



Right To Life

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“Abortion May Be Legal, But It Is Still Morally Wrong!”

July - August - September - 2025

Daviess-Pike, Martin County Right to Life Banquet Speaker Announced for October 2, 2025 *By Louis Kavanaugh Jr.*

Missy Martinez-Stone has been confirmed as the speaker for the banquet in October of this year. She is a nationally recognized expert on ensuring the accountability of abortion facilities for their unsafe and illegal practices, ultimately leading to their closure. In 2018, she was asked to help develop an innovative women’s advocacy organization, resulting in the launch of Reprotection in January 2020. Their organization has since evolved into the Center for Client Safety, with Missy Martinez-Stone serving as the President and CEO. Through her dedicated efforts, Missy has played a pivotal role in suspending the operations of four abortion facilities within the past two years while concurrently spearheading ongoing investigations in more than 30 states.



Missy Martinez-Stone

Previously, Missy served as the National Field Director for Students for Life of America, where she doubled the number

of student groups served and facilitated Students for Life in equipping over 1,000 student groups. Additionally, Missy served on the board of Choices Women’s Center, a pregnancy center in Fredericksburg, VA. Her expertise and achievements have garnered media attention, with features in prominent outlets such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, Associated Press, the Christian Broadcasting Network, and numerous other media platforms.

We are pleased to make this announcement and ask all our friends in the Right to Life Organization to reserve this date. Ticket Sales will begin around September 1 of this year and you can get them from our ticket sellers or contact me at 812-486-3658. We appreciate your past support and hope you will continue. We hope to see you then.

Save the Date:
Thursday Oct. 2, 6:30 PM
for Right to Life Banquet
By Louis Kavanaugh Jr.

If you have not attended a Right to Life Banquet, I highly encourage you to do so. We all must do what we can to educate ourselves on the abortion issue and this would be one way to do so. We cannot stand by and ignore the plight of the unborn and look the other way. It is our obligation to help in the battle to save the lives of the unborn. Remember that is what the Christian People of Germany did prior to WWII when they were killing the Jews. Finally, they came for them and there was no one to stand up for the Christians. We must take a stand and support those on the front lines of the prolife movement.

More Pastors Need to Preach Against Abortion

By Bryan Kemper, Washington, DC

“We should be spreading the gospel, not worrying about political issues like abortion.”

I cannot tell you how many pastors or priests have thrown this at me as an excuse for not getting involved with pro-life work or even talking about it from the pulpit. It should surprise me that a pastor would even try to justify his apathy and lack of involvement in standing up for life, but it happens too often.

Obviously, we all know that as Christians our main focus is to spread the gospel and share the hope we have in Christ. We are commanded to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

The idea that taking a stand for the almost 3,000 children who are being slaughtered every day by abortion is contrary to

the gospel is simply ludicrous. In fact, I would say that when we do not stand up for the voiceless or love our neighbor as ourselves, we are not truly preaching the gospel.

I remember one pastor in particular who told me I had no business telling anyone abortion was wrong. He said I should only tell people about Jesus and nothing else. I laid out a situation for him to answer using his logic. What if you came upon a man beating a woman in an alley? Would you walk up to the man and tap him on the shoulder and tell him about Jesus or would you first stop the man from beating the woman and make sure she was taken care of?



He tried to wiggle out of answering the question at first but eventually said he would first stop the man from harming the woman. I asked him why he would not just tell the man about Jesus and not worry about his behavior? He said it was because the woman was in imminent danger and needed to be rescued.

We are called in Scripture to “Deliver those who are being taken away to death. And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, ‘See, we did not know this,’ Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts?” (Proverbs 24:11-12). We are also called to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

In Matthew 25 we are taught that when we do not feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and clothe the naked, then we are not doing that for Christ. I could fill this commentary with pages of Scripture references that would show us that preaching the gospel is more than just reading the words.

