

WINTER 2023  
**Lifelines**

There's always a reason  
to *choose life.*

**New Challenges Ahead  
But Life Will Prevail.**

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# ❖ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ❖

By Christopher Pushaw, Esq.  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
pushaw@paprolife.org

**O**n behalf of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, welcome to the winter edition of *LifeLines*! It comes to you after quite a tumultuous year for the pro-life movement – and my first as Executive Director! While not surprising, many of the setbacks we faced are no less discouraging. But we continue to fight on as best we can. Pennsylvania has always been a refuge for life. We must continue to do our best to make sure it remains one as our neighbors to the north, west and east continue to reject the promise of *Dobbs* and enshrine unlimited abortion rights in their state constitutions. It is no rhetorical exaggeration to say that Pennsylvania remains the “Keystone” to protecting life in the Northeast Corridor.

**And make no mistake – we are under attack.** At the close of last year’s legislative session, a bill (*H.B. 1888*) was introduced that would enshrine “reproductive liberty” as a fundamental “right” under our Constitution. This in turn threatens our *Abortion Control Act*, and with it several decades of common-sense protections for both mother and child in our state, including parental and informed consent, 24-hour waiting periods and Hyde-era prohibitions on funding abortion through our tax dollars. As I write this we also await our state Supreme Court’s decision in the *Allegheny Reproductive Health Center* case, which may also judicially recognize abortion

as a “fundamental right” under our state Constitution - again contrary to *Dobbs*. And not content with making Pennsylvania a “safe space” for abortion within our borders, a bill (*H.B. 1786*) just passed our House that would establish Pennsylvania as a “safe haven” for any person breaking “reproductive healthcare” laws more restrictive than ours. ***This would shield abortion fugitives from the reach of legal process in those states.*** As other threats to life loom, this brief legislative run-down illustrates the importance of educating and supporting our legislators as they continue to fight the battle for life in the Capitol – and hold them accountable when they don’t.

***We similarly see no end in sight from the Governor’s office in terms of jeopardizing the welfare of both mother and child in the Commonwealth.*** After taking meetings with Planned Parenthood, one of Josh Shapiro’s first executive actions was to establish an “abortion access” hotline with our tax dollars. He also just got his Christmas wish, as his subversion of the budgetary process during last year’s legislative session allowed the contract for the *Real Alternatives* program to expire on New Year’s Eve, along with lawfully allocated public funding for the pregnancy resource centers it supported.

**As we enter 2024, we are obviously embattled politically.** Thankfully, neither the Shapiro nor Biden administrations can prevent us from our coordinate educational mission of transforming hearts and minds de-sensitized to the beauty and promise of life.

**Through online and print publications** like this, we will continue to extol the magical beauty of life with the compassionate clarity needed to unmask the lies pro-pounded by the abortion industry. We will heal those hurt by those lies and open them to life’s splendor.

**I travelled to nearly every corner of our great state last year.** From prayer breakfasts in Lititz to rain-soaked vigils in Johnstown to Tea Party talks in Allentown, I drew strength from how many of our citizens have been awakened to the horrors of

abortion and euthanasia. The fact that many of our chapter leaders are taking determined steps to reveal these horrors and mount a counteroffensive at the grassroots level energizes me as I lead them – and this organization – this year.

**At the same time, I still see the mandate of *Dobbs* – that no “right” to abortion exists anywhere in our Constitution – as the cornerstone for the pro-life movement nationally and at the state level.**

As we work to fulfill the promise of *Dobbs*, we should not abandon its premise. Let us not forget the “bright spots” in 2023, when we took advantage of many opportunities to deliver on that mandate. We finally were able to articulate our concerns regarding the fetal harvesting and related experimentation performed at *Magee-Womens Hospital* and the *University of Pittsburgh*. We saw Mark Houck go free after his federal arrest and trial for his pro-life witness. We courageously protested outside various pharmacies over the dangers the “abortion pill” mifepristone presents to dangerously under-informed women. In a hopeful capstone to this witness (and a counterweight to *Allegheny Reproductive*), we await the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine* case. It is our sincere hope that the Court will build on its momentum in *Dobbs* to check the FDA’s politically motivated, “fast-tracked” establishment of chemical abortion in our country as well as its subsequent deregulation.

