

3rd Year

# Eagle Forum Report

*successor to The Phyllis Schlafly Report*

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May 2019

Volume 3/Number 5

## *A Matter of Life or Death*

### TIME TO PRESSURE PHONY PRO-LIFE POLITICIANS

by Elizabeth Graham, Director Texas Right to Life

While many under the dome of the Washington, D.C., capitol share Texas Right to Life's views and values, we feel a sense of urgency to act to stop the slaughter of at least 881,000 preborn children who will die in U.S. abortion clinics this year. And that is assuming that the laws on abortion reporting requirements are enforced — which is not a safe assumption. If the enemy is willing to kill babies, they will certainly have no moral qualms about improperly reporting how many babies they have killed.

President Trump has taken definitive action on protecting life and keeping his campaign promises. He has accomplished more as a pro-life president than all the combined members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Not governing to appease the moderates, Trump remembers his base and is representing their values as he said he would. They will — *we will*, in turn — remember him in the next election cycle.

Trump is a Republican anomaly; thankfully he is not afraid of his own shadow like most Republicans. Other Republicans in leadership slink toward the middle, misguided that they can neutralize some voters if they avoid controversy, trample the grass-

roots who elected them, and ignore the cries of the preborn children left to be slaughtered.

Did New York and Virginia leaders avoid controversy to appease the Republicans there? Of course not. Democrats and liberals never go wobbly in the face of electoral opposition; they aggressively go further left.

With the exception of the President, all these overtures to Democrats and faux Republicans by Republicans in leadership in D.C. are alienating the conservative base, many of whom stayed home in 2018 and did not vote.

Voters always vote passionately and with certainty when they are anti-this or pro-that. Just give the voter a true distinction and a real reason to vote. However, voters are less enthusiastic and committed about a lukewarm platform or name whose record is not memorable even when the lackluster candidate identifies with the preferred party.

For example, voters know whether they are for or against President Trump. In 2020, a massive number of people will turn out to vote for or against Trump. They know where he stands, and they will either vigorously support him or oppose him.

However, in the 2020 election

cycle, straight ticket voting will be eliminated in Texas and some other states. Elected officials who are watering down the Republican platform while buttering each other's bread may want to reconsider how far down their names are on the ballot and how voters will remember them for what they did or did not do in this 116th session of Congress. Mediocrity and cowardice will not be rewarded by voters in the 2020 election cycle.



Will the cries of the 881,000 preborn Americans fall on deaf ears? Will the conservative base once again be taken for granted? Or will the U.S. Congress find its pro-life mojo and pass the conservative reforms on which they campaigned?

Bills that regulate the abortion industry, enhance informed medical consent before an abortion, impose

*(Continued on page 2)*

higher penalties on abortion doctors, and draw attention to the humanity of the preborn child are all meaningful policy objectives. But these measures do nothing to stop abortion. We must never lose sight of the ultimate goal of the pro-life movement: *to end elective abortion*.

In the wake of New York's and Vermont's unconscionable actions and attempts in Rhode Island and Virginia to abort children seconds before, during, and after their birth, how can Congress, and particularly the U.S. Senate, stand by in an attempt to hoodwink the conservative base?

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S. 160) is the appropriate response to

New York and Vermont would protect tiny, fully-formed babies at five months. A vote on this bill in the

U.S. Senate would show the courage of the senators to take risks to stand for life and would also expose the Democrats who want to argue in favor of killing babies who feel the torturous procedure.

If Senate leadership is so concerned about the political optics of sweeping bans on abortion — whether those bans take effect at conception, or when a heartbeat is detected, or when/if *Roe* is overturned — why not ban abortion at five months? Only the most radical abortion leftists are for late-term abortions, and leftists are never going to vote Republican anyway.

While some pro-life leaders and organizations support different methods and strategies, the goal of eliminating elective abortion must be the

focus. To achieve the long-term goal, Texas Right to Life's legislative strategy is to take measured, prudent steps to extend legal protection to as many innocent lives as quickly as possible.

Incremental legislation involves three necessary elements:

1. the legislation must actually save lives,
2. the legislation must drive the cultural conversation to heighten awareness of the humanity of the preborn child and the barbarism of abortion, and
3. the legislation must undermine the faulty logic upon which *Roe v. Wade* (1973) was established, leading to precedent-setting legal victories.

Each of these three elements are never absent in our legislative priorities; consequently, we are subject to much criticism for not lending our full support and weight to non-priority feel-good, symbolic measures that may be life-affirming, yet not life-saving.

