

LifeFacts



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

Planned Parenthood v. Noem (The Most Important Pro-Life Case in South Dakota's History)

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

In 2011 the South Dakota Legislature, and then Governor Dennis Daugaard, passed a **lifesaving law** (HB1217) requiring that pregnant women consult with a certified pregnancy help center, ensuring that they are protected from coercion and misinformation on abortion, before making such a life-altering decision.

However, that same year Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union were able to obtain an injunction against this pro-life law.

For decades, the abortion industry has relied on deceptions, legal fallacies, and looking the other way when women are pushed into abortions. This billion-dollar industry cannot be trusted to look out for the interests of pregnant women.

Today this case, **Planned Parenthood v. Noem**, has been appealed to the United States 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. This is due, in large part, to the hard work and long hours invested by Leslee Unruh and the Alpha Center of Sioux Falls, along with their Attorney Harold Cassidy.

In defending this law South Dakota will have the full strength of our **Governor's Office**, the **SD Attorney General's Office** and the **ACLJ** (American Center for Law and Justice). Yes, the ACLJ's Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow and its legal team are representing the State of South Dakota and Governor Noem against Planned Parenthood.

We expect Planned Parenthood to respond to the filing soon, with oral arguments set for spring 2022. This flawed injunction, against our good pro-life law, must be **OVERTURNED**. Please join **SDRTL** in praying for the court's favorable ruling in this matter – all for the sake of **LIVES**.

South Dakota's brief and addendum on this case were recently sent to

the United States 8th Circuit Court of Appeals by the office of our SD Attorney's General Jason Ravnsborg. To read these two documents please go to www.sdRightToLife.org.

In the meantime, **SDRTL** will be boots on the ground during this year's **97th SD Legislative Session** (January 11 – March 10, 2022). Be sure and follow our legislative endeavors by going to www.sdRightToLife.org so that you might be both informed and involved in the process.



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**Nos. 21-2913 & 21-2922
IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

PLANNED PARENTHOOD MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA and SARAH A. TRAXLER, M.D., *Plaintiffs-Appellees,*

v.

KRISTI NOEM, Governor, JASON R. RAVNSBORG, Attorney General, KIM MALSAM-RYSDON, Secretary, South Dakota Department of Health and PHILLIP MEYER, D.O., President, Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, in their official capacities, *Defendants-Appellants,*

ALPHA CENTER and BLACK HILLS CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER, d/b/a Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center, *Intervenors/Appellants.*

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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.

Will Roe Be Overturned?

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President



The pro-life movement has been waiting for nearly 49 years, for the infamous Roe v. Wade decision to be overturned. On December 1, 2021 the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health case out of Mississippi which would ban most abortions past 15 weeks. Thousands of activists on both sides rallied outside while the Justices spent nearly 2 hours listening and questioning during the oral arguments of the case. Find audio and transcript at: https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/audio/2021/19-1392

It was a blessing to be able to join the crowds outside the Supreme Court, even if it was a couple hours after the official rallies were over. The sense of history was overwhelming. One side was filled with hope and prayers, while the other expressed anger and fear. After listening to the comments and questions from the Justices, most feel there is an excellent chance that Mississippi's law will be upheld. There is also very good reason to hope that the Court will go even further, possibly even overturning Roe and sending the issue back to the States. If Roe is not completely overturned, then South Dakota's case in the 8th Circuit Court (see page 1) would be another opportunity to overturn Roe.

When Roe is overturned and the authority to regulate abortions is returned to the States, South Dakota's Trigger Law will go into effect banning abortions in the State except when necessary to save the life of the mother. Now more than ever, we must rally around our pregnancy help centers to assure they have the necessary resources to help every mother experiencing a crisis pregnancy. We must also continue educating our families, neighbors and friends about the importance of protecting mothers and babies from the evil effects of abortion and be prepared to defend our trigger law in the event that abortion activists try to repeal it with a ballot initiative.

While we wait for the Supreme Court to announce their decision on this historic case (probably not until the end of June), let us be in prayer that the Justices will have the wisdom and courage to do what is best for our country and that all of us in the pro-life movement will do our part to promote a culture where all human life is protected and respected from conception to natural death.

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!



New Perspective

By: *Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator*



I have been pro-life for as long as I can remember. I've always thought of myself as being very passionate about pro-life issues and helping others understand what it means. Then I had my daughter, Adeline West Peters, on June 28th of this year. Even though I have always felt so strongly about protecting babies, she has given me a whole new perspective. It was truly incredible to experience miracles everyday throughout pregnancy. I remember going to an ultra-

sound at 8 weeks and seeing her little arms and legs already forming and hearing her very strong heartbeat. All I could think was "wow, there is no denying that this is a beautiful baby already!" We are so blessed by her and she is the perfect reminder everyday of God's miracles.

