

The Spark of Life ~ La Chispa de la Vida



December 2021

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.'

"Abortion is our nation's leading cause of death, killing more people than heart disease, cancer, or COVID-19. This gruesome truth echoes throughout the 2363 (the number of abortions daily in the US) campaign, pleading with our national conscience that action must be taken on behalf of the most vulnerable. The science is crystal clear – human life begins at the moment of fertilization – not at birth, not at 15 weeks gestation, not even at 6 weeks when a preborn child's heartbeat can be first detected. Every single preborn child deserves protection and no child should be discriminated against based on race, gender, medical diagnosis, or age."

~ Lila Rose, Founder and President, Live Action

<https://www.liveaction.org/>

NEW BILL IN OHIO

A new bill introduced by Ohio State Rep. Jena Powell. The 2363 Act would ban abortion in Ohio, except in the rare situation where a mother's life is at grave risk (see more [here](#) on why abortion is never truly medically necessary).

Powell is also doing more than just passing legislation to defend life. She's founded the Ohio Pro-Life Caucus, which aims to take pro-life activism even further. Powell and the Pro-Life Caucus believe in taking a dual approach to ending abortion, both through enacting pro-life legislation and offering increased support to women, children, and families. Despite support for pro-life bills across the country, the abortion industry continues to go on the attack against them. One common argument is that pro-life legislators are only concerned with protecting children before birth, which Powell said was "categorically untrue."

"The state of Ohio gives tons of money to women, families, and children in our state. We continue to support pregnancy resource centers, we provide a lot of opportunities, whether it's struggling mothers or young children, in our state," she said. "Data would show us that those claims are untrue. And I understand why the pro-abortion movement wants to say that. But at the end of the day, the stats, the data, the knowledge, is on our side."

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7wDiClI024)

[v=j7wDiClI024](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7wDiClI024) (Link is in our email to you.)



In the United States, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies every year. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health could change that.

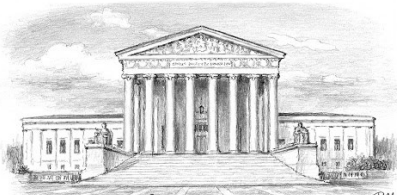
We pray that the Court will do the right thing and allow states to once again limit or prohibit abortion, and in doing so protect millions of unborn children and their mothers from this painful, life-destroying act. We invite all people of good will to uphold the dignity of human life by joining us in prayer and fasting for this important case.

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM E. LORI

Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities



In response to December 1st Supreme Court Hearing,
More on pg. 2



In the Court

Depending on which news channel you watch, opinions vary on which way the Supreme Court is going to vote after their December 1st hearing on Mississippi 's Gestational Age Act (MGAA) in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

The purpose MGAA was to protect the health and well being of pregnant mothers, the life and dignity of unborn children, and the integrity of the medical profession by limiting abortions after 15 weeks gestational age except in medical emergencies or for severe fetal abnormality. The people of Mississippi understand that life is a human right and every life deserves to be protected. So, they chose to pass a law to protect unborn children and their mothers. Mississippi's law is consistent with what more than 90% of countries worldwide already do. In fact, the United States is an extreme outlier in abortion law and policy, being one of only four countries, including China and North Korea, that allows the abortion of a child any time during a woman's pregnancy. The specific question the Court will answer is whether a state may enact limits on abortion before viability, *i.e.*, when the baby is capable of living outside her mother's womb. The Supreme Court will consider the correctness of its previous rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which severely limit the ability of states to protect their interests in unborn life and maternal health. Notably, the State of Mississippi explains in its brief that neither the right to an abortion nor a viability line have any basis in constitutional text or history, and that the medical research into fetal development over the last half century establishes that states have a compelling interest in protecting unborn life at 15 weeks. More than 80 friend-of-the-court briefs were filed with the Supreme Court in support of the Mississippi law—exceeding the amicus brief filings in an average case multiple times over and resulting in the most amicus briefs ever filed in support of a pro-life law. **THE BOTTOM LINE:** The U.S. Supreme Court should affirm that life is a human right and uphold Mississippi's law.

U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chairman Responds to House Vote on Bill that Imposes Radical "Abortion on Demand"

tives voted to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, H.R. 3755. This bill would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute and would eliminate pro-life laws at every level of government -- including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent, and health or safety protections specific to abortion facilities. H.R. 3755 also would compel 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.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities issued the following statement:

"This deceptively-named bill is the most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen. H.R. 3755 is not about the health of women, but only about eliminating any and all protections for unborn children - including baby girls. It would lead to the deliberate destruction of millions of unborn lives, leaving countless women with physical, emotional, and spiritual scars.

"This bill assumes that abortion can be the only, or best, solution to a crisis pregnancy. H.R. 3755 is built on a false and despairing narrative that utterly fails women. In treating abortion as the moral equivalent to the removal of an appendix, this proposal is radically out of step with the American public. As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, this bill is a complete injustice. Congress should embrace public policy that respects the rights of mothers, their children, and the consciences of all Americans, not advance a radical 'abortion on demand until birth' policy that is completely out of step with our country's principles."

From the Capitol

On September 24, 2021 the House of Representatives



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