



## NEWSLETTER



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO RIGHT TO LIFE SOCIETY

WINTER 2012

# As Ohio Goes, So Goes the Nation

*Being a Pro-Life Ohioan When Our Nation Needs it Most*

By Mike Gonidakis

With a record-breaking seven pieces of pro-life legislation passed in 2011, Ohio has been deemed the most pro-life state in the country by national leaders of the pro-life movement.

At Ohio Right to Life, we do not measure success by seven pieces of legislation; we measure success in lives. The Ohio Department of Health's most recent abortion report has revealed that in the past ten years Ohio has seen a steady decline in the number of abortions in the state, arriving at a 40% decrease in abortion since abortions peaked in 1982.

There is still much work to be done, and we at Ohio Right to Life are tirelessly committed to the cause of life. We will not rest until abortion has been abolished and life is protected and respected from conception.

We invite you to join us in our efforts and assume the role of an active pro-life Ohioan, an active pro-life leader. We have researched national trends, evaluated the needs of our state, and emerged with strategic goals to realize a culture of life when our nation needs it the most.

**Defund Planned Parenthood.** In 2010 alone, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), the largest abortion provider in the country, received \$487.4 million in

tax dollars over a twelve-month period and performed 329,455 abortions. House Bill 298 and Senate Bill 201 would defund Planned Parenthood in Ohio. Ohio Right to Life wants to divert those funds to public health departments, community health centers and ultimately, crisis pregnancy centers through this initiative.

**Honor the work of pregnancy centers.** There are over 150 life-affirming crisis pregnancy centers across the state who, funded solely by private donations, provide assistance, support and referrals to women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. House Concurrent Resolution 32 is a resolution that was recently introduced to bring attention and awareness to the work these centers do to save lives and protect babies and their mothers.

**Elect a pro-life president in 2012.** Our last goal requires the most important call to action we have seen in many years. As the 2012 election year advances and we get to know the candidates, it is important to remember the state of our country. Abortion has been legal for 39 years and we have experienced four years of a staunchly pro-abortion administration. What can we do to enact change, heal our country of the hurt that abortion has caused, and eventually overturn *Roe vs. Wade*?

I invite you to imagine what would have happened if we had elected a pro-life president in 2010. With a pro-life president in office, he could have had two pro-life Supreme Court justices to replace the two pro-abortion justices appointed by President Obama. With such justices in place, we could have introduced legislation to outlaw abortion in our country.

But the pro-life vote was split in November of 2010, and America elected Barack Obama.

Ohio Right to Life believes we can come together to elect a pro-life president in 2012. A pro-life leader will appoint pro-life Supreme Court justices, who will then help our country return to its pro-life foundations, valuing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So, I ask you, pro-life Ohio, *will you help us lead the nation to respect life and end abortion in 2012?*



we are pro-life  
*people*  
standing for a pro-life  
*nation*  
voting for pro-life  
*leaders*



OHIO PRIMARY  
ELECTION DAY

MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>



[ohiovotesforlife.org](http://ohiovotesforlife.org)

## Opposing Planned Parenthood's Radical Agenda

By Stephanie Ranade Krider

Pro-abortion forces are at it again, trying to use public policy to cover the ugly truth of abortion. They are promoting seemingly compassionate legislation, but in fact it would hurt women and mis-educate children and the public. They are doing this through the Prevention First Bill (House Bill 281 and Senate Bill 190) and Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act (House Bill 419 and Senate Bill 283).

These bills (written by Planned Parenthood) include several provisions that should raise red flags for pro-lifers. Under the guise of protecting the health of women and the dignity of rape victims, these bills would strip away conscience rights of medical professionals by mandating that they dispense "emergency contraception" to women in pharmacies, hospitals and emergency rooms. It also includes provisions requiring Ohio schools to teach comprehensive sex education, with a proposed curriculum prescribed by the pro-abortion groups who drafted the bill, and requires insurance companies to cover all FDA-approved forms of contraception, including the morning-after pill.

Proponents of the bill claim that if pregnancy can be prevented in the first place, then abortion will no longer be an issue. It is difficult to believe that Planned Parenthood would truly want to see a decline in the number of abortions which contributes so much to their bottom line.

Furthermore, Planned Parenthood claims that the answer to abortion is

educating women, yet these bills contain requirements that hospitals and medical workers provide false information to women on emergency contraception, like Plan B or Ella. There is significant evidence that these drugs can act as abortifacients and prevent an embryo from implanting in the womb. Ella in particular shares a similar chemical make up to RU-486, the abortion drug. These bills would require medical workers to provide women with information that directly states that these drugs do not act as abortifacients.

