



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

April 2024

IVF, Alabama, and the *Real* Problem

By Julie Bailey, PPCFL Vice-President

Pikes Peak Citizens for Life has always held as a defining belief that human life begins at conception and that every human life has dignity and should be respected and protected. The recent ruling by the Alabama State Supreme Court [supported](#) this belief when it declared on February 16, 2024, that embryos created through In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) should be considered children and are protected under the state's wrongful death statute.



Subsequently, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed into law a bill with bipartisan support ensuring that IVF treatments could continue in her state. She commented, "Alabama works to foster a culture of life, and that certainly includes IVF." Many other lawmakers and politicians of all stripes have similarly characterized IVF as pro-life and worthy of support. **But is IVF truly pro-life?**

Before Roe was overturned, fertility doctor Natalie Crawford [noted](#) on Twitter (now X), "Roe allowed IVF ... When we protect reproductive rights we inherently say that embryos are not autonomous and can't exist independently. This means that we don't grant embryos rights. This means I am allowed to utilize reproductive technology to help people get pregnant. Because I can fertilize eggs, freeze embryos, test embryos, and transfer/discard embryos. This is essential for safe, accessible and effective IVF care. IVF is a tool that allows so many babies to be born. The fear is that when Roe is overturned states will then individually decide their stance on this matter and personhood bills threaten this. If life begins legally at fertilization—then we are limited in the above technology."

All children, regardless of the manner of their conception, deserve love and protection. It is not

my intent here to criticize either children conceived by IVF or parents who have utilized this technology to grow their families.

However, I ask you to consider the following facts surrounding IVF:

1. There are currently (estimated) **over one million frozen embryos** stored in the U.S.
2. Most IVF treatments create many embryos (usually, about 15 for every woman attempting to conceive through IVF), while only a few are implanted during a cycle. **Only 7%** of embryos created through IVF survive. Those remaining are frozen, discarded, or used in scientific research. **When several (3 or more) embryos are implanted and viable, fertility doctors will often recommend "selective reduction" (a.k.a. abortion) of one or more of the viable embryos.**
3. Current IVF practice allows for destruction and selection of embryos based on physical traits like eye color or disabilities such as Downs Syndrome.

And here are several other questions to consider:

1. Is it pro-life to support surrogate pregnancies? IVF treatments combined with surrogacy are widely used by same-sex couples to create the children they want but cannot conceive and bear naturally.
2. Is it pro-life to make children in a laboratory setting, separate from the loving embrace of a mother and father?
3. Is it pro-life to believe one is entitled to have a child and to have a child by any available means?
4. Is it pro-life to make childbearing into a commercial enterprise?

If by pro-life, we mean an ethic that honors the dignity of every child (every embryo), I propose that we need to think long and hard about these questions.

Reference:

<https://www.hli.org/2024/02/alabama-court-decision-ethics-of-ivf/>
<https://twitter.com/ncrawfordmd/status/1522676693160312832>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2255107/1-7-million-embryos-created-ivf-thrown-away-just-7-cent-lead-pregnancy.html>

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The President's Corner

Some recent legislative results remind us that we should never take anything for granted.

First, in the state House of Representatives, two pro-life bills, [House Bill 24-1106](#) ("Require Information about Abortion Pill Reversal") and [House Bill 24-1224](#) ("Personhood of Living Unborn Human Child") were brought before House committees and defeated on party line votes.

We profusely thank local Representative Scott Bottoms for introducing these bills even though the current composition of the House made approval highly unlikely.

Why should we expend effort where success is highly unlikely? Well, because sometimes success comes when you least expect it!

An example can be seen in the anti-life [Senate Bill 24-068](#) ("Medical Aid-in-Dying") which aims to make assisted suicide easier in Colorado. I expected another party line vote on this bill and, since the Colorado legislature is heavily weighted to the anti-life position, I assumed passage of the bill was nearly a sure thing. I testified against it anyway, and heard some amazing testimony from medical personnel who were valiantly defending the position that medicine is about helping people to live, not to die.

SB24-068 was moved on to the whole Senate which has since approved it. Surprisingly, three Republican senators, including our own Republican Senator Larry Liston, took the *anti-life* position and voted *for* the bill! In yet another surprise, our own Democrat Senator Tony Exum assumed the *pro-life* stance and voted *against* the bill!

So, we can't assume that Republicans will support life nor can we assume all Democrats are in lock-step with the culture of death.

