

LifeFacts



A publication of South Dakota Right to Life | Spring/Summer 2021 | www.sdRightToLife.org

I Came to Play

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



2021 SD Capitol 'Walk for Life'

Recently Pastor Scott Craig of the Rapid City Landmark Community Church shared this story during one of his sermons. A father, wanting to surprise his daughter, took her to a Major League Baseball Game as it was “Children’s Baseball Glove Give-Away Day” at the stadium. After they found their seats an usher approached the pair and reaching inside the box he was carrying he took out a beautiful leather baseball glove and handed it to the man’s daughter. At that moment the little girl immediately began to cry! Her father, stunned by her saddened reaction to this gift, asked, “What’s the matter?” To which she said sobbing through her tears, “I didn’t come to play!”

Friends, when it comes to our Pro-Life battles... **I came to PLAY.** How about you? Today, Pro-Life friends like you, are desperately needed in our fight for that which is right – the defense of the Sanctity of Human Life.

Adding to this thought Pastor Randy Brock of the Rapid City Open Bible Church recently quoted in his sermon from Andy Stanley saying, “*Direction, not intention, determines destination!*” You see, your direct actions, not your thoughts, will define you. This happens because people rely on their intention to guide them through life. Instead of finding a defined direction, they intend to move without actually moving.

Be assured of this - SDRTL is ‘moving’ in the right direction.... Intentionally! We value your partnership and Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life summed it up well saying, “*It didn’t take Joe Biden and his partners in crime long to unleash the deadliest attack on unborn children in our nation’s history. They have taken pro-abortion extremism to a new level of hate. And I need you to match his anti-life hatred with your pro-life love.*”

Friends, we may live in a “throwaway culture” that doesn’t respect the dignity of the unborn, the weak or elderly but **TOGETHER** we are stronger and better as we promote a “culture of life.” **Let’s play!**

President’s Column- Reflecting on Mothers

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President



As everything in nature is exploding with new life, we celebrate Mother’s Day. While I greatly appreciate my own mother, this year I’m also praying for those mothers who are experiencing the fear and uncertainty of an unplanned pregnancy. I am so thankful for the pregnancy resource centers across the state (see page 2) that support and nurture these mothers (and fathers) as they prepare to parent or make an adoption plan for their babies.

I am also praying for mothers who are grieving the loss of a child, including those struggling with infertility. While advances in technology have helped many experience motherhood, there is a dark side to artificial reproductive technology that we can’t ignore.

You can learn about these ethical dilemmas at the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network website (cbc-network.org) where you will find articles, podcasts and documentaries. These issues continue to surface in our state legislature (HB1114, HB1248- see page 4). Educating ourselves is the first step in passing laws that protect the dignity of every human life.

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South Dakota Right to Life 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.

Saluting South Dakota's Pregnancy Resource Centers

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President

South Dakota's ten pregnancy resource centers are the heart of the pro-life movement in South Dakota. We salute them for providing help and hope to those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy before and after the birth of their child. South Dakota Right to Life encourages you to support your local pregnancy resource center.

Alpha Center, Sioux Falls

alphacenter.org
605-361-3500

Bella, Spearfish

bellapregnancy.com
605-642-4140

Birthright of Brookings

birthright.org/brookings
605-692-2693

Birthright of Pierre

birthright.org/pierre
605-224-6828

Birthright of Rapid City

birthright.org/rapidcity
605-343-1732

Birthright of Sioux Falls

birthright.org/siouxfalls
605-809-8409

Black Hills Pregnancy Center, Rapid City

blackhillspregnancycenter.com
605-341-4477

Option 1, Brookings

Option1.org
605-692-1600



Rachel Jones, Founder & Director of Zoe Care in Yankton, gave Dale and Debbie a tour of South Dakota's newest pregnancy resource center.

Plus One, Huron

plusonehuron.org
605-554-3330

ZoeCare, Yankton

zoecarepregnancy.org
605-655-4967

SDRTL Proudly Welcomes Al Novstrup To Their Board of Directors

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



Al Novstrup and his wife Kathy live in Aberdeen where Kathy works at the Methodist Church. They are blessed with six grandchildren! Their daughter, Linda and her husband, Ryan manage Thunder Road of Sioux Falls. Their son, David and his wife, Holly manage Thunder Road and Alleivity Entertainment of Aberdeen.

Al serves as a SD State Senator from District 3 (Brown County). Roger Hunt and Al were the prime sponsors of HB1217 in 2011 that required counseling and a waiting period prior to an abortion being performed. Fred Deutsch and Al were prime sponsors of HB1051 in 2021 called the Born Alive Bill. Al will serve SDRTL as a Region-Six Director representing the city of Aberdeen and the surrounding area.

2021 SDRTL Legislative Efforts

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

"A government cannot be truly 'JUST' without affirming the intrinsic value of human life." – Charles Colson

As 2021 arrived so did the 96th South Dakota Legislative Session. SDRTL was boots on the ground lobbying for appropriate legislation that helped protect the 'right to life' of all human beings from conception to natural death and opposed that which did not.

To keep the public informed many followed our lobbying efforts at the Capitol by going to... www.sdRighttoLife.org. In addition, thousands of South Dakotans tuned into KNWC Radio (Sioux Falls) or KLMP Radio (Rapid City) to hear our weekly SDRTL Legislative Update Reports. We also utilized the media through the use of Facebook and weekly statewide email updates. NOTE: If you do not receive these weekly email updates then please sign-up on our website's homepage.

The 96th Legislature consisted of #105 Members - that's 94 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Over the course of the 36-day Session these Legislators dealt with some 511 Bills and Resolutions, not to mention a host of Commemorations.



SDRTL was represented by their Executive Director Dale Bartscher who served as a registered lobbyist at the Capitol during Session. Their work was also strengthened by the presence of Debbie Pease, SDRTL's Board President, who lobbied during Session with the Family Heritage Alliance Action.

SDRTL supported a total of ten different bills during this Session. Two of these (HB1247, HB1248) were defeated but may well be back next year in a revised form. Eight of our bills passed both Chambers and were signed by the Governor. Overall a very good year for LIFE in the South Dakota Legislature. Check out our website's Legislative Page (www.sdRighttoLife.org) to see how your district's Senator and Representatives voted on these important Pro-Life bills. Yes, it makes a difference whom we elect to serve!

BILL	POSITION	DESCRIPTION	HOUSE	SENATE	GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE
SB 83	Supported	An Act to require the provision of information regarding perinatal hospice.	PASSED (68 to 1)	PASSED (34 to 0)	YES
SB 103	Supported	An Act to provide for the confidentiality of personal information of persons affiliated with nonprofit corporations and to provide a penalty therefor.	PASSED (55 to 13)	PASSED (33 to 2)	YES
SB 183	Supported	An Act to declare certain contract provisions regarding abortion as deceptive acts or practices.	PASSED (64 to 5)	PASSED (35 to 0)	YES
HB 1051	Supported	An Act to maintain the life of any child born alive.	PASSED (59 to 8)	PASSED (32 to 3)	YES
HB 1079	Supported	An Act to limit certain actions that may be taken by the executive branch relative to charitable organizations or charitable trusts.	PASSED (62 to 8)	PASSED (32 to 3)	YES
HB 1110	Supported	An Act to prohibit the performance of abortions due to Down syndrome and to provide a penalty therefor.	PASSED (68 to 0)	PASSED (35 to 0)	YES
HB 1114	Supported	An Act to provide a definition of abortion.	PASSED (61 to 7)	PASSED (31 to 3)	YES
HB 1130	Supported	An Act to establish requirements for the presentation of a written statement regarding the discontinuance of a drug-induced abortion.	PASSED (55 to 13)	PASSED (34 to 1)	YES
HB 1247	Supported	An Act to provide for the protection of the consciences of medical professionals.	FAILED (25 to 41)		NA
HB 1248	Supported	An Act to require reports regarding the intentional disposal, destruction, or disposition of human embryos.	PASSED (47 to 21)	FAILED (1 to 5) in Committee	NA

