



THE SHIELD

DEFENDERS OF LIFE

Assault on Science

By Bradley Mattes, President



The abortion issue has divided our nation, chiefly because it is seen as a foundational issue for both sides of the political spectrum. Most often an American's position on this controversial topic relegates him or her to one of two camps – liberal or conservative.

The demise of *Roe* has awakened the Beast in ways that have stunned even seasoned pro-life leaders.

Unrestrained abortion is so important to the far Left that President Biden has weaponized the Department of Justice and FBI to root out and prosecute peaceful pro-life individuals in front of abortion facilities. While at the same time turning a blind eye to actual terrorists who have vandalized or firebombed churches, pregnancy centers and offices of pro-life advocates.

The politics of abortion have encroached far beyond the halls of Congress, state legislative bodies and the judicial system. It has also infiltrated academia and research – areas thought by many to rise above the fray of politics.

Political social action is alive and well in storied establishments of higher learning and publications, including the most respected scientific and medical research journals.

The evidence shows they have sunken into the muck and mire of pro-abortion activism.

On March 26, 2024, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the *FDA v. Alliance Hippocratic Medicine and Danco Laboratories, L.L.C. v. Alliance Hippocratic Medicine*. Danco's sole purpose is to produce and distribute the abortion pills.

These cases involve the FDA's political and sloppy approval of the chemical abortion pill and its subsequent efforts to stymie legal challenges and suppress evidence that the pills are not only deadly to babies but place their mothers' physical wellbeing and lives at risk.

Once the Supreme Court agreed to take these cases the political machinery of academia and scientific research was on display for all to see. A month before oral arguments were heard (February 2024) Sage, a global academic publisher retracted, for political purposes, three research papers related to the two cases.

One documented a 500% increase in emergency room visits following chemical pill abortions. It also showed emergency room [visits](#) increased more with chemical abortions than surgical procedures. This paper particularly attracted the ire of the Left when District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk cited it in his ruling against the FDA.

The [second](#) paper researched abortionists, "Their Characteristics and Patterns of Holding and Using Hospital Privileges." Among other things, the study found that "nearly half (48.2%) of the abortionists had at least 1 malpractice claim, public complaint, disciplinary action, or criminal charge."

The [third](#) paper demonstrated that an increasing number

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A New Wave of Attacks

By Victor Nieves

The unborn are facing a new international wave of attacks from the pro-abortion lobby. They have poured millions of dollars into targeted campaigns to put radical pro-abortion constitutional amendments on the ballot, especially in conservative pro-life states. Unfortunately this strategy has had some success. For example, in Ohio extreme pro-abortion language was successfully added to their state constitution which will allow abortions until birth thanks to intentional loopholes.

Their strategy is simple. They pour millions of dollars into spreading misinformation and pay to have canvassers collect signatures thus manipulating the state's initiative petition laws. This allows them to use out of state money to pay their way onto the ballot with whatever radical proposal they want in nearly any state that they want.

Such attacks on life are being waged in numerous states including Florida, Missouri, Arkansas, Nevada, Arizona, Maine, Montana and more. These attempts to enshrine abortion into state constitutions present a large-scale threat to the unborn. Unlike regular legislation, constitutional amendments are much harder to reverse.

These attacks to add abortion to constitutions are not limited to the United States. This appears to be a worldwide attack on life. An international push for abortion spearheaded by efforts at the United Nations is underway as well. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has [asserted](#) that abortion is a "Human right." They also take the position that a human's right to life begins not at the moment of conception, but instead at the moment that they are born. The UN's position brings with it a global advocacy for laws that deny the most innocent among us their most fundamental right — the right to life.

Likewise, officials in the European Parliament have [voted](#) to codify abortion as a "fundamental right". They placed it in their EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Though non-binding, this resolution will exert pressure on pro-life countries in Europe like Malta and Poland.

