



NEBRASKA

Right to Life

State affiliate to
National Right to Life

January 2024

A weekend of
inspiration and activism

2024

Nebraska Walk For Life

Friday, Jan. 26

6 p.m. at the
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

In addition to our keynote speaker, we will
salute Nebraskans who have made significant
contributions to pro-life efforts, as well as
commemorate the lives lost to abortion.

Gala
&

Nebraska Walk For Life

Saturday, Jan. 27

10 a.m. at the State Capitol,
then UNL Student Union

Bake sale donations needed

Volunteers will be curbside 8-9 a.m. in front of the
Student Union to accept donated baked goods for
the NRL bake sale.

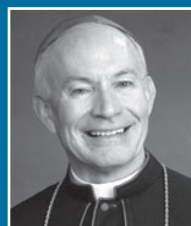
Keynote Speaker

Melissa Ohden

Melissa Ohden, a survivor of an abortion attempt, is the founder of the Abortion Survivors Network. At the Gala, she will describe her journey that led her to pro-life activism and reuniting with her birth family. She will speak again the following morning at the UNL Student Union. Melissa's newest book will be released in time to be available at our Gala.



For Gala
tickets
or other
information,
scan this
QR code.



Archbishop
George Lucas

Holy Mass will be held at 9 a.m. across from the Capitol at St. Mary's
Catholic Church, 14th and K streets.

Celebrant is Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha and Homilist is
Msgr. Thomas Fucinaro of Lincoln.

Mass is sponsored by Nebraska Catholic Conference.



Msgr.
Thomas Fucinaro

Pro-Abortion Group Launches Ballot Initiative In Nebraska

On November 15, Protect Our Rights abortion advocates released their ballot initiative language, which would enshrine a right to abortion until birth in our Nebraska Constitution.

The petition language is as follows:

"All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient's treating health care practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures."

The amendment also would allow for:

Abortion throughout pregnancy

The amendment leaves post-viability abortion for "health" of the mother to the discretion of the abortionist. Without defining "health," courts have found that it can be based on nonmedical factors, including mental, spiritual, financial or familial health. Furthermore, viability is defined as being based solely on the abortionist's judgment and would not include any baby who needs "extraordinary medical measures," which could be as simple as a short stay in the NICU.

The elimination of health and safety protections for women

Language on the fundamental right to abortion "without interference from the state" puts all of Nebraska's medical safeguards at risk. This includes obtaining informed consent and performing a medical screening, seeing a physician in person or even seeing a medical professional at all. It would allow pills to be sold through the mail by people with no medical background.



The evisceration of parental rights

By using the words "all persons" in the amendment, this will mean parents will not have any ability to consent or even know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion. They may also have no recourse if their daughter is harmed during the abortion. And in fact, parents WILL have financial liability for any follow-up physical and/or mental care their minor daughter may require post-abortion.

This is an orchestrated attempt to mislead Nebraskans into thinking this is a reasonable measure, but it is, in actuality, abortion-on-demand up until the birth of a baby.

Nebraska's current law allows for abortion throughout the first 12 weeks of pregnancy with exceptions for rape, incest, life of the mother and medical emergencies. Nebraska statistical data indicate 90% of abortions are performed before 12 weeks gestation. This ballot measure is not pro-choice, it is pro-abortion, and it does not reflect the values of Nebraskans.

Ballot measures change a state constitution, take precedence over laws passed by state legislators (see accompanying article for examples in other states), and can only be overturned by another ballot measure, which is extremely difficult and costly. Protect Our Rights Nebraska will need to collect approximately 122,000 signatures from voters in 38 counties to put this decision on the 2024 ballot.

Nebraska women and children deserve better than this. NRL is working closely with Nebraska Catholic Conference, Nebraska Family Alliance and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America to educate our citizens on this issue. Please share this information with your family and friends, and pray for Nebraska, that we will rise to the challenge and successfully defeat this and all other attempts to eliminate protections for preborn babies and their mothers.

Abortion Initiatives In Other States

Abortion advocates have won ballot initiatives in six states in the past year: Ohio, California, Michigan, Vermont, Kansas and Kentucky. Most of these initiatives enshrine or preserve an expansive right to abortion at the state constitutional level far beyond what the United States Supreme Court guaranteed under *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992).

