Abortion Industry Accountability a Constant Struggle

December 2017 brought both good news and bad in the continual struggle to hold the abortion industry accountable for violating laws and regulations.

On December 7, the infamous “car trunk abortionist,” Michael Roth, received only a slap on the wrist for three felony convictions. Roth, a longtime abortionist in Michigan, pled no contest on October 16 to three counts of larceny in a building. Roth had a person steal drugs and medical equipment from his former employer, Eastland Women’s Center in Eastpointe, Michigan. It is suspected he was using these stolen items to perform abortions in people’s homes, which Roth has done in the past.

In September 2015 Roth was involved in an accident when his car struck a 31-year-old man with special needs. Police found the stolen items along with tissue from aborted babies.

Roth was facing other criminal charges, including identity theft and possession with intent to deliver the schedule 2 narcotic Fentanyl, but those charges were inexplicably dismissed in June.

Roth’s final penalty for all of these violations was a paltry $798 fine and 18 months of probation.

Roth has already had his medical license suspended, and it is likely he will never practice medicine again, but the injustice is gross. Can you imagine anyone else stealing a narcotic implicated in the current opioid crisis, perform surgeries at home, hit a man with his car, and spend zero time in jail?

Though the Roth decision was dispiriting, extremely good news was broken that same evening by the news website The Daily Beast: the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Following the release of undercover videos from David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress in 2015, Planned Parenthood went into public relations overdrive to distract and deceive about their schemes to profit from selling the organs of aborted babies. Despite a mainstream media whitewash of Daleiden’s undercover videos, Congress held numerous hearings about the matter.

So far no additional news has been released regarding the investigation other than the fact that the Department of Justice has asked Congress to turn over their materials. Both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate have made multiple criminal referrals involving Planned Parenthood’s illegal sales of fetal tissue.

Just two days after the Planned Parenthood revelation, news broke that two California companies are being forced to shut down for their role in fetal tissue trafficking. DaVinci Biosciences and DV Biologics were successfully prosecuted in Orange County, California, and the terms of their settlement include a $7.7 million fine and admitting to breaking state and federal tissue trafficking prohibitions. Daleiden’s undercover videos are the only reason these companies were caught, and it was the Center for Medical Progress itself that filed the complaints. Unfortunately for those two companies, they don’t hold the political or media sway of Planned Parenthood.

On December 11, it was announced that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the University of New Mexico and an infamous abortion clinic in Albuquerque for fetal tissue trafficking. That’s two successful prosecutions and two open federal investigations based on these so-called “heavily edited” undercover videos. No longer can Planned Parenthood claim they’ve been “cleared.”

The Achilles heel of these investigations will be the personnel responsible for it. For more than two years numerous government officials have ignored plain video evidence that Planned Parenthood has likely engaged in illegal activity. In California and Texas pro-abortion government officials have even gone after Daleiden and a co-investigator, Sandra Merritt, rather than investigate Planned Parenthood.

In Michigan, abortionists have a long history of also skating by laws and regulations. Other people and organizations are expected to follow public health laws down to the last jot and tittle, but not the abortion industry. Often prolifers are able to make a difference, but it can take years of effort and commitment to see justice through, even if it’s only partial justice in some cases.

Even more undercover footage about the abortion industry from David Daleiden is currently being blocked by a pro-abortion federal judge. These fetal tissue trafficking scandals are not going away; we’ve just seen the tip of the iceberg.
This year’s annual January marches and commemoration services marking the 1973 abortion decisions have come and gone. For 45 years proliferers had these wintery days for prolife possibilities. For the 2018 elections to have positive outcome in November 2016 could have demand handed proliferers our special role in who, in l973, gave our nation abortion-on-demand the option of not abortion. The seven male U.S. Supreme Court justices who, in 1973, gave our nation abortion-on-demand had hand on our special role in American history. Let’s pledge to use our God-given gifts for election victories in 2018. Right to Life of Michigan

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PUBLISHER: Barbara Listing
EDITOR: Chris Gast

Right to Life of Michigan is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization of prolife groups in the state of Michigan, committed to articulating and protecting the right to life of defenseless human beings, born and unborn.

