL invites you to enjoy a night of community and fun at Asbury Park from 5:30pm to 8pm. We will provide the main course for dinner, but please bring your favorite side dishes or desserts to share. We will eat around 6pm. We hope to see you there!



SEVEN WEEKS COFFEE



Dubuque County Right To Life has become partners with 7 Weeks Coffee, if you are already a coffee drinker, please consider switching your brand to Seven Weeks Coffee. 15% of all purchases will be donated to Dubuque County Right To Life. Thank you 7 Weeks Coffee! Use the following link www.sevenweekscoffee.com/?ref=Dubuque-County-Right-To-Life, or scan the QR Code (left) to be taken to our personal link.

The Danger of Abortion Pills - Even Where Abortion is Illegal

Even in states in which abortion is illegal, abortion pill trafficking leaves women and their pre-born babies vulnerable to the dangers of these drugs, which can be obtained without the advice of a medical provider.

Recently, in Texas, former Planned Parenthood director, Abby Johnson, proved the ease with which women could receive mail-order abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol in a video documenting herself ordering the pills as a posed pregnant woman. Not only does Abby Johnson order the pills at no cost, but she likewise never has to prove whether she is truly pregnant, how far along she claims to be, or that she spoke with a medical provider about the risks. The pills arrive at her doorstep, and she receives email instructions on how to take the pills (which instruct her to take twice the maximum amount). She notes that in the process of ordering the pills, she never speaks to a real person, except when she negotiates to order them for free. Abby Johnson destroys the pills, but her test reveals that even though abortion is technically illegal in Texas, the abortion pills can still be trafficked in and out of the state.

Not only is this a concern for the babies who will lose their lives because of these pills, but they likewise pose a risk to women (though the abortion industry will try to deny it). The Ethics & Public Policy Center (EPPC) recently published the largest-known study on the abortion pill, pulling from a database of all-payer insurance claims. They analyzed 865,727 prescribed mifepristone abortions from 2017 - 2023. They found that 10.93 percent of women experienced what the FDA defines as a “serious adverse event,” such as sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or other event.

The findings are shocking in that the FDA reports serious adverse events in “less than 0.5 percent” of the women in the clinical trials included in their drug label on the mifepristone abortion. As the EPPC explains, the rate of serious adverse events they discovered is 22 percent more than the FDA approved label.

You can find more details (including how the EPPC conducted the study, statistics they chose to include and exclude, etc) on EPPC’s website. Please continue to share this information, letting others know that the abortion pill is NOT a safe and caring option for women. Even with the pro-life legislation in place in Iowa, women can still obtain these pills, both at Emma Goldman, and through mail-order pharmacies. Help us let women know these pills are unsafe, and that we can provide more loving, life-affirming options!



A GLIMPSE INTO GENERATIONS FOR LIFE 2025

Last month we had our second annual Generations for Life High School Summer Camp! We had mentors from Justice for All come in to teach campers how to have compassionate conversations about abortion with others, and they were then deployed into Iowa City to survey people and participate in street outreach. Along with the opportunity to have dialogue, campers also gained more experience with other forms of outreach, such as our banner outreach in Dubuque. Signs that had messages such as “Abortion is Violence” or “Abortion Violates Human Rights” were displayed along with life chain signage. Campers also stood alongside the Emma Goldman Abortion Clinic in Iowa City to pray and/or help reach out to the women going into the clinic. With all this amazing outreach, the students also heard the story of Executive Director Amy Dall of the Cedar Valley Guiding Star Project and her experience with being a post-abortive mother. Up close and personal, students were able to ask questions and better understand how to further help women who may be struggling with choosing or coping with abortion. Now these high schoolers are equipped and confident to share the pro-life message and be a voice for the voiceless! We plan to have this camp again next summer, so if anyone you know might be interested, it’s not too soon to get the word out! ;)


With life-affirming hope,
Molly Strohmeyer
Digital Outreach Coordinator



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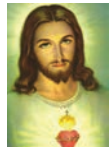


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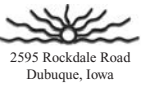
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