When we ignore babies are being killed by the thousands every day, are we loving our neighbor as ourselves? Is our neighbor just the guy who lives next door? Did the Good Samaritan stop to see if he knew the man in the ditch or ask God if he was called to a ditch ministry before he helped the man? No, he saw his fellow human in distress and he stopped to help him.

So many people tell me that their pastor or priest will not talk about abortion from the pulpit. They don’t want to talk about political issues or possibly offend anyone in the pews.

This is what I would like to ask them: If you were told as you were walking up to the pulpit to deliver your sermon that a man with a knife was heading to the nursery to stab all the children in the nursery, would you warn people from the pulpit or would you say that the pulpit is only for preaching the Word?

I don’t think there’s a pastor anywhere in the world who would not immediately warn everyone about the danger the children were in. If that same pastor were told before his sermon that a new abortion mill was opening down the street, and that about 20 babies were going to be aborted daily, would he feel the same urgency to warn his congregation about the danger facing those children?

Most of the time it would have to go through some kind of committee or vote to see if the church wanted to have some kind of official outreach to that abortion mill. There would be so much red tape that it may take a year to even get an announcement in the bulletin about a ministry team being formed.

Are the children who would die in the nursery more valuable than the children who would die in the abortion mill? Why is one more horrifying, more worthy of immediate action than the other?

There is no excuse for the apathy and lack of involvement of churches when it comes to abortion. We have allowed the government to politicize abortion to the point that we just don’t pay attention any more. We are more than happy to let our votes on Election Day be the only action we ever take as we leave it up to politicians who never deliver on their promises.

Preaching the gospel is not just leaving cheesy Bible tracts with a lousy tip on the table at Applebee’s after church. Preaching the gospel is not just saying “Jesus loves you” to your friends as work after laughing at all their dirty jokes.

Preaching the gospel goes far beyond our words and must also include action. Feeding the poor, giving water to the thirsty, and yes, speaking up for the voiceless IS preaching the gospel.

Bryan Kemper is the youth outreach director for Priests for Life and the founder of its youth outreach Stand True. He is the author of Social Justice Begins in the Womb and Pro-life is the New Punk Rock.

A Military Apology to Pro-Life Groups from the Defense Department

by Brad Mattes, Life Issues Institute

Earlier I shared that Army training under President Biden classified pro-life organizations as “terrorist groups.” When exposed, Biden’s response was lukewarm at best. Under Trump it’s quite different. Last week Army Secretary Dan Driscoll sent a letter to the pro-life groups on behalf of himself and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. They apologized and acknowledged it caused harm. Secretary Driscoll wrote, “Be assured I am firmly committed to rigorous oversight of all Army training materials to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. Let me be clear...the Army does not view pro-life beliefs as indicators of terrorism.” This is a very clear reminder the person you and I elect as president has a *huge* impact on our efforts to save unborn babies and their parents from abortion

Attorney General Todd Rokita Motions Seventh Circuit to Vacate Permanent Injunction Blocking Indiana from Defunding Planned Parenthood

INDIANAPOLIS (July 3, 2025) – The office of Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita motioned today for the U.S. Seventh Circuit to vacate a 2012 permanent injunction blocking Indiana from keeping Medicaid dollars from Planned Parenthood.

The brief accompanying the motion states:

“Just last week, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the premise underlying this Court’s injunction: It held that Planned Parenthood cannot enforce Medicaid’s any-qualified-provider provision in federal court against a State that withdraws subsidies for abortion. See *Medina v. Planned Parenthood S. Atl.*, No. 23-1275, 2025 WL 1758505, at *11 (U.S. June 26, 2025). With that change in the law, this Court’s judgment and injunction in Planned Parenthood’s favor can no longer stand.”

Planned Parenthood Permanently Closes Abortion Biz

By Rachel Quackenbush, Cleveland, Ohio

Planned Parenthood has permanently closed its abortion center on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, citing the recent loss of Title X federal funding.

A sign taped to the front door announced the decision, stating the closure was “effective immediately” and blaming the Trump administration for disrupting operations, *ABC Cleveland News 5* reported June 30.