To highlight the above points in more lucid detail, this issue of *LifeLines* treats the many challenges we faced. The abortion industry capitalized on a down election year – ironically catalyzed by *Dobbs* - to promote a continuing culture of death in our state and nation. We chronicle our yearlong fight to preserve *Real Alternatives*. We reveal the transformative power of reversing the “pro-choice” mindset by reaching women where they are in their pro-life journey, as a key to rebuilding our culture of life. We document our testimony before the Magee board. And we celebrate the remarkable success of our Banquet this year, in which many of you were able to share!

**The end of the year always brings the occasion for reflection for all of us. Our staff and I start this new year off with hope, promise and renewed energy.** Please continue to support our just cause at its most critical juncture!

Through *Dobbs*, we have won the constitutional battle.

***Let’s go win the war!***

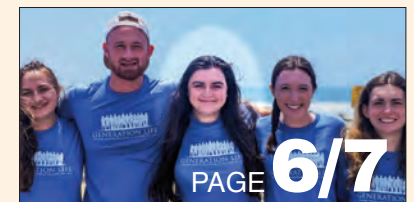
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[www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)



# Support for Women: The ANTIDOTE for Abortion!



By Maria V. Gallagher  
Legislative/PAC Director  
gallagher@paprolife.org

I recently downloaded a photo onto my phone showing a precious baby smiling for the camera, eyes bright with enthusiasm.

This is a baby whose mother was helped by Pennsylvania's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services program, which is administered by *Real Alternatives, Inc.*

## The Bad News

Pennsylvania Democrat Governor Josh Shapiro in December canceled the contract for the program, which has served more than 350,000 women over nearly 30 years. That's three decades' worth of moms and their babies, getting the comprehensive support they need.

While the Governor claims that he is for "choice," his decision could lead many women to feel as if they have no choice but abortion. This prediction is supported by research which shows that, of women who had abortions and who regretted

them, 85 percent said they would have chosen life for their children if just one person had been supportive of their pregnancy—*just one!*

*That one person is often at a pregnancy resource center, maternity home, or adoption agency—the very organizations the Governor decided to defund.* It is alarming and cruel to try to rip apart the safety net for these women who desperately need the services the Pennsylvania program provides.

## Public Support High for Pregnancy Resource Centers

Interestingly enough, a recent Franklin & Marshall poll showed an impressive 56 percent of the Pennsylvanians surveyed support government funding for pregnancy centers. Support for pregnant women is popular—and is the antidote to the tragedy and trauma of abortion.

Chances are good you know of someone who has been assisted by the caring, compassionate counselors at a pregnancy resource center.

## A Challenge to the Governor

I wish I had a chance to show the Governor the photo of that sweet baby that I keep on my phone. Could he look at that incredible face and still seek to deny the child's mother the assistance she needed at a challenging moment in her life?

A pregnancy center director I know has issued a challenge to the Governor to visit her facility. There, he would see first-hand the amazing work of her talented staff and volunteers. Miracles happen at her Lancaster center every day, as women receive the life-affirming help they need to give birth to and care for their babies.

## A Challenge for You

Thousands of women are being put at grave risk by the Governor's decision to cancel Real Alternatives' contract. Real Alternatives is valiantly fighting on, working to generate private funding for the critical Pennsylvania program. Let your state lawmakers know that you oppose the defunding of Real Alternatives. We need your voice now more than

ever to defend the most vulnerable in our Commonwealth.

## Real Alternatives at a Glance:\*

- Providing meaningful life-affirming pregnancy and parenting support services requires that individuals are available to listen to the concerns of women in crisis and to provide them with non-judgmental support. Real Alternatives utilizes a network of existing community agencies, known as service providers, to accomplish these goals.
- The 83 service provider centers in Pennsylvania consist of 37 social service agencies, 31 pregnancy support centers, 3 adoption agencies, and 12 maternity homes located throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- The quality of the service provided to women is of utmost importance to *Real Alternatives*.

\*Source: [www.RealAlternatives.org](http://www.RealAlternatives.org)



# Celebrating Life as a Movement of Hope!

By **Remil Teny**  
 Education Director  
 lifelines@paprolife.org

The candles were lit. The tables were set. The ballroom was prepared for a night of inspiration.

And what a night it was! Filled with the joy of life and joy for life, the **2023 Celebrate Life! Banquet** delivered on its promise of fellowship and re-energizing the pro-life community in Pennsylvania.

As the soft light of the day began to fade outside the **Hershey Lodge on October 28th**, most of our almost 800 guests filled the large ballroom, and **Christopher Pushaw**, our Executive Director and emcee-for-the-day

took the stage. It was time to showcase another hard year's labor and reveal Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's strategy moving forward.

