



The Spark of Life ~ La Chispa de la Vida

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Newsletter sponsored by the Right to Life Committee
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY COUNCIL #12266 ~ FOREST CITY, NC

Pope Francis: 'Abortion is more than a problem. Abortion is homicide.'



CV NEWS FEED:

Senate Democrats failed to pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) in a 46-48 vote Monday, Feb. 28th

"Ahead of the vote, which was scheduled by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, earlier this month, U.S. bishops and other Catholic and pro-life leaders, including CatholicVote President Brian Burch, decried the bill as "extreme" and "radical."

From the Capitol

"This deceptively-named, extreme bill would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute," said a petition statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Even worse, it would eliminate modest and widely supported pro-life laws at every level of government — the federal, state, and local level — including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent, and health or safety protections specific to abortion facilities."

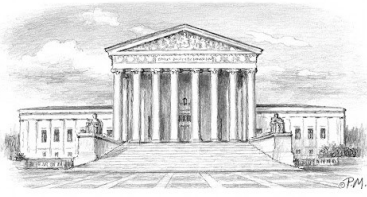
The Bishops also warned that the bill "would force all Americans to support abortions here and abroad with their tax dollars," and "would also likely force health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in, and/or refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as force employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortion."

Why was this such an important vote to push forward?

At first look, we Pro Life supporters are excited with the results of this vote. But we can't get too excited without knowing why Chuck Schumer (D-NY) pushed the vote. **He knew it would fail**, and NOT ONE REPUBLICAN SENATOR voted in favor of the bill.

Consider this statement from the NY Times: "This vote comes at a really critical time," Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, chair of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said in a press conference ahead of the vote. "Republicans are actually hoping Roe will fall. And of course we know that's been their plan all along. Republicans have made it abundantly clear that they want a world in which, they, as politicians, get to decide what women can do with their bodies, their lives and their futures. That is not what the vast majority of Americans want." Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, the lead sponsor of the bill, went even further. "We're going to hold accountable every senator who votes against this bill. Make no mistake, reproductive freedoms will be on the ballot this November," he said at the news conference. Despite the vote count, the situation was the best outcome that Democrats could have hoped for right now, and could actually help them campaign against Republicans, says Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. "It's laying the groundwork for a very powerful contrast," she says."

So, it's important that we educate ourselves on our responsibilities as Catholics, then act on them.



In the Court

FROM STUDENTS FOR LIFE: “President Joe Biden announced his nominee – Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson – to fill Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer’s seat once Breyer retires after this term...”

Ketanji Brown Jackson clerked for Justice Breyer during the *Stenberg v. Carhart* case which struck down a partial birth abortion ban. Not only that, but as a lawyer in Massachusetts, her roster of clients included the Abortion Access Project of Massachusetts and NARAL Pro-Choice America (*one of the most radical members of the Abortion Lobby*).

While the world is watching Russia's aggression and disregard for human life, Democrats in Washington, D.C. are doing the very same as they push the deceptively named *Women's Health Protection Act* **and** a Supreme Court pick who worked to defend Partial Birth Abortion.

Despite this horrific record, some self-proclaimed “pro-life” U.S. Senators have already signaled their willingness to support President Biden’s nominee. In fact, Senator Lindsay Graham (R-SC), who voted to confirm President Obama's nominees Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan and is one of the key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, voted to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals just last year!

We don’t know how the Supreme Court is going to rule in their pending *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision regarding Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban... But if they don’t fully strike down *Roe v. Wade*, a Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is President Biden’s backup plan to beat down any potential future challenges to abortion-on-demand.

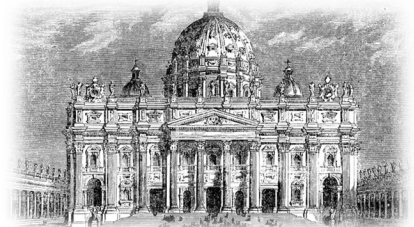
The first major hurdle President Biden’s nominee has to pass is to get through the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate Judiciary Committee is currently tied and there are several members who will most likely strongly oppose Judge Brown Jackson. That means if it goes to a party-line vote, her nomination will go down in flames. Senator Graham is the key swing vote on the committee.

If he votes with the Democrats, that means her confirmation will head to the full U.S. Senate for a floor vote where 51 votes can confirm Judge Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. If Senator Graham and other GOP Senators on the Judiciary Committee stand strong, she could remain stuck in committee and her nomination could be torpedoed. That's because it would take 60 Senate votes to move her nomination to the Senate floor at that point – votes the Abortion Lobby won't have unless Republicans cave.

We must do everything in our power to ramp up pressure on the Senate Judiciary Committee to stop President Biden’s radical pro-abortion nominee.

We don’t need to resort to smearing her character.” But we do have to ensure our U.S. Senators stand strong and refuse to confirm such a radical pro-abortion Justice to the Supreme Court. Write to your US Senators and ask them to remain on the side of life.

Despite many Catholic politicians claiming that one can remain a faithful Catholic while advocating for the murder of the unborn, the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church, as affirmed by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), plainly states, “Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception. Since the first century, the Church has affirmed the moral evils of every procured abortion. **The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable**” (CCC ¶2270-2271).



From the Church

The Church also states that “Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense.

The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life.” (CCC ¶2272) , which leaves the offender outside of communion with the Church until he or she repents.

Pray ~ Pray ~ Pray

To be added to the mailing list for “The Spark of Life”, contact Penny Watkins at pjwlmg@gmail.com