We commend efforts to care for children who survive abortion as we commend efforts to care for all patients in need of emergency medical care, rather than leaving patients to die. The Born Alive Infants Protection Act in the U.S. Congress reflects our values in respecting and caring for life, but this measure does not stop one abortion. This bill should be part

of a package of bills that immediately stops or reduces the 881,000 reported abortions annually in the U.S.

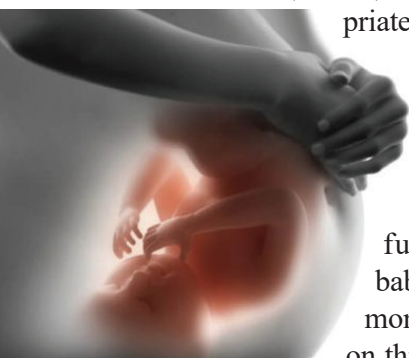
Passing bills that protect preborn children from abortion, such as the Pain-Capable bill, cements the conservative pro-life base to reelect those who actually keep promises.

If the doomsday predictions prove true — that conservatives will lose control of the U.S. Senate in 2020, then we should take advantage and push through every conservative, pro-family, pro-life reform now? If we really are at risk of losing the Senate, what do we have to lose by standing for life?

Why are our elected officials more concerned with maintaining power than they are in stopping the annual slaughter of 881,000 baby Americans? The question that begs to be asked is whether these officials are really pro-life or just political opportunists who use pro-life voters to keep their positions of power.

There will be no opportunities for Republican leadership in 2021 if they do not restore trust and confidence in the base now. President Trump is talking boldly about the atrocities in New York and Virginia and Vermont; U.S. Senators should follow suit.

Frankly, if the Republican Senate leadership does nothing substantial for life and family, why should we return them to office? 



Illinois is now encouraging abortion tourists!

# THE CULTURE OF DEATH

by Cynthia Dunbar, RNC National Committeewoman for Virginia, served on the 2016 Platform Committee, former Law Professor at Liberty University.

**T**he value that a society places on life determines the value of that society. For over 46 years, to the shame of our nation, the culture of death has been allowed to reign. The most innocent, those deserving of our greatest protection, have been allowed to be brutally slaughtered in the name of “a woman’s right to choose.”

Many in society have been deceived as to the true motives of the abortion industry and Planned Parenthood. The darkness of a philosophy that can justify valuing one human over another — be it slaveholder over slave, be it Nazi over Jew, or mother over her own unborn child — such justification to devalue innocent life, once embraced, can know no limits. The barbaric testimony by both Virginia Delegate Kathy Tran and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam show how far their side is willing to go to justify the killing of babies and should not be a shock to any of us. Their positions are the result of what comes from embracing a culture of death.

Delegate Tran, to her credit, testified honestly about what her bill could allow should it pass — the killing of a fully formed, fully viable baby as it is being delivered. This testimony proves that abortion has never been about the rights of a woman not to have to carry a baby. Medical science is such that viability continues to be a moving target, and yet as viability has continued to move younger and younger, the push by the pro-abortion activists has been to move the right of the woman to kill her baby later and later. This fact should expose the hypocrisy of the anti-life movement.

Governor Northam is a pediatric neurologist. He is fully aware of the

life these precious babies possess, and he is fully aware of how the medical profession is willing to kill children even *after birth*. His candor in expressing how easily these babies could be disposed of even after they are born exposes the deception of the abortion rights activists. This battle is not about the rights of the mother; it is about the unfettered right to kill unwanted babies at any point, inside or outside of the womb. To continue to protest that this battle is about a woman’s rights over her body is completely indefensible. How can anyone argue that this has anything to do with the woman’s body when “abortion rights” means the right to kill your baby even after it has been delivered.

For anyone to have such a calloused attitude of the value of babies or a cavalier acceptance of their destruction is shocking. But for such a person to be someone who is a pediatric doctor who is sworn to do no harm is shocking as to the values of many in the medical profession. The abortion lobby is now exposed in their desire to kill babies without any restraints.

So how did we get to this point in Virginia, where Thomas Jefferson penned that the first right given to us at the point of our creation was an “unalienable right to life.” The Biblical position on this issue is unmistakably clear. “For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb; I’m fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Not too long ago, the Virginia legislature was controlled by an almost supermajority of professed pro-life Republican delegates and senators. Had they seized the moment to

relentlessly push forward legislation to protect babies, the policies to value life could have been established. Regrettably, this was not done.