South Dakota can affect the Outcome- We Need to Try

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate

“Honor and Shame from no condition rise. Act well your part; there all the honor lies.” -Alexander Pope

Concerning Federal Legislation:

- South Dakota has 100% pro-life representation in DC with Senators John Thune (202) 224-2321 and Mike Rounds (202) 224-5842. What else can we do? How can we in SD have more effect on the nation? **Stay informed.** SDRTL is the SD affiliate of NRLC, so connect with your local chapter and our state office. Follow @ERANoShortcuts on Twitter and connect with NRLC on social media
- Get national pro-life news and sign up for emails at NRLC.org - while you're there, check out the ERA quote page. Listen to LifeMatters podcast with Brian Johnston from our Western Office. **Reach out** and share concerns with friends and relatives in other states who then can reach out to their senators and representatives. **Support NRLC** which continues to provide education and some of the most powerful lobbying efforts at the Federal level.

“Act well your part...”

- Urge the **Senate to vote No on H.R. 5**, the so-called “Equality Act.” It amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act, with language to make abortions more available, expand taxpayer funding of abortion, and weaken conscience protections for health care providers opposed to participating in abortions.
- Urge the **Senate to Vote No on S.1**, the so-called “For the People Act.” It would severely impede the exercise of our rights to lobby, advocate issues and engage in the political process on behalf of right to life issues and strip away rights and privacy of our donors and supporters.
- Urge the **Senate to vote No on H.J. Res. 17**, intended to “air drop” the **1972 Equal Rights Amendment** into the U.S. Constitution. Leaders of key pro-abortion groups NOW, NARAL, and Planned Parenthood don't hide the fact that the ERA could keep abortion legal even if Roe v. Wade is overturned, would invalidate hundreds of pro-life laws, and require taxpayer funding of abortion on demand. The ERA, which is not about equality but about abortion, had a 7-year ratification deadline which expired in 1979. House Joint Resolution 17 attempts to retroactively remove that deadline in order to make the ERA part of the Constitution. **Call your two U.S. senators and strongly urge them to support a filibuster to stop passage of “the ERA deadline resolutions, H.J. Res. 17 or S.J. Res. 1.” All senators must “OPPOSE CLOTURE” in order to stop this pro-abortion and unconstitutional measure.**



Addressing Abortion and Other Life Issues Within the Assisted Reproductive Technology Industry

By: Jon Hansen, SDRTL Vice President, Speaker Pro Tempore of the South Dakota House of Representatives



This year the legislature considered numerous bills related to problems that have arisen within the assisted reproductive technology industry. Many people have used assisted reproductive technology to experience parenthood. In the process of assisting in the conception of life, however,

some assisted reproductive technology providers employ methods that destroy human life, including by means of abortion.

House Bill 1114 addressed an abortion procedure that the assisted reproductive technology industry calls a “selective reduction.” Sometimes, an assisted reproduction provider causes a mother to be pregnant with more children than the mother desires to bear. A “selective reduction” occurs when a doctor aborts some, but not all, of the children in the mother’s womb.

Prior to the passage of House Bill 1114, a “selective reduction” was not considered an abortion under South Dakota law. When our abortion laws were first written, lawmakers likely didn’t

consider that technology would eventually allow for the abortion of some, but not all, of the children in a mother’s womb.

With the passage of House Bill 1114, a “selective reduction” now falls under the definition of an abortion under the law. That’s important, because now all pregnant mothers whose doctor performs a “selective reduction” abortion will be entitled to the protections of South Dakota’s life-saving informed consent laws prior to the abortion procedure. Assisted reproduction providers must now also report to the state when they perform a “selective reduction” abortion so that the public and policy makers can make appropriate policy decisions based upon that information.

