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"It is the role of each person who comprehends the unrepeatable miracle of human life to be defenders and educators when the dignity of the human person comes into question or is challenged in any way." Judie Brown, American Life League

LONG ISLAND COALITION FOR LIFE, EDUCATIONAL TRUST 20TH ANNUAL ORATORY CONTEST



Winners: Madeline Naughton, Kathleen Hovestadt and Ava Ghecas

The twentieth annual High School Pro Life Oratory Contest, sponsored by the Long Island Coalition for Life Educational Trust, was held on March 2nd at Knights of Columbus, Joseph Barry Council in Hicksville.

This year we expanded the contest to include 10th grade students as well as 11th and 12th graders. We had an unusually large pool of applicants this year, seventeen; six from St John the Baptist, five from Kellenberg Memorial, four from St Pius V, one from Chaminade, and for the first time, one from Grace Christian Academy. (Invitations and applications were sent to Guidance Counselors at all LI Public High Schools, but we did not receive any responses.) Twelve of these students were invited to speak at the contest and eleven actually did so.

Students were invited to research, write and deliver a 5-7 minute original speech on life issues such as abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or cloning/stem cell research.

The judges praised the excellent quality and fine presentations of the speeches, resulting in difficult judging! The first place winner was a repeat from last year, Kathleen Hovestadt from St. Pius V High School, 2nd Place winner was Ava Ghecas also from St Pius, while 3rd place went to Madeline Naughton from Kellenberg. Prizes of \$1000, \$600 and two at \$400, along with plaques were awarded to these excellent speakers. All participants did a fine job and we sincerely thank them for their participation! Thanks also to their parents for supporting them in this worthwhile endeavor.

Robert L. Dougherty Esq. is the generous supporter who provided prize money for the contest. Judges George Frost, Kathy Feldman and Fred Peritore capably handled the difficult task of selecting winners. Thanks to Sr. Mary Fatima and Sr. Mary Bernadette from St. Pius V, Brother Michael Gillen from Kellenberg,

Mr. William Clemens from Chaminade and Mr. Stephen Schultz from Grace Christian Academy, who all encouraged/coordinated with students and/or attended the contest.

Thanks also to Charlie and Kathy Feldman for always arranging the refreshments and décor at the event. Lastly thanks to Coalition members Dan Sherry (Chairman of the Educational Trust), Jack O'Brien, Ann Cook and Celeste Broyles who all attended and spoke with participants, helping to make this a very successful event. It was so wonderful to hear the younger generation speaking up for LIFE!

All participants are shown in the picture on the right: Olivia Hand from St Pius V, Kevin Kelly, Scott Harford and Emily Cook from Kellenberg, Emilie Bobrowski, Katelyn Hamel from St Johns, Han Hao from Grace Christian Academy and Charles Clague from Chaminade.



You're Invited The Long Island Coalition for Life general meeting welcomes all interested in pro-life activity, education, legislation or volunteering. Our next General Meeting will be May 20 at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph RCC Parish Center, 45 Church Street, Ronkonkoma . All are welcome - please join us! For further info, call LICL at 631-243-1435.

WHAT THE MEDIA DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THE <u>"EQUALITY AMENDMENT"</u>

In November 2024 a proposed state constitutional amendment, the "<u>Equality Amendment</u>", if approved by the voters, will create a state constitutional right to "**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE AND AUTONOMY**" for "**PERSONS**."

Notably absent from its text are the words and phrases "MINOR," "PARENT," "CONSCIENCE," and "LATE TERM."

NYS Legislature bills: A.1203 and S.108A

"No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, <u>ethnicity</u>, <u>national origin</u>, <u>age</u>, <u>disability</u>, <u>creed</u>, <u>religion</u>, <u>or sex</u>, <u>including sexual orientation</u>, <u>gender identity</u>, <u>gender expression</u>, <u>pregnancy</u>, <u>pregnancy outcomes</u>, <u>and</u> <u>reproductive healthcare and autonomy</u>, be subject to discrimination in <u>their</u> civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by any agency or subdivision of the state, pursuant to law."

