

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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Most Pro-Life President



Pro-life Americans were reassured that Donald Trump was sincerely pro-life when he tapped Indiana Governor Mike Pence, a proven pro-life leader, to be his running mate. Actions always speak louder than words.

Pro-Life People in High Positions

But Mike Pence was just the beginning. The Trump administration quickly became a who's who list of stellar pro-life individuals from a wide range of professional backgrounds. His prominent pro-life appointees include: Kellyanne Conway as Counselor to the President; Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State; Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education; Governor Rick Perry as Secretary of Energy; Dr. Ben Carson, the renowned brain surgeon, as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Governor

Nikki Haley as United Nations Ambassador; Reince Priebus as Chief of Staff; Sarah Huckabee Sanders, daughter of the ordained minister and Arkansas governor, Mike Huckabee, as Press Secretary; and Charmaine Yost, the former president of Americans United for Life, as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

Speaking at an event sponsored by the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List in May 2017, Vice President Pence remarked, "The President knows that personnel is policy. That's why he's literally filled this White House and federal agencies with pro-life leaders.... For the first time in a long time, America has an administration that's filled top to bottom with people who stand without apology for life." That is the truth, and the results in terms of practical pro-life action are plain for all to see.

Lockbox on \$8.8 Billion Overseas

The first pro-life fruits of the Trump administration matured on January 23, 2017, just two days after Inauguration Day. President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum ordering the reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy, which was originally articulated by President Reagan (and reversed during the Clinton and Obama administrations). The Memorandum immediately stopped the flow of USAID family planning funds to overseas organizations that carry out abortions, promote abortion as a method of birth control, or campaign for the repeal of pro-life laws in other countries. It also expanded the original policy to cover all overseas U.S. health assistance funding, not just family planning funds. Whereas the Mexico City

policy under President Bush kept about \$500 million out of the hands of the abortion peddlers, President Trump's expanded version protects approximately \$8.8 billion from endangering the unborn children of other nations.

S.C. Justice Neil Gorsuch

A few days later on January 31, President Trump announced the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court—a conservative candidate in the mold of the late, pro-life Justice Antonin Scalia. This was exactly what the President had promised during his campaign for the presidency.

The appointment of any conservative jurist is automatically a victory for the pro-life cause. A judicial conservative is far less likely to disregard the Constitution or duly enacted laws in order to impose personal opinions about issues such as abortion. In this case there were additional reasons for pro-life optimism. As President Trump must have known, Gorsuch had written that human life is "intrinsically valuable and that intentional killing is always wrong" in his 2006 book, *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*. Judge Gorsuch had never ruled directly on the question of legal abortion, but several of his decisions that were indirectly related to abortion indicated no inclination to interpret or stretch the law in favor of abortion or abortion special interest groups. The Judge was not reluctant to tell the unvarnished truth, either, once writing that "the right to terminate a pregnancy differs from the right to use contraceptives because the former involves the death of a person while the latter does not." Justice Gorsuch was confirmed by the

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Spotlight on Erie-area Candidates

Here is an interesting bit of trivia for this presidential election year. No one has run for president of the United States without a significant challenger since 1820, when President James Monroe was reelected without meaningful opposition. He ran, rather fittingly, on the Democrat-Republican ticket.

A number of our northwestern Pennsylvania state legislators are in President

Monroe's enviable position this year. Only three have challengers. Both of our U.S. Representatives will also have a challenger in the general election this fall.

Determining where an incumbent stands on human life issues is usually a straightforward process of checking his or her voting record. Challengers can be more difficult to evaluate. It can be tricky to cut through the campaign

rhetoric and occasional double talk to predict whether a particular candidate would actually fight to protect unborn children and other vulnerable human beings or not.

It is a sign of the times, though, that fewer pro-abortion candidates now bother to obfuscate or disguise their true positions. Today, we see pro-abortion politicians who

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U.S. Senate on April 7, 2017, all Republicans and three Democrats voting in his favor.