Coming up is our annual Hour of Reflection and Walk for Life. This will be held on January 30th at our State Capitol in Pierre. The Walk for Life will start at 12pm with the Hour of Reflection following at 2pm. I hope to see a lot of youth show up for the walk with Dr. Pat Castle and LIFERUNNERS. If you don't know Dr. Pat, he is always a good time and I can guarantee a lot of fun! See you all there!

Prizes Double for Essay Contest Winners

By: *Debbie Pease, SDRTL President*

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our 2021 South Dakota Right to Life Essay Contest and are so grateful to the Sioux Falls Sertoma Club who made it possible for us to double the cash prizes awarded this year. Winners in each division received \$300 for first, \$250 for second, \$200 for third, \$150 for fourth and \$100 for 5th.

The eighty-one students who participated inspired us with their thoughtful and passionate writing, giving us great hope for our future. We are so thankful for all those who encouraged these young people to participate in the contest and for our judges who spent many hours studying the essays and choosing the winners.

Award checks have gone out and the winning essays can be found in their entirety at: SDRightToLife.org (under the "More" tab). We look forward to hearing the first-place winner in each division read their essays at The Hour of Reflection at the State Capitol in Pierre on January 30th. Congratulations to our winners.

Junior Division- 48 Entries

First- Rylan Grassel
Second- Madeline Abbot
Third- Emily Schutt
Fourth- Elaina Mohnen
Fifth- Peyton Walz

Senior Division- 33 Entries

First- Tom Solano
Second- Kyli Ladd
Third- Shannon Connor
Fourth- Lexi Cutler
Fifth- Jude McGee

New Years Resolution

By: *Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate*

If you can plan some travel, mark your calendars for June 24-25, 2022. We are pleased to announce that the 2022 National Right to Life Convention will be hosted at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel in Atlanta, GA. Information, registration, contest info, etc. is at NRLconvention.org.

Also, now is a great time to register to vote, and to make sure your family members are registered.

"One of the most important ways anyone can help save unborn babies is with their vote. The impact pro-life voters make in sending pro-life candidates to Congress is immeasurable. Research demonstrates that pro-life legislation saves lives, which pro-lifers celebrate and pro-abortionists loathe. Every life saved is priceless.

If you've not voted previously, you do have to register. That only makes sense. But many, many people who have voted before have also moved. They may not know that if they have not updated their records, they will be ineligible to vote.

Let's start with basics. If you are 18 years old by Election Day, you are old enough to vote. The first

question is ... are you registered to vote?

You do not need to register again if you registered to vote for a prior election and still live at the same address. However, if you have never voted before, or have not voted while living at your current address, you will need to register.

Imagine getting all excited on Election Day about voting for the first time, or for the first time in a new address, only to find that—through some simple oversight—you're not properly registered. It's too late! Your unhappiness will be compounded by the knowledge that pro-abortion forces are out there working hard to register their own people."

<https://www.voterve.net/mobile/NRLC/Campaigns/71759/Respond>

We must continue to stay the course, doing all we can to protect and defend the right to life of defenseless people - in particular, those people being targeted by the pro-death culture.

The following was written by Carol Tobias, president of NRLC. It's a good reminder.

"National Right to Life, its fifty state affiliates, and more than 3,000 local chapters, are single-issue

organizations existing to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. In the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers observed that we are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The right to life is the first and foremost of all human rights. It affects all other issues and without it, a person never gets the opportunity to exercise any other right. Simply put, without Life all other rights and issues are meaningless."



SDRTL's 2021 50th State Convention is Memorable

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



South Dakota Right to Life held our **50th Annual State Convention**, Oct. 1-3, in Sioux Falls. Amazingly 275+ passionately pro-life men and women of all ages registered and attended the event. It was a thrill to have Carol Tobias, President of National Right to Life Committee, as our Keynote Speaker. Videos of this Convention's Speakers may be found on our website at sd.Right-ToLife.org

Everyone appreciated 'Sioux Falls First Church' and their amazing staff for being our facility host. We highly commend the 'Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter' as they successfully organized this Convention.

The Sunday afternoon 'Life Chain', with #700+ pro-life friends participating, stretched for multi-blocks along 41st Street in front of Planned Parenthood. These folks stood their ground as they made the statement loudly and proudly - "Life is Precious".

Please mark your calendar as Rapid City will be the location for the **SDRTL's 51st State Convention**, September 30 - October 2, 2022. Our host facility will be First Assembly of God Church, 4905 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Rapid City, SD.



