Our Commonwealth is one of the national leaders for the **SANCTITY OF LIFE!**

Grace and Truth are needed to address ANY issue effectively, that’s why the Church and Church people must lead the way.

In the late 1980’s Dr. James Dobson, Founder and President of Focus on the Family, made this statement: “America is involved in a Civil War of values, and the prize to the winner is the next generation of children.” Sadly, he was painfully correct. Since 1973, through abortion alone, America has sacrificed 60 million unborn children – **MORE THAN** a generation of children. And there are other forces of culture that have consumed additional members of subsequent generations.

Dobson’s “Civil War” metaphor was heartrendingly accurate – harkening back to the tragic issue of slavery. And, as history repeats itself, American Christians must try to undo another gross miscarriage of justice by the United States government, and in particular, by the U.S. Supreme Court. Just as slavery denied the inalienable “right to liberty” listed in the Declaration of Independence, so abortion has denied another of those inalienable rights, the “right to life.”

Grace and Truth

“There is nothing Compassionate about terminating an unborn child’s life or subjecting his/her mother to the painful reality that she made that decision. There is nothing Truthful about saying an unborn child is just a ‘blob of tissue’ or denying that he/she is alive or has God-given potential. We need exactly the opposite – speaking the Truth about the living, unborn child and offering honest Compassion to those caught in an untimely pregnancy and who need help.”

Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

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State bills challenge Roe

Utah – Feb. 26 (18 Week Ban)
Arkansas – March 13 (18 Week Ban)
**Kentucky** – March 14 (Heartbeat)
Mississippi – March 19 (Heartbeat)
Georgia – March 29 (Heartbeat)
Ohio – April 10 (Heartbeat)
Alabama – May 14 (Total Ban)
Missouri – May 17 (Heartbeat)
Louisiana – May 29 (Heartbeat)

*KY passed 2019’s first Heartbeat bill*

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Continued on bottom of page 2
After a 10-year drought on pro-life legislation, the “flood gates” opened as legislators moved forward to play “catch-up.”

Though Kentucky has been a “pro-life” state for several decades, with polls in the late 1980s- early 1990s showing 80% of Kentuckians supported abortion being illegal, it was not until the last few years that pro-life legislation has flourished. Legislation of, for, and on the Truth side essentially stacks the legal playing field for the care of both the unborn and their mothers. Without doubt, the motivation of new laws can be compassion (Grace) for both mother and child, but the overarching impact of laws is Truth.

Even though Kentucky has been strong pro-life since the 1990s, various political leaders after the turn of the century kept all pro-life legislation from coming to the House Floor for debate and a vote. The 2017 “Homicide Bill” passed before a 10-year moratorium, during which time the House would take place all on new pro-life bills.

The 2006 bill was Rep. Bob Dumen’s (D-Nicholasville) House Bill 108 – “Fetal Hormone Bill” – authorizing the prosecution of someone who had killed a pregnant woman with two or more live-born children. This time, it was an abortion doctor, the killing of an unborn child was to be manslaughter.

Legislation of, for, and on the Truth side essentially stacks the legal playing field for the care of both the unborn and their mothers. Legislation establishes plumb lines for the care of both the unborn and their mothers.

Legislation, of course, is on the Truth side of the Grace and Truth equation. Legislation establishes plumb lines for the care of both the unborn and their mothers.

In the first Session following the 2016 election of legislative members, the House and Senate passed two pro-life bills in the first five days (along with several other bills), working on a Saturday in an unprecedented move to get them through both chambers.

In the 2017 Session, there were many pro-life bills passed. An additional four pro-life bills were passed and signed into law (see Atti-AttIdx- right) Now, with states across the nation working to update their abortion laws, there is serious speculation that the U.S. Supreme Court could choose to re-examine the entire 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, perhaps allowing each state to decide its own policy. If that happens, the motivation of new laws can be compassion (Grace) for both mother and child, but the overarching impact of laws is Truth. Michigan passed a similar bill, with legislators from both parties supporting it.