The probable and drastic consequence of these expansive constitutional regimes is the judicial invalidation of even the most benign and moderate abortion laws. Many abortion advocates dismiss this likelihood, calling such arguments "scare mongering." Instead, they successfully convince voters that many reasonable, commonsense abortion

restrictions are safely "on the books."

But the reality is that courts in states with broadly worded constitutional protections for abortion do strike down parental consent laws, parental notice laws, waiting periods and restrictions on public funding of abortion. There is overwhelming evidence from case law in many states to establish this, but a recent example from Kansas illustrates the point.

In the *Hodes* decision, the Kansas Supreme Court found a "natural right" to abortion in the state constitution and adopted a strict legal test for all abortion regulations. Last year, when Kansas voters considered the constitutional amendment that would have overruled *Hodes*, abortion advocates repeatedly assured Kansas voters that the amendment was

not necessary and that sufficient restrictions on abortion were already in place.

Conveniently, abortion providers waited until after the amendment initiative failed to challenge any of those modest restrictions. Within a year, though, they filed a lawsuit challenging the Women's Right to Know Act, a widely supported, commonsense informed consent law passed over 20 years ago with bipartisan support. The law is meant to ensure that a woman seeking an abortion receives in-person counseling from the physician who will perform the abortion; accurate, noncoercive information relevant to her decision; and a brief time period — 24 hours — to process the information before the procedure. Most Americans support such laws, which only promote voluntary,

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About Pam Murray by Pam Murray

Can you tell from the title of this article at least one way I contribute to the mission of Nebraska Right to Life? Yep, I write! I did plenty of composing, reviewing and editing in my 42 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. My positions also called for organizational skills and event planning. When I retired in 2017, I began looking for opportunities to volunteer, and quite frankly, NRL was not one of them. My degree is in education, and I wanted to work with kids. I helped a friend with home schooling, I worked with a dyslexia program at an elementary school, and in fall 2018 I began volunteering at Villa Marie Home and School for Exceptional Children, working with the students and helping with other activities such as the Villa Marie annual fundraising dance. In addition, I was helping with a prayer group at a nursing home and also babysitting for my Goddaughter one day a week. So I wasn't looking to add to my plate. However, when my friend Sandy Danek called in August 2020 sounding so desperate about having to suddenly take over the NRL office that was in, shall we just say, a state of disarray after the long illness of the previous director, I told her I would help her one day a week until we could get the office organized.

Helping a friend was the reason I went. Helping bring babies at risk for abortion into the world is the reason I stayed. I firmly believe that God is the author of life, and regardless of the circumstances that brought about conception, nothing happens without His active or permissive will. God doesn't make mistakes, people do. And God can make good come out of bad situations. The speaker for the 2024 Nebraska Right to Life Gala and Walk for Life is a good example. God had a plan for this survivor of an abortion attempt, and He has a plan for every baby in the womb, whether or not it is immediately obvious to the parents or to society. That's why I stayed!

There is a connection between the NRL and Villa Marie missions (besides me, that is). Dr. Matt Hecker (now Deacon Hecker) visited the school for the first time shortly

after assuming the position of Superintendent of the Lincoln Diocesan Education Office. During that visit, he commented that Villa Marie is one of the diocese's most prominent and valuable pro-life apostolates.

I recently heard a talk by Bishop Robert Barron about the establishment of the Word on Fire Lejune Fellowship. The Venerable Jerome Lejune, who was a friend of Pope John Paul II, was a physician who did groundbreaking work on Down Syndrome. This committed Catholic wanted to reach out and support those who were marked by the condition. Bishop Barron said that at a time when

some countries proudly proclaim they have "eliminated Down syndrome" (i.e., aborting all babies in whom the gene has been detected), naming the Fellowship after Lejune is a strong pro-life statement. Having volunteered at Villa Marie for five years, I can honestly say the world would be "less"

without people like Bella. This 15-year-old with DS brings so much joy to her family and to the Villa Marie community. She smiles and laughs a lot, loves music, dancing, arts and crafts, and sports (she was on the VM basketball team that took first place in this year's Special Olympics). Bella herself is a walking pro-life statement!

