



A Note from Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director



As Christians and defenders of life, most of us have witnessed or experienced the poisonous effects of "cancel culture." Whether it be on social media, at work, with family members or strangers, our God-given, constitutional freedoms to embrace the biblical truths of life, marriage, and family are increasingly under attack, resulting in division and a spirit of "vengeance." The mere support or expression of a belief that is contrary to the "established secular narrative" can lead one to suffer varying degrees of retribution and personal consequences. And yet this assault on truth is not a new phenomenon.

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" John 18:37-38

After Pilate told the crowd he could find no fault in this Man, ...they shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Luke 23:13-24

Our Lord's divinity and teachings were such a threat to the "establishment" that the enraged crowds demanded that Truth incarnate be crucified and his disciples "canceled."

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" John 15:18-19

Satan wields the weapon of "cancel culture" to sow division and separate us from God. Unable to attack God directly, Satan seeks to destroy the Image of God in humanity by canceling life in the womb and destroying marriage and families.

May we rejoice in our calling to be "salt and light" in a world that wants to silence us into submission for speaking up and supporting these truths...

- the sanctity of life, born and preborn
- the biblical teaching of sexuality, marriage, and family
- the gift of motherhood and fatherhood

The resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ is evidence that the Truth will set us free (John 8:32) and can never be canceled. As disciples of the Risen Lord, may we always have the courage to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and work to protect life with charity and forgiveness.

Thank you for your generous support and I wish you and your family a blessed Easter.



Planned Parenthood president: Abortion is 'critically important' to what we do.

For years, Planned Parenthood has claimed that abortion accounts for "only 3% of its services." But in a recent interview with the Washington Post, Planned Parenthood president Alexis McGill Johnson pivoted away from the idea of diminishing her corporation's involvement with abortion. She explained that by attempting to exclude abortion as a "critical part" of its services, Planned Parenthood is failing to show its pride in committing abortions.

Visit www.JCRTL.org to learn how Planned Parenthood's own numbers show it is focused on abortion and NOT on women's health care.

PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

**Johnson County Right to Life
is sponsoring a
Pro-Life Essay Contest for
middle and high school students.**

- **2021 Essay Topic:**
Why are you pro-life?
- **Cash Prizes**
- **Deadline: May 3, 2021**

Visit www.JCRTL.org for contest rules



Together Strong: LIFE UNITES

Nearly 100 pro-lifers participated in the March for Life in Iowa City on Jan. 29th!



Sue Thayer, 40 Days for Life Outreach Director (and former Planned Parenthood manager) shared her story of transformation in Iowa City on Feb. 15th!



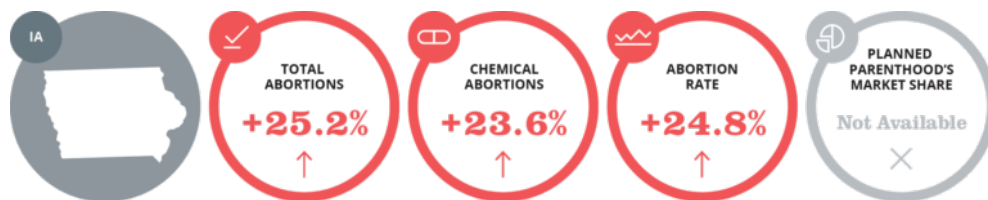
The 'Covid Relief' bill is the greatest expansion of abortion in a decade. Because the Hyde Amendment protections were not included in the bill, billions of dollars of taxpayer money can be used to fund abortion in the U.S. and abroad. The bill spends less than 9% on Covid relief.

The proposed "Equality Act" not only threatens the free exercise of religion and free speech, it will make abortion a federal right from conception to birth and will override every state law. It will force health care providers and hospitals to perform, participate in, refer abortions, require taxpayer funding of abortion, and will force faith-based pregnancy centers to promote abortion. The bill has passed the U.S. House and is being considered by the Senate.