S.C. Justice Brett Kavanaugh

President Trump ignited a firestorm of pro-abortion outrage in July 2018 when he announced his second Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Despite a vicious smear campaign spearheaded by pro-abortion senators, the nomination was confirmed on October 6 by a vote of 50-48. In February 2019 Justice Kavanaugh wrote his own four-page dissent against temporarily stopping the enforcement of a pro-life Louisiana law that required abortionists to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. When the same case came back to the Supreme Court this March, Kavanaugh posed some tough questions of the pro-abortion plaintiffs. The case had not yet been decided when this newsletter went to print.

Federal Courts of Appeal

President Trump has also filled a remarkable number of open seats on the lower federal courts with excellent jurists. His nominations are being made in consultation with the conservative Federalist Society and its pro-life vice president and board co-chairman, Leonard Leo, a Roman Catholic father of seven. Even the strongly pro-abortion, anti-Trump publication *Vox* correctly observed that President Trump has already done nearly as much to shape the courts in less than four years as President Obama did in eight years. Three years into President Trump's first term, one-quarter of all federal judges were Trump appointees, widely acknowledged by friend and foe alike as highly intelligent and exceptionally qualified.

The President has appointed 51 judges to the critically important federal circuit courts of appeal. Ronald Reagan, three years into his presidency, had only appointed 25. It took President Obama two full terms to appoint only 55. The President's appointees are on average 10 years younger than Obama's, which means they will carry the Trump pro-life legacy even farther into the future.

Federal District Courts

As of March 2020, President Trump had also appointed 138 mostly conservative district court judges. At least one of these, Judge Sarah Pitlyk, is a full-fledged pro-life activist. Now serving on the U.S. District Court for Eastern Missouri, Judge Pitlyk is the founder of Yale Law Students for Life and a former attorney for the Thomas More Society, a pro-life legal organization.

Grassroots pro-life Americans, those who devote time, talent, and treasure to the pro-life cause, those who patiently endure the occasional antagonism that goes with the territory, were overjoyed about Pitlyk. It is so nice to see a fellow "pro-lifer" empowered with such a prestigious, life-long position by

a President of the United States.

Standing with the People

President Trump has clearly made the pro-life cause his own, standing shoulder to shoulder with everyday pro-life Americans down in the trenches. That solidarity is perhaps most palpable during the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

This past January, President Trump became the first U.S. President in the 47 year-long history of the March for Life to come to the National Mall and address the marchers in person. It was a March for Life like no other, so exciting, and perhaps most exiting for the tens of thousands pro-life teens who witnessed that historic event with their own eyes. But this was only President Trump's most dramatic March for Life gesture. In 2018, both the President and Vice President Pence, surrounded by dozens of pro-life students and their families in the White House Rose Garden, addressed the Marchers by live video. President Trump also spoke to the marchers by live video in 2019. In 2017, only days after his inauguration, President Trump was clearly there in spirit, sending Vice-President Pence and his top advisor Kellyanne Conway to speak on his behalf.

Always on the Offensive

We do not want pro-life government officials who are merely right to life cheerleaders. But if President Trump's only accomplishment beyond stirring words was his impact on the federal courts he would have already earned the title of "Most Pro-Life President Ever." But there is even more. It is hard to remember everything the President has done to advance the cause, but we should try. So here is a timeline of additional important pro-life initiatives that President Trump has taken.

January 24, 2017 - Issued a forceful statement urging Congress to pass the No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, which "would prohibit any funds authorized or appropriated by Federal law to be expended for any abortion or for direct payments to insurers for health benefits coverage that includes coverage for abortions."

April 3, 2017 - Announced that the U.S. would no longer fund the United Nations Family Planning Agency (UNFPA) because of its complicity with forced abortions and sterilizations in China. Annual payments to the UNFPA have been as high as \$75 million (2015).

April 13 2017 - Signed a law to repeal an order issued by President Obama that forced states to channel Title X family planning funds to Planned Parenthood and other agencies that carry out abortions. The law was passed by the U.S. Senate earlier the same day, with Vice President Mike Pence casting a tie-breaking vote in his Constitutional role as President of the Senate.