France recently became the [first](#) country in the world to officially add abortion as a "right" within their constitution. The amendment is the first addition to France's constitution since 2008 and passed with a vote of 780-72. The amendment was presented to the public as a compromise on the issue of abortion, even though abortion has been legal in France since 1975.

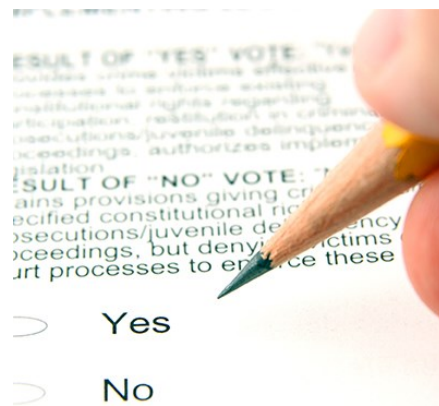
The French government lead by President Emmanuel Macron celebrated the injustice. The Eiffel Tower was [illuminated](#) in Paris and displayed the message "my body my choice" for all to see. Pro-abortion advocates are hoping that France is the first domino to fall in Europe causing a chain reaction of more constitutional amendments in other countries.

Spain appears to be granting the pro-abortion lobby their wish. An [effort](#) to follow in the footsteps of France is already underway. Despite falling birthrates across Europe, the Sumar party in Spain announced that they intend to enshrine a so-called right to abortion in their constitution as well. Abortion was illegal in Spain, outside of cases of rape, fetal deformation, or the life of the mother until 2010. Since that time, the government's position has

shifted dramatically, allowing abortion on demand throughout the first 14-weeks of pregnancy. In 2022, Spain passed a law criminalizing pro-life speech outside of abortion facilities to silence pro-life advocates.

A group called "My Voice, My Choice" in Europe has made public their plan to continue to push for abortion across the continent. The group contains activists from France and Spain as well as Poland, Finland, Ireland and Croatia.

The end of *Roe v. Wade* served as an international alarm bell to pro-abortion advocates. They are doing everything they can to create as many obstacles as possible in the path of the pro-life movement. If they act quickly and insert abortion into constitutions then it will prove decisive in all court cases and be very hard for pro-life advocates to reverse. It is crucial that we stop these attempts to place abortion into constitutions. 🌀



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of women who go to emergency rooms are miscoded or misrepresent an abortion as a miscarriage. Distributors of the pills are on record [advising](#) women who seek urgent medical intervention to lie and say they are experiencing a miscarriage. The research shows that chemical abortions are more likely to require hospital admittance and present a significant risk factor to women.

Sage retracted the papers in response to one vocally pro-abortion individual who made false claims about the research. More information on why these accusations are patently false can be accessed at <https://assaultonscience.org/>.

The retractions served their purpose. During the oral arguments, as if on cue, Justice Jackson asked Ms. Ellsworth, representing Danco Laboratories, about the poor research associated with this case. Ellsworth responded, "They have since been retracted for lack of scientific rigor and for misleading presentations of data."

Political activism by America's academia doesn't limit itself to the abortion issue. Advancing same sex attraction and transitioning are highly favored causes for the far Left.

A study analyzed the effectiveness of [counseling](#) for religious men who want to rid themselves of same-sex attraction. The paper was retracted because it reported positively on the outcome of this counseling.

Other research concluded that the rapid onset of [gender dysphoria](#) in part reflects a socially contagious syndrome. The study also found that children who transitioned suffered from deteriorated mental health. The prevailing powers found that these findings conflicted with their opinion that adolescents and young children can determine their sex and actively transition. As a result, the research was retracted.

In addition to silencing voices contrary to the opinions of the far Left, they have produced their own biased conclusions void of sound evidence and science. What is disturbing is



the participation of previously prestigious and credible sources.

The Journal of the American Medical Association has long enjoyed a sterling reputation but its silver crown has been tarnished. JAMA [published](#) a report in February 2024 that actually claimed 65,000 rape pregnancies resulted in 14 states with legislation protecting their unborn babies and mothers from abortion.

