



**A NOTE
FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



**TOWN HALL ON
ABORTION VICTIM IMAGERY**

We are hosting two town hall style meetings on Monday, September 23rd, at 7:00 PM, online, and Tuesday, September 24th, at 7:00 PM, at the DCRTL office (2205 Carter Rd., Dubuque, IA) to discuss the use of Abortion Victim Imagery in our outreach efforts. We value your input on whether these images should be used in public to change hearts and minds. Your feedback will help guide our future decisions. If you plan to attend either event, please notify Shauna Peterson by Thursday, September 19th, by emailing dertlevents@gmail.com or calling 563-556-5960. We hope to see you there!

Should Dubuque County Right To Life Show Abortion Victim Imagery Publicly?

On August 13th, we hosted Justice for All to present and discuss their experiences of using abortion victim imagery publicly. They drew a distinction between a private display and a public display. A private display is in a brochure or shared in a similar manner during a discussion with a person. Dubuque County Right To Life has done this type of display before and has witnessed mind changes because of its use. A public display shows the images in a public area where they can be viewed by anyone passing by.

In their presentation, Justice for All shared the story of Emmett Till. The story of Emmett Till is too long to include here, but I encourage you to look up his story if you are not already familiar with it. In short, in 1955, at the age of 14, Emmett was brutally murdered to the point of being unrecognizable while visiting family in Money, Mississippi, in a clear act of racism. Emmett's mother decided to have an open-casket funeral for him in Chicago (where he was from). Jet magazine covered the story and included images of his brutalized body. Many people have been killed prior to this as acts of racism, but it was showing the images of his body that would spur an uprising in the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks would refuse to give up her seat to the point of arrest after seeing the images of Emmett. Prior to that, she had refused to give up her seat, but not to the point of being arrested.

There are other examples where images of the victims were shown to demonstrate what was happening when human beings were committing injustices. Examples of that include William Wilberforce trying to end the slave trade in the British Empire; when fighting the American child labor industry, photos of children captured by Lewis Hine were used to obtain justice for these kids who were as young as five years old; and Martin Luther King Jr. would use victim imagery in an effort to stop brutal injustices that were happening against people of color. These are historical examples where images have been used in the past to create change in hearts and change in policy.

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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.

September 2024

Thursday, September 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedication of the stone for The Memorial of the Unborn 6:30pm - Mt Olivet Cemetery
Saturday, September 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
Thursday, September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSVP deadline for attending the town hall meeting on abortion victim imagery. Board of Directors meeting
Monday, September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Town Hall Discussion on public use of abortion victim imagery. 7pm
Tuesday, September 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person Town Hall Discussion on public use of abortion victim imagery. 7pm - DCRTL office conference room
Thursday, September 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour - 7pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta

October 2024

Sunday, October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifesaver Sunday Life Chain Sunday
October 7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-Life Awareness Week
Tuesday, October 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day
Thursday, October 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Directors meeting
Thursday, October 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Hour - 7pm St. John the Baptist, Peosta



Praying Outside of the Abortion Facility

Every Thursday morning, Arthur Gilloon and a couple other 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.

NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Knowing the historical context, the questions that remain are: should we use them, and if so, how should we use them?

It is our mission to change hearts and minds on the issue of abortion and seek the most effective ways to do that.

We have recently started seeking opportunities to have conversations with people about their beliefs and offering the pro-life perspective, but that takes a lot of time, and sometimes, even in the face of the best arguments, people's minds don't change until they see what happens in an abortion. I'm certain there are a decent number of people who support abortion because they don't think that it harms someone. This is because abortion is hidden and has been sanitized by the media. The images of abortion victims dismantle the idea that abortion is just removing some tissue, and it shows why some people want to end this injustice. Most people will never see what an abortion is without a public display.

We live in an image-based culture.

