

## Addressing Many of the Myths the Media is Repeating about the FDA's Approval and Management of Mifeprex (Mifepristone)

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D.,  
NRL Director of Education & Research

*Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from a much longer article, which can be read at <https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/2023/04/addressing-many-myths-mifeprex-mifepristone/>*

[Readers have probably heard about the] suit brought by the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine and other pro-life groups challenging the 2000 approval of Mifeprex (mifepristone<sup>1</sup>), the abortion pill, by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

[Readers have probably seen] the press talk about how unwarranted the lawsuit was, that there was nothing at all wrong with the FDA's original approval, that the drug has been looked at again and again and has proven absolutely safe and effective in more than twenty years of use.

But what are the merits of the case? What are the real issues involved? Many people are

*[When this article references] the "abortion pill," [it is] talking about Mifeprex (mifepristone), the drug the FDA actually approved for abortion in September of 2000. But the abortion pill regimen, as approved, actually involves at least two drugs – mifepristone, which blocks the action of the pregnancy hormone progesterone responsible for managing and maintaining life support for the early human embryo, and misoprostol, a prostaglandin taken a day or so later, which stimulates powerful uterine contractions to expel the dead or dying baby. Unless [it] specifically speaks about just the first drug, assume [it is referencing] the mifepristone-misoprostol combination when [it says] "abortion pill."*

## A Pro-Life Consensus for 12-15 Week Abortion Bans: Why and Why Not

By David N. O'Steen, Ph.D. NRL

Some elements of the pro-life movement not connected to National Right to Life have sought to rally support for a "consensus" in support of a 12-to-15-week abortion ban or for a national minimum standard. But is this a wise strategy now in the post-*Dobbs* environment? Not even a little. Here's why. ...

As a tool to save lives, a 15-week ban is very, very weak... About 95% of abortions occur by 15 weeks. ...Nor is a ban at 12 weeks very protective, since about 90% of abortions are performed by

hearing about this story for the first time, suddenly recognizing that the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision overturning *Roe* means that states now possess the legal capacity to outlaw these baby killing drugs. They know little or nothing about these pills except that they're supposed to be a quick, safe, and simple way to have an abortion.

They aren't, of course. The abortions brought on by these pills are messy, painful, bloody, and dangerous. They have taken the lives of millions of

innocent unborn children and put the lives and health of so many of their mothers at risk. Rather than admit and respond to these risks, abortion pill advocates have pushed the FDA to dial back safety restrictions imposed on mifepristone so that they can increase the number of prescribers and expand the market.

Given the many voices, interests, and claims of expertise, separating the truth from the myth here can be difficult, even for a journalist. In the interest of bringing some clarity to the

issue, National Right to Life offers this assessment of some of the more common claims being made about the abortion pill mifepristone and how the FDA has handled its approval and modifications made to mifepristone's protocol.

[This article will address seven] popular mistakes and misunderstandings about the process. ... In the end, it should become clear that

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## From the President



## Vigilance Needed

Dear Friends,

In America, the proportion of abortions done using pills (medical/chemical method) as compared to the surgical method has steadily grown over the years, and is now over 50% of the total. In West Virginia, abortions can still be done for rape and incest when reported to authorities and for medical necessity.

Recently, in Texas federal district court, Judge Kacsmayk followed the law and ruled that the abortion pill, mifepristone, had never been properly approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the first place, and ordered it off the market. In 2000, during the last year of the pro-abortion Clinton administration, the FDA fast-tracked approval of the abortion pill using a procedure that was supposed to only be used to speedily approve drugs needed to treat life threatening illnesses.

As the judge noted, pregnancy is not an illness, and the abortion pill was not developed to treat anything. It was developed to kill an unborn child, and could itself cause life-threatening complications requiring emergency room care.

NOTE: When someone says the abortion pill should be available because it has been approved by the FDA, you can say that the abortion pill was never put through the standard FDA approval process. Women are essentially being given an experimental drug, the safety of which has not been accurately and honestly examined.

In 2000, the FDA was already aware of at least one maternal death and many serious side effects associated with mifepristone. Therefore, they issued some safety protocols, including, a seven-week limit on its use, physician oversight when the drug is prescribed to check for gestational age and signs of ectopic pregnancies, three office visits to complete the two-drug process, and reporting of serious medical complications. Eventually, the FDA removed the medical reporting requirement, and later used the

absence of any reports of complications as a reason to declare mifepristone safe.

