

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

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## **Comparison of Political Platforms**

*One of our members, Vicki Evans, has a comparison of the Republican and Democratic Platforms on the life issues. We provide her efforts here as an educational tool as you research your voting options.*

## **Democratic Party Platform Planks on Life Issues**

1. Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice; we believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion, regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes or how she is insured. (*Note absence of "rare" from "safe and legal abortion" in this plank of the platform.*)
2. We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people; we will fight Republican efforts to roll back the clock on women's health and reproductive rights and stand up for Planned Parenthood.
3. We will continue to oppose, and seek to overturn, federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits use of federal funds for abortion).
4. We condemn and will combat any acts of violence, harassment and intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients and staff.
5. We will defend the Affordable Care Act, which extends affordable preventive health care to women, including no-cost contraception.
6. We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, and will protect a woman's right to safe and legal abortion.

7. We will finally enshrine the rights of women in the Constitution by passing the Equal Rights Amendment.
8. We will support sexual and reproductive health and rights around the globe, in addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies; we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's global health programming; we support the repeal of harmful restrictions that obstruct women's access to health care information and services, including the "global gag rule" (Mexico City Policy) and the Helms Amendment that bars American assistance to provide safe, legal abortion throughout the developing world.
9. We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate. (Note: The 2016 platform omits the 2012 platform's conscience exemption allowing physicians and others to refuse to perform or assist in an abortion if doing so would conflict with their religious beliefs.)

## **Republican Party Platform Plank Protecting Human Life**

1. We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed; we support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that 14th Amendment protections apply to children before birth.
2. We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for abortions or sell fetal body parts; we call on Congress to enact a ban on any sale of fetal body parts.

## Pro-life Debates with a Sci-fi Twist

by Michelle Hauser, Canadian Post July 2, 2016,  
excerpted by Charlotte Graham

3. We will not fund or subsidize healthcare that includes abortion coverage.
4. We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.
5. We affirm our moral obligation to assist women who face an unplanned pregnancy; we encourage providers of counseling, medical services and adoption assistance to empower women experiencing an unintended pregnancy to choose life; we support funding for ultrasounds and adoption assistance; we salute the many states that protect women and girls through laws requiring informed consent, parental consent, waiting periods and clinic regulation.
6. We applaud the House of Representatives for passing the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which imposes civil and criminal penalties on healthcare providers who fail to provide treatment and care to an infant who survives an abortion; we strongly oppose infanticide.
7. We call on Congress to enact a federal version of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act prohibiting abortion after twenty weeks, the point at which current medical research shows that unborn babies can feel excruciating pain during abortions.
8. We call on Congress to ban sex-selection abortions and abortions based on disabilities, discrimination in its most lethal form.
9. We oppose embryonic stem cell research and oppose federal funding of embryonic stem cell research; we support adult stem cell research; we oppose federal funding for harvesting embryos and call for a ban on human cloning.
10. We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from individuals with disabilities, newborns, the elderly, or the infirm; we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide.

*One of our members recently was vacationing in Canada and came across an interesting article, which she has excerpted. If you would like a copy of the entire article, contact this office or visit: <http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/michelle-hauser-pro-life-debates-with-a-sci-fi-twist>*

When it comes to debating the rights of the unborn, history may show our current quiet phase to have been the calm before the storm: the transition period when science, not ideology, becomes the driving force for a bill of rights for the fetus. Advancements in neonatal medicine are pushing the envelope well beyond what anyone ever imagined. Fetal medicine is making equally course-altering strides. After a \$54.5 million gift to the Women and Children's Health Research Institute, the University of Alberta recently joined other hospitals and universities worldwide who will, in decades to come, establish a new normal in fetal care. They will include life-saving surgeries and diagnostics that can be performed in utero as early as 13 weeks.

These scientific leaps won't just expand our notion of duty of care for the fetus; they will blow it wide open.

As today's cutting edge technology becomes tomorrow's routine procedure, our way of thinking about the unborn will have to evolve. What will we do about the inevitable conflicts and dilemmas – too much care vs. not enough - that will arise between parents and health care practitioners? Will a woman's autonomy still be the deciding factor on issues of life and death?