This "Equality Amendment" can empower unaccountable state judges and bureaucrats to:

• **DISCRIMINATE** against <u>BABIES</u>, **EVEN IN THE NINTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY**, by denying their right to life by endorsing their killing by abortion, including *painful late term abortion*, and by *infanticide through intentional neglect* if the baby is *born alive* after an attempted abortion.

• **DISCRIMINATE** against social workers, educators and health care workers, <u>INCLUDING DOCTORS</u> <u>AND NURSES</u> by denying them state licenses if they refuse to do abortion referrals.

• **DISCRIMINATE** against <u>PARENTS</u> by denying parents the right to require their consent for their minor age daughters being given an *abortion* while requiring the consent of parents for their minor age daughters being given an *aspirin*.

• **DISCRIMINATE** (IN FAVOR OF ABORTIONISTS) by awarding abortionists the PRIVILEGE of operating without the health and safety regulations lifesaving surgeons and pharmacists must adhere to.

This "Equality Amendment" can empower *unaccountable state judges and bureaucrats* to regulate, harass, fine and prosecute public pro-life witnessing and crisis pregnancy centers *out of existence* as violators of the "<u>Civil</u> <u>Right</u>" of "Reproductive Healthcare and Autonomy."

DO SOMETHING TO HELP PREBORN BABIES AND PARENTS.

VOTE AGAINST THE "EQUALITY AMENDMENT" ON ELECTION DAY, 2024!

Want to help spread the word? Contact us.

The *Gothamist* reported on 3/22/24 that a recent poll by the Global Strategy Group (advisors and pollsters for many Democratic candidates) shows that **over 70% of voters in NYS** are in favor of the Equality Amendment. We must educate everyone we can on the dangers of creating a state constitutional right to "Reproductive Healthcare and Autonomy."

ABORTION THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN 2023

Using data from the World Health Organization and the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, the statistics compiler *Worldometer* says induced abortion was the cause of just under 52% of worldwide human deaths in 2023, i.e. more people killed (approximately 73 million) than all other causes combined. Abortion was also the leading cause of U.S. human death.



FEDERAL LEGISLATION

In mid-January, a month before Alabama's Supreme Court ruled on the status of frozen human embryos, Democrats in Congress introduced the *Access to Family Building Act* [HR.7056/S.3612]. Reps. Suozzi & Gillibrand are co-sponsors. Touted as

'protecting IVF', it would allow any adult to access any reproductive technology to have a child. This would include gene editing, cloning, hybridizing, or buying embryos. Suing over negligently destroyed embryos or Religious Freedom Restoration Act protections for medical staff and organizations would not be allowed. Emma Waters of The Heritage Foundation said the bill would "unleash IVF and commercial surrogacy." Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute warned the bill "would protect the creation and destruction of embryos. All treatments involving eggs, sperm, and embryos would be protected. If states try to limit procedures like IVF, surrogacy, and oocyte sales, even if the limits are globally accepted, they could be sued by individuals or Big Fertility facilities...turning the creation of life into a lucrative business." The bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Health in the House and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate.

The United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the FDA v Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine on March 26. The Alliance was asking the Court to reject the 2016 and 2021 relaxed rules for dispensing the abortion drug mifepristone. The justices had questions regarding the 'standing' of the Alliance. A decision will most likely be released in late June.