May 9, 2017 - Secretary of State Rex Tillerson approved the plan, called "Protecting Life in Global Health

Assistance," which directed U.S. government departments and agencies to apply the provisions of the Mexico City Policy to all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts with foreign non-governmental organizations, denying over \$8 billion to pro-abortion organizations.

January 18, 2018 - President Trump's HHS announced the formation of a Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR). It was established to ensure the enforcement of laws already on the books that are supposed to protect healthcare workers who refuse to take part in abortion, euthanasia, and other procedures that violate their deeply held moral or religious convictions. OCR Director Roger Severino declared, "Laws protecting religious freedom and conscience rights are just empty words on paper if they aren't enforced. No one should be forced to choose between helping sick people and living by one's deepest moral or religious convictions."

January 18, 2018 - Addressing the March for Life, President Trump issued a pledge "to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any state."

January 19, 2018 - Signaled his support for states that want to bar Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements. He did so by rescinding an Obama ruling designed to intimidate these states by raising the threat of legal action.

November 7, 2018 - President Trump's HHS issued a rule that requires insurers who participate in the Obamacare program to follow the provisions of the law pertaining to abortion funding and transparency, which were never enforced by the Obama administration: 1. Every state is required to ensure the availability of at least one insurance plan that does not pay for elective abortion. 2. Every insurance plan that pays for abortions must clearly inform every subscriber that that is the case. 3. Part of each monthly payment is to be segregated for abortion coverage (an accounting gimmick, basically). The cost of this abortion coverage is to be billed and paid separately. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU have since initiated a lawsuit to stop the President's effort to comply with the law as written.

February 2019 - Finalized the Protect Life Rule, which requires Planned Parenthood and other recipients of Title X family planning funds to maintain "clear financial and physical separation between Title X funded projects and programs or facilities where abortion is a method of family planning." Planned Parenthood refused to comply, forfeiting approximately \$290 million of taxpayer money per year.

May 2, 2019 - The Trump HHS issued a final rule protecting health care professionals

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from discrimination or retribution because they decline to participate in actions that violate their conscience, including the taking of human life.

June 2019 - President Trump's HHS and National Institutes of Health announced they

would not renew a major contract with the University of California, San Francisco to fund research using the body parts of aborted babies.

January 2020 - Granted Texas a waiver to fund a specialized program that excludes Planned Parenthood, reversing an Obama denial of a similar waiver in 2013.

January 2020 - President Trump's HHS announced it is taking action against California for violating the Weldon Amendment by discriminating against organizations that do not cover abortion in their health care plans.

**FROM PAGE 1****Spotlight on the Candidates**

wear their anti-life credentials on their shirt sleeves and brandish them on Facebook and Twitter.

Congressional Races

Take the two northwestern Pennsylvania congressional races for example.

Congressman Mike Kelly (R), first elected in 2010, has a 100% pro-life voting record. He is not just consistently pro-life; he is passionately pro-life. His long drive from Butler every January, no matter the weather, to attend the Pro-Life Breakfast in Erie is proof of that. Kelly's Democratic challenger, Kristy Gnibus (D) has a position on abortion that is every bit as clear as Mike Kelly's.

Thanks to social media, we know she is just as pro-abortion as our Congressman is pro-life.

Ms. Gnibus reacted in January to a congressional resolution petitioning the Supreme Court to reconsider the Roe v. Wade decision. Among the signatories were Rep. Mike Kelly, Rep. Glenn Thompson, and Sen. Pat Toomey. Gnibus sounded off on Twitter: "As a woman and a parent who has had the opportunity to CHOOSE, this attempt to attack our freedoms will not be taken lightly." On January 3 she wrote, "I support programs like @PPFA [Planned Parenthood Federation of America] and @NARAL [National Abortion Rights Action League] who continually support the health and care of women and men. I support those who will stand up to protect our rights. #RoeVsWade and as if that was not enough, "Having the freedom of choice is something I stand by strongly." On January 15 it was, "Enough is enough. Politicians need to stop putting bans on our bodies" and "The elections in 2020 will be defined by where candidates stand on reproductive health and rights. If these last two years are an indicator, reproductive rights champions will continue to WIN! Count me in." A year ago, Gnibus had a Facebook fundraiser for America's biggest purveyor of abortion. "For my birthday this year, I'm asking for donations to Planned Parenthood. I've chosen this nonprofit [which robs babies of their birthdays!] because their mission means a lot to me, and I hope you'll consider contributing as a way to celebrate with me."

