

Do Not Be Silent

By: Jenn Lee, Associate Director



I happen to be writing this article on what is known as “Silent Saturday,” the day between Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection. Yes; there is a time for silence, and drawing strength from within for what is to come. But there is also a time to speak, and I believe that for South Dakotans and America as a whole, that time is now.

I know the thought of being more vocal about the life issue can be daunting, but there is a place for you when it comes to defending life. It doesn’t matter how inexperienced you think you are, or if you’re naturally a bold personality or not; you have been called for such a time as this. Mothers, fathers, grandparents; even aunts and uncles— you understand the importance of family.

The best thing we can possibly do for our friends and family is to help them understand the value of life. Helping them to see with clarity on this issue could keep them from making the gravest of mistakes, that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

A few months ago, I lost an old friend of mine to a drug overdose. I was heartbroken, but unfortunately not all that surprised. When we were young, she had an abortion. I always felt that it was the biggest mistake of her life. After the death of her unborn child, it was as if her life was stunted; she didn’t have the same hope, passion, or joy after she made this decision. Strangely enough, I was on my way to pray outside of Planned Parenthood when I received the message about her death. We hadn’t spoken in several years, so I didn’t know how much she had still been struggling. I’d tried reconnecting with her years ago, but it seemed there was this gulf between us, and things would never be the same.

We share the truth with people because we love them. Not to impose our will upon them, as some believe; but to show them that there is a better way. Do not hold back your love for people by watering down the message of life. It is critical that we stand boldly, in the name of love, family, and all that is good. You don’t have to have the perfect words; you just need the courage to stand in the gap.

I wish I’d had the chance to talk with my friend before she made this decision. She may have changed her mind if she’d heard the truth about the life growing inside of her, and the support available to her. I wish that she hadn’t felt so alone...she might still be here with us.

Because no heart is too broken to be healed.

Rachel’s Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortion emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. Contact: www.rachelsvineyard.org.



Support Your Local Pregnancy Center

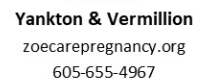
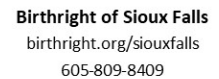
By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President and Field Coordinator



South Dakota's ten pregnancy centers (and mobile units connected to Alpha Center and ZoeCare) are the heart of the pro-life movement in South Dakota. Their amazing staff and volunteers are there to love and provide resources for women (and men) in some of the most difficult times in their lives, whether they are experiencing an unplanned

pregnancy or hurting after an abortion.

Get to know your local center and find out how you can best support them in their important work. Also be ready to refer those in need of help before and after the birth of their child or those needing hope and healing after the devastation of an abortion.



National Right to Life

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate



I was recently asked about the role of NRLC in this post-Dobbs era, when protecting unborn children is mostly decided on by the individual States (remember the SD Life Defense Fund.) Our grassroots forces joined up on a national scale before Roe v Wade (NRLC was formed in 1968) and we will continue in our mission. State affiliates form NRLC - not the other way around. Not only is being connected with NRLC of great benefit to SDRTL and all

state affiliates, there is a current list of some most pressing federal issues which includes: Ending Federal Taxpayer Funding of Abortion, Efforts to Protect Unborn Children including protecting parental involvement, Resisting and defeating Efforts to Expand Abortion on the National level, Constitutional Issues and the Judiciary, Conscience, and Medical Ethics.

The 2023 State of Abortion report is online at nrlc.org. This NRLC Report includes important data and information for each state and includes maps of states which have laws protecting unborn children post-Dobbs.

"We Love Both: Standing Strong with Moms and Babies" is the 2024 National Right to Life Conference theme. Make plans now to attend on June 28-29. Our venue for 2024 is the Crystal Gateway Marriott, located one mile from Reagan National Airport (DCA), two miles to Washington, DC and directly connected to the Crystal City Metro station. Our special room rate is \$149/night! The room block closes June 5, 2024. Registration and information are on our website nrlc.org



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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.

Share this new website far and wide: www.takeoffmyname.com

By: Representative Jon Hansen, Vice President of SD Right to Life/Co-Chair of the Life Defense Fund



Over the past year and a half, Life Defense Fund volunteers have been standing right alongside petition circulators, telling South Dakotans the truth about the Abortion Amendment and encouraging citizens to decline to sign the Abortion Amendment petition.

For those volunteers and many others who observed pro-abortion activists circulating petitions during that time, one thing became very obvious: pro-abortion circulators have lied, been dishonest, and misled citizens into signing the Abortion Amendment Petition.

Some citizens signed the Abortion Amendment petition because the circulator made them believe the petition was pro-life. Others approached petition circulators asking to sign the petition to repeal the food tax, but the circulator handed them Abortion Amendment petition instead! The South Dakota Attorney General even had to send a letter to the Abortion Amendment sponsor admonishing them for misleading South Dakotans about the Abortion Amendment.