The note read, “Because our Title X funds have been withheld, this health center is closed effective immediately. Ongoing attacks from the Trump administration have disrupted the essential services we provide to the Cleveland Community.”

Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio issued a statement affirming that the closure “was not made lightly,” noting that the location had operated in the area for more than a decade.

Cleveland Right to Life responded to the news with a July 1 statement thanking “God for the legislators who stood up to the most evil organization of our time, Planned Parenthood,” *Ideastream Public Media* reported.

While Planned Parenthood has consistently argued that it offers a wide range of reproductive and sexual health care, its involvement in abortion remains central. The loss of Title X funds, which under revised guidelines cannot subsidize abortion providers, has led to a nationwide reshuffling of operations for groups unwilling to separate abortion from other services.

The brief concludes with:

“This Court should vacate the permanent injunction and judgment, and ‘promptly’ return to Indiana the power to enforce its duly enacted laws.”

“We are thankful for the attorney general’s quick action in seeking the removal of the 2012 injunction,” states Indiana Right to Life President and CEO Mike Fichter. “Indiana became the first state in the nation to remove Medicaid funding from Planned Parenthood, yet this injunction blocked this defunding from ever taking effect. This opens new opportunities for greater support of life-affirming services helping moms and babies in Indiana.”

Be Careful Where You Get Your News Information!

By Louis Kavanaugh Jr.

As we move past 6 months into the second term of President Trump, the Liberal media continue to slant the news to favor their viewpoint and their agenda. If you get your news from CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC or any other left-leaning liberal stations you will not get the truth or anything close to objective reporting. They will slant it to make the Trump administration look bad and inject in their liberal opinion that will show their true colors of the Trump Derangement Syndrome. That is, they are against anything and everything the Trump administration supports, even if it is for the betterment of the country. As the old saying goes, if Donald Trump supports a particular issue, no matter what it is, they will find a reason to be against it. They will come up with all kinds of reasoning to oppose the idea.

We in the pro-life movement have been battling them since abortion was legalized. They pushed for it to be legal and have campaigned in the press ever since to keep it legal by failing to point out the pitfalls of abortion.

So, if you want to hear both sides of the issue, you better tune into a more reliable source of information. There are plenty of sources out there, hunt for them.

PLEASE REMEMBER: NO OTHER LIFE ISSUE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ISSUE OF ABORTION. THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE! SO PLEASE, ALWAYS VOTE PRO-LIFE!

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International Planned Parenthood Will Lose \$61 Million Thanks to Trump's Executive Order

By Ben Johnson, Washington, DC

On the day voters from all 50 states showed their support for the unborn, the Trump administration enacted three pro-life executive actions to limit taxpayer-funded abortions and end the weaponization of government against pro-life advocates.

President Donald Trump ended Joe Biden's whole-of-government push to expand abortion, signing two executive actions which protect U.S. taxpayers from funding or advocating abortion in the United States or overseas. Polls show lopsided majorities favor the policies, known as the Hyde Amendment and the Mexico City Policy, which Trump reinstated onboard Air Force One while being whisked to see massive property damage caused by California's wildfires. The same day, the Justice Department noted it would stop the Biden-Harris administration's prosecution of peaceful pro-life advocates under the FACE Act, except in "extraordinary circumstances."

"No American tax dollars should be used to pay an abortionist to kill an innocent unborn child. American taxpayer dollars should only be used to promote human flourishing, and the reinstating of the Mexico City Policy and the enforcement of the Hyde Amendment will help ensure this," Mary Szoch, director of the Center for Human Dignity at Family Research Council, told *The Washington Stand*.

73% of Americans Oppose Funding Foreign Abortions

President Trump's presidential memorandum reinstates his 2017 Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA), which requires non-governmental organizations that receive federal tax dollars to agree not to carry out nor advocate for abortion in foreign nations.

The amount of total foreign health funding remains the same; this policy merely delivers health care through providers who agree to respect pro-life taxpayers. Under the Biden-Harris administration, one organization funded by President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) carried out 21 abortions in Mozambique during the Biden-Harris administration. PEPFAR financial authorization ended on March 25.

