



Lifeline

Pikes Peak Citizens for Life works to protect the innocent, helpless, vulnerable members of our human family - young and old, infirm and healthy, born and preborn.

Pikes Peak Citizens For Life

December 2023



It's important to stand for our convictions in truth and love when it comes to engaging others about the right to life.

Talking About Abortion this Holiday Season

If you're reading this, chances are you have a friend or family member who is pro-abortion. Or at least, who is not completely opposed to abortion. Abortion is usually one of those "political" or "religious" topics that people don't care to discuss at Christmas parties. But it's important to be prepared to engage if it comes up.

Here are 5 things to keep in mind as you visit with your family, friends, and co-workers at holiday events this December.

1. Be Compassionate

Some people who are pro-abortion are post-abortive. Whether they had an abortion themselves or were involved in an abortion, there could be a lot of personal pain behind their pro-abortion stance. There is also a lot of anti-life rhetoric out there. Some people are simply misinformed. Be kind even as you defend the truth about life.

2. Remain Calm

It's easy for discussions about abortion to escalate. It's important to stay calm and collected. Don't let negative emotions get in the way of the truth that you want to communicate. Keep your cool and dispel some of the misconceptions about pro-lifers being angry, self-righteous jerks.

3. Stay Strong

It's important to remember that when you defend the right to life, you are on the side of the truth. Be firm about your position. Don't be weak or passive. You are speaking for those who don't have a voice. Lives depend on us being strong and speaking the truth even when it is uncomfortable.

4. Know the Truth

Arm yourself with the facts. Know how abortions are performed. Learn some of the statistics about abortion. Become familiar with the laws in our state. You don't have to know everything--but try to have some basic familiarity with key facts. Some good resources to check out are (of course) the Pikes Peak Citizens for Life website (www.ppcitizensforlife.org), Live Action (www.liveaction.org), and the Charlotte Lozier Institute (www.lozierinstitute.org).

5. Ask Questions

As Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen say in their book *What to Say When*, "Abortion advocates take it for granted that you owe them an explanation for your pro-life views. It's time to turn the tables by going on offense and demanding an explanation for why it could ever be ok to kill a defenseless baby." A great way to do this is by asking questions. This shifts the burden away from you! By asking the right questions, you don't need to offer explanations or a defense of life. Instead, the pro-choice person is in the hot seat to defend their stance on murdering babies. It's difficult to defend that kind of position. Asking good questions might even help your pro-choice friend change their mind, or at least reconsider their thinking.

What to Say When is a great resource for having these kinds of conversations! You can purchase a copy at <https://40daysforlifegear.com/>.

Reference: <https://www.liveaction.org/news/how-talk-abortion-holiday-gatherings/>

What to Say When, Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen

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To schedule a PPCFL Presentation

Julie Bailey (719) 630-1999

Join us as a volunteer!!

Staff our office; assist with computer work; become a PPCFL church or group contact; assist with educational programs; staff an educational booth; or assist in fundraising. Feel free to bring fresh ideas or "Chair" a project... the opportunities are endless.

FREE Subscription: LifeLine Newsletter

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All-Volunteer / Tax Exempt Organization

PPCFL is an approved tax-exempt Public Charity under the IRS Code section 501(c)(3).

Donations are tax deductible.

Our EIN is 26-0770794.

Donate Online, or Send Your Gift to:

Pikes Peak Citizens For Life
707 N. Nevada Ave, Suite R (Rear)
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Is this a memorial? If so, for whom?

PPCFL does NOT sell or release any reader or donor information.



The President's Corner

Perhaps we need to reconsider how we communicate the pro-life message.

Since the *Dobbs* decision, [the pro-life movement hasn't won at the ballot box](#), with the latest example being the [passage of Issue 1 in Ohio](#) last month. Issue 1 enshrines abortion in the Ohio state constitution.

Worse, spurred by their victory in Ohio, [abortion advocates will be taking their strategy on the road](#) to upcoming elections in Arizona, Nevada, Florida, South Dakota and Nebraska.

As usual, the pro-life side was massively outspent in the Issue 1 campaign. Additionally, among the different groups that were working against Issue 1, the narrative was not unified.

On top of this, some of the pro-life messaging backfired, such as the "parental rights" argument, which didn't appeal to young voters. Also as usual, the pro-abortion side promoted disinformation, such as saying pro-life laws make miscarriage medical care illegal and that there would be no protections to save the life of the mother.

With the possibility of both pro-life and anti-life initiatives appearing on Colorado's ballot in 2024, **we have the opportunity to learn any lessons we can from what has already transpired in other states as well as what has previously occurred in Colorado.**

With this purpose in mind, PPCFL intends to hold a **special Together for Life event on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** to consider how we can better communicate the pro-life message and counter the anti-life message. Please join us (and invite family and friends to come as well!) on **Sunday, January 21, 2024** at 1:30 pm at St. Gabriel Catholic Church here in Colorado Springs.

