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MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Your trusted source for pro-life news

Visit us online at MCCL.org

LET'S REBUILD A PRO-LIFE MINNESOTA

Join us Jan. 22 for a powerful March for Life

THE 2025 MCCL March for Life will mark the anniversary of abortion's legalization with an unforgettable remembrance of those excluded from protection by our state's extreme laws—and a compelling call to rebuild a Minnesota where every human life is valued and loved.

The March takes place at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 22, on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul. It will be followed by a program on the Capitol steps from 12:30 to 1:00. Please make plans now to participate, and bring others with you!

Vulnerable lives are being left out

MCCL has held the March each year since 1974, but this year's event comes at a pivotal time. Legislators and Gov. Walz have enacted a number of extreme anti-life laws (see mccl. org/extreme for details). Abortions rose 20 percent in 2022, and another large increase is expected when the 2023 numbers are soon released. **Unborn babies, pregnant women, newborns with disabilities, nursing home residents, medically vulnerable patients, and others are at grave risk in our state**.

But pro-life victories in the 2024 election (see article below) show that Minnesotans are pushing back. At MCCL, we believe we can rebuild a pro-life Minnesota, but we can only do it through the combined efforts of pro-lifers across the state. That's what the March for Life is all about.

Like last year's event, the 2025 March will feature a powerful visual display of lifesize models of unborn babies, one for each life lost to abortion in Minnesota last year.

Make plans now

Will you help this event make a lasting pro-life impact in our state? We need more attendees than ever:

- Please make your own plans to attend, and urge others to join you. We encourage you to preregister online at mccl.org/march.
- Share information about the March with those in your church,
 - community, and social media circles. A promotional poster and shareable social media graphics are available at mccl.org/march or by contacting MCCL.
- Encourage your church or MCCL chapter to arrange for a bus to transport people to the March. MCCL can help with subsidizing the cost.

In case of bad weather, check our webpage at mccl.org/march or call our office for updates We'll see you at the March!



Success! Pro-life election victories halt pro-abortion trifecta in Minnesota

THE MINNESOTA House DFL majority that voted to enshrine unlimited abortion and to repeal protection for born-alive infants paid a price at the ballot box on Nov. 5, pointing to the unpopularity of these extreme positions among the state's voters. Republicans overcame a 5-seat DFL majority to leave the state House evenly split 67-67, with one district having a razor-thin DFL lead and facing a possible re-election.

Though abortion supporters retain the governor's office and a one-seat majority in the state Senate, they no longer have a full "trifecta" (control of the House, Senate, and governor) that allows them to push through pro-abortion legislation, as they did in 2023. This stops, for now, the pro-abortion drive to go even further by putting unlimited abortion in the state Constitution.

A rejection of abortion extremism

"Minnesotans want compassionate laws that support both moms and babies. That's not what we've gotten from DFL lawmakers, and all the pro-abortion messaging in this election didn't cover up what they've done," said MCCL Co-Executive Director Cathy Blaeser. "DFL lawmakers created a fundamental right to abort any baby, for any reason, at any time throughout pregnancy. Then they repealed a

bipartisan measure that ensured that born-alive infants receive medically appropriate care that could save their lives. Minnesotans are rightly rejecting this kind of extremism."

The MCCL State Victory Fund, an independent expenditure PAC, ran TV and digital ads in targeted districts across the state—in addition to radio and newspaper ads, postcards, texts, and more—to better inform voters about the abortion policies enacted by DFL lawmakers. The Victory Fund also ran a TV ad featuring Michele Tafoya to dispel false claims made by DFL groups.

Polls show that most Minnesotans disagree with the state's no-limits abortion policy. 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. And a KSTP/SurveyUSA poll this year determined that 64 percent of Minnesotans don't want abortion included in a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the state Constitution.

Federal success

At the federal level, among Minnesota's congressional delegation, pro-life incumbent Reps. Brad Finstad, Tom Emmer, Michelle Fischbach, and Pete Stauber won re-election to the U.S. House, as did pro-abortion incumbent Reps. Angie Craig, Betty McCollum, and Ilhan Omar. Pro-abortion candidate Kelly Morrison won the open seat vacated by pro-abortion Rep. Dean Phillips, and pro-abortion Sen. Amy Klobuchar won another term in the U.S. Senate.