Alabama Supreme Court Decision re IVF: Ed Whalen wrote an article in the National Review (2/26/24) entitled "There is no link between Dobbs and Alabama Supreme Court's Wrongful-Death Ruling." Immediately after the Alabama decision was released, pro-abortion news outlets announced that the Dobbs decision, which reversed Roe v. *Wade*, was responsible for the Alabama decision. Whalen noted that years ago Alabama criminal law "extended their homicide laws to a third party's killing of an unborn child from conception forward." The legal issue in Le Page (the Alabama case), as the majority opinion put it, was whether Alabama law "contains an unwritten exception to that rule for extrauterine children - that is, unborn children who are located outside of a biological uterus at the time they are killed." Whalen noted that Roe didn't "prevent states from protecting the lives of unborn human beings outside the abortion context," and neither Roe nor Dobbs "addressed the question of when a human life begins." No party challenged the Wrongful Death of a Minor Child Act "starting at conception." Several cases have ruled that the Act applies to embryos in the womb. In LePage, the parents sued the IVF clinic over the negligent destruction of their frozen embryos. The Alabama Supreme Court was asked if embryos outside the womb were included. Finding no "extrauterine exception" in the law, the Court ruled yes, they are children, allowing the parents to pursue their wrongful death suit for the negligent destruction of their frozen embryos.



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

Bills A9412/S8682 sponsored by Senator J. Martins and Assemblyperson B. Curran

"provides that any fertilized human ovum or human embryo existing outside of a human uterus shall not be considered an unborn child or human being." Co-Sponsors: Senators P. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and S. Rhoads and Assemblypersons K. Brown, J. Gandolfo, and D. McDonough. The bill is in the Senate and Assembly Health Committees.

Medical Aid in Dying Act (MAID) Bills S2445A and A995A: The purpose of the NYS "Medical Aid in Dying" bill is "To provide that a mentally competent, terminally ill patient may request medication to be self-administered for the purpose of hastening the patient's death."

The bills are currently in the NYS Senate and Assembly Health Committees. Pro-lifers do not want them to reach the floors of the Senate and Assembly for a full vote.

The dangers of Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) include: *PAS involves asking a doctor to prescribe a lethal dose of chemicals whose sole purpose is to end a person's life. The Medical Society of the State of NY opposes this bill, stating PAS and euthanasia "have not been part of the normative practice of modern medicine...Although relief of suffering has always been a fundamental duty in medical practice, relief of suffering through shortening of life has not." *The bill's main proponents suggest there are 'safeguards' against inappropriate use, but they are weak. *The bill requires doctors to lie on a death certificate by requiring the person's underlying illness to be listed as the cause of death instead of the actual cause of death, suicide. *A mental health evaluation is not required unless specifically ordered by a physician, even though the patient is directly expressing the intention of killing themselves. *Advocates for people living with disabilities are concerned people will be pressured into the procedure. In Canada PAS is being offered instead of providing community support. *The disability community is worried about coercion and abuse - an abusive family member or caregiver could 'doctor shop' to find one willing to provide the fatal drug. *The slippery slope is real. Canada expanded PAS from those with terminal illness to include chronic illness (2021) and mental illness (to go into effect in 2027). *The NY Center for Disability Rights and every major national disability rights organization in the US are opposed. People with disabilities are at great risk of deadly harm and discrimination.

Contact your state legislators and ask them to vote against the MAID bills and any bills supporting PAS. Particularly contact LI members of the Health Committees including Senators Jack Martins, Steven Rhoads, Kevin Thomas and Assemblypersons Jake Blumencranz, Jarett Gandolfo, John Mikulin and Michaelle Solages.

For Contact Info on legislators at all levels go to: Prolifeli.org/index.php/legislative **OR** usa.gov/elected-officials

To discuss Federal Legislation, e-mail Charles Feldman at cdefeldman@optonline.net. To discuss State Legislation, e-mail Jim Miller at jimmiller9@aol.com.

HEALTH & SCIENCE IVF and the Alabama Decision



Professor Robert P. George's recent essay in the National Review (3/18/24), asks "*Are Human Embryos Human Beings*?" He notes that this question is "resolved by human embryology and developmental biology." He states that over the course of history, those who want to "abuse" others must first "dehumanize them." In order "to justify the deliberate killing of human beings at early stages of their development...they are at pains to deny that the victims are human." This mindset is essential for the IVF industry. Embryos are treated as a product, a commodity.