Matt



Equal Protection Initiative

By Julie Bailey, PPCFL Vice President

If you haven't already, you will probably soon encounter folks gathering signatures on petitions to get the Equal Protection of Every Living Child in Colorado initiative on the ballot for November 2024. The initiative text is available at www.gotaheart.org.

The initiative sponsors, Faye Barnhart and Angela Eichner, are leading this most recent effort to eradicate the scourge of abortion from our beloved state. Their aim is to mobilize church communities throughout Colorado to gather signatures and promote the initiative. They believe that if they can activate 20% more Christian voters than in previous elections the initiative will not only be placed on the ballot but also will pass.

As PPCFL President Matt Niedzielski mentioned in his column in last month's newsletter, this initiative does not have the full-throated support of all pro-life organizations and individuals in Colorado. Some believe the timing of what is essentially a personhood initiative is imprudent. Others are concerned that the language of the initiative could be interpreted to call for the criminalization of women who choose abortion.

There is also an argument that the pro-life community should focus entirely on defeating a proposed amendment to the state constitution enshrining the right to abortion and removing the prohibition currently in Colorado law regarding public funds (your tax money) paying for abortion.

At Pikes Peak Citizens for Life, we encourage our readers and supporters to read the initiative and decide for themselves whether or not to support the effort. Should you decide to help gather signatures, petitions can be picked up at the Church at Briargate, 9550 Otero Ave, Colorado Springs, CO, 80920, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Judge Blocks Law Banning Abortion Pill Reversal

News from our PPCFL Blog by [Matt Niedzielski](#)

A federal judge has ruled in favor of Bella Health and Wellness and against Senate Bill 23-190 regarding abortion pill reversal.

The state legislature and governor tried to ban abortion pill reversal earlier this year by [passing Senate Bill 23-190](#). Bella Health and Wellness challenged the law immediately and has recently prevailed in federal court. Background on the case can be seen [at the website for Becket Law](#).

What's not mentioned is the hypocrisy of SB23-190 in light of the [Reproductive Health Equity Act](#), passed last year by the Colorado legislature and governor. That act specifically notes: "A pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue a pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion and to make decisions about how to exercise that right." (25-6-403(2)).

Abortion pill reversal is all about a woman wanting to exercise her right to continue a pregnancy, but the legislature and governor don't want to grant her that right, even though it is there in the Reproductive Health Equity Act, an act which they themselves made law just last year!

Thank you, Bella Health and Wellness and Becket Law, for your efforts to defend life and the right of women to continue their pregnancies!

Memorial Gift

Received from

Raul Acosta

in memory of



*"Alexandra" Sandy
Acosta*

~~~~~  
Our thanks & blessings

## Become a First Responder: New Course from Save the Storks

In partnership with the American Association of Christian Counselors, Save the Storks recently launched The Storks Advocate Responder Training, or START, aimed at equipping participants to have a compassionate conversation with those facing an unplanned pregnancy, and connect them with the resources needed to choose life.

Think of it as a first aid course for pro-life ministry! This 2-hour video series provides theological foundations for caring for all life, outlines healthy communication tools, and provides an understanding of how to point people to local resources and find holistic help.

This highly professional, easily accessible series is divided into short (8 min.) videos ideal for pro-life folks who want the tools to have non-judgmental, helpful dialogue with a woman experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. The course is free of charge but priceless. Register at [www.startcourse.org](http://www.startcourse.org)

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**Tax Donation Letters are mailed in January.**

If you made a donation to PPCFL  
of more than \$250 in 2023,  
you will automatically receive a letter.  
To receive an official letter for smaller  
amounts, please contact John at  
jmrcombs@centurylink.net.

**Coming Soon...**

**January 15, 2024: Rocky Mountain Rally and March for Life**



Join us for the Annual Rocky Mountain March for Life! The day begins with a rally and talks on the sidewalk near Planned Parenthood at 9:00 a.m. (For parking, if you intend to join the march, plan to arrive at Corpus Christi Catholic Church at 2318 N Cascade Ave. between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. and

ride the shuttle up to the sidewalk.) The March for Life will commence from Planned Parenthood at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude at Corpus Christi Catholic Church where we will share more prayer, Catholic Mass, lunch, and fellowship.

**April 12, 2024: Colorado March for Life**

The Rally will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver. At noon, we will march around the capitol grounds (approximately 45 minutes).

***Together for Life***



On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision instantly shattered pro-life laws nationwide, and gave parents the "right" to hire a doctor to kill their children prior to birth. By June 2022, when Roe was finally overturned, more than 60 million children were dead and liberal politicians were poised to expand and radicalize state-level abortion laws.

Since 1984, the third Sunday of January has been designated National Sanctity of Human Life Day. As the fight to defend ALL Human Life continues, PPCFL will host a "Together for Life" event so we can discuss ways to better communicate the pro-life message in our current environment. Join us on **Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 1:30 pm** in the parish hall at **St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church** (8755 Scarborough Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920).