

Johnson County Right to Life

Educate Engage Embrace



Pro-Life Victory!



Summer 2022

Rejoice in Life and Embrace in Love!

After nearly 50 years and the death of over 63 million preborn children, *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned, thanks be to God! On June 24th, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, *"The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."*

Thank you for your tireless advocacy, fasting, and prayers for life! While many people have stayed on the sidelines and out of the conversation about abortion, we pray this monumental decision will awaken hearts and minds to our educational outreach and the availability of resources for women and families in our community.

God is changing hearts in Iowa! On June 17th, the Iowa Supreme Court corrected their 2018 decision and recognized there is no fundamental right to abortion in the state constitution. While we rejoice in this decision, we also recognize the need to support passage of the *Protect Life Amendment* to guard against future courts rewriting the people's constitution and overriding the voice of Iowans. Moving forward, we will continue to advocate for legislation to eliminate abortion in our state.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is an historic victory for life, but we cannot establish a just society until every person is protected in law from conception to natural death. We pray for our country and our state, that the preborn would be protected, that women and men who have experienced abortion will find forgiveness and healing, and that those struggling with unplanned pregnancies will find help and hope.

On behalf of all of us at Johnson County Right to Life, thank you for supporting our mission to build a culture of life where abortion is illegal in law and unthinkable in hearts.

Blessings for Life,
Sheryl Schwager, Executive Director



345 E. College St. Iowa City, IA 52240 JCRTL.org

Volunteers Needed!

JCRTL Educational Booth at the Johnson County Fair - July 24-27

Share the pro-life message and advocate for LIFE at the Johnson County Fair.

Our popular booth provides an opportunity to educate members of our community on the sanctity of life, engage them in dialogue, and invite them to become Advocates for Life.

Volunteers assist adults and children to experience our interactive displays:

- listen to heartbeat of 7-week baby in the womb
- view ultrasound of 13-week baby in the womb
- view video of human development in the womb

We will be handing out 12-week fetal models, coloring booklets, stickers, brochures, newsletters, and more!

Please contact us if you are interested in covering a 2-hour shift at our fair booth.

Sign-up to volunteer at JCRTL.org





Congratulations to the 2022 Pro-Life Essay Contest Winners!

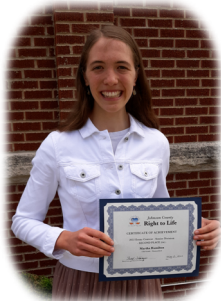
Read the winning essays at JCRTL.org

Senior Division: Grades 9-12

Junior Division: Grades 6-8



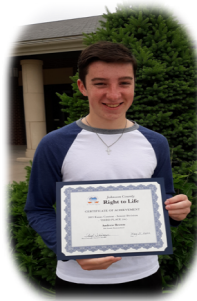
First Place
Maddy Santos



Second Place (tie)
Martha Hamilton



Second Place (tie)
Cailyn Bentler



Third Place (tie)
Andrew Brown

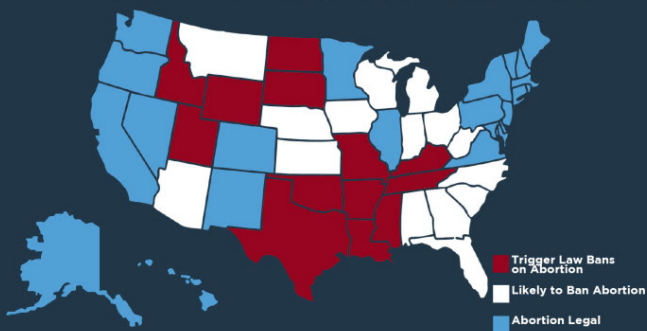


Third Place (tie)
Caitlin Martin



First Place
Michael Bentler

Post-Roe America



Prayer and Fasting: Join together with other believers for 40 days of prayer and fasting to end abortion.



Community Outreach: Bring a positive pro-life message to every corner of our state through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility.



Peaceful Vigil: Stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness in the public right-of-way outside the Emma Goldman facility- Iowa City.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Participate in
40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil
Sept. 28 - Nov. 6
and pray for an
end to abortion
in Iowa!

Learn more at
JCRTL.org

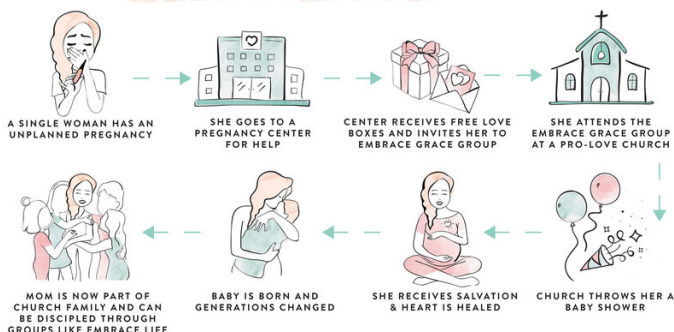


Bring
Embrace Grace
to your church and support
women and their families!
Learn more at -
prolovechurch.com

“Embrace Grace exists to help inspire and equip the church to love and encourage single and pregnant young women and their families.

