

LifeFacts



A publication of South Dakota Right to Life | Fall 2022 | www.sdRightToLife.org

Abortion Numbers Reveal the Task Ahead

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

On Friday, June 24, the US Supreme Court correctly decided that a right to elective abortion is not in the Constitution. This decision finally returns to the people in each state, through their elected representatives, a voice in this very important issue.

While we are celebrating a day we've long dreamed of, advocated for, and worked toward, that of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the Pro-Life community knows there is much work yet to be done. We will continue helping women navigate pregnancies they did not plan for as we remind South Dakotans that the Pro-Life movement cares about the lives of mothers as well as their unborn children.

The South Dakota Department of Health has recently posted their latest report for 'Induced Abortions' that occurred in South Dakota in 2021. We are thankful that the 2021 total of 192 is the second lowest number of abortions in South Dakota since 1973. The lowest was 144 in 2020 when the Planned Parenthood facility in Sioux Falls did not do abortions for six months.

South Dakota has informed consent laws and protections against coercion established to protect mothers and their babies. Of the 222 women who completed the SD informed consent process in 2021, 30 chose to give their babies life. As stated above, 192 went on to have abortions here. One hundred and sixteen of these 222 women chose to view a sonogram of their baby and 77 chose to hear their baby's heartbeat. Only six of these pregnant mothers were minors; their parents were notified and they all went on to have abortions in South Dakota.

However, we are also saddened because of the number of South Dakota women who are having abortions in neighboring states that do not have such consent laws and protections. In 2021, 158 South Dakota babies were aborted in Minnesota and 77 in Nebraska. We don't have the numbers yet from Iowa.

Of course, now that Roe has been overturned and our South Dakota Trigger Law banning all 'Induced Abortions' except to save the life of the mother is in place, our future statistics will change dramatically. While we expect elective abortions in South Dakota, and in many of our surrounding states, to be drastically reduced or even eliminated, we know there will be an increase in pregnant mothers traveling to other states for abortions. When it comes to abortion, we live in a very divided nation. We are grateful that states can now protect pregnant mothers and their babies from the destructive effect of abortion within their borders, but we must find ways of protecting those South Dakota mothers, especially those being pressured by others, from having abortions in other states.

Debbie Pease, South Dakota Right to Life's Board President writes, "We must continue to educate about the devastating effects of abortion as we spotlight the resources and alternatives available for those who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. We must continue to work and pray to change hearts and minds until we have a cultural shift where abortion is not just illegal, but unthinkable."



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SAVE THE DATE!



51st Annual SD Right to Life Convention

September 30 - October 1, 2022

First Assembly of God Church
4905 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Rapid City, SD

The 2022 SDRTL Convention will be **LIVE STREAMED** for all who register. The registration fee through Sept. 12 is **ONLY \$30 dollars** and **upon request** we will send you the **INTERNET LINK**.

Phone 605.220.8678
southdakotarighttolife@gmail.com
www.sdRightToLife.org

Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B,
Rapid City, SD 57701

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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.

Planting Seeds to Change Hearts and Minds

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President



So much has happened since our last newsletter. With the overturning of Roe on June 24, South Dakota has the opportunity to protect her unborn babies and their mothers from the devastation of abortion more than ever. Unfortunately, even in pro-life South Dakota, there are many forces working to get rid of these protections and make abortion on demand available.

At this critical time, we especially appreciate the work of our nearly 40 Right to Life Chapters across the State. Our amazing volunteers continue to influence the public through all kinds of tried and true, as well as innovative new, strategies that celebrate life from conception to natural death. We are thrilled to be featuring leaders from some of our chapters in a panel discussion at our State Convention in Rapid City on October 1. We will learn about innovative programs like the Grant for Adopting Families from Hot Springs and a new event called “The Baby Crawl” debuted this summer by Hartford/Humbolt Right to Life along with other ideas that are working in communities across the state.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of all our volunteers and donors who have made this fair season so incredibly fruitful. We received so many positive comments about the Dobbs decision, but we also had some hard conversations. We empathized with the couple from Kansas who were heartbroken over the failed attempt to pass a pro-life amendment to their State Constitution. We listened to those who are not happy with our Trigger Law and worry about women in difficult situations.

Being able to listen and lovingly share our views with those who have different ideas is the best way for us to plant seeds that we pray will eventually change hearts and minds. We are still a very divided country, and our work is as important as ever. Thank you for everything you do to promote a culture where all innocent human life is safeguarded and cherished.



