

Eagle Forum Report

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200 W. Third St., Ste. 502 • Alton, IL 62002 • (618) 433-8990 • Eagle@EagleForum.org • EagleForum.org

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Living and Loving LIFE

FORCING US TO FUND ABORTION

by Elizabeth Graham, Vice President, Texas Right to Life

With all the fake news about abortion extremist Joe Biden winning the presidential election, abortion advocates are foaming at the mouth to repeal and replace federal and state laws that protect unborn children and their mothers from the pain and anguish of “choice,” but these long-standing policies have also spared many a taxpayer from lining the coffers of abortion giants, such as Planned Parenthood. Kamala Harris

First in the crosshairs of the radical left is to dismantle the Hyde Amendment, passed by the late pro-life champion Congressman Henry Hyde, a Republican who represented the northwest suburbs of Chicago for decades. The Hyde Amendment prevents taxpayers from directly funding elective abortion through Medicaid, a policy that once garnered large bipartisan support including then-Senator Joe Biden. In the 44 years since the passage of Hyde, the life-saving measure has protected untold tiny Texans and millions of Americans.

The Trump Administration has restricted federal funds to abortion providers both in the United States and abroad. He has changed eligibility requirements for so-called family planning programs, directing such programs to prioritize a broad client base and a wide spectrum of services. By doing so, he has expanded women’s health to entities and agencies that are not sullied by their affiliation with abortion providers. Because of the hostile abortion-celebrating majority in the United States House under the leadership of Pelosi, these pro-life measures have been accomplished by executive order, which fall outside the reach of her talons.

Nevertheless, Pelosi and her

Democrat cohorts are undaunted and seek to enshrine public funding for all abortion in every state for any reason without limits, not only through Medicaid, but also through all healthcare revenue streams funneled from the feds to states and health care providers. The ruling class who squawks about “choice” leaves no freedom of choice for the taxpayer in funding abortion, not even for the taxpayer oblivious to the culture war.

Before the Supreme Court foisted *Roe v. Wade* upon America by judicial decree in 1973, abortion was seldom discussed in party politics or in polite conversation. In fact, neither the Republican nor Democrat parties referenced abortion in their party platforms. Mere ambiguous allusions to “family planning” and the right to “space children” were included in the Democratic platform — certainly not unadulterated pro-life proclamations, but not exactly clear endorsements of child-killing either. Parties evaded any explicit use of that “A” word.

Even though the Hyde Amendment does not directly ban abortion and represents one of the less aggressive efforts pro-lifers are pursuing to protect life across the country, the Democrats are determined to start their political assault with its undoing and proceed from there. One would think that Harris, Pelosi, and their co-

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campaigns as proudly pro-abortion, flaunting her record of weaponizing the Office of the Attorney General in California against pro-life journalist David Daleiden. And while Biden limply tried to obscure his pro-abortion record of 40 plus years in public office, Nancy Pelosi pulls no punches about her radical abortion agenda once alleged-president-elect Biden takes office.

ven would reserve their cacophony of feminist blather for proposed legislation such as heartbeat bills (bans on abortion when the unborn child's heartbeat is detected), mandatory waiting period bills (before abortion), or bans on aborting unborn children with disabilities. For these measures not only stop abortions in large numbers but could potentially undermine the erroneous precedent of *Roe*.

But reason and measured rhetoric have long escaped these hardened hearts. Keeping some abortions legal and allowing some access to abortion is no longer enough. The sacred ritual of slaughtering the innocent on the altar of "choice" must be funded by every taxpayer so as to further con-

dition us "deplorables" to yield our faith and freedoms to the will of the ruling class.

States have worked to defund the abortion industry and restrict Medicaid funds beyond the Hyde Amendment. Though not completely achieved, Texas leads the nation by redirecting both state and federal dollars to entities not affiliated with abortion. The legislatures in red states recognize that abortion providers do not follow the laws they work so hard to enact and are increasingly exploring ways to stop the flow of funds to these mills and their affiliates.

Federal Courts of Appeals have mixed rulings on states' efforts to

restrict Medicaid and other revenue streams from benefiting abortion providers. The left cannot win — or risk — an open, honest, and diplomatic debate so they must impose policies from the top down, i.e., Obamacare.

They feebly shroud their policy goals in such terms as "ensuring that women have access to health care," and "reproductive justice," labeling the Hyde Amendment as archaic and no longer a common sense bipartisan policy. If the Democrats, Biden, Harris, and Pelosi become the majority, stripping the Hyde Amendment from the books is only the first step on that blood-stained road to perdition for these abortion mercenaries. What follows that will be unimagined savagery. 

WILL FOUR YEARS OF LIFE BE DISCARDED?

by Tabitha Walter, Eagle Forum Political Director

The Trump administration has moved conservative values forward over the past four years. President Trump was the first president to attend the March for Life and he accumulated a list of over 20 administrative accomplishments. The 2018-2022 strategic plan for the Department of Health and Human Services emphasized "the inherent dignity of persons from conception to natural death".

