

HONORING

50

1967

2017

YEARS OF

PRO-LIFE ADVOCACY

*in Ohio*

Ohio  
Right to  
**Life**  
promoting life

2017  
YEAR IN REVIEW

# A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

In 1967, the right-to-life movement, what would eventually become an international phenomenon, began right here in Ohio when a Cincinnati obstetrician and his wife, a nurse, began traveling the country to speak out against the legalization of a frightening medical practice: abortion.

With their nationwide lectures, Dr. Jack Willke and his wife Barbara had sparked a movement, a movement that many pro-lifers believed wouldn't be necessary in the years to come. The total legalization of abortion seemed a far off nightmare. But in 1973, their hopes were dashed and the Willkes' concerns were realized when the Supreme Court struck down every pro-life law in the country in *Roe v. Wade*.

Today, 50 years later, Ohio Right to Life is fighting to turn back the clock on that fateful decision. With more than 40 grassroots affiliates across the state and a robust legislative strategy at the Statehouse, we are winning. Nothing makes that more clear than our Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which took effect in March, banning abortions at 20 weeks post-fertilization.

**This is THE most significant legislative victory for Ohio's pro-life movement in the last 50 years.** Why? Because with this law, Ohio now stands outside the bounds of *Roe*, posing a direct challenge to the 44-year-old abortion doctrine.

Despite this challenge, the abortion lobby has refused to sue the state of Ohio. They know that

a lawsuit could result in a historic loss, setting them further back than ever before.

Indeed, the Pain-Capable law is our most significant accomplishment in the last 50 years. But 20 weeks is not our stopping point. It was never our stopping point. Our mission is to protect every human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Following the passage of the Pain-Capable law, we decided to take another giant step forward in pursuit of this mission. We decided to pursue a Dismemberment Abortion Ban, our signature legislation for 2017-2018.

Similar to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, the Dismemberment Abortion Ban forces a discussion about what actually happens to an unborn baby in an abortion. If passed, the legislation would ban dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortions, a procedure in which the abortionist uses steel instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus. In 2016, the Ohio Department of Health reported nearly 6,000 D&E abortions in the state of Ohio.

The Dismemberment Abortion Ban is the next step in the national strategy to end abortion-on-demand. Only 8 other states have passed the legislation so far. Ohio could be next. In June, the Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill, sending it to the House for consideration.

At 50, Ohio Right to Life has never looked better.

Since 2010 alone, Ohio Right to Life has successfully advocated for the passage of **19 pro-life laws**, and **abortions have decreased by more than 25 percent!** Today, Ohio abortions stand at a 40-year historic low. If we have anything to say about it, that number is going to keep plummeting, all the way to zero.

As our 50th year comes to a close, the team at Ohio Right to Life continues to innovate new legislative policies and education strategies to change hearts and minds. Like the pro-life leaders of the 1960s, we are hopeful and prayerful that soon enough, an organization like ours won't be necessary--and certainly that we won't still be in this fight in another 50 years.

We are encouraged that with your continued support, we can make that dream a reality.

For Life,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gonidakis".

Mike Gonidakis  
President

# LEGISLATION

## DISMEMBERMENT ABORTION BAN

**S.B. 145 / PASSED BY THE OHIO SENATE, 24-9, JUNE 28, 2017**

This legislation would prohibit dilation and evacuation abortions, a procedure in which the abortionist uses steel instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus. The D&E abortion procedure is usually performed between thirteen and twenty-four weeks LMP. In 2016, the Ohio Department of Health reported nearly 6,000 D&E abortions in the state of Ohio.