Have you signed up to receive SDRTL's Executive Director's once-a-week only 'SDRTL Email Update'? Several thousand Pro-Life friends have and YOU CAN TOO by going to sd.RightToLife.org and click on the Subscription Box. Please sign-up today and be weekly Pro-Life informed!



A Wonderful Time to be Pro-Life

By: Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator



It has always been a wonderful time to be pro-life, but we have all been feeling that even more lately! Even with a recent big win, there are still too many people in our country that believe it is ok to kill babies in their mother's womb. As a pro-life community, we should continue to fight these lies and show how important it is to value each and every life. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson says that all humans "are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights". The first among those rights was the Right to Life. Our founding fathers understand that

without the right to life, no other rights are possible. We need to be teaching our children about this important document along with our Constitution. These two documents guarantee every American, born or unborn, our right to live which come from our creator alone.

With that being said, make sure you are registered for the South Dakota Right to Life 51st Annual Convention September 30th and October 1st in Rapid City. Bring your teens too! We are going to hear from many phenomenal speakers, meet our legislative candidates, and enjoy fellowship with one another. I will be leading the youth (7th – 12th grade) in our own session with speakers, videos, and games. You can register online or by mail today. This is a weekend you don't want to miss – see you there!

Life-Affirming Lessons

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate



Young people should be empowered to act upon their own rights and advocate for the rights of others. Of particular importance is the right to life.

"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." sdrighttolife.org

Life affirming lessons are not only for home or private schools but should be, and sometimes are, taught in public schools. Religious people aren't the only ones who know and teach that the human right to life should be protected. Personal, life-affirming lessons with real life-saving consequences are necessary, especially now.

Be intentional.

There is power in life-affirming literature, art, data, and a bit of time. A person truly is a person no matter how small. Sonogram pictures, a set of unborn models/dolls (make sure they are wrapped in baby blankets :)), life-affirming books (example: *Bigger* by Daniel Kirk,) maybe a video, are helpful for purposeful life-affirming lesson plans.

Human beings aren't replaceable.

Differences: One person is never exactly like another person - not even identical twins. Proof: dna present in a Zygote (Baby when he or she is just formed) and fingerprints.

Similarities: We can identify with unborn babies by pointing out at least one shared feature. We can identify with differently abled people by pointing out one shared feature.

Parents and families are important: Human babies come from human parents, kittens from cats, puppies from dogs, etc. Human beings are exceptional: humans have the capacity to care for others and, for example, perform surgery or set a broken bone. Animals and plants are wonderful, yet they aren't humans. Non-discrimination: Human beings are human no matter their size, age, environment, or abilities. (Can include hair or skin color, beliefs, traditions, style, family, etc.)

We have an assignment.

Share this article, hard-copy or online, with at least one teacher, a parent, and a grandparent. If you feel motivated, share with a school administrator. Ask them to be intentional in teaching "life-affirming" lessons.



2022
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, 2022.
Email entries to: dpease84@yahoo.com

Deadline: November 1, 2022
Accepting entries now!

Find additional information, including rules, at www.sdrighttolife.org
Questions? Call Debbie at 605-929-4933

South Dakota Pro-Abortion Ballot Measure Alert



Pro-abortion groups are working to put a radical proposal on the South Dakota ballot to approve abortion from conception all the way to birth. The proposal would also block almost all of our state's pro-life protections for unborn babies and their mothers. What's worse, this deadly measure would be written into the South Dakota Constitution.

This constitutional amendment would cost the lives of countless unborn children. Pro-life South Dakotans must join together now to defend life and defeat this amendment.

Dear Pro-Life South Dakotans,

The overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* was a huge victory for life in South Dakota! When *Roe* was overturned, South Dakota's pro-life "trigger law" immediately went into effect, which prevents the termination of unborn life except when necessary to save the life of the mother.

With this success, some might be thinking that pro-lifers have won and the fight to defend unborn life is over. Sadly, that could not be further from the truth.

When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*, the Court said, "the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." That means the responsibility to defend life falls directly on our shoulders, and ours alone. The real fight to defend life has now just begun.

That brings me to why I am writing to you today. There is an enormous threat to the life of unborn children coming to South Dakota. Pro-abortion groups are working to put a radical proposal on the South Dakota ballot to approve abortion from conception all the way to birth, and they want to put it into the South Dakota Constitution.

