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MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Your trusted source for pro-life news

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MCCL BACKS LEGISLATION TO RETURN PROTECTION TO NEWBORNS, STOP COERCED ABORTIONS

Many protective laws were lost over the last two years

MCCL IS WORKING to advance several new pro-life bills in the current legislative session at the state Capitol in St. Paul. The bills aim to restore protections lost over the last two years, counteracting the extreme abortion policies enacted by DFL majorities and Gov. Tim Walz.

Protecting abortion survivors, disabled newborns

One bill is the Born Alive Infant Protection Act (HF24/SF461) to protect newborn babies who survive abortion. **The bill would restore the requirement to take medically appropriate measures to "preserve the life and health of the born-alive infant."** That requirement was repealed in 2023, allowing the denial of lifesaving treatment to abortion survivors. As this newsletter goes to press, HF24 has already passed through the House Health Committee and will next go to the House floor.

A second MCCL-supported bill is called "Simon's Law." It would prevent medical personnel from issuing Do Not Resuscitate orders (without involving the parents) because a newborn or any other child is disabled. The bill states that, when care is denied, parents must be notified and given time to move the newborn or the child to receive care at another facility.

Helping women and families

MCCL is also advancing a bill to prevent coerced abortions in three areas: (1) pregnant women sometimes face violence or threats of violence if they do not abort; (2) chemical abortion drugs, which are increasingly prevalent, can be given to women to cause abortions without their knowledge or consent; and (3) human traffickers often use abortion to hide and continue their crimes, made easier because Minnesota no longer requires that parents be notified prior to an abortion on a minor girl. The new bill would protect women and girls from these forms of coercion.

In addition, MCCL is backing the Supporting Women Act to provide grants to pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes that assist mothers, babies, and families (HF25/SF1650). A previous grant program, Positive Alternatives, was repealed in 2023. The new bill has passed two House committees so far.

Contact your lawmakers now

Please take action now to urge your state representative and state senator to support these lifesaving bills. **Contact information is listed on the back page and online at mccl.org.**

Abortions increase again as extreme policies in Minnesota have grave effect

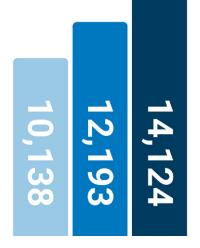
ABORTIONS in Minnesota increased 16 percent to a 20-year high of 14,124 in 2023, according to a report released Dec. 31 by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Lawmakers that year enshrined into state statute a policy of abortion-up-to-birth and repealed numerous longstanding abortion-related laws, including laws ensuring informed consent for women and providing practical assistance for those who do not want to have abortions.

"We are now seeing the real-life consequences of DFL extremism," said MCCL Co-Executive Director Cathy Blaeser. "DFL lawmakers and Gov. Walz have sought to make Minnesota a place of truly unlimited abortion—at the expense of women and children. This is not what Minnesotans want to be known for. We want to be a state where both moms and babies receive love and support and where no one is left out."

Changes reverse pro-life trend

The large increase follows a 20 percent rise the previous year, defying a long-term downward trajectory that had seen abortions drop 48 percent from 1980 to 2015. The 2023 total is the highest since 2003. The abortion rate among Minnesota residents rose to 10.1 (abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age), a 9 percent increase over 2022 and a 20 percent jump since 2021.

In 2023, lawmakers changed parts of Minnesota's abortion reporting law, delaying the release date of the annual MDH report to Dec. 31 and repealing certain reporting requirements. As a result, the new report does not include post-operative abortion complications or the reasons women seek abortion. Nor does it report cases of infants who survive abortion and the



ABORTIONS IN MINNESOTA, 2021-2023

care they receive. Lawmakers in 2023 had also repealed a law requiring that reasonable and medically appropriate measures be taken to save the lives of such infants.

••••• ABORTION REPORT continued on PAGE 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With your help, we won't be the 'Land of 14,000 Lost' for much longer

BY SCOTT FISCHBACH

ON JAN. 22, thousands of you joined us at the MCCL March for Life. We lamented a shocking reality: More than 14,000 unborn babies died from abortion in Minnesota in 2023, according to new data released by the Minnesota Department of Health (see

page 1).