The star of the evening, celebrated TV host and journalist **Raymond Arroyo**, personified immense joy and hope. His sensational keynote addressing the current pro-life fight and highlighting the work of the pro-life movement had the audience in stitches at several moments with anecdotes and jokes that were equally entertaining and compelling.

He reflected on three lives that surpassed the dim predictions of the limited quality of life stamped on them -

Mother Angelica, Judy Garland and an extraordinary little boy, Mattie Stepanek, who often appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show. They each went on to leave behind legacies that added a rare beauty to this world, their works still touching millions in the world today.



Raymond emphasized the role that faith and purpose had played in their lives – in soaring beyond their limitations and living their lives to the fullest. He invited us to ponder on all the lives with great potential that are being lost to abortions.

Interwoven with inspiration was an acknowledgement of the sobering reality we face as a nation, a state and as individuals. Raymond recognized our generation as a generation that is standing up for life because of the losses we have each suffered personally and directly from the scourge of legalized abortion.

He invoked the words of stalwart pro-life advocate Mother Teresa, who stunned the audience at the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast by saying “The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion...please don't kill the child.”



He brought attention to Big Abortion hiding behind euphemisms like “reproductive justice” and “reproductive freedom” – words that don’t particularly mean anything and represent everything but the ability to reproduce. He noted the challenges we are facing ever since the battle moved down to the states.

Yet, his message was one of hope – characterizing the pro-life movement as a “movement of hope” and calling the Pennsylvania affiliate of National Right To Life a “sign and extender of that hope.”

Following his remarks, **Mark Houck**, the 2023 Pennsylvania Pro-Life

Leadership Award winner, had his own story to share with the audience. Recounting the terror his family faced at the pre-dawn FBI raid at his residence in Pennsylvania, he graciously accepted the award, crediting the strength and support he

received from his wife and seven children for his steadfastness through it all.

He revealed details about the harrowing experience of being unjustly accused under the FACE Act.

After he was arrested, Mark was offered a sweet deal to plead guilty to the charge with a promise that he would be freed. “It’s a cowardly deal”, Ryan-Marie, his wife told him. Mark knew that he



had to stay in the fight – “for every pro-lifer after me that would be wrongly accused.” He described the ordeal as his own personal Calvary that eventually culminated in not only his acquittal but a victory for the whole pro-life movement.

He encouraged pro-lifers to not back down, exhorting, “You’ve got to be all in. You’ve got to be all in for pro-life and double down on

**Caulfield** from Erie, delivered her outstanding speech that won her the National Right to Life Oratory Contest prize at the NRL Convention in June this year.

With eloquence and strength, she called out the Shapiro Government’s remarkable ineptitude in serving pregnant women in crisis in our Commonwealth, and resumed to state her case on why abortion centers are legal but unethical and

the work you are already doing.”

The Banquet also featured a refreshing new voice that represented the heart of a struggle our own state is facing. Our student contestant, **Clare**

therefore must be closed down. Her speech informed the audience of the challenges that the move to withdraw Real Alternatives’ contract presents as well as the incredible life-saving support that pregnancy resource centers provide, drawing a standing ovation from the audience.

*The 2023 Celebrate Life Banquet will be remembered for a long time to come as a celebration of the resilience of the pro-life movement in the hardness of the struggles.*



AUTHOR’S NOTE:  
Go to [www.paprolife.org/events](http://www.paprolife.org/events) to watch the video of our work that was presented at the banquet.

## PLEASE SUPPORT US AND OUR BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE!

THE PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION HAS A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE:  
**“to render abortion unthinkable in our state.”**

To achieve this, we will:

- ▶ **Challenge our elected officials to restore legal protection for preborn babies and their mothers in Pennsylvania**
- ▶ **Strengthen the resources available to pregnant women in difficult circumstances**, in order to create a holistic safety net for them from conception to delivery and beyond
- ▶ **Intensify our outreach to students at the primary, secondary, and college level, to change the abortion mindset prevalent in our schools**
- ▶ **Unite with our chapters, churches and civic groups to provide transformative grassroots advocacy**
- ▶ **Expand our digital and broadcast presence** to be a vigilant and tireless voice for the cause of life

Post *Dobbs*, Planned Parenthood adopted a new word for their mission – **RELENTLESS**. Our answer to them? – **RESOLUTE**.