It cannot be emphasized enough: although the proponents will say this measure merely "codifies *Roe vs. Wade*," this abortion amendment is far more extreme than *Roe vs. Wade* itself. Under this proposed constitutional amendment:

- Abortion from conception to birth—even horrific late term abortions—will be legalized.
- Informed consent protections, which have saved many lives in our state because they require Planned Parenthood to tell the truth to mothers about the risks and consequences of abortion, will be banned.
- Conscience protections for doctors and nurses who don't want to perform abortions will be banned, and medical professionals could face being forced to perform an abortion against their will or else be fired or sued.
- Parental notification laws will be banned.

The list of horrible consequences goes on. The bottom line is that this measure is truly extreme and a grave threat to life in our state.

Right now, these pro-abortion groups are already recruiting people to gather the signatures necessary to put the measure on the ballot. They will be well funded with millions of dollars flowing in from big, out of state, liberal special interest groups. One such group—The "Fairness" Project—whose stated goal is to put abortion into red state's constitutions, has already poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into political campaigns in our state.

These groups rely on it being easy to circulate petitions and put measures on our ballot. They rely on deceptive media marketing and liberal reporters to sell their measures. They rely on us sitting on the sidelines, not stepping up to mount a campaign against them.

That's why we've created the Life Defense Fund. Through the Life Defense Fund, we will oppose this deadly constitutional amendment at every step. Beginning this November, we must stand next to their petition circulators, explain to the public how radical this amendment is, and encourage our fellow citizens not to sign the petition. We must tell the truth to people rather than leave them to sort through the lies of the liberal press and misleading ad campaigns for themselves. We must hold the pro-abortion groups accountable and sue them when they break our campaign finance and petition circulation laws. We must match their campaign with such a massive effort that these liberal groups will think twice before ever proposing to legalize the killing of these precious lives ever again.

If we have a chance at stopping this constitutional amendment from passing, we need to fund a large campaign war chest. To be blunt: we can't rely on the promise of some rich out-of-state donor to come fund our resistance. The obligation to defend life is now on us.

This is where you can play a vital role in the defense of life. Please consider donating to the Life Defense Fund by visiting www.lifedefensefund.com and making a secure online donation. Even if you can't afford a large donation, you can also donate smaller, ongoing monthly contributions to fund this effort. Contributing \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$50 a month in a recurring donation will build our campaign to defend the most innocent life in South Dakota. If we all come together, we can defeat this constitutional amendment.

I truly believe the Lord will bless our effort if we answer his call to defend life. We're up against a lot, but if we work together and contribute what we can, we can prevail. Your donation at www.lifedefensefund.com will be used to fund this resistance campaign at every single step of the way.

Thank you for stepping up to defend life. God bless you and the unborn we defend,

Representative Jon Hansen
Vice President, South Dakota Right to Life
Co-chair of the Life Defense Fund
Speaker Pro Tempore, South Dakota House of Representatives

National Right to Life Endorses South Dakota's TOP Three

GOVERNOR KRISTI NOEM: As the first woman elected governor of South Dakota and a devoted pro-life advocate who has advanced numerous protections for unborn children and their mothers in her state, Governor Kristi Noem is truly a trailblazer! We are proud to endorse her for re-election!

US SENATOR JOHN THUNE: "National Right to Life is pleased to endorse Senator John Thune for re-election to the U.S. Senate," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. "Throughout his life in public service, Senator Thune has demonstrated dedicated and effective pro-life leadership. We need strong leaders like Senator Thune in the Senate who work tirelessly to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, including unborn children and their mothers. We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Thune in the Senate to advance vital pro-life policies."

US REPRESENTATIVE DUSTY JOHNSON: In maintaining a 100% voting record in Congress, Representative Dusty Johnson has demonstrated his firm commitment to protecting unborn children and their mothers from the violence of abortion. National Right to Life is proud to endorse Dusty Johnson for Congress for re-election!

This fall South Dakotans again have the civic duty to vote for candidates (Federal, State and Local Races) and ballot issues that MATTER. This is an important responsibility! From the SD Secretary of State's Office (<https://sdsos.gov>) you'll find this election information and more:

Absentee voting begins - September 23, 2022

Voter Registration Deadline - October 24, 2022

South Dakota's 2022 General Election - November 8, 2022

We would encourage you join us in researching your candidates (and the issues), question them on their values and then begin by **Voting Pro-Life Strong.**



Protecting our Right to Life



".. 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.**" sdrighttolife.org

"**Euthanasia** is the deliberate killing of someone by action or omission, with or without that person's consent, for what are claimed to be compassionate reasons "**Assisted suicide** is counseling, abetting, or an act of aiding someone to kill him or herself."