Another bill, House Bill 1248, was introduced to require assisted reproduction providers to report the number of human embryos that the provider intentionally destroys each year. To be clear: the assisted reproduction process does not require the destruction of human embryos. However, some assisted reproduction providers unnecessarily create more human embryos than they intend to transfer into a mother’s womb. And in some cases, when the “excess” embryos are no longer desired, the provider will intentionally destroy those human embryos.

A human embryo is a human being at the earliest stages of our development. If you are reading this article, you were once at the embryonic stage of development, and if you were destroyed then, you wouldn’t be reading this now.

House Bill 1248 would have simply required assisted reproduction providers to report the total amount of embryos that the provider intentionally destroys each year. If a human life is intentionally destroyed in our state, then the state should—at the very least—know about its destruction. However, after the bill passed the House of Representatives, the bill was defeated in the Senate Health Committee with Sanford Health, an assisted reproduction provider, lobbying to kill the bill.

Anytime we are presented with the false premise that some human life must be destroyed in order for other human life to be created, we must reject it. That premise is both practically and scientifically false. The intentional destruction of innocent human life is never within God’s design. So, even in the context of industries that assist in conception, pro-lifers must continue to be vigilant and fight against the voluntary and intentional destruction of unborn human life.

Right to Life Student Organizations

By: *Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator*



If you're a high school or college student you may be involved in various activities and clubs in your school. If you are, hopefully you've seen the benefit of being involved. Some people may be unaware that there are several Right to Life student organizations throughout the state. Many of our colleges and even some of our high schools have groups that get together for meetings and plan events. I would encourage you to check at your school to see if one of these groups are established and if so, join them. As a student at SDSU five years ago, I was able to be involved in a couple groups on campus and I believe I gained a lot from this experience.



I want to give you a few benefits of being involved in student organizations. First of all, you will gain knowledge and understand more of what is going on around you. For instance, being involved in a student Right to Life group, you will learn about what is happening in legislation and be aware of what you can do to make a difference. It's also a great way to network and make new friends. I have found that the relationships you build through these groups are lifelong. Being involved gives you amazing opportunities that can help you develop leadership skills and grow in other parts of your life. Lastly, it's fun! You will make so many memories that you will always remember.



If your school doesn't have a Right to Life group, I'd like to ask you to think about starting one. There are many people who would love to help you. Reach out to me or anyone else at South Dakota Right to Life and we will assist in getting you all the tools and steps to start one. You will be making a big difference!

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"A society may be judged by how it treats its weakest members." - C.S. Lewis

 SOUTH DAKOTA
Right to Life

Defending human life from conception to natural death

2021
Essay
Contest



Topic: Why are YOU pro-life?

\$\$\$ prizes for TOP 5 essays in each division!

1st	\$300
2nd	\$250
3rd	\$200
4th	\$150
5th	\$100

Junior division: grades 7 - 9
Senior division: grades 10 - 12

Essays will be judged on:

- Originality
- Content
- Accuracy

Essays must be 300 - 500 words
& must be emailed by Nov. 1, 2021.
Email entries to: dpeace84@yahoo.com

Deadline: November 1, 2021
Accepting entries now!

