



Background Research On Extremist Groups And Individuals Who Filed Amicus Briefs For *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*

November 2021

Since the Supreme Court added *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* to its docket, dozens of anti-abortion organizations have [filed](#) amicus curiae briefs. Equity Forward is including highlights from these briefs and background information on the organizations that we have extensive research on below.

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American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG)

Amicus Brief Highlight

AAPLOG’s *Dobbs* Amicus Brief Falsely Claimed That Abortion Is Linked To Mental Health Issues And Suicide, That Abortion Is Not Grounded In Medical Ethics Or “Our Nation’s Traditions,” And That When A Pregnant Person’s Life Is Endangered, They Should Have Induced Labor Or C-Section As An Abortion Alternative. “Decades of studies show that abortions, especially those later in the pregnancy, are linked to a greater risk of psychological harm, including anxiety, depression, substance abuse, thoughts of suicide, and suicide ... Abortion — removing the fetus with the intent of ending its life — is never medically necessary at any stage ... Abortion thus finds no footing in traditional medical ethics. Cf. *Pet. Br.* 1, 2, 12, 17, 28 (noting that abortion is not rooted in our nation’s traditions). Instead, in the rare case when a mother’s life is threatened or the fetus suffers a severe abnormality, the physician will simply induce labor or perform a cesarian section. The Act allows this — and other exceptions — thus exceeding the requirements of rationality. It should be upheld.” [[AAPLOG *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) is a group that uses its members’ medical certifications to push false information regarding abortion and birth control. Since most of its claims fall outside what is accepted by the medical and scientific communities, AAPLOG has accused other medical professionals of using “politically correct” research. AAPLOG is notable for sending representatives to testify as “expert witnesses” in support of anti-abortion legislation and legal causes. AAPLOG also collaborated with Trump administration officials to help them select an anti-abortion candidate for a position that oversees federal family planning programs.

AAPLOG Routinely Pushes Fear-Mongering Lies, For Example, Supporting Laws That Require Physicians To Tell Patients About “Abortion Reversal” — A “Procedure” That Has No Basis In Medical Science

AAPLOG Supports Laws Mandating Physicians Inform Their Patients Of The Medically Unfounded “Abortion Reversal.” “The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists strongly supports laws which require women to be informed of the option of Abortion Pill Rescue as part of a woman’s right to informed consent prior to abortion.” [[AAPLOG, February 2019](#)]

- **Abortion Reversal Is Not Supported By Data Or The Mainstream Scientific Community.** “For years, proponents of medication abortion (or chemical abortion, as some call it) have criticized a protocol aimed at reversing drug-induced abortions on the primary grounds that the number of cases where such reversals have succeeded is small. Now, thanks to research by physicians who devised the abortion pill reversal regimen, evidence has been amassed that a model technique can be effective up to two-thirds of the time in saving the baby.” [[Western Journal, 4/21/18](#)]

Read more about AAPLOG at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Americans United for Life (AUL)

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Its Brief, AUL Points To Its Involvement In All Of SCOTUS’ Abortion Cases, And Makes Its Goal Of Overturning Roe Clear. “Since its founding in 1971, Americans United for Life (AUL) has represented parties or filed amicus briefs in virtually every abortion-related case decided by this Court ... Despite 48 years, Roe is radically unsettled due to a badly reasoned opinion based on a mistaken history and mistaken factual assumptions, a divided Court, conflicting precedents, lower court criticism, scholarly criticism, and the lack of state acquiescence.” [[AUL Dobbs Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Americans United for Life (AUL) is the anti-abortion lobby’s legal and policy engine, flooding state legislatures with draconian model bills via its “pro-life playbook” and using state, federal, and international courts to fight against reproductive rights. AUL ultimately aims to ban abortion via a constitutional amendment.

AUL Seeks To Undermine Abortion Rights Through Its Outsized Impact On State Legislation

AUL Calls Itself The “Legal Architect Of The Pro-Life Movement.” [[AUL.org Archive 8/22/18](#)]

AUL “Pioneered” A Strategy Of Pushing Legislation In States In The Hopes That Such Efforts Would Eventually Undermine Reproductive Rights At The Federal Level. “AUL is the pioneer of the state-based model legislative strategy, which has exploded in the past few years. AUL’s specific strategy works to save lives today while undermining the so-called ‘reliance’ interest adopted by the Supreme Court in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*: the false idea that women ‘rely’ on abortion to succeed in American society.” [[AUL.org Archive 8/22/18](#)]

AUL Has Long Stated It Hopes To Undermine The Decision In *Planned Parenthood V. Casey* Through State Legislation. “AUL’s specific strategy works to save lives today while undermining the so-called ‘reliance’ interest adopted by the Supreme Court in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*: the false idea that women ‘rely’ on abortion to succeed in American society.” [[AUL.org Archive 8/22/18](#)]

Read more about AUL at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

Amicus Brief Highlight

The Becket Fund Claims In Its *Dobbs* Amicus Brief That Abortion “Haunts The Law ... And Religious Liberty” And Falsely Negates Religious Exemptions’ Effects On Barriers To Birth Control Access. “Abortion haunts the law. The Court’s abortion cases — and the Roe/Casey framework in particular — neither fit within the bounds of the Constitution’s design nor help to resolve in any meaningful way the underlying societal conflict over abortion. One casualty of this phenomenon is the law of religious liberty, which has also been haunted by abortion. For example, a decade after the contraceptive mandate was first promulgated, religious nonprofits still face the imposition of millions of dollars in fines. But in all that time, no one has identified a single woman who could not obtain contraceptives if the government simply left ministries like the Little Sisters of the Poor alone. Thus, abortion proponents’ purpose in

ensuring that the mandate is applied to religious nonprofits is not to solve any real-world problem but is instead symbolic: to ensure that all organizations, religious or not, toe the party line on contraception and abortion.” [[The Becket Fund Dobbs Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is a public interest law firm focused on so-called “religious freedom.” Becket was [behind](#) the Supreme Court’s decision to extend religious rights to corporations — enabling them to claim exemptions in covering employees’ birth control care — in [Burwell v. Hobby Lobby](#) (2014). More recently, the group has [represented](#) groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor, which has fought to roll back the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) birth control coverage mandate.

The Becket Fund Is Best Known For Its Legal Victories Against The Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) Birth Control Benefit. “...The Becket Fund, the religious liberty law firm best known for its victories in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell* cases litigated after Severino’s tenure that challenged Obamacare’s contraceptive mandate on religious grounds.” [[The Atlantic, 6/7/17](#)]

- **Former Trump HHS Office For Civil Rights Director [Roger Severino](#), Who Is Staunchly Opposed To The ACA’s Birth Control Benefit, Was Legal Counsel For The Becket Fund For Religious Liberty.** “Prior to his work at The Heritage Foundation, Severino was a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice. He also served as legal counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.” [[Health Care IT News, 3/24/17](#)]

Read more about Becket on [HHS Watch](#).

CareNet

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Its *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, CareNet Baselessly Claimed That Pregnant People Are Coerced And Pressured Into Abortion By Abortion Clinics. “Pregnant mothers are routinely coerced into abortions at abortion clinics ... Pregnant mothers are routinely pressured into abortions by the abortion clinic staff.” [[CareNet Dobbs Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

*CareNet is the self-proclaimed [largest network](#) of anti-abortion centers in the country. [More than a thousand](#) centers pay CareNet to become an affiliate. CareNet, in turn, supplies training for volunteers and staff and helps centers with fundraising. The centers in CareNet’s network include some that receive taxpayer funding. Many CareNet centers overlap with [NIFLA-supported clinics](#) in California and were at the center of *NIFLA v. Becerra* (2018). CareNet affiliates are [notorious for masquerading](#) as quality health care providers, but often participate in deceptive and shaming tactics in pursuit of an anti-abortion agenda.*

CareNet Has Criticized Legislation To Stop AACs’ Deceptive Tactics As “Attack Campaigns.”

Deception Is So Important To CareNet’s Strategy That They List Legislation Requiring AACs To Tell Clients That They Do Not Provide Abortion Or Contraception Services As One Of The “State Level Attack Campaigns.”

2009

Legislation: Bill A03638 was introduced in the New York State Assembly. The bill would have required pregnancy centers, upon first communication with clients, to state that the center does not provide abortions or contraception. Centers failing to do so would be subject to fines. The bill did not leave committee.

