

Assisted suicide hearing held

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Make 2020 a lifesaving year

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Student Day is coming

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47th MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE

# **JOIN US AS WE MARCH TO DEFEND THE DEFENSELESS ON JAN. 22**

**BY PAUL STARK** 

JAN. 22, 2020, MARKS 47 YEARS since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions. Those rulings nullified legal protection for unborn children nationwide.

The consequences? About 650,000 unborn children have been killed here in Minnesota. More than 60 million have been killed nationwide. Women, men, and families have been wounded. Our culture has been stained.



### Come speak out

You can join us on Wednesday, Jan. 22, to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade by mourning the devastation of abortion and calling

### **MCCL March for Life**

Wednesday • Jan. 22 • Noon

**State Capitol** 

for change. The MCCL March for Life is the largest annual gathering of pro-life Minnesotans to speak out for the dignity and human rights of all members of the human family.

The 2020 event will be MCCL's 47th March for Life. Each year, we celebrate the progress that has been made—the hearts changed, the laws passed, the families supported, the unborn lives saved—while also recognizing the ongoing injustice of abortion, steeling our resolve to make a difference, and emphatically sending the message that we will not stop working until everyone is protected.

This is the great human rights issue of our time. Please come to make your voice heard!

### Bring others with you

The March for Life begins at noon on the grounds of the state Capitol in St. Paul. It is followed by a brief program at 12:30 on the Capitol steps. (In case of severe weather, please call MCCL or check our website—mccl. org—for updates.)

Please also urge your state lawmakers to attend the March. They need to witness the call of the pro-life movement to make protection of innocent life a top priority in 2020.

Come and march for life on Jan. 22 and bring others with you! Thank you! MCCL

## Lawsuit against pro-life laws moves forward

Challenge to protective measures could take 12-18 months

BY PAUL STARK

### A LAWSUIT AIMING TO STRIKE DOWN

numerous abortion-related laws in Minnesota has taken its first step forward. The case, Doe v. Minnesota, received an initial court hearing on Oct. 30. It is expected to take 12 to 18 months to reach its resolution.

"This lawsuit targets commonsense and lifesaving measures that help protect and empower pregnant women and their unborn **children,"** says MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "The courts should not go along with this legally groundless effort to wipe protections off the books."

### Commonsense measures targeted

The targeted Minnesota laws include, among others, Woman's Right to Know, which ensures informed consent prior to abortion; parental notification, which ensures that parents are notified before a minor undergoes abortion; abortion data reporting, which requires that basic data about abortion in Minnesota is collected; and the physician-only requirement, which requires that people who perform abortions be physicians.

The suit—which was brought by local abortion activists represented by Gender Justice and the Lawyering Project—was filed on May 29 in Ramsey County District Court. The state of Minnesota filed a response on Sept. 25 arguing that the case should be dismissed. "The plaintiffs want to re-write Minnesota law with respect to abortion," the state's memo explained. "The courts are not the right vehicle for that effort—the Legislature is."

LAWSUIT continued on PAGE 5

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



# We won't stop marching for life until everyone is protected

### **BY LEO LALONDE**

**THE SUPREME COURT**, in its 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions, ruled that the American people weren't allowed to protect unborn children anymore. **The Court said that abortion must be legal for any reason whether we like it or not**.

### Why we march

In the decades since, abortion advocates have hoped that abortion would just become a normal part of American life. They have hoped that we would all just get used to it. They have hoped that you and I would look away and forget the millions of children killed and the women hurt.

But we will not look away. We will not forget. And we will not stop working to save as many lives as we can.

That's why we March for Life.

We march to remember the lives lost and the people wounded. And we march to say that this has to change. We march to say that every human being has human rights that deserve respect and protection.

That is a message worth sending! So please join me at the MCCL March for Life at

noon on Jan. 22 at the state Capitol (see page 1 for details). You don't want to miss it!