Until recently, there was no legal process for people to withdraw their name from a petition. But during the legislative session, I sponsored and passed a bill that allows anyone who has been deceived by a petition circulator to take their name off of a petition.

So ask your family and friends, “Did you sign the Abortion Amendment petition? Did they tell you what it would really do? Did they tell you it would allow for abortion up to birth, take away parents’ rights, and even ban womens’ health and safety regulations for most abortions? Is that what you wanted to sign?”

If you or anyone you know wants to take their name off the Abortion Amendment petition, go to www.takeoffmyname.com. Share www.takeoffmyname.com on social media. Life Defense Fund has created www.takeoffmyname.com to provide a simple way for South Dakotans to take their name off of the Abortion Up-To-Birth Petition. On www.takeoffmyname.com you can learn how to easily fill out a form to take your name off of the abortion petition and how to submit the form to the Secretary of State.

Time is already running out for people to take their name off of the Abortion Amendment petition, so share www.takeoffmyname.com with your family, friends, co-workers, and connections on social media as soon and often as possible.

If the Abortion Amendment is placed on the general election ballot this year and is written into our State Constitution, countless lives will be lost. We cannot let this happen. We need you to get involved now. Please start by sharing www.takeoffmyname.com on social media and with all your family and friends. Then visit www.lifedefensefund.com and sign up to help or make a donation to help us fight the Abortion Amendment. If we all step up, answer the call to action, and work hard to defend life, we can keep South Dakota a pro-life state. We need you, so join in this fight!



The NRL Academy will be held July 28 - August 3 in Alexandria, Virginia. This is your

opportunity for ‘College Students’ to receive intensive training from the foremost leaders in the pro-life movement on topics including abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, legislative strategy, lobbying, politics, communications, grassroots organizing, and much more. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Debbie Pease at: dpease84@yahoo.com.

Save the Date!