Congressman Glenn Thompson (R), first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, also has a 100% pro-life voting record and a pro-abortion challenger to match. Challenger Robert M. Williams (D) campaign website is just

slightly less strident but just as clear as Mike Kelly's opponent: "Robert stands with women in their right to control their own bodies. He believes safe, accessible, quality health (sic) is a fundamental right and need in our communities. As a parent of daughters Robert will ensure that every female's right to choose is protected, by the United States government."

Like Mike Kelly, GT Thompson has been a familiar face at the annual Pro-Life Breakfast. Our guests have greatly enjoyed hearing GT speak about his heartfelt vision for an America where every life is celebrated and protected by law.

Pennsylvania State Senate

This November, all Pennsylvania voters will choose a state Representative for a two-year term. Half the voters will also choose a state Senator for a four-year term.

Two incumbent state Senators are running for reelection in northwestern Pennsylvania. First elected in 2016, Sen. Dan Laughlin (R) is seeking a second term in the 49th state Senate district of northern Erie County. He has a mixed voting record, most recently voting pro-life on a bill to provide for telemedicine in Pennsylvania with an amendment to prevent opening the door to telemedicine abortions.

Julie Slomski (D), one of the two Democrats that would like to run against Laughlin this fall, is already endorsed by Emily's List, a huge pro-abortion political action committee. Ms. Slomski tweeted on March 16 that she was "proud to receive the endorsement of @emilyslist and will continue to fight for women's rights in Harrisburg."

Some candidates are less forthcoming about their position on the right to life. Andre Horton (D), also a candidate for Laughlin's 49th District senate seat, is one of them. The PA Pro-Life Federation sent him a candidate survey but did not hear back. People for Life also sent Mr. Horton a survey when he ran for Erie County Council in 2013 and again in 2017, but we also received no response. With no voting record and nothing on paper or online, Mr. Horton's stance on human life remains a mystery.

Republican state Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R) represents the 21st state Senate District, which includes all or part of: Butler, Clarion, Forest, Venango, and Warren counties. Hutchinson is another northwestern Pennsylvania legislator with a 100% pro-life voting record. His challenger, Shelbie

Stromyer (D), position is unknown. The PA Pro-Life Federation has not received her candidate survey, and human life issues are not mentioned on her website or Facebook page.

PA House of Representatives

The following northwestern Pennsylvania state representatives are running for reelection unopposed (PA Pro-Life Federation evaluations noted): Pat Harkins (D-District 1), pro-abortion; Mark Longietti (D-District 7), pro-life; Bob Merski (D-District 2), pro-abortion; Kathy Rapp (R-District 65), pro-life; Curt Sonney (R-District 4), pro-life; Parke Wentling (R-District 17), pro-life. The evaluations are based on each individual's voting record. All of the pro-life candidates have 100% pro-life voting records.

Only two incumbents from our region are facing challengers.

A race to watch is between pro-abortion incumbent Ryan Bizzarro (D-District 3) and his Republican challenger Greg Hayes (R). Hayes is running a write-in campaign for the Republican nomination, after some signatures on his nominating petitions were invalidated. Hayes is the president and CEO of North Coast Air and a member of the Erie International Airport Board Authority. The PA Pro-Life Federation has given him a pro-life evaluation. Rep. Bizzarro's pro-abortion voting record speaks for itself, but he also uses social media to underscore his stance against the right to life: "If you don't like abortions, don't have one. There you go. Problem solved" (Facebook, February 22, 2020). When Alabama enacted abortion restrictions in mid-2019, Bizzarro reacted with a Facebook meme showing his picture and the caption, "Keeping Pennsylvania from becoming Alabama."