Conversely, as soon as the Democrats got a fighting chance, they unabashedly pushed for everything. The moral of the lesson is that as Republicans we need to stop being afraid of fighting for the core principles that differentiate Republicans from Democrats. The base of our party is hungry for leadership. President Trump has proven that Americans are tired of politicians playing politics.



The success of our party depends on our willingness to vehemently advance the principals in our party platform, as does the future of our nation, not to mention millions of innocent lives. Hopefully, the horrors of the public discourse in Virginia of killing babies after birth will serve as a warning to other states not to follow in our footsteps of failing to act when there is any window of opportunity. Excuses of waiting for a more opportune moment serve to accomplish nothing but to keep us on the sidelines watching as innocent lives are barbarically ended.

I encourage everyone to see the movie “Unplanned,” even though it is very difficult to witness what is really happening at the hands of the abortion industry. It is obvious that while the precious babies being brutally murdered are clearly casualties of this war, the mothers, who are being lied to for mercenary reasons are also victims.

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Other states should implement proactive steps like those currently being implemented in Virginia. The Virginia First Foundation will be asking all Republican candidates for statehouse to commit to sponsor and vote for the Heartbeat Bill. The candidates' responses will be broadly disseminated to the pro-life community in Virginia for us to elect representation that not only says they value life, but who have committed to fight to protect life. After all, the value that a society places on life determines the value of that society.

When those connected with the culture of death continue to legitimize the infanticide of the born babies out of the womb as a "woman's right to choose," the underlying premise of abortion is fully exposed for all its brutality, savagery, and inhumanity. Surely, the humanity in the masses will ultimately push back against the evil deception in the hearts of those willing to inflict such pain and death.

Let it be our hope and prayer that as this truth comes to light that every person in the Democrat party who values life at all will make a speedy escape

from that party. But let us be mindful of the fact that it is their inability or unwillingness to be sensitive to the pain of another that enables them to end innocent lives. So, I caution all of us to refrain from vilifying those who may still be caught in this deception. Let us rather pray for them to encounter love. Because while the emotions of selfishness, greed, and hate — that lead to the murder of these precious babies — are indeed very powerful, I am convinced that love always has been, and always will be, more powerful. 

## U.N. PUSHES ABORTION AT LOCAL LEVEL

by Austin Ruse, President, Center for Family & Human Rights, published with permission

**D**id anyone notice that the United Nations, at least a part of it, was involved in the controversial New York state law that codified the U.S. Supreme Court decisions imposing abortion on demand up to birth?

Melissa Upreti, a "special mandate holder" connected to the U.N. Human Rights Council, testified last September before the New York City Council Committee on Women in which she told councilmen that international law requires abortion on demand until birth.

Upreti reminded New York City councilmen that the "U.N. Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice" sent a letter to the U.S. "urging the passage of the Reproductive Health Act."

Specifically, Upreti told the committee that parts of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights require the broadest possible latitude for women to be able to abort their unborn children or have someone else do it for them. The ICCPR is one of two implementing treaties of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has been ratified by the U.S.

Upreti argued that criminalizing abortion constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and therefore violates the treaty. Additionally, she claims

the "right to life" article in the treaty includes the right to an abortion.

She went on to claim that certain "human rights mechanisms" — by which she means U.N. committees — have "moved to requiring decriminalization as an immediate obligation" and failure to do so could "amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment." These are categories within "crimes against humanity," she claimed.

Upreti's claims are not supported by the documents she cites, however. The ICCPR does not mention abortion; nor does it mention "reproductive health," the phrase used to advance a right to abortion.

States who are parties to the treaty have never agreed that the "right to life" includes a right to abortion. That notion was advanced by a committee of experts of mostly abortion supporters charged with monitoring implementation of the treaty. In recent years they have taken it upon themselves to rewrite the treaty.

Upreti also praised the efforts to have abortion not just "decriminalized" but also "demedicalized" such that non-medical personnel may perform abortions and women seeking abortions may proceed without a diagnosis, ultrasound, follow-up care, or drugs that have become standard in

medical practice. The World Health Organization called for these changes in 2012 in its Technical Guidance on Abortion.

American pro-life conservatives applauded the Trump administration for expanding Mexico City Policy, which blocks U.S. funding from groups overseas that perform or promote abortion. But promoting abortion is part of U.N. business. No government, including city councils, is too small for U.N. "experts" to pressure.

U.N. member states are negotiating a new treaty that could call protective abortion laws "crimes against humanity" as Upreti suggested to the New York City Council.

The New York law was passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Similar laws have been proposed in other states. It is likely U.N. bodies will continue to intervene. 

### EAGLE FORUM

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