NOTE: In essence the FDA declared the drug safe because it didn't get the reports of serious complications that it had told the abortionists they didn't have to report. Women are being given medication, the complication rate of which has not been accurately measured.

By 2021, many of the strongest safety regulations had been eliminated. The abortion pill could be used up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. It could be dispensed by tele-medicine by non-physicians with no exam, and no follow-up visit was required. Then earlier this year, the FDA said the abortion pill could be dispensed at pharmacies and sent through the mail, even though existing federal law forbids the mailing of substances to cause an abortion.

The pro-abortion Biden administration is doing everything it can to assist the abortion industry to make money at the expense of the health of America's women. The administration immediately filed suit in both the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and then in the Supreme Court, and it may be some time before we know if part or all of Judge Kacsmayk's ruling will stand. The Supreme Court has already ruled that mifepristone must be made available to the public while the Fifth Circuit works on adjudicating the ruling.

Here in West Virginia, we must spread the word that these abortion pills have never been shown to be safe for women to use. In addition, they are lethal for the unborn baby.

For Life,

*Wanda Franz, Ph.D.*

**Wanda Franz, Ph.D., President**

## Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

*Alicia Martin, WVFL Program Director*

Last year, after *Dobbs* handed abortion back to the people through their elected representatives, West Virginia's legislature and Governor Jim Justice immediately stepped up to the plate. With support from West Virginians for Life, they hit a solid, pro-life victory with the Unborn Child Protection Act. It protects most women and babies from abortion. As a result, the Women's Health Center of West Virginia – the state's only free-standing abortion facility then in operation – was forced to stop performing abortions.

But the Women's Health Center of West Virginia remained

open, serving other purposes. They also filed a lawsuit against the president and secretary of the West Virginia Board of Medicine, which challenged the constitutionality of the new law.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey intervened on behalf of the state to defend the new abortion statute. "I am proud to stand for the most vulnerable of our society and the sanctity of life," he said.

It was recently announced that the abortion facility has dropped the suit. But the threat to life posed by the (so-called) Health Center has not been eliminated. They plan to open a satellite just across the border in Maryland. West Virginians for Life will work with Maryland pro-life advocates to reach out to the victims targeted by this deadly interstate effort.

## Contact Your Members of U.S. Congress

**Sen. Shelley Moore Capito**

(202) 224-6472

172 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

email: [www.capito.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion](http://www.capito.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion)

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# 2023 Legislative Update

*By Sadie Keaton, Legislative Director*

The Unborn Child Protection Act now protects the vast majority of mothers and babies from the abortion industry in West Virginia! Our bill is used as a model across the nation for what a good pro-life law looks like. This is monumental to the movement. It puts West Virginians in an advantageous position to focus on working on legislation that not only protects families from the abortion industry, but also promotes life through other means.

Part of the 2023 legislative agenda was HB 2002 - The Support for Mothers and Babies Act, which was signed into law on the porch of CrossRoads Pregnancy Resource Center in April by Governor Justice. This legislation had tremendous support from both the Senate and the House, with only two no votes in each chamber. The West Virginia Support for Mothers and Babies Act establishes a fund of \$1 million that will be granted to pro-life pregnancy help organizations across the state. These organizations may be Pregnancy Resource Centers (otherwise known as PRC's), Maternity Homes, Perinatal Hospice Centers and more. Only pro-life organizations who do not commit or refer for abortions may qualify to receive this funding. The funding can be used to purchase items for mothers, educational materials, equipment for the organization, perinatal hospice, update their facilities, hire medical staff, and more. Delegate Dean Jeffries was the lead sponsor of this legislation, and was present at the bill-signing when Governor Justice encouraged West Virginians for Life to continue in our effort to seek additional funding in the future!

The other piece of priority legislation in 2023 was the Women's Right to Know Act, which provides informed consent to mothers who meet the requirements to have an abortion in West Virginia. The Women's Right to Know Act is undeniably crucial to saving babies' lives, and mothers from a life of regret after losing their baby to abortion. We know this to be true because the Women's Right to Know Act was law for decades in our state, and was only repealed when we passed the Unborn Child Protection Act. What we saw through the reporting requirements was that the number of abortions dropped when mothers were offered factual information and support.