Find additional information, including rules, at www.sdrighttolife.org

Questions? Call Debbie at 605-929-4933

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 3:** Brookings - SDRTL addressing the Area RTL Chapter Meeting at 6:30 pm at the St. Thomas More Church, 1700 8th St South.
- May 4:** Watertown - SDRTL addressing the Area RTL Chapter Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Midwest Bible Camp and Conference Center, Hwy 20 North.
- May 7-8:** Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Home School Conference at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.
- May 8:** Sioux Falls - SDRTL addressing the Liberty Minded Americans at 9:00 am at the Sioux Falls Church of Christ, 1208 S Southeastern Ave.
- May 9:** "Mother's Day!"
- June 12:** Chamberlain – SDRTL Board Meeting Summit (9:00 am – 4:30 pm)
- June 20:** "Father's Day!"
- June 25-26:** National Right to Life Convention, NRLConvention.com (Herndon, VA)
- July 4:** "Independence Day!"
- July 5:** Hot Springs – SDRTL addressing the Area RTL Chapter Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Southern Hills Evangelical Free Church, 1509 University Ave.
- July 17-18:** Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the Hills Alive Music Festival
- July 21-24:** Rapid City - SDRTL Booth at the "Freedom Fest"
- July 28-August 1:** Edgemont – SDRTL present at the Fall River County Fair
- August 5-14:** Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Sioux Empire Fair
- August 12-14:** Vermillion- SDRTL Booth at Clay County Fair
- August 16-19:** Parker – SDRTL's Booth at the Turner County Fair
- August 16-22:** Aberdeen – SDRTL's Booth at the Brown County Fair
- August 20-28:** Rapid City – SDRTL's Booth at the Central States Fair
- September 2-6:** Huron – SDRTL's Booth at the SD State Fair
- October 1-3:** Sioux Falls – SDRTL's State Convention & Life Chain!



Donations in Memory of:

PATRECE LAUREL AUSTAD.....	DEAN AND CHERYL AUSTAD
CATHY (BARTSCHER) HAMED.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
JERRY APA.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
PHILIP BAUMBERGER.....	DEAN AND SUE BAUMBERGER
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NORMA KALE.....	WILLIAM KALE
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VALERIE SHOWERS MILLAR.....	ADELIA MILLAR
GERALD BERGUM.....	BILL MYERS
CATHY (BARTSCHER) HAMED.....	BILL MYERS
JIM MEERT.....	BILL MYERS
CAROL MYERS.....	BILL MYERS

Submitted By:

Donations in Memory of:

PAMELA MYERS.....	CATHY 'BARTSCHER' HAMED
DAVE AND KELLY PURMAL.....	FRED GEISLER
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PETE AND SUSAN MACK.....	PETER AND DONNA MACK
JACOB AND ELMIRA JELLESMA.....	PETER AND DONNA MACK

Submitted By:

Donations in Honor of:

MALLORY GANT.....	SAMIR AND MARY ABU-GHAZALEH
JOSH HAEDER.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
LURA CHAVEZ.....	DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD
THE UNBORN.....	JOSH AND AMANDA HAEDER
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DALE BARTSCHER.....	JIM AND ELIZABETH MUNRO
ALVIN STEINER.....	ELMER AND VIVIAN STEINER

Submitted By:

Thank You!

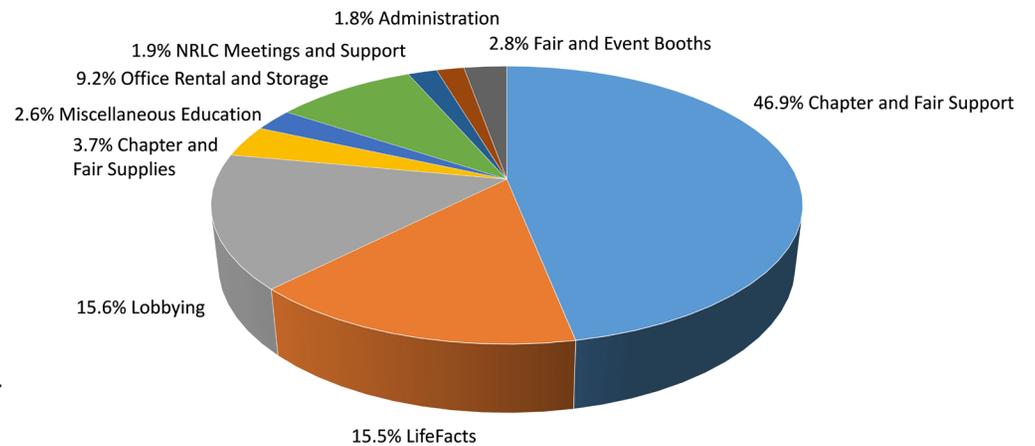
Where Your Donations are Going

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

With our new year of 2021 well underway, let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that every contribution that we have received is stretched as far as it can be in our mission and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member in 2021. Sustaining monthly memberships are vital in keeping our pro-life work going through even those lean months during the year with fewer donations, when SDRTL's finances can get a little precarious due to fixed expenses for the organization. So far in 2021, roughly 47% of your donation has gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating booths and exhibits at fairs and other events. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 15.6% of our budget.