Overall, though, Republicans retained control of the U.S. House while also gaining a majority in the Senate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



After the election, now's our chance you won't want to miss out on Jan. 22

BY SCOTT FISCHBACH

ELECTION DAY was a huge success, but it's really only the start.

We ended the pro-abortion trifecta in St. Paul (see page 1). That means the effort to permanently enshrine unlimited abortion in our state Constitution—an attempt we narrowly fended off this past spring—has been stopped, at least for now. Because of all the pro-life victories in state House races, there won't be enough pro-abortion votes to pass it!

You helped make the difference

Let me thank everyone who voted pro-life, who encouraged friends to get to the polls, and who supported MCCL's work. **MCCL did much more (and spent much more) during this election season than we have in past years**, and it's because of pro-lifers across the state like you.

You didn't just contribute financially. So many of you shared MCCL's TV ads, social media posts, Voter's Guides, and other resources and helped spread the word about the candidates and the stakes in this election. You made a lifesaving difference.

But the election results, while pivotal, don't undo the damage that's already been done. They don't re-establish protection for unborn babies, newborn babies, pregnant women,

and other vulnerable members of our human family. They don't reverse the deadly trend of increasing abortions in our state.

Rebuilding a pro-life Minnesota

MCCL will put forward strategic pro-life legislation in the new year to advance our goal of restoring protection for the innocent. But we're also thinking bigger than that. Minnesota needs a culture change. We need to become a state that unequivocally values human life at every stage and in every condition. A state that protects everyone. A state that loves both moms and babies.

We need to be a place where no one is left out.

This culture-changing mission is an integral part of MCCL's upcoming plans. Our Center for a Pro-Life Minnesota (MCCL's outreach arm) is working to reach young people, Latinos, churchgoers, and others with the pro-life message. We're expanding our social media and our events. We're training and equipping pro-life Minnesotans to have conversations that touch hearts and minds. And I invite you to find ways to partner with us in this work (see page 3).

Please come on Jan. 22

Here's one thing I hope each and every one of you will do: Join us for the MCCL March for Life at noon on Jan. 22 (see page 1).

This is our chance to gather together at the Capitol in St. Paul—thousands of pro-lifers from across Minnesota. We'll take time to remember all the lives lost and the extreme pro-abortion laws recently passed. And we'll bear witness to the precious worth of every single innocent human being. We'll show the public and our elected officials what it means to be pro-life.

The election results gave us a fresh start—a new opportunity to rebuild a pro-life Minnesota. It begins at the March for Life on Jan. 22. Will you help us make the most of it?

I look forward to seeing you at the Capitol! MCCL

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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!







@mccl_org

@mccl_org

ABORTION-UP-TO-BIRTH is the current law of the land in Minnesota. More than 12,000 babies were killed in 2022 alone, and a much higher number is expected in 2023 (that year's data will be released soon). How can we make Minnesota pro-life again?

There are no easy solutions. **Restoring protection for** innocent human life will require changing the way many Minnesotans think about abortion and about the lives of unborn babies and other vulnerable persons. That's why MCCL is so committed to creating a pro-life culture in our state.

Here's some of what we're doing, and how you can help.

Outreach to new groups

Last year MCCL started the Center for a Pro-Life Minnesota, a new outreach arm, with the goal of reaching key groups with the pro-life message and pro-life training. What does that look like?

We're reaching more young people with school presentations, social media, and events, including an expansion of our Student Days at the Capitol and our Life Leadership Camps (see page 5). We're reaching more churchgoers, many of whom are not active in the fight for life, with presentations and other activities. We're reaching into the Latino community with Spanish-language talks and materials.

And we're reaching our MCCL members to train them to be effective pro-life ambassadors. Cultural change happens one conversation at a time, and we're encouraging and equipping pro-life Minnesotans to engage in those conversations with people in their spheres of influence.

We're also pursuing advertising to reach a broader

audience. In August and September, we ran a \$750,000 TV ad campaign to show the public what pro-lifers are all about. The ad emphasized love for both moms and babies, and it directed thousands of viewers to our website for information about alternatives to abortion.

What's your role?

