

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

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www.peopleforlife.org

April 2012

## It's a Woman's Right to Know

Pennsylvania lawmakers are pressing ahead with H.B. 1077, *The Woman's Right to Know Act*, despite hysterical opposition from Planned Parenthood and their foot soldiers in the General Assembly. Governor Corbett has indicated his support for the legislation.

Similar laws are on the books in at least 21 states already. The one in Texas was recently upheld by a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

*The Women's Right to Know Act* will ensure that all women in Pennsylvania have an opportunity to see an ultrasound of their unborn child before having an abortion.

Many woman who have considered abortion say they abandoned the idea after seeing an ultrasound. It is no wonder that former abortion providers tell us they used to make sure that none of their clients ever saw the ultrasound screen. It is also no wonder that the abortion industry and abortion lobby are fiercely opposing *The Women's Right to Know Act*.

Their strategy for opposing the bill? Hysterics, false information, and insults.

Speaking recently at the Jefferson Educational Society in Erie, Michelle Goldberg, a senior contributing writer to *Newsweek*, said that supporters of right-to-know laws ("tea partiers," she called them) were "demanding that women be vaginally probed for no reason whatsoever." She neglected to mention that ultrasounds,

including transvaginal ultrasounds, are already a routine part of the abortion procedure. And of course she failed to note that none of the laws, enacted or proposed, require the transvaginal ultrasound method.

Speaking at a rally sponsored by the Lancaster County Democratic Committee, Pennsylvania State Rep. Babette Josephs of Philadelphia bashed female legislators who support *The Women's Right to Know Act*: "What are they? Women, or are they men with breasts?" "I don't believe they're really women.... I believe they're men with breasts."

Others might conclude they are women with a heart.

Lancaster Democratic Chairwoman Sally Lyall expressed support for Josephs' crude remarks after the rally. The committee's executive board had already voted unanimously to oppose *The Women's Right to Know Act*.

"[Pro-life females in the legislature] must believe that they are not capable of making their own health care choices, but they are capable of voting on bills that control all of our behavior," said Josephs. "I don't understand it."

Some people might question whether providing important information – rather than denying that information – is what amounts to behavior control.

But what if the mandated information might encourage one particular choice and

discourage the other? Shouldn't the government stay "neutral" and not be "choosing sides"?

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, the government has every right to choose sides on behalf of innocent human lives. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Supreme Court recognized that a state may "further its legitimate goal of protecting the life of the unborn by enacting legislation aimed at ensuring a decision that is mature and informed, even when in so doing the state expresses a preference for childbirth over abortion."

If you support a woman's right to be fully informed before obtaining an abortion, please continue communicating with your state representative and state senator, encouraging them to take action as soon as possible and vote YES on H.B. 1077, *The Women's Right to Know Act*.

### N.W. PA State Legislators

Sen. Jane Earl (814) 453-2515  
Sen. Bob Robbins (814) 336-2760  
Sen. Mary Jo White (814) 728-2100  
Rep. John Evans (814) 734-2793  
Rep. Flo Fabrizio (814) 455-6319  
Rep. Pat Harkins (814) 459-1949  
Rep. John Hornaman (814) 835-2880  
Rep. Brad Roae (814) 336-1136  
Rep. Curt Sonney (814) 897-2080

## Planned Parenthood President Obama's Favorite 'Charity'

In 2009 Planned Parenthood carried out 332,278 abortions: 1 of every four abortions done in the U.S., 910 babies every day. Over one-half of Planned Parenthood's medical clinic revenue, \$164 million, came from abortions. For every woman who received some sort of "prenatal service" from Planned Parenthood there were 10 who received an abortion. A pregnant client was 390 times more likely to get an abortion than an adoption referral.

President Obama has released a video in which he pays homage to Planned Parenthood and pledges his ongoing support for "choice": "I know that Planned

Parenthood will continue providing care, no matter what. I know you'll never stop fighting to protect... the choices that America's women deserve. As long as I have the privilege of being your president, neither will I." When it comes to Planned Parenthood, Obama deserves to be taken at his word.