A Biden-Harris administration will overturn these pro-life accomplishments. Planned Parenthood endorsed Biden during his campaign. Trump's first executive action was the Mexico City Policy, which was first implemented by President Ronald Reagan and has been rescinded or reinstated with each new administration. This policy does not allow federal funds to promote abortion internationally.

President Trump's biggest pro-life accomplishment was staffing HHS with people who had the con-

viction and willpower to protect the most vulnerable. They protected the preborn in the family planning Title X program. New regulations prevent taxpayer money from funding organizations that promote or perform abortions or medical research that uses human fetal tissue. Conscience protections were issued for healthcare workers, entities, Obamacare recipients, and State Medicaid directors. HHS required all hospitals to provide treatment to babies born alive and President Trump reinforced that policy with an executive order.

ALL these policies are on the chopping block under Biden, who has named Xavier Becerra HHS Secretary. Becerra has received a 100% rating with pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood and Pro-Choice America.

Biden cannot overturn the Senate's incredible confirmation of 260 federal judges including three Supreme Court Justices. President

Trump kept his promise to nominate Constitutionalist judges that would also uphold life in the womb. We expect these judges to give us relief from an administration who would work tirelessly to destroy human life.

Democrats in both the House and Senate have vowed to enshrine abortion rights into the Constitution through the Equal Rights Amendment, stripping the Hyde Amendment, and other pro-abortion legislation. House Republicans should unite against every pro-abortion bill.

We must participate in comment periods of new agency regulations, and point out the hypocrisy of "human rights" policies that effectively take away rights, and most importantly, vote for pro-life candidates to gain a majority in the House and Senate. 



UP WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Frank Stephens is a Quincy Jones Advocate for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and a Board Member of the Special Olympics Virginia. He gave this testimony before the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations at the U.S. House of Representatives on October 25, 2017.

Just so there is no confusion let me say that I am not a research scientist. However, no one knows more about life with Down Syndrome than I do. Whatever you learn today, please remember this: I am a man with Down Syndrome and my life is worth living.

Why do I feel the need to make that point? Across the world, a notion is being sold that maybe we don't need to continue to do research concerning Down syndrome. Why? Because there are pre-natal screens that will identify Down syndrome in the womb, and we can just terminate those pregnancies. In places as wide-spread as Iceland, Denmark and South Korea, government officials have proclaimed that these government encouraged terminations will make them "Down syndrome free by 2030."

It is hard for me to sit here and say those words. Let's be clear, I completely understand that the people pushing that particular "final solution" are saying that people like me should not exist. They are saying that we have too little value to exist.

That view is deeply prejudiced by an outdated idea of life with Down syndrome. Seriously, I have a great life. I have been a guest lecturer at major universities. I have contributed to a best-selling book, had a feature role in an award-winning film, guest starred on an Emmy winning TV show, and spoken to thousands of young people about the value of inclusion in making America great. I've even been to the White House twice, and I didn't have to jump the

fence either time.

Seriously, I don't feel I should have to justify my existence, but to those who question the value of people with Down syndrome I would make three points.

First, we are a medical gift to society. As you have heard, our extra chromosome makes us a blueprint for medical research that could reveal answers to cancer, Alzheimer's, and Immune System disorders. If not for us, then for you and the one's you love, fund this research.

Second, we are an unusually powerful source of happiness. A Harvard based study has discovered that people with Down syndrome, as well as their parents and siblings are happier than society at large. I know happiness is not something you can assign dollars to, but surely it must be worth something.

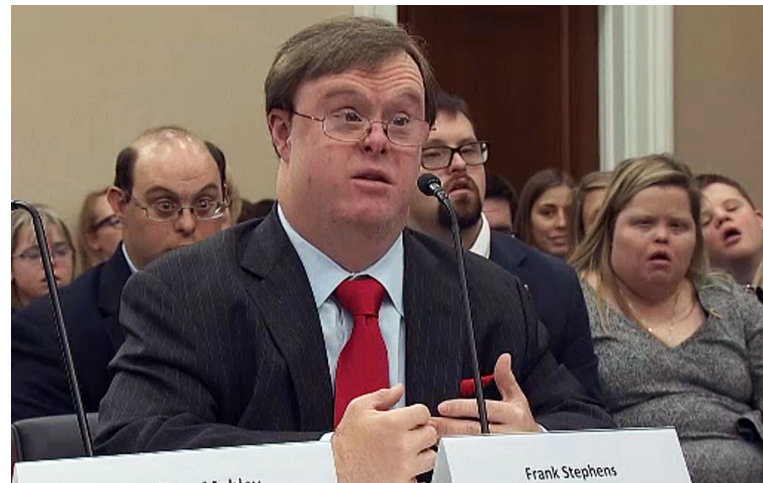
Finally, we are the canary in the eugenics coal mine. Genomic research isn't going to stop at screening for Down syndrome. It won't be long before we can identify all manner of potentially expensive medical or personality "deviations" in the womb.

