



NEBRASKA

# Right to Life

State affiliate to  
National Right to Life

August 2022

## NEBRASKA

### in a post-Roe world

By Sandy Danek, Executive Director

Roe v. Wade is gone! We've worked for the overturning of Roe for nearly five decades, and the pro-life movement has to be ready for the next step. Nebraska attempted to pass a "trigger" law in April, which failed by just two votes. As of this writing, Governor Ricketts and pro-life legislative leaders are considering all possible options that would lead to protection of as many lives as possible. The goal is to pass effective legislation that will save the lives of babies in the fastest timeframe.

Even on a national front, the challenges are present. The Biden administration is trying to override state laws that regulate chemical abortions — euphemistically called "medication abortions." On July 8, President Biden said he had directed HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra to "take steps to ensure that these critical 'medications' are available to the fullest extent possible."

The federal government is being asked to set up abortion camps on federal property so the killing can continue. And there is pressure

on the federal government to ignore the Hyde Amendment and pay expenses to transport women across state lines to get an abortion.

The response from the abortion industry is more hysterical and irrational than anyone could have imagined. The misinformation the pro-choicers have perpetuated is damaging — anywhere from "women will die" because they will

not receive life-saving treatment for ectopic pregnancies, for example, to women who miscarry will be investigated to verify the fetal loss is not a chemical abortion. Or worse yet, the overturning of Roe outlawed all abortion in our country. None of this is true.

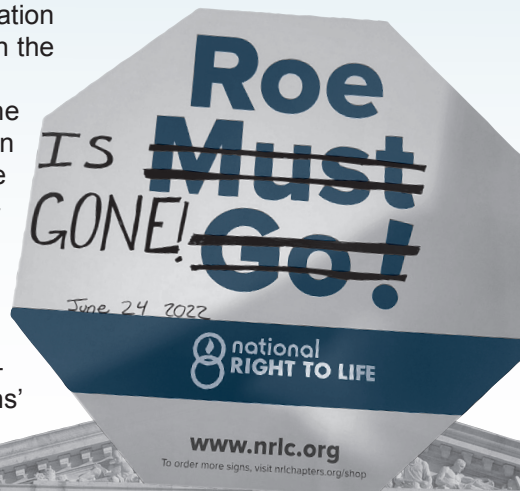
Some abortion supporters are going after pregnancy resource centers even more than they usually do — accusing the centers of deception because they don't perform abortions.

In short, the abortion industry is doing everything it can to scare women into seeing the child in the womb as the enemy.

We shake our heads in bewilderment, or anger, but we keep on doing what needs to be done to protect babies and their mothers.

We will pass life-protecting legislation in Nebraska, but don't assume all is well with the abortion debate. Abortion proponents are fighting back, claiming that some state constitutions contain a "privacy" clause that would cancel protections, or they may seek petitions

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# Personal reflections on Roe reversal

By Sandy Danek, Executive Director

Where were you when you heard ... Pearl Harbor was bombed? President Kennedy was shot? Man landed on the moon? 9/11? Well, you can now add: the U.S. Supreme Court announced the reversal of Roe v. Wade!

On June 24, 2022, I was in a large room surrounded by pro-life warriors from around the country who have worked so long and hard to protect precious human life. It was the annual National Right to Life Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We anticipated the decision would come down that day, but nothing could have fully prepared me for the excitement and emotions that filled the room at the moment someone burst through the doors and yelled, "Roe has been overturned!"

My first reaction was sobbing as the import of that announcement washed over me. Then, I tried to gather my thoughts as I looked for a quiet corner where I could send out a press release and conduct interviews with Nebraska media via Zoom.

Later that day, as the explosion of activity began to die, I sat in the hotel dining area and looked over at a table filled with ladies well into their 70s and 80s — maybe even old enough to actually remember Pearl Harbor! I paused and thought, some of these ladies have been doing this work for more than 50 years, as National Right to Life was founded in 1968. I was in awe of all they have done to pave the way for this amazing victory, and how their steadfastness has allowed us to stand on their shoulders, praying this day would come.