Bizzarro replied to a comment that was critical of the meme with the time-worn cliché, "It's a personal decision between a woman, her physician, and her God." Her physician? That was a pretty curious remark from someone who voted against the Telemedicine Bill (SB 857), apparently because he thinks abortion pills should be prescribed during a video chat by an abortionist that the woman has probably never met in person and may never see again.

State Representative Brad Roae (R-District 6), another frequent attendee at the annual Pro-Life Breakfast, has a 100% pro-life voting record. He is being challenged by Matthew Ferrence (D), an English professor

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FROM PAGE 3**Spotlight on the Candidates**

at Allegheny College in Meadville. Ferrence's position on human life is unknown.

In the June 2 primary election, you will only be able to vote for candidates of the party with which you are registered. In other words, only candidates identified here with a (D) will appear on the Democratic ballot and

only (R) candidates will appear on the Republican ballot.

Carnation Project 2020

Our annual Mother's Day Carnation Project has been re-imagined for 2020 as a Carnation Project to Honor all Moms & Dads on Father's Day. We hope that as many churches as possible will be able to go along with the

new arrangement, just for this year.

If you are a regular carnation volunteer but have not yet heard from anyone at People for Life, please give us a call or shoot us an e-mail. We would also love to hear from some new volunteers. This is a labor intensive (but fun) project and a very important fundraiser. We appreciate every person who is able to help. Many hands make for light work, too.

Important Legislation and How They Voted

How well are our highest priorities being represented in Harrisburg and Washington?

PA General Assembly**SB 857 Regulation of Telemedicine**

This is the most recent bill of pro-life significance to see action at the state level. It establishes telemedicine in Pennsylvania, authorizes the regulation of telemedicine by professional licensing boards, and provides for insurance coverage for telemedicine. Telemedicine makes it possible for doctors to interact with patients from a remote location, avoiding the need in some instances for the patient to leave home.

After the bill was passed by the state Senate, it was amended to ensure that it would not enable health care providers to ignore state or federal laws and regulations requiring that health services and certain drugs, such as abortion pills, be delivered or administered only in a clinical setting. The amendment was attached by the House Insurance Committee in a near-party line vote of 14-10. State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, a member of the Health Committee, voted against the amendment.

The bill was subsequently passed by a state House vote of 111 to 77 on November 21, 2019. Voting Yes: Longietti, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting No: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski.

The bill, with the pro-life amendment, was then passed by a state Senate vote of 29-21 on April 21, 2020. Voting Yes: Brooks, Hutchinson, Laughlin.

Current Status: Pro-abortion Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed this bill on April 29.

HB 2138 Amendment to the Health Care Facilities Act This bill requires abortion facilities to post the results of state Department of Health inspections on their websites and provide the same information at no cost to any individual who requests it.

Current Status: Referred to the state House Health Committee on December 17, 2019. The committee is chaired by pro-life state Rep. Kathy Rapp of Warren County.

HB 1890 Final Disposition of Fetal Remains This legislation would ensure that the remains of babies who die from miscarriage or abortion are treated with respect and not summarily disposed of as medical waste. Parents would be ensured the option of making the final arrangements.

Otherwise, the medical facility would assume the responsibility. Respectful disposition of prenatal human remains is already a standard practice in many hospitals, including, reportedly, at least one of Erie-area hospitals. Unless the parents make other arrangements, the remains are transferred to a local funeral home for final disposition.

At least five states already have formal requirements for the dignified disposition of fetal remains. Legislation is pending in Ohio and Wisconsin as well as Pennsylvania.

