# 111ehacts Right to Life From conception to natural death



A publication of South Dakota Right to Life | Spring/Summer 2023 | www.sdRightToLife.org

# Pro-Abortion Groups are Trying to Legalize Abortion up to Birth in South Dakota. Stop Them Before it's too Late.

By: Representative Jon Hansen, Vice President of South Dakota Right to Life



Imagine waking up one day to a darker South Dakota. The day is November 6th, 2024. You spent the night before watching the general election results trickle in. As you wake up, you make your morning coffee and turn on the news, and that's when you come to the shocking realization that pro-abortionists have prevailed in amending the South Dakota Constitution to legalize abortion right up to the moment of birth.

On that November 6th, 2024, what you thought could never happen in South Dakota has happened. The abortion amendment has legalized late-term abortion—even after the baby is capable of feeling pain and viable outside the womb. The abortion amendment has canceled the right of a parent to know before their minor child undergoes an abortion. The abortion amendment has canceled basic medical and safety protections for women—it even canceled the requirement that the abortionist be a licensed doctor. And the laws protecting your tax dollars from being used to pay for an abortion have been overridden.

If we do nothing, November 6th, 2024 will come and these things will happen. Today, petition circulators are working to gather enough signatures to put this abortion amendment on our ballot and into our state constitution.

So let us not wake up on November 6th, 2024 with sadness and regret and wonder what might have been if only you, a pro-life South Dakotan, would have read this article and stepped up to help protect these unborn babies and their mothers.

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We need your help now to defeat this amendment. We need you to volunteer to help spread the word and educate our fellow South Dakotans about how radical this abortion amendment really is. We also need your financial support. The pro-abortion groups will most likely be funded by millions of dollars in out of state money—and we need to match that here. If they have the money to spread their misleading message, and we don't have the funds to combat their lies, we could lose. So, we need your help.

We've created a special organization to lead the way to defeat this abortion amendment called the Life Defense Fund, which I co-chair along with Leslee Unruh. Through the Life Defense Fund, we've already been working across the state to explain how extreme this abortion amendment is and to encourage everyone to decline to sign the abortion petition.

Visit www.lifedefensefund.com to donate securely online and sign up to help. If you would like to donate by mail, please mail a contribution to Life Defense Fund, PO Box 90416, Sioux Falls, SD 57109.

Please know that this abortion amendment represents the biggest risk to the lives, health, and safety of babies and their mothers that we have ever seen in our state. We need your help now.

November 6th, 2024 will come. Let it not be a day when late term abortion is legalized and abortionists are welcomed back to South Dakota. Instead, let's work together now to ensure that South Dakota remains a state that protects the lives, health, and safety of all babies and their mothers.

God bless you and God bless the unborn lives that we defend, Representative Ion Hansen Vice President, South Dakota Right to Life Co-Chair, Life Defense Fund



P.S. Time is truly of the essence. Please visit www.lifedefensefund.com to learn more, volunteer, and donate.



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

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

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dale Bartscher

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## LifeFacts Editor April Dusek

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.

## Growing Leaders for the Challenging Times Ahead

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



On June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court issued its decision in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, bringing an end to 50 years of forcing states to sanction abortions in the United States, overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade US Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. This was a momentous victory for the right to life movement, but it was also a stark reminder that the debate is far from over.

With Dobbs, the question of abortion switched from a nationwide battle to 50 individual battles at the state level – like South Dakota! In many states, both pro-life and pro-abortion leaders moved quickly to either shore up pro-life policies or expand pro-abortion legislation. SDRTL, and our allies, did our part during the 98th SD Legis-

lative Session to support legislation that strengthens our SD Trigger Law (see Page 3).

It's clear there are many challenges ahead for those of us who believe that every human life is sacred and worthy of protection, beginning in the womb with those who are most vulnerable.