In the book *Seeing is Believing* by Jonathon Van Maren, pro-life apologist Scott Klusendorf, is quoted saying, "We live in a culture that thinks and learns visually." Klusendorf then goes on to state that "we have shifted from a word-based culture—with an emphasis on coherent linear thought—to an image-based one where thinking is dominated by feeling, intuition, and images." Klusendorf further points out that with visual learners, the tendency can also be short attention spans, which we know is prevalent in our society today.

Are images of abortion effective in changing hearts and minds?

I shared in the July 2024 newsletter, a study initiated by Protect Life Michigan on the effectiveness of using abortion victim images to change hearts and minds. The study focused on comparing the results of using words to convey a pro-life message versus showing images of abortion victims. They found a 17.62% decrease in support for abortion when abortion victim images were used compared to just using pro-life messages. You can view that study in full at www.protectlifemi.org/strategy. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the red button "READ THE STUDY." The above data point is just one of many in the study and I encourage you to check it out. There was also a study initiated by the Canadian Center for Bioethical Reform several years ago, which you can read more about in the book *Seeing is Believing*. We have the book in our library if you would like to read it or look more into the study.

What about using images of Life? Images of Life vs. Death

There are a small minority of people who have never seen images of human development, and images of a child in utero may shift their perspective toward being more pro-life. But to really answer this question about the comparison of images of life and death. We are more inclined to respond to a call to action if we see an injustice. If a person cannot quickly identify the injustice, the cause being advocating for is at risk of being dismissed or deemed not worth of their time.

Aside from the human rights causes mentioned above, the modern environmental movement struggled to gather public support for their cause when they were showing images of beautiful trees. The movement gained many activists when they started showing images of acres upon acres of stumps from the trees that had been cut down. In our current culture, people are more motivated to act by seeing the deprivation of the good (the ugliness of slavery, child labor, etc.) than they are by seeing the good (a person of color with his family, a child at a playground, or in this case, by seeing an image of a human being in the womb).

The impact of abortion and the images causing post-traumatic stress

Most likely, people will feel negative emotions toward these images and perhaps be angry. Everyone with a heartbeat should feel negative feelings towards these images.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



In Memory of:

Betty Boland.....Marianne Fiedler, Eric & Louise Loeffelholz, Joyce McQuiggin
 Cassie Boorn.....Colleen Myers
 Marian Brunkan.....David Brunkan, Carol Goerd
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Robert & Darlene Nelson, James Ziganto
 Gerry Westhoff.....Roger & Darlene Osterhaus
 Mary Woleford.....Lois Taylor

WISH LIST STAMPS



Thank you!

- Sue Lansing for helping out at the office!
- Fred and Brigid Ganter for sponsoring the main entrée for our picnic!
- Mary Esmann for helping us beautify our property grounds by removing our many weeds!
- Laura Dolehide for giving us a wishlist item!
- Area Residential Care (ARC) staff and volunteers for assembling our 11-week babies for the County Fair!





PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Friends for Life:

Here's the latest court and legislative news from Iowa and around the country.

