

RNC *For Life* REPORT

A Publication of the Republican National Coalition for Life

SPRING 2012 – No. 80

Sonograms: ‘Big Guns’ of the Pro-Life Movement

What do you see when you look at this picture? A glob of tissue? A mass of cells? A “fetus”? No indeed. You, and anyone else who sees this sonogram, sees a **BABY!**

At long last, the **pro-life movement is growing**. For the first time in decades, more than half of Americans consider themselves to be pro-life. Have our marches, our posters, our vigils in front of abortuaries finally paid off?

Yes, of course. But according to *The Weekly Standard* in a recent article, “**Pro-lifers have captured the high moral ground, chiefly thanks to advances in the quality of sonograms. Once fuzzy, sonograms now provide a high-resolution picture of the unborn child in the womb. Fetuses have become babies.**”

As former RNC for Life Executive Director Colleen Parro Baillargeon so aptly puts it, “Of course our young people are becoming more pro-life; the **first pictures in their baby books are their sonograms!**”



Pro-aborts agree. According to an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, Kate Michelman and Frances Kissling, acknowledged three years ago that we “anti-abortionists” had **gained a significant advantage**. Supporters of abortion “have had a hard time dealing with **the increased visibility of the fetus.**” To “regain the moral high ground,” the pro-aborts now must deal with “a world that is radically changed from 1973,” when the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortion nationwide.

Fortunately for the pro-life movement, **that moral high ground belongs to us**, not to those who still embrace the killing of babies in their mothers’ wombs. Thanks to the educational aspect of sonograms, it’s virtually impossible to deny that what will be destroyed in an abortion is anything but a living, growing human being. Using that sonogram as a foundation, pro-lifers can build a **three-pronged weapon** against abortions: **legislation to fully inform women seeking abortions.** *(continued on page 2)*

Congressional Deadlock Blocks All Pro-Life Bills; Pro-Life Republican U.S. Senators Need Our Help!

It must be very discouraging to be a pro-life Republican in the U.S. Congress these days.

The Republican-controlled House keeps passing strong pro-life measures, such as **repealing ObamaCare, protecting conscience rights for medical professionals and defunding Planned Parenthood, but this legislation hits a solid Democrat brick wall in the Senate.**

Pro-abortion Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) is very skilled at keeping most of the pro-life legislation passed by the Republican House from even reaching the floor of the Senate for a vote.

If a pro-life measure does come up, it is **soundly defeated by the pro-abortion Democrats.** (And even with 47 Republicans, there are several GOP Senators who

can’t be counted on for pro-life votes, such as judicial confirmations.)

A recent example was sparked by the outrageous attempt of the Obama administration to force Catholic institutions such as hospitals, schools, *etc.* to violate their sincerely held Catholic doctrinal beliefs under ObamaCare. Attempting to prevent this clear subversion of the First Amendment, Senators Blunt (R-MO),

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Please visit our web site at <http://www.rnclife.org>

1st PRONG**Sonogram**

Though abortion apologists attempt to paint this kind of pre-surgery information as unnecessary, medical protocols dictate that **similar imaging would be required** for virtually any invasive surgical procedure such as removal of an appendix, performing a root canal or even setting a broken bone. Additionally, **informing the patient of the risks** associated with any surgical procedure is required and in some states, such as Texas, this same medical protocol is required under its “Women’s Informed Consent” legislation. This particular bill requires doctors to discuss during a personal consultation with the patient the potential dangers of the abortion procedure, including its link to breast cancer.

2nd PRONG**Consultation with Abortinist**

Adding the **requirement of a personal consultation** between abortinist and patient greatly increases the effectiveness of sonogram legislation. Without such a provision, women never even meet the “masked man” who slips into the surgery room to perform his gruesome task, many times never even greeting the groggy, sedated woman. **What an affront to medical protocols and to women’s dignities!** One would not even have an ingrown toenail treated without full disclosure by the medical professional performing the procedure! Pro-aborts whine that this **requirement will force many abortuaries to shut down as they utilize “traveling butchers”** — abortinists who make rounds among many facilities and who are not always available if a medical problem arises following the abortion. These abortinists normally do not want to spend an extra day at any facility to provide that personal consultation with their abortion-seeking patients. Abortion apologists further decry the added cost of an abortion this extra day for the abortinists would dictate.