The following proposed bills passed the first legislative deadline at the Iowa State Capitol-

- Protect Life Amendment to the Iowa Constitution clarifying that abortion is not a fundamental right
- Increase tax credit for adoptive parents

Abortion Reporting: Iowa 2019



Changes in Iowa Abortions, 2018 - 2019

Iowa's 2019 abortion statistics were published by the Iowa Department of Public Health in October 2020. According to the report, Iowa abortions increased from the previous year. There were 3,566 abortions reported in Iowa in 2019, an increase of 25 percent from the previous year. Chemical abortions rose by 24 percent, making up two-thirds of all abortions occurring in the state. The Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) estimates that Iowa's abortion rate in 2019 was six abortions per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. This was an increase of 25 percent from the 2018 abortion rate, but still less than half the national rate. Please visit www.JCRTL.org to learn more about the data and reasons for the increase.



Critical Need for More Definitive Coronavirus Vaccines

By Alan Moy MD, Founder & Scientific Director of John Paul II Medical Research Institute

Novel coronaviruses have represented a critical and worldwide infectious disease risk for the past two decades. In 2002, a SARS outbreak with a mortality rate of 10 percent broke out in China but was thankfully contained before it spread. In 2012, a MERS outbreak with a 30 percent mortality rate originated in the Middle East, but fortunately this virus was also contained before it spread. Most recently, the COVID-19 outbreak has become a global pandemic that has created a significant public healthcare and economic crisis, despite having a much lower mortality rate. During the prior two decades, research conducted on SARS and MERS failed to result in any vaccines being approved for use. Yet, research that began only during the last year and a half under Operation Warp Speed (OWS) have now resulted in several COVID-19 vaccines being granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). An EUA means that the FDA is granting drug approval before its clinical trial is complete, based solely on purported early results and an exigent need. Consequently, the currently approved COVID-19 vaccines are not without legitimate scientific concerns, combined with a significant moral and ethical constraint for pro-life individuals.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are utilizing gene therapy to create a synthetic messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) to produce the COVID-19 “spike protein.” This spike protein is a necessary viral antigen and the first step for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to attach and initiate an infection. While no cell line is required to produce mRNA vaccines, aborted fetal cells were used by several manufacturers in the testing phase of their vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna have claimed that their vaccines are roughly 95 percent effective against COVID-19. However, there is some scientific debate about whether that figure is accurate and may be possibly much lower in preventing infection. Gene therapy vaccines have traditionally faced several scientific shortcomings when used to prevent other viral infections (e.g. HIV) and non-infectious diseases.

First, mRNA vaccines typically exhibit weak immune responses, thereby often requiring a booster injection one month later. Second, the immune protection is limited to defending against one viral antigen, which in this case is the “spike protein.” Third, many of these vaccines display uncontrolled dosages and formulations, which carries significant safety risks. It is important to point out that the initial clinical trials conducted by Pfizer and Moderna were performed by primarily selecting only healthy individuals without chronic diseases to be the test subjects. It remains unclear how effective or safe these vaccines will be in the long term when administered to those who are immunocompromised. Published data purports that antibody levels are reduced by up to 70 percent in patients over the age of 70 within three months after completing the immunization schedule. Also, there is little documentation that mRNA vaccines produce the more important T-cell mediated immunity which provides for longer immunity. Thus, it remains unclear whether the more high-risk patients who receive these vaccines are better protected than those who are unvaccinated. Additionally, the incidence of systemic side effects caused by the COVID-19 vaccines seems to be significantly higher than with the flu vaccine. Whether or not mRNA vaccines reduce mortality; the risk of hospitalization; or viral transmission remains unclear because those endpoints have yet to be fully evaluated. One must keep in mind that the recovery rate from COVID-19 for most healthy individuals is over 99 percent.