IOWA

As you know from last month's newsletter, the Iowa Supreme Court upheld Iowa's heartbeat law on June 28, 2024, and it went into effect on July 29, 2024. But the supreme court's ruling only dissolved the temporary injunction that was blocking the heartbeat law pending a trial on the merits of the abortionist's lawsuit. The case in the district court of Polk County was still headed for a trial unless the judge granted a motion by Pro-Life Attorney General Brenna Bird to dismiss the case on a motion for summary judgment, or the abortionists voluntarily gave up and dismissed the case before trial. Well, they finally gave up! On August 15, 2024, the pro-abortion attorneys filed what is known as a Rule 1.943 Voluntary Dismissal "without prejudice." The good news is that the case is now officially dismissed and the case is dead. The bad news is that by dismissing "without prejudice," the abortionists could conceivably refile the case in the future if the heartbeat law is changed or some other legal event opens the door for them. This is an unlikely scenario, but nonetheless demands vigilance by our Pro-Life Attorney General Brenna Bird and her team of legal experts. Also, remember that the heartbeat law is just that, a "heartbeat law." It is not a "6-week ban." News outlets and others have wrongly described it as such because an unborn child's heartbeat is often first detected at about 6 weeks. But some heartbeats are heard earlier and some a bit later. Moreover, I advise not using the word "ban" ever in reference to Pro-Life laws. Use the more accurate term "protective law," because that is what these laws are. The heartbeat law for example, requires that when the heartbeat of an unborn child is detected by ultrasound, the protection of Iowa law applies. The mother must be informed in writing if her child's heartbeat was detected, and if so, that she cannot abort her child except in certain limited circumstances. This protects the baby from certain death and protects her mother from the physical and psychological harm that the abortion would inflict upon her. Spread the word accurately about this law, and inform your friends and family that Pro-Life Iowans will continue to offer positive answers to women facing unintended pregnancies through pregnancy resource centers, homes for pregnant women who have nowhere to live, and legislation providing financial, educational, career, residential, employment, and other practical aid. The fact that we now have a heartbeat law in Iowa will assist in that effort.

NATIONAL NEWS

You may read news reports of a Missouri woman suing a Kansas hospital, claiming that in 2022 it refused to "provide her an abortion" even though hospital doctors believed that her fetus would not survive, that her amniotic fluid had emptied, and that she was at risk for serious infection or losing her uterus. She claims she was forced to go to Illinois for an abortion due to Missouri's heartbeat law. It is important to read beyond the headlines in these cases because the whole truth is not being told. It is true that the doctors were aware of Missouri's protective law and that serious complications were present, but what you won't read in the AP or other stories are the following facts indicated in an HHS investigation:

The mother had been a patient in a different hospital the day before and was seen by an OB-GYN doctor and a maternal fetal medicine specialist who determined she was "medically stable with normal vitals." Hospital staff there offered a room to "remain at the hospital for observation to monitor for indications of spontaneous labor or to see if she developed the Missouri definition of a "medical emergency." The expert doctors were willing to treat her at this hospital, but she decided to leave, electing to "drive to a hospital whom she believed could augment or induce labor." She then went a day later to the Kansas hospital, which she is now suing.

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PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

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There it was determined that she was likewise not in an immediate life-threatening situation, that her delivery time was not anticipated to be prolonged, and that she could remain in the second hospital for observation and treatment if her condition became life-threatening. She was seen by the hospital doctors and consulted with a neonatologist physician. Her baby had a detectable heart rate of 153 beats per minute. The mother's vitals were "CBC (complete blood count) normal, VSS (vital signs stable), no signs of chorio[amnionitis], abruption,[or] labor." Again, she discharged herself and traveled to Illinois for an abortion even though both the first and second hospital offered her continuing care and treatment. While a heartbreaking situation, it shows the protective Missouri law designed to protect both mother and child works. The mother could have stayed and had the care from experts she needed. Unfortunately, she chose otherwise. The quotes above are taken from the official Department of Health and Human Services Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services investigation of the two hospitals. So, dig deep when you hear of these news stories because the writers often have a pro-abortion viewpoint they are trying to advance. Contact Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. if you run across any of these stories and we will get to the truth.

As reported last month, pro-abortion attorneys general from Washington and 16 other states sued the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to liberalize the marketing and sale of the baby-killing drug mifepristone. Iowa (led by our Pro-Life Attorney General Brenna Bird), along with the Pro-Life attorneys general from Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah, sued to join that federal lawsuit to strengthen the safety standards that would apply to any use of the death-drug, mifepristone. On July 25, 2024, a three-judge federal appellate panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that Iowa and the other Pro-Life states could not join the lawsuit. The judges went so far as to say that even the Pro-Life states' legitimate interest in "protecting maternal health and fetal life" did not allow them to sue the FDA and HHS on behalf of their citizens. As of press time, we have no updates on the case. Attorney General Bird could potentially appeal and ask the full 9th Appellate Court to review the panel's ruling.

