Dear Pro-Life Partners, What in the World July 1, 2025

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Defending the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, is not a state-by-state issue. It's not even an issue limited to our great country alone. It is a universal human rights issue. Any time we have the opportunity to come alongside a group or organization that is fighting for the unalienable right to life for everyone, regardless of geography, we should embrace it. This is no place for competition or one-upmanship. Below are some samples of recent pro-life victories on a state level that we can all celebrate (NRL News, 6/3/25; LifeNews, 6/4/25).

- Arkansas. Over $1.9 million dollars in grant funds has been awarded to pregnancy help organizations during this past budget year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025). No grants money was given to facilities that perform abortion. Prior to 2024, the state averaged 3,200 abortions per year. In 2024 however, zero (0) abortions were recorded.
- Indiana. In the first quarter of 2025, 22 abortions were documented, compared to 45 in the first quarter of 2024.
- Missouri.* Perhaps we should be rebranded "The Rollercoaster State" as the battle between pro-life and pro-abortion legislation has gone through peaks and valleys. Presently, all facilities that provide abortions have shut down due to their inability to comply with reinstated safety regulations. Hopefully, this temporary halt to abortion access will become more permanent with a win at the polls next year to restore respect to women and babies in the Missouri Constitution.
- Texas. The Lone Star State deserves a bevy of gold stars. For 30 straight months, there have been zero (0) elective abortions on the books.
- West Virginia. Governor Morrisey is rockin' it. On May 29, 2025, he signed bill SB537, which awards $3 million to pregnancy help organizations. He signed two other pro-life bills as well. HB2871 defines a pregnant woman and her unborn child as 2 separate and distinct persons, allowing violent offenders to be charged on two counts. HB 2123 increases penalties for child abuse from 1-5 years to 2-10 years.

*Like many of you, I'm sure, Missouri is where I have lived my entire adult life. I was raised in Kansas, though, which ostensibly prohibits abortion after 22 weeks "unless necessary to *preserve the life **or health** of the mother*" (and we all know what that means). My birth state of Wisconsin, unfortunately, has seemed to go completely off the rails. A new abortion clinic in Milwaukee is selling merchandise with slogans such as "Abortion is my love language" and "The only thing I love more than bratwurst is abortion." Then it goes from disgusting to devious. The clinic's parental consent disclaimer reads, "Parental or guardian consent is required if you are under 18 years old. *If you prefer to not involve a parent/guardian let us know when you call and we can provide other options*" (italics mine). That's almost enough to make me swear off cheese!

Fun Foreign Facts. Of the 195 countries in the world, 93 have predominately pro-life laws, broken down as follows:

- 21 prohibit abortion for any reason, including to save the life of the mother.
- 49 prohibit abortion except to save the life of the mother. This is wise, even for countries with advanced medicine, in which the need to exercise this exception is rare.
- 23 have both "save the life of the mother" *and* "a threat to mental health" exceptions, which, unfortunately, can be applied liberally and open the door to abortion without limits.

- Africa has 37 countries with predominately pro-life laws (69% of continent).
- Asia has 13 countries with predominately pro-life laws (27% of continent).
- Central America has 6 countries with predominately pro-life laws (86% of the region—muy bueno!).
- Europe has 12 countries with predominately pro-life laws (27% of continent).
- The Middle East has 13 countries with predominately pro-life laws (67% of continent).

- North America has 2 countries with predominately pro-life laws (Haiti & the Dominican Republic, 13% of the continent—yikes!).
- South America has 8 countries with predominately pro-life laws (67% of the continent).
- Independent Samoa and Palau of Oceania account for 2 of the countries with predominately pro-life laws.

- Legal abortion varies by jurisdiction in 5 countries--Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mexico, Nigeria, United States, while abortion-on-request is legal in **97 countries**.

https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-abortion-is-illegal

Everyone currently breathing on planet earth has been given the gift of life. It is not something to squander. Rather, we have the opportunity, even responsibility, to champion it. Apart from salvation through Jesus Christ, it is the most important message we can share. And like the gospel, its truth can withstand scrutiny. As experts in being human, we can all be global ambassadors for life…right where we are.

Partnering with You for Life,

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR