

Family & ProLife News Briefs

April 2022

Abortion Push ...and Pushback!

SBA List: “Most Dangerous Organization Out There”

Last month, Planned Parenthood (PP) received its largest gift ever from a single donor: \$275 million from MacKenzie Scott (ex-wife of Amazon’s Jeff Bezos). PP CEO Alexis McGill Johnson said that this gift is critical for the “public health infrastructure.” **PP is being bankrolled by billionaires** to push a radical abortion agenda, leaving women & children in the dust. States like NY, NJ, California and Connecticut have passed radical pro-abortion laws.

Yet, since January 2021, over 500 pro-life bills have been introduced across the country. And that momentum isn’t slowing. The Oklahoma House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would totally ban all abortions except for those necessary to save the life of the mother. If passed, the bill would make Oklahoma part of a group of states that have recently taken action to **safeguard the unborn and their mothers**. Here are some recent highlights:

- Florida: 15-week abortion limit
- Wyoming: law outlaws abortion in the state when Roe is overturned
- Idaho: 6-week heartbeat civil enforcement bill
- Arizona: 15-week abortion limit
- West Virginia: anti-discrimination bill protecting unborn children with Down Syndrome
- South Dakota: chemical abortion regulation

Abortion activist Robin Marty recently called SBA List “the most dangerous organization out there” as it works to win back the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, elect pro-life governors, & continue passing life-affirming laws in the states. PP may have money, but SBA List says it has a proven strategy, determination, and the truth on its side. [SBA List email, 3/25/2022]

“Cardiac Activity,” Not “Heartbeat” ?

The *NY Times* published a straight news article decrying the use of the word “heartbeat” to describe fetal cardiac activity. Roni Caryn Rabin argues, “what the law defines as the sound of a heartbeat is not considered by medical experts to be coming from a developed heart, which forms later in pregnancy.” Yet Dr. Christina Francis, chair of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said, “It is a heart tube, but it is still a heart. The shape is different, but that doesn’t change the essence of what it is.”

This kind of euphemistic language is common among, and valuable to, the pro-abortion movement (always “fetus,” never “baby”; “cardiac activity,” not “heartbeat”) as a way to subtly dehumanize the life in the womb. “Doctors are partly to blame for the confusion,” Rabin writes. “Many physicians whose patients are excited about a desired pregnancy will use

the word ‘heartbeat’ to describe the cardiac activity heard on an early ultrasound.”

Whether or not it comes from a fully developed organ, a heartbeat is still a heartbeat, and a new human life still has as much value as a more developed one. [*Human Life Review*, Madeline Fry Schultz, 2/17/22]

Nurse Wins \$374,000 Lawsuit

A pro-life Illinois nurse who was fired after **refusing to refer mothers for abortions** won her case in court, & was awarded \$374,000 in damages & attorney fees. A local court in Illinois ruled that Sandra Mendoza Rojas should not have been fired from the Winnebago County Health Clinic for living out her pro-life beliefs, but could have reasonably accommodated her objections without removing her from her job.

Rojas worked as a pediatric nurse in Illinois for 18 years before being fired. A devout Catholic who believes unborn babies deserve a right to life, she said: “Nursing is more than just a job, it is a

noble calling to protect life and do no harm. There is something terribly wrong when you are forced out of your job on account of your commitment to protect life.”

The court’s decision is a win for all health care professionals throughout Illinois. “They should not be required to violate their conscience to keep their jobs” said Legal Counsel Elissa Graves of Alliance Defending Freedom. Her case is one of a growing number of complaints by medical professionals about religious freedom and **conscience violations**. Cathy DeCarlo, an operating room nurse from NY, is another. “I’ll never forget that day as I watched in horror as the doctor dismembered and removed the baby’s bloody limbs and I had to account for all the pieces” DeCarlo said previously, sobbing at the memory. In August, the U.S. administration received sharp criticism from pro-life and religious leaders after it dropped a lawsuit defending another pro-life nurse in Vermont who was forced to participate in an abortion. Federal law is not being enforced, and nurses like Rojas and DeCarlo have had their livelihoods threatened for refusing to help end unborn babies’ lives in abortions. [LifeNews.com, 3/21/2022]

Brits Say NO to Legal Assisted Suicide

The defeat of the latest bill is the 12th time in 25 years that the British Parliament has dismissed attempts to legalize assisted suicide. “We praise the Parliament members who voted to recognize the dignity of every human life by rejecting the societal push to legalize euthanasia.” [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 4/3/2022]



I Wish My Mom Had Aborted Me

“After speaking at a pro-life rally, I had a conversation with my Uber driver. He made it clear that he disagreed with me. He said that it is good for men that abortion is legal because sex is fun and sometimes pregnancy happens. He also said he wishes his mother had had an abortion instead of giving birth to him, because she would have left his father.”