The Value of Life

The value of life is eliminated. Therefore, life has no intrinsic meaning and purpose. That too is now a matter and irrelevant to public policy, the very foundation that gives meaning and purpose to life is eliminated. Therefore, once a heartbeat is detected it is not just about a woman’s body, but abortion is the killing of an innocent individual person. The state mandates that the woman pays all costs associated with the procedure, if she is wanted or if she still choose to live. Therefore, the value of life is eliminated. Therefore, once a heartbeat is detected it is not just about a woman’s body, but abortion is the killing of an innocent individual person. The state mandates that the woman pays all costs associated with the procedure, if she is wanted or if she still choose to live. Therefore, the value of life is eliminated.
are saving lives and shaping futures of young mothers

Their areas of service. They are staffed, in part, by numerous volunteers who simply want to help the women in need within their communities. They express the care and support that women need in their trial — the Centers offer meeting women at their point of need and serving them without judgement.

To become a state with a comprehensive “culture of life” it takes many people and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because the nation on this, and many other issues, becomes more and more believable. The Kentucky has many things going for it and the opportunity to be a leader, at all levels and in all spheres will be necessary because “Nothing moves unless it is pushed.” Fortunately, many Kentuckians are pushing as hard as they can for the goal, “No abortions are done here.”

Gracie: Like the Israeli midwives in Egypt, Help Centers are saving lives and shaping futures of young mothers. Because those serving in these Centers are willing to roll up their sleeves and work, Kentucky can lead this entire nation in the sanctity of life.

13th year that CHOOSE LIFE license plate dollars have supported Pregnancy Help Centers that serve the women of Kentucky. This year marks the 13th year that CHOOSE LIFE license plate dollars have supported Pregnancy Help Centers that serve the women of Kentucky.

The big winners in the “CHOICE” license plate project have always been the Kentucky women who are caught in an untimely pregnancy and who do not feel that they have any control over the events generated by the plates. The donated money is delivered annually to The Family Foundation by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The first time you secure a CHOOSE LIFE specialty plate, the cost is $41.00, with $10 going to the Pregnancy Help Center(s) that serve your county. (See next page.) After the first purchase, the cost remains $41.00 each year, with another $10 going to the Center(s) that serve your county.

Find the Help Center nearest you. Centers are listed by county.

Pregnancy Help Centers dot the Kentucky landscape.

GRACE:

Pregnancy Help Centers’ clients receive totally FREE, confidential, and non-denominational counseling, putting their “shoulder to the wheel.” It is important to note that Kentucky has over 630 Bible-centered churches. Though not all engage the issues and debates in Franklin, it is true that, generally speaking, they preach from the life position that is clearly stated in the Scriptures.

In more and more of these churches come on board to manifest Grace and Truth, the promise of Kentucky being light to the nation on this, and many other issues, becomes more and more believable.

The Kentucky has many things going for it and the opportunity to be a leader, at all levels and in all spheres will be necessary because “Nothing moves unless it is pushed.” Fortunately, many Kentuckians are pushing as hard as they can for the goal, “No abortions are done here.”

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A law passed this year has changed the “specialty plate” cost — it’s now very simple.

You’ll be making a stand for life and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because Pregnancy Help Centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.

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Kentucky has five pro-life bills “in court”

Kentucky is simply doing its part – albeit a LARGE part – in challenging the wisdom of the 1973 Roe v Wade decision.

The past two years have been busy in federal courts for Kentucky’s laws that protect life and women. Not only have the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and EMW Women’s Surgical Center sued the Commonwealth over new laws, they have begun to file legal challenges over long-existing law as well. The result is that five statutes have been challenged. Thus far, all are still being litigated.

What has prompted the increase in court activity? It was the change in the Kentucky House Leadership, due to the 2016 general election. (See “TRUTH: Kentucky has led the nation with 10 new pro-life bills passed in the last 10 years” on page 2)

The Ultrasound Bill

The General Assembly passed two pro-life bills in January of 2017 and Gov. Bevin signed one into law on Jan. 7, the other on Jan. 9. House Bill 2 – Informed Consent Ultrasound Bill – was the first of the two. The ACLU and EMW Women’s Surgical Center immediately challenged the law in Federal District Court in Louisville.