This is the highest number in two decades. Since 2021, abortions have shot up 39 percent, reversing a steady, long-term pro-life trend of declining abortions.

How did it happen? Extreme policies have consequences. The 2022 election saw the DFL win majorities in the state House and Senate alongside Gov. Walz. Once in office, they quickly worked to make Minnesota an extremely dangerous place for unborn babies and other vulnerable human beings.

They enshrined abortion-up-to-birth in state law and repealed longstanding prolife policies, including protection for born-alive infants and a program supporting pregnant women and their families with alternatives to abortion. Then, in early 2024, they tried to go even further—to pass a constitutional amendment to make unlimited abortion a (nearly) permanent requirement of our state Constitution.

Our recent victories

But you know what else has consequences? Good consequences? The conviction, faithfulness, and citizen action of pro-life Minnesotans. Through the efforts of pro-lifers across the state and with a major MCCL TV ad campaign—we stopped the pro-abortion amendment last spring. Then in November, with the support of TV advertising (and more) from MCCL's Victory Fund, pro-life candidates won enough seats to end the DFL's total control of state government.

A post-election analysis showed that the Victory Fund ads made the difference in at

least five House races, in each case accounting for more votes than the margin of victory. Without those votes, abortion advocates would still have full control of the legislature. To all of you who helped fund this pivotal election work, please know that you helped save lives!

Our agenda at the legislature

Here's what it all means: We can now begin restoring protections that were lost and rebuilding a pro-life culture in Minnesota. We can make Minnesota pro-life once again. But it won't be easy, it won't be quick, and it's going to take all of us doing our part, each day, every day.

This legislative session, we're working to advance bills that will restore protections for born-alive infants—both babies who survive abortion and those at risk because of disability (see page 1). You can learn how they were stripped of protection in the article on page 6.

We're also working to combat the scourge of coerced abortion. The rise of chemical abortion drugs—which are often sent through the mail with minimal medical oversight—have introduced a new danger for pregnant women, who can be given these pills without their knowledge. Other coerced abortions happen through sex trafficking, as one of our March for Life speakers powerfully shared from her own experience (read her story on page 4).

You make the difference

Please reach out to your state representative and state senator. Let them know that you want them to support and vote for these bills to protect babies and women. You can find contact information on the back side of this newsletter.

Please also urge the young people you know to take part in one of MCCL's Student Days at the Capitol (see page 5). This is a unique educational experience for students, and it's also a chance for them to talk with lawmakers and help advance these lifesaving bills.

And as we move forward this session and then into a summer filled with outreach, consider renewing your support for MCCL's pro-life mission (see page 7). It doesn't happen without you.

Your conviction and faithfulness make the difference! MCCL



County fair volunteers: **New training coming**

THIS SUMMER, as MCCL again has pro-life booths at county fairs across the state, we'll be providing some new training to our booth coordinators and volunteers.

The training—which will happen remotely through Zoom—will equip volunteers to have comfortable and effective conversations with fairgoers, explain and defend the pro-life position, and compassionately respond to objections or criticisms. This training is not mandatory, but we strongly encourage it. Having conversations with those who don't agree with us doesn't need to be difficult or awkward—we'll show you how to do it!

Watch out for more details as summer approaches. MCCL

Help maximize pro-life outreach on social media

SOCIAL MEDIA is an increasingly important avenue of pro-life outreach. It's not just a way for MCCL to connect with you and keep you informed about pro-life issues, legislation, and events—it's a way we can reach more and more people with the pro-life message.

You can bolster this work by following and then sharing content from MCCL's social media accounts, including the separate accounts for MCCL's Center for a Pro-Life Minnesota, our special outreach arm. Scan the QR code

> to find us on Facebook, Instagram, and X, and be sure to regularly like and share our posts! MCCL











@mccl org

FEDERAL UPDATE: PRO-LIFE ACTION IN WASHINGTON

SINCE TAKING office early this year, President Donald Trump has taken a number of actions pertaining to the right to life.

He reinstated the Mexico City Policy (now known as the Protecting Life Globally policy), which prevents U.S. funding from going to groups that perform or promote abortion overseas, and he announced that the U.S. had rejoined the Geneva Consensus Declaration, a pro-life statement joined by many nations in opposition to efforts to make abortion an international right.