You play a vital role in our plan to create a pro-life culture. Please consider some of the ways you can help:

- Invite us to speak to your chapter, church, school, or **group**. All our presentations are free of charge. Please contact us at the MCCL office or fill out the online form at mccl.org/speaker.
- Start or join an MCCL chapter to help lead pro-life **activities in your community**. Contact us to learn more about existing chapters or the opportunity to start a new one.
- If you're a pastor or church leader and want to work with other pro-life churches to impact your local community, contact MCCL and we'll help bring you together.
- Connect with MCCL on social media and share our posts (see page 2).
- Participate in and/or promote MCCL events and programs, like our upcoming events for young people (see page 5).
- Contribute financially (see page 7). MCCL's work can't happen without your generous support!
- Have ideas of your own? Contact MCCL at mccl@mccl.org and let us know. We're always looking for new avenues of advancing our mission.

We can rebuild a pro-life Minnesota, but the reality is that we can only do it together! Thank you for partnering with us to save lives. 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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Beware of end-of-year fundraising claims from 'Minnesota Right to Life'

It's an old scam.

The so-called "Minnesota Right to Life" follows a pattern of several fly-by-night organizations that have come and gone since the late 1990s:

- Get a post office box and a computer (most of these "organizations" have no office or chapters).
- Write a flurry of fundraising letters and email blasts asking for donations.
- Claim in those letters that your "organization" can magically ban abortions.
- Try to discredit legitimate organizations and public officials as a way to get more donations.

Despite its name, "Minnesota Right to Life" is not affiliated in any way with the legitimate group National

Right to Life (of which MCCL is the sole Minnesota affiliate). When asking for donations, it claims to be able to now ban abortions in Minnesota. That's absolutely false—our state currently has a pro-abortion Senate (which wouldn't vote to ban abortion), a pro-abortion governor (who would veto such a bill anyway), and a pro-abortion state Supreme Court (which would declare such a law unconstitutional even if it did pass).

MCCL is working to change the culture to get the public support needed to enact protections for innocent unborn children. Any group saying there is a magic shortcut to that critically important work is not being honest with

For more information about the so-called "Minnesota Right to Life," visit mccl.org/mrtl.

2024 IN PHOTOS



Students came to the Capitol for three different Student Days—in February, March, and April.



The March for Life on Jan. 22 featured a display of 12,000 life-size unborn baby models.













Hospitals regain financial footing

Innesota's largest systems stabilize after pandemic losses, with Mayo adding most operating profit income so far this year.

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MCCL held our Life Leadership Camp for high school students in both June and August. It was the subject of a front-page story in the Star

Telegram

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inquiry



MCCL ran TV ads opposing the pro-abortion amendment in the spring (bottom left) and calling for love for both moms and babies in the fall (top left). Our Victory Fund ran ads during the election highlighting lawmakers' extreme votes and refuting pro-abortion claims (right).



Students in grades 7-12: Register now for Student Day 2025

LAST YEAR, MCCL's Student Day at the Capitol expanded to three different dates, and we're doing the same in 2025! Registration is now open for all three events: Apr. 23, Apr. 24, and Apr. 28 (students pick just one).

A unique experience

Student Day is a unique experience for young people in grades 7-12 to learn about government and the importance of pro-life policy. The 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.

The 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.

Help promote Student Day

If you are a student in grades 7-12, we invite you to attend. If you know students who are that age (in your church, school, or community), please invite them to participate. A promotional poster is available on our website at mccl.org/studentday.

Thank you for sharing information about this exciting event!



Actor Jim Caviezel spoke at MCCL's Compassionately Pro-Life Gala on May 3.





Pro-Life Essay Contest runs through Jan. 22

IF YOU are a pro-life teenager and you like to write, the annual National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest is for you.

To participate, students must write a 300-500 word essay about



their pro-life convictions. The Junior Essay Contest is for students in grades 7-9; the Senior Essay Contest is for grades 10-12.

Essays should address this question: "Why are you pro-life?" They must be submitted by mail between Dec. 1, 2024, and Jan. 22, 2025. Prizes for winning essays go as high as \$400.

More information about the essay guidelines is available online at nrlc. org/essaycontest.

High school students: Life Leadership Camp is coming in both June and 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), 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.

Reserve your spot early

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 early! Learn more and register online at mccl.org/camp or by contacting MCCL.