### We've done a lot of good

Despite the travesty of Roe v. Wade, the pro-life movement has done of a lot of good since then. Pregnant women have been helped and supported. Citizens have been informed and persuaded. Modest pro-life laws (the ones the courts haven't struck down) have been enacted. **And all of these things have helped reduce the number of abortions significantly.** 

Yet nearly 10,000 unborn children were still killed in Minnesota last year. Nearly 900,000 are killed nationwide each year. Unborn children are still excluded from the protection of our laws—and allowed to be killed and discarded by an abortion industry devoted to their destruction.

There is no injustice in American society today that is quite like abortion. So, while lives have been saved and pro-life efforts have done tremendous good, there is so much more to do!

### **Every effort makes a difference**

We are hopeful that, in the not-too-distant future, the Court will fully or at least partially overturn Roe v. Wade. The 2020 presidential election will probably have something to do with that. (It's crucial to have a president who nominates good justices to fill vacancies on the Court.) Overturning Roe would allow states to provide greater legal protection for unborn children and their mothers. It would save a lot of lives.

**But whatever the future holds, we will keep working.** We will keep changing hearts and minds. We will keep trying to make our laws more protective of human life. We will keep striving to make abortion unthinkable. Every little effort makes a difference.

**Thank you for partnering with MCCL in this crucial work.** I look forward to seeing you at the MCCL March for Life on Jan. 22!

# Thanks for doubling your gift to MCCL!

**PRO-LIFERS ACROSS THE STATE** participated in our 24-hour fundraising challenge on Nov. 14, Give to the Max Day. All gifts to the MCCL Education Fund were matched!

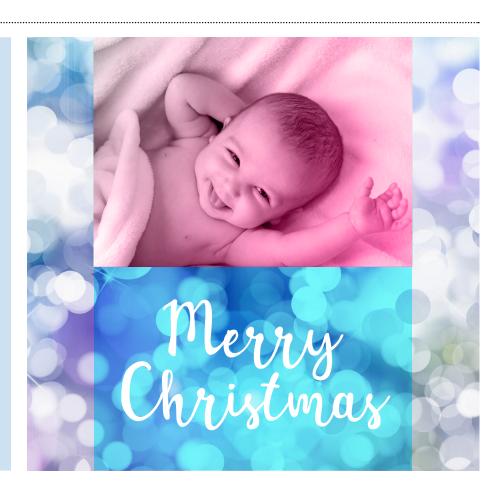
We are truly grateful to everyone who made this possible by your generosity. **Thank you for strengthening MCCL's education programs!** 

### Missed Give to the Max Day?

Participate in the season of giving:

- **Visit mccl.org/donate or call 612-825-6831** to make your year-end, tax-deductible gift, or use the coupon on page 7.
- Add MCCL to your Christmas gift list.
- Call Jan Ochsner at 320-492-4510 to discuss giving options.

Thank you for your faithful support!



# PRO-LIFE BY PAUL STARK UPDATE

# Assisted suicide bill receives hearing in Minnesota

A MINNESOTA HOUSE COMMITTEE held an informational hearing Sept. 11 on a bill to legalize assisted suicide in Minnesota. The legislation would authorize doctors to prescribe lethal drugs so that patients can intentionally end their lives.

"Assisted suicide is a danger to all of us," says MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "Contrary to the assertions of activists trying to generate public support for this bill, legalizing assisted suicide would pose real risks to Minnesotans."

### **Connect with MCCL!**



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MCCL was incorporated in June, 1968, under the Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation Act for the purpose of engaging in educational, charitable, scientific and literary activities and projects. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1. To improve and further personal and social responsibility for human life.
- ${\bf 2.}\, {\bf To}\, {\bf foster}\, {\bf and}\, {\bf increase}\, {\bf protection}\, {\bf of}\, {\bf the}\, {\bf right}\, {\bf to}\, {\bf life}\, {\bf of}\, {\bf mother}\, {\bf and}\, {\bf child}.$
- 3. To inform the public on abortion and related subjects.
- 4. To foster high standards of medical care in the state of Minnesota.
- To promote and encourage assistance in the care and rearing of children with birth defects.
- To promote enlightened care and assistance to mother and child in crisis pregnancies.
- 7. To cause to be published and to distribute treatises, articles, addresses, reports and other publications on any or all subjects related to those above.

