

A VICTORY FOR LIFE IN MINNESOTA

IN A MASSIVE victory for the pro-life movement in Minnesota, the state legislature in May failed to approve a measure to put the so-called Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) on the ballot in 2026. The House passed the bill (SF 37) early in the morning on May 19, but the Senate did not take it up. **The proposed ERA, if ratified by voters, would have enshrined a policy of unlimited abortion in the Minnesota Constitution—and made it impossible for future lawmakers to pass meaningful protections for unborn babies at any stage of development.**

Minnesotans speak out against ERA

“Minnesotans all across the state have been telling their legislators: We don’t want abortion-up-to-birth permanently mandated by our Constitution,” said MCCL Co-Executive Director Cathy Blaeser. “Polls show that most Minnesotans don’t want abortion added to the ERA, and most don’t want unlimited abortion. This ERA isn’t about equal rights at all. It’s extreme, exclusionary, and dishonest.”

A KSTP/SurveyUSA poll in May found that 64 percent of Minnesotans want abortion considered separately from the ERA, rather than combined with it. Two earlier polls—a Star Tribune/MPR News/KARE 11 poll and a KSTP/SurveyUSA poll—both found that just 30 percent of Minnesotans favor abortion without limits, the current policy that the ERA would enshrine.

MCCL campaign makes a difference

“MCCL has campaigned extensively in recent weeks and months to inform Minnesotans about our state’s abortion-up-to-birth policy and the ERA,” said Blaeser (see pages 2 and 3). “And we aren’t going to stop. We’re going to tell Minnesotans the truth, and Minnesotans are going to continue to make their voices heard.”

MCCL and others sharply criticized the ERA bill not just for its extremism, but for its deception. **If passed, voters would be asked on the ballot about protecting equal rights based on “pregnancy” (among other things), with no mention of abortion.** But the actual amendment that would be adopted would protect the right to abortion (the right to decide “whether to become or remain pregnant”) without limits. It also excludes language safeguarding conscience and religious rights, removing protection for “creed” that was included in a previous version.

Bill aims to deceive voters

“The language that we are giving to the voters does not express to them that ‘pregnancy’ means ‘abortion,’” said pro-life Rep. Anne Neu Brindley (R-North Branch) during the House debate. “They have no idea what they’re actually voting on. They have no idea. This language is so *dishonest*. ... **You [the DFL majority] are asking voters to change the Constitution of the state of Minnesota, and you are not telling them the truth about what the amendment actually does.**”

“This is, I have to imagine, the most consequential vote that I will ever take: The decision whether or not to put into the highest law of our land a repeal of civil rights for human beings,” added pro-life Rep. Walter Hudson (R-Albertville). “I think it’s worth contemplating, before we cast this vote, the gravity of ... declaring that ... any baby, at any stage of gestational development, *simply does not matter.*”

Although the ERA did not pass this year, the November elections will determine if we’ll fight this battle again in 2025. **MCCL**

PRO-LIFE
PRIMARY ELECTION

A red rectangular box with a white checkmark icon at the top right and the words "VOTER'S GUIDE" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Congressional Candidates pg 4

MN State Candidates pg 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We won, but it's only the beginning

BY SCOTT FISCHBACH

WE BEAT the odds this spring, and you helped make it happen. **After putting abortion-up-to-birth into state law last year (the PRO Act), pro-abortion advocates and lawmakers wanted something even worse.** They wanted to make this policy of unlimited abortion *permanent* by enshrining it in our state Constitution. That's what the so-called Equal Rights

Amendment (ERA) would have done.

Supporters of the ERA were confident it would pass through the legislature. After all, they had pro-abortion majorities in both the House and Senate. They said it was a priority and that they would get it done.

But we stopped them.

Our ambitious campaign

MCCL had been working to defeat the ERA for the past year. We planned, we consulted, we did everything we could think of and more. **We informed and activated pro-life citizens so lawmakers were flooded with messages from their constituents.**

We also launched an ambitious advertising and media campaign. It included newspaper, radio, and social media ads. Most important, though, was our "Way Out There" TV ad. It caused a big stir, informed the public about what was going on, and helped sway the legislature (see page 3).

In the end, the ERA failed to pass. I sincerely thank all of you who contacted your lawmakers, talked to others, attended rallies at the Capitol, and more. **And thanks to everyone who joined us for our Compassionately Pro-Life Gala on May 3, where we heard an inspirational message from Jim Caviezel and prepared for the final, pivotal stretch of the legislative**

session. We couldn't have won this battle without all of you playing a part!

The challenge we face

The truth, though, is that the situation we face in Minnesota remains both very bad and very precarious. Unlimited abortion is still the law of the land—as extreme as any abortion law anywhere. And the ERA effort could return next year or soon after.

To defeat it—and to begin to restore protections for unborn babies and their moms—MCCL's multi-pronged strategy is essential. It involves rebuilding a pro-life culture in Minnesota, one that cherishes human life regardless of age or condition. That's why our new Center for a Pro-Life Minnesota is expanding outreach to young people, churches, and other communities across the state.