KEY DATES in 2025

- Jan. 14 Legislative Session Begins
 Jan. 22 March for Life
 TBD Legislative Dinner
 Apr. 23 Student Day at the Capitol (#1)
 Apr. 24 Student Day at the Capitol (#2)
- May 11 Mother's Day Project
 June 23-26 Life Leadership Camp (#1)
 Aug. 10-13 Life Leadership Camp (#2)
 Dec. 15 Choose Life Drive

Apr. 28...... Student Day at the Capitol (#3)



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

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

City, State, Zip

Please PRINT all information

In memory of *Joe Woitalla*from Angela Daub

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THIS KEY ARGUMENT FOR ABORTION? Why excluding unborn children doesn't make sense

BY PAUL STARK

ABORTION ENDS the life of a human embryo or fetus. Supporters of abortion think that's OK, or sometimes necessary, or maybe even good. But why?

For many of them, it comes down to this: Unborn children, they think, don't matter like the rest of us do.

Consider a common pro-choice argument. Abortion is needed, some say, because of the difficult and unfair circumstances women often face. This is a very real concern that pro-lifers should compassionately address. Notice, though, that the argument doesn't make sense if unborn children really matter. After all, no one says difficult circumstances justify killing (for example) toddlers or teenagers, who are clearly valuable human beings and ought to be treated as such. If unborn babies are also valuable human beings, then killing them isn't justified either!

Here's the key point: Abortion supporters usually think (or at least assume) that unborn children are *different* from toddlers and teenagers. They don't have the same value and right to life. They don't count as members of our human family.

Pro-choice advocates defend this exclusion in two main ways. Here's why neither way works—and why unborn babies deserve equal respect and protection.

Science: Is the unborn a human being?

First, some people claim unborn children aren't even biological human beings (i.e., human organisms). To support this position, they sometimes compare human embryos to mere cells, tissues, or organs (like the sperm and egg, a kidney, or a patch of skin cells). Those aren't human beings, even though they are alive and human. And neither (the argument goes) are human embryos, at least at the earliest stages.

The problem with this approach is that the scientific evidence is clear. That evidence shows that, from fertilization, the unborn child (1) grows and metabolizes nutrients into energy and (2) has human DNA and a human developmental trajectory. So she is alive and human. But the evidence also shows that—unlike mere cells and tissues, which are only parts of someone—the unborn child is (3) a whole organism (an individual member of our species) actively developing herself through the many stages of life.

This is what science tells us. Human embryos and fetuses are simply living members of our species at the embryonic and fetal stages of their development. None of us was ever a sperm or an egg. But each of us was once an embryo and a fetus, just as we were once toddlers and teenagers.

Human rights: Do all humans have them?

There's a second way some people try to exclude unborn children. Unborn babies may be biologically human, many pro-choice advocates acknowledge, but they aren't yet "persons" with the value and right to life that we have.

Why not? Because they lack certain characteristics or abilities. Unborn babies are smaller than us, less developed, more dependent. They look different. They can't think and feel in all the same ways as older humans.

If our rights depend on such traits, though, serious problems emerge. One problem is that this standard excludes more people than just babies in the womb. Unborn children are highly dependent on others, for instance, but so are those who are elderly or have disabilities. Unborn children aren't self-aware or rational, but neither are newborns or patients with advanced dementia. Unborn children (especially very young ones) may look different from

In short: Once we say that humans must meet some standard in order to have value, then *none of us are safe*.

older human beings, but appearance has only too often

served as a basis for unjust discrimination.

Here's another problem: We don't have characteristics like cognitive ability and dependency to an equal degree. When it comes to those traits, all of us—including everyone reading this article—are different. So if those characteristics confer our rights, then we don't have equal rights. Some of us (like those who are smarter or more independent) have greater rights than others. Equality is a fiction.

If we deny equality for unborn children, then we deny equality for everyone.

No one should be left out

The reality is this: Our rights don't depend on characteristics that some humans have and others lack. Dividing humanity in two—those who matter and those who don't—doesn't make any sense. **The truth, instead, is that we matter simply because we are human.** That's why every single human counts, and why every single human counts equally.

And it's why human beings in the womb deserve the same respect and protection as the rest of us.

