

CONNECTOR

Follow the Trail of Money and Anguish

One of the most pressing issues before the pro-life movement is how to stop chemical abortion. It is called mifepristone, marketed under the name of Mifeprex, the first pill in the two-drug abortion protocol.

It is an outright lie by extreme abortion advocates that “chemical abortion is safer than Tylenol.” Our [video interview](#) with Elizabeth Gillette defies this falsehood. In addition to the severe pain and hemorrhaging Elizabeth experienced, as she held the child she passed, this young woman faced the horrific, undeniable reality that she killed her baby. This tragic awareness came with a whole other level of serious side effects.



Elizabeth Gillette

The aftermath of chemical abortion for Elizabeth included, in her words, an “overwhelming guilt I couldn’t put away.” She also suffered from nightmares, anorexia, and a diagnosis of acute post-traumatic stress disorder. There is no credible study that can associate similar levels of concern with Tylenol.

Who and what is behind the behemoth effort to inflict this chemical coathanger on millions of unsuspecting women? Let’s take a look at the extreme pro-abortion activists and those who fund their effort to push these deadly pills.

The most prominent pro-abortion groups pushing chemical abortion are the Center for Reproductive Rights, Whole Woman’s Health, Guttmacher Institute, National Health Law Program, and Physicians for Reproductive Health. Besides ideology, these organizations have several things in

common. Their donors. Much of their funding comes from left-leaning foundations that give heavily to causes advocating abortion on demand until birth. Let’s take a look at each group and the foundations that give to them.

[The Center for Reproductive Rights \(CRR\)](#) describes itself as “a global human rights organization of lawyers and advocates who ensure” the accessibility of abortion. According to CRR’s most recent [annual report](#), they document gifts between July 1, [2021](#) and June 30, 2022. The top donors include Laura and John Arnold, who appear to have personally given over \$1,000,000 to CRR rather than through their foundation. In addition, the Ford Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have given enormous sums. While founded by Henry Ford and his son, Edsel, it is important to note that the [Ford Foundation](#) is not connected to Ford Motor Company. The Ford Foundation gave CRR \$500,000 in 2022 which does not include the collective \$15,025,000 that it has given to CRR since 2007. That sum also includes a \$7,500,000 Social Bond in October 2020. The [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) (William Hewlett is a cofounder of Hewlett-Packard) has given CRR a total of \$17,232,500 since 2001 with multiple grants over \$2,000,000. Hewlett-Packard’s other founder, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, gave CRR \$500,000 in 2022 and a collective \$3,037,915. Although it is unclear exactly how much was given, Bloomberg Philanthropies – founded in 2006 by Michael Bloomberg – was also a \$1,000,000-plus donor to CRR. It should surprise no one that George Soros is also a large donor. His Open Society Foundation has given a total of \$365,000 in two grants, both in 2016.

[Whole Woman’s Health \(WWH\)](#), a chain of abortion facilities, was founded in 2003 by Amy Hagstrom Miller. While this group is smaller, it has received the attention of the large

foundations. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has given WWH a total of \$1,000,000 in grants since 2016.

Gutmacher Institute (GI) was initially founded as the research arm of Planned Parenthood. GI is now an independent research nonprofit and is named in honor of the former president of Planned Parenthood, Alan Gutmacher. GI has received \$2,000,000 since 2019 from John and Laura Arnold's foundation, Arnold Ventures. GI has been given a total of \$5,325,000 from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation since 2018. Meanwhile, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has granted GI \$27,002,700 since 2011. The Ford Foundation has doled out \$3,680,000 in total while the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given GI a total of \$19,494,409 since 1995. Lastly, Mackenzie Scott (former wife of Jeff Bezos) – through her foundation, Yield Giving – granted \$15,000,000 to GI in 2022.


The National Health Law Program (NHLP) was founded by Ruth and Milton Roemer in 1969 to help low-income individuals and families with healthcare and also with abortion. Arnold Ventures has given \$485,000 since 2020. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has donated two



grants, totaling \$530,000. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has given \$1,428,250 in grants since 2018. The Ford Foundation is the largest collective donor to the NHLP, with \$3,534,750 given since 2007. Lastly, George Soros makes another appearance with the Open Society Foundations, giving \$1,000,000 in 2017.