This commitment is derived from a belief that each human being, from the time of fertilization to natural death, has an immeasurable dignity and inalienable right to life. The RLM News is a publication distributed to members and supporters of Right to Life of Michigan and its affiliate groups.

STATE OFFICE 2340 Porter SW • PO BOX 901 • Grand Rapids, MI • 49509-0901 616-532-2300 info@rtl.org • www.RTL.org

Filling Our Special Roles

By Barbara Listing, President Right to Life of Michigan

This year’s annual January marches and commemoration services marking the 1973 abortion decisions have come and gone. For 45 years proliferers had these wintery days for themselves. But with the election of Donald Trump, a new group arose marching in protest of his election—a conglomeration of women. While these women proclaimed many grievances, prominent was the worry their “right” to abortion was threatened by President Trump.

We know elections have consequences, and nothing proves it more than the election of this President who has established his profile credentials through the actions of his administration. By the end of this first year of the Trump administration, we have seen the following:

- Restoration of the “Mexico City Policy,” which prevents federal tax dollars from being given to organizations that perform or promote abortions overseas. It was expanded beyond the original policy to include additional U.S. foreign aid sources.
- Funding for the United Nations Population Fund cut off due to their involvement in compulsory abortion programs in China.
- Sound judicial appointments at all levels, including the newest U.S. Supreme Court justice, Neil Gorsuch.
- Regulations issued about the use of Title X and Medicaid funds which will now allow states to redirect tax funds away from abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood.
- Consistent policy of protecting the moral and religious conscience rights of professionals and employers, including the creation of the Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Appointing of many prolife men and women to key administrative roles.

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The Capitol Report

Life-protecting Legislation from Beginning to End

Our mission to restore and protect a culture of life requires RLM to be constantly vigilant and active on the public policy front. A record number of prolife bills have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature at the State Capitol. These bills address threats and needed protections to the sanctity of life for the unborn, abortion vulnerable women, and the medically fragile. While any given legislative session won’t yield all the prolife successes we aim for, RLM will remain aggressive in pursuing these policies in Lansing.

Here’s a sampling of the legislation. You can find full information on all the bills at www.RTL.org.

Defunding Planned Parenthood: In 2017, Congress and President Trump cleared some of the hurdles the Obama Administration put in place protecting Planned Parenthood from states defunding them. States are continuing to divert family planning funds away from Planned Parenthood to other healthcare providers. RLM has eliminated state-level funding of Planned Parenthood, and is fully committed to eliminating federal funding that passes through Michigan to Planned Parenthood as well.

Prenatal Diagnosis Information: For too long the standard response to parents given a prenatal disability diagnosis has been to swiftly offer an abortion. Countless couples have complained about outright pressure to abort their child, while given no life-affirming information or support. The Legislature is actively considering legislation to require physicians to give parents referrals and information to provide care and support to their potentially disabled child.

Patient Protection Act: RLM has spearheaded introduction of two bills to protect patients when conflicts arise between the patient/family and medical providers. Like the conflict over baby Charlie Gard last year in England, Michigan needs laws to prevent medical teams from taking control of a patient’s care or making unilateral decisions to withhold desired life-sustaining treatment. In this era of medical “cost containment,” we need legal buffers to protect patients’ rights.

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The 45th Annual March for Life was held in Washington, D.C. on January 19. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates brought more than 800 attendees on bus trips. The 2017 March for Life saw a first with Vice President Mike Pence addressing the crowd. The 2018 March for Life saw an even bigger first as President Donald Trump became the first president to address the crowd live via a video feed from the White House, just a few blocks away from the rally on the National Mall.

Approximately 50 area prolifers gather around the flag pole at the Gladwin County Courthouse for the Gladwin County RTL Memorial Vigil.

Wexford-Missaukee RTL volunteers set up crosses in front of Cherry Grove Nazarene Church in preparation of their memorial service.