**We stand unwavering on the truth of life, refusing to give in to the new cries for compromise at the cost of innocent deaths, while championing the true rights of pregnant women of our Commonwealth. Will you stand with us?**

### YES! I WANT TO HELP PREBORN CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS!

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

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I will give online by visiting [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org) and clicking on the red “Donate” and completing the form with my credit card info. I will enter “LifeLines” in the field that says “Instructions/Prayer Requests/Memorials.”

I want to join the **Life Champions Team** by pledging \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  month  quarter

Please send me the “**A Legacy of Life**” brochure on charitable bequests for the Federation

Please clip this **Lifelines** coupon and send it with your donation to:

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Gifts to the general fund are not tax deductible. However, you may make tax-deductible contributions to the PA Pro-Life Federation Educational Fund. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

PENNSYLVANIA  
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# TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE HEART: From Pro-Choice to Pro-Life!



honest friendship,” she says.

Discovering the procedural methods of abortion at the different stages of life was horrifying to her. She was equally shocked to learn about how early a baby develops brain waves and a heartbeat as a whole organism - a scientific fact completely at odds with the parasite idea that she had been taught. Another key factor that was critical in her conversion was the existence of pregnancy

resource centers and the dynamic solutions they provide for practically any type of crisis pregnancy situation.

There are several things she

notes that contrast the two movements. Speaking of the time her convictions took her to the Women’s March in DC, she noted that there were no children at the women’s marches, “...just to see night and day – the joy at the March For Life versus the negative emotions at the Women’s March helps me see that’s what a culture of life looks like. The pro-lifers were having fun and there were smiles and children present”.



**T**he battle for life has intensified - not just on a state-level but within the hearts of men and women. We are seeing desperation, confusion, blurry

movement. She wanted to be a Planned Parenthood escort her summer in high school. *And here’s her story.*

lines... even calls to surrender. And with each battle lost doubts arise, but we don’t surrender. Why? Because we know we will win at the end. Because we look around and see that even as states are suffering losses, there is victory in the battlegrounds of the heart. Those who have been in this war a long time have witnessed these transformations that re-galvanize this movement. They have seen how those who once were vehemently pro-choice now turn around and passionately defend the preborn.

**Lisa Eshleman** is one such young woman – vibrant and full of joy. A pro-life educator at *Generation Life*, she travels around the northeast region of Pennsylvania to speak to other young people about the pro-life and chastity message to end abortion at its root cause. This, however, was not part of her plan. Lisa was all in for the pro-abortion

Lisa grew up going to a secular private school exposed to information some of which, she discovered in her senior year, was not true. Having scientifically minded parents who were both doctors she began to fact check with them things she was being taught incorrectly at school. This led to her changing her mind on a lot of issues. For her, abortion was the last thing she changed her mind on as it was deeply ingrained in her as a women’s rights issue and one of the most basic fundamental part of a modern day society.

What changed her perception on this? In her own words, “One, seeing the joy of others and two, I didn’t experience an ounce of condemnation from the pro-life movement when I would ask questions.” She didn’t experience coercion to change her mind immediately or the need to make her pro-life friends feel like they had won her over. “It was an open,



**By Remil Teny**  
Education Director  
lifelines@paprolife.org



is always a place for what pro-lifers have to offer to those on the other side – a compassionate witness to the truth, through every channel and opportunity presented to us.

In the current political and legal landscape where the abortion side is deafeningly loud with their lies and propaganda, the fight is still not lost. Because we can still whisper the truth (or shout it

from the rooftop!) and truth changes hearts in the long run. While the political battle rages on, you and I are called upon as critical messengers of this truth at a critical time like the present. So where do we begin? The strength of the movement has always been grassroots advocacy through friendships and conversations.

**Here are a few helpful suggestions:**

- **Initiate compassionate conversations** that invite people to wrestle with the conflict of ideas that arise from the discussion. Don't shy away from firmly but lovingly stating your position even if it is unpopular. Many are usually on the fence and don't have enough information to have their mind made up. Discuss the hard topics.
- **Hope for transformations with every conversation**, but don't expect it to be immediate or on your timeline. Plant seeds and fol-

low up as opportunities present themselves.

- In an increasingly, isolated society where select information controlled by Big Media is all people may be receiving, **create opportunities to meet with others in person for face-to-face conversations**, especially the younger generations.

- **Use pictures of the stages of fetal development and ultrasound videos to present facts.** Share them on social media and respond graciously to anyone who challenges it.

- **Have your 'one minute elevator pitch' ready** for moments you have to present your pro-life position in a short amount of time.

