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#### MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Your trusted source for pro-life news

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#### Pro-life, pro-abortion bills considered in Legislature

Contact your lawmakers and urge them to vote pro-life

#### BY PAUL STARK

**AS THE CURRENT** session of the Minnesota Legislature nears its end, lawmakers have introduced or considered a number of abortion-related bills that could receive further action.

"During these final days and weeks of the session, it's important that legislators hear from pro-life constituents," says MCCL's Don Parker. "They need to know that we expect them to vote to protect unborn children and their mothers. We expect them to push lifesaving measures forward and to prioritize the right to life."

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#### Tax-funded abortions in Minnesota hit all-time high

Planned Parenthood increases total for eighth straight year

BY PAUL STARK

**ABORTIONS FUNDED** by Minnesota taxpayers reached an all-time high in 2019, according to data released in late March by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The 2019 total is a five percent increase over 2018 and a 32 percent jump since 2013.

"Overall abortions in Minnesota have been level, yet tax-funded abortions keep rising as Planned Parenthood and others exploit the availability of this money to bolster their abortion numbers and revenue," says MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "Most people don't support the use of their tax dollars for abortion. The destruction of unborn children isn't a public good, and it's not health care. Our lawmakers, governor, and courts must finally bring this harmful policy to an end."

#### **Planned Parenthood's exploitation**

In 2019, according to the new report, the state reimbursed abortion practitioners \$1.1 million for 4,463 abortions. Planned Parenthood, the state's leading practitioner of abortion, grew its tax-funded abortion total for the eighth consecutive year—an astonishing 222 percent increase since 2011. In

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## A more normal summer is a chance to kick our pro-life outreach into high gear

BY LEO LALONDE

**ALTHOUGH MCCL ADAPTED** to the pandemic safety measures and restrictions over the past year, and found different ways to advance our pro-life mission, there are certain events and activities that just couldn't happen.

**It looks like that will change this summer.** And we are very excited about it. I hope you will join us to help make this a lifesaving few months!

#### Fair outreach will span state

Minnesota's county fairs are expected to be back in business. MCCL plans to have pro-life booths at almost all of them—more than 80! **Our booths will offer educational materials about prenatal development, abortion, abortion alternatives, the facts about Planned Parenthood, the dangers of assisted suicide, and more.** 

Our fetal models showcase the humanity of unborn children in a very tangible and impactful way. Our "Pregnant? Need Help?" brochures direct people to the resources they may need when experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Our children's materials—coloring books and more—offer kids a fun way to learn about life in the womb.

All told, our county fair booths reach more Minnesotans than any other

**single outreach that we do.** With some new and updated materials, we expect our booths to be more effective than ever this year.

#### Camp will train youth

In early August, we'll hold our Life Leadership Camp for high school students. Our camp (like our fair booths) was canceled last year because of the pandemic, **so** we're eager to resume—and enhance—this four-day event that equips and trains young people to make a difference for life.

At the end of the summer, the State Fair is planning to return, and MCCL will be there sharing the pro-life message with Minnesotans from all across the state.

#### How to get involved

I encourage you to be part of our outreach this summer. That could mean volunteering for a shift at your local county fair booth or at the State Fair booth (see page 7), or promoting our Life Leadership Camp to the young people you know (see page 4). It could mean putting up one of MCCL's pro-life signs on your property (see page 5). It could mean staying connected with MCCL on social media, sharing our information to help spread the pro-life message.

And it could mean supporting our work with a generous contribution (see page 7), and telling other pro-life friends to get involved too.

MCCL wouldn't still be around, fighting for life and changing hearts and minds, without the support of faithful pro-lifers like you. We couldn't do what we do and make the difference that we make. We are so grateful for you!

#### Now's the time

If you haven't been very involved over the last year, now's the time to jump back in—in whatever ways that make sense for you. We face real challenges in Washington (see page 3) and in the Minnesota Legislature (see page 1), but also great opportunities as more pro-life outreach becomes possible this summer.

Let take advantage of these opportunities to share the truth that every human being, every unborn child and every mother, deserves support and love and protection. Let's save lives this summer!