As part of the pro-life movement, we know that women deserve:

- to be provided with information concerning the physical and emotional consequences of having an abortion and carrying a baby to term;
- to be guaranteed the right to see their baby's ultrasound when they request it;
- to be provided with scientifically accurate information on fetal development;
- to know that the abortion pill can be reversed, in the case of chemical abortion and to be directed towards organizations who are knowledgeable about abortion pill reversal protocol; and,
- In the case that her baby is diagnosed with a disability in the womb, she deserves to be provided with educational materials at the time of diagnoses, and to be directed by her doctor towards organizations who will support her in planning for her child with a disability.

This legislation passed out of the Senate, but came to a halt when it met the Health Committee in the house. It was pushed back from being placed on the agenda until time had nearly run out for the session. We had many pro-life legislators who were fighting to get the bill on the agenda as it was written. However, it unfortunately did not make it through the legislative process this year. We are working hard to educate our legislators on the importance of this bill. This is the perfect example of why West Virginians for Life, its members, and supporters are more important now than ever. We are being hit hard by pro-abortion supporters and the abortion industry, but we will not back down. This upcoming session, we will focus on passing the Women's Right to Know Act.

## *Governor Jim Justice signed HB 2002, the Support for Mothers and Babies Act, into law at the CrossRoads Pregnancy Care Center in Charleston.*



*CrossRoads PCC Co-founder and Board Member Jenny Entsminger, Executive Director LeeAnne Brandy with two granddaughters watch as Governor Justice signs HB 2002. WVFL President Wanda Franz is on the far right.*



*Governor Justice with CrossRoads Pregnancy Care Center Staff and family members*



*Front Row: Governor Justice (center) with WVFL staff members Sadie Keaton, Sherri Stevens, Mary Anne Buchanan, & Wanda Franz; Second Row: Cindy Mansberger (WVFL staff member) with Larry and Lisa Pack*



# 25th Annual Rose Dinner

*“Once You Have a Level Playing Field, You Have to Show Up.”*

*Alicia Martin, WVFL Program Director*

On April 13th, nearly 300 people attended the 25th Annual Rose Dinner, hosted by West Virginians for Life (WVFL). The evening began with a Reception, where registrants enjoyed a beautiful appetizer display, participated in a Silent Auction, and had the opportunity to meet and reconnect with pro-life friends and supporters from across the state.

The buffet dinner was combined with an update on WVFL’s educational efforts. WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton provided a summary of pertinent legislation. Her husband, Delegate Riley Keaton, introduced legislators, public officials, and candidates in attendance (19 in all), including Secretary of State Mac Warner and State Auditor J.B. McCuskey. President Wanda Franz was pleased to announce the successful launch of a new website – AbortionIsNot.com – which refutes the lie that abortion is a type of healthcare. Pictures were shared from last year’s enjoyable Leadership for Life Weekend Retreat for teens, along with the announcement of the dates for that event this year.

The keynote speaker was Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). He perfectly balanced a commendation for recent victories with an exhortation for continued work. Sekulow began by showing that it was perseverance at the grassroots level which built the foundation that enabled *Dobbs* to overturn *Roe* and *Casey*. He defined *Dobbs* as a critical victory which “levels the playing field,” by returning abortion law to the people through their elected representatives. But, Sekulow said, that is just the beginning, because once “you have a level playing field, you have to show up.” On the state level, the battle is now more intense than ever. The pro-life community must continually show up there in order to save lives, and retain victories. Sekulow closed with the poignant Biblical illustration of the widow who refused to stop knocking on the judge’s door.

Kyle Wiggs served as an excellent Master of Ceremonies for the evening. And even though Sekulow had to present remotely due to a last-minute health issue, the audience remained well-engaged. They also appreciated the in-person appearance of Jordan Sekulow, Jay’s son, who is the Executive Director of the ACLJ. Dan Cunningham and Emilie Lewis provided beautiful music, and Pastor Doug Joseph used an unexpected interruption by Skype music during the offering to bring about a chuckle. In the end, pro-life supporters from all walks of life – grassroots workers, Pregnancy Resource Center employees, volunteers, financial patrons, Public Officials, and many others – all generously donated their time, talent, and treasure to make it the most successful Rose Dinner on record.

