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MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Your trusted source for pro-life news

Visit us online at: www.MCCL.org



Feb. 25: Attend your precinct caucus, select pro-life delegates

Make a difference for life by getting involved in the political process

BY PAUL STARK

YOU'RE PROBABLY PLANNING to vote in the crucial General Election on Nov. 3. But you can make an even bigger difference for the cause of life by getting involved earlier in the political process. It all starts with the precinct caucuses on Tuesday, Feb. 25

What are caucuses?

Precinct caucuses are local meetings run by political parties. Anyone may participate if they live in the precinct, are eligible to vote in 2020, and generally agree with the principles of the party hosting the meeting.

At your caucus, you will have the opportunity to select delegates who will then endorse state and federal candidates at future party conventions. Pro-life delegates are necessary in order for the party to endorse pro-life candidates!

By attending the caucus, you can support delegates who prioritize the protection and support of unborn children and their mothers. Better yet, you can be a delegate yourself! **Becoming a delegate or alternate should be your top priority at your caucus.**

Only a small percentage of citizens attend precinct caucuses, which means your participation can have a substantial impact on which candidates are endorsed—and, eventually, which public policies are enacted.

Precinct Caucuses Tuesday,

Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

Presidential Primary Tuesday, March 3

Find your caucus location and primary polling place online at www.sos.state.mn.us or by calling 1-877-600-VOTE (8683).

Proposing resolutions

Your caucus will also offer you the chance to propose resolutions that could later become part of your party's platform. Changes to a platform, however, are very difficult to make.

If your party platform is not already pro-life, you may consider proposing resolutions if you think there is a chance of passage. Any caucus participant may propose a resolution; be sure to bring one or more print copies with you. If passed by the caucus, your resolution will be forwarded for consideration by the resolutions committee of the county or legislative district convention.

Here are two sample resolutions you may use:

- 1. "Be it resolved that we support legal protection for unborn children from abortion."
- 2. "Be it resolved that we oppose all attempts to legalize assisted suicide in Minnesota."

A huge opportunity

The 2020 elections are a huge opportunity for pro-life Minnesotans to make a lifesaving difference. But it begins with attending precinct caucuses and electing pro-life delegates!

The caucuses take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25. You can find the location of your caucus on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us (select "Elections & Voting").

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We need you as we launch a big year for the cause of life

BY LEO LALONDE

A LOT IS GOING TO HAPPEN in 2020. Let's make it a lifesaving year!

We kicked things off with the MCCL March for Life on Jan. 22. I am always thrilled to see so many of you come to make your voices heard on behalf of unborn children and their mothers. Forty-seven years after the Supreme Court imposed legalized abortion, you won't give up. You won't let the victims of abortion be forgotten. You won't quit saying that every human being has human rights.

Our pro-life work over the years has helped reduce abortions and save lives, but about 10,000 children still die in Minnesota each year because of abortion. We have a long way to go. This year, however, will have ramifications that stretch long into the future.

Court rulings will impact life

Two court cases could have a huge impact. Here in Minnesota, a lawsuit was filed challenging nearly all of Minnesota's pro-life laws, including our Woman's Right to Know informed consent law and our parental notification law. **These are abortion-reducing measures that are now in real jeopardy. The case could be resolved sometime this year.**

At the federal level, the Supreme Court is evaluating a Louisiana abortion law in a case that, at the very least, will affect the ability of states to enact commonsense

protections for women (see page 3). Whatever the justices decide this summer, it will generate a lot of attention—especially because this is an election year.

Election stakes are huge

Speaking of which: The stakes this fall are huge. The presidential race will determine the fate of numerous pro-life policies, as well as (many think) the balance of the Supreme Court—and the future of its Roe v. Wade decision that imposed abortion.

At the state level, legislative races will determine whether the Legislature is controlled by abortion advocates—who could repeal pro-life laws or advance extreme new legislation—or whether a pro-life majority can stop harmful measures and advance protective ones.

MCCL will be working very hard this year. It won't just be our usual pro-life educational programs and our legislative work at the Capitol. It will also be our election efforts: our Voter's Guides, our candidate comparison fliers, our emails and phone calls and postcards. We need every pro-life Minnesotan to know where the candidates stand on life. And we need them to know the stakes.