SDRTL's Board of Directors GROWS By ONE

The SDRTL Board of Directors met in session on Sunday, October 2, following the 50th SDRTL State Convention. In addition to taking reports from various working committees, and making plans for the future, the Board approved the TERM RENEWALS of several currently serving Board Members:

- Shane Oien, Sioux Falls
- Donna Schafer, Vermillion
- Mary Unterbrunner, Artesian
- Dr. Russ Enns, Piedmont
- Dr. Donald Oliver, Rapid City



In addition to these - SDRTL welcomed a NEW Member to the Board: JASON WILLIAMS. Jason lives in Pierre, SD, with his wife and two children. Since 2019 Jason has served as Deputy State Treasurer. Prior to joining Treasurer Josh Haeder's team, he worked in

a senior advisory/public relations capacity in the Secretary of State's office. Jason was born and raised on the family quasiquintennial farm in rural Brown County twenty-five miles outside of Aberdeen. Jason's favorite quote: "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm" by Ralph Waldo Emerson. We know he will bring an 'enthusiasm for life' to our Board of Directors going forward. You may reach Jason at: 605JJDub@gmail.com.



Yes, we are stronger together!

Together Let's Engage the 2022 SD Legislature

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director



SDRTL is recognized as the state's flagship of the pro-life movement. We work through legislation and education to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and related issues. Thus, we will have 'boots-on-the-ground' during the 97th 2022 Legislative Session in Pierre, SD (January 11 – March 10).

All the pro-life victories we have seen though, and will continue to see, are because of the work of all of you, and of the great people whose shoulders we stand on. All of whom understand that life at all stages is precious and deserving of protection. Realizing the value of working together Mother Teresa said: *"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."*

Knowing this to be true I will once again serve as a registered lobbyist at the State Capitol alongside our SDRTL Board Members and Representatives Dr. Fred Deutsch, Jon Hansen and Senator Al Novstrup. Together we will represent SDRTL as we support, with your help, appropriate life legislation.

Currently I, along with our SDRTL's Legislative Committee, are considering several pieces of Pro-Life Legislation. I will be utilizing social media (Facebook, Emails, Radio Interviews, etc.) and our website at www.sdRightToLife.org to keep you, our SDRTL Partners, informed as to happenings at the Capitol during this Legislative Session.

To receive 'Weekly Capitol Email Updates' please go to our website at www.sdRightToLife.org and fill-in the SUBSCRIBE BOX. SDRTL would also appreciate your financial partnership. In doing so you are supporting our presence at the Capitol for the 37-Days of this coming SD Legislative Session. Thank You!

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken presented this PROCLAMATION to the SDRTL's Annual Convention proclaiming October 1-2 as a 'Celebration of Life Weekend in Sioux Falls'. Thank You Mayor TenHaken for standing with us... for LIFE!



Office of the Mayor CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Proclamation

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 50th year since South Dakota Right to Life has been holding their Annual State Convention in the celebration of the Sanctity of Human Life from conception to natural death;

WHEREAS, the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men . . .";

WHEREAS, as citizens of the United States, we recognize that without life, there is no Liberty. Without Liberty, there is no freedom in which the individual may pursue happiness. So, our policy must always be to defend human life at all stages;

WHEREAS, we must stand firmly united as a community that shows respect and love for the dignity and worth of every person, at every stage of life—the unborn, the aged, the disabled, the mentally ill—all of our most vulnerable neighbors;

WHEREAS, I respectfully encourage all South Dakotans to care for women with unexpected or unwanted pregnancies, to encourage responsible fatherhood, to affirm our state's pro-life pregnancy centers, to support adoption and foster care, and to ensure that every child can be raised to live and to have the liberty to pursue their own happiness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul TenHaken, Mayor of the City of Sioux Falls, do hereby proclaim October 1-2, 2021, as:

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE WEEKEND

in Sioux Falls. I ask every citizen of this great city to join me in considering what we have missed by the loss of lives who have been cut short and then to raise our voices in defending and cherishing human life. In this way, we can all work toward a day when the dignity and humanity of every life is respected.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Sioux Falls to be affixed this 2nd day of October, 2021.

