

LifeFacts

A Publication of South Dakota Right to Life
Volume 46, Number 1
Winter 2017

Comparable to a
gorgeous rose,
every human life
unfolds
with delicate
precision . . .
as a perfect plan
from a
Perfect
Creator



SDRTL closely monitoring legislative possibilities

On Jan. 10 South Dakota's 92nd legislative session began with South Dakota Right to Life's fulltime lobbyist and legislative committee geared up to advance the 2017 pro-life agenda. After having a stunningly successful session in 2016 for South Dakota Right to Life-supported pro-life legislation, SDRTL seeks to build on the pro-life movement's successes. The 2017 legislative session promises to be a very active session for pro-life legislation, dealing with a diverse array of issues.

Revisit Pain Capable?

One of the possible bills we are currently tracking deals with revisiting the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that was passed by wide margins last year protecting pain-capable unborn children from the horrors of abortion. The objective is to make the penalties associated with the existing law more consistent with other laws dealing with abortion.

Another possible bill deals with sex trafficking and Planned Parenthood. While there has long been an associated connection between Planned Parenthood's business model and the practice of sex-trafficking, additional protections for women seeking abortions may be needed to

You, an informed pro-life citizen, are an important team member of South Dakota's legislative pro-life arsenal

provide pregnant mothers access to information on where to get help in case they are caught up in some sort of sex trafficking scheme forcing them into an abortion.

SDRTL will be monitoring closely the legislature's response to the current petition push for assisted suicide in South Dakota. A possible

resolution condemning the dehumanizing practice may be brought forth with, perhaps, other legislative remedies for a petition process that appears to be increasingly unbalanced.

Circumstances change quickly

Since developments happen quickly during session, it is important that you follow developments as they occur. Our lobbyist and legislative committee will be sending out time-sensitive updates for bill developments, bill hearings, and votes via email, Facebook, and Twitter. Sign up for legislative alerts on our website at www.sdrightrighttolife.org. Your personal contacts—including phone calls, emails, Facebook posts, Tweets—are vital to passing pro-life legislation. Contact information for your representatives can be found on the South Dakota Legislative Research Council site at sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/.

Appreciating Trump pro-life administration choices

Pro-lifers rejoiced in the wee hours of Nov. 9 when it became apparent that blatantly pro-abortion Hillary Clinton would not be the next President of the United States. Because Donald Trump voiced time and again and continues to tell us he is pro-life, we look forward to his inauguration as the 45th President of the United States on Jan. 20.

Appointment of U.S. Supreme Court justices who would uphold the sanctity of innocent human life was among many important reasons for voting for a pro-life President. President Trump will likely soon nominate a replacement for the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Chances are great that President Trump will have more opportunities to nominate more justices. And that a pro-life Senate will confirm them.

President-elect Trump wisely chose his former campaign manager, pro-life Kellyanne Conway, as his Presidential counselor. Other pro-lifers called to key positions in the new administration include Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General; Georgia Rep. Tom Price, secretary of Health and Human Services; Chief of Staff Reince Priebus; Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; HUD secretary Dr. Ben Carson; Secretary of Labor Andrew Puzder; former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to lead the Department of Energy; Rep. Mike Pompeo to be director of the CIA; Scott Pruitt who will be director of the Environmental Protection Agency; and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who will be our nation's ambassador to the U.N.

Of Counselor Conway, David O'Steen, PhD., executive director of National Right to Life, says, "In choosing pro-life Kellyanne Conway to be counselor to the President, President-elect Donald Trump has not only availed himself of one of the most talented advisors possible, he has also sent a strong signal to the entire pro-life movement about

"The fight for the right to life is not the cause of a special few, but the cause of every man, woman and child who cares not only about his or her own family, but the whole family of man." —Dr. Mildred Jefferson

LifeFacts

South Dakota Right to Life maintains an office in Pierre at 314 S. Henry St. Write to SDRTL at P.O. Box 1032, Pierre, SD 57501. Phone 605-224-9181 or toll free 877-216-1628 during Mon.-Fri. business hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Website: sdrightrighttolife.org. Email: sdrightrighttolife@yahoo.com.

LifeFacts Editor Gloria Duenwald email: duenwald@venturecomm.net or phone 605-948-2163.

SDRTL is a non-profit, non-denominational organization whose philosophy is that all innocent human life is inviolable and is to be guaranteed protection from conception until natural death.