Physicians for Reproductive Health (PRH) was founded in 1992 by a group of physicians in New York City with a mission of teaching others to effectively defend late-term abortion, advocate against pro-life pregnancy centers and promote illegal self-managed abortions. Arnold Ventures gave \$250,000 in a two-year grant from 2021 to 2023. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation granted the collective sum of \$4,220,500 to PRH. Lastly, the Ford Foundation granted \$450,000 in 2006 and \$600,000 in 2008.

This is just a sampling of the big money behind Big Abortion. Many of these donors are older foundations that were initially set up to do good in the world but have veered off their original, intended courses.

As Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's ruling makes its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, we intend to shine a penetrating light on those inflicting such bodily harm and mental anguish on millions of women like Elizabeth. 

Fathers in the Mix

There are many factors affecting a woman's decision whether or not to have an abortion. One of the most underestimated and underused tools to save unborn babies is the child's father.

During the Forty Days for Life's Lenten campaign, a real-life situation unfolded at a Bloomington, Indiana abortion facility that serves as an excellent case in point.

A young woman scheduled for an abortion arrived with her mother. Mom made an impassioned plea attempting to dissuade her daughter from having the abortion, but to no avail. Offers of support from pro-life sidewalk counselors were also rejected as she entered the abortion center.



Just when all hope had been extinguished, the father of the baby phoned the young woman, crying and begging her not to abort their baby. His heartfelt plea worked. The young woman changed her mind and exited the killing center.

This is not an infrequent occurrence. Research shows that the babies' fathers hold significant sway over this life-or-death decision.

A study published in the International Journal of Mental Health & Addiction analyzed data on low-income women who became pregnant within 18 months of

delivering a child. The research clearly showed that women were reluctant to have another baby if the father failed to bear responsibility for the first child and contribute to childrearing efforts.ⁱ

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P O Box 785 / Florence, KY 41022
Phone: 513.729.3600. Email: info@LifeIssues.org
Bradley Mattes President & Publisher
Heather Valenzano Editor

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Research in the UK, published last year, found that the fathers of unborn babies have considerable influence – good or bad – over the abortion decision. “Partners play a significant part...Whether negative or positive, the partner’s reaction to the pregnancy is significant across the young women’s accounts. Similar to other research studies, the baby’s father was the first person they tell of their pregnancy, and across the stories, the young women’s decision about whether to abort or carry on was influenced by their partner’s feelings and reactions.”ⁱⁱ

These findings confirm another study of 1,000 men from 2021 by LifeWay Research, sponsored by Care Net. Approximately 40% of the men indicated they were the main influence when it came to the decision to have an abortion. Further, they found 42% urged their partner to abort with only 8% “strongly urging” against abortion.ⁱⁱⁱ

A 2015 Care Net survey of women who chose abortion “indicated men were the most influential factor in their decision.”^{iv}


An evaluation of women who had abortions was published in the Medical Science Monitor. An unsettling 83% said they would have chosen life for their babies if more support had been present.^v

The continual drumbeat that “abortion is a private decision” has made researchers hesitant to consider how relationships impact a woman’s abortion decision. As a

result, this has inflicted untold harm on the emotional health of both women and men and has impeded the help they need while facing an unexpected pregnancy.

The challenge before the pro-life community is to engage with men and educate them on the beauty of their unborn babies in the womb. When their eyes are opened to the reality of what abortion does to their children, they are more inclined to identify with that vulnerable baby, and their instinct of protecting this tiny offspring is more likely to present itself.



An impassioned and engaged father is a powerful formula for life. If you doubt this, remember the unborn baby saved at the Indiana abortion center. He or she will have a lifetime to enjoy and will likely pass the precious gift of life to future generations. 

- i. <https://afterabortion.org/father-plays-key-role-in-abortion-decisions/>
- ii. <file:///C:/Users/bmattes/Downloads/i-wanted-to-get-my-education-straight.pdf>
- iii. <https://research.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Care-Net-2021-Report.pdf>
- iv. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/men-are-generally-the-primary-influencers-when-it-comes-to-abortion-decisions-study/>
- v. <https://afterabortion.org/father-plays-key-role-in-abortion-decisions/>

Moments in History

By Bradley Mattes
President

The reversal of *Roe v. Wade* was nearly 50 years in the making, and everyone in the movement celebrated this monumental victory. It was especially sweet for those of us who have been pro-life advocates for all or nearly all of that time. We “long-haul” pro-lifers hold fond memories of important



Dr. and Mrs. Willke’s last presentation together

moments along the way that helped propel us to this historic achievement. Here are a few.