Three things you can do

What can you do? Let me offer three simple things you can do right now at the start of 2020. **First, make sure you're a member of MCCL, and encourage family and friends to join us too.** Members are the foundation of everything we do. Consider becoming a monthly donor to bolster MCCL's efforts throughout this crucial year (see page 7).

Second, get involved early in the political process this year. **That means** attending your precinct caucus on Feb. 25, helping to choose pro-life delegates—and becoming a delegate yourself (see page 1). And make sure to vote pro-life in the presidential primary on March 3 (see article on page 3).

Third, get connected with MCCL to stay abreast of the latest pro-life news and upcoming MCCL events. Find our website at mccl.org, and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/mnprolife), Twitter (twitter.com/mccl_org), and Instagram (instagram.com/mccl_org).

I believe this will be a banner year for the pro-life movement. Thanks for being part of it!



Honor mothers with MCCL ad

IT'S NOT TOO SOON to begin planning for Mother's Day on May 10! MCCL's Mother's Day print ad is a meaningful way to acknowledge mothers of all ages. **It is a loving reminder of their sacrifices on behalf of their children.**

The ad is available in full color or black and white, and can be sized to fit any publication. **The ad materials are available at no charge from MCCL**; however, most newspapers will charge you to run it.

Simply contact us at pstark@mccl.org or by calling the MCCL office. We will email the ad directly to your newspaper or church; this will provide the best quality reproduction. Please provide the publication's advertising email address when you contact us.



There's still time! Come to MCCL's Student Day on March 30

MCCL'S ANNUAL Student Day at the Capitol is taking place this year on both Feb. 12 and March 30 (students pick one). There's still time to register for the March 30 event!

Student Day is a unique experience for young people in grades 7-12 to learn about the importance of protecting life and to participate in the political process. The day begins with educational sessions that instruct students about abortion, pro-life legislation, and the legislative process. In the afternoon, most students are able to meet with their own legislators and lobby them to support pro-life legislation.

Register soon

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. and runs until about 2:00 p.m. A nominal \$10 donation includes lunch.

Please register soon, or encourage students in your family, church, or community to participate! You can learn more and register at mccl.org/studentday or by contacting MCCL.

MCCL

pro-life practition hospital continue to the practition hospital h

practitioners to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The safety measure is meant to ensure continuity of care in the event of complications from

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP became the first president to speak in person at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 24. Previous presidents had addressed the March via audio or video feed.

"Every life brings love into this world. Every child brings joy to a family. Every person is worth protecting," Trump said during his speech. "And above all, we know that every human soul is divine, and every human life—born and unborn—is made in the holy image of Almighty God."

The president recounted the pro-life policies of his administration and contrasted them with the views of candidates from the opposing party. "Democrats have embraced the most radical and extreme positions taken and seen in this country for years, and decades—and you can even say 'for centuries," he said. "Nearly every top Democrat in Congress now supports taxpayer-funded abortion, all the way up until the moment of birth."

Supreme Court takes up key abortion case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case involving a Louisiana law that requires abortion



A decision by the Court to uphold the law could have lifesaving implications in states where no abortionists are able to obtain admitting

President Trump attends national

privileges. The Court could also use the case to make broader changes to its abortion jurisprudence.

The Court will hear arguments in the case in March, and a decision is expected by the end of the term in June.

Planned Parenthood's abortion numbers hit record high

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America released its latest (2018-2019) annual report in January. The report shows that the group performed a record-high 345,672 abortions in 2018 (up from 332,757 in 2017 and 321,592 in 2016), now accounting for an estimated 40 percent of all abortions nationwide.

Planned Parenthood's contraception services,

by contrast, declined for the sixth year in a row. Cancer screenings and other non-abortion services also dropped. The group took in \$1.64 billion in revenue in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Planned Parenthood fired its president, Leana Wen, last summer reportedly because she did not prioritize abortion as aggressively as the organization wanted.

MCCL Federal PAC endorses Michelle Fischbach

On Jan. 15, the MCCL Federal PAC (political action committee) endorsed Michelle Fischbach for U.S. House in Minnesota's 7th Congressional District, which covers most of western Minnesota.

Fischbach, a former lieutenant governor and president of the Minnesota Senate, compiled a 100 percent pro-life voting record (149 pro-life votes out of a possible 149) during her tenure at the Legislature. She also took the lead in advancing pro-life legislation, authoring or co-sponsoring virtually every major pro-life bill over her two-plus decades in the Senate.