From MCCL Articles of Incorporation

Nothing in this Newspaper, except paid advertising, should be construed as supporting or opposing any candidate for public office.

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Disability rights advocate Kathy Ware testified against the bill to legalize assisted suicide on Sept. 11.

H.F. 2152, authored by Rep. Mike Freiberg (DFL-Golden Valley), was heard by the Health and Human Services Policy Committee. The hearing was only informational; no vote was taken. Similar legislation has been proposed in recent years but has never advanced out of a legislative committee.

"People who are at risk of suicide deserve our protection," says Fischbach. "Those facing an adverse prognosis or the challenges of disability deserve our protection no less than physically healthy and able-bodied people. We all matter."

# U.S. abortions continue downward trend

In September, the Guttmacher Institute released its latest report on the incidence of abortion in the United States. Guttmacher, a research organization closely aligned with the abortion industry, surveys abortion centers directly and compiles the most comprehensive national abortion data available. (The Centers for Disease Control releases national abortion numbers based on reports from state health departments, but not every state reports abortion data.)

In 2017, according to the new Guttmacher findings, 862,000 abortions were performed, a drop from 1.06 million in 2011 and the peak of 1.6 million in 1990. The abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age) fell from 16.9 in 2011 to 13.5 in 2017, which is lower than at any time since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Many factors have likely contributed to this long-term pro-life trend, including ultrasound technology, pro-life education, protective laws, and the life-affirming work of pregnancy care centers

# Planned Parenthood fires president

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America fired its president, Dr. Leana Wen, in July—reportedly because she did not adequately prioritize abortion advocacy and aggressive political engagement. "[Planned Parenthood's] leadership has determined that the priority of Planned Parenthood moving forward is to double down on abortion rights advocacy," Wen explained in a departure memo.

The organization's priorities were already clear. Planned Parenthood performed 332,757 abortions in 2017 (an increase of more than 11,000 over the previous year), according to the group's latest annual report, and took in a record \$1.67 billion in revenue during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. But while revenue has increased 59 percent since 2009, non-abortion services have declined. Contraceptive services have dropped 32 percent since 2009, while cancer screenings (mostly manual breast exams and pap tests) have fallen 66 percent.

In Minnesota, Planned Parenthood performed a record-high 6,292 abortions in 2018, a 44 percent jump since 2013, according to the Department of Health.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

How a Court decision 24 years ago imposed tax-funded abortion in Minnesota

#### **BY PAUL STARK**

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S ROE V. WADE and Doe v. Bolton decisions in 1973 made abortion legal across the United States. But a court ruling here in Minnesota—24 years ago this month—went even

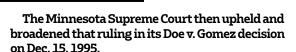
### Lawsuit leads to abortion funding

It started in 1993. That's when an abortion advocacy group filed a lawsuit challenging Minnesota's ban on taxpayer funding of abortion.

The lawsuit led to a 1994 decision by a Hennepin County District Court judge, who ruled that women have a "privacy right" to abortion under the Minnesota Constitution—and that the right to equal protection entails that the government, which pays for prenatal care for low-income women, must also pay for abortions for low-income women.

### **Abortions** Reimbursed by **Minnesota Taxpayers**

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

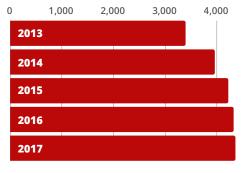


According to Doe v. Gomez, the Minnesota Constitution, like the U.S. Constitution according to Roe v. Wade, requires legalized abortion. But Doe also requires public funding of abortion for women receiving state assistance—something not required at the national level under Roe.