[CareNet Manual “Advocate,” Pg. 26, 2014]

CareNet Called An Ordinance Requiring AACs To Display Disclaimers That They Do Not Refer Or Perform Abortions An “Anti-Pregnancy Center Ordinance” And “Attack Campaign”; CareNet Even Challenged The Ordinance In Federal Court.

2010

Legislation: The City of Austin passed an anti-pregnancy center ordinance which required pregnancy centers to display disclaimers stating that they do not refer or perform abortions. Penalties for non-compliance ranged from criminal fines to a Class C Misdemeanor conviction. The Austin ordinance has been challenged in federal court by a Care Net affiliate pregnancy center and other parties. A Care Net affiliate, along with other pregnancy centers, challenged the ordinance in court on constitutional grounds in *Austin Life Care v. City of Austin* and the ordinance was struck down in federal court in 2011.

[Pg. 29, CareNet Manual “Advocate,” Pg. 29, 2014]

Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), Maureen Condic

Amicus Brief Highlight

Condic and CLI’s *Dobbs* Brief Seeks To Argue That Arguing Against *Dobbs* Would “Be A Reactionary Turn Against Modern Scientific Insights.” “From the outset, however, this Court’s landmark abortion decisions — in 1973 and 1992 — stressed that the qualified right to abortion must be balanced against compelling state interests guided by current scientific knowledge. And since that time, technological breakthroughs, especially sophisticated brain mapping and 4D ultrasonography, have enabled direct, unprecedented observation of human fetuses and behavior indicating their subjective experiences — confirming that the fetus is living, conscious, and sensitive to pain shortly after the beginning of the second trimester and months before viability. Given these new findings, freezing the balance of compelling state interests in the amber of obsolete science would not only be a reactionary turn against modern scientific insights, but would contravene the very rationale of this Court’s abortion precedents.” [[CLI, Condic *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

The Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) is the “research and education” arm of Susan B. Anthony List. CLI pushes alarmist narratives about women who need abortions later in pregnancy, publishes annual reports applauding state level abortion restrictions, spreads lies about research that relies on fetal tissue, and advocates for deceptive anti-abortion centers.

Maureen Condic is an [associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute](#) and a professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. She has served in the Trump administration [as a member of its Fetal Tissue Ethics Advisory Board](#) and previously as a [member](#) of the National Science Foundation's oversight body. Condic has [testified](#) before Congress in favor of extremist abortion bans; she was also [involved](#) in the discredited 2016 Planned Parenthood fetal tissue congressional investigation as a scientific advisor.

CLI Bills Itself As A Think Tank, But Lies About Proven Medical Science

CLI Published A Paper Falsely Labeling The Birth Control 'Plan B' As A Dangerous "Abortifacient" And A "Shrewd Marketing Scheme." "Plan B is not only a potential abortifacient, it is also part of a shrewd marketing scheme: Various studies demonstrate that after a single act of intercourse, without contraception, 7.2 to 8 percent of women may be expected to become pregnant. In contrast, pregnancy rates among women using "emergency contraception" (Yuzpe method, Plan B, Preven, etc.) are "reduced" to 1.9 percent. Note what this really says: Following a single act of unprotected intercourse, fewer than eight in 100 women will actually become pregnant. With Plan B, not more than two of these eight women will become pregnant — meaning the product is only about 75% "effective." By exploiting fears of pregnancy after non-contracepted sex (among, say, 100 women), the manufacturers of Plan B and similar drug kits can sell their product to 100 buyers, including 92 who don't even 'need' it and 94 who derive no benefit. Talk about a massive consumer over-sell. More importantly, however, how many girls and women will be harmed by taking high dosages of steroid hormones (1.50 mg levonorgestrel per tablet, Plan B One-Step), and with the potential for multiple exposures between menarche and menopause? Levonorgestrel is a totally synthetic progestogen. Once ingested, the potency of synthetic hormones may be much greater than their measurable concentrations suggest." [[Lozier Institute, 5/3/13](#)]

CLI Has Quoted A Scientist Saying That Fetal Tissue Research Has Made A "Negligible Contribution To Science" ... "Abortion opponents argue that research using fetal tissue is not only morally wrong, but also unnecessary. The anti-abortion Charlotte Lozier Institute [quotes a scientist](#) who claims that 'fetal tissue from abortions is making a negligible contribution to science'. Mainstream scientists disagree. Biochemist Thomas Baldwin, president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, in a [letter](#) to the House and Senate appropriations committees, wrote that 'research using fetal tissue and embryonic stem cells advances scientific knowledge, improves human health, and saves lives'." [[Pacific Standard Magazine, 9/28/17](#)]

... But Fetal Tissue Research Has Made "Major Contributions" For Vaccines And Continues To Be "Necessary For Medical Advances" For The Zika Virus And Other Conditions And Diseases. "Fetal tissue research has made major contributions to the understanding of biology and the development of new medical technologies, including vaccines that have saved millions of lives. Cells from human fetal tissue were used in the development of several therapeutics in current use, as well as the ongoing production of critical vaccines (Wadman, 2017) ... Below, we outline examples of how the use of fetal tissue has led to therapies that have saved lives as well as ways in which fetal tissue research continues to be necessary for medical advances. 1. Parkinson disease 2. Huntington disease 3. Blindness 4. Pregnancy 5. Zika Virus 6. HIV 7. Vaccines 8. Diabetes." [[International Society for Stem Cell Research, 2/17](#)]

The Scientific Community Agrees That Fetal Tissue Is Unique In Its Effectiveness. "There are no alternatives that can, today, serve all the same purposes as the controversial technology.

‘The consensus is that there are certain things about fetal tissue that make [it] unique’, said Paul Knoepfler, a professor at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine. ‘Certain experiments can really only be done on actual fetal tissue.’” [STAT News, 12/17/18]

It’s Not As Though Scientists Started Researching Alternatives Yesterday And Just Need More Time To Find Them — They’ve Been Trying To Do So For Decades. “[Alternatives] are less politically controversial — in some states, it is illegal to do any research on fetal tissue, and using other kinds of tissue can make it easier for scientists to collaborate. Researchers have been working on developing tools that do not depend on fetal tissue for decades.” [STAT News, 12/17/18]

Read more about CLI at Pro-Lies.org and its involvement in blocking lifesaving research using fetal tissue [here](#).

Family Research Council (FRC)

Amicus Brief Highlight

In A Perplexing Argument, FRC’s *Dobbs* Brief Claims That Abortion Has Been Elevated “Above All Other Rights In Our Constitutional Framework.” “Ultimately, these standards prop up abortion as ‘the most favored right in American law’ ... The undue-burden standard elevates abortion above all other rights in our constitutional framework. Because the undue-burden standard amounts to an effects test, any and all restrictions on abortion might be deemed ‘undue’. This ultimately hinders a state’s ability to regulate even the most extreme abortion practices.” [FRC *Dobbs* Brief, July 2021]

Extremism Background

Family Research Council (FRC) is a recognized hate group for its antisemitic, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQIA+, and anti-abortion views. FRC was founded by [right-wing religious leaders in 1983](#) to promote “[the idea Judeo-Christian worldview as the basis for a just, free, and stable society](#).” FRC and its leaders have hateful opinions on Muslims (FRC has argued [they don’t deserve Constitutional Rights](#)), Jewish people (FRC claims [they control the Democratic Party](#)), gay men (FRC says [they are pedophiles](#)), trans people (FRC writes that [they are mentally ill and don’t deserve medical care](#)) and Planned Parenthood (FRC calls [the organization “complicit” with sex trafficking and responsible for the “decimation of the African-American community”](#)). FRC has also applauded laws that call for the execution of LGBTQIA+ people (FRC said such laws [lead to “repentance”](#)), as well as [anti-abortion policies in service of white supremacy](#) (FRC thinks [they’re good](#)).