3rd PRONG**Waiting Period**

The third vital part of a sonogram bill is a waiting period. Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood abortion clinic director, believes that a **24-hour waiting period between the sonogram and the abortion** itself will save many babies’ lives as the mother has time to reflect on what she has learned about her unborn child’s size and features. (Read a review of Johnson’s book *UnPLANNED* on page 3.) Johnson also notes in her book that **sonograms are routinely performed at abortuaries** in order to determine the size of the pre-

born baby. The abortinist charges more for butchering a larger baby. Ultrasound-guided abortions are also preferred by some abortinists to minimize the risk of perforating the uterine wall. But staff at **abortuaries do NOT routinely offer to let the mother see that image of her baby**. After all, she might change her mind if she saw that what was moving and growing in her womb was indeed a baby. No woman can be forced to view her baby’s sonogram, but most are never even offered the opportunity.

Legal Challenges to Sonogram Bills

Knowing the damage that **viewing sonograms will do to their multi-billion dollar businesses**, Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion activists have attempted to challenge state legislation through lawsuits. One of the nation’s most rigorous and potentially effective laws was passed in Texas during the 2011 legislative session. Almost immediately, The Center for Reproductive Rights in New York **filed suit against the law on behalf of Texas abortion providers** and a U.S. District Judge stopped it from taking effect, ruling that its informed consent provisions somehow violated doctors’ “free speech rights.” But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel **overturned that decision last month**, finding that states have a legitimate interest in “protecting the life of the unborn” through legislation intended to **ensure that women make “mature and informed decisions” about abortion**. Although the plaintiffs tried to appeal this decision to the entire 5th Circuit Court, it remains an **important victory for pro-life legislation**. Thus, it is apparent that the **sonogram is indeed the “big gun” for the pro-life movement** and we encourage other states to enact similar legislation.

Other Pro-Life Legislative Tools

Certainly there are other kinds of pro-life legislation which can and should be pursued. Such bills would include **banning partial-birth abortions** and abortions after the time at which a **fetus can feel pain**, requiring that abortions be performed only by a **licensed physician with privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortuary**, and requiring **abortuaries to meet the same medical standards as other outpatient surgical centers**. We who respect the sanctity of life must be vigilant at the state level and work to restore a culture of life to America, one state at a time.

UnPLANNED

by Abby Johnson (with Cindy Lambert)

She found herself living a lie, spreading a lie, and hurting the very women she so wanted to help. So begins the journey of Abby Johnson from **Planned Parenthood clinic director to activist for the pro-life movement.** Her story is not neat and tidy or wrapped in easy answers, but is an insight into the idea that we have more in common with the “other” side than we may imagine.

Abby Johnson begins her journey of discovery as an idealistic college student at Texas A & M who finds an outlet for her desire to be compassionate and help others in the slick marketing campaign of Planned Parenthood at a volunteer fair her junior year.

From volunteer, Abby gradually worked her way up until **she became director of the Bryan, Texas Planned Parenthood clinic.** Her goals — the goals Planned Parenthood also said were theirs — were to “decrease the number of abortions by decreasing the number of unwanted pregnancies . . . [with] family planning services — birth control.”

But at an annual budget meeting, **it was made clear to Abby in no uncertain terms that profit was the underlying motive driving Planned Parenthood** and she, as clinic director, was **told to find a way to increase the number of abortions at her clinic because family planning just wasn’t profitable.** Abby was appalled.

Having gone through two abortions of her own, one chemical and one surgical, **she knew the horrific pain, both physical and mental, involved in abortions.** She had suppressed her own emotions, but when she was requested to participate in an **ultrasound-guided abortion,** the reality was slammed home of what abortion really was — the killing of an innocent human life and the wounding of the mother — couched in innocuous terms such as “choice” and “reproductive freedom.”