Dr. Jack Willke and his wife Barbara, a nurse, are considered the parents of the pro-life movement. Before *Roe*, they developed educational tools such as slide sets, brochures, billboards, fair booth displays, videos, etc. used around the

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world to change hearts and minds on abortion. These materials have been translated into over 30 different languages. Tens of thousands of Americans have become pro-life due to the Wilkes' tireless efforts to save the babies.

I am one of those many people. 48 years ago, this month I was a senior in high school in Billings, Montana, enrolled in a persuasive speech class. We all selected a topic to present to our class and our ability to sway fellow students greatly impacted our grade. I chose abortion and the local Right to Life group provided the Willke educational materials. Before our speeches we polled the class. They were 50-50 on abortion. The images of fetal development, the shocking reality of abortion's impact on its tiny victims, and their mothers made an impact. Afterward the class was unanimous for life! I learned early on that pro-life education was a powerful tool to change hearts and minds on abortion.

We owe the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus an enormous debt of gratitude for creating a solid foundation on which the pro-life movement was built. In the early days, I was the token non-Catholic. Local chapter leaders would send me to do the debates because, during those days, pro-abortion activists claimed abortion was just a religious issue – a Catholic religious issue. The debate would go something like this. "You Catholics can't force your religion on us!" Then they would add, "Keep your rosaries off our ovaries!" After their rant I'd calmly say "I don't own a rosary, but if I did, I promise you it wouldn't be anywhere near your ovaries. I'm not Catholic and I oppose abortion because it's the gravest civil injustice of our time." Then I'd share fetal development 101 and that usually took the wind out of their sails.

During the 1980 Republican Convention, Ronald Reagan selected George H.W. Bush as his running mate, who was generally pro-abortion. So, Jack made a beeline to his convention office and boldly asked for a four-hour meeting to educate him on abortion. And it was granted!

After that marathon educational presentation at Mr. Bush's Kennebunkport, Maine residence, Jack asked him what his position on abortion was. Mr. Bush smiled with an "Okay you did it" sort of look and said, "I wasn't here before, but I am now." He would support a human life amendment. His evolution on abortion helped propel Ronald Reagan to the White House. When Bush became president, he signed every pro-life bill that crossed his desk.

In 1982, Right to Life of Michigan produced a brilliant and compelling message. It included the image of an unborn baby on a black background with large text that read "Choice? Or Child?" Smaller text read, "There are alternatives to abortion. There have to be."

In 1991, Jack and I founded Life Issues Institute to focus on pro-life education, the foundation on which we build political and legislative victories. As we were taking the steps to launch the Institute, Jack and Barbara departed for Moscow to participate in educational meetings and events. The morning after they left, newspaper headlines covered the attempted coup in Moscow where they were headed!

They were among the few that flew into Moscow and the chaos. Once there, they went directly to Red Square, where they witnessed the statues coming down. Desperate for American dollars, soldiers and citizens were selling everything they had on them. As a result, Jack came back with interesting souvenirs, among them a plethora of different lapel pins that are today displayed in my office.

The nineties ushered in an opportunity for unity. One of the first projects undertaken by Life Issues Institute was seminal research to find out how Americans perceived the pro-life movement. It wasn't pretty. They saw us as rigid, violent, and anti-women.

We brought pro-life leaders together in Washington, DC to share our findings and develop a unified message in our public response to the upcoming Supreme Court *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* decision. Pro-abortion forces had been effective with their Park Avenue public relations firms that

Dr. Willke and V.P. Candidate George H.W. Bush



Dr. Willke and President George H.W. Bush

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developed the “who decides” and “pro-choice” rhetoric. It was our chance to turn the tables.

Out of three consecutive meetings held in April, May and June came the “Love Them Both” theme with a statement that in part read, “Your life and the life of your baby are



both important and we will not desert either of you. We want to love you both.” The goal was to have every national and state pro-life organization utilizing this messaging. Life Issues Institute designed “Love Them Both” graphics that were shared with

Cincinnati Right to Life, which mass produced heart shaped posters, bumper strips, brochures, billboards, etc.

We were united with an effective message that changed the way Americans looked at the abortion issue. To this day, pro-abortion activists continue to be on the defensive.

The “Love Them Both” message circumvented the globe. While I was in South Africa speaking at a national conference, there were heart shaped “Love Them Both” posters posted at the intersections radiating out from the convention center.

Today, youth-led national pro-life groups have resurrected the theme, produced their own version of graphics and are widely sharing them.