The most fundamental question of all: when a common medical practice establishes that a 13-week-old fetus is worth saving through surgery, will it not also be worth protecting through the law?

In this century it's a safe bet the issues that determine the rights of the unborn will be the stuff that was once confined to science fiction: genetic engineering, ectogenesis, artificial wombs and other medical advancements with sweeping moral consequences. These scientific advancements will drag us kicking and

screaming, in all likelihood, into the public square for a good old-fashioned barnburner of a debate.

Head-in-sand will no longer be an option for any government or its electorate. Medicine is advancing too quickly. How remarkable it will be when science forces us to have a debate that politics had apparently put to rest.

## In the News

**David Daleiden Cleared of All Charges in Texas -** District Judge Brock Thomas dismissed felony criminal charges against David Daleiden on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the request of the Harris County District Attorney's office. David had been indicted by a grand jury on a misdemeanor charge of trafficking in fetal tissue as well as a felony charge of tampering with a governmental document in January. The misdemeanor charge was vacated last month and today the felony charge, which carried a maximum sentence of twenty years in state prison, was quashed (dismissed). Charges were also dismissed against Sandra Merritt who worked on the undercover investigations of Planned Parenthood. For further details, see <https://lifelegaldefensefoundation.org/2016/07/26/david-daleiden-cleared-of-all-charges/>

## Around the Office

A special thank you to all who "stepped up to the plate" and helped us in our recent financial shortfall. We are still running at a deficit; however, we were able to meet expenses in August, thanks to you, our generous donors.

Our teen volunteers tell us that social media is where it is happening... Are you part of our Facebook community? Our Facebook page is California Right to Life. Join our page to see news stories as well as coming events in the pro-life movement. Here is an excerpt of one of our recent posts:

**Olympic Star has Overcome Some Amazing Obstacles** - U.S. Olympic gymnast Simone Biles is stunning the world with the complexity of her routines and her signature sky-high moves. Biles was born in Ohio to drug-addicted parents, and her father quickly abandoned the family. The first few years of her life were a yo-yo between her mother's house and foster homes. At age six, her grandparents adopted her and her younger sister

**Born This Way** -The A&E Network is now in its second season of production of the new TV series Born

this Way. The program takes you into the lives of a handful of young adults who happen to have Down syndrome (DS). It is opening the eyes, minds and hearts of viewers to the reality that people with DS can and should be mainstreamed into everyday society.

With estimates that over 2/3 of all pre-born babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome are being aborted, this program proclaims that individuals with Down Syndrome are, as Steven, one of the characters likes to say "a blessing and joy to be around."

In today's busy world, if you miss the scheduled program or don't have cable, you can view past episodes at <http://www.aetv.com/shows/born-this-way>

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-712-HELP (4357)**

**Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>**

**It may not be too late...**

**Abortion Pill Reversal**

**If you know someone who has taken the Abortion Pill (Mifeprex or RU-486)**

**Call (877) 558-0333**

**[www.abortionpillreversal.com](http://www.abortionpillreversal.com)**

## *Calendar of Events*

*For the latest updates of events, see [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org)*

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children - Saturday, September 10, 2016** Pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the fourth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Solemn vigils will commemorate the more than 55 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child. Please join us for the

memorial service in our community. To find a location near you, visit: <http://abortionmemorials.com/sites.php>

**Healing and Reconciliation After Abortion Conference – Saturday September 17** – St. Brennan Church, 29 Rockaway San Francisco (Laguna Honda at Portola Drive) A program to address the pain and grief experienced by many after abortion, including practical recommendations for helping person toward emotional healing and spiritual reconciliation. Speaker: Vicki Thorn – Founder of Project Rachel. For further information: 415-614-5533 or e-mail [evansv@sfarch.org](mailto:evansv@sfarch.org) or [masfs11@gmail.com](mailto:masfs11@gmail.com)

**40-DAYS FOR LIFE** – Sept. 28-Nov. 6, 2016  
See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.

**LIFE CHAIN** – October 2, 2016 in most locations.  
For a location nearest you see: <http://lifechain.net/>

## WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 2977 Ygnacio Valley Rd #243, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (NOTE new address).

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.