Trump also took action to reinforce the Hyde Amendment, which blocks most federal abortion funding in the U.S. And he pardoned 23 pro-life advocates who had been imprisoned and convicted after peacefully protesting outside an abortion facility.

In late January, Vice President J.D. Vance spoke in person at the national March for



Life in Washington, telling the crowd that "the task of our movement is to protect innocent life. It's to defend the unborn. And it's also to be pro-family and pro-life in the fullest sense of that word possible."

Congress votes on born-alive protections

Meanwhile, Congress recently considered the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which states that any newborn baby who has survived an abortion must receive "the same degree" of care as any other baby born at the same gestational age. The House passed the bill on Jan. 23, but the Senate has so far blocked it.

Newly elected Congresswoman Kelly Morrison used her first speech on the House floor to speak against this protection for newborns. Morrison joined fellow Representatives Angie Craig, Betty McCollum, and Ilhan Omar in voting against the measure, and Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar opposed it in the Senate. But pro-life Representatives Brad Finstad, Tom Emmer, Michelle Fischbach, and Pete Stauber all strongly supported the bill.

MCCL is currently advancing similar state-level legislation to restore protection for newborns in Minnesota (see page 1).

As this newsletter goes to press, the U.S. House is also considering a budget that would defund Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading performer and promoter of abortion. Find the latest federal updates from National Right to Life at nrlc.org.

ABORTION REPORT continued from **PAGE 1**

Minnesota now an outlier

The new report shows that 2,980 abortions were performed on non-Minnesota residents, a 48 percent increase that reflects Minnesota's status as an outlier on abortion policy in the region (and, indeed, the world). Chemical (drug-induced) abortions made up 65 percent of the overall total; 768 dilation and evacuation (dismemberment) abortion procedures were

performed. 300 abortions took place at 20 weeks or later, a slight increase; the latest was performed at 29 weeks.

A total of 94 complications were reported at the time of the abortion procedure, including cervical laceration and hemorrhage (post-operative complications, as already noted, are no longer reported).

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

In addition to repealing born-alive infants' right to

lifesaving care and removing parts of the abortion reporting law, lawmakers in 2023 repealed many other abortion-related laws, including the Woman's Right to Know informed consent law and the Positive Alternatives Act, which provided grants for programs that assist pregnant women and new mothers. Lawmakers also enacted the PRO Act to create a fundamental right to abortion, without limits at any stage of pregnancy.

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

Nothing in this Newspaper, except paid advertising, should be construed as supporting or opposing any candidate for public office.

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Scott Fischbach, Publisher Paul Stark, Editor

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Register now: Pro-life camp for high schoolers in June or August

MCCL's ANNUAL pro-life camp for high school students is taking place twice next summer: June 23-26 and Aug. 10-13. Students and parents can choose whichever dates work best!

Life Leadership Camp is open to students who will be entering grades 9-12 or who will be college freshmen in the coming fall. It offers four days of pro-life education (two full days and two partial days),



schools and communities. And it does so in a summer camp environment with games and fun outdoor activities.

Reserve your spot now

Cost to attend is \$100 per student, which includes meals, accommodations, materials, and a T-shirt; scholarships may also be available. The camp takes place at Koronis Ministries in Paynesville, which is west of the Twin Cities in central Minnesota.

Please reserve your spot now! Learn more and register online at mccl.org/camp or by contacting MCCL.

2025 MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE

Thousands remember 14,000 lost and call for restored protections

THOUSANDS of Minnesotans joined the 52nd annual MCCL March for Life on Jan. 22 at the state Capitol to call for restored protections for vulnerable human life. Abortions have risen 39 percent in two years as lawmakers and Gov. Walz have enacted sweeping polices enshrining unlimited abortion, expanding taxpayer funding of abortion, and repealing protection for born-alive infants as well as a program supporting pregnant women and new mothers.

Land of 14,000 Lost

"Governor Walz and his DFL trifecta have taken us from the Land of 10.000 Lakes to the Land of 14.000 Abortions—14,000 women wounded and 14,000 unborn children killed," MCCL Co-Executive Director Cathy Blaeser told the crowd gathered from across the

state. "We stand here today in tremendous hope as we move forward to restore protections for parents, for women, for victims of trafficking and abuse, for families, for newborn babies, and for the unborn."