"There is a growing tendency to promote assisted suicide as a solution to suffering, aging, mental or physical challenges, social ills, rising health costs, and cost containment. "Sanctioning of euthanasia and assisted suicide leads to increased use of euthanasia without consent, circumvention of the law, and abuse of the vulnerable. "Depression is the most common factor in requests for assisted suicide yet it can be diagnosed and treated successfully. "A request for assisted suicide is a call for help."

epc-usa.org

South Dakota Right to Life's specific concern is the right to life of defenseless people. Disabled, elderly, and ill people are often vulnerable and left with no defense against a society which is increasingly pro-killing through euthanasia, assisted suicide, and **Medical Aid in Dying** or **MAID** (doesn't that sound nice - "medical aid in dying" - who would not want "maid")

We would love to see you at the SDRRTL Convention in Rapid City. One of our main speakers will be Alex Schadenberg from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. He will encourage us and give us suggestions on how we can help prevent euthanasia and assisted suicide in South Dakota.

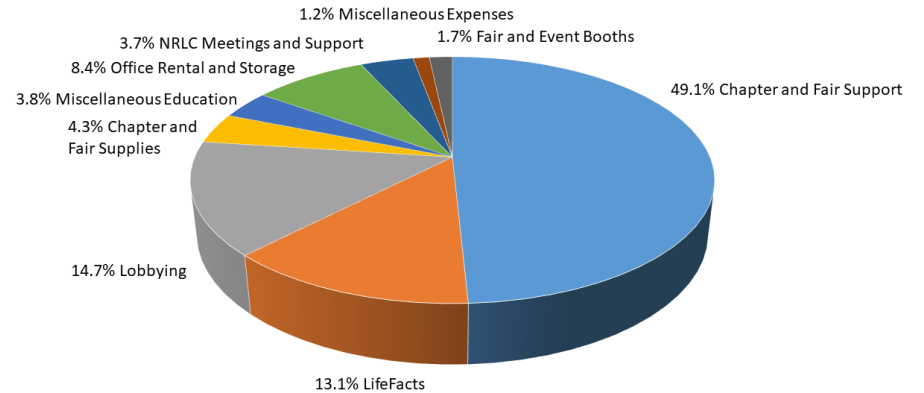
Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2022

By: *Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer*

As summer turns to fall, let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received in 2022 and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member throughout the rest of this year. So far in 2022, approximately 49% of your donations have 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 14.7% of our budget. The LifeFacts that you receive goes to 17,000 households and makes up more than 13% of this year's budget. A remaining 1.2% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach.

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 2022



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: \$ _____		I would like to donate by: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Online bank transfer or Bill Pay (I will contact my bank for this option) <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card- (costs us 3% of your gift) Card Number: _____ Card Month: _____ Card Year: _____ Card CVV Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 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	
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.		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	

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1-5: Huron - SDRTL's Booth at the SD State Fair (Family Life Center).
 Sept. 6: Rapid City - **SDRTL's 51st State Convention "Program/Booklet Ads"** Deadline.
 *Sept. 8: Rapid City - John Witherspoon College Convocation/Presidential Inauguration
 *Sept. 8: Sioux Falls - LifeLine Children's Services Banquet (Laurel Ridge Barn).
 Sept. 12: Rapid City - SDRTL's 51st State Convention **"Early Bird Registration"** Deadline.
 *Sept. 12: Statewide - SD for Intercessors for America Conference Call, 7:00 am (MST).
 *Sept. 15: Rapid City - Black Hills Pregnancy Center's Dinner (Ramkota Inn)
 Sept. 17: Sioux Falls - Walk to End Alzheimer's (Levitt at the Falls) www.alz.org/walk
 Sept. 18: Hot Spring - RTL Chapter's Community Program with Dr. Patti Giebink.
 Sept. 24: Rapid City - Black Hills Walk to End Alzheimer's (Founder's Park) alz.org/walk
 Sept. 25: Aberdeen - Walk to End Alzheimer's (Wylie Park Birdhouse) www.alz.org/walk
 Sept. 30 – Oct. 1: Rapid City - **SDRTL's 51st State Convention** (First Assembly of God).
 Oct. 2: Rapid City – Annual **LIFECHAIN** (Along Mt. Rushmore Road, 2:00 – 3:00 pm).
 Oct. 2: Sioux Falls – Annual **LIFECHAIN** (Along 41st Street, 2:00 – 3:00 pm).