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

Arkansas: On Thursday, August 22, 2024, the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled that a pro-abortion ballot initiative cannot be placed on the ballot in November because the pro-abortion paid signature collectors did not swear to follow proper legal procedures in collecting 14,000 signatures. The constitutional amendment would have allowed abortion up to 20 weeks for no reason, and beyond 20 weeks if the abortionist believed the abortion was necessary to prevent a serious risk of substantial impairment of "a major bodily function," which would include mental impairment. Essentially this amendment would have allowed abortion on demand. Current Arkansas law allows abortion only to save the life of the mother in a medical emergency, which for now will remain the law of the state.

Arizona: Abortion is on the ballot this November. Citizens there will vote whether abortion should be a fundamental right in Arizona's constitution so that all abortions will be allowed up to 24 weeks, and then even after that point if necessary in the opinion of the treating doctor to preserve the "life of physical or mental health" of the mother. By including "mental health" as an exception, the amendment would allow abortion on demand. Fortunately, the Arizona Supreme Court on August 14, 2024, ruled that the Secretary of State's voter packet sent to all eligible voters may refer to an "unborn human being" in describing what is at stake. Pro-aborts had sued the state to keep this information from reaching the voters.

Nebraska: There will be two competing abortion constitutional ballot issues in November. As reported last month, the pro-aborts have submitted an abortion on demand amendment, and the pro-lifers have submitted an amendment that would install the current 12-week protective law in the state constitution, but it will still allow for the legislature to pass additional protective laws in the future.

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PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE

...continued from page 6

Nebraska continued: The Secretary of State has now certified both ballot initiatives. The winning amendment will be the one with the most “yes” votes.

Montana: Abortion is on the ballot this November. The current state law allows abortion on demand and allows non-physicians to kill pre-born babies. The amendment would put abortion expressly into the Montana constitution to “prohibit the government from denying or burdening the right to abortion before fetal viability,” and when the abortionist believes it is needed to protect “life or health.” In other words, abortion on demand.

Here is a chart showing the other seven states where abortion will be on the ballot come November:

Colorado	Already allows abortion on demand under state law. The Amendment would install an unrestricted constitutional right to kill babies and harm women on demand, allow the use of public funds for abortion, and require Medicaid and private health insurance to pay for abortions.
Florida	Current state law protects babies after 6 weeks. The amendment would negate that law and install an unrestricted constitutional right to kill babies and harm women. (i.e., abortion on demand).
Maryland	Would install an unrestricted constitutional right for an expectant mom to make all "decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy...i.e., abortion on demand.
Missouri	Would allow baby-killing and women-harming abortion while supposedly giving the state legislature power to enact laws regulating but not prohibiting abortion after fetal viability. The result would be abortion on demand.
Nevada	Would install a constitutional right to kill babies and harm women before 24 weeks and after if ok in the judgment of the abortionist (i.e., abortion on demand).
New York	Would add language to the New York state Bill of Rights to provide that people could not be denied rights based on their "ethnicity, national origin, age, and disability" or "sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy." In other words, kill babies, harm women, and have abortion on demand.
South Dakota	Would install Roe v. Wade’s language and trimester framework in the state constitution and allow baby-killing and women-harming at any time of pregnancy (i.e. abortion on demand).

That’s all for now, friends. Stay informed. Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. will assist you in educating your friends, family, and co-workers about the humanity of the preborn, the positive Pro-Life alternatives to abortion, and how we are all helping women facing unintended pregnancies.

Arthur F. Gilloon, Attorney at Law



NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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They show a barbaric reality that happens in our country. Showing these images is not an easy thing to do. Abortion has deeply affected many people. For every dead child, there are parents, grandparents, and friends—possibly people who didn't support the decision but others who supported it and perhaps assisted in going through with it. There is a lot of hurt in our culture because of the millions of children who have been killed through abortion, but we cannot hide from the truth because it is the truth that calls us to change our ways and heal from our past mistakes. What we can do is make sure those who have been harmed by abortion know that God forgives a contrite heart, that there are resources that exist to help them heal, and there are people who are ready to walk with them on this journey.