In September that year, Judge David Hale, a President Obama appointee, struck down the ultrasound requirement saying it violated physicians’ free speech rights. The Attorney General chose not to engage, so Bevin’s attorneys appealed the ruling to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. In April of this year, a three-judge panel ruled 2-1 to overturn Hale’s decision. The opinion reinstating the need for an ultrasound for informed consent prior to an abortion was written by Judge John Bush, a President Trump appointee.

On May 20 the plaintiffs (pro-choice advocates) appealed for an en banc decision by the entire 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Banning Dismemberment Abortion

During the 2018 General Assembly, legislators passed House Bill 454 – Human Rights of the Unborn Child Act. This bill banned the LIVE dismemberment of unborn children. Currently, dismemberment abortions are allowed on live, pre-born children. The gruesome procedure consists of tearing off body parts in utero, ultimately causing the child to bleed to death. Once the abortion is complete, a staff member re-assembles the body parts to ensure all of the baby has been removed.

After passage, the ACLU and EMW immediately went to federal court to defend the practice of live dismemberment and Judge Joseph McKinley, a President Clinton appointee, enjoined the new law – holding it until a final ruling. A bench trial was held in Western District Court, Louisville in November, 2018. On May 9 of this year, McKinley ruled that HB 454 was unconstitutional. On May 15, Bevin’s attorneys filed notice of appeal with the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, and have pledged to go all the way to the Supreme Court. Based on the reasoning of McKinley’s opinion, some court watchers believe the decision is vulnerable to being overturned.

Transport and Transfer Statute

In September of 2018, President Obama appointee Judge Greg Stivers struck down Kentucky’s Transport and Transfer Agreement Statute. This law, which had been in place since 1998, required surgical abortion clinics to have arrangements made with an ambulance company and local hospital to transport and transfer the care of their abortion patients when emergencies arise.

Once again, Bevin appealed the federal ruling. Sixteen other states filed a joint amicus brief supporting the 1998 Kentucky statute. However, Attorney General Andy Beshear, along with 21 attorneys general from other states, filed several amicus briefs against the statute.

Then, in late March of 2019, Planned Parenthood petitioned the Court to find Bevin in contempt for not issuing an abortion facility license to them.

Non-Discrimination and Heartbeat Bills

Four pro-life bills passed the General Assembly in 2019. Two of them, House Bill 5 – Non-Discrimination Act and Senate Bill 9 – Heartbeat Bill, were immediately challenged by the ACLU in federal court. Judge Hale, the same Obama appointee who struck down the ultrasound law, has enjoined both new laws until the final ruling in district court.

Because the Attorney General has not weighed-in, each of these five bills that have been challenged and must be litigated by the Governor’s own legal team.

States’ momentum building to overturn Roe

Justices show some willingness to overturn precedent as pro-life efforts targeting the infamous 1973 decision come to a head.

On May 14, the five conservative justices of the U.S. Supreme Court joined together to overturn a 40-year-old court precedent because they believed it to be “an incorrect resolution of an important constitutional question.”

Though the case had nothing to do with abortion, the ruling resulted in the four liberal justices issuing a warning in their dissent and a media frenzy ensued over the possible willingness of those same five justices to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 46-year-old case legalizing abortion.

Momentum for overturning Roe has been building since the 1973 case legalized abortion and established the trimester framework governing when and why states could regulate it.

In fact, a 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision saw three justices arguing to abolish part of the Roe trimester framework and a fourth justice arguing to overturn the case altogether.

Planned Parenthood v. Casey then came close to overturning Roe in 1992, but instead opted for significantly modifying the trimester framework. The Court declared that “in practice it undervalues the State’s interest in potential life.”

