

# Nebraska Right to Life

State Affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee

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## CALL U.S. SENATOR DEB FISCHER ASK HER TO SPONSOR PAIN CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT IN THE SENATE!

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation called the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This bill would put a nationwide ban on abortion after 20 weeks (which is the beginning of the sixth month), based upon compelling medical evidence that these babies suffer excruciating pain during abortion.

Nebraska was the first state to pass this type of legislation, which has become a model for the nation! The bill has been sent to the U.S. Senate. Please call U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer. Ask her to sponsor the nationwide ban in the Senate. Sen. Fischer is one of only two pro-life women in the U.S. Senate, and we need her active, visible support in order to advance this vital legislation! She voted for this same legislation when she was in the Nebraska Unicameral.

Please call her Washington office at 202-224-6551 and urge her to sponsor the national ban on abortion after 20 weeks. You also may call one of her district offices and leave the same message. Thank you!

Omaha: 402-391-3411  
Lincoln: 402-441-4600  
Scottsbluff: 308-636-6344



Nebraska Right to Life has been gathering petition names since County and State Fair season to let U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer know that Nebraskans want her to lead on the issue of introducing a bill in the Senate to ban abortion based upon a baby's ability to feel pain at 20 weeks gestation and beyond.

## NEBRASKA'S ABORTION RATES DECREASE

According to a story by the Associated Press and published in the Lincoln Journal Star on Aug. 25, Nebraska's abortion rate dropped to a 20-year low. The number of abortions in 2011 was 2,372 compared to 2,229 in 2012, a 3 percent drop in one year. The statistics came from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and are compiled from reporting forms that abortion providers must fill out by law.

The highest number of abortions in Nebraska was in 1992 with 5,600 babies aborted. We attribute the continual decline of abortion numbers in Nebraska in part to the passage of protective legislation, such as the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The Act, passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2010, banned abortion at 20 weeks gestation and beyond based upon an unborn child's ability to feel pain. This ban resulted in a 14 percent drop in abortions in Sarpy County alone during the first six months of implementation of the law from October 2010 to March 2011. Sarpy County is where late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart aborts babies. The passage of LB 1103 in 2010 forced Carhart to take his late-term abortion business to Germantown, MD.

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# NRL PAC PROCESS: HOW CANDIDATES ARE SURVEYED AND ENDORSED

As the 2014 races for U.S. Senate and Governor approach, this is a good time to review the procedures that Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee (NRL PAC) follows to ensure thorough scrutiny of candidates.

Not only do we have those two major races to watch, we also are involved in all other state constitutional officer and legislative races. In any given Primary Election, NRL PAC can be following close to 80 candidates across the board.

Our process involves sending out the NRL PAC Survey, our Board interviewing candidates for Congressional and gubernatorial offices and making endorsements based upon candidate responses and any "paper trail" or previous record a candidate has, whether in that office or another one. We do not send out the PAC surveys until the deadline for filing for office is reached in March. Then surveys are sent, asking

for a response within two weeks. The survey questions have been honed over

the years using questions from National Right to Life and those we have developed with regard to state issues. If a candidate has not returned a survey by the deadline, we usually follow up with a second contact to ensure that they didn't miss the survey in the mail.

Our next step is to review the surveys as a Board and to meet to vote on who to endorse. Every candidate who responds to the survey has his/her answers printed along with all of the questions in the NRL PAC Voter Guide. Those who are endorsed are also denoted. We typically distribute at least 65,000 Voter Guides in each of the Primary and General Elections. This is done via mail and our volunteer network across the state, with individuals exercising their right to distribute political literature at a place of public access. For us that means church parking lots, as our target audience is pro-life voters. Even though the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision stripped unborn children of their unalienable right to life, our volunteers ironically are protected by a U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognizes their right to political activities and free speech as citizens.

In short, NRL PAC has four "deal-breaker" issues a candidate has to agree with us on in order to attain an endorsement. Those four issues are :

1. Opposition to Roe v. Wade and a desire to see the law changed.
2. Opposition to Euthanasia.
3. Opposition to Unethical Medical Research.
4. Opposition to Taxpayer Funding of the Abortion Industry.