### **Devastating results**

Doe, then, was a genuinely extreme decision. The results of that ruling have been horrific.

In 2017, taxpayers bankrolled a record-high 4,356 abortions at a cost of \$1.06 million, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.



State-funded abortions have risen each of the last four years—a 28 percent jump since 2013.

Taxpayer funding gives the abortion industry an easy revenue stream by allowing it to offer "free" abortions to economically vulnerable women. It keeps the number of abortions higher than it would otherwise be. Women, children, and taxpayers all

In 2011 and 2017, MCCL helped pass legislation that would challenge Doe v. Gomez by prohibiting taxpayer funding of abortion, but both bills were vetoed by the governor. The Doe decision is currently the basis for a lawsuit aiming to strike down numerous pro-life laws in Minnesota (see page 1). MCCL

# Fischbach steps back from Federal PAC; wife launches campaign for Congress

AS OF SEPT. 1, 2019, MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach no longer has a role with the MCCL Federal PAC (political action committee). His wife, Michelle, has launched a campaign for Congress. While Scott will continue to serve as executive director of MCCL, Inc., he can no longer have any role with the Federal PAC due to Federal Election Commission campaign finance laws.

Michelle Fischbach announced her candidacy for Congress in Minnesota's 7th District on Sept. 3 after serving as a state senator, president of the Minnesota Senate, and lieutenant governor.

Michelle and Scott Fischbach

During her tenure in the Legislature, she cast 149 pro-life votes out of a

possible 149-a 100 percent career pro-life voting record.

The 7th Congressional District seat is currently held by Rep. Collin Peterson, who has a 71 percent pro-life voting record in the current term (as of Dec. 2), according to the National Right to Life Committee. MCCL

IF YOU ARE A TEENAGER WHO LIKES TO WRITE, National Right to Life has a contest for you!

The National Right to Life 2020 Pro-Life Essay Contest is open to students in grades 7-12 who want to use their writing skills to make a difference in protecting life. The topic is: "Why are you pro-

### Win cash, get published

The Junior Essay Contest is for grades 7-9; the Senior Essay Contest is for grades 10-12. Winning essays will be published in NRL News and the 2020 NRL Convention Handbook. There are also cash prizes!

Minnesota's Elizabeth Grant placed first in the 2019 junior division, and Minnesota's Mara Cobb placed first in the 2016 senior division. You could be Minnesota's next winner!

Essays must be 300-500 words in length; send a print copy by U.S. mail, postmarked by Jan. 21, 2020. Essays must be your own work. For all the details and submission requirements, visit the NRL website at nrlc.org/students/essaycontest.

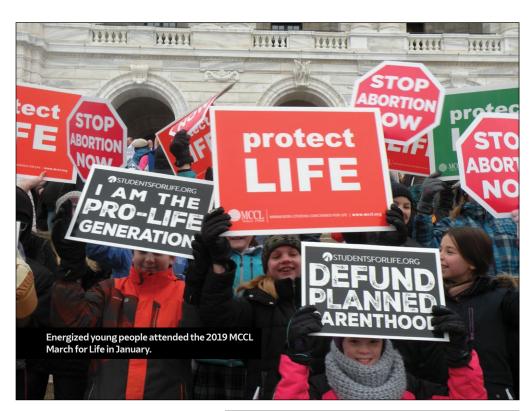
**Pro-life** teens: Why are you pro-life?



