While the Republican leadership in Washington, D.C., trips over each other to assure voters of their Pro-Life bona fides, the election of Donald J. Trump offers a reprieve from the relentless assaults on Life that have spewed from the White House since January 2009. Whether or not the President-Elect meets our vision as a conservative, or a Christian, or a Pro-Lifer, I’m confident that he will not be calculating the erosion of free speech, religious freedoms, nor the sanctity of human life during his every waking moment.

The task of activists, voters, and Pro-Life advocates now is to push our elected officials to move: to move aggressively, to move measures that protect our faith, our family, and our freedoms, and to move protections for the unborn. We must not assume that the Republican majority will prioritize the issues nearest and dearest to our own hearts. We must hold them accountable now more than ever.

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Texas Right to Life’s bill to protect unborn children who can feel pain from abortion at five months gestation. This type of law includes several components that cannot be severed from any worthy Pro-Life law:

- the pain law draws attention to the humanity of the unborn child;
- the pain law drives the cultural conversation in a positive direction;
- the pain law chips away at the foundation of Roe v. Wade; and
- most importantly, the pain law actually stops many abortions.

This important law has actually saved lives in Texas.

As expected, the U.S. Congress is trying to keep up with Texas. They are working on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which is a ban at five months when the child does indisputably feel pain. The challenge in Congress will be to keep the language of the bill strong and without weakening provisions. The abortion proponents hate this bill. They will not launch a court challenge on this measure because the only take-away from media stories is that the child may feel the pain of the procedure.

Abortion executives saving for that Lamborghini automobile would rather avoid a prolonged news cycle and the dreaded cultural conversation about the unborn child’s capacity to feel pain. Such distasteful public relations hits the bottom line of the abortion industry hard.

Congress also is now trying to out-Pro-Life each other in defunding Planned Parenthood — a feat that Texas has mostly already accomplished. The abortion giant receives over half a billion dollars of our tax money, despite the fact that they hold double that amount in assets, are in the midst of congressional and criminal investigations, and have been documented breaking laws by selling baby body parts.

While defunding efforts are commendable, even our strongest Pro-Life members become lost in the politics of the budget bills, the continuing resolutions, and the reconciliation process.

When “regular” appropriations

(Continued on page 2)
about the carnage inside the walls of abortion clinics, after all the criminal indictments and law-breaking, the federal funding rules for abortion clinics still have not changed at all. AT. ALL.

Just this past September in a meeting thought to be off the record, one of the U.S. senators from Texas was asked about the funding situation. His response: “I think we’re in the sweet spot with funding for Planned Parenthood.” “Sweet spot?” “Sweet spot? With half a billion dollars of taxpayer money going to an organization that is riddled with scandal and corruption, not to mention death and destruction — that is a “sweet spot?”

If documented criminal activity of chopping up children and selling baby parts is not enough to lose eligibility for public funding once and for all, America will never heal from the scourge of abortion, the blood of our unborn brothers and sisters ever staining our hearts and souls.

President-Elect Trump’s nomination of Congressman Tom Price, M.D., (R-GA) as Secretary of Health and Human Services demonstrates Mr. Trump’s resolve to dismantle ObamaCare and to enact Pro-Life policies. Dr. Price has achieved high rankings as a Pro-Life lawmaker, a freedom-fighter, and a man whose values are manifest in his public policy positions. Both President-Elect Trump and Dr. Price face an uphill battle in advancing Pro-Life policies, but the country is aching for such unwavering advocacy and would galvanize quickly behind true moral courage absent from Washington, D.C. Together, the two can lead effectively on defunding the abortion industry and Planned Parenthood by changing eligibility rules.

President-Elect Trump must champion protecting unborn children who feel the torturous pain of abortion at five months of development. Another winning issue is to stop the barbaric procedure of dismembering live, unborn children — a measure that would dramatically curtail, if not end, Planned Parenthood’s harvesting and trafficking of baby body parts. President-Elect Trump has indicated that he is willing and open to protect unborn children, including through his appointees to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Even if President-Elect Trump is ambivalent at worst (and I give him more credit than neutrality), we have the first window open in many years through which Pro-Life policies can be driven. This is the sweet spot for Pro-Lifers and for conservatives, and President-Elect Trump and his team have already laid the groundwork to make America great again by returning us toward a country that values and protects life — born and unborn.
We are told that to stand on any principle not in-line with the progressive agenda is to be an extremist, that unless you are willing to give ground on every issue you are “unreasonable” and possibly even “dangerous.” The struggle between Evil and Good has been, and will continue to be, a constant in human history. The devaluation of human Life has always been central to this struggle. This Evil has born many definitions and characteristics: child sacrifice in early cultures, racial supremacy, slavery, anti-Semitism and abortion. All of these things carry with them the fingerprints of one common goal- the devaluation of one human Life over another; whether for convenience or some other advantage be it societal, political or merely the offspring of fear and ignorance.