The incumbent in the 7th District, Congressman Collin Peterson, scored a 50 percent pro-life voting record in 2019, according to National Right to Life's scorecard. **MCCL**



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- 1. To improve and further personal and social responsibility for human life.
- 2. To foster and increase protection of the right to life of mother and child.
- 3. To inform the public on abortion and related subjects.
- 4. To foster high standards of medical care in the state of Minnesota.
- 5. To promote and encourage assistance in the care and rearing of children with birth defects.
- 6. 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

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VOTE IN MINNESOTA'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ON MARCH 3

FOR YEARS, Minnesota's political parties have chosen their preferred presidential nominee at precinct caucuses.

That's changing this year. Minnesota will instead hold a statewide presidential nomination primary on March 3 ("Super Tuesday"), when 13 other states will also hold their presidential primaries.

Who's on your ballot?

Republican voters will receive a ballot that includes the incumbent president, Donald Trump, and an option to write in another name. Democratic-Farmer-Labor voters will receive a ballot that lists 15 Democratic candidates running against him, including Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg, Amy

Klobuchar, and Michael Bloomberg (along with some candidates who have already dropped out of the race).

Trump has implemented various pro-life policies during his presidency, while all of the major Democratic candidates favor virtually unlimited abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion. You can find a presidential candidate comparison flier on the National Right to Life website (nrlc.org).

Voting has begun

Early voting by absentee ballot has already begun.

More information—including your polling location on March 3—is available online at www.sos.state.

mn.us (select "Elections & Voting").

MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE MARKS ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY WITH CALL FOR PROTECTION, COMPASSION

Annual gathering commemorates decisions stripping unborn children of protection

BY PAUL STARK

THOUSANDS OF MINNESOTANS joined the 2020 MCCL March for Life on Jan. 22 at the state Capitol in St. Paul to mourn the injustice of abortion and to call for protection for unborn children and support for their mothers. The annual event marks the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions, which struck down laws protecting unborn children nationwide.

"I am incredibly energized looking out at so many Minnesotans, all from different backgrounds and walks of life, willing to brave the weather and stand side by side in defense of the most vulnerable," Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08) told the robust crowd gathered from across the state.

60+ million lost

Since the Supreme Court's rulings, more than 60 million human beings have been legally killed through abortion in the United States, including about 650,000 in Minnesota. While the number of abortions has declined in recent years, 9,910 unborn

Minnesota children lost their lives in 2018 alone, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

"We must never forget the devastation of abortion. Each life lost is irreplaceable," MCCL's Cathy Blaeser said during the program on the Capitol steps. "As we look forward to the coming year—to pending court cases, to legislative battles, and to the elections this fall that could impact life for decades to come—let's remember the crucial importance of every single innocent human being."

Legislative agenda announced

MCCL announced support for two pro-life bills in the upcoming state legislative session. One bill (H.F. 1312 and S.F. 1609) would protect unborn children from abortion after 20 weeks post-conception, when substantial evidence shows they can experience pain. The other bill (H.F. 1108 and S.F. 1168) would ensure that abortion-seeking women have the option to view their ultrasound prior to undergoing abortion. Both measures advanced last year in the Minnesota Senate but failed to do so in the House.

Stauber, whose son has Down syndrome, explained his support for federal legislation to prohibit abortion on the basis of that diagnosis. "I believe life is a gift that must be cherished and defended," he said. "Whenever I look at my son Isaac, I see a marvelous creation from God."

Elected officials participate

Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa) and Assistant House Minority Leader Tony Albright (R-Prior Lake) also addressed the crowd of pro-life Minnesotans and applauded their commitment. "You're standing up for life, and yet you still care for the women who have gone through abortion," said Gazelka. "You're compassionate; you're reaching out to them to bring healing."

Congressmen Jim Hagedorn (MN-01) and Collin Peterson (MN-07) sent written greetings. Numerous Minnesota legislators, former Congressman Jason Lewis, and former Lieutenant Governor Michelle Fischbach attended the March and were introduced to the crowd (see the list of elected officials on page 5).