*Please see the center spread for photos from the evening.*



*Many thanks to those who sponsored the 25th Annual Rose Dinner!*

### Reception/Dinner Sponsor

**Greer Industries, Inc.**

### Table Sponsors

*Dr. Edward Baker*

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## *2023 Calendar of Events*

**June 17**

WVFL Board Meeting

**June 23-24**

NRL Convention, Pittsburgh PA

**July 8**

11th Annual Dutch Miller Auto Golf FORE Life Tournament  
*Preston Country Club, Kingwood*

**Aug 25-27**

Leadership for Life Teen Retreat

**Sept 9**

WVFL Board Meeting

**October 14**

State Convention

**Nov 11**

WVFL Board Meeting

New  
Petition  
Features  
Signature  
Legislation  
for  
Upcoming  
Session

**Women have a right to know the evidence – before they make a life-threatening decision.**

**Women’s Right to Know Act**

West Virginians for Life is working to pass a bill which will reinstate informed consent laws that were, unfortunately, repealed when the Unborn Child Protection Act (HB 302) passed. This new bill would aid mothers who meet the requirements to have an abortion by requiring that they be informed about the risks of, and alternatives to, abortion. It would educate patients regarding the dangers of the abortion pill, along with the fact that the effects of such a chemical abortion can be reversed. It would also ensure that information on disabilities (including support networks) is given to parents when they are told that their unborn child has special needs.



**We, the undersigned, support a law to ensure that women are given evidence about the risks of abortion before they are given access to it.**

1.	Print Name			Phone
	Mailing Address			
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	Mailing Address			
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25 Canyon Road • Morgantown, WV 26508  
(304) 594-9845 • email: info@wvforlife.org

**Please return immediately to West Virginians for Life.**

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE FREELY. Get more copies of the petition by calling or emailing WVFL. Submitted emails will get future communications.

**Download the petition from the website and get your friends to sign online at: [wvforlife.org](http://wvforlife.org)**

Petition Collected By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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# 2023 Rose Dinner



Keynote Speaker Jay Sekulow was live, but remote.



Special Guest Jordan Sekulow



State Auditor Jon McCuskey



Head table was comprised of (standing) Senator Ryan Weld, State Auditor JB McCuskey, emcee Kyle Wiggs, ACLJ Exec. Director Jordan Sekulow, Donn Parsons. Seated are Laura Wiggs and West Virginians for Life President Wanda Franz, Ph.D.



From L to R are Delegates Elias Coop-Gonzalez, Laura Kimble and Caleb Hanna, Senator Jay Taylor, Delegates Debbie Warner and Riley Keaton, Senator Mike Oliverio, and WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton.



Deborah and Gary Dixon, Betty Holliday, Debbie and Jim Kinney were standing, while Bill and Millie Heffern were seated.



Seated are Larry Freeland and table sponsor Dr. Edward Baker. Standing are Gina Freeland, Kimberly Moss, John and Debbie Christie, and Lindsay and John Downs.



SOS Mac Warner and wife Del. Debbie Warner



Seated are Lucy and Rick Pratt, Dr. Ed Williamson, and Pastor Nathan Williamson. Standing are Rachel and David Friend, Jeanne Smith, Mary Anne Buchanan, and Joy Mouser.



Seated are Mike and Mary Tillman, and Kara Milinovich. Standing are Pete and Louise Deal with Kelly and Chris Byrnes.



Seated at the Diocese table are Adam Marquart, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, and Kathy Barton. Standing are Carl Starvaggi, Lydia Bischoff, Nick Burkhardt, Elijah Eastman, and James Simoneaux.



Faith Meyer with Judi Varner Meyer (Ohio County)



Seated are Carolyn Yost, Stephanie Earley, and Amanda Cunningham. Standing are Brian Yost, Table Sponsor Joseph Earley, Richard Dinsmoore, Drew Harbert, and Evan Cunningham.



Seated are Amanda Elliott, Bruce Elliott, and Scott Liller. Standing are Mike and Regina Smith, Nina Elliott, Missy Morgan, and Nancy Large.



Seated are Erik and Katie Huffman, Pat and Chuck Higginbotham. Standing are Delegates Caleb Hanna and Geno Chiarelli.