There is always the potential for the culture of life to shine through the darkness, so ***there is no wrong time*** to defend life or to oppose anything against life.

As you receive this newsletter, pro-life ([Initiative 81, the "Protections for a Living Child" initiative](#)) and anti-life ([Initiative 89, the "Right to Abortion" initiative](#)) petition efforts will be concluding as well as numerous political assemblies all across the state.

Let us continue to support life in all these activities and never take anything for granted!

Matt

"Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world. Don't ever underestimate the beauty and power of the witness you give in your pro-life work."

–Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia Charles Chaput, April 8, 2011

Drugstores Dispensing Death

By Julie Bailey, PPCFL Vice-President

Your local drugstore may soon expand its distribution of chemical abortion. Although Plan B, also known as emergency contraception, has long been available at drugstores without prescription and can cause a very early abortion, Walgreens & CVS pharmacies were scheduled to begin dispensing the abortion pill (Mifepristone/Mifeprex) by prescription in selected states in March after a lengthy certification process.

[According to Fox News](#) and other news outlets, Walgreens announced March 1 that it would begin distribution of the first pill (Mifepristone) of the abortion pill regimen (the second pill, Misoprostol, is widely available and requires no special certification) at select stores in New York, California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. CVS has announced it will begin dispensing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Both chains say they will continue to expand distribution in additional states, as allowed by law, on a rolling basis.

While a prescription is required to obtain mifepristone from one of these drug stores, there is no longer a federal requirement of an in-person doctor visit, an ultrasound, or any lab-work prior to issuing a prescription. The abortion pill regimen is FDA-approved for up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. However, if there is no ultrasound required, there will be no way to confirm that a pregnancy is not farther along. Severe complications are associated with the abortion pill at any time, but they increase in severity as the pregnancy advances. There is also no way to determine whether a pregnancy may be located outside the uterus (for example, an ectopic pregnancy) which can put a woman's life in grave danger if undiagnosed. The abortion pill is not effective in these cases.

By the time this newsletter is printed, the Supreme Court will have heard the case of Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine (AHM) vs. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Although the Supreme Court may not yet have issued their ruling on this case, we may have a good idea as to whether mifepristone will continue to be dispensed without safeguards, if at all. There's a great explanation of the lawsuit at <https://lozierinstitute.org/what-is-the-truth-about-the-alliance-for-hippocratic-medicine-v-u-s-food-and-drug-administration-lawsuit/>

There are several organizations that have sponsored and supported boycotts against Walgreens and CVS. While PPCFL cannot condone any unlawful behavior, protesting on the public right-of-way near these stores can help bring awareness to the issue. For ideas and graphics please visit <https://www.stopabortionrx.com/>.

Reference:
<https://www.foxbusiness.com/healthcare/walgreens-cvs-pro-life-groups-dangerous-decision-sell-abortion-pill>

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Received from

*Theresa Lenski & J.
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in memory of



Dani's Babies

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Our thanks & blessings

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If you have received the paper newsletter in error, please call 719-630-1999 or email contact@ppcitizensforlife.org

Coming Soon...

June 1, 2024: 37th Annual Walk for Life

The annual Life Network Walk for Life will be held on June 1, 2024 at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs. The Walk for Life is a simple way for people of all ages to get involved by actively demonstrating support for the value of human life – and a desire to make a difference in the lives of women, men, students and babies in our community.

By raising funds and walking yourself or sponsoring another walker for the Walk for Life, you are directly helping the ministry of Life Network advance its mission to cultivate a community that values life through the love of Christ. For more information, visit <https://www.walkforlife.com>.



Info sessions for church partners will be offered on April 4 in the evening and April 6 in the morning. Contact Life Network to participate or represent your church at 719-591-2609.

Colorado March for Life

Come to the Colorado March for Life on April 12 at the Colorado State Capitol!

7:30-8:15 a.m.: Bus pickup (various locations)

9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass at St. Mark in Highlands Ranch

11:00 a.m.: Rally at Colorado State Capitol. Keynote speaker is Alexandra DeSanctis, co-author of *Tearing Us Apart: How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing*.

Noon: March (just under 1 mile)

Spaces are still available on charter buses from Colorado Springs! To sign up, contact Julie Bailey at jbailey@diocs.org or sign up online at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAAD2CAAFAC07-47238658-colorado#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAAD2CAAFAC07-47238658-colorado#/)