But the Court left intact what it considered the central holding of Roe, that “a state
The Value of EVERY Life

People should be able to make choices free from the moral restraints of the religious views of others. That’s what liberals and even libertarians have long argued because, after all, “you can’t legislate morality.” However, every law is just that – a moral decision. The question is “whose morals?”

Our country’s guiding documents are replete with moral principles – statements about what is important, what is “valued.” Based on moral principles, American colonists declared they had a right to found a new nation. They included “the right to life” and the principle that rights are endowed to us by “Our Creator.”

So, what happened when our nation’s foundational moral principals were ignored in public policy decisions? In the name of liberation, we claimed we should not be subject to the moral restraints of someone else’s religion, and established the “right to end life” calling it “reproductive choice” and “assisted suicide.”

Proponents would say these are private decisions that should be made between a patient and their physician. But are they only private decisions? Is there no public consequence to these decisions?

There’s the obvious consequence, in the case of abortion, to unborn children.

There is also a second, less obvious, consequence. Since the law is a teacher, the second consequence is what abortion and assisted suicide teach us about the value of life in our culture.

The value of life has become situational, not intrinsic. Now, your life is only valuable if you are wanted or if you still choose to live. Therefore, the value of every life has become negotiable or subjective – arbitrary, not inherent.

There is no other way to interpret parents mourning the loss of a miscarriage in one treatment room while parents arrange the “termination” of their unborn child in another or a doctor administering drugs to prolong or improve the life of one patient then, in the next room, intentionally ending the life of another with the same condition.

The meaning of life has also been impacted by the intentional resistance we see to the Judeo-Christian ethic in the public square. “Separation of church and state” has become the antidote to any policy suggestion offered by people of faith. Denying the relevance of religious ethic for our policy decisions is not only historically and legally baseless, it also instructs society’s view of life.

A faith paradigm provides meaning and purpose for the struggles, the accomplishments, the joys and the sacrifices of life. Even without knowing why “bad things happen to good people” people of faith know there is an ultimate design and purpose to their life. In essence, the acknowledgement of “Our Creator” gives life meaning and purpose.

If “Our Creator” is no longer welcome in the public square, if faith is only a private matter and irrelevant to public policy, the very foundation that gives meaning and purpose to life is eliminated. Therefore, life has no intrinsic meaning and purpose. That too is now arbitrary.

When the Soviet Union dissolved, Russian leaders asked American Christians to teach the Bible in their public schools. They were desperate for meaning and hope because life had so little value in the Soviet Union once the Government eliminated faith from the public dialogue.

Since our law now teaches that “life has no inherent value” and “life has no meaning or purpose,” is it any wonder that many of our younger people are unmotivated, aimless, hopeless or depressed? That we see an uptick in drug abuse, suicide, violence and disdain for one another?

Decisions individuals about life make are not simply private. They are decisions that impact the entire society. They prove or disprove, confirm or deny the value and meaning of all life and of every life in America.

Continued from page 6

five other states are actually down to just one abortion provider.

As of March, over 250 bills restricting abortion have been filed in 41 states during 2019. Nearly half are aimed at banning abortion in some or all circumstances.

Forty-three states prohibit abortions, generally except when necessary to protect the woman’s life or health, after a specified point in pregnancy. Fourteen draw the line at viability, the earliest point allowed; six do so at the earliest ages of viability; and 24 draw the line before viability in a direct challenge to Roe.

On May 15, Alabama’s governor signed a law making performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony. There are more than twenty court cases in the pipeline that could challenge Roe, if they make it to the U.S. Supreme Court. A Court which now has a conservative majority.

States are beginning to ensure they have a policy in place for if Roe is overturned and authority is returned to the states.

Kentucky and eighteen others have laws in place that will place restrictions on abortion if that occurs.

As America anxiously waits for everything to come to a head, it appears that the hope of pro-life advocates and despair of pro-abortion activists are both warranted.