*Bishop Mark E. Brennan gave the Invocation.*



*Emcee Kyle Wiggs*



*Pastor Nathan Williamson gave the Benediction.*



*WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton with husband, Delegate Riley Keaton*



*Guitarist Dan Cunningham provided reception and dinner music.*



*Seated at the Riffon sponsored table are Debbie Riffon, Steve Riffon, Cathy Meighen, and Tracy Riffon. Standing are Glenna Riffon, Beverly Riffon, Jackie Hall, and Tom Riffon.*



*R to L: Jeff and Delegate Laura Kimble, Board member Pastor Doug and LaDonna Joseph, Jeff and Darlene Jenks, Carolyn and Brian Yost*



*Emilie Lewis also provided special music.*



*Seated are Delegate Debbie Warner, Secretary of State Mac Warner, and Deedee Wilmoth. Behind are Linda Day, Pastor Wayde Wilson with wife Sonya, Brent Wilmoth and WVFL Office Manager Mary Anne Buchanan.*



*WVU Students - Seated are Lydia Bischoff and Carl Starvaggi. Behind them are Adam Marquart, James Simoneaux, Nick Burkhart, and Elijah Eastman. So good to have college students attend.*



*Seated are Grace Riggleman, Harrison County Chapter Leader Shirley Bowie with husband Bill, and Kaleigh Bowie with husband Carson. Standing are Carter Bowie, Steve King, and Joel Byler.*



*Cheryl Carr, Cindy Mansberger, Sherri Stevens, and Alicia Martin at the Registration Table.*



*Seated at the Mooney for Senate table are Rhett and Cristin Dusenbury and Delegate Elias Coop-Gonzalez. Standing are Roger and Kandice Nuzum, Pam and Delegate Phil Mallow, and John Findlay.*



*Nina Elliott, sister Nancy Large, and Dr. Wanda Franz (Pocahontas County)*



*Mary Anne Buchanan and Donna Kolanko (Mon County)*



*Sandra and Hugh Costello (Marion County)*



*Nicholas County contingent (L to R): Delegate Caleb Hanna, Debbie Groves with mother Carolyn Groves, Brenda (B.J.) Gilbert, and Marcia Koch*



*Tom and Martha Hunter, Marge Pence, and Monica Jakielo (Monroe County)*



*Riley and Sadie Keaton with Missy Ciccarello (Kanawha County)*



*Seated at the Greer Industries table are Debbie Christopher and Gary Smith. Standing are Kennedy Roberts, Delegate Riley Keaton and wife Sadie, the WVFL legislative director.*



## Addressing Media Myths *(Cont. from p.1)*

the FDA's approval of mifepristone was no ordinary approval for any ordinary drug, and that while the abortion industry has been successful at convincing the FDA to reduce restrictions on the distribution and prescription of the drug, it has done little to mitigate the risks and dangers associated with it.

Mifepristone was and is a drug that kills unborn children, risks the lives and health of their mothers, and never should have been approved by the FDA.

**MYTH 1:** Mifeprex (mifepristone) is the kind of ordinary drug that the FDA considers every day to improve Americans' health.

Reality: Unlike other drugs the FDA considers to enhance or improve public health, mifepristone was a drug designed and developed to take human lives, which is something in which a public health agency should not be involved.

The FDA has, as a matter of principle, refused to regulate drugs used by states in lethal injections, determining that the safety or efficacy of those kind of drugs is beyond its purview. It should have applied that same logic to mifepristone and refused to consider an application of the abortion pill. ...

Unless pregnancy is redefined as a disease and the health and well-being of the unborn child is somehow determined not to be a part of public health, the FDA has no business considering, much less approving, a drug explicitly developed, intended, or sold for the killing of innocent human beings. ...

**MYTH 2:** The FDA's scientists are experts at drug evaluation and applied the same rigorous assessment standards to Mifeprex (mifepristone) that it uses for all other drugs.

Reality: The FDA's normal evaluative process was ill-suited to assess a drug intended to kill rather than cure patients.

If you were evaluating a drug to treat ulcers, or cancer, or even a critical hormone imbalance, evidence that it triggers considerable pain, copious bleeding, or that for pregnant women it usually leads to loss of the baby, would all be taken as clear signs that the drug was not safe, had compromised effectiveness, and was certainly not appropriate for market approval.

Only by flipping the approval process on its head and making the negative features the desired application rather than disqualifying side effects can any sort of evaluation proceed, even though the process is clearly tainted and contorted and quickly reveals itself as a tool ill-fitted for the task.