- **Have a pro-life "resource kit"** – keep a list of pregnancy resource centers, helpline numbers and other useful programs handy for anyone who asks for it

- **Stay updated and informed on current issues** that have a larger political influence, such as elections.

- **Volunteer to distribute pro-life recommended Voter Guides.** Have a conversation with people as you do it.

- **Write to the editor of your local newspaper** about your concerns with the pro-abortion agenda

**Let's share the truth consistently in our homes, our workplaces, colleges, schools, churches, wherever we are. The battlegrounds have clearly shifted and now more than ever we need conversations that help transform hearts and bring about cultural change.**



*There's always a reason to choose life.™*

**For Lisa, it was slow transformation of heart and mind, and what a gift it has given to the pro-life movement!**

Super model turned businesswoman, Kathy Ireland, who for years identified as a pro-choice Christian, shared in an interview recently, "I realized I was in the worst place for me, which was on the fence [of the life issue]." Going through her husband's medical text books which confirmed that at the moment of conception a new life comes into being with a unique genetic blueprint, she admits, "I was not happy, I did not want to be pro-life." And yet, that journey led her on to deepening convictions that the unborn life needs to be protected and she is now a strong advocate and ally of the pro-life movement.

From Kathy Ireland to Lisa Eshleman, these stories take place all around us. We can never know for certain what ultimately leads to a heart being changed but it starts somewhere – an experience, a consequence, information in a pamphlet, a chance encounter, a prayer, or a statement that challenges the popular abortion narrative. It is usually a combined impact of all these. One thing is for certain, there



# Pro-Life ON TOUR

## Curious to know where we've been this past year?

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation staff has had an incredible year of educational and relational outreaches to several groups and ages *across the Commonwealth and beyond!* The misinformation and fear-mongering that were accelerated among the general public following *Dobbs* still abound. Under these circumstances, we were privileged to be invited to a number of places to convey facts and encouragement for living in a post-*Roe* world.

Last spring, **Christopher Pushaw**, our Executive Director,

discuss how the promise of *Dobbs* remains unfulfilled at present, due to the unfortunate political currency that abortion "rights" gained in its immediate wake as well as a national mindset that just as sadly acculturated to the fuzzy constitutional logic of *Roe*. The presentations were well-attended and enthusiastically received.

Our Legislative Director, **Maria Gallagher** was privileged to speak at workshops at the *National Right to Life Convention* in Pittsburgh. It was gratifying to see

so many people dedicated to the cause of life in that venue. The next week, she spoke in *Gettysburg* at a moving ceremony marking the anniversary of the overturn of the tragic *Roe v. Wade Supreme Court* ruling.

The release of her pro-life book, *Mercy's Power*, early last year presented Maria with the opportunity to not

only share the pro-life message in our state but across borders! In July, she traveled to *Alabama* to appear on *EWTN's "At Home with Jim & Joy"* program to promote her book, providing inspiration to thousands across the world. That month, she also gave a presentation on the book to members of the *Council of Catholic Women at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Harrisburg*. Later in the year, she traveled to *Michigan* to give a talk to the *Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of Kalamazoo*. A month later, she spoke at the *Cemetery of the Innocents in Perry County* to a group that had gathered to honor the unborn lives lost to abortions.

addressed the *Respect Life Group of St. James Parish in Lititz* where he spoke on the *Dobbs* ruling, the legal backdrop that led up to it, and what it means for Pennsylvania. A week later he journeyed to *Lewistown* to address a prayer rally on the importance of pro-life witness and in the fall he addressed a *40 Days for Life kickoff* (in the pouring rain!) in *Johnstown*.

Chris also had the opportunity to address the *Lehigh Valley Tea Party* twice in 2023. His June 1 talk outlined the Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs* decision and its ramifications for Pennsylvania's pro-life political future. Chris returned (somewhat fittingly) on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, to



Our school presentations were an exciting opportunity to shape the younger generations' view on important life issues. Chris was invited to speak at the *Trinity High School's Pro-Life Club* meeting and a few short weeks later, he joined Education Director **Remil Teny** on a panel of speakers at a school-wide assembly at the

*Christmas in July event in Reedsville*, and *Johnny's Run for Life outside Philadelphia*. These events offered us beautiful moments for one-on-one conversations with people from all walks of life and experiences.

It was such an honor to be able to share the vital pro-life message with all of these dynamic groups

and we are excited for the several presentations that are lined up in the coming weeks and months. There is no time like the present to armor up to battle the misinformation that is prevalent among us!