52nd Annual SD Capitol
Walk for Life and Hour of Reflection



Sunday, January 26, 2025
Pierre, South Dakota

12:00pm- Walk for Life

1:00pm- Refreshments

2:00pm- Hour of Reflection



South Dakota Right to Life '23-'24 Legislative Scorecard



District/House	SCR 602	SB 55	SB 75	HCR 6008	HB 1224	% RATING	District/House	SCR 602	SB 55	SB 75	HCR 6008	HB 1224	% RATING	District/Senate	SCR 602	SB 55	SB 75	HCR 6008	HB 1224	% RATING
1 Donnell	X	X	X	X	O	83	18 Stevens	X	X	X	X	X	100	1 Rohl	X	X	X	X	X	100
1 St. John	X	E	X	X	X	100	19 Bahmuller	X	X	X	X	X	100	2 S. Kolbeck	X	X	X	X	X	100
2 Kull	X	X	X	X	X	100	19 D.Peterson	X	X	X	X	X	100	3 Novstrup	X	X	X	X	X	100
2 Sjaarda	X	X	X	X	X	100	20 Koth	X	X	X	X	X	100	4 Wiik	X	X	X	X	X	100
3 Perry	X	X	X	X	O	83	20 Krohmer	X	X	X	X	X	100	5 Schoenbeck	X	X	X	X	X	100
3 Schaeffbauer	X	X	X	X	X	100	21 Blare	X	X	X	X	X	100	6 H. Otten	X	X	X	X	X	100
4 Deutsch	X	X	X	X	X	100	21 Overweg	X	X	X	X	X	100	7 Reed	X	X	X	X	O	86
4 Sauder	X	X	X	X	X	100	22 Chase	X	X	X	X	O	83	8 Crabtree	X	X	X	X	X	100
5 Bartels	X	X	X	X	X	100	22 Schneider	X	X	X	X	X	100	9 Hoffman	X	X	X	X	X	100
5 Callies	X	X	X	X	O	83	23 Moore	X	X	X	X	X	100	10 Larson	O	O	X	O	O	17
6 Aylward	X	X	O	X	X	83	23 Wangsness	X	X	X	X	X	100	11 Stalzer	X	X	X	X	X	100
6 E. Otten	X	X	X	X	O	83	24 Mortenson	X	X	X	X	X	100	12 Beal	X	X	X	X	X	100
7 DeGroot	O	X	X	X	X	83	24 Weisgram	X	X	X	X	X	100	13 J. Kolbeck	X	X	X	X	X	100
7 Heermann	X	X	X	X	X	100	25 Gross	X	X	X	X	X	100	14 Zikmund	X	X	X	X	X	100
8 Mills	X	X	X	X	X	100	25 Hansen	X	X	X	X	X	100	15 Nesiba	O	O	X	O	O	17
8 Reisch	X	X	X	X	X	100	26A Emery	O	X	X	O	X	67	16 Bolin	X	X	X	X	X	100
9 Soye	X	X	X	X	X	100	26B Reimer	X	X	X	X	X	100	17 Davis	X	X	X	X	X	100
9 Teunissen	X	X	X	X	X	100	27 May	X	X	X	X	X	100	18 Hunhoff	X	X	X	X	X	100
10 Healy	O	O	X	O	O	17	27 Pourier	E	O	X	O	O	20	19 Schoenfish	X	X	X	X	O	83
10 Nelson	O	O	X	O	O	17	28A Lesmeister	O	X	X	O	E	40	20 Klumb	X	X	X	X	X	100
11 Karr	X	X	X	X	X	100	28B Pinnow	X	X	X	X	X	100	21 Tobin	X	X	X	X	X	100
11 Mulder	X	X	X	X	X	100	29 Cammack	X	X	X	X	X	100	22 Wheeler	X	X	X	X	X	100
12 Arlint	X	X	X	X	X	100	29 Chaffee	X	X	X	X	X	100	23 Breitling	X	X	X	X	X	100
12 Jamison	X	X	X	X	X	100	30 Krull	X	X	X	X	X	100	24 Mehlhaff	X	X	X	X	X	100
13 S. Peterson	X	X	X	X	X	100	30 Ladner	X	X	X	X	X	100	25 Pischke	X	X	X	X	X	100
13 Venhuizen	X	X	X	X	X	100	31 Fitzgerald	X	X	X	X	X	100	26 Bordeaux	O	O	X	O	O	29
14 Rehfeldt	X	X	X	X	X	100	31 Odenbach	X	X	X	X	X	100	27 Foster	E	O	X	E	X	67
14 Tordsen	X	E	X	X	X	100	32 Conzet				X	X	100	28 Maher	X	X	X	X	X	100
15 Duba	O	O	X	O	O	33	32 Duffy	X	X	X	X	X	100	29 Wink	X	X	X	E	X	100
15 Wittman	O	O	X	O	O	17	33 P. Jensen	X	X	O	X	X	83	30 Frye-Mueller	E	X	X	X	X	100
16 K. Jensen	X	X	X	X	X	100	33 Massie	X	X	X	X	X	100	31 Deibert	X	X	X	X	X	100
16 Lems	X	X	X	X	X	100	34 Derby	X	X	X	X	X	100	32 Duhamel	X	X	X	X	X	100
17 Kassin	X	X	X	X	X	100	34 Drury	X	X	X	X	X	100	33 Johnson	X	X	X	X	X	100
17 Shorma	X	X	X	X	X	100	35 Mulally	X	X	O	X	O	67	34 Diedrich	X	X	X	E	E	100
18 Auch	X	X	X	X	X	100	35 Randolph	X	X	O	X	X	83	35 Walsh				X	X	100

(X) Supported SDRTL's Position; (O) Opposed SDRTL's Position; (E) Excused

SDRTL's National, State and Local Endorsements may be seen on our website at
www.sdRightToLife.org and click on the '2024 Elections' tab.

SDRTL's 2023/2024 Legislative Scorecard Explanation

(*) Designates - Legislative Prime Sponsors



*"The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally – not a 20 percent traitor."
- President Ronald Reagan*

▪ These Resolutions were **Supported** by SDRTL – Passed:

SCR 602 (2023 *Bolin/Deutsch) A Resolution affirming the Legislature's support of the United States Supreme Court decision of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

HCR 6008 (2024 *Cammack/Davis) An Act opposing an initiated measure to place the right to an abortion in the Constitution of South Dakota.

▪ These Bills were **Supported** by SDRTL – Passed & Signed by the Governor:

SB 55 (2023 *Wiik/Blare) An Act to prohibit ranked-choice voting.

SB 75 (2023 *Wheeler/Bartels) An Act to revise provisions related to parental support for expenses related to pregnancy and childbirth.

HB 1224 (2024 *Rehfeldt/Tobin) An Act to require the creation of an informational video and other materials describing the state's abortion law and medical care for a pregnant woman experiencing life-threatening or health-threatening medical conditions.

HB 1244 (2024 *Hansen/Novstrup) An Act to provide a process to withdraw a signature from a petition for an initiated measure, constitutional amendment, or a referendum on a law in certain situations and to declare an emergency.

▪ This Bill was **Opposed** by SDRTL and was **Defeated** in the Process:

SB 210 (2024 *Nesiba/Duba) An Act to establish an individual's right to make autonomous decisions about the individual's reproductive health care, and to repeal provisions related to abortion.