FRC Supports Criminalizing Abortion And Over-The-Counter Birth Control, Opposes Research That Relies On Fetal Tissue, And Supports Denying Healthcare To LGBTQIA+ People

FRC Advocates For Equal Protection Under The Law For Zygotes, Embryos, And Fetuses — Criminalizing All Forms Of Abortion And Many Types Of Birth Control. “On its website, the group advocates for ‘equal protection under the law’ for zygotes, embryos, and fetuses. In practice, this kind of ‘personhood’ policy would outlaw and criminalize abortion and certain kinds of birth control.” [Rewire.News, 5/10/19]

Rewire.News: “FRC Also Opposes Over-The-Counter Contraception (Including Hormonal Birth Control And The Morning-After Pill).” [[Rewire.News, 5/10/19](#)]

Rewire.News: “Advocates Allowing Health Care Providers To Claim Religious Objections To Providing Essential Care To Patients.” [[Rewire.News, 5/10/19](#)]

Rewire.News: “[FRC] Opposes Fetal Tissue Research.” [[Rewire.News, 5/10/19](#)]

FRC Is A Southern Poverty Law Center-Recognized Hate Group Largely For Its Extreme Anti-LGBTQIA+ Views

FRC Is A Southern Poverty Law Center-Recognized Hate Group For Its Extreme Anti-LGBTQ Ideology. “The FRC often makes false claims about the LGBT community based on discredited research and junk science. The intention is to denigrate LGBT people as the organization battles against same-sex marriage, hate crime laws, anti-bullying programs and the repeal of the military’s ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy.” [[SPLCenter.org, Accessed 11/19/19](#)]

A Former FRC Author Published A Booklet Titled “Homosexual Activists Work To Normalize Sex With Boys” Which Falsely Claimed That LGBTQIA+ Advocates Wanted To Abolish All Age Of Consent Laws. “While at the FRC, Knight also co-wrote (with Robert York, a former editor at Focus on the Family) a 1999 booklet with the attention-getting title of Homosexual Activists Work to Normalize Sex with Boys. Among its more remarkable claims was the baseless assertion that ‘one of the primary goals of the homosexual rights movement is to abolish all age of consent laws and to eventually recognize pedophiles as the ‘prophets’ of a new sexual order’.” [[Southern Poverty Law Center, 10/07/11](#)]

FRC President Tony Perkins Said Pedophilia Is A “Homosexual Problem” And That “Homosexual Activists” Are “Part Of A Concerted Effort” To “Recruit ... Kids Into The ‘Gay Lifestyle’.” “According to Perkins, pedophilia ‘is a homosexual problem’ that seeks to ‘recognize pedophiles as the prophets of the new sexual order’. Gay men are ‘more likely to engage in child sexual abuse than are heterosexual men’; in fact, ‘homosexuals have entered the [Boy] Scouts in the past for predatory purposes’. What’s worse, ‘homosexual activists’ — those ‘intolerant’, ‘hateful’, ‘vile’, and ‘spiteful’ predators — aren’t just content to engage in pedophilia: They’re also ‘part of a concerted effort’ to ‘recruit ... kids’ into the gay ‘lifestyle’.” [[Slate, 9/25/13](#)]

FRC Senior Policy Fellow Peter Sprigg Claimed That Gay Men Are Mentally Ill And That They Are More Likely To Be Pedophiles. “Other anti-gay propagandists at the FRC include Peter Sprigg, senior fellow for policy studies, who joined the organization in 2001. Sprigg authored a 2010 brochure touting ‘The Top Ten Myths about Homosexuality’. In the brochure, Sprigg claimed that ex-gay therapy works, that sexual orientation can change, that gay people are mentally ill simply because homosexuality makes them that way, and that, ‘Sexual abuse of boys by adult men is many times more common than consensual sex between adult men, and most of those engaging in such molestation identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual’.” [[SPLCenter.org, Accessed 11/19/19](#)]

Read more about FRC at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Amicus Brief Highlight

Heartbeat International’s *Dobbs* Amicus Brief Falsely Stated That Anti-Abortion Centers Are “Highly Effective” At Providing Care And Contributing To Supposed Gender Equality And Destigmatization Of Single Parents. “Unlike in 1992, centers are now highly effective not only at providing options counseling, but at helping women through all stages of their pregnancy and beyond — including prenatal care, parenting classes, life-skill classes, and material assistance — to help ensure that women can ‘participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation’ ... As for changing societal mores, the social stigma associated with unexpected pregnancies today has all but disappeared. Today, 40% of U.S. births occur outside of wedlock, compared with only 30% at the time of *Casey*, or 13% at the time of *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973). It is simply a different world today wherein the factors underlying *Casey* no longer apply.” [[Heartbeat International *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Heartbeat International is a Christian network of anti-abortion centers that seeks to eliminate abortion entirely. Heartbeat International was one of the first anti-abortion center networks in the U.S. and is now one of the world’s largest, with nearly 3,000 affiliates spreading anti-abortion misinformation across all six inhabited continents.

Heartbeat International Spreads Abortion Misinformation To Coerce Pregnant People To Carry Their Pregnancies To Full Term

Heartbeat International Regularly Promotes Inaccurate And Discredited Claims About The “Risks” Of Abortion. “Beyond the religious messaging, at least 10 [Heartbeat International] conference sessions focused on the ‘risks’ of premarital sex, contraception, and abortion. During the panel ‘What’s So Bad About Abortion?’ Janet Morana and Father Frank Pavone, of the organization Priests for Life, asserted that abortion causes an array of spiritual, psychological, and medical problems. Pavone said, ‘Abortion poisons everything’, because after an abortion, a woman thinks, ‘Others can’t possibly esteem me, child-killer that I am’. Those women, he said, suffer a ‘failure to bond’ with future children, often thinking, ‘I killed one child; I’m afraid that something bad will happen to the next one’. He and other speakers in the session said abortion increases a woman’s risk of miscarriage, cancer, substance abuse, suicide, and domestic violence, among other problems.” [[Cosmopolitan, 4/6/15](#)]

Heartbeat International Affiliates Offer Information That Is Full Of Discredited Claims About Links Between Abortion And A Number Of Medical Conditions. “The information contained within the materials Hartford Women’s Center [which is a Heartbeat International affiliate], presents to its visitors is overwhelming: rows and rows of text, often studiously annotated. It’s also extremely inaccurate. Many of the pamphlets tout a wholly debunked link between abortion and breast cancer or infertility; others warn of something called ‘post-abortion syndrome’, a term neither the American Psychiatric Organization nor the American Psychological Organization recognizes. Numerous insist that birth control pills can cause early abortion, a claim that has no backing in established medical science. ... Reason Six ‘I was raped’, puts ending a pregnancy on par with sexual assault: ‘Adding another violent act, abortion, to the horrible thing that has already happened to you will only complicate your healing process’, it reads. ‘Don’t allow the rapist to add to your emotional turmoil by causing you to end the life of an innocent child’.” [[Vice News, 5/30/17](#)]

Heartbeat International Spreads Lies Globally About Cancer, Child Abuse, And Abortion Legality In Order To Discourage Abortion. “In Italy, an undercover reporter was told not only that having an abortion can cause cancer, but that having a baby can cure serious illnesses including [leukemia]. In Spain, another reporter was given an article that claimed that after an abortion, a woman is ‘144% more likely’ to physically abuse their children. In Mexico City, staff at one [center] wrongly said that a woman needs her partner’s or a relative’s consent for an abortion — and that no hospital would treat her for serious complications. In Argentina, a reporter who said she was a survivor of domestic abuse was told by staff at another [center]: ‘Now, you’re a victim, but getting an abortion would make you part of the violence’.” [\[openDemocracy, 2/10/20\]](#)

Heartbeat International Published The First “Study” On The Fake “Post-Abortion Syndrome.” “Sister Paula [Vandegaer, a founder and former Board Member of Heartbeat International] also noted that it was the faith-based counselors working in our movement who were the first to diagnose (and later name) what is now known widely as ‘post-abortion syndrome’ (PAS). The magazine of our organization called Heartbeat, published by Sister Paula from our West Coast office in Los Angeles, published the first research on post-abortion syndrome, including how to recognize it and offer help.” [\[Heartbeat International, Accessed 7/8/21\]](#)

Read more about Heartbeat International at [Pro-Lies.org](#) and in Equity Forward’s [November 2021 fact sheet](#).