During the program, Jean Marie Davis—now the director of a pregnancy resource center—powerfully shared her experience of being trafficked in 33 different states, including Minnesota, spotlighting the need for more protections for women and babies. "Both of my children were [intended to be killed] by my pimps," she said. "My life was literally at the brink of death." She visited a pregnancy resource center wanting to have an abortion, but "heard the heartbeat of my son, and because I heard the heartbeat of my son, I now can say my son Jonah is 10

Agenda introduced

MCCL also introduced its legislative agenda, which includes bills to combat coerced abortions and to restore protection for born-alive infants (see page 1). Many state lawmakers attended and were introduced to the crowd.

The annual MCCL March for Life, which has been held each year since 1974, marks the anniversary of the legalization of abortion. A total of 14,124 unborn children died from abortion in 2023, according to the Minnesota Department of Health, marking a 16 percent increase over the previous year and a 39 percent jump since 2021 (see page 1).

Video of the March is available online at mccl.org/march. MCCL









































This April: Student Day at the Capitol for grades 7-12

REGISTRATION is currently open for MCCL's three Student Days at the Capitol this spring: Apr. 23, Apr. 24, and Apr. 28 (students pick just one). Student Day is a unique experience for young people in grades 7-12 to learn about citizen action and the importance of pro-life policy. You don't want to miss it!

A unique experience

Each day begins with educational sessions that instruct students about abortion, current legislation, and the legislative process. In the afternoon, students are able to meet with their own legislators and lobby them to support life. The students may also tour the Capitol and hear from pro-life elected officials.



program starts at 9:30 a.m. and runs until about 2:00 p.m. A nominal \$15 donation includes lunch. **Students** need to register ahead of time at mccl.org/ studentday or by contacting MCCL at 612-825-6831. Adult

supervision will be provided, but teachers and parents are welcome to accompany their students for the day.





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 prolife 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.

 $\label{thm:contribution} Your contribution is since rely appreciated.$

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: HOW BORN-ALIVE INFANTS WERE DENIED PROTECTION UNDER MINNESOTA LAW

MCCL IS BACKING legislation to restore protection for bornalive infants, including those who survive abortion and those with disabilities (see page 1). But many people find it hard to believe that protection was ever lost in the first place.

Did Minnesota lawmakers and Gov. Tim Walz really repeal the right to lifesaving care for born-alive infants? Is it true that babies can be left to die? Here are the facts you need to know.

What was Minnesota's previous law?

Minnesota's bipartisan Born Alive Infants Protection Act (MN Statutes 145.423) was first enacted in 1976 and updated in 2015, when it was signed into law by Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton. It protected babies who survive abortion procedures

and are born alive. Among other things, the law required that "reasonable measures consistent with good medical practice" be taken "to preserve the life and health of the born alive infant."

What did Walz and the legislature do?

In 2023, a narrow DFL-only majority in the legislature passed—and Gov. Walz signed—an omnibus bill (SF 2995) that repealed or

amended numerous laws relating to abortion, including the Born Alive Infants Protection Act.

Among the changes: No longer must reasonable measures be taken "to preserve the life and health of the born alive infant." Instead, measures must be taken only to "care for the infant who is born alive." This was repeatedly described by the bill's House author, Rep. Tina Liebling, as "comfort" care, as opposed to lifesaving care.

In addition, part of the subdivision's heading was changed from "medical care" to just "care." And the law's language was altered to no longer apply specifically to babies who survive abortion, but rather to *all* babies who are born alive.

The new version also eliminates the civil penalties for violating the law, and it repeals the previous requirement that cases of born-alive infants—and the measures taken or not taken to care for them—be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

What do those changes mean?