The memo also directs the secretary of State "to take all



necessary actions, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars do not fund organizations or programs that support or participate in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization." The first Trump administration defunded the United Nations Population Fund, noting UNFPA's facilitation of China's forced abortion regimen under its One-Child Policy.

The memorandum continues the bipartisan back-and-forth over foreign abortion funding, known as the Mexico City Policy, which was originally announced by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 and took effect in 1985. The global pro-life financial protection has come and gone with each fluctuation of political control. The policy was repealed by President Bill Clinton, reinstated under President George W. Bush, repealed by Barack Obama, reinstated in stronger form during the first Trump administration, repealed on day one of the Biden-Harris administration, and now reinstated once more.

The Government Accountability Office found that President Trump's PLGHA applied to 1,340 centers and \$28.7 billion of taxpayer funding — and only eight grant recipients refused to sign on to the policy, according to the State Department. That number includes the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Marie Stopes International (MSI), two of the world's largest abortion businesses.

IRS Says Churches Can Endorse Political Candidates Without Losing Tax Exemptions

By Gary Grumbach

The Internal Revenue Service agreed in a court filing that churches can endorse political candidates without fear of losing their tax-exempt status. The IRS made the statement in a court case challenging the Johnson Amendment, a 1954 U.S. tax code provision that prohibits all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations — including churches — from formally endorsing or opposing political candidates.

"When a house of worship in good faith speaks to its congregation, through its customary channels of communication on matters of faith in connection with religious services, concerning electoral politics viewed through the lens of religious faith, it neither 'participate[s]' in nor 'intervene[s]' in a 'polit-

ical campaign,' within the ordinary meaning of those words," the parties wrote in the filing in federal court for the Eastern District of Texas, which was first reported by *The New York Times*.

"Thus, communications from a house of worship to its congregation in connection with religious services through its usual channels of communication on matters of faith do not run afoul of the Johnson Amendment as properly interpreted."

The joint motion for a "consent judgement" in the case must be approved by a judge before the lawsuit is formally resolved.

A spokesperson for the IRS and a lawyer for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Congress Defunding Planned Parenthood for the First Time Ever is Worth Celebrating

By Ben Johnson, Washington, DC

Congress has delivered President Donald Trump's signature legislation, the One Big Beautiful Bill, but not without hours of mean-spirited Democratic delay and principled conservative negotiations that secured "major" commitments of executive action and future legislation to promote the pro-life, pro-family cause.

The House of Representatives passed President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) by a 218-214 vote on Thursday afternoon. All House Democrats voted no, joined by two Republicans: Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.). Massie, a libertarian-leaning Republican, opposes the bill's high deficit and spending levels, while Fitzpatrick accused the White House of "withholding critical defense material" from Ukraine.

The bill narrowly passed the Senate Tuesday, when Vice President J.D. Vance cast the tie-breaking vote. Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) voted against the bill. It now goes to President Trump's desk.

Democrats in both chambers tried, and failed, to prevent the bill from passing Congress by President Trump's July 4 deadline. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) forced the Senate to read the full text of the 940-page bill aloud, which lasted nearly 16 hours.

Schumer also poked at the president with a procedural motion to strip the act of its formal title, "The One Big Beautiful Bill Act." House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) stalled proceedings further on Thursday morning with an eight-hour, 44-minute-long filibuster that began at 4:53 a.m. Jeffries all-but admitted he aimed to slow the bill's passage as a procedural irritant, saying numerous times throughout his speech, "I am going to take my sweet time," followed by a sustained standing ovation from the small gaggle of Democratic hangers-on who stayed to listen.

"It takes a lot longer to build a lie than to tell the simple truth," replied House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) in a brief rejoinder to Jeffries's record-breaking speech. "Scripture has been cited a lot this morning — I think mostly out of context."