Human Coalition

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Their Joint *Dobbs* Brief, Human Coalition And Students For Life Falsely Argue That There Is “No Evidence” That Illegal Abortion Is Unsafe And Posits That Abortion Is Not Necessary Due To “50 Years Of Societal Progress” And Growing Numbers Of Deceptive Anti-Abortion Centers. “Roe incorrectly centered on the assumption that legalizing abortion would end “back alley” abortions. But no evidence indicates that thousands of women died every year in the United States from illegal abortion in the years preceding the Supreme Court’s decision ... Culture has shifted since Roe was rendered. To acquiesce that abortion is necessary for women is to ignore 50 years of societal progress. Options for women are more diverse than ever. In 2019 alone, 2,700 pregnancy resource centers across the country, outnumbering abortion clinics 20 to 1, provided nearly \$270 million dollars in assistance to 2 million people nationwide.” [\[Human Coalition, Students for Life *Dobbs* Brief, July 2021\]](#)

Extremism Background

Human Coalition is an anti-abortion group led by extremists with concerning views on abortion and gender. The Human Coalition manipulates big data to target and discourage people from getting abortions, steer them into its anti-abortion centers, and ensure that their pregnancies are brought to full term. Human Coalition has abused state and federal funding to spread its religious beliefs and push its extremist views.

Human Coalition Talks About Abortions And Those Who Seek Them In Inaccurate And Offensive Ways

Human Coalition Refers To Extramarital Sex As “Unrighteous.” “In very subtle ways, we often rejoice in someone’s unrighteousness. It could be congratulating a young man after he spends the night with an attractive woman (iniquity), or wanting to be included in the gossip (iniquity), and many other subtle forms.” [[Human Coalition, Love Never Fails Sermon, 2017](#)]

Human Coalition Founder And Former President Brian Fisher Compared Having An Abortion After Rape To Being Robbed And Then Murdering A Bystander. “We agree it isn’t fair when a woman is raped and then faces the crises and hardships that come with an unplanned pregnancy. In fact, it is tragic. But does it give her or anyone else the moral right to kill an innocent human being? Imagine you are robbed and beaten at gunpoint. You have months of suffering and healing ahead of you, and it may take years to recover from the psychological impact. The crimes committed against you were unfair — do you now have the right to kill an innocent stranger on the street because you’ve been victimized?” [[Human Coalition, 5/27/14](#)]

Human Coalition Founder And Former President Brian Fisher Diminished The Very Real And Dangerous Health Problems People May Face During Pregnancy. “It’s worth noting a few cautions and clarifications when dealing with this issue: the ‘health’ of the mother and the ‘life’ of the mother are two very different things. For decades, the ‘health of the mother’ has been used to justify abortion for almost any reason. Because ‘health’ is virtually impossible to define, a woman who is even mildly upset that she is pregnant can abort her child under this ambiguous phrase. Be wary of this critical distinction.” [[Human Coalition, 5/27/14](#)]

Human Coalition Manipulates Big Data To Target Pregnant People

Human Coalition Was Renamed From Online For Life — A Search Engine Optimization Organization Focused On Manipulating Big Data. “Human Coalition was renamed a few years ago from Online for Life, and focuses on online search engine optimization — which uses keywords women searching for pregnancy-related services online might use — as well as crisis pregnancy centers.” [[The News & Observer, 6/21/19](#)]

Human Coalition Uses A Variety Of Internet-Based Strategies To Deceive People. “A recent Media Matters for America (MMFA) report highlighted the anti-choice Human Coalition — responsible for multiple pieces in the New York Times’ opinion pages — as another CPC organization taking advantage of technological tools. It pointed out that, in addition to the strategically targeted Google ads, Human Coalition web pages appear to be legitimate clinics providing abortion care and directing would-be patients to call the hotline ‘to speak to a specialist’. As MMFA noted, ‘According to the organization’s website, the contact center focuses on staffing ‘paid, trained call agents’ in order to ‘convert in-bound calls, chats, and texts into kept appointments’ at CPCs in and beyond Human Coalition’s network.” [[Rewire, 5/12/17](#)]

Google Searches For Abortion Clinics In Human Coalition Cities Yield Deceptively Sponsored Ads From Fake Abortion Clinics Connected To Human Coalition. “If people Google ‘abortion’ and a location targeted by the Human Coalition, they will see an advertisement at the top of their page for a nonexistent clinic that provides ‘Free Abortion Consultations’. For example, when searching for ‘abortion’ and ‘Pittsburgh’, the first ad on Google is for ‘Pittsburgh Women’s Clinic’, a facility that does not exist but claims to offer ‘Free Abortion Consultations’.” [[Media Matters for America, 5/10/17](#)]

Read more about the Human Coalition at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Mary Ann Glendon

Amicus Brief Highlight

Glendon's *Dobbs* Amicus Brief Negates Abortion As A Constitutional Right And Pushes A Narrative Of Its "Destructive" Path. "The Court's abortion jurisprudence grafts on to American law a constitutionally unwarranted, false, and destructive account of human identity and flourishing." [[Mary Ann Glendon *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, 11/18/21](#)]

Extremism Background

Mary Ann Glendon is a law professor whose work centers on a [narrow interpretation of human rights](#). She has decades of experience pushing her views — prioritizing religious liberty as a reason for denying [women](#) care and [LGBTQIA+ people](#) rights — through various international bodies, including as a representative for the [Vatican](#). She served as Chair of Trump's State Department's Commission on Unalienable Rights, which co-opted human rights rhetoric to negate LGBTQIA+ rights and the right to abortion.

Former Secretary Of State Pompeo Appointed Glendon The Head Of The Unalienable Rights Commission And In Forming It, Drew On Her Ideas Contesting "Women's Rights Are Human Rights" And Her Narrow Interpretation Of Human Rights

Mary Ann Glendon Has A Narrow Interpretation Of Human Rights. "Pompeo's definition of 'unalienable rights' draws on the ideas of a legal scholar who has staked her career on making a stark distinction between human rights and women's rights. Mary Ann Glendon is a Harvard Law School professor, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, and outspoken opponent of same-sex marriage and abortion. Pompeo has not just drawn on Glendon's ideas but also appointed her as the head of the new commission. According to [Glendon](#), 'Human rights are women's rights. ... But it is not the case that whatever a particular nation state decides to call a woman's 'right' is necessarily a universal human right.'" [[Washington Post, 8/15/19](#)]

Glendon's Narrowing Of The Meaning Of Human Rights Served To Execute The Trump Administration's Efforts To Curtail Reproductive Rights Globally. "Differentiating between 'unalienable rights' and 'ad hoc rights' does the same thing as Glendon's contrast between human rights and women's rights: They both narrow the meaning of human rights to the natural law and rights of the U.S. political tradition. This undermines the international feminist movement and other movements for social, economic, and racial justice that have driven the development of universal human rights over the 20th century. Such a definition legitimizes, for instance, [Pompeo's recent expansion of](#) the Mexico City Policy, also known as the global gag rule, which denies U.S. foreign aid to organizations offering abortion-related services or advocacy." [[Washington Post, 8/15/19](#)]

Glendon Supports The Catholic Church's Anti-Abortion, Anti-Contraception Stances And Has Been Recognized As A "Hero Of The Pro-Life Movement"

Glendon Led The Vatican's Delegation To The 1995 UN Conference On Women In Beijing, Where She Represented The Pope's Anti-Reproductive Rights Beliefs. "Mary Ann Glendon, the Harvard law professor who is the Vatican's surprising choice to head its delegation to the United Nations Conference on Women that starts next week in Beijing ... says she could not agree more with John Paul II, a Pope known for his rigid defense of traditional Catholic

teachings not only on abortion but also on contraception and the role of women in the church.”
[[New York Times, 6/29/95](#)]

Glendon Received Notre Dame’s 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award For “Heroes Of The Pro-Life Movement.” “Harvard Law School Professor and former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See [Mary Ann Glendon](#) received the [Evangelium Vitae Medal from the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture](#). She received the medal at an April 28 banquet held at Notre Dame in her honor. Named for St. John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical on life issues, the Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal is a lifetime achievement award given to ‘heroes of the pro-life movement’. It honors individuals whose efforts have served ‘to proclaim the Gospel of human life by steadfastly affirming and defending its sanctity from its earliest stages’.” [[Harvard Law Today, 5/4/18](#)]

Read more about Mary Ann Glendon on [Global Spotlight](#) and on the Commission on Unalienable Rights [here](#).