After years of anger directed toward the pro-life people who prayed outside the fence at her clinic, she found herself compelled to leave her once-promising career for the unknown as she placed herself in the hands of God and **asked the people at the Coalition for Life for help** in turning her life around.

Ironically, Abby discovers that the now worldwide “40 Days for Life” campaign was founded in the same small Texas town where her abortion clinic was located and that its director Shawn Carney’s path from volunteer to director closely mirrored her own. The many prayers that the volunteers had offered for her in their years of



patient witness had finally produced fruit, and she has **now become an outspoken champion for those same women she longed to help from the beginning.** Abby also hopes that the friends she made at Planned Parenthood will someday have their eyes opened as well as she stands in witness herself.

(Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2010, 267 pp., \$23)



Who Will The Republican Presidential Nominee Be?

The race to become the GOP standard bearer and defeat President Obama **may not be decided until late summer at the National Convention in Tampa, Florida.** This means that for the first time since 1940, **no candidate would have enough delegate votes before the convention to be nominated on the first ballot.** And not only will the delegates possibly be selecting the eventual nominee, they also **may need to defend certain platform planks pertaining to marriage, abortion and other pro-family, pro-life issues.** That means it’s critically important that strong pro-life, pro-family National Convention delegates be selected from every state. RNC for Life is doing several things to achieve that goal:

1. **analyzing the delegate selection process state-by-state;**
2. **contacting pro-life, pro-family activists in each state to encourage them to become delegates;**
3. **planning to organize and strategically direct these delegates at the National Convention to defend the Platform planks that we have worked hard for 20 years to have included.**

Our website (www.rnclife.org) details how to be a delegate from your state. Please check to **see how to become or support someone else as a National Convention delegate.** Or find out who your state’s delegates are and encourage them to **vote only for a strong pro-life, pro-family nominee and to keep those planks in the National Platform intact.** For two decades, RNC for Life has kept the Republican party pro-life, and **we must maintain that position** both in our platform and with our nominees. Finally, we will be showcasing the pro-life Platform and recognizing high-profile pro-lifers at our traditional “**Life of the Party**” event for the delegates and the media. No GOP convention would be complete without this celebration of our success.

McConnell (R-KY), Rubio (R-FL), Ayotte (R-NH), Hatch (R-UT), Johanns (R-NE), Wicker (R-MS) and Ben Nelson (D-NE), filed an amendment which would have ensured that religious employers are not required to provide insurance coverage for services to which they have a moral or religious objection. Harry Reid initially prevented consideration of the amendment, **urging Americans who are concerned about this issue to “calm down.”** He ultimately presided over a narrow defeat of the amendment by **pro-abortion Democrat Senate.**

Some **pro-life bills have been waiting as long as nine months for Reid to allow the Senate even to consider them** — and they will continue to wait as long as the Democrats are in control. That means **Planned Parenthood will continue to receive about half a billion dollars each year, medical professionals whose religious beliefs will not allow them to participate in abortions or sterilizations will continue to have their consciences violated, and ObamaCare is not prohibited from paying for abortions.**

It's clear that **we must send reinforcements to our pro-life Senators,** and **RNC for Life** is focused on letting them know that “Help Is On the



Way!” There are 23 Democrat and 10 Republican senate seats up for election this year. Of those 33, three Republicans and seven Democrats

are retiring. We have identified those that realistically are possible pickups for pro-life Republicans, as well as those GOP seats that we must retain, and need to start vetting candidates for those seats immediately. Ratings and endorsements for these candidates will appear on our website shortly, as we receive responses to our questionnaire from Republican candidates. We also will be distributing our PAC funds to deserving candidates, so it is **extremely important for us to replenish our PAC coffers** in order to help strong pro-life Senate candidates win their elections. You can be sure that any Senate candidate that we endorse and help fund will be a reliable pro-life vote for the sanctity of life. Your support for the **RNC for Life PAC** will allow us to **send the help our pro-life Senators need.**



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