The lead researcher was Samuel Dickman, an abortionist at Planned Parenthood of Montana. Dr. Michael New, a respected scientist in his field responded, "To call those figures an exaggeration would be an understatement. The article is frankly one of the worst and most misleading

pieces of advocacy research that I have ever encountered in my years as a social scientist." You can get more details in his article [published](#) in the National Review.

This final example was particularly strategic. The day before the Supreme Court's oral arguments JAMA published a study showing a strong demand for chemical abortion pills, many sent to those who self-medicate outside of medical care. It relied upon self-reporting by various sources that sold and mailed the pills, often into states where the unborn are protected. All have a vested interest in showing the Supreme Court that regardless of how they rule, there will be a demand for the pills that they will continue to fill – legal or not.

The New York Times claimed an increase in sales of the abortion pills in Texas offset the decrease in abortions. However, three analyses of Texas births months after *Dobbs* showed an increase in births. This is sound statistical evidence that casts a shadow on their advocacy research.

We do not have the luxury of assuming the gatekeepers of scientific research have not been adulterated to advance a radical agenda of far-Left activism. The responsibility of being a discerning reader rests upon us to seek out additional information which in a growing number of instances will expose the mire and muck of pro-abortion activism. 🌀

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The Power of a Redemption Story

Few things are greater than a story of redemption. The pro-life movement is full of powerful voices who share an atonement story. Former abortionists, men who paid for abortions, and women who had abortions have turned from the evils of the abortion industry. They now possess a unique testimony and an insight that can reach even the hardest hearts and win them over for life.

The abortion industry attacks them because they know that these individuals are a tremendous threat to their bottom line. We in the pro-life movement celebrate and uplift them. No one is too far gone. It is never too late to join the right side of history and advocate for life. We all have made mistakes and bad decisions in our past, but that does not mean we have to be married to those decisions. There is healing, hope, and a bright future for those who wish to turn over a new leaf and begin their own redemption story.

Josh Sorth is a person with such a story. We had the opportunity to interview Josh and hear his account on our radio show, [Straight Talk on Life Issues](#). In high school Josh was a self-labeled satanist. He was involved in his first abortion during his junior year of high school. Josh believed “not my body, not my problem.” This was unfortunately the first of a total of seven abortions that Josh would participate in.

Josh joined the military after marrying his first wife, which ended in a divorce shortly thereafter. He then became promiscuous and started receiving phone calls from women who had become pregnant with his children. This led to him becoming the financial backer of multiple abortions. Self-medication and attempts to numb the pain failed to address the core issue in his life. After meeting his current wife, the two became pregnant. This pregnancy also ended in abortion.

Thankfully, Josh later gave his life to Christ and realized the full magnitude of what he had done. In our interview with Josh, he said, “I realized I had been paying for hired murder.” He and his wife began their healing journey and completed SaveOne courses together. They now have two young boys and Josh is an advocate for life. He takes every opportunity to

speak to men as someone who has been in their shoes. He knows how they are feeling and can share his story warning them not to go down that same path. Just like there was hope for Josh there is hope for everyone else who has made mistakes.



Dr. Kathy Aultman is another advocate for life whose story breaks through the lies of the abortion lobby. Dr. Aultman shared her story with us on [Straight Talk on Life Issues](#) as well. She was a practicing abortionist who embraced abortion. In fact, she believed that she was actually *helping* women. She even performed abortions while she herself was pregnant. It wasn't until after her baby was born that she began to make what she called the “fetus to baby connection.” However, she still believed that abortion was a woman's right and continued to refer women for abortion even after becoming a Christian.