Michael Cook, editor at Mercatornet.com, published an article (3/1/24) on the Alabama Supreme Court's IVF decision and Alabama's subsequent legislation. He stated, "After the Alabama Supreme Court's recent ruling that frozen embryos deserve the same protection as children, politicians have been falling over themselves to find ways to defend the US IVF industry...IVF is a morally complex issue...[that] needs to be regulated. This is the case whether or not you believe that frozen embryos are "extrauterine children" living in a "cryogenic nursery" in the words of the Court. Of course, the moral stakes rise if they are "extrauterine children." It is difficult for most people to accept a total ban on IVF. Polls show that over 75% of pro-lifers have "significant and unwavering support" for IVF. Cook warns, "IVF is an industry with a dark past, a chaotic present, and an ominous future" requiring "close scrutiny and tight regulation."

Fertility lawyer Adam Wolf said, "I've represented thousands of would-be parents whose eggs and embryos were lost, destroyed, or even mixed up by their fertility clinics." He noted that most developed countries regulate the IVF industry. Cook said many supporters are ignorant "of how the fertility industrial complex works. IVF in the US is "Wild West" medicine – it's barely regulated...It is quickly becoming corporatized, commercialized, and industrialized."

The IVF industry not only includes in vitro fertilization itself, but also donor eggs, donor sperm, surrogacy, egg freezing, genetic screening, sex selection, and 'fetal reduction' – aborting 'surplus' fetuses. Cook asks, "Do Americans really want to protect all of these practices?" He notes several "reasons to be skeptical of the IVF industry...The fundamental problem with IVF is that it "outsources" sexual intimacy...technologists and accountants become as much a part of the process of creating a baby as the parents."

Cook notes, "No one keeps tabs on the number of human embryos frozen in US fertility clinics." Current estimates of 1.5 million will grow as IVF expands. Parents are hesitant to "discard" [kill] their children. The IVF industry promotes the idea that IVF will help slow declining birth rates. Cook said there is no evidence to prove that. In fact, Japan has one of the highest IVF rates and one of the lowest birth rates. As women put off having children until later in life, IVF might lower birth rates more.

Professor Robert Edwards won the Nobel Prize for pioneering IVF and was a member of the British Eugenics Society. Cook noted that Edwards' "ideas about IVF were steeped in eugenics...clinics [currently] screen embryos for disease. The next step will be tinkering with genes to make potential offspring" smarter, taller, faster, etc.

Most doctors don't know what is in the culture media that embryos live in for the first few days. Cooper Surgical's embryo culture solution destroyed embryos. Lawsuits are pending. One doctor stated, "We must insist that continuing the use of culture media whose composition is not known is outside of the standard of care."

The media portrays the IVF industry as a "kindly fairygodmother" but "IVF is a business...driven by profit maximization." Private equity firms own most of the largest fertility service providers. The fertility market was valued at \$8 billion in 2022. Lord Robert Winston said the IVF industry is "an increasingly grasping industry that frequently ignores ethical standards."

Women in their 60s and 70s are using IVF. In addition, what constitutes a family has now been redefined. Most IVF clinics provide pornography so that men can quickly provide a sperm sample, without concern for female staff. Over 80 doctors have been caught using their own sperm. Sperm banks are poorly regulated. A woman in California learned she has almost 200 half siblings, nearly all with serious health issues. The lack of tracking for sperm donors has led to siblings becoming romantically involved. The Donor Sibling Registry in the US notes, "The donor conception industry is largely a for-profit enterprise, and after the 'product' has been purchased [little is done to] engage in discussions or activities that acknowledge the humanity and rights of the donorconceived."

Some doctors are concerned about the long-term effects of IVF. Louise Brown, the first IVF baby, is only 46 years old. Dr. Pascal Gagneux of UC San Diego said, "We're engaging in an evolutionary experiment."

Fertility clinics are not required to report errors. There is no database for these errors. Attorney Adam Wolf said the errors include dropping eggs or embryos, discarding genetically 'normal' embryos instead of genetically 'abnormal' ones, using the wrong sperm, transferring an embryo into the wrong patient, and freezers breaking. Other concerns with IVF include the risk of lethal ovarian hyperstimulation, increased risk of birth defects, and a growing surrogacy industry with its own host of ethical issues.