SDRTL has been and will be your 'Boots on the Ground Pro-Life Advocate' in 2023 and beyond. As SDRTL Executive Director I serve at the pleasure of our 'Board of Directors' (visit our website to see their photos/bios). Currently they are 23 men and women, of every generation, representing the 12 Regions of South Dakota. Please pray for and encourage the Board Members as they set-the-course for SDRTL going forward.

The author Jack Welch rightly wrote - "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others."

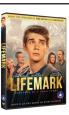
Our Board Members are constantly investing time in growing more leaders for succession. Each of our 12 state regions is eligible to have two directors on the Board of Directors. In addition, there may be two directors-at-large. As of today, we have 4 Open Seats on the Board – one from Region 1 (Northeastern SD), one from Region 11 (Northwestern SD), and two from Region 9 (Northcentral SD).

If you know of pro-life minded individuals who might be interested in filling open positions on the SDRTL Board of Directors, please call 605-220-8678 or email me at Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment and for doing your part to enable SDRTL to keep fighting for that which is right – the 'Sanctity of Human Life'! SDRTL Partners – "Look forward, look forward as the best is yet to come."

#### ~ SDRTL State Convention Blessed By Actor and Producer Kirk Cameron ~

Producer Kirk Cameron and the Kendrick Brothers have gifted the 2023 SDRTL State Convention with '50' DVD's of the Pro-Life movie: LIFEMARK. This is the true inspirational story of Melissa Coles, one of this year's Convention's Keynote Speakers. NOTE: The first '50' families to register for the Convention will receive a complimentary DVD upon arrival in Aberdeen, Sept. 22-23. See PAGE 8 for Convention details.



## 2023 SDRTL Legislative Efforts

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



As 2023 arrived so did the 98th 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 our website: www.sdRighttoLife.org. In addition, thousands of South Dakotans tuned into KNWC Radio (Sioux Falls) to hear our monthly SDRTL Legislative Update Reports. We also utilized the media through the use of Facebook and our weekly statewide email updates. [NOTE: If you do not receive these weekly email updates then please sign-up on our website's homepage today.]

The 98th Legislature consisted of #105 Members - that's 94 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Over the course of the 38-day Session these Legislators dealt with some 475 bills and resolutions, not to mention a host of commemorations. This Session 209 bills have been signed by the Governor and a majority of those will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

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, and saw passed, a total of four pieces of Legislation during this Session. Our three bills passed both Chambers and were signed by the Governor. The fourth was a Resolution which also passed both Chambers but did not require the Governor's signature as a Resolution carries no weight of law but does demonstrate the viewpoint of the legislature on an issue.

Overall this was 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 and Resolution. Yes, it makes a difference whom we elect to serve!

"Thank You Governor Noem!"

Bill	Description	SDRTL Position	House Floor	Senate Floor	Governor's Signature
SCR602	Affirming the Legislature's support of the United States Supreme Court decision of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.	SUPPORT	PASSED 62 - 7	PASSED 30 to 3	This Resolution has <b>NO NEED</b> of the Governor's Signature.
<u>SB75</u>	An Act to revise provisions related to parental support for expenses related to pregnancy and childbirth.	SUPPORT	PASSED 66 to 4 (Consent Calendar)	PASSED 35 to 0	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
<u>SB55</u>	An Act to prohibit ranked-choice voting.	SUPPORT	PASSED 63 to 5	PASSED 31 to 4	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR
<u>HB1220</u>	An Act to provide that a female who undergoes an unlawful abortion may not be held criminally liable.	SUPPORT	PASSED 63 to 7 (Consent Calendar)	PASSED 33 to 1	SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

 $"A government \ cannot \ be \ truly \ \textit{JUST'} \ without \ affirming \ the \ intrinsic \ value \ of \ human \ life."-Charles \ Colson$ 

## Haven Center

By: Anne Hanson, SDRTL Secretary



For the past 7 months, a steering team in Watertown has been working to open a pregnancy resource center. Although there are currently 9 centers in South Dakota, there are none in northeast South Dakota. A group of concerned individuals saw this need and felt a call to make a change.