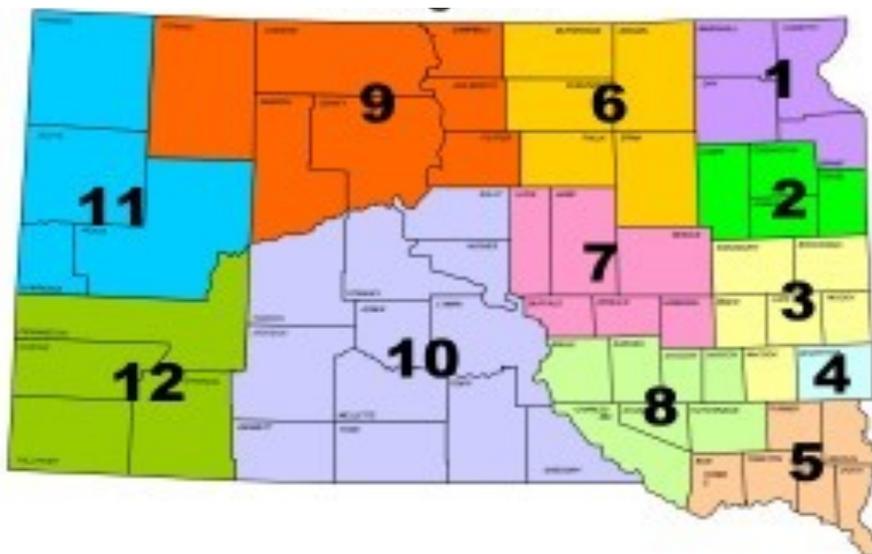
Thank You!

Chapter support, in all its various forms, is very important to South Dakota Right to Life, which especially appreciates a check for \$2,357.15 recently received from SDRTL Region 1. Evelyn Schuch, Sisseton, writes, "It was decided to close this account and send it to the state office to be used wisely for the defense of life."



"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." - Thomas Jefferson

South Dakota Right to Life's Regions



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Guests are welcome at Board of Directors meetings. The next meeting will be at our new office at 314 S. Henry St., Pierre, on Jan. 22 following the Hour of Reflection. The meeting starts at 4 p.m.

In addition to two members-at-large, each SDRTL region is entitled to two members on the SDRTL Board of Directors. There are openings. Call 605-224-9181 for details.

SDRTL Donation/Membership Form

SDRTL's life-saving missions depend solely on your generosity

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phones _____

Annual membership \$30; Lifetime \$300. Mail to SDRTL, PO Box 1032, Pierre, SD, 57501 or epy on sdrightrighttolife.org.

If you receive a printed issue of LifeFacts, please attach your mailing label here:

44th Annual Hour of Reflection

*Sunday, January 22, 2 p.m.
State Capitol Rotunda, Pierre*



*Keynote Speaker
Lee Schoenbeck, Esq.
Watertown*

**Winning the War for Life
–Words Matter**

Master of Ceremonies Jason Glodt, Pierre
Rev. Josh Baumann, Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre
Rev. Joseph Holzhauser, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Pierre

*Sponsored annually by Pierre Area Right to Life and South Dakota Right to Life
Music will be provided by Watertown's Immaculate Conception School Choir under the direction of Paul Moneke*

Life Chain Walk
Before the Hour of Reflection ~ 12:30-1:30 p.m. ~ Meet at North Parking Lot of the State Capitol

Plan to bring a carload! Or, if you prefer leaving the driving to someone else, we are aware of two buses...

A bus will be picking up people in **Aberdeen, Ipswich, Roscoe, Bowdle, Hoven, and Gettysburg** on Sunday, Jan. 22. A bag lunch will be provided. The bus will drop people off in time for the Life Chain Walk in Pierre. A donation of \$15 to Hoven Area Right to Life per individual or per family (whichever is cheaper) is suggested in order to cover a portion of the cost of the bus. Contact Spencer Cody at spencercody@hotmail.com or 948-2449 to reserve your seat. Bus schedule:

- Aberdeen (Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 502 2nd Ave. SE) Leave 8:15 a.m., return 6:55 p.m.
- Ipswich (Holy Cross, 20 6th St.) Leave 8:55 a.m., return 6:20 p.m.
- Roscoe (St. Thomas Apostle, 605 N. Andrew St.) Leave 9:20 a.m., return 6:05 p.m.
- Bowdle (St. Augustine, 3023 3rd Ave.) Leave 9:45 a.m., return 5:45 p.m.
- Hoven (St. Anthony's of Padua, 546 Main St.) Leave 10:30 a.m., return 5:10 p.m.
- Gettysburg (Sacred Heart, 203 E. Garfield) Leave 11:05 a.m., return 4:40 p.m.
- Pierre (State Capitol, north parking lot) Arrive 12:15 p.m., leave for returns 3:30 p.m.

A bus will be leaving the Knights of Columbus Hall in **Watertown** at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22. Stops can be made in **Henry, Clark, Doland and Redfield**. The \$15 per individual or \$40 per family cost includes a sack lunch at 11 a.m. The bus leaves to return to Watertown at 3:30 p.m. Call Anne Hanson at 605-881-6659 or email her at anne@theoriginalmarketinggroup.com to register or for more information.

SDRTL's Life Chain encourages passers-by to help fight for life





*Wondering how to best defend innocent human life?
Start here.
And then let your pro-life wings take flight!*

In contrast to some Living Wills, a pro-life Will to Live protects you from being denied life-saving sustenance, food and water. The pro-life Will to Live allows you, if you wish, to reject treatment that would prolong your life if you are about to die. It makes provision for you to state exactly what you would and would not want. Specific drafts are available for all states. —nrlc.org/medethics/willtolive/states/.

MANY HANDS MAKE THE WORK LIGHT

Go to sdrighttolife.org.
Click on Chapers. Support
a chapter in your area. If
there are none, consider
starting one. For help, call
Spencer at 605-948-2449.

The legal protection of the right to life of innocent human beings is the basic issue upon which all other issues of human rights and justice depend. It is the pivotal human rights issue today, because once we abandon the basic democratic principle of equality – that ALL human beings deserve the protection of the law no matter what their size, their age or their degree of dependency— then the rights of all of us are less secure.

The development of an unborn child from conception to birth

Day 1: FERTILIZATION: all human chromosomes are present; A UNIQUE HUMAN LIFE BEGINS.

Day 6: embryo begins implantation in the uterus.

Day 22: heart begins to beat with the child's own blood, often a different type than the mother's.

Week 3: By the end of third week the child's backbone spinal column and nervous system are forming. The liver, kidneys and intestines begin to take shape.

Week 4: By the end of Week 4 the child is 10,000 times larger than the fertilized egg.

Week 5: Eyes, legs, and hands begin to develop.

Week 6: Brain waves are detectable; mouth and lips are present; fingernails are forming.

Week 7: Eyelids and toes form; nose is distinct. The baby is kicking and swimming.

Week 8: Every organ is in place, bones begin to replace cartilage, and fingerprints begin to form. Baby can begin to hear.

Weeks 9 and 10: Teeth begin to form, fingernails develop. The baby can turn his head, and frown. The baby can hiccup.

Weeks 10 and 11: The baby can "breathe" amniotic fluid and urinate. The baby can grasp objects placed in its hand; all organ systems are functioning. The baby has a skeletal structure, nerves, and circulation.

Week 12: The baby has all of the parts necessary to experience pain, including nerves, spinal cord, and thalamus. Vocal cords are complete. The baby can suck his thumb.

Week 14: At this age, the heart pumps several quarts of blood through the body every day.

Week 15: The baby has an adult's taste buds.

Month 4: Bone marrow is beginning to form. The heart is pumping 25 quarts of blood a day. By the end of Month 4 the baby will be 8-10 inches long and will weigh up to half a pound.

Week 17: The baby can have dream (REM) sleep.

Week 19: Babies can routinely be saved at 21 to 22 weeks after fertilization, and sometimes they can be saved even younger.

Week 20: At 20 weeks the baby recognizes its mother's voice. The unborn child is capable of feeling pain. This is also the earliest at which partial-birth abortion is performed.

Months 5 and 6: The baby practices breathing by inhaling amniotic fluid into its developing lungs. The baby will grasp at the umbilical cord. Most mothers feel an increase in movement, including kicking and hiccups. Oil and sweat glands are now functioning. The baby is about 12 inches long and weighs up to one and a half pounds.