Our strategy also looks ahead to this fall's elections. The results will shape our abortion laws going forward. **Will we protect babies late in pregnancy who can feel pain? Will we support and empower their mothers?** Or will we entrench abortion extremism so that future lawmakers won't be able to protect babies even if they want to?

Primary election is key

It all starts with the primary election on Aug. 13. This issue of MCCL NEWS includes our Primary Election Voter's Guide with responses to our questionnaire from candidates in contested primary races (see pages 4-7).

Please find where the candidates in your district stand, share this Voter's Guide with others, and then be sure to vote on or before Aug. 13. (Note that districts without contested primaries are not included, since only one candidate from each party is running.) The Voter's Guide is also available online at mccl.org/election.

Remember: Most people don't vote in primary elections. **Those who do have a disproportionate influence on who will appear on the ballot in November—and who may then win and take office next year.** If we want solid pro-life candidates who can win in the general election, we must vote on Aug. 13.

After the primary, the general election campaign will kick into high gear. You can help support our efforts to inform Minnesotans about where the candidates stand (see page 7).

In the wake of our victory this spring, we know that pro-life success is possible. Let's work harder than ever on behalf of the vulnerable human beings who need us! **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.
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

High school students: There's still time to sign up for Life Leadership Camp on Aug. 11-14

MCCL HELD our first of two 2024 Life Leadership Camps in late June. The second is coming Aug. 11-14 at Koronis Ministries in Paynesville, which is west of the Twin Cities in central Minnesota. High school students won't want to miss it!

Pro-life education and fun

Life Leadership Camp 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.

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 \$100 per student, which includes meals, accommodations, materials, and a T-shirt; scholarships may also be available.

Register for camp now

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**

MCCL AD CAUSES A HUGE STIR, HELPS WIN ERA BATTLE

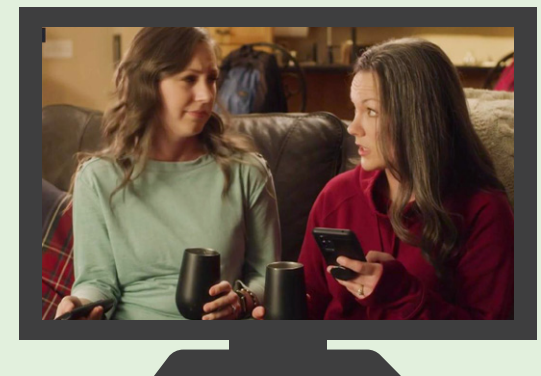
DURING THE middle of the 2024 legislative session this spring, MCCL went on offense like never before in order to stop the proposal to enshrine unlimited abortion in our state (see page 1).

Our powerful TV ad, called "Way Out There," shows two women discussing Minnesota's abortion-up-to-birth policy—and the push to put it into the Constitution. "Abortion up to birth isn't compassionate," says one woman. "It's way out there," says the other.

Putting the pressure on lawmakers

Two versions of the ad ran regularly for multiple weeks on television. It also received more than two million views on YouTube and was widely seen and shared on social media. **Several media outlets "fact checked" our ad (unfortunately, they often missed some of the facts and needed to be fact-checked themselves!), but they all acknowledged the truth that Minnesota law allows abortion for any reason and at any time up to birth.**

Together with MCCL's other outreach and advertising (including radio, newspapers, and social media), the ad informed and activated Minnesotans and put the pressure on lawmakers. You can watch it online at mccl.org/WayOutThere. **MCCL**



CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES ANSWER PRO-LIFE SURVEY

Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate were asked the following questions. A short explanation precedes each question. Use the response key on page 5 to interpret the chart.

ABORTION POLICIES

With the 2022 landmark ruling in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court* decision that overruled *Roe v. Wade*, the Court held that "the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." The role of Congress regarding abortion can now include a broader scope of possibilities.

- 1. As an elected representative, do you recognize a Federal role in protecting unborn children?**
- 2. Would you vote against any legislation that would weaken any pro-life law or policy that is in effect on the day that you are elected?**
- 3. Would you vote against any federal legislation that would place new limits on the ability of states to regulate abortion—for example, the so-called "Women's Health Protection Act" (S. 1975/H.R. 3755 in the 117th Congress), sometimes referred to by critics as the "Abortion Without Limits Until Birth Act," which is a successor to the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act"?**

BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 204/H.R. 26) would enact an explicit requirement that a baby born alive during an abortion must be afforded "the same degree" of care that would apply "to any other child born alive at the same gestational age," including transportation to a hospital. In addition, the bill applies the existing penalties of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1111 (the federal murder statute) to anyone who performs "an overt act that kills a child born alive."

The bill also empowers women with a right to sue their abortionists and others for harm caused by violations of the act.

- 4. Would you vote for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to protect babies born alive in an attempted abortion?**

CHEMICAL ABORTION DRUGS

Perhaps nothing has altered America's abortion landscape as much as chemical abortions. It has changed the public's image and women's perceptions of abortion, as well as the way they are performed.