"We need to make sure there are resources in our area to help guide women in unplanned pregnancies to choose life," Michael Wallenmeyer, President of Haven Center Board of Directors said. "Our plan is to continue to walk with these women throughout their pregnancies and beyond, if desired."

After months of praying and planning, the committee of 9 people have recently announced their name, created a logo, and secured a location. Haven Center is a Christian organization with a vision to be known as a

center of hope and healing for those confronted with critical life choices.

Their mission is to cultivate a community where those faced with an unplanned pregnancy are equipped to choose life. Haven Center exists to treat individuals facing an unplanned pregnancy with compassion in a welcoming and confidential environment. Their goal is to provide accurate information so an informed decision, guided by truth, is able to be made.

"Our next step is to find an Executive Director," Wallenmeyer said. "We have recently completed a job description and application and will begin our search soon."

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for the Executive Director position, you may download an application at www.havencentersd.org. For more information, please email havencentersd@gmail.com

Haven Center is in need of your prayers and also your support. If you would like to support Haven Center, please visit www.havencentersd. org. To keep informed on new developments, please follow Haven Center on facebook @havencenterfriends.

# Chapters Are the Hands and Feet of South Dakota Right to Life

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President and Field Coordinator



As we shift our focus from the legislative session to educating the citizens of our state about the need to stop the radical abortion amendment being circulated, we are so grateful for our nearly forty active chapters and all the work they are doing to further this mission. Every chapter is unique and looks for ways that they can be the most effective in their community.

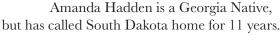
Some chapters are partnering with local churches for their annual baby bottle fundraiser from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Others are sponsoring ads or billboards. Some are hosting speakers or movies, setting up booths at local events and fairs or participating in local parades. These are just some of the ways our chapters are the hands and feet of South Dakota Right to Life and are working to change hearts and minds. Watch our weekly emails for more activities and projects. We love it when our chapters send us pictures and write ups about what they are doing.

It is incredible the impact that a small group of dedicated people can make in a community. If you are involved in this work, thank you! If you have not yet connected with a chapter, you can find them listed at sdRightToLife. org under the "Get Involved" tab. If there isn't a chapter in your area, please contact me at 605-929-4933, and let's work on fixing that.

## SDRTL's Board of Directors Grows by ONE

The SDRTL Board of Directors met in session on Sunday, January 29, following the 50th SDRTL Hour of Reflection at the SD Capitol. In

addition to taking reports from various working committees, and making plans for the future, the Board enthusiastically approved the nomination of a new Board Member. Amanda Hadden will serve and represent Region 12 which is basically Southwestern SD:





She has been married to Matt Hadden for 17 years, and together they have 4 children, 3 biological, and 1 foster. They reside in Porcupine, South Dakota, and run Chanku Waste Ranch, a non-profit organization on Pine Ridge Reservation. She is the Camp Director and Operations Manager for Chanku Waste Ranch and has a heart for the Lakota community. Amanda wrote, "I am passionate about life and advocating for the most vulnerable. I would be honored to serve alongside your Board to represent Region 12 in the future."

## SAVE THE DATE!

51st Annual SD Capitol Walk for Life and Hour of Reflection

Sunday, January 28, 2024 Pierre, South Dakota

12:00 pm - Walk for Life 1:00 pm - Refreshments 2:00 pm - Hour of Reflection





## Abortion Drug Decision Appealed

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate

Earlier this month, a Texas Judge ruled in favor of the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine who argued that the FDA unlawfully fast-tracked the approval of mifepristone through a process intended for the treatment of life-threatening illnesses. The decision placed a national injunction on the use of mifepristone in chemical abortions. The decision was appealed, and the appeal requires the FDA to restore previous safeguard including: it can be used only up to 7 weeks of pregnancy, requires three physician visits, removes the ability for the drug to be mailed or dispensed by pharmacies, prevents non-physicians from administering the drug and reinstates reporting requirements for non-fatal adverse events.