Whereas Minnesota's previous law guaranteed medically appropriate care that could save infants' lives, the new law does not. Under the new language, viable babies can be set aside, with only comfort care (i.e., care that keeps patients temporarily comfortable but does not try to save their lives), and allowed to die. This policy is a threat to "unwanted" babies born in the context of abortion, but it also endangers other infants, especially those born with disabilities, whose

lives are often devalued

It's true that the law retains previous language affirming that born-alive infants are human persons who deserve protection. But recognizing personhood is not the same as requiring any particular standard of care. Moreover, the new version of Minnesota's policy removes the penalties for violating it, undermining any effective enforcement. And it gets worse: The public will no longer even know about bornalive infants because Walz and the legislature repealed the reporting requirement. Minnesotans are being kept in the dark.

What do the new law's defenders say?

Lawmakers and advocates who support the changes—

and journalists who repeat their claims—have usually defended them this way: The previous law, they say, mandated extraordinary and burdensome measures to try to prolong life even when those measures were futile. They say that such a mandate was not compassionate for grieving families whose babies would soon die.

The problem is that Minnesota's previous law plainly did not require

extraordinary or burdensome measures. Instead, it required only "reasonable measures consistent with good medical practice." This allowed for different interventions depending on the situation. But it meant that you could not simply deny medically appropriate measures that would save infants' lives. You could not just set babies aside to die.

Reports from the health department confirm that practitioners of abortion never thought Minnesota's previous law required extraordinary measures. In 2015, for example, after the updated version of the Born Alive Infants Protection Act was enacted, MDH noted that some infants "were reported to have lethal fetal anomalies incompatible with life and *thus no measures were taken* to preserve the life of these infants" (emphasis added).

Do babies really survive abortion?

Yes. In most years since reporting began in 2015, between three and five born-alive abortion survivors have been reported to MDH. Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that, between 2003 and 2014, at least 143 babies were born alive after abortion (the actual number, the CDC acknowledges, may be higher). Hundreds of abortion survivors who have lived are now part of the Abortion Survivors Network.

For answers to some further questions about the lack of protection for born-alive infants—and for supporting documentation—visit mccl.org/extreme.



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.

HELP US FIGHT FOR LIFE AT THE CAPITOL THIS SPRING

As we meet with lawmakers, inform and activate the public, and push forward lifesaving legislation at the Capitol in St. Paul, your support is very needed! **To** contribute, please fill out and return the coupon to the left, or donate online at mccl.org/donate.

Become a monthly donor

You can also strengthen our pro-life work and help MCCL make a bigger difference than ever 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 method of giving monthly is by an electronic funds transfer, which is convenient for you and increases our efficiency. But 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. Contact the MCCL office by phone or email to set up your monthly giving. Thank you!

Get ready: Let's thank moms and help save lives on Mother's Day

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!**

Many options for your group

We offer a number of different options to groups and MCCL chapters for your fundraiser. These options may include the following:

- Orchid corsages
- Carnation corsages
- African violet plants

- Begonias
- Mini rose bushes
- "Thanks Mom for Life" buttons
- · Dry floral supplies
- Single, long-stem carnations and roses

Raise funds, thank moms

To receive more information, contact the MCCL office at 612-825-6831 or mccl@mccl.org. We expect that we will mail order packets with full details in March; the deadline for placing orders is in early April.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11.
This Mother's Day, please help honor mothers in your community with this positive message of life and love!





Restoring protection for vulnerable newborns in Minnesota

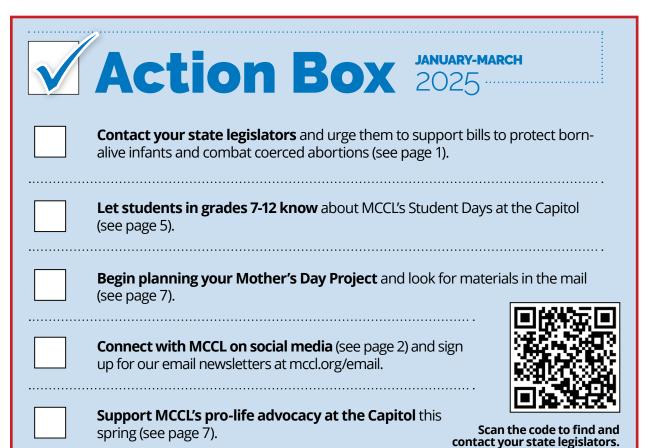
Update inside



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Contact List

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

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

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