

LIFE ISSUES

CONNECTOR



Vice President Mike Pence

speaks in Nashville,
Tennessee celebrating the
merger of Life Issues Institute
with Susan B. Anthony List.

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Let's Focus on Fathers

WE LIVE DURING A TIME when a father's importance in the family has been downplayed. Men have also been sidelined when it comes to the decision of abortion. Particularly when addressing abortion's aftermath, the needs of dads are overlooked.

Leading the way for change is the Men and Abortion Network (MAN), comprised of experts in this field. I am honored to be a founding member. We've developed a website exclusively for them with a plethora of resources. There are new postings every month, and men can request a free peer-counselor from wherever they live. Visit MenandAbortion.net for details.

There is a healthy and growing partnership between MAN and pro-life women help centers and clinics. Many now have on-site resources for men such as peer-counselors, materials and mentors.

Men should be encouraged to actively participate in the abortion decision. The father of an unborn baby has considerable influence on the mother's abortion decision regardless of the level of their relationship.

Why are men affected? The Creator wired man's brain with a strong desire to provide for and protect their offspring. Obviously, many men override this inclination, however, they do so at the risk of experiencing symptoms which can include: anger, sleeplessness, panic attacks, flashbacks, nightmares, self-imposed isolation or even suicidal tendencies.

Men may experience these symptoms without associating them with abortion. Why? Society gives men no incentive to mourn emotionally for the death of their unborn child. We're agonizingly slow to acknowledge abortion's impact on mothers, so it's no surprise there are few sympathies for men. But too much is at stake.

Considering that over 60 million babies have been sacrificed on the altar of abortion since 1973, we shouldn't be surprised that their fathers – many of them deeply grieving – are all around us.

They're in our workplaces, churches and neighborhoods. They share the same golf courses, airports and grocery stores. They are everywhere. And they need to know that we are ready to reach out in love to help them.

They must be assured that they're not alone and there is help for their anguished hearts. We can help them take the first steps in a difficult but rewarding journey. At times it will be a painful process. Facing the death of a child always is, particularly if it was intentional.

There is a place where they can be listened to, respected and, at times, challenged, but in the end, they will come out a new person. It's time hurting fathers came out of the shadows and into the light of healing. Help us spread the word. 



BRADLEY MATTES



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Connector Editor | Mike Sabo



LIFE ISSUES
INSTITUTE

'A Match Made in Heaven'

Life Issues Institute becomes the Pro-life Grassroots Partner of Susan B. Anthony List

by Mike Sabo | Communications Associate, Life Issues Institute

LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE is proud to partner with Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life organization based just outside of Washington, D.C. The SBA List mission is to elect pro-life women and men to Congress and statewide office who advocate for laws and policies that protect women and unborn children. SBA List's namesake, the famous suffragette Susan B. Anthony, was adamantly opposed to abortion, seeing it as the taking of a human life as well as exploitative of women.

Elections and Laws for Life

SBA List president Marjorie Dannenfelser founded the organization in 1992, the "Year of the Woman," so-called for the record number of women who were elected to Congress that year. Marjorie and her friends noted that not a single newly-elected woman was pro-life and sought to correct this imbalance. Through voter education, training and equipping pro-life candidates and activists and countering the many distortions perpetuated by the abortion lobby, SBA List is working to end abortion in America by electing pro-life leaders who will pass laws that save lives.

SBA List currently has over 630,000 members nationwide. In the 2016 election, more than 700 SBA List canvasser activists visited more than 1.1 million voters in battleground states,

educating them about their senators' record on abortion and urging them to turn out and vote pro-life. SBA List's person-to-person campaign tactics work! In the last two election cycles, SBA List has won in all 10 races they have engaged. All told, the SBA List team has helped elect 110 candidates to the U.S. House, 20 to the U.S. Senate, and 23 to statewide offices across the country, and helped put pro-life President Donald Trump in the White House. These successes have not gone unnoticed by the pro-abortion industry. As a recent report from NARAL Pro-Choice America stated, "Susan B. Anthony List is the leading anti-choice group in electoral activity."

As Vice President Mike Pence recently told the joint-Life Issues Institute/SBA List luncheon at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention, SBA List "is an organization that not only stands for life, but has been on the ground standing with women and men who are standing for life in the political process like no other organization in America."

Vice President Pence continued by saying, "Life is winning in America." SBA List is working to make sure that happens.

Life Issues Institutes is proud to be a part of the SBA List family of organizations, along with the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the SBA Candidate Fund, Women Speak Out PAC, and the National Pro-Life Women's Caucus. Together we will end abortion in America. 

A Celebration with the Vice President



“Join me in thanking Brad and the whole team at the Life Issues Institute for all the difference that they’ve made for life.”

-VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE



“All of you who have supported the Susan B. Anthony Fund and the combination now with the great Life Issues Institute, continue to be supportive in every way that you can with your time, and your talent, and your treasure, because the work is essential. The work is timely. And I truly do believe, if all of us do all that we can, that we will once again, in our time, restore the sanctity of life to the center of American law.”

-VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE



“It was a pleasure to hear from Vice President Mike Pence at our Life Issues Institute/Susan B. Anthony lunch. We are so thankful for his pro-life leadership!”

-BRAD MATTES

The Future is Now

by Bradley Mattes | President, Life Issues Institute



WHAT WAS CONSIDERED the future of the abortion industry is now a reality.

The chemical abortion pill, commonly known as RU 486, accounts for a third of all abortions done in America. Pro-abortion advocates predicted that this evolution of early abortion techniques would make it possible for the lethal medication to be dispensed quietly and surreptitiously from doctors' offices.

That might be true if not for the women who are experiencing chemical abortions and speaking out about their traumatic ordeals.

During the nineties while opposing the FDA's approval of this death drug, we and other pro-life organizations made a grave prediction: Chemical abortion will inflict a larger, more devastating emotional wound on women than surgical abortion.

With traditional surgical abortion the abortionist has been viewed as the evil culprit. He or she surgically imposes the physical and mental pain that often accompanies abortion. More importantly, in the minds of countless women, it is first and foremost the *abortionist* who takes the life of their babies.

That paradigm is shifting with RU 486, because it's the woman who takes the pill that kills her unborn child. Then at home and often alone, she ingests the second pill that will initiate strong uterine contractions to expel the dead baby. In the process, she will experience nausea, painful cramping and profuse bleeding.

Most traumatizing, however, is what she sees in the toilet bowl. As she gazes down in shocked horror upon the eyes,

fingers and toes of a beautifully-formed unborn child, she sees the unmistakable evidence that *she* just killed her baby.

Have our grim predictions become reality? Many women have found solace by sharing their anguished experiences and raw emotions online. Here are some of their stories, as shared on AbortionChangesYou.org. All have remained nameless.

She had a chemical abortion at 13 weeks after being told her baby had a fetal abnormality and wouldn't make it to full term. After expelling the child from her body, she wrote, "He looked perfect." And she confided to taking a picture of him that "I look at every day."

The emotional aftermath was particularly severe for this woman. "I miss my baby so much. I feel so empty inside, I get such bad mood swings that I break things and start screaming and crying, I feel so lost...inside I feel so dead."

Another woman had been with her partner for 13 years and had two teenage children. An ultrasound confirmed that she was pregnant with twins. She could see in the father's eyes that he wanted her to go through with the pregnancy. After the chemical abortion commenced, she wrote, "In my mind all he had to say was don't do it, we will get through [this] together, but he didn't." Sadly, many women have expressed a similar sentiment. But most men, it seems, have been brow-beaten to believe that the abortion decision is hers alone and they must remain silent and supportive.

After the abortion, her personal torment began. "That night I tossed and turned and had visions of me looking at my aborted twins." Fast forward six years, her relationship with the father of her children is over. "I am now a shadow of my



This mother who had a chemical abortion at nine weeks wrote, “It’s the biggest regret I have. I’ve become suicidal. I can’t sleep because I have horrible nightmares, and I cry all the time.”

former self, I’m weak and have no confidence, every day is a battle...mainly the month of the abortion.” She concluded her tragic story with this heartbreaking admission: “I am thinking not only did I destroy healthy twins, I’m now destroying my life and my children’s lives. I just wish I could turn back time.”

The account of another woman reveals, like many before her, she was told by the abortion center staff to “not look” at the baby she would pass into the toilet at home. But she did. “At 12 weeks the fetus was a perfectly formed baby...and I will live with this image forever.”

Heartbreak is a recurring theme. This mother who had a chemical abortion at nine weeks wrote, “It’s the biggest regret I have. I’ve become suicidal. I can’t sleep because I have horrible nightmares, and I cry all the time.” Like the others, she was told not to look, but couldn’t bear not to. “The image sticks with me all day every day. I’m still bleeding now, and the pain is horrible. But it’s nothing compared to the emotional pain I feel. I’d do anything to turn back time to keep my baby and love him/her forever. I wouldn’t wish this pain and suffering on anybody.”

In addition to the emotional trauma chemical abortion inflicts on women, there are sobering physical complications.

One woman wrote, “The abortion itself is a nasty, nasty experience, god forbid if I ever had to do that again. The pain was immense, pain killers did nothing.”

Another was traumatized by her intense pain. “The pain was continuous with no pauses. I was screaming. It was unbearable...I thought I was going to die from pain.”

Multiple studies¹ on chemical abortion’s effect on women substantiate serious physical complications. A study of actual

medical records of over 22,000 women who had a chemical abortion were compared with nearly an equal number of those who underwent surgical abortions.

According to the study, women had four times as many serious complications when they chose the chemical abortion route. One out of six women experienced hemorrhaging. Over three out of every 50 women had parts of the baby left inside, most of whom required surgery to remove it.

Six additional studies had similar results, which means that approximately one out of every 20 women who undergo a chemical abortion will need surgery for hemorrhaging or tissue left inside. Further, one out of 100 of those will be emergency, life-threatening situations.