March for Life (M4L)

Amicus Brief Highlight

M4L’s *Dobbs* Brief Fear Mongered About The “Harmful Effects” Of Abortion, Which Is Extremely Safe, By Downplaying The Very Real Risks Of Pregnancy Itself And Falsely Linking Abortion To Cervical Cancer — Which Can Make Giving Birth Even More Dangerous. “Abortion’s harmful effects on women are not limited to their psychological health. Other women have suffered ‘chronic bladder infections, debilitating menstrual cycles, cervical cancer and early hysterectomy’ as a result. See *MKB Mgmt. Corp.*, 795 F.3d at 775. A study found that women’s complications from abortion, including heavy bleeding, severe pain, incomplete abortions, and infection in the upper genital tract, took place in 6.7% of all abortions.” [[M4L Dobbs Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

March for Life was founded in 1974 by extremist Nellie Gray, who organized a march on Washington in hopes of overturning Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Eventually, Gray, the group’s sole employee, turned the march into an annual event for the anti-abortion movement. March for Life now hosts the largest gathering of anti-abortion advocates in the United States and often uses its influential platform to promote violent extremists. M4L has used its platform to influence federal policy and inspire copycat marches in 20 nations worldwide.

March For Life And Its Founder Nellie Gray Hold Extremist, Unyielding Anti-Abortion Views And Goals

March For Life’s Ideology And Policy Goals Rest On Its “Life Principles,” Which Call For A Constitutional Amendment To Ban Abortion. “Soon after that first March in 1974, it became apparent that congressional protection for the unborn was not on the horizon. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Nellie decided that the MARCH FOR LIFE, rather than the originally anticipated one-time event, would instead be held every year until Roe v. Wade was overturned. That year, the March for Life became incorporated as an action-oriented nonprofit organization, and the ‘Life Principles’ were developed as the underlying guideline of the organization.”

[[Marchforlife.org Accessed, 4/12/19](#)]

The “Life Principles” Call For A Constitutional Amendment That Defines Life As Beginning At Fertilization And Bans Abortion. “With these Life Principles in mind, the March for Life is the collective effort of grassroots pro-life Americans to assure that our state and federal laws shall protect the right to life of each human in existence at fertilization. An important step is the adoption of a Mandatory Human Life Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Such an amendment would be simple and require that individuals and society provide protection for the right to life of each human in existence at fertilization. It would require that state laws conform to the Constitution and provide the same protection. Thus, the Life Principles provide guidance and purpose to the grassroots pro-life volunteers in our efforts to be effective through our education and action programs.” [[MarchForLife.org Accessed, 4/22/19](#)]

Nellie Gray Supported A Total Abortion Ban, Referred To Abortion As Murder And Frequently Compared Abortion To The Holocaust

Gray Believed All Abortion Was Murder And Supported A Total Abortion Ban. “A Roman Catholic, Ms. Gray believed that life began at fertilization, and that abortion was murder and not acceptable for any reason: not for rape or incest, for severe abnormalities in the fetus or to save the woman’s life.” [[New York Times, 8/16/12](#)]

Nellie Gray: “We Shall Unify And Stop The Evil Of Abortion Because It Is Evil.” [[New York Times, 8/16/12](#)]

Nellie Gray: “Well, First Of All There Should Be No Abortions, Period, In Our Country Because It’s A Homicide.” [PBS NewsHour, 6/15/77]

Gray Told The Press That The March For Life Exists “So The World Will Continue To Know ... There Is A Strong Pro-Life Voice ... To Stop This American Holocaust.” “‘March for Life’ organizer Nellie Gray said the ‘real hard news’ about Friday’s demonstration ‘is that thousands of pro-lifers continue to make an annual witness for life ... (so) the world will continue to know that abortion is an abomination and that there is a strong pro-life voice of the citizenry to stop this American holocaust’.” [United Press International, 1/21/1982]

Gray Said That Abortion Was At Odds With Civil Rights And Prosecuting The Nazis For Crimes Against Humanity. “‘It was such a shock to think that anyone would kill an innocent human being’, she told a television interviewer. To allow abortion, she said, was out of character for a nation that had recently passed civil rights laws and had helped at the Nuremberg trials to convict Nazis of crimes against humanity.” [[New York Times, 8/16/12](#)]

Gray Said That If The U.S. Applied The “Principles” Of The Nuremberg Trials, Abortions Would End “Overnight.” “In that same interview, she said that the U.S. had forgotten the ‘principles’ of the Nuremberg Trials by allowing abortion. ‘If we applied the same principles to ourselves, we would stop abortion overnight’, she said.” [[Heavy, 1/26/17](#)]

Read more about M4L at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Monique Chireau Wubbenhorst

Amicus Brief Highlight

Wubbenhorst’s *Dobbs* Brief Claims That “Roe and Casey’s Viability Standard Is Incomplete and Outdated According to Current Science.” “This Court reconsiders constitutional precedent ‘when it is convinced that its earlier decision rested on a dated or incorrect view of the facts or law’. Current science makes clear that Roe and Casey’s viability standard is out-of-date. Since those cases were decided, scientific advancements have allowed both physicians and the public to learn more about the unborn child and its development, including its capacity to feel pain. Technology has allowed the fetus to be viable outside the mother’s womb significantly earlier, and has allowed physicians to provide medical treatment, even surgery, to the fetus in utero. Mainstream medicine considers the unborn child a patient. These developments have revealed the human form of the fetus and undermine viability as the sole factor States may consider in limiting abortion. Roe and Casey’s fundamental premise is therefore outmoded and must be reconsidered because of current science.” [[Wubbenhorst Dobbs brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Dr. Monique Chireau Wubbenhorst was the [senior deputy assistant administrator for USAID’s Bureau of Global Health](#) during the Trump administration. Prior to this role, Wubbenhorst was a faculty member at Duke University School of Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Wubbenhorst served as [board member](#) for [The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) and [Americans United for Life](#), and is affiliated with [anti-abortion](#) research group [World Expert Consortium for Abortion Research and Education](#). She has given public speeches against abortion at [the Heritage Foundation](#), faulted [the #MeToo movement](#) as an adverse outcome of the sexual revolution, testified [against the Women’s Health Protection Act](#), and otherwise used her prestigious academic background to advocate against evidence-based contraception, abortion, and reproductive health care.

Concerningly, Wubbenhorst Is A Medical Doctor Who Thinks Family Planning “Is A Mirage”

Wubbenhorst Wrote That Family Planning Is A “Mirage” And That “God Has The Ultimate Power To Open And Shut The Womb.” “Couples can also hope when they stop contraception and try to become pregnant that they will succeed. But prolonged contraceptive effect and delayed return of fertility is well known with Depo-Provera ([35-37](#)). Sadly, it is also well-documented that many women have contracepted past the limits of their own natural fertility (for an especially poignant discussion of this modern dilemma, see *Creating a Life: Professional Women and the Quest for Children* by Sylvia Ann Hewlett; [38-41](#)). Human beings cannot decide infallibly that they will or will not become pregnant when they want to. ‘Family planning’ is a mirage which promotes the illusion that we have a degree of control over life that, as humans, we simply do not have. The Bible states that God has the ultimate power to open and shut the womb.” [[Christian Journal for Global Health, 10/23/17](#)]

Wubbenhorst Is Firmly Against Abortion And Promoting Usage Of Birth Control, Positions She Has Backed Up With Debunked Medical Claims And Junk Science

Wubbenhorst Seems To Believe That Any Type Of Intervention That Prevents Pregnancy Is Unacceptable. “For Christians who believe that life begins at implantation, methods that disrupt an implanted pregnancy are abortifacient and, therefore, not acceptable. These may include the drugs ulipristal (Ella, which blocks the action of progesterone) or mifepristone (part of medical abortion protocols). The mechanism of action of both these drugs appears to be

embryocidal, but they are recommended for use as emergency contraception (EC). EC is universally promoted alongside other types of contraception. Conversely, for Christians who believe that life begins at conception, contraceptive methods that prevent or interfere with implantation and therefore indirectly embryocidal are unacceptable.” [[Christian Journal for Global Health, 10/23/17](#)]

...And Actively Discourages Promoting All Birth Control Methods Except Fertility Awareness. “Do not promote any contraceptive technology that is life-destroying. Encourage the use of free or very low-cost, low-tech methods (such as Fertility Awareness) which do not require outside inputs, have low or no side effects, require shared responsibility, and for which there is no financial incentive or profit motive.” [[Christian Journal for Global Health, 10/23/17](#)]

In A Senate Testimony Against The Women’s Health Protection Act, Wubbenhorst Cited A Research Study That Falsely Linked Adverse Mental Health Outcomes To Abortion Care. “A robust literature exists on mental health problems following abortion. Coleman (2011) performed a meta-analysis which included 22 studies and 877,181 women. An 81% increase in mental health problems including depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicide was noted in women who had induced abortion. The risk for mental health problems was increased [by] 55% in women who had induced abortion compared with those who gave birth. Therefore, any assertions that there are no significant risks to abortion, either medical or surgical, are contradicted by data.” [[Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony, 7/15/14](#)]

Read more about Wubbenhorst on [Global Spotlight](#).