#### MOTHERS NURTURE. lo

NURTURE, love, and sacrifice for their children—and give them life. Whether motherhood was planned or unplanned, whether a mother selflessly placed a baby for adoption or adopted one herself, all moms deserve a special place in our hearts.

This Mother's
Day, make a point to
express your thanks
to your own mother
and to honor the
other mothers in your
family, church, and
community.

Thank you, moms—we wouldn't be here without you!



### Find, connect with MCCL on social media

social media is a growing avenue of pro-life outreach for MCCL, and it's a great way for you to stay informed and connected with us—and to share our information with your own friends, family, and acquaintances.

Find us on Facebook (facebook.com/mnprolife), Twitter (@MCCL\_org), and Instagram (@MCCL\_org), and bookmark our mccl.org website too!







## pro-life update BY PAUL STARK

## Biden administration opens door to dangerous at-home abortions

**LAST MONTH**, the Biden administration's Food and Drug Administration reversed a safety rule that required abortion drugs to be dispensed in-person at medical facilities.

That rule had been temporarily suspended by a court ruling last summer before the Supreme Court, in January, allowed it to go back into effect. Now, the FDA says it will not enforce the regulation at least during the remainder of the pandemic.

The change opens the door to at-home chemical abortions sent through the mail, a practice that increases the health risks to pregnant women because they receive no inperson medical examination, which can verify gestational age and check for ectopic pregnancy. And because this practice makes abortion easier to access, it can increase the number of unborn children who are killed.

"This is another abortion-expanding action by the Biden administration," says MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. "The previous FDA policy was a commonsense safety measure. But now, under the influence of the abortion industry, the administration has repealed the measure in order to expand abortion, even at the expense of women's health." The new FDA policy is expected to have an immediate effect in Minnesota. Late last year, after the initial court ruling had first suspended the safety rule, a new group called Just the Pill began mailing abortion drugs to Minnesota women. The group is now likely to begin doing so again. Just the Pill has also been operating a mobile abortion clinic in rural Minnesota.

up the abortion industry as well as potentially funneling millions of dollars into programs without protections to prevent that money from supporting abortion.

**Equality Act (H.R. 5).** This bill has passed the House and, as this newsletter goes to press, is still awaiting a vote in the Senate. It contains

#### Title X funding to return to Planned Parenthood

The Department of Health and Human Services announced a proposed rule in April that will undo the Protect Life Rule, which prevents the Title X family planning program from funding places that perform or refer for abortion. President Biden had promised to repeal that pro-life policy during his 2020 campaign.



When the new rule goes into effect, Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading abortion performer, will likely receive Title X funds again (as it did prior to the Trump administration), in addition to its other sources of taxpayer funding. According to its latest annual report, Planned Parenthood performed 354,871 abortions in 2019. The organization received \$618.1 million from the government in the fiscal year ending in June 2020.

#### Anti-life legislation in Congress

A number of anti-life measures have come before Congress so far this year, and they have the support of President Biden and Democratic leaders in the House and Senate. They include the following:

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This large spending bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the president in March. It addresses the COVID-19 pandemic response, but it also contains numerous provisions aimed at propping

language that could be used to make abortions more available, expand taxpayer funding of abortion, and weaken conscience protections for health care providers opposed to participating in abortions.

**Equal Rights Amendment (H.J. Res. 17 or S.J. Res. 1).** The House has passed this measure to revive the ERA, which abortion advocates openly say would be used as a legal tool to eliminate prolife laws across the country. The Senate has yet to consider it.

The latest information about these and other bills before Congress is available online at nrlc. org.

You can take action by contacting Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith and telling them you strongly oppose the Equality Act and the ERA measure because they would expand abortion. Contact information is listed on the back page. **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:

- 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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#### Life Leadership Camp to return in August

#### Help promote MCCL's pro-life camp for high school students



MCCL'S PRO-LIFE YOUTH CAMP will return this summer.