"Today was about performance for some of them," said Johnson. "Democrats deliver performances, and Republicans deliver results." The narrow passage reflected the concern of pro-life conservatives, who withheld their support until obtaining promises from GOP leaders to address the pro-life, pro-family provisions stripped out by the Senate.

As fiscal conservatives, border security conservatives, and national security hawks celebrated the passage of President Donald Trump's signature One Big Beautiful Bill, pro-life and pro-family leaders wonder aloud why their concerns got eliminated or minimized by the legislation. Family Research Council President Tony Perkins said the debate's primary focus on taxes "reminds me of Bill Clinton back in his 1992 campaign: 'It's the

economy, Stupid.' It's not the economy; it is the moral foundation of a nation that matters." Some conservatives went as far as to call the watered-down Senate version of the bill "morally bankrupt."

The revised Senate version of the bill "does not defund transgender surgery for minors. That is a moral issue. It only cuts funding for abortion services for one year, not the 10 in the House bill. That's morally bankrupt," Rep. Keith Self (R-Texas) told "Washington Watch with Tony Perkins" Wednesday night.

While many pro-life advocates — including SBA Pro-Life America and Americans United for Life — called the bill's one-year defunding of Planned Parenthood a step forward, some former insiders say the deep-pocketed abortion industry has the resources to wait it out. "While any taxpayer money diverted away from Planned Parenthood is a good thing, defunding our nation's largest abortion provider for just one year is not the win many of us who believe abortion is abhorrent wanted it to be," said former Planned Parenthood director and founder of And Then There Were None, Abby Johnson, in a statement emailed to The Washington Stand. "A year is enough time for many Planned Parenthood facilities to hold out to be re-funded. Some will close, but Planned Parenthood as an organization has millions of dollars, wealthy donors, and could support those clinics if they choose."

Planned Parenthood, which received \$792.2 million in taxpayer funding in 2024, reported total net assets of \$2.52 billion. "Bottom line: it's not enough and Republicans should permanently defund the abortion giant, not just for a paltry 12 months," said Johnson.

"A one-year defunding of Planned Parenthood is no victory; it's a disheartening concession," Katie Brown Xavios, national director of American Life League, told TWS. "To receive only a token punishment for those who harm women and kill the innocent is unacceptable."

Quena González, senior director of Government Affairs at Family Research Council, called the one-year interruption "just a very short pause on defunding" on Wednesday, noting that under the revised bill, "taxpayers will still be forced to underwrite experimental gender transition procedures."

Family Research Council backed the House version of the bill and reserved the right to score against the Senate version. Ultimately, it reconsidered after House conservatives wrung several promises out of the Trump administration and Hill leadership.

"Last night, we facilitated negotiations and conversations on key policy issues that had been removed or modified from the House version," announced FRC President Tony Perkins on Thursday morning. "[W]e believe we will see policy outcomes that offset the changes made by the Senate."

Life Is Winning: Major Pro-Life Victories Signal a Turning Tide

By Brad Mattes, President, Life Issues Institute

America's unborn babies and the pro-life movement have achieved amazing victories recently!

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered bigtime last week.

In *Medina v. Planned Parenthood* the Court ruled it was constitutional for the South Carolina legislature to exclude the abortion giant from Medicaid reimbursement. This means the many states that have passed similar legislation can also exclude Planned Parenthood or other abortion facilities.

Medicaid reimbursement provides a significant amount to Big Abortion's annual budget. This could lead to a widescale closure of Planned Parenthood facilities.

With *Trump v. Casa* the Supreme Court significantly reduced the ability for District court judges to impose universal injunctions against the government. In this case the Trump administration's executive order negating citizenship for babies born in America to illegal aliens.

Without ruling on the citizen aspect, the Court's decision thwarted the efforts of Planned Parenthood, the ACLU and other extreme Left operatives from judge shopping to find a District judge who will issue an universal injunction favoring their point of view. A universal injunction would be applied to the entire nation instead of only the parties involved. This would hold pro-life actions captive until the two-plus years it takes to navigate the courts. Both sides of the political aisle have used this lawfare against their legal opponents, the Left far more often than the Right. But now the President's pro-life executive orders and federal pro-life legislation can't be stymied nationwide by a biased District judge.