The LifeFacts that you receive goes to more than 16,000 households and makes up more than 15% of this year's budget. A remaining 3% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach. Only 1.8% of your donation is being spent on administration of membership mailings, postage, and office supplies. Fortunately, due to your generosity, we were able to restore a majority of our fair and chapter supplies budget, our entire LifeFacts budget, and our National Right to Life meetings and support budget. This just proves that every level of support makes a big difference in determining what programs and outreach we can implement. Every dollar that you donate gets fully utilized in the most meaningful and impactful way possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2021



Cut & mail to: SDRTL, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B, Rapid City, SD 57701

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

My Special Gift in Support of Life: \$ _____

My Sustaining Gift in Support of Life (check one)

- Bronze: \$10/mo. or \$120/yr.
- Silver: \$25/mo. or \$300/yr.
- Gold: \$50/mo. or \$600/yr.
- Platinum: \$100/mo. or \$1200/yr.
- Titanium: \$250/mo. or \$3000/yr.
- Diamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yr.
- Amount of your choosing \$ _____/mo.

*Due to IRS regulations donations to SDRTL and the SDRTL PAC are not deductible. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, then please donate to the SDRTL Education Trust Fund. A donation may yet also be given "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" of a loved one upon request.

I would like to donate by: (check one)

Online bank transfer or Bill Pay (I will contact my bank for this option)

Credit Card- (costs us 3% of your gift)

Card Number: _____ Card Month: _____

Card Year: _____ Card CVV Number: _____

Check (Make out to either - SDRTL, non tax deductible; or SDRTL Ed Trust Fund, tax deductible)

How Often May We Anticipate This Donation? Once; Monthly

This Donation is made... (check one if it applies)

"In Memory of": _____

"In Honor of": _____

If you wish to donate electronically please visit sdRightToLife.org

50th Annual South Dakota Right to Life Convention

October 1-3, 2021

Hosted by the Sioux Falls Area Right to Life

Sioux Falls First Church

6300 W. 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD

[convention location]



An empowering weekend of education, motivation, and celebration for the Sanctity of Human Life from conception to natural death



Friday, October 1

- 6:00 pm Registration, Refreshments, Vendor Browsing
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm Program

Saturday, October 2

- 8:00 am Registration, Refreshments, Vendor Browsing
- 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Program (includes lunch/breaks)
[Breakout Sessions: Middle and High School Students]

Sunday, October 3

- 2:00 – 3:00 pm Life Chain Experience

IT WAS AMAZING as #664 Pro-Life friends, of all ages, participated last year on a beautiful Sunday, October 4, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. to make a silent statement in support of the '*Sanctity of Human Life*'. They stretched along 41st street in Sioux Falls which runs in front of the state's ONLY abortion facility - Planned Parenthood.



For 33 years, **Life Chains** have formed across the United States and Canada – and the world – to make a public, prayerful, peaceful witness against legalized abortion. We stand united in prayer and repentance on the first Sunday of every October. We believe participation in **Life Chain** is a springboard to getting people engaged in other pro-life activities. When they see how many others are of like-mind, it encourages and motivates! It also changes the hearts of those who drive by. The more we fill the sidewalks, the greater the impression, but the main thing is for God to honor our sincere prayers. We want to ensure that it is an hour of prayerful reflection, repentance and humbly asking God to end this abomination in our communities and nation.



To register contact Sioux Falls Area Right to Life:

- www.SiouxFallsAreaRighttoLife.org
- Email: righttolifesf@gmail.com
- Call: 605-743-0777