As the abortion industry transitions to more and more chemical abortions, additional women will experience traumatic physical and psychological ramifications. This means the Pro-life Movement and the general public who deeply care about them and their babies must be equipped to warn unsuspecting women of the dangers of chemical abortion.

We should also be ready and able to refer women to the emergency hotline 877-558-0333 at **AbortionPillReversal.com** if she takes the first pill and then has second thoughts. New research shows that 68% of babies can be saved by this early intervention.

Finally, we must be prepared to assist the countless hurtling mothers and fathers who have been emotionally traumatized by chemical abortion.

Let this be our call to arms—loving arms that will embrace them and support them through their path to healing. 🌟

¹ Harrison, Donna. “Planned Parenthood Polices Itself,” *National Review*. <https://www.nationalreview.com/2015/01/planned-parenthood-polices-itself-donna-harrison>



Q&A with Catherine Davis

Life Issues Institute conducted an interview with Catherine Davis, the Founder and President of The Restoration Project. She often partners with the National Black Prolife Coalition, the Network of Politically Active Christians, and the Frederick Douglass Foundation in an ongoing effort to educate Americans about the issues that are impacting the Black community.

Q: Could you tell our readers how you became pro-life?

In 1987, I went to a Bible study, and on this particular Tuesday, they were talking about abortion. At the end of that teaching, I was literally paralyzed in my guilt [from having two abortions], and I could not move. The only thing I could do was sit there and cry. And I was trying to process through my brain: “Can God ever forgive me for what I did?” Because at that point, I couldn’t forgive myself.

I have some of the most caring, wonderful pastors in the world. And they recognized immediately what was happening and what I was going through. Then Bishop Boone gave me the book *Grand Illusions* and said, “Read this and go do something about it.” That’s when I got involved in the Pro-life Movement.

Q: When did you first learn about the genocidal impact of the abortion industry?

After I read *Grand Illusions* and was introduced to Margaret Sanger’s Negro Project, I began to do research. In 1973 when *Roe v. Wade* was decided, my mom and I were talking about the case, and she laughed and said, “There’s not a black woman in America who would ever kill her baby that way, given our history.” I wanted to see if I could still say that or if that had changed. And I began to look at the numbers. The more I looked at the numbers, the more I saw that not only was the black community getting abortions, but the numbers were lopsided.

Q: What are your thoughts on where the black community is at today regarding abortion?

We’re at genocide right now. In every state that reports by race, black women are leading in the number of abortions. Whether you’re talking about New York City, where more black babies are aborted than are born alive—for every 1,000 black babies born there, 1,489 are aborted—or you’re talking about Virginia, where blacks are about 12-13% of the population but get 42% of the abortions, it’s genocidal.

And I believe it’s genocidal by design. I like to say, when Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers say there’s no racial impetus to it they are spitting in our faces and calling it rain. I know the difference between spit and rain, and there is a racial impetus and it is decimating the black community today.

Q: What advice do you have for the pro-life community today?

The problem that we face as pro-lifers is that we give knee-jerk reactions to what the pro-abortion community says. We need to stand strong and tell the truth. It’s not a fetus, it’s a baby. Today, they don’t even try to convince you anymore that it’s not a baby, they tell you upfront, “A women shouldn’t have to be pregnant if she doesn’t want to be pregnant.” Well no, we need to fix that.

We need to tell the truth about what it means to have children and what a blessing they are. We need to say what God says. And if we start doing that and stop being reactionary, what gets cemented in the hearts and minds of the people is a regard for children. They will begin to believe children are blessings, not curses. Once they start saying that, and we start talking about what God says, it will dispel the lies of the abortion movement. 🌟



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Thank You!

Our publication is sent with our deepest appreciation for your interest and involvement in the work of Life Issues Institute to advance pro-life leadership.

A SUSAN B. ANTHONY LIST PUBLICATION

www.lifeissues.org

Creating Future Leaders at the D. James Kennedy School of Christian Statesmanship



by Mike Sabo | Communications Associate, Life Issues Institute

The D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship was founded in 1995 by world-renowned Pastor D. James Kennedy to serve legislators and staffers on Capitol Hill.

In 2018, CCS launched the Center for Christian Leadership, which aims to equip 300 men and women each year who will serve in significant political and public policy positions. This new program will provide candidates with key skills: the ability to assess objectively their strengths and weaknesses, cultivate effective communication and debate skills, build and

retain a sound grasp of biblical and constitutional principles, and form a strategic framework by which they can apply their learning to real-world circumstances.

Life Issues Institute President

Bradley Mattes is part of a distinguished faculty that includes Dr. Richard Land, President of Southern Evangelical Seminary and former president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Dr. Ryan T. Anderson, who is the William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation and speaks and

writes regularly on the sanctity of marriage and gender identity.

On May 12th, Brad taught future leaders in government and public policy about important life issues such as abortion and human development. He instilled in them a deeper appreciation for human life and a greater breadth of knowledge about the history of abortion in the United States. And he gave them the tools to be able to defend life with conviction in the public square. He is looking forward to teaching two additional classes in 2019. 