



Christopher Wiles | Times Herald

PRESIDENT of Indiana Right to Life Mike Fichter told the crowd of more than 500 on hand Thursday at the Daviess-Martin-Pike County annual RTL Banquet that the pro-life issue has to take precedent over any other issue in the upcoming election.

Right to Life calls for supporters to hit the polls

MIKE GRANT
TIMES HERALD

ODON - The 500 people at the annual Right to Life Banquet at the Simon Graber Center were called to vote this fall, and to vote only for pro-life endorsed candidates.

"If you are pro-life, then the life issue has to take precedent over any other issue," said President of Indiana Right to Life Mike Fichter. "It is more important than taxes. It's more important than education. It is more important than any other issue you can name."

Fichter says that on the state level, pro-life issues have been moving forward. He points out that the number of abortions in the state have dropped to 8,000 and Indiana is the first state to extend

civil rights to the unborn.

"History is being made in Indiana," he said. "The bill stops abortions based on a child having a disability. It also ends the practice of treating aborted children as medical waste."

Making that history though has created controversy in Indiana, and even some pushback, with the ranks of pro-life politicians.

"There were legislators from other parts of Indiana who say they are pro-life, but when push came to shove on this, what we heard was this goes too far," said Fichter. "I don't know what part of this goes too far, protecting a child from being aborted because he or she has Downs Syndrome or a disability or because of the child's color."

Fichter, who was the featured speaker for the event, called for pro-life voters to remember their moral position.

"This is a time for stepping out in boldness and faith at a time when boldness and faith are needed," he said. "Abortion at its core is a spiritual battle. It is an attack against God because all of us are created in his image."

He says the people in the Right to Life movement need to be pointing to the upcoming election.

"Nov. 8 will be the most significant election in the lifetime of every person in this room because of what is at stake," said Fichter. "Elections matter, your vote matters and whatever you choose is going to have an impact on the United States. The power of the

vote lies in your hands."

Fichter ran down the list of candidates giving support to only Republican candidates from his position as president of Indiana Right to Life. His support ran from the top of the ticket at president all the way down to the races for state representative and the senate.

"I think it would be awesome to wake up Nov. 9 and realize Mike Pence will be vice president of the United States," Fichter said.

Eighth District Congressman Larry Bucshon (R) also told the banquet attendees about his support for pro-life issues.

"No challenge can be more important than continuing our work to protect the unborn," he said.

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PHIL AND AMBER SMITH shared their story of the difficulty Amber had in delivering the family's first child, Jaxon, after she was diagnosed with cancer. The Smiths later adopted a daughter named Emersyn.



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THE RIGHT TO LIFE Family of the Year went to the Seikfer family of Bloomington. The family is regularly involved in trying to stop abortions at the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Bloomington.

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"Many of you have argued that this is about the character of our nation and I agree."

Bucshon is serving on the investigative committee on infant life. That committee is looking at the actions of abortion providers and others.

"What we've found so far all of us should be appalled at," he said. "Indeed there is an industry making millions of dollars off of selling hu-

man fetal body parts. We are going to hold them accountable. We've already subpoenaed everybody we can, but many of them are ignoring our subpoenas."

The companies claim the committee is looking for something that doesn't exist. Bucshon says he wants to see them held for contempt of Congress.

"If what they say is true, that this doesn't really exist what are they afraid of," he said. "If we get the right administration in place the justice department will go after these people. Our cur-

rent justice department is ignoring this."

Despite the problems in the committee Bucshon and Fichter agree that the pro-life side is making progress.

"We are winning the fight," said Bucshon. "Abortions in America are dramatically down, but the fight is not over."

"People ask me about that and I can tell you when you are in the movement full-time, yes, we will win this," added Fichter. "I know it Biblically and culturally we are closer than ever and that should give us hope."

Special awards were presented at the Daviess-Martin-Pike County annual Right to Life banquet on Thursday.

The Adoptive Child Award was presented to the Smith family of Loogootee. Phil and Amber Smith shared the story of the difficulty Amber had in delivering the family's first child, Jaxon, after she was diagnosed with cancer. The Smiths later adopted a daughter named Emersyn.

"About 18 months in, a wonderful birth mother named Nicole made the completely selfless decision that wasn't easy for her, to allow us the privilege of adopting her daughter and raising her as our own," said Amber Smith. "I hope someday the discussion can be changed from how can somebody give up their baby, to wow, what a loving Godly choice."

The Right to Life family of the year went to the Seikfer family of Bloomington. The family is regularly involved in trying to stop abortions at the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Bloomington.

"It is the beginning of the end of abortion," said Monica Seikfer. "We are changing minds and hearts and are seeing cracks in the culture of death."