

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4343
(925) 944-5351

E-Mail: info@calright2life.org

Web Site: www.calright2life.org

Established 1981

March 2017

March for Life 2017

by Katie Devlin

Over the years California Right to Life Educational Fund has assisted the Devlin gals at UC Santa Barbara in their efforts at Information tabling for Life. This past January they participated in the Washington DC March for Life, and Katie has offered to share her experience with us.

I have participated in many pro-life rallies: the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco multiple times, One Life L.A. twice, and for the first time was at the March for Life in D.C. this year. Many in the crowd I talked with hope that this could be the year Roe v. Wade is overturned, and that next year when we gathered, we would be celebrating the protection of the unborn rather than demanding it.

I joined the streams of people flooding the National Mall—parishes and student groups distinguished by their different brightly colored hats or scarves. Everyone I spoke with was excited that Vice President Pence was speaking at the rally this year. They saw his presence as a sign that protection of unborn children would be a priority of the new administration. Pence told the crowd that “life is winning in America.” And it is true. Our country is becoming more pro-life. My generation is the most pro-life yet. The student speaker at the rally, Katrina Gallic, a senior at U-Mary, came from Bismarck, North Dakota with eleven buses of fellow students to stand up for life. Many of the marchers I saw along the route to the Supreme Court were students from all over the country—Maine, Illinois, Louisiana—all there to defend life.

It was truly an honor to march with the hundreds of thousands of my fellow Americans in defense of life, and I am confident that we will see a positive change in the value placed on human life in the coming year.

More Pregnant Women Choose Life Rather Than Abortion Than Ever Before

Michael New Ph.D.

Last month the Guttmacher Institute released updated abortion statistics for the United States. Their latest survey of abortion facilities indicate that the number of abortions fell by approximately five percent between 2011 and 2014. The short-term abortion decline is unsurprising. The U.S. abortion rate has fallen steadily since 1980. Furthermore, these declines have been fairly consistent. They have occurred during times of economic prosperity and economic hardship. They have also occurred throughout both Republican and Democratic Presidential administrations.

However, what is interesting about these new abortion statistics is that the U.S. abortion rate has reached an historic low. Guttmacher has been collecting comprehensive abortion data from U.S. abortion facilities since 1973. The 2014 abortion rate is 14.6 abortions per every thousand women of childbearing age. That is a decline of over 50 percent since 1980. Even more importantly, the U.S. abortion rate is lower than it was in 1973 – the year that Roe v. Wade was decided.

This milestone is more important than many people realize. When the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down in 1973, there was still considerable cultural resistance to legal abortion. The modern policy debate over legalizing abortion was about six years old and supporters of legal abortion were losing momentum. No state voted to legalize abortion in either 1971 or 1972. Finally, New York was the only state in the United States where it was easy for out-of-state residents to obtain an abortion. In 1972 the New York legislature repealed the state’s liberal law, which was preserved only by the veto of then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller.

Furthermore, while abortion was legal in 1973, it was not necessarily widely available. Some medical



professionals were reluctant to perform abortions – unsure of how it would be regulated. Additionally, in the short term, several state and local governments successfully used legal action to prevent abortion clinics from opening. It was not until 1975 that every state had a doctor, hospital, or clinic that performed a significant number of abortions. As such, the fact that the abortion rate is now lower than it was in 1973 is real evidence of pro-life progress.

Reducing the U.S. abortion rate did not come easily. Indeed, the U.S. abortion rate increased dramatically during the 1970s. This was for a variety of reasons. The Roe v. Wade decision gave abortion rights mainstream legitimacy and credibility. Additionally, pro-life activists encountered resistance from both major political parties. Feminists and social liberals were obtaining more influence over the Democratic Party, while the Republican Party was home to business interests who had little interest in sanctity of life issues.

Attempts to restrict abortion through legislation met with little short-term success. On multiple occasions the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state-level parental involvement laws. Congress did pass the Hyde Amendment in 1976 which largely prevents federal Medicaid funds from paying for abortion. However, due to various legal challenges the Hyde Amendment was enjoined for much of the 1970s.

Things changed by the early 1980s. In 1980, the Republican Presidential nominee was Ronald Reagan, who as early as 1976 was supportive of a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal Hyde Amendment in the Harris v. McRae decision. During the 1980s parental involvement laws were also upheld by the Supreme Court. Finally, during the 1990s and 2000s, states became more active in passing pro-life laws. There is a substantial body of research which shows that many state pro-life laws – including public funding restrictions, parental involvement laws, and properly designed informed consent laws – all reduce abortion rates.