There are a myriad number of other issues that come up, especially for state legislative candidates, but not every issue on our survey is weighted towards how we make endorsements. The four listed above are mandatory for an endorsement.

NRL PAC not only shows who the pro-life candidates are, we highlight who the opposition is if we can find out prior to our printing deadline. In fact, we have been known to rescind an endorsement upon discovering that a candidate misled us on his/her survey and/or interview. Usually this occurs when local activists in a city or county report to us that a candidate says in public forums something opposite of what the candidate told us to get endorsed. If we are privy to endorsements by Planned Parenthood Voters for Choice or the unethical medical research PAC, we will note those on our Voter Guide as well.

Sometimes candidates pressure NRL PAC to deviate from our policy and make early endorsements or allow them to rent our mailing list before our process is complete in March. We reject that pressure and remind candidates while they only have one race to worry about, NRL PAC is following many races and trying to apply a fair and consistent process across the board to ensure that all candidates have had an equal opportunity to be endorsed and to get their message out to pro-life voters on our lists.

Candidates also may ask a local chapter or pro-life group to "endorse" his/her candidacy. While this appears harmless if your chapter has a preference for one candidate over another, know that under IRS rules and regulations, local chapters do not have separate PAC's but typically only a 501(c)(4) status and no political endorsements of one candidate over another can be made with that status. It is best to direct candidates who ask a local chapter for outward assistance, support or endorsement to go to NRL PAC and proceed through our process. If they truly are pro-life, they will be endorsed and will enjoy the benefits of the publicity that comes from the NRL PAC endorsement and the attendant distribution of our Voter Guides in their district.

Another issue that crops up is a candidate declaring him/herself to be 100 percent pro-life and worthy of support. We are leery of a candidate using that language in his/her election literature because we don't know by what yardstick that measurement is made. In some cases, candidates with no previous record in office make that claim. It is an easy thing to say, but if it is not backed up by previous activism then it falls on deaf ears. Likewise, a candidate who has been in public office and has a voting record can make the claim, but he/she may not have voted pro-life every time. So again,

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## NRL MEETS WITH LOCAL ACTIVISTS DURING SUMMER

July and August found Nebraska Right to Life staff on the road to 14 cities to meet with local pro-life activists in our chapter network and with pro-lifers who don't have a chapter but are working in their counties toward the same goals. In most cases, after meetings we presented the activists with a County Care Fair Package, which is a box of items intended for the pro-life booth at the county fair. Meetings were held in Sutton, Hebron, McCook, Scottsbluff, Kearney, Grand Island, Fullerton, Columbus, West Point, Wakefield, Bloomfield, Tecumseh and Wahoo. We also met with a Burwell-area pro-lifer in Grand Island in September.

The NRL State Office finds connecting personally with local pro-lifers in their own communities to be very advantageous and has been trying to do chapter and activist visits every summer when the Legislature is out of session and the driving weather is good!



**HEBRON**  
Hebron activists James & Kathy McKenzie. James organized a pro-life booth at the Thayer County Fair and we took him a box of fair items when we met.



**WEST POINT**  
Wendy Ridder of West Point receives her box of fair items for the Cuming County Fair. We had a nice visit about the potential for more activities in West Point. They also held a Life Chain.



**TECUMSEH**  
Sister Mary Ellen in Tecumseh receives a box of fair items for their Johnson County fair booth



**WAHOO**  
Saunders County Right to Life's booth in Wahoo. They also received a box of fair items from NRL.



**McCOOK**  
We had a productive, several hours-long meeting with McCook Right to Life members (l to r) Geri Burns, Denise Sis and Sally Loescher, and delivered a County Fair Care Package for the Red Willow County Fair.



**WAKEFIELD**  
We had a good meeting with (l to r) Theresa Miner and Bonnie Hoffman of Tri-County Right to Life. They took away items for the Dixon and Wayne County fair booths.



**FULLERTON**  
Jeanie Kula of Nance County Right to Life in Fullerton received a box of fair items for the Nance County Fair during our meeting.