MARCHFORLIFE







Minnesota legislators attend the **March for Life**















MCCL Secretary/Treasurer Cathy Blaeser



State senators:

Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, Jim Abeler, Bruce Anderson, Paul T. Anderson, Michelle Benson, Rich Draheim, Dan Hall, Jeff Howe, John lasinski, Mark Koran, Eric Pratt, lason Rarick, Jerry Relph, David Senjem, and Paul Utke

State representatives:

Assistant Minority Leader Tony Albright, Paul H. Anderson, Cal Bahr, Greg Boe, Brian Daniels, Lisa Demuth, Bob Dettmer, Sondra Erickson, Glenn Gruenhagen, Jerry Hertaus, Brian Johnson, Tony Jurgens, Jon Koznick, Ron Kresha, Sandy Layman, Eric Lucero, Tim Miller, Jim Nash, Paul Novotny, Marion O'Neill, John Poston, Kristin Robbins, Peggy Scott, Tama Theis, and Bob Vogel

Former elected officials:

Former Congressman Jason Lewis, Former Lt. Gov. Michelle Fischbach, Former Rep. David FitzSimmons, and Former Rep. Pam Myhra



YOU CAN HONOR LOVED ONES by

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.

THANK YOU!

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Pro-Life 101

BY PAUL STARK

This article first appeared in the June 2019 issue of National Right to Life News.

THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT AIMS TO SECURE JUSTICE AND SHOW COMPASSION—NOT 'IMPOSE RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE'

"RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS," warned Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-05) last year, "are currently trying to manipulate state laws in order to impose their beliefs on an entire society."

She was talking about efforts to legally protect human beings *in utero* from acts of lethal violence. Opposition to abortion, Omar and many other abortion defenders say, is a religious belief—and we should not enshrine religious beliefs in our laws.

Some people who say they "personally oppose" abortion—including politicians like Joe Biden, John Kerry, Tim Kaine, and the late Mario Cuomo—express the same view. "I'm prepared to accept as a matter of faith ... that at the moment of conception there's human life and being," said Biden in a 2015 interview, "but I'm not prepared to impose doctrine that I'm prepared to accept on the rest of [the country]."

Pro-life = science + human rights

This is a pretty big misunderstanding. The pro-life position is about justice, not religious doctrine. It's based on (1) the biological reality that human embryos and fetuses are members of the species *Homo sapiens* (does Biden call other scientific facts "a matter of faith"?) and (2) the principle that all human beings have human rights and deserve protection under the law.

Opposition to killing unborn children is no more inherently "religious" than opposition to killing anyone else. Just as people of any or no religious faith can recognize the injustice of killing teenagers, so too can people of any or no faith recognize the injustice of abortion. Indeed, as the organization Secular Pro-life observes, polls indicate that about 13 million Americans with no religious affiliation think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.

Religious views aren't illegitimate

fb.com/mnprolife

Of course, a number of religious traditions affirm that abortion is wrong, but they also affirm that theft and child abuse are wrong. That doesn't make laws against stealing and abuse illegitimate. Many pro-life people hold religious convictions, and those convictions may influence or motivate their position on abortion. But that fact should not disqualify it from public consideration. After all, we typically don't think that way about other issues.

Religious faith inspired efforts to abolish slavery and secure civil rights. Religious faith moves many people to support public policies that alleviate poverty, protect the environment, and combat human trafficking. Even some abortion defenders—like U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice—invoke religious beliefs to advocate for their position on abortion.

So why are pro-lifers held to a different standard? Why are their ideas ruled out of bounds? Religious pro-lifers should be free to propose their views just like everyone else. They should be free to argue, for example, that all human beings matter because they are made "in the image of God" (Gen. 1:27) and that we ought to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8) and "rescue those being led away to death" (Proverbs 24:11).

This does not, as some claim, violate the "separation of church and state." It is not an "establishment of religion," which is prohibited by the First Amendment of the Constitution. Instituting an official state denomination or mandating religious practice might be an establishment of religion. That's not what pro-lifers want.

Pro-lifers want to protect people from being unjustly killed. If our laws should do anything, they should do that.

Respect and protect everyone

The abortion debate—contrary to the claims of Omar, Biden, and many others—isn't a theological dispute. It's a debate about the scope of human rights. Calling the pro-life position a religious belief is a convenient way to dismiss the case for inclusion without actually considering it.

Pro-lifers are not trying to create a theocracy. We're only trying to create a society that respects and protects everyone. MCCL

ICCL!