As a trio, Jack, Barbara, and I crisscrossed the globe on behalf of saving unborn babies around the world. My trip to Siberia in early April was memorable.

I spoke to a room full of doctors on fetal development that included brochures translated into Russian and a set of fetal models I left with them. They were astounded by my information of early fetal development in pregnancy. These doctors, some of whom delivered babies, had been told “it’s not a baby until the fourth month.” Now I was the one who was astounded!

In Moscow we presented to a room full of medical students on their way to becoming OB/GYN doctors. We shared imagery of fetal development and the ugly reality of what

abortion does to its tiny victims. Afterward, several students told us that they would never perform abortions in their future practices.

In the mid-nineties the issue of men and abortion appeared on the radar of the pro-life movement. My involvement was set into motion by a heartrending handwritten letter from a man whose younger brother died by suicide because of the pain of two abortions he was powerless to stop. The anguish I felt for that man and his family inspired me to act. I was a founding member of the Men and Abortion Network. Its first mission was to create awareness that men hurt, too, and provide them a lifeline to heal. To our delight, pregnancy centers across the nation immediately embraced our message and began to help men as part of their mission. As a result, we were able to collectively develop a grassroots

network of peer-to-peer counselors who walk with men through their healing process. A website was developed for grieving fathers and those who want to help them.



Even before the infamous *Roe* decision, pro-lifers were hard at work in what we affectionately called the “service” section of the movement. A growing grassroots network of pregnancy centers soon blossomed into medical centers that offer much more than pregnancy tests, maternity clothes, and diapers. These oases of life and love have become a sophisticated network offering free resources like sonograms, STD testing, and mentoring. Many now include services that extend far beyond pregnancy and delivery.

We’d be remiss not to include President Donald J Trump in pro-life history. He came with lots of drama, but he was also the most pro-life president in America’s history. As president he – not his staff – was a constant source of ideas that advanced the cause for life. Most importantly he nominated, and the Senate confirmed three strict constructionist justices to the US Supreme Court that


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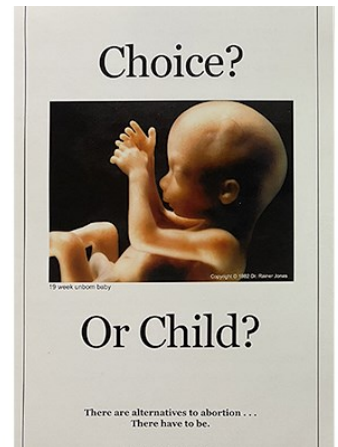
Moments in History Conclusion

resulted in *Roe*'s demise. Plus, he facilitated the same caliber of men and women on district and appellate courts, including US District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk who recently ruled that the FDA's approval of chemical abortion pills was politically motivated and void of credible research.

This is only a snapshot of how pro-life education played a life-saving role over the years in helping to achieve the demise of *Roe*. It's also a reflection of many dedicated people from various backgrounds and political views who were united in the goal of ending the brutal and violent killing of unborn babies. If you'd like to add to this list of

historical events, submit your thoughts to Life Issues Institute. Please limit your comments to not more than one page, single spaced and email or mail them to our office. 

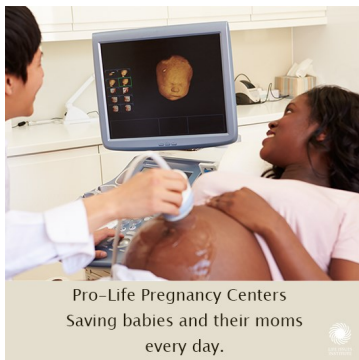
Right to Life of Michigan
graphic circa. 1982



Legislation Protecting or Attacking Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers

By Heather Valenzano

Pro-life pregnancy centers, medical clinics and maternity homes are on the frontlines in the fight against abortion. The staff and volunteers at these facilities work tirelessly every day, providing aid to women who feel trapped and alone. They are prepared to answer any question and guide mothers through any obstacle.



Pregnancy centers offer a wealth of resources to women facing unplanned

pregnancies. These include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, prenatal care, STD testing, parenting classes, material assistance, adoption referrals, housing, etc. Many facilities offer after-abortion support to those who are grieving the loss of a child through abortion. They are prepared to love, inform and support *everyone* who walks through their doors. Incredibly, these centers don't charge their clients. They provide all these services for free.

To the women and babies they serve, these organizations are heroes... but to the abortion industry and its supporters, they're public enemy number one.