What do "safety" and "efficacy" mean when killing babies is the aim? How do we "safely" kill a child? Are we saying that a drug that kills more babies is more "effective?" What sort of cost-benefit analysis is this? ...

**MYTH 3:** After going through the same rigorous testing and evaluative processes the agency requires of all other drugs, the FDA gave Mifeprex (mifepristone) its full and unqualified approval.

Reality: The FDA approved mifepristone under a special process that allowed for accelerated approval and more limited initial testing but enabled the agency to more closely monitor and control distribution in light of identified safety risks.

Much has been made of the FDA's use of its special Subpart H designation to authorize "accelerated approval" for Mifeprex (mifepristone), a status reserved for "new drugs for serious or life-threatening illnesses." Given that normal pregnancy is neither a "serious" nor "life-threatening illness," this obviously represents a misapplication of the statute, merely reinforcing that the FDA had no business considering a drug to kill babies in the first place. ...

**MYTH 4:** Approval and modifications to the abortion pill protocol were supported by the best, most objective scientific studies.

Reality: The FDA relied too heavily on flawed studies and incomplete data from partisan abortion advocates and ignored strong scientific evidence to the contrary. ...

[This section of the original article is long, and well-documented. In summary, patients that were lost from studies were ignored, relevant emergency room data was not considered, data was deficient, claims were flawed, and inconvenient truths were ignored.]

Clearly, the FDA needs to critically and objectively assess all relevant data bearing on its drug decisions rather than cherry picking only that data and those studies that support the industry's — or administration's — public policy agenda.

**MYTH 5:** Mifeprex (mifepristone) has an excellent safety record.

Reality: Mifepristone has been connected to more than two dozen maternal deaths and thousands of maternal injuries and "adverse events." ...

The truth is that these reports only represent the tip of the iceberg. These are only the cases which have been reported back to the FDA. There is reason to think that there are many, many more which the FDA never hears about.

Early on, when a woman had a problem and contacted the office of the prescriber who gave her the abortion pills, that prescriber was supposed to not only address her problem, but record her complication and pass it on to the sponsor (the distributor), who was to send this information to the FDA. In 2016, though, upon determining that it had a sufficient record to build an adequate "safety profile" of the drug, the FDA decided to drop the requirement that all serious adverse events be reported back to the agency, though it still asked that any patient deaths be reported.

There was record of a substantial number of deaths and injuries at that point, but still reason to believe that many were being missed.

As we have already pointed out in earlier sections, women experiencing problems with their chemical abortions often go to the emergency room or their own personal doctor rather than returning to the clinic or calling the prescriber who they may have met only once (if at all) and who may have counseled them to go elsewhere in the event of emergency.

If they do not return the clinic's phone calls or answer the abortion pill provider's emails, the prescriber will likely have no record of the woman's crisis.

This is only compounded by the fact that many prescribers have explicitly advised women not to reveal to medical personnel in the emergency room that they have taken the abortion pill, but merely to say that they are suffering from a miscarriage. In these instances, a woman's case would probably never be connected to the abortion pill, and she would probably end up counted as one more safe use of mifepristone.

The FDA used to direct women to take their medication guides with them to the emergency room and tell medical personnel there that they had taken the abortion pill, but the agency decided in its most recent guidance to drop that instruction from its latest REMS and Patient Guides, allowing more and more of these cases to escape being attributed to the mifepristone/ misoprostol combination. ...

Nevertheless, what we do have gives us a clear picture of a drug with numerous serious risks. It is difficult, painful, and bloody for nearly everyone who takes it. When it works, it takes the life of an innocent human being. It has been connected, time and again, to hemorrhages, infections, and ruptured ectopic pregnancies. Healthy women in the prime of their lives have taken this drug and died. ...

**MYTH 6:** If the FDA approval for Mifeprex is disallowed, the availability and use of mifepristone and misoprostol for therapeutic purposes may be negatively affected.

Reality: A decision to nullify the FDA's 2000 approval and/or any subsequent modifications made to regulations on the distribution of Mifeprex or its generic equivalent should have no bearing on any of the therapeutic, non-abortifacient uses of these drugs. ...

**MYTH 7:** Pro-Lifers are challenging the FDA's legitimate authority and expertise.

Reality: Pro-Lifers are trying to restore the FDA's authority and legitimacy by getting the agency back to its mission of bringing lifesaving, not life taking, drugs to the market. ...