At least eight states have opted to stop funding Planned Parenthood since the beginning of 2011, but not all have succeeded. Indiana tried to redirect \$2-3 million in Planned Parenthood subsidies to other agencies that do not do abortions, but Obama sued and obtained a federal

injunction to keep the cash flowing to his favorite "charity." In retaliation for Texas' de-funding of Planned Parenthood, Obama announced that his administration would stop funding the Texas *Women's Health Program*, a program that provides screenings for breast and cervical cancer, hypertension and diabetes, and STD testing for 100,000 low-income women. When New Hampshire decided to redirect \$1.8 million in federal grants to other agencies, Obama came to the rescue announcing that he would circumvent the state authorities and send the money directly to Planned

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## April 24 Primary Election

The following report is based on information from the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC and research, including several candidate interviews, conducted by People for Life.

PRO-LIFE means that a candidate supports legislation to protect unborn children and supports positive alternatives to abortion. PRO-ABORTION means that a candidate would not support legislation to protect unborn children; would add so many exceptions to such legislation as to render it meaningless; or, in the case of an incumbent, has a pro-abortion voting record.

**Presidential** Newt Gingrich (R), Ron Paul (R), Mitt Romney (R), and Rick Santorum (R) are pro-life. | Barack Obama (D) has a solid pro-abortion record. A flyer comparing the candidates on five key human life issues is available at [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org).

**U.S. Senate** David Christian (R), Sam Rohrer (R), Marc Scaringi (R), Tom Smith (R) and Steven Welch (R) are pro-life. | Bob Casey, Jr. (D) says he is pro-life. He has a 44% pro-life voting record, and he voted for ObamaCare. Joseph Vodvarka's (D) position is unknown.

## FROM PAGE 1 Planned Parenthood

Parenthood. Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser commented, "Obama is the most pro-abortion President in our country's history and his allegiance to Planned Parenthood is unwavering."

## FROM PAGE 3 Fight ObamaCare

motivated disinformation campaigns. We will reach literally thousands of people this summer through our dozen or more community outreach booths at busy public events where we will continue to sound the alarm and tell truth about ObamaCare.

We will continue to speak out using Facebook, Twitter, this newsletter, our E-Mail Updates, and whenever possible, the local news media. We anticipate a series of public demonstrations to let it be known which candidates stand for life on the one hand and which stand for ObamaCare on the other.

## Murder charges dropped

Last month Maryland authorities dropped murder charges against abortionist Steven Brigham, the same doctor who used to own and operate an abortion facility in Erie.

It had come to light that Brigham was aborting viable babies in Maryland after a woman was badly injured and had to be taken to a Maryland emergency room.

Brigham was starting the late-term procedures in New Jersey and finishing them at a clandestine abortion facility in Elkton, Maryland. He did this to circumvent New Jersey's third-trimester abortion regulations.

Investigators discovered the bodies of 35 late-term babies in a refrigerator at the Elkton location. One baby had been killed at an estimated 36 weeks gestation. Brigham was subsequently charged with the five counts of first- and five counts of second-degree murder.

There is no law against third-trimester

**Congress PA 3** Mike Kelly (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record. | Missa Eaton (D) is pro-abortion: "I don't want a situation where the government is involved in doctors office. That should be left to a woman, her doctor..."

**Congress PA 5** Glenn Thompson (R) has a 100% pro-life voting record. | Charles Dumas' (D) position is unknown.

**PA Attorney General** David Freed (R) is pro-life. | Kathleen Kane (D) and Patrick Murphy (D) are pro-abortion.

**PA Auditor General** John Maher (R) and Frank Pinto (R) are pro-life. | Eugene D. Depasquale (D) is pro-abortion.

**PA Treasurer** Diana Irey Vaughan (R) is pro-life. | Robert D McCord (D) is pro-abortion.

## STATE SENATE

**District 21** (includes eastern Erie County) Scott Hutchinson (R) is pro-life.

**District 49** (western Erie County) Janet S. Anderson's (R) position is unknown. | John C Harkins (D) is pro-life. Brian Pitzer (D) and Terry

Monitor [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org) and *People for Life's E-Mail Updates* for late-breaking information.

abortions in Maryland, but the state does have a law that holds a person criminally liable for murder if he or she causes the death of an unborn child while committing a crime. Brigham does not have a Maryland medical license, so he was in fact acting illegally each time he did an abortion in that state.