Women experiencing unexpected pregnancies receive practical, spiritual, and emotional support through our global support groups.”

How Pro-Love Communities Work



The Wonder of Eve helps high-school-aged women understand how naturally amazing their bodies are and the impact their choices can have on their future health and fertility.

It is an age-appropriate, engaging presentation that helps young women understand the truth about how their bodies are developing and the power that they have by understanding it.

It includes a brief introduction to understanding and tracking cycles as a way to better understand their health. Girls are encouraged to take good care of themselves now and to understand how God designed their bodies to work so they can advocate for their healthcare.

Visit JCRTL.org and learn how you can bring this presentation to youth ministry, mother-daughter, and homeschool groups.



I'm Not Just Pro-Saving Babies

by Sarah Kopriva, Executive Director of Guiding Star Cedar Valley

You can argue and say that I'm only pro-babies all you want, but the truth is:

- I'm pro-authentic women's health care.
- I'm pro-human dignity for everyone involved in these difficult situations.
- I'm pro-coming up with better solutions than abortion to come around girls and women who desperately need us to provide alternatives that honor them in their womanhood and motherhood.

I've been seeing this post on social media shared time and time again in defense of women in very, very difficult situations and proposing abortion as the answer to help build a case for the "right" our nation is fighting to keep, and I applaud the humanity it brings to heartbreak and horror. It has been successful in helping me and many others "see her" and in trying to help us envision how difficult these situations really are.

However, as someone who is pro-life, and as a person who works in women's health and understands the reproductive process and the true definition of abortion, I'm concerned about how misleading some of the pro-choice propaganda has been.

I have been pondering and praying intently over how I might address each of these women and how I might help people understand things like D&Cs after a miscarriage aren't an abortion procedure because sadly, that baby has already passed. Also, I've been thinking through what I would want to be able to offer women in these hard situations, knowing the pain, the fear, the doubt, the panic they are experiencing is immense. How could I look them in the eyes and assure them that everything is going to be ok, and truly walk alongside them in that?

I am not one who enjoys conflict - often, regrettably, I prefer to hide from it. In writing this post, I know I am entering an arena that is calling me to courage. But also to compassion, to understanding, to generosity and personal sacrifice. I know my ideas won't invariably be welcomed with open arms, but I am truly feeling called to offer some alternatives to hopefully produce critical thinking and fruitful discussion about how these situations could look if we identified our rights and allocated our resources differently to care for both women and babies.

I am also one who feels this "battlefield" of social media isn't the right place to have these conversations. In light of that, please know I would welcome anyone to reach out to me privately to have a coffee or dinner to explore what I propose. This post is here to create thoughts, and I've always felt healthy debate should happen in person.

It's funny to sit with something for so long and at the end of putting it all down I'm not sure who I'm even writing this for- maybe others in the pro-life movement needing encouragement or talking points? Maybe someone on the fence about all the commotion? Maybe for those in the pro-choice community who are open to coming to the table for conversation? But I just can't sit and stay silent. It doesn't feel right.

So please, hear me out, consider and value my ideas, and ponder a different vision for all of this... I believe we can do better. So without further explanation, please know....**I'm not just pro-saving babies.** *referenced social media post in italics*

"I'm pro-Becky who found out at her 20 week anatomy scan that the infant she had been so excited to bring into this world had developed without life-sustaining organs."

I'm pro- her **mental, emotional, and spiritual health**, and the ability to walk with her throughout a pregnancy she knows is going to ultimately end in the death of her child. I'm also pro-baby Anna, who, while her life will inevitably be short, her dignity as a human person also deserves to be maintained and her end-of-life care should be no less than that of anyone else. Coming around both Becky and Anna with perinatal hospice, mental health counseling, spiritual support, and an overall respect for the difficult process of child-loss should be the right we are fighting for.

"I'm pro-Susan who was sexually assaulted on her way home from work, only to come to the horrific realization that her assailant planted his seed in her when she got a positive pregnancy test result a month later."

I am pro-Susan too, but I'm pro- a **cultural and societal shift** towards one that honors and protects women from such assaults, not one that further perpetuates it with the hypersexualization of women and the ability to cover up her assailant's crimes with aborting the baby. I'm also pro-baby Dillon, who had nothing to do with the crimes of his father, and whose life, while unplanned and uninvited by his mother, could be the very thing that brings his father to justice and redeems his mother's horrific experience.