The fundamental question is: where is the value of human Life derived from?

If it is from God, as I believe it to be, what authority do we assume to possess to place a varying value on Life?

If you do not believe in God, the question still remains, where is the value of Life derived? Upon what authority, or parameters, does one human presume to have the right to exist, then that is where we must start.

This brings us to our next question: what is Life?

I like to find areas of agreement with those on the opposite side of issues from myself. Agreeing on common principles can provide an opportunity to not only win an argument but potentially win a heart and mind, which is by far the greater goal. Where can an avid pro-Life supporter and an abortion advocate find common ground?

Let’s start by agreeing on Death. This is a subject I think is fairly universally agreed upon by all sides as to its definition, reality, and existence.

The medical definition of Death:

- The “absence of spontaneous respiratory and cardiac functions.”
- And “irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem . . .”

I think all sides can agree that without the presence of these necessary functions the end result is what we all agree upon as “Death.”

Since we are in universal agreement on what Death is, and we must certainly agree on the fact that the opposite of Death is Life, we must then agree, if intellectually honest, that the presence of these functions would be defined as Life, or “Alive.” If we can agree that brainwave, cardiac and respiratory functions are indicative of Life, then I think that even the most avid, honest abortion supporter must concede that to possess these attributes would be defined as “Alive,” or one possessing this thing we call Life. If one is therefore deprived of these attributes, it would be removing the definition of Life from that individual. It would redefine them as one who had previously possessed those attributes and defining them as one who is dead, or has “died.”

“What about the government telling a woman what she can and can’t do with her body?” This false argument should be rejected. Pro-Life legislation is not about telling a woman what she can or cannot do with her body, it is about telling one living person what they can or cannot do to another living person.

So, where is the compromise with Life? In order for there to be compromise there must be mutually agreeable middle ground. Is there a middle area between Life and Death?

There is not.

It is not extremism to defend Life, especially defending the vulnerable and innocent Life is a duty.

It is not unreasonable to hold the line and refuse to pretend that there is room for compromise when there is no middle area; that is common sense.

It is not dangerous to remain immovable in the resolve that all Life has value and should be protected; it is dangerous to advocate taking the lives of children while still in the womb.

Life has no compromise.
After surviving a heated political season, those in the pro-life movement look forward to a new administration with the promise of strong, life-affirming judicial and legislative action. The nation’s 45th president will be sworn in on January 20, 2017, just two days shy of the 44th anniversary of the passage of Roe v. Wade, which ushered in abortion on demand in this country. Many will greet our new president with hope and prayers.

The 2016 Republican Party Platform, lauded as the most pro-life platform in the 162-year history of the party, sought for the first time a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Here is language from the platform:

“The Constitution’s guarantee that no one can ‘be deprived of life, liberty or property’ deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence’s proclamation that ‘all’ are ‘endowed by their Creator’ with the inalienable right to life.

“Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to children before birth.

We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare. We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research, and we call on Congress to enact a ban on any sale of fetal body parts.”

Of primary concern to many Americans and of critical importance for the new administration will be the nomination of a strong pro-life justice to replace the seat vacated by Justice Antonin Scalia. Our new administration is poised to shift the balance of power on the Supreme Court. To pro-life conservatives, this is music to the ears of many, as the prospect of Roe v. Wade being overturned gets that much closer.

Among a myriad of federal legislation under consideration is the Conscience Protection Act, which would make permanent the Hyde-Weldon Amendment, prohibiting federal, state, and local governments from discriminating against health care providers, including hospitals, doctors, and nurses, that refuse to provide, perform, or refer for abortions.

Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider (and taxpayer-supported), could see its funding stripped away. A total of ten states have already voted to defund Planned Parenthood after learning of their practice of selling for profit aborted fetal body parts. Federal defunding of Planned Parenthood is a promise made by many politicians during the election.

Since 1973, the abortion industry and its supporters have betrayed millions of women and destroyed millions of lives in the womb. The industry, bolstered by pro-choice advocates, continually proliferates lies to women that abortion is an easy, quick solution to their problems. Many women are never told that their unborn baby already has a heartbeat, that there are alternatives to abortion, as well as support to help them parent their child. Few are told about the possible physical and psychological risks of abortion, or the regret they could feel for decades after their child’s irreversible abortion death. As a pro-life supporter and ministry leader, I see and hear the horrors of abortion every day.

While we are strongly encouraged by the positions of the Republican platform and the promises of the new administration, we must never grow complacent to the battles lying ahead of us. Our fight has just begun!