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC)

Amicus Brief Highlight

The NRLC’s *Dobbs* Amicus Brief Argued That Abortion Regulation Is Part Of Maternal Health. “The new roadmap should reaffirm the state’s interest in protecting maternal health, which may be asserted to justify abortion regulation, where appropriate.” [[NRLC *Dobbs* Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

[Founded in 1968](#), National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) touts itself as the “oldest and largest” grassroots, pro-life organization. The group has state level affiliates in all [50 states](#), thousands of [local chapters](#), and boasts “[hundreds of thousands](#)” of members. National Right to Life’s strategy to reframe the public debate is to push anti-abortion viewpoints based on misleading or false medical science using [films](#) and [targeted campaigns](#). NRLC and its leaders coined the term “[partial-birth abortion](#)” as well as the [theory](#) behind Todd Akin’s infamous “legitimate rape” comment. NRLC also pushes [model legislation](#) on the state and federal levels to [restrict abortion access](#) and [mandate medically dubious practices](#).

A Former National Right To Life President Originated The Theory That A Woman’s Body Can Naturally Prevent Them From Getting Pregnant From Rape

Former NRLC President John C. Wilke Is The Creator Of The Theory That A Woman Who Is Raped Is Less Likely To Become Pregnant. “Dr. John C. Willke, a general practitioner with obstetric training and a former president of the National Right to Life Committee, was an early

proponent of this view, articulating it in a book originally published in 1985 and again in a 1999 article. He reiterated it in an interview Monday. ‘This is a traumatic thing — she is, shall we say, she’s uptight’, Dr. Willke said of a woman being raped, adding, ‘She is frightened, tight, and so on. And sperm, if deposited in her vagina, are less likely to be able to fertilize. The tubes are spastic.’” [[New York Times 8/21/12](#)]

- **This Theory Was Later Made Infamous By Missouri Republican Todd Akin, Who Claimed That Women Would Not Become Pregnant From “Legitimate Rape.”** “It seems to be, first of all, from what I understand from doctors, it’s really rare. If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut the whole thing down.” [[New York Times 8/20/12](#)]

NRLC Promotes The False Idea That Abortions Have Numerous Physical And Physiological Side Effects, Including Death And Suicide

National Right To Life Falsely Claims Abortions “Cause Post-Abortion Syndrome,” Which It Says Can Lead To Drug Abuse, “Personal Relationship Disorders,” And Suicide.

“Researchers on the after-effects of abortion have identified a pattern of psychological problems known as Post-Abortion Syndrome (PAS). Women suffering PAS may experience drug and alcohol abuse, personal relationship disorders, sexual dysfunction, repeated abortions, communications difficulties, damaged self-esteem, and even attempt suicide. Post-Abortion Syndrome appears to be a type of pattern of denial which may last for five to ten years before emotional difficulties surface.” [[NRLC.org Accessed 6/05/19](#)]

National Right To Life Claims That Abortions Can Cause Death, Divorce, And Suicide.

“Why is this so? Because induced abortion is the premature, willful, and violent penetration of a closed and safeguarded system — a system in which nearly every cell, tissue, and organ of a woman’s reproductive system has been specially transformed and activated to carry out the function of sustaining and nourishing the developing child. Not surprisingly, any violation of the integrity of that system can lead to serious complications. Physical problems range from hemorrhage and infection to sterility and even death. Psychological effects range from depression and mental trauma to divorce and even suicide.” [[NRLC.org Accessed 6/05/19](#)]

- **A 2018 American Medical Association Study Showed “No Evidence” That “Abortion Causes Depression.”** “Abortions don’t cause depression ... researchers reported Wednesday. The study is the latest to show no evidence that abortion causes depression. ‘Policies that cite damage to mental health as a reason to restrict access to abortion are not based in fact’, the researchers wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association’s JAMA Psychiatry. ‘The repercussions of abortion for mental health have been used to justify state policies that limit access to abortion in the United States’, the team, led by Dr. Julia Steinberg of the Department of Family Science at the University of Maryland, wrote ... Some anti-abortion-rights groups claim that psychiatrists have a diagnosis called ‘post-abortion syndrome’ or ‘post-abortion stress syndrome’, although no such diagnosis exists in medical texts.” [[NBC News, 5/30/18](#)]

Read more about NRLC at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Priests for Life (PFL)

Amicus Brief Highlight

In An Apparent Attempt To Negate The Need For Abortion, PFL Claims In Its *Dobbs* Brief That “Safe Haven Laws” And Deceptive Anti-Abortion Centers Provide Enough Support To Pregnant People. After nearly 50 years of abortion on demand, there is now a mounting body of evidence of the harm caused by abortion. The steady flow of new pro-life bills and laws indicates that the American people continue to reject the radical and extreme terms of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Many individual states, including Mississippi, have taken pivotal measures to protect human life and provide more assistance for mothers at the state level. Safe Haven laws now exist, where mothers can relinquish all responsibilities if the child is unwanted or if they are unable to raise their baby for any reason. In addition, there are scores of crisis pregnancy centers which assist pregnant woman with housing, parenting classes, baby items, and support.” [[Priests for Life *Dobbs* Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Priests For Life (PFL) [sprung forth from a letter writing campaign](#) to oppose a pro-abortion ballot initiative in the early 1990s. Since then, Priests For Life has split time between trying to influence elections, displaying [extremely graphic images in public](#), and [allying themselves](#) with violent anti-abortion protestors. Priests For Life’s work and public image is dominated by its leader, Frank Pavone, who often compares himself to [canonized saints](#) in the Catholic Church. Pavone also openly opposes the separation of church and state and [claims the state needs more church in it](#). In recent years, Priests For Life has livestreamed [its support of Donald Trump](#) and publicly opposed [rape and incest exemptions](#) in anti-abortion laws.

Priests For Life Works With Violent Anti-Abortion Activists And Has Hand Waved Killings Of Abortion Doctors — Despite Its Claim To Support Nonviolent Protest

Priests For Life National Director Frank Pavone: “When Someone Kills An Abortion Provider, He/She Is Practicing What Pro-Choicers Have Preached For Decades: That Sometimes It Is OK To Choose To End A Life To Solve A Problem.” [[Catholics For Choice, Page 14, Accessed 9/19/19](#)]

Priests For Life Says Anti-Abortion Activists Do Not Promote Violence, And That Only Pro-Abortion Can Be Credibly Accused Of Promoting Violence ... “They cannot say that the pro-life movement promotes violence, because the leaders of every major pro-life group in the nation have expressed their opposition to the shooting of abortionists ... It is the rhetoric of ‘choice’ that fuels violence. By exalting ‘choice’ and ‘freedom’, even when the free choice is the killing of a human being, this rhetoric degrades the value of all human life. ‘Abortion on demand — no apologies’. That is the rhetoric of violence. It does not deny that abortion kills children. It simply says, ‘I don’t care. My choice is more important than the child’s life’.” [[PriestsForLife.org, Accessed 4/22/19](#)]

...But Pavone advocated for “guerilla warfare” tactics against abortion providers “including threats and acts of physical violence in blocking them.” “Father Pavone also openly declares that ‘breaking a law of trespass to prevent killing is perfectly justified if it rescues babies (from abortion clinics) and in other circumstances’. In his booklet *Our Media in the Streets*, he advocates guerrilla warfare tactics against women’s healthcare clinics that include threats and acts of physical violence in blockading them, despite a new law of Congress forbidding such behavior.” [The Herald, 1/09/01]