Many claim that increases in contraception use are responsible for the U.S. abortion decline. However, since the 1980s, the unintended pregnancy rate has remained relatively stable. Instead, good data shows that an increasing percentage of women facing unintended pregnancies are choosing to carry their pregnancy to term. This is due to protective pro-life laws, durable gains in pro-life sentiment, and the

outstanding work of numerous pregnancy help centers throughout the country. In the wake of pro-lifers gathering on the Mall on Washington for the March for Life in January, we should take heart. The record low abortion rate we achieved in 2014 is evidence of pro-life progress.

Dr. Michael New is a professor at Ave Maria University. He is a former political science professor at the University of Michigan–Dearborn and holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He is a fellow at Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, New Jersey.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/02/07/more-pregnant-women-choose-life-over-abortion-than-ever-before/>

EDUCATION CORNER

Below are a couple of “articles” to assist in your pro-life efforts. Our first article provides important talking points against “Physician Assisted Suicide” and the second listing are things you can do to advance the “Culture of Life.”

Five Reasons Assisted Suicide Laws are WRONG!

Provided by Life Legal Defense Foundation

- 1. Assisted suicide laws ignore the role of depression and anxiety in patients with a terminal diagnosis.** Patients are not required to have even a basic psychological evaluation prior to receiving a prescription for lethal drugs. In California, terminally ill patients committed to mental institutions can request assisted suicide and be released so they can kill themselves.
- 2. Assisted suicide laws discriminate against vulnerable patients, especially those who are poor or underinsured.** Patients in Oregon have been refused chemotherapy, but their insurance companies will pay for so-called “aid-in-dying” drugs. Terminally ill patients are highly susceptible to even subtle suggestions that they are becoming too expensive or burdensome.
- 3. Assisted suicide laws communicate the message that under challenging circumstances some lives are not worth living.** This message is heard by not only those with a terminal illness but also by any person struggling with the temptation to

end his or her life. Legalizing assisted suicide has been associated with a significant increase in total suicides.

4. Assisted suicide laws encourage abuse by stripping those labeled terminally ill of essential legal protections. Deaths by assisted suicide are rarely, if ever, investigated. Patient death certificates do not state that patients died by lethal drugs, so law enforcement officials have no way of knowing whether a patient was coerced or forced into taking “aid-in-dying” drugs.

5. Assisted suicide laws manipulate people by redefining terms. Per the statutory language, death by a self-administered overdose of barbiturates may not be called suicide, but must be referred to as “assisted dying.” In California, patients seeking “assisted dying” are required to stipulate that taking lethal drugs will provide a “humane and dignified” death, even though the drugs frequently cause such side effects as vomiting and inhalation of vomit, severe anxiety or terror, extreme confusion, and gasping for air.

Ideas to Change the Future

1. Pray for an end to abortion.
2. Wear the “Precious Feet” pin. It is the exact size and shape of an unborn baby’s feet at 10 weeks. (And carry an extra so you can give it to anyone who asks you about the pin and would like to have one.)
3. Volunteer your time with Pro-Life groups or Pregnancy Care Centers and support them financially.
4. Start a Pro-Life group at your church.
5. Share your Pro-life position with your children and grandchildren. Ask your school age children if this topic is discussed in their classroom, and make sure they are properly informed.
6. Donate Pro-Life books, videos or fetal models to local libraries and schools.
7. Participate in Pro-Life events being held in your community.

8. Use Pro-Life Checks to spread the message of life at www.prolifechecks.com.

9. Leave pro-life bookmarks in magazines at your doctor’s or dentist’s office. (Perhaps include a fetal development timeline bookmark in a women’s magazine.)

10. Place Pro-Life literature in the pamphlet rack or on the counter at places that allow public distribution of literature. Perhaps your church has a pamphlet rack, or your public library has a counter of materials.

11. Put one of our “Pregnant? Need Help?” business card on the public bulletin board or kiosks. Does your church have a bulletin board? How about Starbucks? Or the grocery store?

Contact our office at 925-944-5351 and let us know what kind of materials you would like us to send you.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see www.calendarforlife.org

40-DAYS FOR LIFE – March 1 – April 9, 2017

See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.

Through the 19 coordinated campaigns since 2007

- *12,668 babies (that we know of) have been saved from abortion.*
- *141 abortion workers have been converted*
- *75 abortion centers have been closed.*

National Pro- Life T-Shirt Day... April 21, 2017

National Pro-Life T-shirt Day is a national day of action throughout the US where people of all ages wear a pro-life T-shirt to school, to work, or in their communities to show their love and support for life. Snap a picture in your shirt and share using #NPLTD17

Order your shirts by April 10 to participate!
<http://www.all.org/npltw-2017-official-t-shirt/>