On a side note, there are people who will become angry that you are holding a sign showing an image of an intact pre-born human in the womb or that you are holding a non-graphic sign that says Adoption, the Loving Option. I would hypothesize that most, if not all, negative hand gestures or negative verbal responses toward signage are coming from people who have been impacted by abortion in one way or another. If that is true, then we can't fault the signage for being the cause of post-traumatic stress, but rather the cause of that post-traumatic stress is abortion, which is what we are trying to stop.

What if children see these images?

Pro-lifers are obviously not targeting children when showing abortion victim images in public, but it is near impossible, if not impossible, to reach adults and teenagers in a manner where children will not be present. If children do see the images, the parent can practice parental discretion by distracting them, or they may see it as an opportunity to discuss the issue in an age-appropriate manner. If they choose to discuss it, the parent can reassure the child(ren) that they are loved and that you will keep them safe from any harm. The Canadian Center for Bioethical Reform has performed thousands of hours of pro-life activism, and they've only seen one child distraught, “and that was because her father was loudly swearing at a pro-life activist.” Their claim that a child's reaction will be based a lot on their parents' reaction, I have found to be true in my own personal experience outside of viewing abortion victim imagery.

In regard to this particular issue, my son, who is 3 years old, came across these graphic images unintentionally. After failing to divert his attention away, he said to my wife, “Mommy, that baby died,” and then soon followed by, “That's sad.” Though I believe him to have great memory recall, that was the last time he mentioned it.

Conclusion

This is not an initiative to create shock or “throw it in people's faces” for what they have done. The ultimate intention behind pro-lifers who show these images in public is to stop this brutal atrocity from happening thousands of times a day in our country. With the data from the Protect Life Michigan study and the study from the Canadian Center for Bioethical Reform, we can be sure that the images are capable of changing hearts and minds. Our goal is that one day, abortion victim imagery will be shown in museums and history textbooks in a similar manner as we now see the Holocaust and other human injustices. But until our culture acknowledges the fact that abortion is killing a human being and believes it to be a violation of human rights, then we must continue to work to change hearts and minds on abortion. The sooner this happens, more lives will be saved from being killed.

If you can't make it to either meeting, please feel free to email me with your thoughts and/or questions to apayne@dcrtl.org.

Working to change hearts and minds,

Augustine





MEMORIAL FOR THE UNBORN UPDATE AND DEDICATION

Please join us at 6:30 PM on September 12 for the Dedication of the Stone for the Memorial of the Unborn. This special ceremony will take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, where we will come together to unveil and dedicate a memorial stone inscribed with the names of unborn babies who were aborted, miscarried, or stillborn. It is an opportunity to honor their memory, offer our prayers, and find solace in the community. Please join us as we commemorate these innocent lives and reflect on the enduring love that binds us all. Your presence will help make this a heartfelt and memorable occasion.

We are looking forward to doing another Trivia night with you in February 2025 to raise money to cover final costs!

Names will be added every 6 months. If you would like to be part of the next placement of names, the next placement will be in Spring 2025.

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 (right) to be taken to our personal link.



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<p><i>Life</i> A Gift to Treasure Dubuque Advertiser <i>"The Little Paper with the Big Impact"</i></p>		<p><i>Life is precious. We believe every life is a gift from God.</i></p> <p><i>Hoffmann Schneider & Kitchin</i> FUNERAL HOME CREMATION SERVICE A Dubuque Tradition Since 1846 3860 Asbury Rd. • Dubuque • 563.582.5222 • www.hskficare.com</p>	<p>Jesus exclaimed to St. Faustina, <i>"How very much I desire the salvation of souls!"</i> Jesus. Divine Mercy. Trust in You</p>

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