Unfortunately the Maryland prosecutors felt they would not be able to prove that the babies were killed in Maryland, even though one expert claimed early in the investigation that the babies did indeed die at the time the abortions were completed. Brigham has maintained that he killed the babies in New Jersey, at the beginning of the "procedures."

## January Activities Report

People for Life warmly thanks everyone who supported our annual *Roe v. Wade* observances this past January.

Our Pro-Life Breakfast was held unusually early this year, on January 7. Lila Rose, our special guest speaker, was well-received by the nearly 600 guests. The most frequent comments afterwards were: "Best speaker ever!" and "Best breakfast ever!"

An untimely blast of snow and single-digit wind chills didn't dampen the spirits of

Scutella (D) are pro-abortion. Sean D. Wiley's (D) position is unknown.

## STATE HOUSE

**District 1** Pat Harkins (D) is pro-life.

**District 2** Flo Fabrizio (D) is pro-abortion.

**District 3** Ryan Bizzarro (D) is pro-life | Jason Owen (R) is pro-life on abortion but said he would have to see specific legislation regarding banning human cloning and taxpayer funding of embryo-killing research before taking a stand. | Regina Smith (R) is pro-life.

**District 4** Curt Sonney (R) is pro-life.

**District 5** No response to the PPLF PAC questionnaire was received from Greg Lucas (R), but his website says he is "pro-life." | Jason White's (D) position is unknown.

**District 6** Brad Roae (R) is pro-life.

**District 7** Mark Longiotti (D) is pro-life.

**District 8** Dick Stevenson (R) is pro-life.

**District 17** Michelle Brooks (R) is pro-life.

**District 64** The positions of Lee James (R) and Thomas Myers (R) are unknown. Randall Smith (R) is pro-life.

**District 65** Kathy Rapp (R) is pro-life. Rapp is the sponsor of the *Women's Right to Know Act*.

the 155 or more marchers who came out for the 2012 Erie March for Life on January 14, but our numbers were a bit lower than usual. Many people who were planning to march were either stuck in their driveways or too unsure of the roads.

All local TV stations and the *Erie Times-News* covered the Erie March.

Our Washington, DC March for Life Bus Trip completely filled four 56-seat buses for only the second time in its 39-year history. Interest was running so high in the days just before the trip that we thought we might be able to fill an additional bus. But cancellations due to illness and other unforeseen problems outpaced last-minute reservations, so in the end there were just enough seats on the four buses for everyone.

We were very pleased to host a number of special groups. The largest consisted of 7th and 8th grade students from St. George School and their chaperones, a total of 83 people. The next-largest groups were from: The Federated Church (26), Gannon University Students for Life (17), Lakers for Life of Mercyhurst University (17), and Cranesville Bible Church (8).

We took lots of pictures in Washington. See them at [www.facebook.com/peopleforlife](http://www.facebook.com/peopleforlife).

## January 2013

The next March for Life is scheduled for January 25, 2013, a Friday. This is good news for all those students and working people who will be able to rest up on their return from the March instead of jumping right back into their weekday routines. The March would have been held on the 22nd, the actual anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, but it had to be moved because Inauguration Day will be January 23.

The 35th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be held on January 19, 2013 at a brand new location: Erie's Bayfront Convention Center!

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
[www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org)

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**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 1126 • Erie, PA 16512

**MAIN OFFICE**

1625 West 26th St. • Erie, PA

— REGULAR HOURS —

Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**DOWNTOWN OFFICE**

*Alternative Choices for Women*

1611 Peach St., Suite 321 • Erie, PA

(814) 464-0266

Open Monday through Friday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**PEOPLE FOR LIFE INC.**  
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## Mother's Day Carnations

May 10-14 will be an extremely busy time for People for Life. Many volunteers will be needed for our Mother's Day Carnation Project. Please call (814) 882-1333 and find out how you can help. Student-volunteers are always appreciated. The busiest day will be Friday, May 11.

Our carnations will be available on Mother's Day weekend at many Erie-area churches, at the Millcreek Mall Community Booth, and at our base of operations at Rog's Inc. on German St. between 18th and 19th Sts. Suggested donations are \$1.00 for single carnations and \$5 for each half-dozen.