Pursuant to the shortcomings pointed out above, mRNA vaccines often become ineffective as a virus mutates and new strains emerge. In contrast, traditional vaccines such as attenuated live vaccines deliver potent and more immediate immune protection and offer better crossover protection against other viral strains as mutations arise. Moreover, attenuated live vaccines require no booster injections. While there are currently over 150 world-wide vaccines being developed for COVID-19, very few are using a traditional attenuated live vaccine approach. Attenuated live vaccines typically take more time to develop and require rigorous safety studies in animal models. Unfortunately, for that reason, OWS did not provide financial support to vaccine developers creating a vaccine using attenuated live viruses. (Cont.)

(Cont.) Critical Need for More Definitive Coronavirus Vaccines

The **John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Coralville, Iowa that has developed the largest pipeline of ethical human adult stem cells. The Institute has developed an immortalized human cell line from adult stem cells derived from cord blood. JP2MRI has also developed a synthetic chromosome containing the entire genetic code of the United Kingdom's COVID-19 strain. We are now poised to create an attenuated live vaccine that has the potential to address any novel coronavirus that emerges in the future from China or the Middle East. This ethically developed vaccine will be free of all aborted fetal cell use and testing. However, we need to conduct an exhaustive series of animal studies to validate the vaccine's safety and efficacy. These experiments need to be subcontracted to specialized animal facilities that possess this expertise. As one might expect, such studies are expensive and will cost roughly 2 million dollars to complete.

JP2MRI is pursuing both public and private funding sources to raise the necessary capital to help with our vaccine developmental costs. The Institute has contacted the state of Iowa to seek an appropriations bill and possible funding support from the federal CARES Act. We would welcome all assistance in contacting Governor Reynolds and asking her to support our organization's ethical vaccine development efforts. If we succeed in developing a live attenuated vaccine, it would provide a greatly needed future public healthcare therapy for Iowans and US citizens. Additionally, it would mitigate against future economic and healthcare damages from novel coronaviruses. Finally, it would serve as an important national security measure by protecting against infectious agents and act as a countermeasure against bioterrorism.

To learn more about the Institute and our vaccine program and to help join the fight for an ethical vaccine by making a tax-deductible donation, please visit jp2mri.org. Thank you for your support.

When Momma Taught Me to Love

Most moms and dads love their children and my mom was no exception. While she was never one to pile on compliments and hugs over everyday accomplishments, my mom was a steady source of love that I could depend upon.

I remember coming home from days in school when I was teased. My generation used the word "teased", not bullied. My mom never worked outside our home, so she was always there, usually in the kitchen; and I could depend upon her for some fresh homemade something that made my day better no matter what happened. **One of the first important things my mom taught me was that love makes life better and it doesn't have to be a flashy expression or earned, but it always has to be there. Steady, like a big rock.**

My mom was a rather little lady and the biggest thing about her was love. I could see it in her eyes and her soft smile. She was a quiet person even at home, but in her quietness, her love for me and our family spoke in volumes that filled our lives.

My life became very busy with sports, school, friends, college, friends, sports, jobs, my own family, but through it all my mom was there quietly speaking love with her eyes and smiles. **Love is steady, like a big rock.**

I always said that mom lived to almost 99 years because she was waiting for the Cubs to win a World Series. She loved the Cubs. So, when in the last few years of her life, when she no longer remembered my name or who I was when Cory and I visited her; it was then that she taught me the most important lesson about love.

Love needs to be given – no matter what. Love is easy when it flows both ways. Love is necessary even when the flow doesn't happen back to you. **At the end of her life, my mom taught me the most important love lesson.** Everyone, unborn babies, unresponsive aged people and everyone else need love even when they can't respond back to you. **Love is steady, like a big rock.**

Tom Strumpel, Our Redeemer Lutherans for Life Team, Iowa City



You can support Johnson County Right to Life by donating your items to Stuff Etc. Consignment Store - refer to our account numbers below.

Iowa City Store - Acct. #5132
851 Hwy. 6 East - Unit 103
(319) 338-9909

Coralville Store - Acct. #28281
2818 Commerce Dr.
(319) 545-8408