Priests For Life Uses Lies And Disinformation To Aid Its Anti-Abortion Crusades

Pavone Claimed That Abortion Providers Sexually Abuse Patients, Launder Money, And Violate OSHA Standards. “‘And when we look there’, he said, ‘we see the truth that I have often reiterated, that you cannot practice vice virtuously. If you have such a seared conscience that you’re killing babies, well, friends, you’re going to be doing a lot of other evil things as well: medical malpractice, sexual abuse of patients, violation of OSHA standards, insurance laws, money laundering, all kinds of fraud and, yes, even the sale of body parts. All of this and much more is going on in the abortion industry.’” [[Right Wing Watch, 12/15/15](#)]

Pavone Advocates For Misleading And Redirecting Women Seeking Abortion Clinics To Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Clinics. “Pavone’s manual recommends the ‘Chicago method’ of misleading and redirecting pregnant women as they approach clinics. The method as outlined by Pavone entails warning a woman about supposed malpractice lawsuits against the abortion clinic and recommending an ‘alternative center’ with a ‘neutral-sounding name’ — ‘You might even offer to escort her there’.” [[Catholics For Choice, Page 17, Accessed 9/19/19](#)]

Pavone Wrote An Op-Ed Which Opposes Laws Requiring Anti-Abortion Pregnancy Centers To Offer Referrals To Abortion Clinics. “There is, however, nothing commercial about pregnancy resource centers, which are nonprofit organizations that offer free goods and services to their clients. They’re akin to legal aid offices, which offer no-cost services and advice.” [[Chicago Tribune, 3/20/18](#)]

Read more about Priests for Life at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Susan B. Anthony List

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Its *Dobbs* Brief, SBA List Creatively Tries To Weave The Argument That An Increase In Women’s Representation In State Legislatures Since *Roe* And *Casey* Makes The Case For SCOTUS Letting States Decide What To Do Re: Abortion Legality. “The number of women elected to state legislative bodies has increased substantially in the years since *Casey*. Indeed, for the first time, women now make up more than 30 percent of state legislators overall. And the historically high number of women serving today reflects a message that is increasingly clear: ‘If women run, they win’ ... Those differences also highlight why this Court — no longer composed entirely of men — can and should show greater deference to the outcomes of state legislative processes on the issue of abortion: Women are better represented now than at any time in our country’s history. And, although abortion is far from being solely a women’s issue, the increase in women’s voices and perspectives guarantees that, as legislatures across the country debate the issue, women’s concerns will not be ignored or minimized like they might have been when *Roe* was decided... Even though they have not yet reached gender parity in most legislatures, women today are far better represented than at any point in the country’s history. As their numbers have grown, so too has their ability to effect substantive change. For this reason, the Court should give more deference to legislatures, the bodies principally tasked under our Constitution with responsibility for protecting the people’s health and welfare, in the context of abortion regulation.” [[SBA List *Dobbs* Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Susan B. Anthony List, commonly referred to as SBA List, is one of the most [influential](#) anti-abortion groups in Washington. Its playbook includes endorsing anti-abortion lawmakers, lobbying state and federal legislators and executive branch officials for extremist legislation, and voter influence campaigns. The [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#), [Women Speak Out PAC](#), [National Pro-Life Women's Caucus](#), and the [Life Issues Institute](#) are all branches and affiliates of SBA List. The group works at the federal and state levels on issues ranging from [opposing the ACA birth control mandate](#) to [supporting a near total abortion ban in Ohio](#) to urging the Trump administration to end \$100 million of critical lifesaving medical research because it relies on fetal tissue.

Susan B. Anthony List's Influence As A Political Group Is Well-Documented

SBA List Is An Anti-Abortion Political Group That Seeks To Be The Political Arm Of The Anti-Abortion Movement. “When we started about 20 years ago, you would not put the pro-life movement and the NRA in the same category. You just wouldn't”, she says. ‘For us, it’s the issue that deserves a political machine more than any other. That’s been my goal — to make this issue, which is so fundamental, have the strongest political arm they could possibly have. That’s the direction I see this heading in.’ [\[Mother Jones, 2/22/12\]](#)

Susan B. Anthony List And Its President, Marjorie Dannenfelser, Want To Ban Abortion In Nearly All Circumstances

In 2016, SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser Said That Her “Perfect Abortion Bill” Would Ban Abortion In All Circumstances (Including Rape And Incest), Except For When A Woman’s Life Is At Risk. “Mrs Dannenfelser is also reluctant to be drawn on some of the heavily debated exceptions to the pro-life rule. Polling shows that a public majority, in America and in Britain, agree that women and girls should have access to abortion after rape, for example. Mrs Dannenfelser isn’t convinced. In fact, she’s hugely frustrated that anti-abortion bills have been blocked in the past because of a lack of exception clauses, when they make up such a tiny proportion of cases. So what would her ‘perfect abortion bill’ look like? She says, eventually, before her pragmatism rears its head. ‘But we’re not living a perfect world, and I have also been behind bills that have included the rape, incest, and life of the mother exception.’” [\[Telegraph, 9/26/16\]](#)

SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser Believes That Rape Exceptions For Abortion Are “Abominable.” “Susan B. Anthony List president Marjorie Dannenfelser, who moderated the press conference and whose organization has been a prominent backer of the 20-week ban in its current form, said that she believes that rape exceptions are ‘abominable’. ‘I agree. I agree that the rape exception is abominable’, she told LifeSiteNews. ‘I also know that with it, we were able to move forward, and we have the potential of saving 15,000 to 18,000 children a year. No one should give up or give over a rape exception unless there is simply no chance of saving those other children. I really believe that’.” [\[Life Site News, 6/11/15\]](#)

Read more about SBA List at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

Students for Life of America (SFLA)

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Their Joint *Dobbs* Brief, Human Coalition And Students For Life Falsely Argue That There Is “No Evidence” That Illegal Abortion Is Unsafe And Posits That Abortion Is Not Necessary Due To “50 Years Of Societal Progress” And Growing Numbers Of Deceptive Anti-Abortion Centers. “Roe incorrectly centered on the assumption that legalizing abortion would end “back alley” abortions. But no evidence indicates that thousands of women died every year in the United States from illegal abortion in the years preceding the Supreme Court’s decision ... Culture has shifted since Roe was rendered. To acquiesce that abortion is necessary for women is to ignore 50 years of societal progress. Options for women are more diverse than ever. In 2019 alone, 2,700 pregnancy resource centers across the country, outnumbering abortion clinics 20 to 1, provided nearly \$270 million dollars in assistance to 2 million people nationwide.” [[Human Coalition, Students for Life *Dobbs* Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

Students For Life of America (SFLA) exists to “recruit, train, and mobilize” younger generations to fulfill its goal of abolishing abortion. SFLA aims to engage with children and young adults “during the crucial developmental years” and mold them into anti-abortion activists.

Students For Life Of America Targets Children To Influence Them During “Crucial Developmental Years”

SFLA Brags About Reaching “Young People During [Their] Crucial Developmental Years,” Targeting Students As Young As Middle School Age. “Students for Life reaches young people during the crucial developmental years of middle school through high school and college, inviting them to belong to a growing movement that respects the value of human life and stands up for those who don’t have a voice. Students for Life gives them a movement to belong to.” [[SFLA Annual Report 2017-18 Page 6](#)]

SFLA Offers Fellowship Programs For High School And College Students, Pairing Them With Anti-Abortion “Mentors” For “A Future In The Pro-Life Movement.” “The Wilberforce Fellowship for college students and Stevens Fellowships for high school students have been developed to raise the next generation of pro-life leadership. These fellowships train college and high school pro-life activists to be leaders at their schools (and beyond) and help network those student leaders with a mentor in the national pro-life movement to help further develop their skills. Simply put, the SFLA Leadership Fellowships are the training you need for a future in the pro-life movement! For more information on either fellowship, visit [studentsforlife.org](#).” [[SFLA Advanced Tactics Guidebook Page 29 Accessed 4/29/19](#)]

Students For Life Of America Teaches Its Members, Some Of Whom Are Middle School-Aged, Hateful And Inflammatory Anti-Abortion Viewpoints And Tactics