“It’s because of a half-century of abortion that he could ever think that he is not worthy of existence. Conversations like that and so many others make clear that we have a lot of work to do to create anything like a culture of life where people know their **lives are worth living** and the innocent are worthy of protection.”

[Kathryn Jean Lopez, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 4/3/22]

“You really try to love your enemy - but how? It's completely different from all other loves - parents, family, friends, community, country. This love of enemy resides in our will. It needs to be created step by step over time. Then our Lord's wish will be fulfilled: "That they may be one ... as you, Father, are in me and I am in you" (John 17:20)

Maria Von Trapp, matriarch of Trapp Family Singers

In What State Do You Live?

Parents in the most religious states enjoy the widest array of school-choice programs for their children. [The Catholic League, *Catalyst*, 4/22]

	States in the US	
	<u>12 most religious</u>	<u>12 least religious</u>
<u>Provide for:</u>		
private school choice	11	3
religious liberty laws	8	1
abortion per		
100,000 pregnancies	11.2	17.7
restrictive abortion laws	12	1

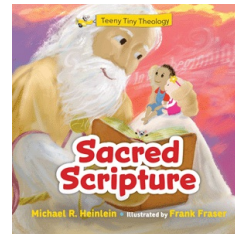
Supreme Court Nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson

Mainstream news media have not focused much on Judge Jackson’s past rulings giving out less than recommended sentences to **child pornographers**. She is also very pro-abortion. “The President is fulfilling his promise to only appoint justices who support the *Roe v. Wade* regime of **abortion on demand up to birth**,” SBA List Pres. Marjorie Dannenfelser said.

“The candidate is backed by many of America’s most radical pro-abortion groups. She is on record opposing the free-speech rights of pro-life advocates pleading to save lives outside abortion centers and supporting the false claim that abortion is ‘health care.’ She will work with the most pro-abortion administration in history to enshrine abortion on demand nationwide in the law.” [“Pro-Life Legal Experts,” *National Catholic Register*, 2/27/22]

Colorful Kid Books as Easter Gifts

Hard-cover and beautifully illustrated, the “Teeny Tiny Theology” series of four books is entertaining and respects the child as an intelligent person. Author Michael Heinlein puts theology into language that young children can understand. He writes expecting that the child being read to will be able to understand the concepts he is presenting. And they do. Colorful and appealing



without being babyish or overly simple, the books hold a child’s attention while the adult reads the text. Ethnicity, age and gender are varied in a way that feels natural instead of forced. These are: *Perfect Easter basket gifts!* [www.SimplyCatholic.com]

Do You Favor Free Speech?

A hundred or so adult law students, not college sophomores, recently disrupted speakers at Yale Law School, much as political mobs have done throughout history. The panel was intended as a debate over civil liberties, featuring both a progressive and a conservative guest speakers. The two broadly agree on protecting free speech, despite other differences.

Senior Judge Silberman of the D.C. Court of Appeals reacted by writing: “students who are identified as willing to disrupt any such panel discussion should be considered as disqualified for potential clerkships” by his judicial colleagues. No punishment seems forthcoming from Yale Law School. [*Wall Street Journal* editorial, 3/21/22]

Women’s History Month: Pro-Life Pioneers

- **Alice von Hildebrand** fled Nazi occupation in the 1930s; a Catholic theologian & college professor, her work promoted the dignity of women and motherhood.
- **Sister Paula Vandegaer** founding member of Heartbeat International and a pioneer of pregnancy help centers
- **Barbara Wilke**, a nurse, cofounded Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati in 1970s and co-authored *Handbook on Abortion* that sold 1.5 million copies.
- **Phyllis Schlafly** led a successful campaign against the deeply flawed, pro-abortion Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. She founded the Eagle Forum.
- **Nellie Gray**, an World War II Army vet & an attorney, quit her State Department job & organized the first March for Life in 1974. [Priests for Life newsletter, March 2022]

This free monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert, and has had over 30,000 readers. To receive a copy in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarifr@shu.edu