Tuscola County RTL had 76 attendees join them for their Sanctity of Human Life Sunday event at the county courthouse, 20 more than in 2017.

Jackson County RTL hosted their annual Motorcade for Life & Interdenominational Prayer Service. More than 90 vehicles joined the procession to the cemetery for a ceremonial wreath laying.

Tri-Cities RTL marching through Grand Haven for their annual Memorial for the Unborn.

SoHLS Events and Roe and Doe Memorials in Michigan

Here are photos and descriptions of a few of the events hosted by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and the 45th memorial of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton.

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Michigan’s Rape Survivor Child Custody Act Put to the Test

A widely-reported case in Sanilac County led to the first known court case involving Michigan’s Rape Survivor Child Custody Act of 2016. The Act increased legal protection for rape survivors facing child custody cases. Sanilac County Circuit Court Judge Gregory S. Ross granted joint legal custody of an eight-year-old child to a man convicted of attempted third degree criminal sexual conduct against the child’s mother. The mother challenged the ruling, and the judge reversed his order on October 17 after a media firestorm.

Prior to passage of the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, termination of parental rights in Michigan involving a child conceived in rape required a felony rape conviction. Felony rape convictions are often difficult to obtain, however.

The Rape Survivor Child Custody Act now allows rape survivors who become pregnant from assault to terminate the parental rights of their attacker under a “clear and convincing” evidentiary standard without the necessity of a criminal conviction. “Clear and convincing” is the same evidentiary standard required in custody cases involving suspected child abuse or neglect.

The sex offender in this case, Christopher Mirasolo, was convicted in 2008 of attempted first degree criminal sexual conduct against the child, Shauna. Shauna faced a similar situation. She became pregnant following an assault. Her attacker filed for custody of her daughter to induce Shauna to drop the charges against him. Shauna has worked in other states to change their laws to be more protective of rape survivors.

Kiesling represented the mother pro bono.

Right to Life of Michigan often receives calls asking for legal help in a variety of situations. For this call we had just the right law and the right assistance in place to help in this terrible legal situation.

The Rape Survivor Child Custody Act came about following Right to Life of Michigan’s Compassion Project campaign in 2015 highlighting the issue of rape and abortion. One of the four women who participated in the Compassion Project, Shauna, faced a similar situation. Shauna became pregnant for rape survivors facing child custody cases.

Stop abortion pill reversals!

November 2017 brought great news out of Lowell, just a few miles outside of Grand Rapids. A local pregnancy center there was able to have the first known successful reversal of a RU-486 pill abortion.

Every quarter Grand Rapids Right to Life hosts their Support Services Luncheon. Many profile pregnancy help organizations in Grand Rapids come together at the luncheon to discuss different projects they are working on. The guest speaker at one of the 2016 luncheons was Dr. Kim Barrow, who talked about a process to reverse RU-486 abortions (also known as the abortion pill or mifepristone). Abortion pill reversal was a relatively new idea and many pregnancy centers were not aware of it.

Christa Wetzel, executive director of Alpha Family Center in Lowell, said, “After hearing about this, we knew this was something that they needed to know more about. This was a really monumental moment for us that God created. I truly believe he created this reversal so that we could help these women.”

From artist film studio Minus Red and award-winning director Jim Hanon, Life Uninvited captures the true stories of four women challenging our culture’s - and their own - deepest held fears about pregnancy and sexual assault. Together, they unravel complex secrets to find, not only their own freedom, but a hope that restores generations.

LIFE UNINVITED NOW ON DVD!

For more information about abortion pill reversal visit www.abortionpillreversal.com.

Michigan’s Safe Delivery of Newborns Law Saves 200th Baby

2017 saw the 200th baby surrendered under our states’ Safe Delivery of Newborns Law. The law was enacted in 2001 in the wake of high-profile stories of babies abandoned to die shortly after birth. The law allows mothers to legally and confidently surrender unharmed newborns to emergency service providers up to 72 hours after birth. An emergency service provider is defined as an on-duty employee of a fire department, hospital or police station.