**SCOTTSBLUFF**  
Janet and Harold Kaus live practically on the Wyoming border in Morrill, but they were eager to get their items for the Scottsbluff County Fair and to visit about activities that can be done in the Panhandle area in the coming months.



**SIDNEY**  
We met in Sidney with Rosemary Thomas, a longtime leader with Sidney Right to Life, to brainstorm ways to find new activists for her to pass the torch to.



GRAND ISLAND



LINCOLN

**NEBRASKA  
RIGHT TO LIFE  
AROUND THE  
STATE**

**NRL ATTENDS  
EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT THE  
STATE**

## NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE STAFFER HERE

National Right to Life's Organizational Outreach Department staffer Margie Higgins was in Nebraska for two days to meet with several chapters. Left: She meets with Grand Island Right to Life and South Central Nebraska (Hastings) Right to Life leaders. Right: Higgins visits Lincoln Right to Life board members.



GRAND ISLAND



GRAND ISLAND

## NRL HOSTS HISPANIC CONGRESO BOOTH

For the second year, Nebraska Right to Life hosted an educational booth at the Hispanic Congreso in Grand Island in September. The Congreso is hosted by El Ministerio Pescador of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grand Island and draws 1,500 Latinos from around the region.



GRAND ISLAND



OMAHA

## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FOR LIFE LUNCHEON

NRL Executive Director spoke at the Sept. 11th Business and Professional People for Life luncheon in Omaha. From left, Karolyn Kelly, Julie Schmit-Albin, John Kellogg, Sandy Danek and Dick Mori.



GRAND ISLAND



GRAND ISLAND

## SECOND ANNUAL SHOOT FOR LIFE

The second annual Shoot For Life, a fundraiser for Nebraska Right to Life and Grand Island Right to Life, was held in September. The trap shoot, raffle and silent auction contributes to both organizations and is a fun day for trap-shooting enthusiasts.

*Join the Columbus Area*  
**Life Chain**  
First Sunday in October  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
at the Intersection of  
33rd Avenue and 23rd Street  
*Smiling the Unborn - Prayingfully and Politely*  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
**402-563-2343** COLUMBUS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS COLUMBUS SCOTUS THEOLOGY STUDENTS

NRL Executive Director Julie Schmit-Albin spoke to three classes of Theology students at Columbus Scotus High School in September and met with local activist Barb McPhillips. Columbus Right to Life has a storage office in downtown Columbus, which meets their needs to store items such as upcoming Life Chain yard signs.

# NRL PAC PROCESS ON ELECTIONS

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who is making the determination as to what constitutes “100 percent pro-life” and what doesn’t? For that reason we ask endorsed candidates who want to rent our list to avoid making that claim and also to stay positive and not attack other pro-life candidates on the issue.

Lastly, since we are entering the election season, know that in Nebraska most candidates run as pro-life and many are soliciting for campaign funds. While our desire is to see pro-life candidates elected to every

office, NRL PAC itself must fundraise in order to put out more than 120,000 Voter Guides in both the Primary and General Elections. We have printing and mailing costs. We have no funds to donate to individual candidates. All of our PAC fundraising goes into the Voter Guide distribution and if there is any extra, we may do some radio or print advertising in targeted legislative districts. Please consider this when deciding where your donation dollars will go during the election. NRL PAC is trying to elect many pro-life candidates statewide and our donation dollars are

spread very thin and not concentrated on one candidate. We need your donation every bit as much, if not more so, than the pro-life candidate does, as we are trying to impact every race in the State.

The NRL PAC Criteria for Endorsement is listed on our Voter Guides to assist you with any questions as to how we make endorsements. If you have any questions or suggestions, don’t hesitate to leave a message for our PAC Director, Denise Ashby, at our office number, 402-438-4802.

## UPCOMING STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION NEEDS YOUR INPUT

In a related note to the above story about political action, we need grassroots support for pro-life legislation at the State Legislature, which will begin a new session in January.