Loosened government regulations on their distribution, coupled with telemedicine, has made chemical abortions easier to get, more widespread, and harder to track. Currently, about 53% of recorded abortions are chemical abortions. Not only do a percentage of abortions go unreported, but current reporting fails to gather data on failed chemical abortions, complications, and deaths prompted by these deadly drugs. This will especially be the case if patients do not reveal their use of these chemical abortions to doctors at the emergency room when they seek treatment for incomplete abortions, infections, ruptured ectopic pregnancies, or uncontrolled bleeding.

- 5. Would you vote for chemical abortion legislation related to restricting its use, supporting the collecting and reporting of data on complications, or increasing safeguards for women?**

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR ABORTION

Congress votes from time to time on the "Hyde Amendment," a law that prohibits federal Medicaid money from being used to pay for abortions or for health care plans that include abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest.

Other similar provisions restrict federal subsidies for abortion in certain other federal health programs, including those covering the military and federal employees, but, regrettably, not major components of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 ("ObamaCare").

- 6. Would you oppose any legislation that would weaken the Hyde Amendment or other current laws that restrict federal subsidies for abortion; and would you support measures to ensure the fullest possible enforcement of such laws and applications, wherever appropriate, of their underlying principles?**

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

For many years, pro-abortion officials and advocacy groups have sought to use the compulsory powers of government to compel health care providers to participate in abortion. The Obama Administration broadened the assault on conscience rights by issuing "ObamaCare" regulations that require employers

(including religious schools and hospitals) to provide health coverage that will provide drugs and procedures to which the employers have religious or moral objections. In response, pro-life members of Congress have proposed the Conscience Protection Act (S. 401 in the 117th Congress), which would greatly strengthen the rights of private individuals and employers to refuse to participate in abortion or other procedures that violate their deeply held beliefs.

Among other things, the bill would prohibit any government agency—federal, state, or local—from penalizing health care providers for refusing to participate in providing abortions and would allow health care providers to sue when subjected to such attacks from government entities.

- 7. Would you vote for legislation, such as the Conscience Protection Act, to protect the conscience rights of pro-life health care providers and others, and advocate for vigorous enforcement of existing laws to protect conscience rights?**

RATIONING IN HEALTH CARE

Single-payer health care, similar to what is being proposed in many of the Medicare for All proposals, would eliminate privately-funded health plans, will lead to government price setting, and will lessen access to healthcare.

- 8. Would you oppose any Medicare for All plan that did not allow the option of private health insurance (both individual or employer sponsored) as an alternative?**

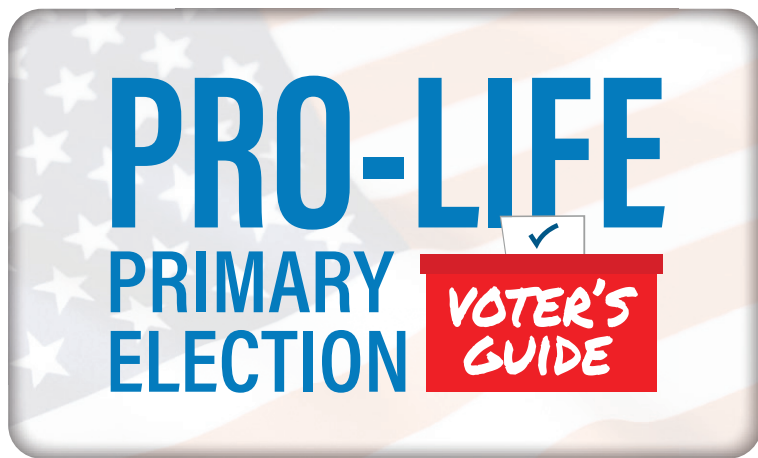
Use of the Quality-Adjusted Life Year (QALY) or similar metrics in health coverage has been banned in several places in Federal Law (including the Affordable Care Act). QALYs are an inherently discriminatory system of rationing used to assess a person's anticipated lifespan and whether treatment will be "cost effective." QALYs apply a score to a person's health and penalize a person who has a disability. QALYs and similar metrics are being used by some health care systems and payers to determine whether a patient who is judged-by others-to have a "diminished quality of life" should receive health care coverage.

- 9. Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under all Federal health care programs?**

ASSISTING SUICIDE

Nine states and the District of Columbia have adopted laws affirmatively legalizing prescription of lethal drugs to assist suicide in certain cases.

- 10. Would you oppose the Federal legalization of assisting suicide through lethal prescription?**



Inside: Find where the primary election candidates stand on life



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Action Box JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

- Vote in the primary election on or before Aug. 13.** Learn where the candidates stand before you vote (see pages 4-7).

- Encourage high school students to sign up for Life Leadership Camp from August 11-14** (see page 3).

- Follow us on social media** (see page 2).

- Support MCCL's General Election Voter's Guide and other outreach this summer and fall** (see page 7).

- Contact MCCL if you would like to volunteer to staff a shift at MCCL's State Fair booth** at the end of the summer.

Contact List

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

Governor Tim Walz
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