Continue reading at JCRTL.org



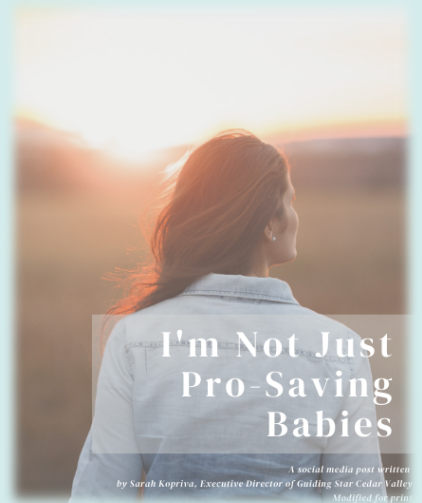
Natural Family Planning Week
July 25-31

Celebrating a holistic lifestyle that is rooted in science, respects the design of the human body, deepens spousal love, and builds virtue

What every woman deserves to know about her body, her health, and her future!

Discover the truth about your reproductive health through the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. We offer effective and natural solutions for Achieving Pregnancy - Avoiding Pregnancy - Irregular Cycles PMS - Infertility - and many more situations.

Contact Sheryl Schwager, FertilityCare Practitioner
AgapeFertilityCare.com 319.855.8475





On June 17th, the Iowa Supreme Court reversed a decision made by the court just four years ago that guaranteed the right to abortion under the Iowa Constitution. A majority of the justices firmly rejected “the proposition that there is a fundamental right to an abortion in Iowa’s Constitution subjecting abortion regulation to strict scrutiny,” saying that the 2018 decision was a “one-sided” ruling that “lacks textual and historical support.” This sets up the state to be able to pass an abortion ban in the legislature to protect babies from abortions now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned Roe v. Wade.

Attorneys representing Governor Kim Reynolds have asked the Iowa Supreme Court to reinstate an abortion ban and multiple pro-life laws protecting babies from abortions following the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Reynolds wants the court to uphold the heartbeat abortion ban that she signed in 2018 that bans abortions on unborn babies at 6 weeks when their heartbeat can be detected. She also wants the state’s highest court to uphold a late-term abortion ban and the 24 hour waiting period law.

The national March for Life in Washington, D.C. will continue until “abortion is unthinkable,” organization president Jeanne Mancini confirmed. She said they still plan to hold a national march every year in Washington, D.C., but the March for Life also wants to focus on state-level pro-life advocacy.

The Biden administration has launched what they unveiled as an “action plan” in response to the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade. At the top of their list is to increase access to the “abortion pill” in states where abortion is illegal. But the dangerous side effects of the abortion pill are rarely reported and the risks are very real.

President Biden is calling on Senate Democrats to make a one-time exception to the filibuster rules in order to force a bill through the chamber that would legalize abortions up to birth nationwide. Such a bill would essentially override the ability of states to protect babies from abortions following the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Thankfully this is unlikely to occur because Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, who support codifying Roe v. Wade, have announced they won’t support a carve-out to the filibuster to codify abortion rights.

The Most Powerful Lines in the Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe v. Wade

On June 24th, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that established the constitutional right to abortion. Justice Samuel Alito wrote the majority opinion, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. The three justices who opposed the decision were Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. The Court ruled 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi ban being challenged in the case. Chief Justice John Roberts voted with the majority to uphold the Mississippi abortion restrictions but did not approve of overturning Roe altogether.



Powerful excerpts from the decision:

Held: “The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.”

“We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now chiefly rely—the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That provision has been held to guarantee some rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but any such right must be “deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition” and “implicit in the concept of ordered liberty.” The right to abortion does not fall within this category.”

“Roe was on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided, Casey perpetuated its errors, and those errors do not concern some arcane corner of the law of little importance to the American people. Rather, wielding nothing but “raw judicial power,”... the court usurped the power to address a question of profound moral and social importance that the Constitution unequivocally leaves for the people.”

“Like the infamous decision on Plessy v. Ferguson, Roe was also egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences,” Alito wrote. “And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, Roe and Casey have inflamed debate and deepened division.”

“In interpreting what is meant by the Fourteenth Amendment’s reference to ‘liberty,’ we must guard against the natural human tendency to confuse what that Amendment protects with our own ardent views about the liberty that Americans should enjoy. That is why the Court has long been ‘reluctant’ to recognize rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution.”

“Our opinion is not based on any view about if and when prenatal life is entitled to any rights enjoyed after birth. The dissent, by contrast, would impose on the people a particular theory about when the rights of personhood begin. According to the dissent, the Constitution requires the States to regard a fetus as lacking even the most basic human right to live at least until an arbitrary point in pregnancy has passed. Nothing in the Constitution or in our Nation’s legal traditions authorizes the Court to adopt that “theory of life.”

“We end this opinion where we began. Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. Roe and Casey arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives.”