Life Leadership Camp will take place Aug. 8-11, 2021, at Camp Koronis in Paynesville, which is west of the Twin Cities in central Minnesota.

It offers four days of pro-life education (two full days and two partial days), including guest speakers and sessions covering topics relating to abortion and other right-to-life issues. It equips students to make a difference in their schools and communities. And it does



so in a summer camp environment with games and fun outdoor activities.

Life Leadership Camp (originally called Camp Joshua) began in 2015 and has taken place each summer since (with the exception of 2020, when it was canceled because of pandemic restrictions). The camp is open to high school students who will be entering grades 9-12 or who will be college freshmen in the coming fall. Cost to attend is \$75 per student, which includes meals, accommodations, materials, and a T-shirt; scholarships may also be available.

#### Register for camp today

We encourage students to register for this inspiring and informative pro-life event—and we encourage parents, church leaders, and others to share information about Life Leadership Camp with the students in their life

You can find more information and register today at mccl.org/camp, where a promotional poster is also available. MCCL

Use this poster to promote our 2021 camp; find it at mccl.org/camp

2019, the group received a record-high \$642,736 for a record-high 2,791 abortions. Whole Woman's Health and the WE Health Clinic (formerly the Women's Health Center in Duluth) also saw increases in 2019.

Minnesota law prohibited public funding of elective abortions until a 1995 Minnesota Supreme Court decision required such funding through Minnesota's Medicaid program. Since then, taxpayers have bankrolled about 95,000 abortions at a cost of about \$28 million. A large body of research, including a literature review by the abortion-industry-aligned Guttmacher Institute, shows that public funding of abortion leads to significantly more overall abortions than would otherwise take place.

#### Legislation introduced

MCCL backs a current bill to ban taxpayer funding of abortion in Minnesota (see article beginning on page 1). The measure, H.F. 1099 and S.F. 1045, is authored by Rep. Marion O'Neill (R-Maple Lake) and Sen. Jason Rarick (R-Pine City) and could, if signed into law and challenged in court, give the Court the opportunity to revisit and reverse its 1995 decision.

MCCL has frequently pursued similar bills. Such legislation passed through the Legislature in 2011 and 2017, but then-Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed both bills.

"Low-income women deserve real support, not 'free' abortions that enrich Planned Parenthood at taxpayer expense," says Fischbach. "Taxfunded abortion is bad for unborn children, whose lives are taken, but it also harms women and the taxpayers who are forced to be part of this."

A 2021 Marist poll found that 58 percent of Americans oppose using tax dollars to pay for abortion.

#### Licensing bill, tax-funded abortion ban

One MCCL-backed measure, H.F. 1099 / S.F. 1045, would ban taxpayer funding of abortion. The bill would challenge a 1995 court ruling that required abortion funding through Minnesota's Medicaid program.

Taxpayers spent more than \$1 million for 4,463 abortions in 2019, according to the Department of Human Services (see story beginning on page 1). The current bill represents the latest legislative effort to bring this abortion funding to an end.

A second MCCL-backed bill, H.F. 2180 / S.F. 1636, would require abortion facilities to be licensed by the state commissioner of health, and authorize the commissioner to perform inspections. It would help ensure that abortion centers, which are currently unlicensed by the state, abide by basic health and safety standards. Horrific and dangerous conditions have been uncovered in some abortion facilities in other states.

In March, the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee approved the licensing bill. As this newsletter goes to press, both the licensing bill and the tax-funded abortion ban are awaiting further hearings in the Legislature.

#### **Assisted suicide introduced**

Anti-life measures have also been introduced this year. They include a bill to legalize assisted suicide (H.F. 1358 / S.F. 1352), a bill to enshrine abortion-on-demand in Minnesota law (H.F. 259 / S.F. 731), and a bill to repeal Minnesota's Woman's Right to Know informed consent law (H.F. 522 / S.F. 963).

"Although we anticipate that pro-life lawmakers will successfully prevent these harmful measures from passing this session, we should make clear to our representatives and senators that antilife bills must never become law—in this session or any session," says Parker.