Cook concluded, "Any one of these issues...should be enough to press the pause button on rash decisions to give the IVF industry special protection. [All] of them might be enough to consider banning it entirely." Yuval Levin, editor of National Affairs, and O. Carter Snead, law professor, authored an article in *The Atlantic* (3/15/24) which noted the IVF industry used abortion rights as a shield against public scrutiny and regulation for decades. The Alabama law made things worse. Their intent was to protect vulnerable parents and children but "instead only advanced the interests of an already-sheltered industry, and left a fraught and sensitive domain of our society even more exposed and unprotected."

"Whenever Two or More are Gathered in My Name"

Key: (M) = MONTHLY (W) = WEEKLY

PRO-LIFE PRAYERFUL PRESENCE. Scheduled times at local abortion provider/referral sites are listed below. To volunteer, speak with the contact person before going to a site. Never witness alone. Your presence, if even for 30 min. a month, is important. Note: Vigils & Witnesses are NOT sponsored by the LICL and are provided for informational purposes.

<u>Nassau County - Location</u> 540 Fulton Ave (Rt 24), Hempstead	(W) Sa 8 AM-Noon	<u>Contact Phone</u> 917-544-0121	IMPORTANT:
	(W) Th 10:30-Noon	516-220-8273	Peaceful assembly on public property near an
	(W) Sa 10 AM-Noon	516-220-8273	abortion site is a lawful
" "	(W) Fr 11 AM - Noon	516-359-1298	
<u>Suffolk County - Location</u>	Day/Time	Contact Phone (631)	First Amendment right.
70 Maple Ave, Smithtown	(W) Mo. 10 AM prayers w/Fr. Joe		
	We, Fr. & Sa 7:30-10:30 AM	813-3412	
42 First Ave, Brentwood	(W) Sa 9:40-10:15 AM	665-3630	
877 E. Main St, Riverhead	(W) We 2-4 PM	323-8001	$\times \Sigma$
450 Waverly Ave, Patchogue	(M) 2nd We & Sa 10 AM-noon	615-1735	AST D

Pro-Life Counseling Centers nearest to abortion sites:

Women First Pregnancy Options: (Four locations): Massapequa 516-798-9100, 35 East Willow St, at East end of Sunrise Mall behind White Castle, (bilingual) open Mo-Fr, 10 AM-4 PM, Sa 9 AM-Noon (by appt. only); Hempstead 516-408-6300, 474 Fulton Av (Rt 24) (bilingual) open Mo-Fr 10 AM-4:30 PM & Sa 9AM-1PM; Deer Park 631-243-0066, 1767 Deer Park Ave, (bilingual) open Mo 10 AM-8 PM, Tu-Fr 10 AM-4 PM. (Closed Sa), Smithtown 631-656-0441, 91 Maple Ave., open Mo.-Fr. 8 AM-4 PM closed Saturdays.

Local Pro-Life Viewing/Listening:

Check EWTN Opt. Ch 135, Verizon Ch 285 for pro-life programming Live Stream: 7 PM Mondays marchforlifeny.org/events/march-for-life-ny-livestream Pro-Life and Pro-Family blog: rickhinshaw.com

Beauty for Ashes/Post-Abortion Ministry Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM **Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle Annex** 1 Higbie Drive, Smithtown

This is a ministry for women who have experienced an abortion. It is a safe place to heal which will result in feeling forgiven and able to walk in freedom. Beauty for Ashes will utilize a post-abortive Bible Study curriculum/workbook in small group settings. As the nature of this ministry is extremely personal, please be assured that the utmost confidentiality and trust will be honored. Periodic ministry weekend retreats will be incorporated and announced at the weekly Bible Study groups. For more information call 631-256-7954.

Life Pac, Inc. Knights for Life Inc.