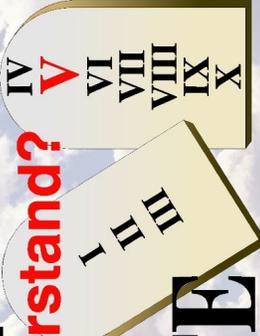
Months 7 through 9: Eyeteeth are present. The baby opens and closes his eyes. The baby is using four of the five senses (vision, hearing, taste, and touch.) He knows the difference between waking and sleeping, and can relate to the moods of his mother. The baby's skin begins to thicken, and a layer of fat is produced and stored beneath the skin. Antibodies are built up, and the baby's heart begins to pump 300 gallons of blood per day. Approximately one week before birth, the baby's growth slows, and he "drops," usually head down into the pelvic cavity.

V. Thou Shall Not

KILL

Don't you understand?

CHOOSE LIFE



You have no choice but to support America's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, which annually receives millions of your tax dollars

*On the other hand,
SOUTH DAKOTA RIGHT TO LIFE
*receives NO public support
but depends entirely on donations from good people like you**

FOR YOU, WITH YOU



CONTINUES . . .

- ◆ to be the oldest, strongest statewide pro-life organization that focuses *entirely on life issues*
- ◆ to publish a quarterly fact-filled, motivating newsletter, *LifeFacts*, mailed to over 6,000 addresses
- ◆ to maintain a strong pro-life presence at South Dakota legislative sessions
- ◆ to host an annual fall convention featuring nationally-acclaimed speakers
- ◆ to offer a friendly volunteer staff and website ready to meet a variety of pro-life needs
- ◆ to invite you to gather under Pierre's Capitol dome every January to prayerfully commemorate the anniversary of the infamous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision
- ◆ to provide the strong foundation on which a multitude of other pro-life groups continue to build
- ◆ to achieve national pro-life coordination through affiliation with National Right to Life

South Dakota assisted suicide threat looms

Euthanasia forces knocking at South Dakota's door are not new, but the threat looms stronger as a sponsor has asked the Secretary of State for an explanation for a proposed assisted suicide initiative. If the sponsor obtains a sufficient number of signatures by November 2017, the initiative would be on the November 2017 ballot.

The measure is entitled "An initiated measure authorizing a South Dakota licensed physician to prescribe drugs that a terminally ill patient may take for the purpose of ending life."

Pro-lifers recognize the danger of promoting all types of euthanasia, often erroneously labeled "death with dignity." We know assisted suicide would endanger the weak and the vulnerable, that it would corrupt the practice of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship, and that it would endanger human dignity. In this realm the origin of this petition is especially worrisome according to SDRTL Vice President Spencer Cody, "The same person who attempted to bring a medical drug petition to 'help' the suffering and disabled in 2016 is now circulating a petition to put these same people to death. The South Dakota assisted suicide proposal is centrally inspired and intended for the disabled. Unfortunately, a handful of those who have fought for the rights and wellbeing of the sick and disabled are now pushing these same people into an undignified grave."

Getting a foot in the door for broader euthanasia, proponents usually first propose assisted suicide because they believe it easier to sell to the public. History proves, however, that permit-

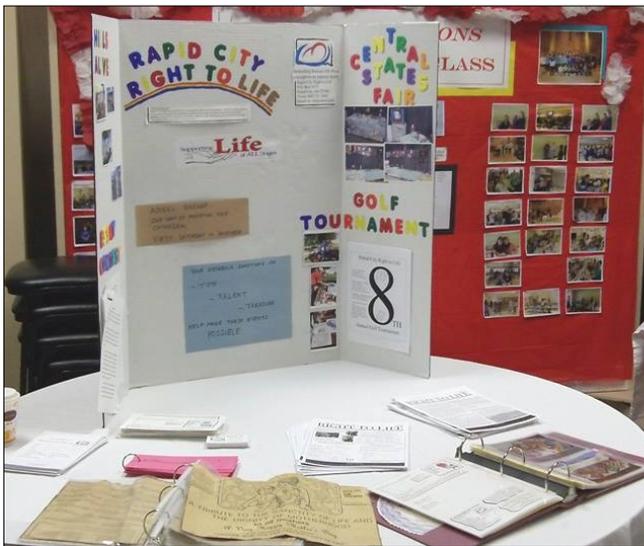
ting assisted suicide invariably leads to other parties getting involved in intentional killing.