# §2019

# **A Year in Pictures**

Educating, equipping, and inspiring thanks to your support













LAWSUIT continued from PAGE 1

### Pro-abortion campaign launched

The plaintiffs cite the Minnesota Supreme Court's Doe v. Gomez ruling in 1995 (see page 4) to bolster their claim that Minnesota's pro-life laws are unconstitutional. Activists have also formed a coalition, called Unrestrict Minnesota, to try to generate public support for

"Similarly extreme lawsuits have succeeded elsewhere," Fischbach says. "But this 'Unrestrict Minnesota' campaign is simply at odds with the views and values of most Minnesotans." MCCL





### YOU CAN HONOR LOVED ONES bu

making a contribution in another person's name to advance the cause of life. Your gift to MCCL's Tribute and Memorial Program will enable MCCL to continue and/or expand our vital pro-life efforts on behalf of unborn children and other defenseless human beings.

MCCL will send an acknowledgment card to the honored person or to the family of the deceased (without indicating the specific amount given) and a postcard to the donor to confirm receipt of the gift. Donors who wish to have their remembrances published in MCCL News may note a request for publication at the time of the donation.

Contributions are deductible as charitable giving for income tax purposes.

# Your contribution is sincerely appreciated.

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PLEASE SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO:
Name
Address
City, State, Zip
FROM:
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Address
City, State, Zip
E-mail Address
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Recent contributions to statewide pro-life activities include these remembrances:



In memory of Robert L. Rohlin, from Dee Rohlin.

## You can help make 2020 a lifesaving year

Here are some ways to get involved

### **BY PAUL STARK**

**MANY VERY IMPORTANT EVENTS** will take place in the next year. We need you to get involved!

Lives are on the line in 2020. The outcome of the fall elections will affect federal and state policies that directly impact unborn children, their mothers, and other vulnerable human beings.

Meanwhile, MCCL plans to use our programs, events, and other activities to educate more and more Minnesotans of the humanity of unborn children, the inhumanity of abortion, and the life-affirming alternatives to abortion that are available. And we'll work to advance pro-life legislation—and defeat life-destructive measures—at the Capitol in St. Paul.

If you want to be part of our lifesaving mission, here are a few simple ways you can join us to make a difference in 2020:

### **Election**

Attend your precinct caucus on Feb. 25 to support pro-life resolutions and choose pro-life delegates, then vote in the presidential primary on Mar. 3, the primary election on Aug. 11, and the general election on Nov. 2. Learn where the candidates stand on life, and share our Voter's Guide and candidate comparison fliers (coming later in 2020) with others.

### **Events**

Come to MCCL's March for Life on Jan. 22—and bring others with you (see page 1)! Also be sure to

invite your own students, or students you know, to participate in MCCL's Student Day at the Capitol on either Feb. 12 or Mar. 30 (see page 7) as well as MCCL's Life Leadership Camp from Aug. 2-6.

### Legislation

Contact your elected officials during the state legislative session, which begins Feb. 11. **Urge** them to support MCCL-backed pro-life legislation and to oppose harmful measures, such as a current bill to legalize assisted suicide (see page 3).

### **Volunteer**

Volunteer for a shift staffing MCCL's pro-life booth at your local county fair or at the State Fair next summer. Your presence will help inform Minnesotans about fetal development, abortion, and the right to life.

### **Get connected**

Follow MCCL on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and share our posts (see page 3). Become a member of MCCL if you aren't already—and encourage others to do the same. Everything MCCL does is only possible with the faithful and generous support of our members!

More information about these and other opportunities can be found online at mccl.org or by contacting MCCL. Thank you for working with us to save lives!



### January 22

MCCL March for Life

### February 11

Legislative session begins

### February 12

MCCL Student Day at the Capitol (#1)

### February 25

Precinct caucuses

### March 3

Minnesota presidential primary

### March 30

MCCL Student Day at the Capitol (#2)

### August 2-6

MCCL Life Leadership Camp

### **August 11**

Primary Election Day

### November 2

General Election Day



## SHARE GAINS WITH MCCL IN YEAR-END GIVING

	Count me in! Enclosed is my year-end gift to MCCL  Please print.
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	Amount enclosed □ \$30 □ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$500 □ \$250 □ Other \$ □ Please contact me regarding transfer of stocks, bonds and other assets. □ An acknowledgment is not necessary.
1	Clip and mail to:  MCCL Education Fund   4249 Nicollet Ave.   Minneapolis, MN 55409
į	Gifts to the MCCL Education Fund are 100% deductible as charitable contributions for