If you recall from previous communications, Nebraska Right to Life’s priority bill, LB 300, is still languishing in the Judiciary Committee with no action to move it to the legislative floor for debate.

LB 300 is a simple, three-page bill that was heard last March. It had one opponent at the committee hearing: Planned Parenthood of the Heartland.

Why does Planned Parenthood not want to see LB 300 pass? Here is why:

LB 300 would direct the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services to create a separate web page within its massive website. That web page would be dedicated to Informed Consent for Abortion information, which, by statute, already is in place in Nebraska. That web page would consolidate all the information that women and young girls are entitled to receive from the State prior to obtaining an abortion. Information such as accurate fetal development, the risks and complications of abortion, the fact that no one

can legally pressure her to have an abortion, and the many agencies and crisis pregnancy centers across the State where she can seek an ultrasound and confidential counseling that will not pressure her into abortion.

IN ADDITION to that information, LB 300 would direct the DHHS web page to link directly to the Endowment for Human Development website. This site has more than 130 4-D moving ultrasound images of babies in utero as well as massive amounts of information about the development of the baby at every stage. MOREOVER, LB 300 would direct Nebraska’s abortion facilities’ websites — they all have them — to link directly to the DHHS web page, which links to the EHD website fetal development information.

2014 is the second year of a two-year legislative cycle. That means that any bills not acted on in 2013 are automatically carried over to the 2014 session. We need a Senator to “prioritize” LB 300 in order for us to get the bill out of committee and on to passage. If you know your State Senator is pro-life, please ask him/her to prioritize LB 300 and relay to the NRL office the Senator’s response to you. The information to contact your State Senator is located at: [http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_find.php](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php).

NEBRASKA  
RIGHT TO LIFE  
AROUND THE  
STATE

### NRL CONTINUES STATE FAIR PRESENCE

Nebraska Right to Life hosted a booth at the State Fair for the 39th year. We rely on many volunteers. Scott and Hannah Moore of Grand Island (not pictured) again served as on-site coordinators and we couldn’t do the State Fair without them



WWW.NEBRASKARIGHTTOLIFE.ORG

**NEBRASKA RIGHT TO LIFE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Sandy Danek, Lincoln  
**Vice-President:** Brenda Eller, David City  
**Secretary:** Chuck Conrad, Hastings  
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**Executive Director & Nebraska Board  
Member to National Right to Life:**  
Julie Schmit-Albin, Lincoln

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 80410, Lincoln, NE 68501  
Mail can only be received at our P.O. Box.



**Nebraska  
Right to Life**

State Affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee

P.O. Box 80410  
Lincoln, NE 68501-0410

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**Facebook:** Search Facebook using  
Nebraska Right to Life: State Affiliate to  
National Right to Life



**Twitter:** Search Twitter using NERightToLife.

Both sites are updated daily with video/  
links/posts from national and State sources.  
Tell your friends and family on these sites  
to join the NRL pages.



**NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE**

The Nebraska Walk for Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, in Lincoln beginning at 10 a.m. at the State Capitol. The keynote speaker, to be announced later, will speak at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union.

The National March for Life in Washington, D.C., falls on Wednesday, Jan. 22. The buses of youth that are organized by the Archdiocese of Omaha, Diocese of Lincoln and UNL Newman Center are leaving for the National March on Saturday, Jan. 18, thus the decision to put the Nebraska Walk on the following Saturday.

This will be the 39th year that Nebraska Right to Life has organized the statewide

Walk, which draws thousands of Nebraskans to Lincoln to exercise their right to free speech and assembly against abortion and euthanasia, and in support of women facing unplanned pregnancies and those who are medically vulnerable and at risk of rationing of lifesaving medical treatment.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**NATIONAL MARCH  
FOR LIFE:  
JAN. 22, 2014**

**NEBRASKA WALK  
FOR LIFE:  
JAN. 25, 2014**

**NEW  
WEBSITE  
ROLLS  
OUT**

Nebraska Right to Life's new and improved website is expected to launch in October. The old site's domain is gone and the new site is at [www.nebraskarighttolife.org](http://www.nebraskarighttolife.org).