Over the years, pregnancy help groups have faced opposition from abortion activists, politicians and media entities. These charities and non-profits have endured a variety of attacks, from slander to physical violence. When the *Dobbs* draft was leaked in May 2022 – and when *Roe* was officially overturned in June 2022 – the vitriol against these life-affirming centers intensified.

Government officials across the country are introducing and enacting legislation that could impact abortion in their respective states. Some of these bills could drastically affect pro-life work, as pregnancy centers are the subject of said bills. The laws proposed by pro-abortion politicians have the potential to shut down or heavily restrict pregnancy help facilities.

In late March, the Illinois state Senate passed SB 1909. This bill classifies pro-life pregnancy centers as “limited services pregnancy centers.” If SB 1909 is enacted, centers and medical clinics accused of “deceptive acts or practices” can receive a fine up to \$50,000.

Lawmakers in Vermont introduced S.37. This bill accuses “limited-services pregnancy centers” of providing “confusing or misleading information” and using “false and misleading advertising.”

Colorado's SB23-190, dubbed “Preventing Deceptive Practices at Anti-Abortion Centers,” intends to censor

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pregnancy centers and forbid them from offering information on abortion pill reversal. Governor Jared Polis signed SB23-190, but Bella Health + Wellness – a non-

**Pro-life pregnancy centers
may not do abortions,
but their services are
far from limited.
They offer a surplus
of materials and resources
you'll *never* see
at an abortion facility.**

profit with three medical campuses, its primary center located in Eaglewood – filed a lawsuit soon after. A federal judge ruled that the organization could continue offering abortion pill reversal.

The claims made, and the language

used, throughout these bills are parroted by abortion activists. They continually call pro-life facilities “limited services centers” or “fake clinics.” They also accuse pregnancy centers of “lying to women” or “using deceptive tactics.” This is projection, plain and simple. The ones who are lying to women are those within the abortion industry. They hide facts about abortion – both the physical and emotional risks – and prenatal development so they can make a profit. They make money by selling abortion to vulnerable, unsuspecting women.

Pregnancy help organizations disclose on their websites – and in person – that they do not commit nor refer abortions. They simply present all the facts so women can make informed decisions. Pro-life pregnancy centers may not do abortions, but their services are far from limited. They offer a surplus of materials and resources you'll *never* see at an abortion facility.

Fortunately, there are government officials who recognize all the good these life-affirming centers do for women and children across the country. They are taking legislative


steps to support pregnancy centers and, in turn, help mothers and families in need.

In late March, West Virginia Governor Jim Justice signed House Bill 2002 while visiting the Cross Roads Pregnancy Care Center in Charleston. The legislation established the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program, allowing pregnancy help organizations to receive state funding. Pregnancy centers typically rely on donations from their supporters. The funds they receive through this new program will help them expand their resources and serve more families.

In early April, the Arkansas Legislature passed Senate Bill 286. This bill will allow pregnancy help organizations to receive grants from the Department of Finance and Administration.

Most recently, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 300, also known as the Heartbeat Protection Act. In addition to protecting babies when their heartbeat is detected, this law will have the Department of Health contract with Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc., an alliance of pregnancy help organizations.

To make abortion unthinkable and unnecessary, we must support mothers during pregnancy and after birth. For the past five decades, pro-life pregnancy centers have gone above and beyond. We must support these organizations so they can continue walking with women, men and their babies. Consider volunteering at a pregnancy center in your area.

The legislative battle over pregnancy centers won't end anytime soon. Pro-abortion politicians will continue producing bills that attack these centers, and pro-life politicians will continue producing bills that increase funding for them. It's our duty to elect candidates who recognize and support the life-saving work performed by pregnancy help organizations. We must voice our support for life-affirming legislation and condemn anti-life legislation. 

INSERT AD GRAPHIC HERE



LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE

SAVING LIVES THROUGH PRO-LIFE EDUCATION

P O Box 785 Florence, KY 41022

Celebrating Mothers

This month we celebrate Mother's Day. Life Issues Institute acknowledges the many different types of mothers we see and hear about every day. From Olympic medal winning mothers to those who have given birth and chosen adoption to those who struggle with fertility issues, we acknowledge the sacrifices that are made by these women.

This is the nature of motherhood. Mothers are called in many different ways to make sacrifices for the love of children. These courageous women are every-day ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Please reach out to those mothers in your life and say thank you. Thank you for choosing life. Thank you for your sacrifice of self. Happy Mother's Day! 