**Sponsors:** Senators Matt Huffman and Steve Wilson

## PARENTING AND PREGNANCY SUPPORT ACT

**2018-2019 STATE BUDGET / SIGNED BY GOV. JOHN KASICH, JUNE 30, 2017**

Pro-life Gov. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly approved \$1 million for Ohio Right to Life's Parenting and Pregnancy Support Program as part of the 2018-2019 State Budget. The program, which was initiated by Ohio Right to Life in 2013, provides discretionary TANF dollars to life-affirming pregnancy centers across the state. **Special thanks to: Gov. Kasich, Senate President Larry Obhof and Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger**

## ABORTION TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

**H.B. 149**

This legislation would prohibit fetal tissue trafficking. Federal law currently bans this practice, but a loophole allows tissue traffickers to compensate abortion clinics for services related to the trafficking of fetal tissue, including storage and transportation. This bill would make the exchange of any form of compensation for fetal tissue or organs illegal, and would make the activity a third degree felony. **Sponsors: Representatives Margy Conditt and Bill Patmon**



## UNBORN CHILD DIGNITY ACT

**S.B. 28**

This legislation would require that aborted fetal remains be treated humanely, either through earthly burial or cremation. It also increases informed consent by requiring full disclosure to women pursuing abortions of their options for the aborted baby's treatment. **Sponsor: Senator Joe Uecker**

## DOWN SYNDROME NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

**H.B. 214 & S.B. 164 / PASSED BY THE OHIO HOUSE, 63-30, NOVEMBER 1, 2017; PASSED BY THE OHIO SENATE, 20-12, NOVEMBER 15, 2017**

This legislation would prohibit an abortion from being performed on an unborn child on the basis of that child having Down syndrome. Tragically, upwards of 90% of unborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted. **Sponsors: Senator Frank LaRose, Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Derek Merrin**

## ABORTION-INDUCING DRUG SAFETY ACT

**ACTIVELY ADVANCING**

This legislation would require abortion-inducing drugs to be administered in accordance with "the protocol tested and authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration as outlined in the final printed label of the abortion-inducing drug." Texas passed a similar law in 2013, and it has been upheld by the federal courts. **Sponsors: Representatives Christina Hagan and Tom Brinkman**



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY



Ohio Senate honors Ohio Right to Life's 50 years of pro-life advocacy.



Ohio Right to Life urges pro-abortion Senator Sherrod Brown to confirm Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court.



Ohio Right to Life hosts pro-life round-table with Senator Rob Portman.



State Representative Margy Conditt is presented with Ohio Right to Life's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Advocates join Ohio Right to Life in testifying in favor of the Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act.

# EDUCATION, OUTREACH & EVENTS

## THE 44TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE



Ohio Right to Life sends hundreds of signs to bus groups headed to Washington D.C. to march for life.

## OHIO RIGHT TO LIFE'S LEGISLATIVE DAY 2017



Pregnancy centers gathered to share their life-saving work with the Ohio legislature during our annual Legislative Day.

## OHIO RIGHT TO LIFE'S YOUTH ORATORY CONTEST



Michael Knox of Immaculate Conception Academy takes first place in state competition, third at national contest.

## PREGNANCY HELP CENTER TRAINING



Pregnancy center leaders meet at the ORTL headquarters to learn how to apply for funds through the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Support Program.

## 2017 OHIO STATE FAIR



With the help of 35 volunteers, Ohio Right to Life returned to the Ohio State Fair. We captured nearly 1,000 signatures on our petition to ban dismemberment abortions!

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Heartbeat International  
Susan B. Anthony List  
Students for Life  
Pregnancy Decision Health Centers  
Oasis of Hope  
Pregnancy Resource Clinic of Clark County  
Voice of Hope Pregnancy Center  
Right to Life of Northeast Ohio  
Choosing Hope Adoptions  
Heartbeat of Toledo  
Elizabeth's New Life Center  
Darke County Right to Life  
Licking County Right to Life  
Downsize Farm  
Created Equal  
Miami University Students for Life  
University of Akron Students for Life  
Clark County Right to Life  
Miami County Right to Life  
Greater Lebanon Right to Life  
Scioto County Right to Life  
Ross County Right to Life  
Wayne-Holmes Right to Life  
Young Professionals for Life  
of Central Ohio

*for your support & collaboration in 2017!*

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

 **16,649**  
Followers on Facebook

 **4,972**  
Followers on Twitter

 **827**  
Followers on Instagram

 **509**  
Followers on Pinterest

*New!*

Ohio Right to Life presents  
**BACK TO LIFE**



**OUR FIRST PODCAST!**  
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SOUNDCLOUD | TUNEIN

**+3K**  
average pageloads at  
**OHIOLIFE.ORG**  
per month



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