## Outreach Season 2012

The first event of our community outreach season was the WCTL Women's Conference on March 10. Next comes Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival, in Perry Square from May 30 to June 2. Plans for this season also include: CorryFest, North East Firemen's Cherry Festival, Waterford Heritage Days, Dan Rice Days, Celebrate Erie, Erie County Fair, Waterford Community Fair, and Albion Area Fair.

## Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. It will be held at the People for Life Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St. Members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting will be eligible to vote. The nominees are Tim Broderick for president, Carol Struchen for treasurer, Dave Halligan for secretary, Marielle Lafaro for first vice-president, Gretchen Lorei for second vice-president, and Dale Klobusnik for third vice-president. Additional nominations will be accepted

from the floor with the permission of the nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life.

## Pro-Life Presentations

A phone call or e-mail is all it takes to arrange a free pro-life presentation for your school, church, or other organization. So far this year we have visited St. George School grades 7 & 8, Blessed Sacrament School grades 6-8, Holy Family School grades 5-8, and the teen confirmation class at Our Lady of Peace Church. Presentations are currently scheduled for the confirmation class at St. Andrew Church and three classes at Mercyhurst Prep.

## Open House

People for Life's fifth annual Open House will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. Come see the latest in pro-life educational and promotional materials. There will be free bumper stickers, \$2 copies of '180 the Movie,' and \$6 'Vote Pro-Life' corrugated plastic yard signs.

## Director's Travels

People for Life Director Tim Broderick recently attended the following human life-related events: a Catholic Young Adults meeting where he gave a talk entitled "Human Life in Perspective"; a Mercyhurst University Lakers for Life meeting; a bioethics conference sponsored by UPMC Hamot; and, to document and better understand pro-abortion rhetoric and disinformation, a Jefferson Educational Society lecture by *Newsweek* senior writer and pro-abortion ideologue Michelle Goldberg. Broderick also joined several volunteers to carry the People for Life banner in Erie's Martin Luther King March back on January 16.

## Donation Idea

If you are reading this, you probably appreciate the importance of local, volunteer-based pro-life advocacy, and you might be a financial supporter of People for Life or want to become one. We are your pro-life hands, feet, and voice throughout northwestern Pennsylvania. See a summary of our pro-life projects at [www.peopleforlife.org/active.pdf](http://www.peopleforlife.org/active.pdf).

Even small donations make a big difference here at the local level.

We can make it easier to support the pro-life cause, with time-saving recurring donations using your credit card. Some ATM cards will also work. Simply tell us the amount and frequency of your donation (for example, every 25 days, every 5 weeks, or every 3 months), and you can forget about checks, envelopes, and postage stamps.

Call (814) 882-1333 to set up a plan that works for you in less than five minutes.

Donations can be easily discontinued at any time with a phone call or an e-mail.

## 2012 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2012

<b>April 17</b>	Last day to apply for a Pennsylvania civilian absentee ballot
<b>April 17</b>	PA Pro-Life Town Hall Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Meadville
<b>April 20</b>	Last day for PA Boards of Election to receive voted absentee ballots
<b>April 22</b>	Statewide High School Oratory Contest - Harrisburg, PA
<b>April 24</b>	Pennsylvania Primary Election
<b>May 10-13</b>	Mother's Day Carnation Project
<b>May 21</b>	Annual Election Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
<b>May 30 - June 2</b>	Community Outreach Booth - Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off
<b>June 9</b>	Open House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
<b>June 16-17</b>	Community Outreach Booth - CorryFest, Corry Pa
<b>June 28-30</b>	National Right to Life Convention - Washington, DC
<b>July 10-14</b>	Community Outreach Booth - North East Fireman's Cherry Festival
<b>July 20-22</b>	Community Outreach Booth - Waterford Heritage Days
<b>Aug. 2-4</b>	Community Outreach Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
<b>Aug. 16-19</b>	Community Outreach Booth - Celebrate Erie
<b>Aug. 22 - Sept. 1</b>	Outreach Booth - Erie County Fair, Wattsburg
<b>Sept. 3-8</b>	Outreach Booth - Waterford Community Fair
<b>Sept. 11-15</b>	Outreach Booth - Albion Area Fair
<b>Oct. 15</b>	General Meeting, 6:45 p.m. - Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St.
<b>Nov. 6</b>	General Election
<b>Jan. 19</b>	2013 Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, Erie