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YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE **GIFT WILL HELP REBUILD** A PRO-LIFE CULTURE

The 2024 election stopped, for now, the pro-abortion trifecta in our state. Yet the extreme laws they passed are still in place, and abortions are on the rise. **That's** why MCCL is so committed to rebuilding a pro-life culture in our state.

Making Minnesota pro-life

Through our Center for a Pro-Life Minnesota, our outreach to youth and churches, our speaking and social media, our advertising, our training of pro-life advocates, and so much more, we know we can make Minnesota pro-life once again. But it doesn't happen without you.

Please consider a gift today to empower MCCL's lifesaving work. Your donation to the MCCL Education Fund is tax deductible and helps support all of MCCL's many educational programs and activities.

Easy ways to donate

You can make a contribution by cutting out the coupon to the left and returning it in an envelope. Alternatively, you may donate securely online with a credit card at mccl.org/donate. You may also contact our office at 612-825-6831 and make a donation over the phone.

Thank you so much for your generous support! MCCL

Gifts to the MCCL Education Fund are 100% deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Support women and babies through MCCL's Choose Life Drive

MCCL'S CHOOSE LIFE DRIVE is back, and this year we're excited to announce our partnership with EveryLife, the first and only pro-life diaper company in the United States, to advance our shared goal of helping moms and babies.

Not only does EveryLife prioritize providing premium diapers and wipes, but they are also committed to supporting pro-life organizations like ours. EveryLife believes that every baby is a miracle deserving of love, protection, and celebration.

How to contribute today

Here's how it works: Donations to the MCCL Choose Life Drive will provide EveryLife diapers and wipes to the 80+ pregnancy resource centers across Minnesota. Our aim is to provide at least one box of diapers and wipes (enough to care for a baby for a month) for each and every center. Your gift of \$25 provides two weeks' worth of diapers and wipes for a baby; \$50 provides a full month's worth.

Make your contribution today at mccl.org/ chooselife. You may also contact the MCCL office at 612-825-6831.

The annual Choose Life Drive is a response to the Dec.



15 anniversary of the deadly Doe v. Gomez ruling, which imposed taxpaver funding of abortion in Minnesota. It lasts until Jan. 22, the day of the annual MCCL March for Life in St. Paul.

Lawmakers repeal support for women

This year's Drive comes after lawmakers (in 2023) repealed Minnesota's Positive Alternatives Act, which had provided funding to dozens of life-affirming programs supporting thousands and thousands of women. With that funding gone, many pregnancy resource centers are less able to meet the needs of pregnant women in Minnesota. Your help is very appreciated!

If you'd like to go beyond diapers and wipes, you can also give to the Choose Life Drive through our registry of other items for moms and babies, which is linked at mccl. org/chooselife. All items will be distributed to pregnancy resource centers that serve mothers and families across Minnesota, offering practical assistance, hope, and alternatives to abortion.

Thank you for your compassion and your commitment to life! Mega

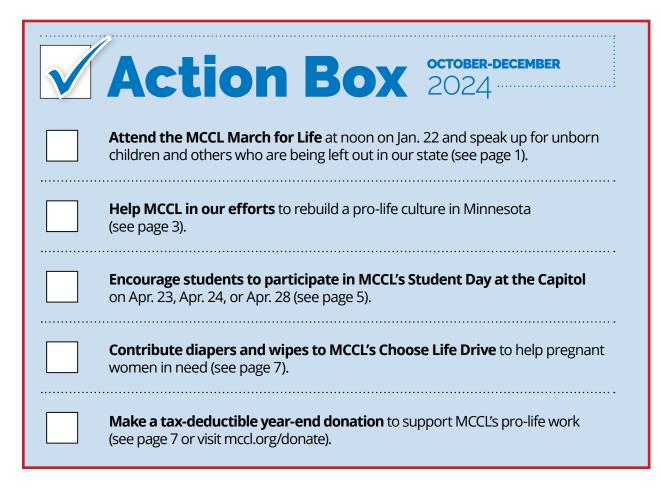




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State Legislators
House: 651-296-2146
Senate: 651-296-0504
www.leg.mn.gov/leg/legislators

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

To contact by email:

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

U.S. SENATORS

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

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES -

Rep. Brad Finstad 202-225-2472 www. finstad.house.gov Rep. Ilhan Omar 202-225-4755 www. omar.house.gov

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

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