Meetings on Tuesdays: May 28 & June 25 All meetings are at 7:30 PM at the N. Massapequa Community Center, 214 N. Albany Ave., N. Massapequa. All are welcome! For info call Keith Wilson 516-633-1435 or email kwilson@optonline.net

DEADLINE NOTICE:

June & early July events to be considered for publication in the June 2024 issue of Life News MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 5 Send to: Life News, LICL, PO Box 223, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 or email: LICoalition4Life@outlook.com.



Comedy Night

Featuring Gordon Douglas Celebrate Life with Laughter Sunday, May 19 3:45-6:00 PM Constantino Brumidi Lodge, Order Sons of Italy 2075 Deer Park Ave., Deer Park Advance tickets \$20 - at door \$25 Children 12 and under - \$10 Sponsored by Life Center of LI Reserve and pay for tickets at www.Lifecenterli.org or call Regina 516-798-8745

WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Rosary for Life every Fri. at 3 PM on Zoom, sponsored by DRVC OHLFB. Meeting ID: 811 9648 1100 Passcode: 20EWp7; Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923.
- Holy Hour for Life St. Joseph RCC, 59 Church St., Kings Park every Mon. at 7 PM. This is also live-streamed. For more info call 631-269-6635.
- **Right to Life Rosary** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, 495 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue every Thurs. at 7:00 PM. For info call 631-475-4739.

March for Life NY in Albany Monday, June 24 - Begin at Noon

Meet at Children's Memorial, Empire Plaza and March to NYS Capitol Steps State St. & Washington Ave., Albany Prolife Speakers To register, volunteer & more info visit marchforlifeny.org or call 631-681-7275

Life News - 6 - May 2024

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Sprinkler Systems	Abortion is Not Health Ca	Riverhead		
Servicing Nassau &	lettering) Take My Hand, Not My Lit	Courage)631-465-6300 Abortion Pill Reversal 24/7 Helpline877-558-0333		
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BOB McLAUGHLIN OWNER	Women, Kills Children, Hearts		Adoption, Foster, Maternity Svs. Pregnant with child with disability?benotafraid.net	
	Respect Life from Conce Pregnant? We Can Help	Post Abortion Counseling For Women/Men: Project Rachel		
(631) 361-6036		CHOOSE LIFE		
Credit Cards Accepted	SELF-ADHESIVE STICKERS	sheets \$5.50	Support After Abortion	
In Loving Memory of	 Mail this form with payment (handling) to: L. I. COALITION I 	Leave abortion IndustryATTWN.org.		
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Life News

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect innocent human life from fertilization to natural death through education, legislative action, prayer and peaceful presence.

of Long Island

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May 2024 Mother's Day Blessings!

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Face the Truth

Another chilly and breezy day met the staunch pro-lifers who participated in the Good Friday Face the Truth event on behalf of preborn children on March 29, 2024. About 70 men, women, teens and youngsters stood outside of Nassau University Medical Center to be the public face of babies hidden in the womb who are not protected against abortion in NYS. Thank you to all those who supported this event sponsored by your LI Coalition for Life. Reminder - there are ample opportunities to be a visible sign for the preborn by taking part in vigils outside abortion facilities across LI. Current pro-life presence times are listed on page 5 of this issue or start your own vigil at a time convenient for you and your pro-life friends.



NYS School Board Elections Vote

Tues., May 14 Know before you go! Ask candidates their views on the life issues and on inviting Planned Parenthood to your school.

LICL Volunteer Opportunities

Certain contacts on the LICL mailing list change on a regular or irregular basis, e.g., LI elected officials and high school/college campus ministers. This information is collected from online sources to be used to keep the LICL list up to date. We are looking for a volunteer who will check selected websites for updated contact information (e.g., after an election cycle) and provide it to the LICL database manager. Your own Internet access and email is required. No database entry. If interested or for further info, please contact the LICL at info@prolifeLI.org.

Summer programs:

College students: National Right to Life Academy, Alexandria, VA, nrlc.org/academy; 202-626-8809 **Ages 14+:** New York State Right to Life Camp Esther, admin@nysrighttolife.org; 518-434-1493

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