In the case of *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Court ruled parents may opt out of objectional school curriculums that violate their deeply held religious beliefs, in this case children's books promoting transgenderism. This *may* help the pro-life cause when it comes to school sex education since homosexual rights are connected at the hip with pro-abortion activism.

President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill contains language that prevents taxpayers from being forced to fund Big Abortion for one year. This includes Planned Parenthood that last year killed over 400,000 babies by abortion and is currently receiving two million tax dollars every day.

If this bill passes with pro-life language included, Planned Parenthood has insinuated they may be forced to close 200 facilities. Even though their federal funding is stripped for only one year, the organization's infrastructure will quickly deteriorate. They will hemorrhage staff and struggle to pay their daily bills. This will be a significant blow to the nation's largest chain of abortion centers, and the rest of the abortion industry.

Recent encouraging developments will also positively impact our pro-life efforts.

Adriana Smith, the 30-year-old mother of a seven-year-old and pregnant with Chance, her unborn son had been kept on life support until her baby was able to live outside the womb. Chance is doing well at the hospital.

And extreme pro-abortion activists went apoplectic with her extreme Left in her X post. "I might be a monster for saying this, but I don't want that child to live. Because if it grows to live and have a decent life, then we as women are doomed to never escape the role of an incubator." I wholeheartedly agree with the first part of her statement.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that maternal mortality rates have dropped in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision. Pro-abortion advocates predicted that they would go up when states enacted protective legislation for the unborn and their mothers. Mortality rates dropped from 22.3 deaths per 100,000 live births to 18.6 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Countries that have protected their unborn citizens like Poland, Malta and Ireland (before legalizing abortion) enjoy(ed) low maternal mortality rates.

The maternal mortality rate for black women is 3.47 times higher than the maternal mortality rate for white women. It is interesting to note that black women are 3.41 times more likely to have an abortion than white women.

The pro-life movement has faced significant challenges since the *Dobbs* decision. But these recent amazing victories should give you encouragement! Please join us in thanking the Lord of life for these achievements.

Go out and do battle for life. Life is winning!

Update on Catholic Relief Services

Last quarter we reported on a letter put out by Population Research Institute stating that Catholic Relief Services is not living up to Catholic principles relating to pro-life issues but instead actually funds pro-abortion organizations. We warned all pro-life people to make sure their financial support only goes to organizations that align with their values.

Here is an update on this story, put out by Life Site News: The Trump administration has withdrawn funding from the left-leaning Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for 11 of its 13 aid programs. CRS claims to aid the poor while upholding "Catholic values." However, multiple PRI investigations have revealed CRS partnerships with groups promoting contraception and abortion, particularly in African countries. Defunding CRS is a critical step toward ensuring that taxpayer dollars do not fund anti-life agendas under the banner of Catholic charity. While serving the poor remains essential, the withdrawal of funds is a necessary measure to ensure that U.S. aid aligns with moral principles and does not inadvertently support practices contrary to the sanctity of life.

Thank God for Pro-Life Victories That Will Save Babies From Abortions

Frank Pavone, Washington, DC

Rejoicing in the Lord, and giving thanks for his victories, is a command of God's Word. In fact, not only are we told to rejoice in good times, but *always* (cf. Phil. 4:4), and not only are we told to give thanks for blessings, but for *all things* (cf. 1 Thess. 5:18). And we are in good times right now.

The pro-life movement saw the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade* three years ago. Last November, we saw election victories that not only advance our cause, but preserve the very tools we need to fight for this cause (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to protest peacefully, and more). And now we are on the cusp of the greatest victory since *Dobbs*, namely, the cutting off, by law, of the largest government funding stream for Planned Parenthood and the entire abortion industry. **So, we rejoice, and we give thanks.**

Some will decide not to rejoice, however. *Dobbs*, after all, did not mandate the protection of a single baby. And the Big Beautiful Bill stopped abortion funding for only one year instead of the original provision, which was ten years.