The baby is very close to the due date at the time of printing. The difference in saving this life was grassroots prolifers coming together for an educational opportunity.

For more information about abortion pill reversal visit www.abortionpillreversal.com.
New CDC Report: Abortions Continue to Decrease

The Centers for Disease Control released their latest national abortion report in November 2017. A total of 652,639 abortions were reported to the CDC in 2014, a decrease of 11,896 from 2013.

The CDC numbers are incomplete because some states hide their abortion numbers. The 2014 report doesn’t include California, Maryland, and New Hampshire.

The report shows a smaller percentage of women are having abortions, and a larger percentage of women are choosing life for their children. Of the states that report their numbers consistently, the 2014 abortion rate was 12.1 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years, decreasing 2 percent from 2013.

The abortion ratio for women ages 15-19 declined from 393 abortions per 1,000 live births in 2007 to 338 abortions in 2014. This means a higher percentage of pregnant teens are choosing life.

An encouraging trend is that minority abortions continue to decrease, yet minorities continue to have a large proportion of abortions. From 2007 to 2014, the abortion rate for non-Hispanic Black women decreased 12.1 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years, decreasing 2 percent from 2013.

How Do I Feel About That?

Starting and completing a will is probably not something most of us think about very much, if at all. Knowing that’s probably the case, let’s take a minute to focus on this topic and give it some well-deserved thought as we begin a new year.

A will is a legal document drafted during your lifetime to direct your hard-earned assets after your death. It is also a way for you to make certain your wishes are followed as you provide for your family and others when you no longer have a voice. A will is one of the most important documents you will ever complete and sign.

Some people think they don’t need a will. After all, a will is not something we have to do! The interesting thing is that even if you don’t personally complete a will, you will have one, even though you were not part of the process. As a result of inaction, a probate court judge will direct ALL of your assets according to a pre-determined formula. You might ask yourself, “How do I feel about that?”

If you would like to take steps to begin writing your will, Right to Life of Michigan can help. Overcoming uneasiness about the topic or fear of the unknown is just a matter of educating ourselves and becoming more familiar with the legal terms and next steps.

Let us send you a complimentary Will Kit to get you started. Read it in the privacy of your own home. If you have questions and want to talk, give us a call. If you want to meet with an estate planning attorney, we would be pleased to share our listing of profile attorneys near you. Simply fill out the form below and mail it in.

January Ads Highlight Adoption, Cost of Abortion

Throughout the month of January two new Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund television ads debuted across the state. The ads focus on promoting adoption. A third adoption ad was also produced, as well as a four-minute short film weaving the three stories together. The campaign’s purpose is to encourage adoption as a positive, life-giving, and often life-saving option for unplanned pregnancies.

All four can be seen on Right to Life of Michigan’s YouTube Channel.

In the days leading up the 45th memorial of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund radio ad, “War on the Unborn,” aired throughout Michigan.

The radio ad is popularly known as the “BB ad.” Audio in the ad comes from a popular YouTube video by Peter Heck. Peter uses just BBs and a tin can to give context to the issue. The ad begins with a popular, pro-life radio ad, “War on the Unborn,” aired throughout Michigan.

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Just after Christmas, Planned Parenthood released its 2016-2017 annual report. The report did not include any big changes from the previous year, except for two things: they had much more donations come in and, their overall political influence grew.

They reported 2.4 million clients in 2016—no change from the previous year. The number of clinic visits remained generally flat. In total, the report did not feature many big changes from the previous year, except for two things: they had much more donations come in and, their overall political influence grew.

Abortion services continue a pattern of decline, overall. In their 2006-2007 annual report, they report did not feature many big changes from the previous year, except for two things: they had much more donations come in and, their overall political influence grew.

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LEGISLATIVE DAY

APRIL 10

Radisson Hotel Lansing
Registration at 8:45 a.m.
First session at 9:30 a.m.
Special Guest Speaker
Jason Negri, J.D.

Join us!

More details inside