Nebraska Right to Life will sponsor a table at the 2024 Villa Marie fundraising dance, to be held at the Sandhills Global Event Center on Friday, February 9. We encourage you to come and help celebrate "60 Years of Angels Among Us." To learn more, see <https://villamarieschool.com>.



Pam Murray and husband Kevin



Bella

Continued from page 2

informed decision-making and do nothing to prevent a woman's ultimate access to abortion. More than 30 states, including Ohio and Michigan, have similar laws.

The abortion providers' complaint in this lawsuit reveals the ultimate goal of the abortion industry: no legal limits, even those that pose no meaningful barrier to abortion. The abortion providers acknowledge that women seeking abortions are often motivated by social pressures, such as educational goals, and economic pressures like the demands of raising existing children, or that women "do not feel they can adequately parent and provide for other children." Yet, they object to providing a woman with information relevant to her concerns, such as the availability of medical and material resources should

she decide to parent, or alternatives to parenting like adoption, or about the father's enforceable obligation to support his child.

Abortion providers don't like mandatory delays, even a mere 24 hours, for an obvious reason: they limit their ability to perform a large number of abortions. Therefore, they object to a requirement that the actual abortion provider meet privately with the patient, ensuring her questions will be answered in her own language, and giving her time to process the information.

Predictably, the judge in the Kansas lawsuit, using the strict legal test from Hodes, issued a temporary injunction preventing the informed consent law from being enforced. Emboldened by this legal success, abortion providers in Kansas

can be expected to challenge other bipartisan abortion regulations, such as the limit on elective abortions after 22 weeks' gestation, restrictions on public funding of abortion, and the state's parental consent law. We can expect courts in Ohio to strike down similar bipartisan, moderate laws under its new constitutional amendment.

As other states follow Kansas' lead, they will likely see the same consequence of their permissive abortion legal regimes: a booming abortion business.

Editor's Note: The above was excerpted from an online article titled "When It Comes to Abortion, Voters May Get More Than They Bargained For," by Elizabeth Kirk, November 21, 2023. The entire article can be found at <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com>.

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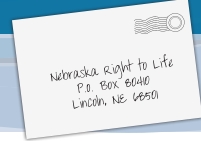
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Mailing address

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Calling Pro-Life Warriors

As you can see by the content of this newsletter, it is important for you to stay informed on the ballot initiative and other pro-life issues.

If you would like to be added to our email list so you can receive updates, please send an email to nebraskartl@gmail.com with the subject line: Add me to NRL email list.



Memorials

Erna Ternus

Mr. & Mrs. Glen Ternus
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Moseman
Monica Kavan

Elizabeth Sposato

Wayne Stephens
Mary Quintero

Dorothy Tripp

Anne Kaslon

Elaine Panowicz

John Kasperek
Theodore & Kathleen Stava
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Doris Birkel Smith

Jim Smith
Gerald & Elizabeth Votava

Gerald Witte

Gerald & Jean Witte
Jeffrey Jones
Karen & Dennis Feeken
Patrick & Lori Harding

Shirley Lang, past board member 90th birthday

Barb McPhillips
Julie Lostroh

Michael Fohl Schmit

John & Fran Pachta
Deanna Dowd
Joseph & Nancy Groenjes
Schmit Farms, Inc.

Jeff Danek

Jim & Mary Love

Joe Rustman

Beulah Zimmer

Thomas Selzle III

James & Rosanne Selzle
Lori & Randy Goldsmith
Michael & Megan Timmerman
William Duncan
Mary Braun
Stephan & Jane Spargen
Joseph & Joni Tuchs
Mary Timmerman
Doyle & Carol Noerrlinger
Bernard Verditte
Mikke Selzle



Nebraska Right to Life sponsors a billboard on I-80 near Ashland.

NRL Welcomes Bud Synhorst

We are pleased to announce that NRL has partnered with Bud Synhorst to help us navigate our legislative effort, endorsement process and the abortion industry's attempt at a ballot initiative.

Bud brings a wealth of experience working in legislative and political matters, which will be invaluable as we continue to defend life.



Bud Synhorst