Yes, these facts are to be acknowledged, and yes, we want more. And we will be restless until we get more. But in that restlessness, in that very justified dissatisfaction, we must yet rejoice, because "Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). In that scene from the Book of Nehemiah, the law of the Lord was being read to the people, and they were weeping, realizing how far they were from practicing it.

But they were urged to rejoice, to focus not simply on how far they were from the moral standard. They were not to focus just on the circumstances of their weakness, but on the joy of the Lord, which would give them strength to keep going in life's spiritual warfare. So, it is with us.

Let's take the Big Beautiful Bill. Yes, we should be distressed that the funding restriction is only one year instead of ten. But what if it had passed with the ten-year provision? We could have rejoiced in that, or we could have said that *ten years is not enough*. Why should child-killing be funded in the 11th year? And we would be right.

Let's take this a step further. Let's say the law stopped abortion funding **permanently**. We could rejoice in that, or we could say, *Stopping the funding is not enough; we have to stop the killing*. And we would be right.

In other words, there is always more to win, more ground to conquer. But **the ground that has been conquered is cause for rejoicing**. Consider *Dobbs*. It does not end abortion, by any means.

In reality, it takes the courts to "neutral," by saying that there is no constitutional basis for preventing the people and their elected representatives from protecting the unborn. But what a victory that is.

Think about driving a car. If you are in reverse, how do you get into drive? You have to go through neutral first. Under *Roe*, we were in reverse. The Courts were saying we were **prohibited** from protecting the unborn. Now we are in neutral, with the Courts saying we are **permitted** to protect the unborn. Obviously, we want to get to drive, where the Courts saying we are **required** to protect the unborn.

The point is that neutral is better than reverse, and is a big step closer to drive. Let's also consider incremental legislation, that protects some babies but not all. Let's be clear: no abortion is ever justified, for any reason whatsoever. And every baby in the womb is a person deserving of full protection. No government has the right to authorize a single abortion.

So, when we see incremental legislation, if it represents as far as a legislative body is willing to go, that is not a limit **we** are choosing. It is a limit **imposed** on us. And the relevant question is not, *Are we morally permitted to support this legislation even though it doesn't protect all the babies?* That question can be analyzed in a moral theology classroom.

But we are in a battle to save lives. The more relevant question is this: *Do the babies who would be protected by this limited, imperfect law, have a right to be protected right now or not?* If they are persons who have a right to life that does not depend on the consensus of the people, or whether others are protected, then not only are we permitted to implement the law that would protect them, **we are required to do so**.

And that would be a victory in which we should rejoice. Indeed, times are good. Times are also evil, because each day, our hearts **must** be broken, our eyes must weep, over the daily killing of babies. But **rejoicing in the Lord must be our strength**, precisely because we **do have victories**, and we need that strength to win even more. Rejoice in the Lord and give thanks always!

Frank Pavone is national director of Priests for Life and the national pastoral director of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

Daviess County Right To Life Monthly Meeting is held the last week of each month at the Right To Life Office at 705 Troy Road. (Grace Baptist Church, Lower Level)
Phone: 812-486-3658

Daviess County Right To Life Aluminum Can Drive is the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, December from 9 AM till 12 noon at the Tractor Supply parking lot (old K-Mart lot). Other pick up points around the county are from 9-12 noon. If you can help, call Louis Kavanaugh at 486-3658. It would be greatly appreciated.
Sorry, we no longer accept newsprint!

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Are you aware of what is going on in the our country today with states like New York passing laws so that babies can be killed all the way up to the time of birth? What will happen next—will they come for the elderly? **Planned Parenthood** and other pro-abortion groups are all a part of this! Please support the local **Right to Life** with your contribution to help in the fight to defend life at all stages.

*If you have not renewed your membership, **now is the time!***

Use this coupon to mail in your contribution. Mail to:

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