*Oct. 10: Statewide - SD for Intercessors for America Conference Call, 7:00 am (MST).
 *Oct. 12: Sioux Falls - Call to Freedom's 7th Annual CommUnity Breakfast, 6:45 am.
 *Oct. 20: Spearfish - Bella Pregnancy Resource Center's Annual Gala Dinner, 6:30 pm.
 *Oct. 22: Rapid City - SD Kids Belong Gala, 6:30 pm (Dahl Arts Center).
 *Oct. 24: Sioux Falls - Family Heritage Alliance Dinner.
 *Oct. 25: Rapid City - Family Heritage Alliance Dinner.
 *Nov. 3: Rapid City - Real Presence Radio Fundraiser (Ramkota Inn).
 Nov. 8: **General Election Day** – Vote Pro-Life Strong!
 *Nov. 10: Sioux Falls - Real Presence Radio Fundraiser.
 *Nov. 14: Statewide - SD for Intercessors for America Conference Call, 7am (MST).
 *Nov. 17: Aberdeen - Real Presence Radio Fundraiser.
 *Dec. 12: Statewide - SD for Intercessors for America Conference Call, 7am (MST).
 (* Indicates SD Pro-Life Coalition Partners)

Donations in Memory of:

KITTY WERTHMANN.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
DR. BRUCE PROUSE.....	CONNIE BROWN
ANNA DELKER AND ROSE ARBACH.....	JERRY AND DARLENE DELKER
RUTH OLSON AND GRACE WALDOW.....	DAVID AND KAREN DUFFY
ILA MATHIEU.....	DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD
MICHAEL MAJERES.....	DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD
MYRON MEHLHAF.....	DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD
FIEBER FAMILIES.....	ORMA FIEBER
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FRED GEISLER.....	JOHN AND TERESA SULLIVAN
PHILIP AND DARLENE BESTGEN.....	JERRY AND MARY WERDEL

Submitted By:

Humanitarian of the Year



During the 2022 SDRTL State Convention Gloria Duenwald will be honored as our "2022 Humanitarian of the Year" and it's about time!

Born and raised in northeastern Nebraska, daughter of a small-town newspaper editor, she majored in English education and got a BA degree in 1966 from Mount Marty College in Yankton. That same summer, she married Bill Duenwald and moved to the Hoven area.

Being a Duenwald and residing near Hoven quickly got her immersed in pro-life causes nurtured by South Dakota Right to Life (SDRTL). Though relatively small in size, Hoven Area RTL was among the most active chapters in South Dakota for many years. (Hear more of Gloria's story during this year's SDRTL State Convention.)

50th Annual Hour of Reflection

"The Sanctity of Human Life"

Sunday, January 29, 2023
2:00 p.m. (CST)

State Capitol Rotunda, Pierre, SD

Keynote Speaker: Carol Tobias
(National Right To Life, Washington, DC)

Musical Guest: Monumental Worship

Invited Guest Speaker: Governor Kristi Noem

– 50th Walk for Life – Sunday, January 29, 2023

Grand Marshalls – SD Pregnancy Resource Centers
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (CST) | State Capitol, Pierre, SD



Donations in Honor of:

Submitted By:

SPENCER CODY.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
CARI MILLER.....	MERRY BLEEKER
THEODORE ZACH.....	DANIEL AND BONNIE ZACH

51st Annual SD Right to Life Convention



September 30 - October 1, 2022

**First Assembly of God Church
4905 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Rapid City, SD**



Friday, Sept. 30th

Open and free to the public

6 p.m. - Doors open

Registration, refreshments & exhibit hall browsing

7 - 8:30p.m. - Program

Keynote speaker & Pro-Life SD Legislative candidates

Saturday, Oct. 1st, 2022

Open to registered convention guests

8 a.m. - Doors open

Registration, refreshments & exhibit hall browsing

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Program

Keynote speakers & Pro-Life SD state candidates

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Karen Cross
Political Director,
National Right to
Life Committee



Angela Copenhaver
Founder and
Executive Director,
WeTeachThink



Andy Griffith
Founder &
President,
Pro Life Man



Alex Schadenberg
Executive Director,
Euthanasia
Prevention Coalition

Name(s) of Attendees: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Registration Fee: \$30 - Adult (by Sept. 12); \$40 (after Sept. 12) # of Adults: _____

\$10 - College Student _____

Youth - FREE!! # of Youth: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



CHECK PAYABLE TO: Rapid City Right to Life

Mail check & form to: SDRTL * 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd * Rapid City, SD 57701

To register online: Scan QR code or visit www.SDRightToLife.org