Third District State Representative Ryan Bizzarro expressed a rather dim view of HB 1890 on Twitter: "It is a terrible piece of legislation and every medical professional under the sun opposed it. You're not smarter than them. This isn't something that lawmakers should be focusing on. Kindly worry about yourself and not what others are doing when they miscarry their baby. This does nothing but make it even harder on folks who are grieving. Some of these ideologues need to get a hold of themselves."

This bill was passed by a vote of 123 to 76 in the state House of Representatives on November 18, 2019. Voting Yes: Longietti, Merski, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting No: Bizzarro, Harkins.

Current Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB1058 Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies

This measure would mandate that information on the option of perinatal support care programs be given to a woman if her baby is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. As explained in the bill itself, "Perinatal support programs serve the pregnant woman and her family by providing counseling and medical care by maternal-fetal medical specialists, obstetricians, neonatologists, anesthesia specialists, clergy, social workers and specialty nurses focused on alleviating fear and ensuring that the woman and her family experience the life and death of their child in a comfortable and supportive environment."

This common sense legislation was passed by a state House vote of 116 to 76 on May 6, 2019. Voting Yes: Longietti, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting No: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski.

Current Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 321 Down Syndrome Protection

This bill would ensure that a diagnosis of Down syndrome would not result in the parents being pressured into resorting to abortion. It would disallow Down syndrome as the sole reason for carrying out an abortion. Pennsylvania law already prohibits abortions that are carried out solely because of the sex of the unborn child. In both instances, the act of abortion demeans an entire class of human beings, people with Down syndrome on one hand and females, who are more often targeted for elimination than males, on the other hand.

The Down Syndrome Protection Bill was passed in the state House by a wide margin of 117 to 76 on May 14, 2019. Voting Yes: Longietti, Rapp, Roae, Sonney, Wentling. Voting No: Bizzarro, Harkins, Merski.

The state Senate passed the bill by a vote of 27 to 22 on November 20, 2019. Voting Yes: Brooks, Hutchinson. Voting No: Laughlin.

The bill was vetoed by Governor Tom Wolf on November 21, 2019.

Federal Legislation**Born-Alive Abortion Survivors**

Protection This measure would enact an explicit requirement that a baby born alive during an abortion be afforded the same degree of care that would apply to any other child born alive at the same gestational age, including transportation to a hospital. Parallel versions were introduced in the both chambers of Congress.

S. 311 The Senate version failed a cloture vote (60 votes needed) by a margin of four votes on February 25, 2020. The bill was supported by all 53 Republicans and 3 Democrats. Voting Yes: Bob Casey and Pat Toomey.

H.R. 2339 An attempt was made to advance a House version of this bill by a motion to recommit. The attempt failed on a vote of 187 to 220. The bill was supported by all 183 Republicans, three Democrats, and one Independent. 220 Democrats voted against it. Voting Yes: Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson.

Pain-Capable Unborn Children

Protection This measure would generally prohibit abortion after 20 weeks with certain exceptions. It would also provide important protections for children born alive during an abortion.

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Federal Legislation

S. 3275 The Senate version fell seven votes short of the 60 vote supermajority needed to move the bill forward. The vote, taken on February 25, 2020, was 53 to 44. The bill was supported by 51 Republicans and two Democrats and opposed by two Republicans and 42 Democrats). Voting Yes: Bob Casey and Pat Toomey.

H.R. 784 The House version has been bottled up in committee by the Democratic House Leadership since February 2019.

President Trump strongly supported both the Born Alive and Pain Capable bills and issued this Statement of Administration Policy: *“All babies have the same dignity. They should not have to endure pain, and they should receive critical life-saving care regardless of whether they are born in a hospital, a home, or an abortion clinic.”*

No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion

As the name implies, this measure would

eliminate all government funding of abortion providers and insurance plans that pay for elective abortion. It would end the need to fight annually for the renewal of the Hyde amendment to cover the Medicaid program and end the need to rely on executive orders and other temporary measures to prevent abortion payments through other federal funding streams.

S. 109 The Senate voted 48 to 47 to advance its version of the bill on January 17, 2020, falling short of the required 60 vote supermajority. Forty-six Republicans and two Democrats voted in favor. Two Republicans and 45 Democrats voted no. Voting Yes : Bob Casey and Pat Toomey.