BOLSTER MCCL IN 2020 AS A MONTHLY DONOR



2020 IS A HUGE YEAR for the cause of life—and it will take a big toll on MCCL's funds. You can strengthen our pro-life work and help MCCL get through the year ahead by becoming a monthly donor.

As a monthly donor:

- Your monthly gift will empower MCCL to build a solid base of support.
- You will help save innocent lives by budgeting your annual contribution over 12 months.
- You will receive no other solicitations throughout the year.

Direct Deposit option

The most popular and cost efficient method of giving monthly is by an electronic funds transfer.

MCCL's direct debit option is convenient (no checks to write), reduces MCCL's costs (no mailings), and increases our efficiency (less staff time).

Simple, effective giving

Using direct deposit, however, is completely optional! Whether you prefer your monthly gifts to be made automatically or by personal check or credit card, please consider becoming a \$10, \$15, \$20, \$30 or more per month member.

MCCL's pro-life work is made possible only with the generous and faithful support of members like you.

Simply contact the MCCL office by phone or email to set up your monthly giving. Thank you!

Because, in addition to educating, we are involved in working for legislation to protect human life, donations to MCCL, Inc., are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

MCCL's Mother's Day Project: Honor moms and support pro-life efforts

MCCL'S MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT is a loving way to honor mothers with flowers and thank them for the most precious gift they could ever give their child—life itself. The Mother's Day Project also provides financial support for MCCL's pro-life work.

Churches and community groups all across the state make it an annual tradition to honor mothers on this special day. Please join our efforts to **spread this life-affirming message.**

Seven options for your group

We offer seven different options to groups and MCCL chapters for your fundraiser. Choose as many as you like:

- 1. Orchid corsages come in beautiful shades of pink, yellow, peach and cream, and are preassembled so there is very little work involved. Each corsage comes with a "Thanks Mom for Life" button.
- 2. **Carnation corsages** are the most cost-effective

for groups; they come in a variety of colors and include a "Thanks Mom for Life" button. With the help of 5-10 volunteers, each group assembles the corsages on the Friday or Saturday before Mother's Day. The MCCL office provides the instructions and the dry floral supplies for the assembly of each corsage.

- 3. **African violet plants** in a 4-in. decorated pot include a "Thanks Mom for Life" button and a plastic cover.
- 4. **Mini rose bushes** in a 4-in. pot include a "Thanks Mom for Life" button.
- 5. "Thanks Mom for Life" buttons add a finishing touch to any Mother's Day project. With a new design each year, the "Thanks Mom for Life" buttons can be acquired separately for a suggested donation, without a corsage order.
- 6. **Dry floral supplies** can be ordered through the MCCL office by groups that purchase their flowers locally. Instructions, supplies, and "Thanks Mom for Life" buttons are part of this option.



7. **Single, long-stem carnations and roses** are also available as a simple way to honor mothers. "Thanks Mom for Life" buttons also come with these options.

Raise funds, thank moms

The MCCL Mother's Day Project is a significant fundraiser for MCCL's lifesaving efforts.

To receive more information, contact the MCCL office at 612-825-6831 or mccl@mccl.org. **Mother's Day Project order packets** will be mailed in mid-March; the deadline for placing orders is in **early April**.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. **This Mother's Day, please help honor mothers in your community** with this positive message of life!



caucus on Feb. 25!

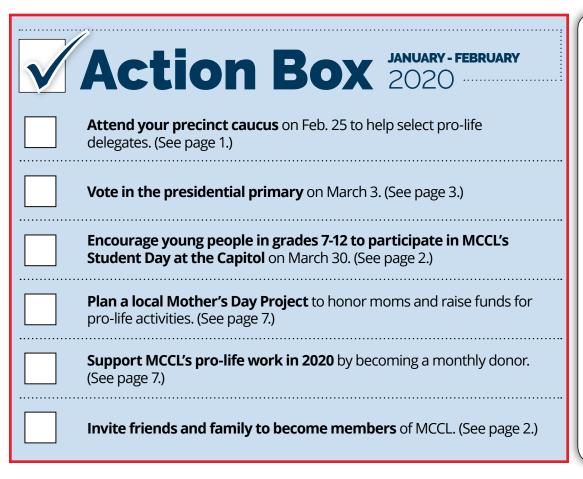
get involved and save lives

see page 1



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