RU486, also known as mifepristone, Mifeprex, or "early option", is a chemical compound that, taken in pill form, induces abortion. Effectiveness of RU486 begins to decline after 7 weeks of pregnancy when Baby is five weeks old, about 8mm, and his or her face, arms, and legs are distinguishable.

Alone, RU486 can induce complete abortion only between 64% and 85% of the time. This is why, two days after taking RU486, the mom is given a prostaglandin, usually misoprostol, also known as Cytotec, to induce con-

tractions to deliver her deceased baby. Because the use of a prostaglandin (PG) is part of the standard RU486 abortion protocol, it is perhaps more accurate to refer to this as an "RU486/PG" abortion. (This information and more at https://www.nrlc.org/abortion/ru486/)

South Dakota does not allow RU486 abortions to be sold. After the FDA recently declared that RU486 can be dispensed at all retail pharmacies, Governor Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley wrote: "Chemical abortions remain illegal in South Dakota. Under South Dakota law, pharmacies, including chain drug stores, are prohibited from procuring and dispensing abortion-inducing drugs with the intent to induce an abortion, and are subject to felony prosecution under South Dakota law, despite the recent FDA ruling. Their resources should be focused on helping mothers and their babies, both before birth and after."

SDRTL and NRLC stand with Governor Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley in opposing RU486 abortions. We are grateful for the recent legal developments that provide more safeguards around the use of the drug in states where it is still legal and await the coming arguments to be brought to the US Supreme Court.

## Pro-Life Youth

By: Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator

I read a quote the other day by Mother Teresa that I felt was so true. "Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby, and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women." It's something to remember as we continue to fight to end abortions. Let's keep working together to fight for both lives, the baby and the mother.

Now that summer is right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about fair season! SDRTL attends many conventions, conferences, and fairs. Middle and high schoolers, we would love to have you help at our booths. It's always encouraging to have young people



and it's a great opportunity to share why you are pro-life. If interested, please email our Executive Director, Dale Bartscher, at Dale. SDRTL@gmail.com for more information. If you'd like to see a list of events, Fairs/Conferences will be listed under "Upcoming Events" on Page 6.

Thank you to all the students and youth who attended the 50th Annual Walk for Life in Pierre on January 29th. It was a great day

to come together as a pro-life community. In the photo you'll see Jacks for Life from SDSU who attended and participated in the Walk for Life.



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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 28-29: Aberdeen - SDRTL's Booth at SD Knights of Columbus 119th State Convention.

April 30: Huron - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Calvary Lutheran Church's Adult Bible Class.

May 1: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter Meeting.

May 2: Yankton - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Yankton Area Right to Life Chapter Meeting.

May 12-13: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Christian Home School Conference.

May 14: "Mother's Day!"

May 15: Rapid City - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Rapid City Area RTL Chapter Meeting.

May 29: "Memorial Day!"

June 4: Faith & Eagle Butte - SDRTL's E.D. to fill 'Free Lutheran Church' pulpits.

June 6: SD Municipal Election Day.

June 10: Chamberlain - SDRTL Board Summit at 'Zion Lutheran Church' (9am – 4:30 pm).

June 18: "Father's Day!"

June 18: Faith & Eagle Butte - SDRTL's E.D. to fill 'Free Lutheran Church' pulpits.

June 22: Pittsburgh, PA – SDRTL's E.D. to attend the National Right to Life Committee's

Board Meeting

June 23-24: Pittsburg, PA - SDRTL's E.D. to attend the National Right to Life Convention.

July 2: Rapid City - SDRTL's E.D. to fill 'The Foundry' pulpit.

July 4: "Independence Day!"