H.R. 20 The House version, sponsored by the pro-life champion Congressman Chris Smith, was sent to the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties on February 25, 2019. It remains bottled up in that committee by the House Democratic Leadership.

HJRES 79 Equal Rights Amendment to U.S. Constitution

In 1972 Congress submitted to the states an ERA that contained nothing to prevent a *right not to be pregnant* from being enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. If the ERA had been adopted, it would be virtually impossible to place any limits on abortion. After seven years, the ERA had still not been ratified by the required three-fourths of the states (38) and became a dead letter.

This joint resolution is an attempt to illegally and un-Constitutionally resurrect the failed ERA by removing the seven-year deadline, which expired in 1979. It was passed by the U.S. House of Representative on February 13, 2020 with support from 232 Democrats and 5 Republicans. It was opposed by 182 Republicans and one Independent. No Democrats opposed the resolution. It was sent to the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Voting No Mike Kelly and Glenn Thompson.

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Cathy Truden	Tara Bisbee	Stan & Shirley Widomski	Ray Fitzgerald
Lois Borowy & Family	Mark Borowy	Terri Ward	Ray Fitzgerald
Jean Wroblewski	Mark Borowy	Sue Wiest	Ray Fitzgerald
David & Mary Louise Capan	Elaine Buseck	Michael F. Williams	Ray Fitzgerald
Roberta Cooney	Breanna J. Cooney	Val & Pat Wingrove	Ray Fitzgerald
Carol Doyle	Tom Doyle	Becky Wurst	Ray Fitzgerald
Ray & Peg Fitzgerald	Lisa Ferreira	Jim & Rose Ann Yadeski	Ray Fitzgerald
Doris Adams	Ray Fitzgerald	Allen Erickson	Cornelius Legters
Tim & Julz Broderick	Ray Fitzgerald	Pat Montefiori	Mike Montefiori, Son
Gretchen & John Brugger	Ray Fitzgerald	Marla J. Pellegrino	Jeanne Pellegrino, Mother
Doris Adams	Ray Fitzgerald	Nancy Miller	Linda Shipley
Harry & Pam Amann	Ray Fitzgerald	Peg Fitzgerald	Mary Ann Toohey
Lorraine & Ron Armet	Ray Fitzgerald	Brian & Kathleen Praetzel & Family	Mary Ann Toohey
Mary Dombrowski	Ray Fitzgerald	Pete & Barb Sirianni	Mary Ann Toohey
Lee Dudenhoefer	Ray Fitzgerald	Patty McCommons	Stevie Tyler
John Adams Cycling & Fitness Inc	Ray Fitzgerald	Sue & Jerry Verga	Jesse Verga
Thelma Manendo	Ray Fitzgerald		
Andrew Farina & Family	Ray Fitzgerald	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Sue Savoia	Ray Fitzgerald	David & Kathleen Robbinson	St. Joseph Alpha Group
Anita Smith	Ray Fitzgerald	Our Lady of the Lake Parish	Volunteers Ed & Barb Sumosky
GINNY SONNENBERG	Ray Fitzgerald	Jack & Margie Walsh	Michael Walsh, 80th birthday

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Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

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 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
 Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays
 Call for evening and Saturday hours

Election of Officers

The annual election meeting of People for Life will be held at our office, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie on Monday, June 29, 2020. The nominees are: Tim Broderick for president, Carol Struchen for treasurer, Shauna Jackson 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 proposed nominee, who must be a current member of People for Life. Only members whose dues are paid one month in advance of the meeting may vote.

Erie Gives Day

Please remember the People for Life Education Fund on Erie Gives Day, Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Your tax-deductible gift will help sustain our pro-life educational mission. The public needs to know about the full range of human life issues. The better our fellow Americans understand that good government and human rights, beginning with the right to life, are everybody's business, the sooner abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia will become unthinkable in our great nation. The progress we make today will help avert additional and even more tragic abuses in the years ahead.