Those seeking to kill themselves often suffer from depression or other mental illnesses. They are often lonely. Vice President Cody also raises key concerns with this issue, "The term 'death with dignity' is at best an idealistic hope for a dignified end to one's life. We now know from Oregon and Washington that complications to this process are very common: not dying, waking up many hours after being unconscious, vomiting, and violent seizures. Even more problematic is that, in the proposed South Dakota initiative, friends, family, doctors, and pharmacists all play a role in an individual's suicide. We also now know from these states that a large majority of assisted suicides are 'assisted' through suicide advocacy groups. What people end up finding out is that they may have free will up until they begin the process of inquiring about assisted suicide. Once one of these almost cult-like suicide groups catch a person in their web, they make sure the 'patient' goes through with it by any means necessary."

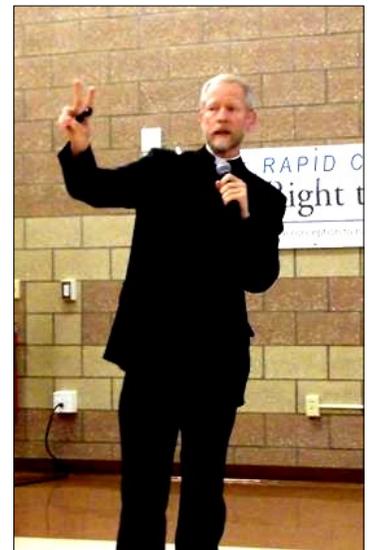
Instead of promoting physician-assisted suicide, pro-lifers believe in responding to suffering with true compassion. We support palliative care that focuses on improving a patient's life by alleviating pain and other distressing aspects of a serious illness. It is an option for people in all stages of an illness, whether that illness is curable, chronic, or life-threatening. Physician assisted death is legal in six states, Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California, Montana and Colorado. The conversation continues in several states.



Thank you, Rapid City, for hosting another successful South Dakota Right to Life fall convention



Rapid City Right to Life on Sept. 17 coordinated with several West River chapters to hold another remarkably informative convention in Rapid City. Convention-goers enjoyed multiple commendable presenters. Between sessions, guests appreciated the opportunity to peruse several educational booths. Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD., spoke on the bioethics of end-of-life issues, honing in on controversial and technical issues dealing with pain and suffering and euthanasia.



SDRTL Board of Directors Secretary and NRLC Representative Valerie Johnson shares: *I especially appreciated this year's convention - it was such a wonderful and educational program! Fr. Tad did a great job explaining why we need to be informed about bioethics as there are many advances in biology and medicine. Though the right to life is a serious topic, not all of the sessions were serious. The Rapid City Chapter did a great job of hosting. And it was great to meet so many friends, old and new, and know that we continue to help each other and work together. I look forward to seeing those friends again - hopefully some will be able to make it to the Hour of Reflection in Pierre.*



Thank You!

*Welcome,
New/Renewing Members*

*Those donating \$30 or
more are members*

FOR DONATIONS OF \$50 OR MORE . . .