President Obama continues to align himself with pro-abortion forces, most recently by allowing the federal Department of Health and Human Services to issue a rule requiring employers to provide insurance coverage for abortions. This is not only an egregious violation of religious liberty, but it is again an assault on the conscience rights of non-profit and religious organizations who do not support abortion. According to the new rule, such groups must provide coverage for all forms of FDA-approved contraception, which again includes the morning-after pill. Additionally, this is required to be covered at no cost to the patient. When more funding is available for abortion, more abortion is always the result.

Standing for life in Ohio also means standing against these pro-abortion measures. **Ohio Right to Life asks that you contact your office holders to oppose HB 281/SB 190, HB 419/SB 283 and the federal "HHS mandate".**

## Stronger Than Ever Before *Chapter Leaders Unite to Strengthen Grassroots Efforts*

By Erin Cain

Leaders from across the state gathered in Columbus in January for the 2012 Statewide Advisory Council meeting. Representatives from affiliated chapters were present to collaborate on ideas and pro-life strategy, focused on one clear message, defending life.

During the meeting, these leaders confirmed that it is essential for the pro-life movement to strongly and confidently voice that message this year. There is much to be done. We must elect a pro-life president, defund Planned Parenthood and support our pro-life pregnancy centers.

As these plans emerge and evolve, the grassroots has propelled this message forward. The energy and excitement comes from Mercer County to Belmont to Toledo to Cleveland - from all of our chapters across the state - further engaging, encouraging and committing us in this fight for life. In constant communication with our chapter leaders, we are working together on projects like billboards and websites, 40 Days for Life campaigns and educational symposiums. When we are united, we are strong.

Ohio youth are rising up and standing together on the front lines. Organizers have estimated that five hundred thousand people, mostly youth, were in



Chapter leaders collaborate at the Statewide Advisory Council in January

D.C. for the March for Life last month. The youth are not only the future of the pro-life movement, *they are the pro-life movement.*

Together, we are stronger than ever before! Last year was the best yet, with seven pieces of Ohio Right to Life legislation passed and enacted within the General Assembly. With a strong and credible voice, Ohioans are indeed passionate and committed in protecting life.

Now is the time. Do not be silent. We have the opportunity to take a stand this year and defend life at a grassroots level. Lives are at stake, our children are depending on you. *We need your help.*

To join us in this fight, visit our website at [www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org) and click on "get involved" to find your chapter.

### *Memorial Donations In Honor of... Made by...*

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# 2012 March for Life Report

## *Reflections from a Pro-Life Buckeye*

By David Bethel

On Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 39<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life was held in Washington D.C., and I was there for my first March for Life. The March is held to remember and protest the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Since the decision, over 53 million babies have been legally killed according to the law of the United States.

Arriving at the National Mall with extra time Monday morning, we decided to go for a walk and check out the World War II national memorial. The memorial is an impressive sight, with pillars and bronze stills commemorating scenes of battle and of the home front. But the thing that struck me most was the wall of golden stars, over 4,000 in all, each representing 100 American citizens killed or missing during the war. It was a sobering representation; it seemed to me a multitude of stars, yet each one represented *not just one dead but 100*. And then it occurred to me the number of children killed by abortion since 1973. If the same memorial were made for them, there would be over 530,000 golden stars. And the wall holding the stars would be *over two miles long*. This image stuck with me throughout the day and sticks with me now.



Photos by Kate Simon, the Pro-Life Club at OSU

At 12 p.m. the rally began on the National Mall, with a prayer led by a mixed group of Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox bishops. After this a host of pro-life congressmen took the stage several of whom were from Ohio. These included House Speaker John Boehner and Representative Jim Jordan. Also speaking was the brother of Terri Schiavo and a group of women who have experienced abortion first hand, and can attest to the remorse, pain and anguish that it causes women who have had abortions. Throughout the rally the Mall continued to fill, whereas once we had been on the periphery we were now in the middle of a densely packed crowd. The March began and the sea of people began moving en masse towards the Supreme Court building. As we mounted Capitol Hill I turned to survey the crowd and could not see the end of it, it stretched down the hill around a bend and out of sight. A tide of people sweeping uphill, seeking justice for those who cannot seek it themselves.

*David Bethel is a member of the Pro-Life Club at The Ohio State University. Ohio Right to Life assisted the group in attending the 2012 March for Life.*



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HIGHSCHOOLERS!  
**THE 2012 STATE  
ORATORY CONTEST**  
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