The latest information about pro-life bills may be found on our website at mccl. org. Contact your state legislators using the information on the back side of this newsletter. The session is scheduled to end on May 17. MCCL



**SPRING IS FINALLY HERE**, and it's time to get outside—and share the pro-life message with your neighbors!

One easy way to keep the message of life at the forefront in your community is by placing an MCCL billboard on your property. MCCL offers a number of powerful pro-life designs that spotlight the humanity and value of unborn children.

Our standard sign is 4 by 8 feet (though we can customize with different dimensions) and made of durable, corrugated plastic. The price is approximately \$70 for a single-sided sign,

and \$100 for a double-sided sign. Each sign comes with stakes to secure it in the ground; alternatively, some people mount it onto a 4 by 8 sheet of plywood for superior strength.

If you are interested in ordering a pro-life billboard, check out our sign design options on our website (mccl. org) under the "Resources" tab. Then contact Paul at pstark@mccl.org or 612-825-6831 to order. If you have an existing sign that needs replacement, please contact us to order a new one.

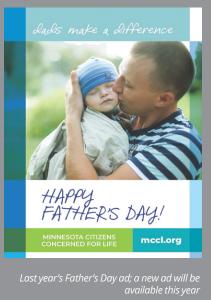
Thank you! MCCL

#### Honor fathers with MCCL ad

FATHERS PLAY a vitally important role in the lives of their children. You can honor the fathers in your life and community by placing the 2021 MCCL Father's Day print ad in your local newspaper or church bulletin.

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

Simply contact Paul at the MCCL office at pstark@mccl.org. We will email the ad directly to your newspaper or church. Please provide the publication's advertising email address when you contact us.



#### Minnesota students succeed in national pro-life essay contest

**FOUR MINNESOTA STUDENTS** were among the winners of the 2021 National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest. The annual contest asks students to write an essay answering the question: "Why are you pro-life?"

#### Logic, science support life

In the senior division (grades 10-12), Abigail P. of Lino Lakes and Annamarie S. of Rochester finished among the four division winners.

"Why am I pro-life? There are over sixty-two million precious reasons since Roe v. Wade why I am pro-life," wrote Abigail, who appealed to both the Bible and logic. "A baby in the womb is a human

being. Facts are still facts, despite your feelings."

Annamarie said that she's pro-life because she's pro-science, pro-woman, pro-faith, and pro-American. "I will continue to fight and advocate for the rights of the unborn until the sanctity of human life is protected from its beginning, at conception, to its natural end," she concluded.

#### Abortion not the only option

In the junior division (grades 7-9), Francesca Rose C. of St. Paul and Maggie C. of Andover both placed in the top three.

Francesca Rose said she's pro-life "because I

believe that human life begins at conception; because I believe that all people have immeasurable value in the eyes of God; and because I believe that it is my job to protect the fundamental rights of all people."

Maggie told her story of being adopted—and the choice her birth mom made for life. "If she had not chosen that I would not be here today," she writes. "There are so many more options than abortion."

Minnesota had more entries in the essay contest than any other state. Thanks to every student who used his or her research and writing skills to speak out for life!

#### 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!

MCCLTRIBUTE & MEMORIAL PROGRAM
Please PRINT all information
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IN HONOR / MEMORY OF:
Name
For (occasion)
PLEASE SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO:
Name
Address
City, State, Zip
FROM:
Name
Address
City, State, Zip
E-mail Address

Recent contributions to statewide pro-life activities include these memorials:

In memory of *Goan De Greeff*from John De Greeff

In memory of

Craig Dahme
from the Savoie Family

BY PAUL STARK

A version of this article appeared in the March 2021 issue of NRL News.

#### WHO COUNTS?

#### THE GREAT QUESTION OF JUSTICE OF OUR TIME

**"ONCE OR TWICE** in a century an issue arises ... so deep in its foundations that it calls every person to take a stand," wrote the late Judge John T. Noonan Jr.

Abortion is one of those issues. It's different from most issues and concerns in our world today. It's a *deeper* issue. It has to do with a foundational question for any individual and any society—one we can't afford to ignore.