*Bishop McDevitt High School* to address the dangers of euthanasia. The Q & A session that followed was engaging and gave us a glimpse into the thoughts of these young inquiring minds.

The Federation also set up educational tables at such varied 2023 events as the *Harrisburg Diocese Men's & Women's Conferences, Harrisburg Diocesan Educational Conference, The National Right to Life Convention in Pittsburgh, Uprise Christian Music Fest at Shippensburg, a*

*If your church, school, chapter or organization is interested in having a staff member of the Federation present on a pro-life topic, please contact lifelines@paprolife.org.*

PENNSYLVANIA  
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*There's always a reason to choose life...*

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# Pennsylvania Hosts National Right to Life Convention



By Maria Gallagher  
Legislative Director  
gallagher@paprolife.org

## Inspiring. Energizing. Invigorating.

Those are just some of the words that come to my mind when I think about the **52nd annual National Right to Life Convention**, which was held in June at the Hyatt Regency at the Pittsburgh Airport.

I met people from around the country who were amazed at the breadth of the material presented. Even long-time advocates for life expressed amazement at all they learned at the jam-packed two day event.

One year after *Dobbs v. Jackson* overturned the tragic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, the clear message seemed to be: Let's get busy!

## Humorist Gets Serious

At the closing banquet, **Seth Dillon** of the satirical website *The Babylon Bee* offered these sage remarks:

"There was a lot of chatter on Twitter about this Supreme Court [*Dobbs*] decision. I think it was Michelle Obama who said the Supreme Court has taken away the right to abortion. They didn't take away a right. The Court just stopped pretending that that right ever existed.

"I may run a comedy site but I talk about abortion often. I don't know why it comes up so much but it does. And whenever I do talk about abortion I always hear from somebody who says I should just

shut up and stick to cracking jokes. They try to put me in my place and say, 'Why do you care so much?' And I almost always respond the same way. 'Why don't you care? What possible reason could I have for not caring? In fact, I can think of about 60 million reasons why I care.'

"So I always try to turn it around on them every single time and make them defend their callousness and their complacency in the face of unspeakable evil."

## Football Great Preaches Compassion



Meanwhile, former NFL star **Benjamin Watson** offered a sobering statistic on the state of abortion in the U.S.:

*"Seventy-six percent of these women who are seeking abortions say they would prefer to parent if their circumstances were different."*

"The compassionate part is stepping into someone else's shoes and saying, 'what's the situation, what's the context, what are the reasons you might make this decision more than someone else would?' I believe that's how we love people in the new fight for life."

## We are Up for the Challenge

Threats to innocent human life abound. And yet, we have so many bright and capable people who are up for the challenge of defending the sanctity of life.

As the host of the 2023 Convention, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation continues to stand ready to assist in the valiant effort to empower pregnant women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

Yes, we face a culture of darkness. But the convention equipped us with the light of understanding to point the way to a path of Hope



and Healing.

The NRLC Convention 2023 may be history, but the lessons learned will last a lifetime.



*There's always a reason to choose life...*

## PHOTO GALLERY



Executive Director **Christopher Pushaw** with **Angele Mbassi**, coordinator of the African American Outreach of Harrisburg Diocese, and **Michael Ciccocioppo**



**Chris Pushaw** (far right) at **Johnny's Run For Life** in Philadelphia



Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's educational table at the **Harrisburg Diocesan Women's Conference**.



Educational Tables by **York County's CCHL**



Educational Tables by **York County's CCHL**



Educational Tables by **Erie's People For Life**



Educational Tables by **Erie's People For Life**



Board member **Denise Wilcox** with **Southeast PA Students** at the **March For Life**



**CCHL Bedford County** at the **March For Life**



**PHL Wyoming Valley Chapter** at the **March For Life**



**People For Life Erie Chapter** at the **March For Life**

## Remarks Delivered Before The Magee-Womens Hospital Board

Christopher Pushaw, Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, delivered the following remarks to the Board of Directors of Magee-Womens Hospital on **October 9, 2023**, regarding its oversight of fetal collection practices used for related experimentation at the University of Pittsburgh. While these practices have been known for some years - and are technically legal under Pennsylvania law - this was the first opportunity we had to publicly challenge them. Christopher was one of many Pennsylvania pro-life leaders to address the Board, including Meredith Parente and Ryan Navarro of the Magee Project, retired Judge Cheryl Allen, and Rep. Tim Bonner (R-Mercer & Butler Counties).