July 9: Faith & Eagle Butte - SDRTL's E.D. to fill 'Free Lutheran Church' pulpits.

July 15-16: Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the 37th Annual 'Hills Alive Music Festival'.

July 23: Faith & Eagle Butte - SDRTL's E.D. to fill 'Free Lutheran Church' pulpits.

July 30: Rapid City - SDRTL's E.D. to fill the 'First Wesleyan Church' pulpit.

Aug. 5-12: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Sioux Empire Fair.

Aug. 10-12: Vermillion - SDRTL's Booth at Clay County Fair.

Aug. 14-17: Parker - SDRTL's Booth at the Turner County Fair.

Aug.16-20: Aberdeen - SDRTL's Booth at the Brown County Fair.

Aug. 18-26: Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the Central States Fair.

Aug.31 - September 4: Huron - SDRTL's Booth at the SD State Fair.

Sept. 4: "Labor Day!"

Sept. 22 – 23: Aberdeen - SDRTL's 52nd

State Convention at the 'New Life Fellowship'!

Sept.23: Aberdeen – SDRTL's Board of

Director's Dinner Meeting (5:00 - 7:00 pm)



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!



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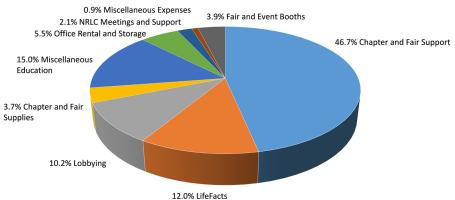
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## Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2023

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

As we continue our advocacy for LIFE in 2023, 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 2023. So far in 2023, approximately 47% 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 12.2% of our budget. The LifeFacts that you receive goes to nearly 17,000 households and makes up 12% of this year's budget. A remaining 15% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education out-

#### Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2023



reach as we gear up to fight abortion expansion initiatives at the ballot box.

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!

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

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## 52nd Annual SD Right to Life Convention

**September 22 - 23, 2023** 

New Life Fellowship - 619 8th Ave NW, Aberdeen

### **REGISTER SOON AT:** www.SDRightToLife.org

#### Friday, September 22, 2023

Open and Free to the Public

6 pm - Doors open (registration, refreshments, exhibit hall browing)

7 - 8:30 pm - Program (keynote speaker & introducing of pro-life SD elected officials)

#### Saturday, September 23, 2023

• Open to Registered Convention Guests

8 am - Doors open (registration, refreshments & exhibit hall browsing)

9 am - 4:30 pm - Program (keynote speakers & introducing of pro-life SD elected officials)



Melissa Coles Actress and Executive Director, Life Stories Matter

**Camille Pauley** Co-Founder and President of Healing the Culture



**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** 

**Ingrid Duran** State Legislation Director. National Right to Life Committee



Jon Hansen SD Representative, SDRTL Vice-President, and Co-Chair of the Life Defense Fund

## CONVENTION LODGING POSSIBILITIES

Super 8 Aberdeen East - 2405 6th Ave. SE 605-824-6422 (free parking, breakfast) Starting at \$85/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention 3.4 miles



Fairfield Inn & Suites - 2901 6th Ave SE 605-229-9990 (free parking, breakfast, indoor pool) Starting at \$120/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention 3.7 miles



Quality Inn Aberdeen - 2923 6th Ave SE 605-277-1402 (free parking, breakfast, indoor pool) Starting at \$94/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention 3.7 miles



Ramkota Hotel - 1400 8th Ave NW - 605-229-4040 (free parking, breakfast, indoor pool/kids play area) Starting at \$149.99/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention .9 miles



My Place Hotel - 410 S Harvard St. 605-262-4600 (free parking) Starting at \$110/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention 3.5 miles



AmericInn - 301 Centennial St. S - 605-225-4565 (free parking, breakfast, indoor pool) Starting at \$161.90/night - Rate cutoff: August 22nd Distance from convention 4.3 miles