Aberdeen Patty & Roy Becker, Alex & Annie Falk, Dennis & Rae Feikert, Elmer & Luella Feiock, Eldon & Donna Reich, Renita Sauer, Penelope Sieh de Hueck, Kathryn O'Brien; **Alcester** Peace Lutheran Church; **Artesian** Charles & Mary Unterbrunner; **Big Stone City** Lonie & Michael Rausch, Todd & Candee Cloos; **Brandon** Don & Louella Jellema, Jean Moser; **Britton** Kirk & Carol Moeckly; **Brookings** Rita & Joel Houglum, Al Kurtenbach, Leila Muzzey, Fred Rittershaus; **Castlewood** Cliff & Mary Ruesink; **Corsica** Everet Adams; **Elk Point** Jacquelyn Heckathorn; **Elkton** Robert Even; **Flandreau** Dr. Leslie & Libby Heineman; **Florence** Gary & Diane Beyer; **Fort Pierre** Jim & Edith Hoffman; **Gettysburg** Father Francis Dillon Knights of Columbus, Daniel & Dorothy Smith; **Gregory** Rosebud Sandhills RTL; **Harrisburg** Lisa & Edwin Jones; **Hermosa** Herman & Jane Rausch; **Hill City** Rolland & Peg Noem; **Hoven** Duenwald Bros. pheasant hunt; **Ipswich** Loren & Sophie Leitzke; **Kimball** Susan Benda, Philip Konechne, Michael & Linda Smith; **Lake Andes** Tim & Linda Whalen; **Leola** Sam & Linda Schauer; **Marty** Oblate Sisters; **Milesville** Michael & Faye Piroutek; **Mitchell** Mary Titze, Ken & Mary Jo Wittstruck; **Mobridge** Jim Vanderwal; **Orient** Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Jack & Joann Schaefer; **Parkston** Kenneth & Marie Weisz; **Pierre** Steven & Susan Ahlers, Grace McKillip; **Platte** Harry & Beth Koops, Tom & Elaine Jaeger; **Rapid City** Julie Carreiro, John & Patricia Janssen, Sheryl Casey, Richard Koch, Adeline Rorvig; **Redfield** Barb Appel; **Renner** Jerre & Kristin Bertus; **Roscoe** Margaret Beyers; **Rosholt** Veoma M. Renet; **Sioux Falls** Tim & Nancy Burns, Dan & Janet Costello, Ralph Grode, Roger Haugo, Edgar & Donna Schaeffer, Rep. Hal & Jane Wick, Esther Herther, Robert & Kristine O'Connell, Madonna & Modesta Opbroek, James R. Becker; **Spearfish** Chuck & Joan Mutchler; **Springfield** Peter & Loreta Demarco; **Stickney** Ken & Rachel Van Brenk; **Turton** Terry & Valerie Vogel; **Tyndall** C.J. & Beverly Attema; **Vermillion** Donald & Marcia Hovden; **Vienna** Basil Englert; **Wagner** Romaine Kocer, Wagner Right to Life; **Watertown** James & Ardys Berven, Violet Hurkes, Shirley Jibben, Tami Koistinen, Jeanette Mack, Irene Redmond; **Webster** S.D. State Council Knights of Columbus; **Westport** Troy & Julie Vandover; **White** Marjorie Anderson; **Winner** Leonard & Jeannie Heim; **Woonsocket** Gayland & Bernice Trudeau, Patrick & Marlene Howard; **Yankton** Rev. Russell & Mary Peirce; **Sun City, Ariz.** Harlan Bushfield

FOR DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF . . .

Beverly Holsing

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Dale Gebhart

Tom Bartholomew

Loren Toennies

from Vi & Loren Niederbaumer

Willard Zeeb

from his wife Donna

Sister Mary Alacoque Gebbert

from Loren & Sophie Leitzke

George W. Cluts

from Basil Englert

(Updated to Jan. 3)

IN HONOR OF . . .

**Mansour and the
late Ruth Karim**

from their daughter Zahra

*Many thanks, also, to much-
appreciated pro-lifers who, with
even greater sacrifice, donate
smaller amounts*



*Every life is incredibly
unique! A marvelous continu-
um from fertilization to natu-
ral death! No matter what
stage we are in, we are worthy
of the same rights/the same
protections.*

@SDRTL



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South Dakota Right to Life

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*Increase our impact. Share
this with your family. Then
pass it on to a friend.*

Many reasons in 2017 for pro-life optimism

Quoting National Right to Life

Executive Director Dr. David O'Steen:

"A national poll of voters taken on election day, November 8, by the polling company Inc./Woman Trend found that essentially half of all voters (49%) said that abortion affected their vote. How did they vote – 31% said they voted for candidates who opposed abortion while only 18% said they voted for candidates who favored abortion – a 13% advantage for the pro-life side. When you think how close the vote was in Pennsylvania and other states which determined the election, it is clear that abortion made a clear difference in the election.

"The poll results also clearly reflected the heavy involvement of National Right to Life and its political action committees, the National Right to Life PAC and the National Right to Life Victory Fund. Fully 29% of voters recalled hearing, seeing or receiving information from National Right to Life and 17% recalled hearing, seeing or receiving information from a state right to life group such as an NRLC affiliate.

National Right to Life and its political action committees mailed 3.3 million pieces of literature, made 5 million

phone calls, sent 3 million emails and reached 9.2 million through social media, many of whom undoubtedly shared, reposted and retweeted National Right to Life's information.

"All in all National Right to Life's PACs were actively involved in 58 federal campaigns, winning 48 (83%) of them.

"Yes, there was a referendum on abortion on November 8. Hillary Clinton lost and Donald Trump won – but unborn children won also."

National Right to Life's Dave Andrusko concludes,

"Yes, there are many, many reasons for us to be upbeat about 2017. And all of those reasons, directly or indirectly, are a reflection of your faithfulness, your hard work, and your commitment to the cause of unborn children."

Read **NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS** at <http://www.nrlc.org/news/>