As we gathered for dinner, a table of about 12 pro-life leaders began a toast to Julie Schmit-Albin and all she had done to lead the effort. She was the National Right to Life representative for Nebraska for years, so she was well known. We then went on to recognize the heroes of our movement:

Dr. Jack Wilke (founder of the pro-life movement), Dr. Mildred Jeffers (medical doctor and first

black woman to graduate from Harvard), Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe in Roe v. Wade), Sandra Cano (Mary Doe in Doe v. Bolton), Dr. Bernard Nathanson (former abortionist who had a profound change of heart and spent the rest of his life doing pro-life work), Nellie Gray (founder, March for Life), and many more. It was the best place to be — with my pro-life family.

Reality soon began to set in. What will this mean for the pro-life movement, our work, our strategies? Judge Samuel Alito, the author of the decision, wrote: *"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."*

The decision came down with a 6-3 majority ruling in the Dobbs case that "The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion" — allowing states to ban abortions and protect unborn babies. The high court also ruled 6-3 to uphold the Mississippi 15-week abortion ban, meaning states are now able to further limit abortions and eliminate the false viability standard.

While he did vote for the judgment, Chief Justice John Roberts stated in his concurring opinion that he disagreed with the reasoning; he wanted to keep abortions legal but with a new standard.

Judge Alito went on to write: *"Roe was egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, Roe and Casey have inflamed debate and deepened division."*

This is a landmark day for the pro-life movement and our entire nation. After staining the moral fabric of our country for nearly 50 years, Roe v. Wade is no more. I still tear up every time I say that!

The fight is not over. With the reversal of Roe, we begin a new era of the battle at the state level, where we will work to elect pro-life representatives, pass life-saving legislation, and help create a culture of life where abortion is unthinkable!



## NEBRASKA

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in a post-Roe world

to place a measure on the ballot that would override pro-life legislation. We need to be prepared.

Whether we are able to pass laws to protect unborn children, or keep the ones we have, will depend on the November elections. Pro-life representatives have worked tirelessly to protect the Hyde Amendment in Congress, and

they need our help.

The one thing on which we can agree with our opponents is that a vote on this issue in November is critical. The pro-life movement always has had an advantage over our opposition when voting on life issues. We cannot hold back from the very hard work we have accomplished this past half century.

to hold back the radical "Women's Health Protection Act," but

From local, county and city positions to state and federal, we need to vote pro-life, and candidates seeking your support need you! Don't let them down. Don't shrink from all we've gained. We have to elect pro-life candidates. Let's make sure the message is clear after the election: Life Wins!



# HOW DOES A BAN ON ABORTION IMPACT MISCARRIAGE, ECTOPIC PREGNANCY AND IVF?

By Sandy Danek, Executive Director

During the 2022 Nebraska Legislative Session, LB933, a “trigger ban,” was introduced and would have banned abortion in Nebraska upon reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. This bill failed by just two votes; however, we will once again have an opportunity — either through a Special Session or in the next regular session — to pass a law that would prohibit abortions, except to save the life of the mother.

LB933 opponents claimed the law would impede needed medical care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies, and that IVF (in vitro fertilization) would be illegal in Nebraska. This is intended to distract from the truth and bring fear to the very women they purport to care about. The misinformation campaign continues in an effort to defeat any further attempts to ban abortion. Let’s examine the issues at hand.

## Miscarriage

When a miscarriage occurs, a child dies in the womb, making it medically necessary to remove the child for the health of the mother. The medical term often used is a “spontaneous abortion.” Medical treatment provided is dependent upon the gestational age of the baby. In most cases, a natural “cleansing” of the uterus occurs; however, some require surgical intervention where the uterus is emptied. In all cases of a miscarriage, a child has died, and the necessary expulsion is not considered an intentional or deliberate threat to a living baby in the womb. Therefore, any law banning abortion in Nebraska will not impact the medical care necessary for a woman suffering this tragic loss.

## Ectopic Pregnancy

An ectopic pregnancy occurs outside the uterus, commonly found in the fallopian tubes. Unfortunately, medical technology has not provided a means by which to save the child developing outside the uterus, so the only recourse is to remove the baby in order to save the life of the mother. This is done through a laparoscopic surgical procedure. An abortion procedure is not the same as a medically-necessary intervention when treating an ectopic pregnancy. There will always be an exception to save the life of the mother with any attempted pro-life legislation.