That was until a friend showed her an article comparing abortion to the holocaust. Kathy's father was present when the first concentration camp was liberated in Germany. Growing up she could never understand how the German doctors could do what they did. Reading the article however, she realized that just as the Germans didn't view their victims as human, neither did she. It was then that she stated, “**I have killed more people than Ted Bundy.**” Dr. Aultman is now an outspoken voice for the unborn and shares her invaluable story. She is currently an Associate Scholar with the Charlotte Lozier Institute. She is also a member of the American Association of Prolife Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, the Florida Medical Association and is a Life-Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She helps to lead other doctors that perform abortions away from the industry and opens their eyes to the same truth she learned firsthand.

Sometimes those who've experienced abortion first-hand feel called to take action and help others find the hope and healing they have received. They understand how that healing forgiveness helps them turn a corner in their lives and start a new chapter of hope.

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Karen Barbito was a freshman in college when she got pregnant. She immediately knew that she was not going to keep the baby. She feared that her parents would not approve and it would damage her relationship with them. Believing that the abortion would fix her “problem” she got an abortion and moved on. What she did not know was that her life would not go the way she expected after that. She became very promiscuous and turned to drugs and alcohol. She [recounts](#)

that she was not pro-life or pro-abortion, she was “pro-me.” It wasn’t until years later that she went through healing courses to recover from her abortion. She, like many others who share a story of redemption, is now an outspoken advocate for life. Karen helps other women as a pioneer in the abortion healing movement serving as Support After Abortion Special Projects Manager.

Shella Harper had an abortion at nineteen and spent many years battling the pain from that abortion. A bible study helped her find healing and forgiveness. She started teaching this class to others but God had a different plan for her.



Shella founded SaveOne, an international outreach ministry for men and women suffering in silence after an abortion. Her [story](#) is a very powerful example of God’s timing. Shella suffered for seven years following her abortion. Thankfully her journey did not end there. She eventually found healing and restoration through her faith in Jesus Christ before launching SaveOne. Now her ministry of hope and healing has over three hundred chapters in twenty-five countries! Her life is a continual reminder of the way that God can use our past to prepare our future.

The power of a redemption story cannot be overstated. Those of us who do not have such a story may not be able to relate to people who are contemplating an abortion in the same way as someone who has experienced it. They can use their experience to guide other people toward the right decision. No matter what your past holds, your future can still be bright. Each one of us has a unique set of experiences that build our personal testimony and there may be someone out there who needs to hear it. Just like these wonderful examples above, each of us can take that first step toward redemption and when we do, the sky is the limit. 

Place Planned Giving ad here

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Euthanasia on the Heels of Abortion

For decades Life Issues Institute has said that as sure as night follows day, euthanasia will follow abortion. Once you lower the value of human life with abortion, a culture of death will grow within other contexts.

Our predictions have proven true.

It is helpful to first understand the demand for euthanasia. Many Americans mistakenly believe that pain is the number one reason people want to end their lives. However, the top three consistent reasons are a wish not to be a burden on others, a loss of bodily autonomy and a lack of the ability to do activities that bring joy. The good news is these are things that a kind heart and willing spirit can help alleviate with most patients.

Still, the voices of those advocating a culture of death often drown out those who offer true compassion. The acceptance of abortion into society amplifies the message of euthanasia advocacy.

Canada looms large in this regard. Its Supreme Court struck down an abortion law in 1988 and the country has had no law on the books since then. It legalized euthanasia in 2016 for terminally ill patients. In eight short years the so-called safeguards fell like the symbolic maple leaves during autumn. The law now allows euthanasia for patients with disabilities, poverty, dementia, autism, or depression. They will soon allow euthanasia for children and now voices encourage people to end their lives for the social good.

France became the first nation in history to enshrine abortion into its national constitution. Within the same month President Emmanuel Macron announced his support for euthanasia. But since he abhors that word, they will refer to it as “aid in dying” as if that will change the reality of what they are inflicting on French society.

President Macron said qualifying patients could receive the lethal medications “under certain strict conditions.” This statement would be laughable were the results not so tragic. Similar promises have been made wherever euthanasia was legalized and without fail, the safeguards were systematically dropped or ignored.