Much of the testimony that afternoon rightly decried the barbaric and inhumane nature of fetal experimentation in general. The Federation focused specifically on whether the type of fetal tissue harvesting needed for such experimentation is consistent with the governing provisions of the PA Abortion Control Act and within public purview. We thank Brian Simboli for his tireless research in helping to prepare these remarks, as well as Meredith and Ryan for their unceasing advocacy in giving us and other pro-life leaders the opportunity to bring these issues to light.

**G**ood afternoon. My name is **Christopher Pushaw**. I am the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. We thank the Board for allowing the Federation time to speak with respect to how **Magee-Womens Hospital** provides fetal tissue specimens to the University of Pittsburgh for its conduct of related experimental research.<sup>[1]</sup>

One of the best procedures to preserve this “warm ischemic time” is through “labor induction” abortion,<sup>[3]</sup> which can occur during the **third trimester**. This procedure is considered desirable in order to obtain “high quality” samples, since other procedures **can mutilate the tissue and render it unusable**.

Specimens obtained through “labor induction” abortion raise the

treatment. Section 3216(a) prohibits “nontherapeutic experimentation... upon any child born alive during the course of the abortion.”<sup>[4]</sup>

Induction abortion methods used for fetal collection purposes call into question whether the abortion doctor takes steps immediately to preserve the lives of delivered fetuses that show signs of life and/or whether a fetus that survives the

abortion then loses its life by virtue of having its organs removed for research purposes.

To our knowledge Magee has not publicly shared how it gathers these fetal specimens, whether such collection involves labor induction abortion, or whether such procedures comply with state law.

For its part, the University hired a law firm at the end of 2021 to address concerns arising from its fetal experimentation practices in general. However, the firm’s findings only heightened concern regarding Magee’s role in providing fetal specimens. A closing

recommendation called for “enhanced oversight” by the University of its tissue collection protocol... “to ensure compliance with applicable laws and policies.”<sup>[5]</sup>

However, the report suggests that such oversight would **not** extend to **how** Magee obtains its fetal tissue



Actual Photo of an Unborn Baby in the Womb at 20 weeks.

specimens. The report<sup>[6]</sup> states: “... we did not review the clinical decision-making or delivery of medical care, such as abortion, by individuals serving in their capacity as University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) employees.”

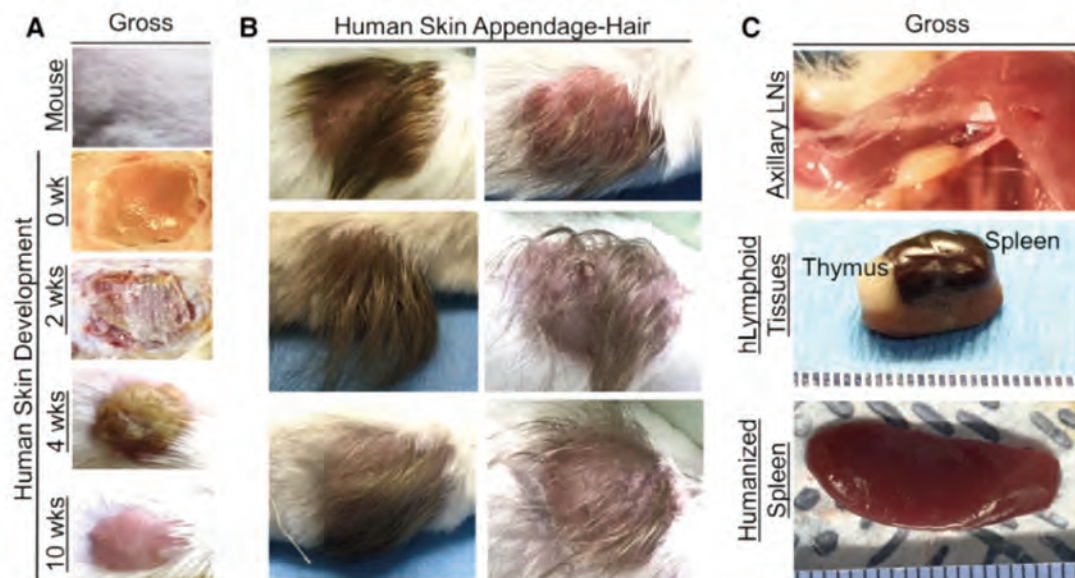
Moreover, the report states that formal review by the University’s **Institutional Review Board** over the “method by which the researcher will obtain human fetal tissue” can qualify for an exemption” provided such tissue is “de-identified.”<sup>[7]</sup> The report does not explain how the “de-identification process” works.

