

Clarity in the Chaos

Dear Pro-Life Partners,

February 1, 2026

Chaos is “order waiting to be deciphered,” according to José Saramago, author of *The Double* (not to be confused with Fyodor Dostoevsky’s novel of the same name). The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let all things be done decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:40). In the cacophony of our divisive, sometimes hostile, political environment, it is crucial that cooler heads prevail while maintaining our integrity and boldly disseminating truth. Rather than allow the chaos to bully us into submission, we must lean in to dispel it. Following are some excerpts from an article by Raimundo Rojas of National Right to Life News, entitled, “Neutrality Is Not an Option: Why the Pro-Life Movement Must Lead, Not Linger.” I think it serves as a fitting and encouraging reminder of our role as we find ourselves in a new fight to make Missouri pro-life again in 2026.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote from a Birmingham jail, “The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict. Neutrality is not harmless. It is permission. And in the case of abortion, it is the quiet consent to end human lives.
- Today, the pro-life movement stands at a similar moral crossroads, again. With lives on the line, taking a neutral stance is not only irresponsible, it is dangerous. We are called not merely to speak out, but to lead. This includes supporting and advancing laws that challenge the status quo, stir controversy, and confront injustice head-on.
- The cost of neutrality is tangible and measurable. According to the Guttmacher Institute, over 930,000 abortions were performed in the U.S. in 2020 alone. That’s one life lost every 34 seconds. Every delay, every failure of neutrality, is another life that could have been saved. This is why we fight. This is why we lead. Pro-life leadership means backing legislation that protects the largest number of the most vulnerable, even when it sparks backlash.
- Heartbeat laws, such as the once enacted in Texas in 2021 and upheld in states like Florida and Georgia, prohibit abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected—typically around six weeks of gestation. Critics called them draconian. Yet, in the first month following Texas’ law, abortions dropped by 60%, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Behind that number are thousands of babies now alive, breathing, growing, laughing. Laws like these are not theoretical—they are lifesaving.
- And yet, there are pro-life groups who, in a misguided interpretation of the law, are choosing to be neutral. These groups have hesitated to support (pro-life) law(s), citing optics or potential legal hurdles. But leadership means setting the tone, not following it. We must be unapologetic in pursuing life-saving protections, even when the media misrepresents us, even when our allies hesitate.
- The pro-life cause cannot afford to drift toward political palatability or social comfort. Our movement exists to protect human life, not appease public opinion. As William Wilberforce, the great British statesman and opponent of slavery, once declared, “You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.”
- **We lead because the unborn cannot. We lead because history demands it.**

I pray that the new year continues to bring prosperity and peace. But I also hope we can find renewed resolve in the face of opposition and clarity in the chaos. This year will give us the chance to show courage and an opportunity to use our unique strengths to push for legal protection for women, children, and babies in 2026.

Partnering with You for Life!

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR

Visit missourilifepac.org for state legislative updates.