## In vitro Fertilization

IVF is the process of fertilization by extracting eggs, retrieving sperm, and then manually combining an egg and sperm in a laboratory dish. The embryo(s) are then transferred to the uterus. The practice of IVF usually involves multiple eggs being fertilized; some of those new embryos are never implanted, but instead are destroyed or preserved. Opponents of abortion-banning legislation contend that the destruction of the embryos would criminalize the practice of IVF. However, the language from proposed Nebraska legislation would “forbid employing any instrument or procedure upon a pregnant woman with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn child.” Using this wording, the practice of IVF, whereby babies come into being in a lab, some of which are then destroyed without being transferred to the womb, would not be illegal. What *would* be illegal is “selective reduction abortion,” which also sometimes happens in IVF — the transference of several embryos into the womb — knowing that some will likely die naturally, but then, in some cases, purposely killing one or more of the embryos that successfully implant in the uterine wall because more than the desired number of babies (i.e., twins, triplets, quads, etc.) resulted from the procedure. An abortion ban like that proposed in LB933 would not prohibit IVF; it would make it illegal to abort successfully implanted embryos. For those embryos no longer needed, pro-life advocates recommend making a donation to the adoption bank, “Snowflakes.”

## State Fair booth volunteers needed

The Nebraska State Fair occurs from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, and NRL needs volunteers to oversee our annual booth.

If you would like to help, please email [nebraskartl@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskartl@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up for a day and time.



## Memorials

Margaret A. Connealy by  
the Margaret A. Connealy Family

Theresa Scott by  
Joel & Megan Scott

Edward Montgomery by  
Don & Karen Burns

Howard Hughes by  
Linda Kuhlen & Family

Sherri Ramold by  
Michelle Paeta & Jed Ramold

Linda Formanek by Lori Pekter  
& Bernaard Heimann Family

Julie Schmit-Albin by  
Knights of Columbus #15944

Agnes Schleppenbach by:

Christie Sucha  
Jeannie Travers  
Joel & Peggy Beckenhauer  
Lucy Keady

Anne & Kevin Riley  
Bill & Diane Payne  
Craig & Betty Polt  
Caroline Parys

Robert & Darcy Moran  
Jerald & Lori Connot  
Kevin & Barb Kruse  
Gary Schleppenbach  
Ted & Carole Taylor  
Ron & Jan Kramer  
Kevin & Liz Joyce

Tom & Shelley Thorpe  
MaryAnn & Michael Sexton  
Robert & Sandy Hoffmann  
Candy & Rene Ojeda  
Rich & Barb McPhillips  
Kathy Krier (& Siblings)  
Jim & Judy Cunningham  
Betty Froehlich  
Steve & Rhonda Bors  
Alan & RuthAnn Slattery  
Brad & Mary Schmidt  
Karen Spader  
Mary & Dan Curran  
Pat & Barb Gill  
Virgil & Betty Jane Froehlich

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## Mailing address

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Mail can only be received at our P.O. box.

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Congratulations to our summer intern,  
Kayla Legel of Omaha, for  
receiving the John Nolan  
Warrior for Life Scholarship  
Award from NRL.

She is majoring in  
International Business and  
Marketing with a Spanish  
minor at Barrett, the  
Honors college in Arizona  
State University.



# Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee 2022 Nebraska General Election endorsements

## Congress

**Dist. 1:** Mike Flood  
**Dist. 2:** Don Bacon  
**Dist. 3:** Adrian Smith

## Statewide Offices

**Governor:** Jim Pillen  
**Secretary of State:** Bob Evnen  
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**Dist. 7:** Kathy Wilmot

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**Dist. 4:** Roger von Gillern  
**Dist. 6:** Christian Mirch  
**Dist. 8:** Marilyn Asher  
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**Dist. 12:** Merv Riepe  
**Dist. 14:** John Arch  
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**Dist. 18:** Christy Armendariz  
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*Vote pro-life  
in Nebraska's  
General Election!*

*Save the date!  
Nebraska  
Walk for Life  
January 28,  
2023*

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Not authorized by any candidate or committee.

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