### **CONSIDER GIVING A SPECIAL**

**GIFT** to ensure that MCCL's prolife education outreach continues with a financial gift of stock or appreciated assets. Giving a gift to MCCL before year's end aids our lifesaving efforts and **may provide you significant financial advantages.** 

## Your gains can benefit MCCL

Your transferred gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other assets that have been held for more than one year benefit you in several ways:

**You may deduct** the full current value from taxable income;

You are exempted from paying the capital gains tax otherwise due on a sale of assets; and

**You are ensured** that your dollars are used to their fullest extent by MCCL.

It is safe and easy to transfer securities electronically from your

account directly to MCCL. Simply instruct your financial advisor to transfer an asset to benefit MCCL before Jan. 1, 2020. Provide the following information for a direct transfer of assets, then contact MCCL to let us know that you have made this request.

**Account Name:** Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund, Inc.

**DTC:** #0164

**Broker/Dealer:** Charles Schwab

& Co., Inc.

**Account #:** 1505-1254

Many MCCL contributors also choose to make a **year-end cash gift to our ongoing work.** 

### Easy, effective giving

There are many opportunities to contribute to MCCL's lifesaving work—and they're all easy for you. Contact your financial advisor for more information about year-end giving, or call the MCCL state office at 612-825-6831.

## Coming soon: MCCL's Student Day at the Capitol

income tax purposes.

The unique event for grades 7-12 will be held Feb. 12 and March 30

**STUDENT DAY AT THE CAPITOL** will be here soon! The annual event, one of MCCL's longest-running programs for young people, brings students to St. Paul for a day of pro-life education and political involvement.

MCCL's 17th Student Day will be offered on both Feb. 12 and March 30, 2020, due to limited space at the Capitol. Students can pick either day to attend.

### **Unique opportunity**

The event is a unique opportunity for students in grades 7-12 to learn about and participate in the political process. The day begins with educational sessions that cover abortion, current pro-life legislation, the legislative process, how to lobby elected officials, and more.

In the afternoon, most students are able to meet with their own legislators and lobby them to support pro-life legislation. The students may also tour the Capitol and hear from pro-life elected officials.

### You are invited

If you are a student in grades 7-12, we invite you to attend. If you know students who are that age (in your church, school, or community), please invite them to participate. Fliers are available at mccl.org/studentday or by calling 612-825-6831.

Will you help us promote this valuable day?

### **Register online**

Students need to pre-register. **Learn more and register at our website or by calling our state office.** A nominal \$10 donation includes lunch.

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. each of the two days and runs until 2:00 p.m. The combined event is limited to 200 participants, so please register early to ensure a spot.



# COME TO THE CAPITOL

# STAND FOR LIFE!

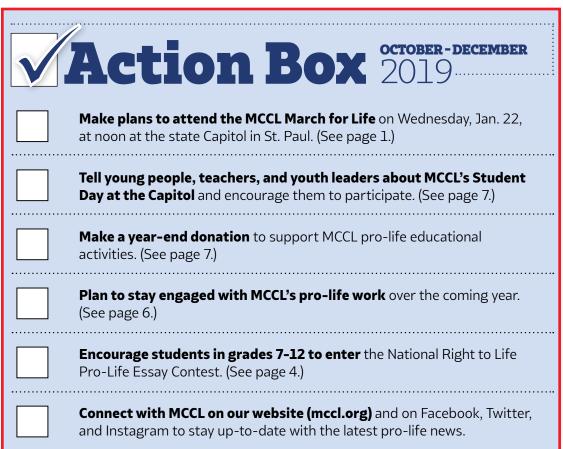




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