SFLA Teaches Its Members That Abortion Supporters Do “Not Care About Rape, Incest, Or Even The Woman” And Claim That Pro-Abortion Arguments Which Bring Up Examples Of Rape Or Incest Are Designed To Make Anti-Abortion Forces Look “Insensitive.” “Let’s focus on one hard case: rape. There will be two people who are going to ask you about rape. The first is someone who is honestly and earnestly curious about your position. They are conflicted about these situations, and they are wondering how you would respond. The second is the crusader. This person does not care about rape, incest, or even the woman; they want abortion to be legal in all cases, for any reason. They use these hard cases to try to break the pro-lifers’ ‘no exceptions’ stance. If they believe that abortion should be legal

in all cases, then why are they depending on the rape cases to defend their argument? They use this case because they know that this makes you look insensitive.” [[5 Logical Fallacies Pro-Aborts Use And How To Respond Page 11 accessed 3/29/19](#)]

SFLA Leadership Claims That Abortion Is A Form Of “Black Genocide.” Painting Abortion Providers As Eugenicists

SFLA Encouraged Its Middle School Members To Screen A Movie That Claims Abortion Is A Form Of “Black Genocide.” “A stunning expository of the rampant racism in the abortion industry, that began as a eugenics movement and continues today in the targeting of minority communities by Planned Parenthood.” [[Studentsforlife.org Accessed 3/29/19](#)]

- **The Film, *Maafa 21*, Is A Part Of A Larger Campaign To Paint Abortion Providers As Eugenicists Who Participate In Genocide — All While Anti-Abortion Forces Have Made It More Difficult For Women Of Color To Access Abortion Services.** “More recently, in 2009, the anti-abortion group Life Dynamics released a documentary film, *Maafa 21: Black Genocide in 21st Century America*. Named after a Swahili term for the abduction of Africans into slavery, the film employed ominous music and grainy photographs of plantation slave quarters to condemn Planned Parenthood for leading a racist campaign of population control and eugenics. (‘The end of slavery was the beginning of their bondage’, reads a title card in a trailer for the film.) The following year, ‘Abortion is black genocide’ billboards began to appear around the country, bearing messages like ‘Black children are an endangered species’ and ‘The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb’. Around the same time came a wave of proposed state and federal anti-abortion legislation wrapped in anti-discrimination and human rights rhetoric — such as Representative Trent Franks’ (R-Arizona) Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2011 (co-sponsored by then-Representative Mike Pence), which would have made it more difficult for women of color to get abortions.” [[Pacific Standard 9/16/19](#)]

SFLA Pushed College Organizers To Hold Events During Black History Month And Claim Planned Parenthood Aims To “[Kill] The Black Population.” “This February, SFLA strongly encourages you to expose Planned Parenthood. Expose the racism that is killing this generation— and particularly killing the black population. In this short month, you have plenty of opportunities to share statistics, post flyers, host discussions, show movies, and more! Take some time to check out these resources, and discuss with your group what you will do to EXPOSE Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry’s racist agenda.” [[StudentsForLife.org Accessed 3/29/19](#)]

Read more about SFLA at [Pro-Lies.org](#).

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Amicus Brief Highlight

In Its *Dobbs* Brief, USCCB Negates The Right To Abortion By Cherry Picking And Citing Abortion Prohibitions Throughout American History. “The Constitution does not create a right to an abortion of an unborn child before viability or at any other stage of pregnancy. Abortion is inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this Court has accorded constitutional protection. An asserted right to abortion has no basis in constitutional

text or in American history and tradition. Quite the contrary, abortion prohibitions have been common throughout American history, including during the colonial and founding eras, in 1868 when the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified, and in 1973 when Roe was issued.” [[USCCB Dobbs Amicus Brief, July 2021](#)]

Extremism Background

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [works](#) to “unify, coordinate, encourage, promote, and carry on Catholic activities in the United States,” “organize and conduct religious, charitable, and social welfare work at home and abroad,” and to “aid in education.” In doing so, USCCB has dissuaded lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines due to fear mongering over research using fetal tissue, taught contraception as “morally wrong,” and donated money to anti-abortion, anti-birth control centers.

USCCB Elevated Ideology Over Science To Dissuade People From Getting The Lifesaving COVID-19 Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The U.S. Conference Of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Issued A Statement Urging Catholics To Avoid Johnson & Johnson’s Vaccine Due To The Use Of Human Fetal Tissue During Vaccine Development. “On Tuesday, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops [urged](#) Catholics to avoid taking the Johnson & Johnson [coronavirus](#) vaccine and to choose alternatives from Pfizer or Moderna instead because Johnson & Johnson used cells derived decades ago from an abortion to create the vaccine.” [[Washington Post, 3/2/21](#)]

The USCCB Statement Contained Biased Rhetoric Employed By Anti-Science, Anti-Abortion Groups. “On March 2, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine recently approved for use in the United States. The approval of Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines. Pfizer’s and Moderna’s vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested, and produced with abortion-derived cell lines, raising additional moral concerns. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that ‘when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process’.[1] However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna’s vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson’s.” [[USCCB, 3/2/21](#)]

The USCCB Statement Ignores The Strategic Advantage Of The Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Compared To Moderna And Pfizer. “The Johnson & Johnson vaccine offers a [strategic advantage](#) to a vaccine rollout as demand continues to outweigh supply. Not only does the one-shot dose allow for quicker and more widespread inoculations, it can be stored in a regular refrigerator for months.” [[Washington Post, 3/2/21](#)]

USCCB’s Directive Contradicted Statements Issued By The Pope Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations. “The leadership in New Orleans said two other vaccines in use in the US, made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, were acceptable despite having been developed with ‘some lab testing that utilized the abortion-derived cell line’. The archdiocese made the [announcement](#) on Friday. The statement put the archdiocese at odds with Pope Francis. In December, [the Vatican said](#) it was ‘morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process’, as the use of such vaccines ‘does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive’.” [\[Guardian, 3/2/21\]](#)

The USCCB Website Claims That “Contraception Is Morally Wrong”

The USCCB Website Stated That “Contraception Is Morally Wrong Not Simply Because Of Its Direct Link To Abortion; It Is Wrong In Itself.” “Contraception is morally wrong not simply because of its direct link to abortion; it is wrong in itself. In his 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI gives an authoritative definition of contraception as ‘every action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible’. Paul VI goes on to reaffirm the Church’s constant teaching that such actions are intrinsically evil (*intrinsece inhonestum*), explaining that contraception violates ‘the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act’.” [\[USCCB, accessed 4/1/19\]](#)

The USCCB Website Has Claimed That “Promoting Contraception, Especially Among The Young, Condone And Even Encourages Immoral Sexual Activity.” “In the first place, promoting contraception, especially among the young, condones and even encourages immoral sexual activity. Even if contraceptives are provided and used, this activity will lead to many pregnancies, since all methods of contraception have a failure rate. Moreover, the children who come to be as unwanted are likely to be aborted, or neglected and abused, because, unlike children who are unplanned by people open to new life, they were rejected in advance.” [\[USCCB, accessed 4/1/19\]](#)

USCCB Has Given Funding To The Anti-Abortion Chain Of Clinics Obria, Which Received Title X Family Planning Funding But Does Not Provide Birth Control

The United States Conference Of Catholic Bishops, Which Comprises The Country’s Catholic Leadership, Donated \$2.5 Million To The Anti-Abortion Chain Of Clinics, Obria. “The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which comprises the country’s Catholic leadership, donated \$2.5 million, according to the filings and the conference. And the Roman Catholic Bishop of Orange, which is affiliated with the Catholic diocese in California’s Orange County, donated another \$560,000. A spokeswoman said the money came from the sale of roses on Mother’s Day.” [\[New York Times, 3/29/19\]](#)

- **In 2019, The Trump Administration Awarded Obria A Total Of \$5.1 Million In Title X Family Planning Grants Over The Course Of Three Years...** “Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the Obria Group will receive \$5.1 million over the course of three years in Title X Family Planning funding to expand services to low income individuals and families in four California counties. The Obria Group will oversee the work of seven clinic partners including three of its own California affiliates.” [\[Obria Press Release, 3/29/19\]](#)

- **...Thereafter, Obria Founder And CEO Said That Obria Clinics Have Never And Will Not Distribute/Refer For Birth Control.** “Obria Group insists that it neither prescribes nor refers for artificial birth control. Kathleen Eaton-Bravo, founder and CEO of the Obria Group, told LifeSiteNews, ‘Obria clinics have never distributed or referred for contraceptives and have no plans to do so’.” [[Life Site News, 4/18/19](#)]