Paul TenHaken, Mayor

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 11 – March 10: SDRTL Lobbying at the 2022 SD Legislative Session (Pierre)
- Jan. 16: SDRTL Executive Director’s Report at the First Assembly of God Church at 10:00 am, MST (Rapid City)
- Jan. 16: Black Hills Area ‘Roe v Wade Memorial Service’ at the Calvary Chapel Community Church at 2:00 pm, MST (Rapid City)
- Jan. 21: National March for Life (Washington, DC)
- Jan.22: 49th Anniversary of Roe V. Wade
- Jan. 22: SDRTL’s Exec. Dir. to attend the National RTL Committee’s Board Meeting (Washington, DC)
- Jan.22: Showing of the movie ‘Unplanned’ at 10:00 a.m. at the Sioux Falls First Church followed by the ‘Walk for Life’ to Planned Parenthood.
- Jan. 30: Sanctity of Human Life ‘Walk for Life’ at 12:00 noon, CST; and ‘Hour of Reflection’ at 2:00 pm, CST (Pierre)
- Feb. 13: SDRTL’s Exec. Dir. to speak at the Brookings Area RTL Chapter Meeting at the Newman Center at 3:00 pm, CST (Brookings)
- March 2 - April 10: 40-Days for Life Spring Campaign (Sioux Falls)
- March 25-27: SDRTL Booth at Black Hills Home Builders Show (Rapid City)
- April 1-2: SDRTL Booth at the Northern Plains Evangelistic Association Leadership Conference (Spearfish)
- April 22-24: SDRTL Booth at the Knights of Columbus State Convention (Deadwood)
- May 6-7: SDRTL Booth at the Christian Homeschool Conference (Sioux Falls)
- June 24-25: National Right to Life Convention (NRLConvention.com)
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1: 51st SDRTL State Convention (Rapid City)
- Oct. 2: “Life Chain” 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Rapid City and Sioux Falls)



Donations in Memory of:

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STEVE WOOCKMAN.....	DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER
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JOSEPH DENISON.....	GREG AND DEE ANNE MILLER
BABIES ABORTED.....	GLORIA WHITES
OUR CHILDREN.....	DONNA SCHAFFER

Submitted By:

Donations in Memory of:

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GOD.....	GLORIA WHITES
CAROL WIESELER.....	JEREMY WIESELER
OUR CHILDREN.....	DONNA SCHAFFER

Submitted By:

State Accountant Gives SDRTL A “THUMBS -UP”

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

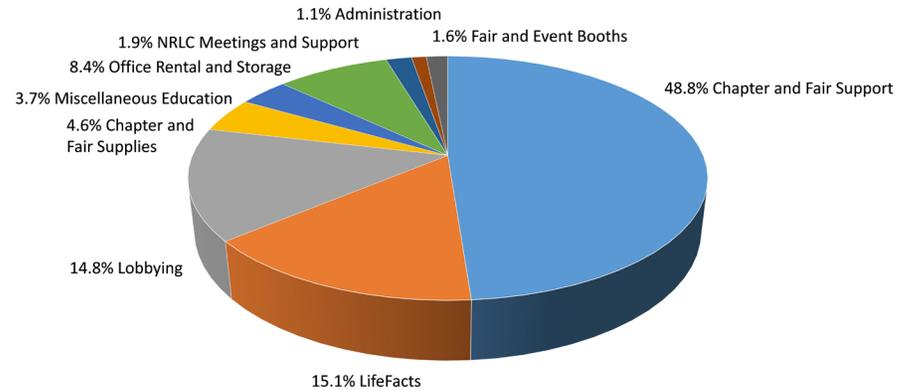
As 2021 comes to a close, let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member in 2022.

We have completed our ‘2020 FINANCIAL REVIEW’ through an accredited accountant and are pleased to share with you that no material modifications of our financial statements or procedures were necessitated by the complete review of our 2020 financial documents and accounting procedures. This conclusion only confirms the fact that SDRTL is committed to ensuring that your contribution is devoted 100% to PRO-LIFE and is not diminished by organizational inefficiencies or waste.

In 2021, roughly 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 14.8% of our budget. The LifeFacts that you receive goes to 17,000 households and makes up more than 15% of this year’s budget. A remaining 4% of donations are spent on miscellaneous education outreach. Only 1.1% of your donation is being spent on administration expenses.

NOTE: “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

49th Annual Hour of Reflection

"The Sanctity of Human Life"

Sunday, January 30, 2022

2:00 p.m. (CST) State Capitol Rotunda, Pierre, SD



Master of Ceremonies

Dale Bartscher
SDRTL Executive Director
Rapid City, SD



Keynote Speaker

Rachel Jones
ZoeCare Pregnancy Center
Yankton, SD



Guest Speaker

Dr. Pat Castle
LIFE Runners President and
Founder, Omaha, NE

Invited Guest Speakers: Governor Kristi Noem and Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden

Special Music by The Dirty Boot Band, Top Pro-Life Essay Contest
Winners, Refreshments Served

-Walk for Life-

Sunday, January 30, 2022

12:00-1:00 p.m. (CST)

State Capitol, Pierre, SD



Sponsors: SD Right to Life and the
Pierre Area Right to Life Chapter