NATIONAL TRENDS IN STATE LAWS

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Bills – Kentucky and at least 16 other states have enacted legislation prohibiting abortion after the unborn child is 20 weeks old, when science indicates they may feel pain.

Unborn Non-Discrimination Acts – Kentucky again is a leader. 14 states have enacted laws meant to prohibit abortions sought because of the characteristics of the unborn child. Kentucky and three other states prohibited it based on sex, race, or genetic anomaly. Eight states prohibit based on sex alone. Two states only based on genetic anomaly.

Live Dismemberment Ban – Kentucky and at least 10 other states have enacted laws prohibiting the live dismemberment of an unborn child after a certain age.

Fetal Heartbeat Bills – Kentucky and seven other states have enacted legislation banning abortion after the unborn child’s heartbeat is detectable, which usually occurs at six weeks gestation. Similar legislation has passed one legislative chamber in another state, and has been introduced in at least eight other states this year.
The Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn comforts men and women who’ve lost an unborn child

Abortion is perhaps the most difficult adversity a woman can experience. This Memorial offers a unique place of remembrance & closure.

With the legislative efforts and the state’s educational organizations shedding light on the realities of abortion (TRUTH), and with the pregnancy care centers sharing down-to-earth compassion with those in untimely pregnancies (GRACE), the other key component to help affect full healing in Kentucky is an effort to comfort those who have lost an unborn child, but have never had the opportunity to properly memorialize their loss.

“This Memorial is an outreach to all who labor under the painful loss of an unborn child by providing a special place of remembrance and closure,” said Kathy Rutledge, chairperson of the Committee that constructed the Memorial. “Families can find healing from the pain of miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion by honoring a child who was never given a proper burial.”

The Memorial is on a beautiful site in the historic Frankfort Cemetery, high on a bluff overlooking the Kentucky River and the State Capitol building. The centerpiece of the project is a life-sized bronze statue of Rachel Weeping for Her Children based on Jeremiah 31:15-17. “A voice was heard in Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children who are no more . . . but, there is hope.”

The task before the Committee now is to let every Kentucky citizen know that the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn exists and that it can be a place of rest for all those who mourn an unborn child. Citizens from across the state are invited to inscribe their lost child’s name in the granite wall.

Those who have labored to see this vision come to pass point out that it not only helps the individual or individuals who have suffered such a loss, but it also stands in our midst, collectively honoring the unborn as a testimony to the sanctity of unborn human life.

The Memorial is an original design created by Landscape Architect Mark Arnold. As Rutledge shared her personal story, she said, “Mark remarked that he was envisioning a ‘Wailing Wall’ that enfolded in the shape of a womb.” When Arnold presented his drawing, the artistic result was nothing less than astonishing. She believes God guided his hand to create a beautiful design that would miraculously touch and heal many broken hearts for years to come.

A granite memorial wall bears the inscriptions for unborn children and its stone mounting wall gradually recedes into the womb-like section that showcases the bronze statue of Rachel. Beneath Rachel, a symbolic spring reminds mourners that a Shepherd will guide them to living water, “. . . and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Rev. 7:17) The Memorial is designed to be a garden where those who have lost an unborn child can finally experience and release the buried grief they have carried in silence. The road to healing can be a long journey, but a walk through this healing and living garden will help pave the way.

You can choose to memorialize the unborn child you lost

The Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn will be engraving new inscription orders soon. If you would like to remember an unborn child on the granite wall, you may place your order online by visiting www.KyMemorialfortheUnborn.org

Inscriptions are engraved directly on the black granite wall in a 3" x 10" space. Each inscription allows for two lines of text, 21 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation. More photos of the memorial site are posted on the website (listed in previous paragraph) and on Facebook.

If you would like to remember your child and need financial assistance to do so, please contact Kathy Rutledge at (859)230-5362 or email kgr1110@aol.com for confidential assistance.

This CITIZEN publication is offered by your local pregnancy help center and The Family Foundation. (The Family Foundation is a Kentucky nonprofit educational organization that works in the public policy arena on behalf of the family and the values that make families strong.)

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