As a society, we have an opportunity to slow down and think about the ethics of choosing which humans get a chance at life.

Let me just repeat what I said.

We are helping to defeat cancer and Alzheimer's and we make the world a happier, kinder place. Is there really no place for us in this society? Is there really no place for us in the NIH budget?

On a deeply personal note, I cannot tell you how much it means to me that my extra chromosome might lead to the answer to Alzheimer's. It is likely that this thief will one day steal



Let's make our goal to be Alzheimer's free, not Down Syndrome free. — Frank Stephens

my memories, my very life, from me. This is hard for me to say, but it has already begun to steal my Mom from me. Please think of all those people you love the way I love my Mom.

Help us make this difference.

Let's be America, not Iceland or Denmark. Let's pursue answers, not "final solutions." Let's be America. Let's pursue inclusion, not termination. Let's make our goal to be Alzheimer's free, not Down syndrome free. Thank you. 

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President: *Colleen Holcomb*

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#UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

by Roland C. Warren, President & CEO of Care Net, the nation's largest Evangelical network of pregnancy centers, offering compassion, hope and help to women and men at risk for abortion. You can learn more at www.care-net.org

As I write this, our nation faces a time of great social unrest and political division. We are challenged to state publicly with our words and our social media what matters; but for too many, a person's hashtag has become the litmus test for determining the value of their perspective.

It breaks my heart that family ties, long-standing friendships, and even church congregations are being frayed and divided over three words. For some, these words are "Black lives matter." For others, they are "All lives matter."

It seems like everyone is choosing sides these days.

As I look at the division in our nation, I am reminded of two of Jesus's disciples: Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot. These men couldn't have been more different in terms of their worldviews and their passions. Simon was at war with the Roman government and he was so passionate, so vocal, and so committed to this struggle, that "Zealot" was added to his name. He was really the "Jewish lives matter" guy of his day.

Matthew, on the other hand, was a tax collector for the Roman government. He was part of the system because the system was benefiting him. He was on the opposite side of the political, social, and maybe even the religious divide from Simon, yet they both came to follow Jesus. I believe that they did so because they each thought that Jesus would help them accomplish their particular agendas. I imagine Simon the Zealot thought, "Well, Jesus, if he's the Messiah, will take down the Roman government with violence." And Matthew may have thought that as a close follower of Jesus, he would be well-positioned

to get a lucrative role in the new system when Jesus came to power.

It's not a stretch to imagine that once these two men learned each other's perspective and politics, they had some very heated conversations around the campfire, probably within earshot of Jesus. I am sure they kept waiting to see which side Jesus would take.

But Jesus never engaged in the debate of the day in the way that the culture expected or even demanded. He was never on the side of man because he was always on the side of God.

When Jesus was handed that coin and challenged with the question of, "Should we pay taxes?" by those who sought to trap him, he said, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." He transcended the cultural debate about whether taxes mattered and refocused the discussion on the things of God. His agenda, as he revealed in Matthew 22, is reflected in the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love your neighbor.

As followers of Christ, we must engage the cultural issues of our day in a similar fashion, rejecting the methods or the frameworks of our culture if they don't fully reflect Christ's agenda. This brings us back to the conflict with those three words. When the culture demands that we use or reject a particular hashtag to demonstrate whether we are on the right side of the debate, it's framing the agenda on its own terms.

How would Christ turn this question on its head were he to speak to our culture today? He certainly would not engage in a debate about who "matters." He would challenge us to love our neighbor and pray for our

enemies." Love is a higher and more difficult calling. Jesus calls us to the ultimate standard of love: to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Why is this so critical? Well, because it's connected to the core reason Jesus came: to reconcile us to God and to reconcile us to each other. That's why he died on the cross. When we seek to apply this higher agenda to our current cultural problems, it means we have to look past the political rhetoric, social media posts and hashtags and pursue reconciliation by means of Christ's love.

We need to stop acting like the ultimate solution to the unrest and violence in our streets



is a hashtag or a march. In order to see healing in our land, our communities, and our families, we need a rebirth of God-honoring righteousness in every heart. This rebirth will only come if we as Christ's followers transcend the hashtags and re-align ourselves with his agenda of unconditional love.

You see, Jesus took two men diametrically opposed to one another and gave them the same call: "Come, follow me." We must focus our attention and our ministry on the individual hearts. We must take time to listen with love to those who are on the opposite side and find our stories in their stories.

If Simon and Matthew found a way to put aside their "zealot" and "tax collector" labels long enough to become disciples of Jesus, so can we. Indeed, we must. If we are on God's side. 