~ SDRTL's '24 LEGISLATIVE STUDENT INTERNS ~



**Ever
Peters**

**Joshua
Curtiss**



SDRTL is now accepting 'Statements of Interest' for the 2025 Legislative Session. Email: Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com

**Josiah
Udager**

**Elijah
Dawson**



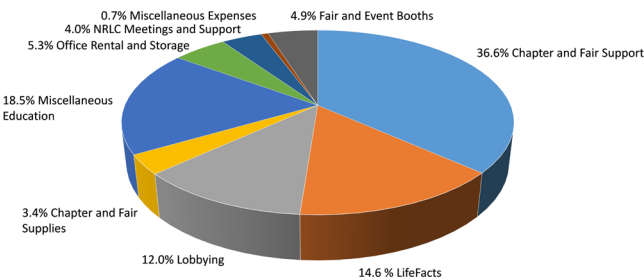
SDRTL Student Interns must be 9th grade thru college with high moral character and references.

SDRTL Operates With a Flare of Financial Integrity

By: *Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer*

As we continue on through the new year of 2024, 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 this year and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member in 2024. So far in 2024 approximately 36.6% of your donations have gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating exhibits and booths at fairs and other events including the convention. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 12.0% of our budget. The LifeFacts that you receive goes to more than 16,000 households and makes up 14.6% of this year's budget. A remaining 18.5% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach, which includes combating the abortion-until-birth petition. Every dollar that you donate gets fully and meaningfully utilized in the most impactful way possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2024



Donations in Memory of: Submitted By:

TOM KLOSTERMAN.....	TERRY & LISA ACKERMAN
SUSAN WASHENBERGER.....	THOMAS & SANDRA ASHMORE
KELSEY ATTEBERRY.....	STEVE & SANDI ATTEBERRY
BASEBALL: LARRY WESTPHAL.....	PENNY BALDWIN
BILL NACHATILO.....	DALE & JANET BARTSCHER
THOMAS MYERS.....	DALE & JANET BARTSCHER
JOHN RANEK.....	JIM & DONNA CANNON
DON & GLORIA BEANER.....	JIM & DONNA CANNON
ALICE SIMON.....	JIM & DONNA CANNON
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TOM KLOSTERMAN.....	PAUL & LESLYE ANN WIPF
MICKEY RUSSELL.....	JOSEPH ZUPPO

Donations in Honor of: Submitted By:

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HARRIET SCHAEFFER.....	KENNETH & NANCY BAUDER
DR. WILLIAM DENDINGER.....	VIRGINIA KNUTSON
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BECKY HOLMES RYBAK.....	RICHARD & ELLIE SWANSON
DALE BARTSCHER.....	JASON & RACHEL WILLIAMS

**SD RIGHT TO LIFE
CONVENTION
SEPT. 20-21, 2024**



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2407 BROADWAY AVE, YANKTON**



Melissa Magstadt
SD Secretary of Health



Leslee Unruh
Co-Chair, Life Defense
Fund



Kevin Theriot
Senior Counsel, Alliance
Defending Freedom



Dr. Ashley Graves
Founder, Five Stone
Consulting

LODGING OPTIONS



BW KELLY INN
605-665-2906
\$174.99/night
through 8/23



FAIRFIELD INN
605-653-2250
\$170/night
through 8/20



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
605-665-3177
\$145/night
through 8/20



ECONO LODGE
605-665-8717
\$125/night
through 9/6



COMFORT INN
605-689-3400
\$130/night
through 8/20



YANKTON INN
605-665-6510
\$90/night
through 8/20.



**7 Weeks Coffee
gift to 1st 70 registrants!
(one per household)**

Host chapters: Turner County Right to Life, Union County
Right to Life, Vermillion Right to Life, Yankton Right to Life



REGISTER NOW AT:
www.sdRightToLife.org



Essay Contest



Video Contest



Junior division: grades 7 - 9

Senior division: grades 10 - 12

Essays must be 300-500 words and will be judged on: Originality, Content, and Accuracy

Email by Nov. 1, 2024 to dpeace84@yahoo.com

Deadline: November 1, 2024.

Accepting entries now!

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

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

Info and rules:
www.sdrightrighttolife.org
Questions?

Call Debbie at 605-929-4933.



Give a voice to the voiceless and make a pro-life video that changes the world!

RULES:

- 📺 **MUST BE 15 - 25 YEARS OLD**
- 📺 **VIDEO 30 SEC - 3 MIN LONG**
- 📺 **DEADLINE: 5-15-2024**

The winner also receives free registration to the 2024 SD Right to Life convention.

Submit video to: Jenn.SDRTL@gmail.com.

Include full name, address, and phone number.

Under 18? Include parent name and school currently attending.

Entering the contest gives South Dakota Right to Life the right to use your original video at live events and on social media platforms.

1st \$400
2nd \$300
3rd \$200
4th \$100