Ireland’s constitution is overtly Christian. It’s preamble states “In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity, from Whom is all authority and to Whom, as our final end, all actions both of men and States must be referred.” Today they might add the words, “But step aside, Lord, as we severely veer off the path You have set for us.”

Along with the nation of Malta, Ireland was considered one of the most pro-life countries in the world. They legalized abortion in 2018 and now, just six years later an all-party parliamentary committee has put forth the recommendation to legalize assisted suicide, of course with the standard safeguards.

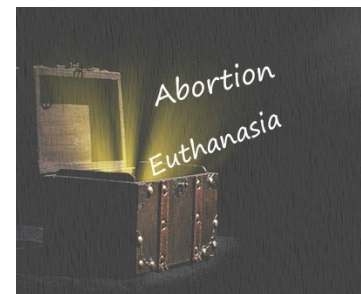
Similar leaps from killing the unborn to exterminating the old and infirm are taking place here in America.

In Oregon the number of people choosing euthanasia in the form of assisted suicide has skyrocketed. Recent data reveals that in 2023 a record 367 people ended their lives this way, a stunning 32% increase from the previous year.

California first legalized assisted suicide in 2016, expanded it in 2021 and is barreling down the path to full-fledged euthanasia at breakneck speed. The far Left state appears to be in a race to catch up with the body count of Canada. Senate Bill 1196 eliminates the terminal requirement and permits the administration of euthanasia with or without witnesses. Changes also allow people with dementia to qualify and they sanction same day death by eliminating the 48 hour waiting period. Critics are calling this the “most extreme” expansion of such a law in America and for this reason the bill was pulled.

California, along with Oregon and Vermont would have constituted a trifecta of states that has waved the residency requirement for euthanasia and displayed the welcome mat for suicide tourism.

Abortion has indeed opened a Pandora’s Box that is ushering in expansive euthanasia laws around the world and at home. 🌀



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Honoring All Mothers

An Act of Love

For some mothers the most loving thing they can do for their child is to create an adoption plan.

Thank you

Adoptive Moms

Happy Mother's Day

Mothers are the strong backbone of society and we owe you our greatest appreciation

Seen and Loved

As we celebrate this Mother's Day, we love and appreciate those mothers who have children waiting for them in heaven as the result of miscarriage.

For many women Mother's Day can serve as a painful reminder of a past abortion. For those mothers, there is **hope and healing** after abortion.

Red heart icons are placed on light purple background panels throughout the collage.

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LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE

SAVING LIVES THROUGH PRO-LIFE EDUCATION

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Comments from Those We Help



- *OUTSTANDING ARTICLE BRAD!! Keep up your vital work, your labor is surely not in vain!* **John P.**
- *Thank you for producing Straight Talk on Life Issues. We carry the program Saturdays at 5:30pm on WTGN. The interview with Sheila Harper, Beth Burris, and Sonya Wiley was very powerful. It gave me a better perspective about what women are going through when they are considering an abortion. We're praying God's continued blessing on Straight Talk on Life Issues, and the work of Life Issues Institute.* **Jered, WTGN 97.7 FM**
- *Thank you. Good information for practical use.....* **Daniel B., MD**
- *Thanks for all you and the LII team have done for life all these years.* **Rev. Brian W.**
- *Thank you for the work you're doing to bring awareness of this problem to the public. Euthanasia is something that should have no place in our world.* **Suzette D**
- *I wanted to commend you for your faithfulness to this Ministry in waging war against this evil and saving the unborn. You have been pushing ahead, braving every possible attack, and informing me and the world of developments. Thank you.* **Anthony Lobo, India**
- *This especially touched me as someone who had often sat on the fence as society told me that men don't have a say in the issue.* **Andy, North Carolina State University**

Find resources and the latest Pro-Life news and commentary at Lifelssues.org