#### The scope of the human family

A lawyer was once told to love his neighbor. He responded, "And who is my neighbor?" That, in essence, is the question: Who counts as one of us? Or to put it another way: What's the scope of the human family—the community of those who deserve the respect and protection of each other?

Rocks don't count. Insects aren't our neighbors, either. Rocks and insects aren't "persons" who should be treated as ends in themselves. They don't have rights. That's why we may use them for our own purposes. We can discard or destroy them when they inconvenience us.

Toddlers and grandmothers, by contrast, certainly do count. They are persons who deserve respect and bear equal basic rights.

That means we have to treat them a certain way. We can't manipulate them for our own ends. We can't get rid of them when they impose on us. We can't intentionally end their lives.

Who counts as one of us? It's hard to think of any political, cultural, or moral question that is more important. Throughout history, it's been at the center of most of humanity's great debates about what justice requires. Do women count? Do African Americans count? Native Americans? Jews? It's crucial that we get the answers right. We haven't always, and wrongful exclusion has led, in each case, to catastrophic injustice.

#### The heart of the abortion debate

Abortion raises the same question. Does a human embryo or fetus count as one of us? That's the heart of the abortion debate. After all, abortion is the intentional destruction of that embryo or fetus. It happens almost 900,000 times each year in the U.S. alone. Is such killing okay, or is it unjust? Killing mosquitoes is okay because they don't have a right to live. But do unborn children?

"The whole question," observed Boston physician Horatio R. Storer more than 150

years ago, "turns on ... the real nature of the foetus in utero."

Abortion arguments that avoid this question miss the mark. Women have the right to choose, some say. We have the right to choose to do many things, but we don't have the right to have innocent people destroyed. If unborn children are innocent people, then we don't have a right to destroy them.

Women face difficult circumstances, others emphasize. But we may not kill already-born children when confronted with such circumstances. If unborn children really matter, like born children do, then we should address the challenges women too often face—but without killing anyone.

#### **Exclusion or inclusion?**

So the question always comes back to this: Does an unborn child count?

This is the great question of justice of our time. And answering it requires asking another foundational question: **What's the basis (or criteria) for being a "person" or having human rights?** What determines whether or not someone counts?

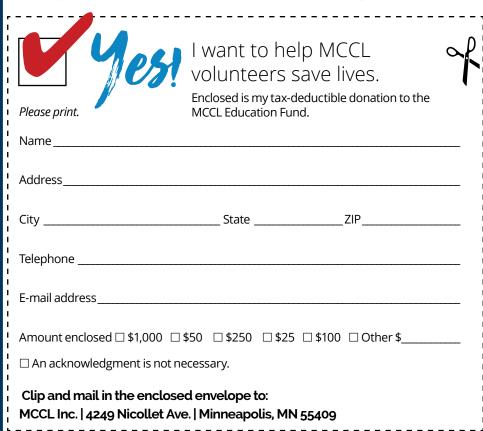
Some people have thought that gender is relevant to whether (or how much) someone counts. Or skin color. Or ethnicity. Or religion. Most people now (correctly) recognize that those traits don't determine human rights. In today's abortion debate, though, many do think rights depend on physical appearance, cognitive ability, independence from others, or the attitude of someone else.

If our rights hinge on such characteristics—traits that some humans have and others don't—then unborn humans might not meet the threshold. And others (those who are too young, too old, too disabled, too unwanted) might not either. This is an *exclusive* view of human rights.

But if we have human rights by virtue of what we are (i.e., simply because we are human), then all humans matter. Science shows that embryos and fetuses are living members of the species Homo sapiens. Each of us, indeed, was once one of them. So if all humans matter, then unborn humans matter. This is an *inclusive* view of human rights.

The choice, then, is between exclusion and inclusion. And everyone, Judge Noonan said, must take a stand. In this debate over the scope of our human family, as in all prior such debates, the stakes are just too high to do otherwise.

#### SUPPORT MCCL'S COUNTY FAIR OUTREACH



MCCL's county fair booth program is our largest educational outreach of the year—and you can take part!