If the IRB did not investigate how the fetal tissue was collected based on this exemption, it still begs the questions that would have been central to the investigation before it and the law firm—namely, what abortion procedures were used in the process of collecting these fetal specimens, whether some fetuses survived these abortions and whether continuing the procedure at that point induced fetal demise.

**We would respectfully request that Magee Hospital address the issue of whether it in fact complies with Pennsylvania law in its fetal tissue collection practices. The Federation raises these questions on behalf of Pennsylvania citizens who deserve an answer and thank the Board for addressing them.**

Figure 1

From: Development of humanized mouse and rat models with full-thickness human skin and autologous immune cells



Development of human skin and lymphoid tissues in the human Skin and Immune System-humanized NSG mouse model. Transplantation of full-thickness human skin (derived from the scalp for skin with hair, or derived from dorsum for skin without hair) on the dorsum (A, B) and autologous lymphoid tissues in the kidney capsule (C) of NSG mice results in the engraftment and development of full-thickness human skin and lymphoid tissues. (A) Representative gross-photos at 0 (the day of transplantation), 2-, 4- and 10-weeks post-transplantation, with intact mouse skin as control (n = 4 per group). (B) Transplantation of full-thickness human skin from regions with significant hair follicles (scalp) in the human Skin and Immune System-humanized NSG mouse model results in the development of human hair, as exhibited in representative gross-photos at 12 weeks post-transplantation (n = 6). (C) Representative gross-photos of human lymphoid tissues (spleen and thymus tissues) and humanized lymphoid tissues (reconstituted-immunodeficient murine lymph node and spleen) at ten weeks post-transplantation (n = 4).

This concern arose from a 2020 FOIA request, which revealed that in a grant application made to NIH, the University noted<sup>[2]</sup> that it “**record[s] the warm ischemic time on our samples and take steps to keep it at a minimum to ensure the highest quality biological specimens.**”

concern that at least some of them come from fetuses that survive an abortion and/or are delivered beyond the 24-week cutoff contained in the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act. Section 3212 of the Act provides that any child that survives an abortion shall not be denied care or

### References:

#### Citations:

- [1] - <https://www.foxnews.com/us/pittsburgh-investigation-fetal-tissue-probe-cone-silence>
- [2] - <https://www.judicialwatch.org/hhs-documents-organ-harvesting>
- [3] - <https://thefederalist.com/2021/08/09/investigate-now-federal-grants-sponsored-possibly-live-baby-harvesting-at-university-of-pittsburgh/>

[4] - <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LL/cons/Check.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=18&div=0&chpt=32>

[5] - FN Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, P.C., Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research at the University of Pittsburgh (December 21, 2021), at 26. Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research (00877347-2)[4].PDF (pitt.edu)

[6] - FN Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, P.C., Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research at the University of Pittsburgh (December 21, 2021), at 5. Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research

(00877347-2)[4].PDF (pitt.edu)

[7] - FN Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, P.C., Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research at the University of Pittsburgh (December 21, 2021), at 2. Regulatory Assessment of Human Fetal Tissue Research (00877347-2)[4].PDF (pitt.edu)

### Additional Reading:

**Emails Suggest NIH, Pitt Colluded To Cover Up Experiments On Babies** (thefederalist.com) on the old webs



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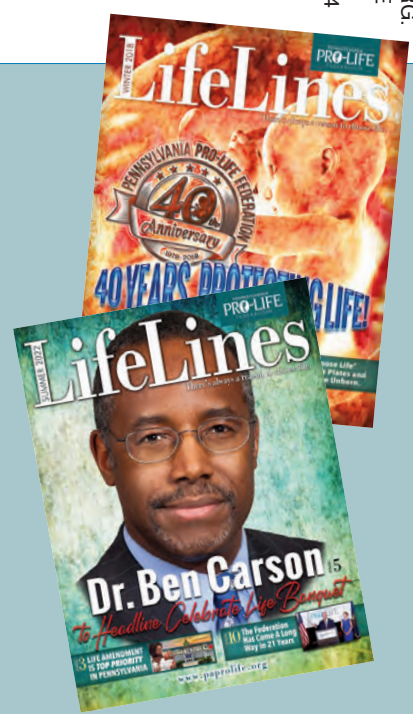
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 CARENET: 1-800-395-HELP  
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