Erie Gives Day donations will be partially matched by the Erie Community Foundation.

Donations that are made between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on August 11, 2020 will be eligible for the match. Go to www.eriegives.org, specify People for Life Education Fund, and use a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. You may also donate by calling (814) 454-0843. If you have any questions or difficulties, please let us know so we can assist. A check will also be accepted as long as it is delivered to the Erie Community Foundation, along with a special form, by Monday, August 10. The form can be download from eriegives.org or

obtained from People for Life.

If your employer has a matching gifts program, the Education Fund, as a 401c(3) organization, is almost certainly eligible.

As a volunteer based organization, People for Life is in a great position to make the most of every contribution. Please help us share the pro-life message and put pro-life boots on the ground right in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Membership Renewal

Is your People for Life membership expired or coming due for renewal? If you are not sure, we can check for you. Not everyone who receives the *Erie Echo* newsletter is a member. New members automatically receive the *Erie Echo*, but newsletter subscriptions are not automatically discontinued when the regular 12-month memberships expire.

2020 Life Run 5K/10K

We are looking forward to our seventh (can you believe it?) annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk. The events will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the picturesque Burch Farms, located between Harborcreek and North East. Registration is still only \$15 for ages 7-15 and \$25 for ages over 15.

There will be door prizes, refreshments, free wine tasting (18 and over), free child care, and convenient parking, not to mention the special ambiance of harvest season in the North East wine region.

Business owners, professionals, and other

organizations are invited to be Life Run sponsors. The levels are \$200, \$100, and \$50. Sponsors will be displayed on the race t-shirts and, with their approval, on our website.

Runners, walkers, and sponsors may register online at www.peopleforlife.life/runinfo or download a mail-in form. You may also request a form by phone or e-mail or register over the phone with a credit card. To get a free race t-shirt, be sure to register before September 28. Ready, set... Go!

Pro-Life Resources

★ You have probably seen our Vote Pro-Life yard signs in front yards across the Erie area. We first made them available during the 2008 presidential election season. They are red, white, and blue, made of highly durable corrugated plastic, and supported by two sturdy steel wire legs. A \$10 donation will cover our cost, and your investment will serve you well through many election cycles.

★ *Pro-Life Kids!* is a brand new book by Bethany Bomberger. Bethany's husband, Ryan Bomberger was the Special Guest Speaker this past January at People for Life's annual Pro-Life Breakfast.

In today's brave new world, children are growing up surrounded by a culture of death and the many challenges and dangers it presents. It is never too early to begin fostering pro-life values and attitudes and

teaching our kids that every human individual has value and a purpose. *Pro-Life Kids!* can help parents do exactly that. It is a top-quality book in every respect.

The Bombergers extended an extra-generous deal on a quantity of *Pro-Life Kids!*, so we are able to offer them for a donation of only \$15.

★ We also have the Movie UNPLANNED in a two-disk, DVD and Blue-ray set for a donation of \$16. Get your own copy and share it with others.

2020 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2021

May 18	Last day to register to vote before the primary election
May 23	People for Life High School Oratory Contest
May 26	Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
June 2	Last day for Election Board to receive absentee and mail-in ballots
June 2	Pennsylvania presidential primary election
June 21	Father's Day / Carnation Project to Honor Mothers and Fathers
June 29	Annual Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
July 14-18	Outreach Booth - North East Firemen's Cherry Festival
July 30-Aug. 1	Outreach Booth - Dan Rice Days, Girard
Aug. 31-Sept. 5	Outreach Booth - Erie County Fair at Wattsburg
Sept. 7-12	Outreach Booth - Waterford Community Fair
Sept. 15-19	Outreach Booth - Albion Area Fair
October 10	Life Run 5K/10K - Burch Farms, North East
Oct. 19	Last day to register before the November election
Nov. 3	Election Day - President, Congress, PA General Assembly
Jan. 16	43rd Annual Pro-Life Breakfast
Jan. 23	Erie March for Life