MCCL county fair booths offer people of all ages an interactive opportunity to learn about fetal development, take free information, and talk with a volunteer. **Thousands of people sign our pro-life petition** and discover how to help save lives by joining MCCL.

#### Dedicated volunteers staff booths

It takes enormous coordination, finances, and dedication to have a presence at nearly every county fair each summer. We are grateful to all of our volunteers, MCCL chapters, and county fair coordinators who keep our

booths stocked, staffed, and ready for visitors. MCCL is the only pro-life group in the state with the power to undertake such a project. Members make it happen.

#### Empower our educational outreach

Hosting more than 80 booths requires significant financial resources. Your crucial gift will help offset the costs of producing and shipping MCCL materials, fetal models, and displays.

When you support fair booths, you help advance MCCL's mission to effectively educate the public and engage pro-life citizens in our lifesaving work. You help save lives. Contributions are needed today!

Alternatively, you may donate securely online with a credit card at mccl.org/donate or phone the MCCL state office at 612-825-6831 with your pledge today.

## Volunteer to reach fairgoers at MCCL's pro-life booths!

MCCL'S PRO-LIFE county fair booths have been a summer tradition since 1971. MCCL staffs booths at more than 80 county fairs—by far our biggest educational outreach of the year.

You can help by visiting and thanking the MCCL booth volunteers at your local county fair. Or better yet, volunteer for a shift or give a generous gift (see the top of this page) to help offset the cost.

#### A rewarding experience

Last year, county fairs were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we expect them to resume safely, and we hope to reach countless people with the pro-life message.

MCCL's booths—which feature educational literature, fetal models, videos, and more—are an effective way to inform people about

fetal development and abortion and to motivate them to help protect life.

Volunteering for a three or four hour shift at your county fair booth is an enjoyable and rewarding experience—and not difficult. Most important is your friendly, outgoing demeanor.

Don't worry about having all the answers to people's questions. **Most visitors are attracted by the fetal models and are willing to sign our pro-life petition.** If they ask questions you cannot answer, you can offer them an appropriate brochure or simply refer them to the MCCL website or state office.

#### Support our outreach

If interested in volunteering for our county fair booth project or for our State Fair booth at the end of the summer, contact the MCCL state office at 612-825-6831 or mccl@mccl.org. Thank you!





How we're going to save unborn lives this summer



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life 4249 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55409

Non-Profit U.S. Postage Paid Permit Slayton, MN Permit No. 22

#### **ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Contact your state lawmakers and urge them to vote pro-life (see page 1). Encourage high school students to attend MCCL's Life Leadership Camp in August (see page 4). Volunteer for a shift at your local MCCL county fair booth (see page 7). Order an MCCL billboard to share the pro-life message in your neighborhood (see page 5). Connect with MCCL at mccl.org and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay up-to-date with the latest pro-life news (see page 2). Support MCCL's lifesaving work by contributing to our county fair outreach this summer (see page 7).

#### **Contact List**

MINNESOTA -

State Legislators House: **651-296-2146** Senate: **651-296-0504 leg.mn.gov/leg/legislators** 

Governor Tim Walz 651-201-3400 mn.gov/governor/contact

Contact by email:

rep.firstname.lastname@house.mn sen.firstname.lastname@senate.mn

**U.S. SENATORS** 

Senator Tina Smith 202-224-5641 smith.senate.gov Senator Amy Klobuchar 202-224-3244 klobuchar.senate.gov

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVES** 

Rep. Jim Hagedorn 202-225-2472 hagedorn.house.gov Rep. Ilhan Omar 202-225-4755 omar.house.gov

Rep. Angie Craig 202-225-2271 craig.house.gov Rep. Tom Emmer 202-225-2331 emmer.house.gov

Rep. Dean Phillips 202-225-2871 phillips.house.gov

Rep. Michelle Fischbach 202-225-2165 fischbach.house.gov

Rep. Betty McCollum 202-225-6631 mccollum.house.gov Rep. Pete Stauber 202-225-6211 stauber.house.gov