The FDA needs to recommit itself to the health and safety of Americans.

Even if the agency won't reconsider its approval of mifepristone on the grounds of what it does to the unborn child, the FDA still has got to have and enforce higher safety standards than that for the sake of their mothers. ...

Until this approval is rescinded, and the agency gets out of the business of killing patients, the FDA will continue to flounder and compromise its mission and authority.



## WVFL Treasurer's Article

### “Post-Roe” does not automatically mean “Post-Woe”

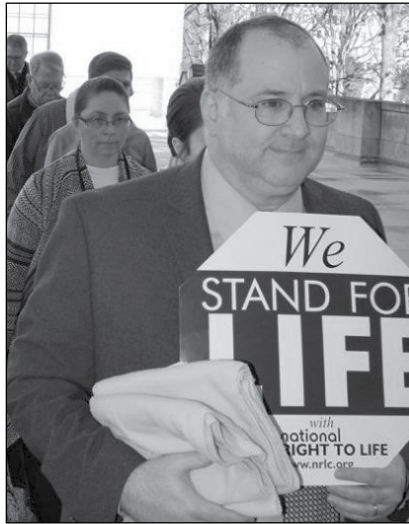
The *Dobbs* ruling finally wiped the scourge of *Roe*, *Doe*, and *Casey* off the judicial landscape. Going forward, the battle to defend the sanctity of life will still involve some court battles, but now legislative victories (both state and federal) can finally stand. For some states, including ours, that means we can bring help. For other states, they simply shifted their “basis” for a culture of death from a court ruling to a new state law. But what about the possibility of federal legislation? Some politicians mistakenly think *Dobbs* means only states can act on this, yet the ruling explicitly returned the matter to the people to settle via their elected representatives, and the majority opinion explicitly mentioned that could include both state legislatures and Congress. The federal legislation option is a two-edged sword. We would hope to get new federal laws to stop pro-abortion states from killing their babies. But it could go the other way, with a federal “mandate” seeking to overrule all state pro-life laws. Both sides are aware, so tension over control of Congress is higher now. I have repeatedly warned about the dangers of resting on our laurels. If we let pro-abortion voters get full control of Congress, we could face a post-*Roe* nightmare. Please join us in working toward a brighter future instead. Your donated time, talent, and treasure have perhaps never been more important!

Join us: [wvforlife.org/membership](http://wvforlife.org/membership)

Better yet, step up to **Rose Society Membership** while you're there!

Already a member? Give here: [wvforlife.org/donate](http://wvforlife.org/donate)

*With Determination,*  
**Pastor Doug Joseph**  
WVFL State Treasurer



**WVFL Treasurer**  
*Pastor Doug Joseph*

## IT'S CLOSE: LITERALLY & FIGURATIVELY!

**The  
National  
Right to Life  
Convention**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
JUNE 23-24

Register: [www.NRLConvention.com](http://www.NRLConvention.com)

## 11th Annual Dutch Miller Auto GOLF FORE LIFE TOURNAMENT

Registration  
Form

**Saturday, July 8th**

Registration & Lunch at Noon  
Putting Contest 1:00 pm • Tee Time 1:30 pm  
Preston Country Club, Kingwood, WV

*There are several ways to participate in the Dutch Miller Auto Golf FORE Life Tournament, including playing in the tournament, sponsoring a hole, donating tournament prizes or gifts, or doing all of the above! Please complete this form and send back to us. Please contact us with any questions.*

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear on signage if sponsoring a hole)

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*State: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = Required, if available

**Individual Golfer** - Quantity: # \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 each (Golf registration includes box lunch, beverages, box dinner and one gift bag.)

**Team Registration** - \$280 each (Golf registration includes box lunch, beverages, box dinner and one gift bag per team player.)

**Platinum Sponsorship** - \$2,000 each (includes 1 foursome, box lunch and dinner for 4, a plaque, name on Banner and T-box)

**Gold Sponsorship** - \$1,500 each (includes 1 foursome, box lunch and dinner for 4, name on Banner and T-box)

**Silver Sponsorship** - \$1,000 each (includes 1 foursome and name on Banner)

**Hole Sponsorship** - \$200 each (includes a sign on a hole - does not include golf registration)

*Proper golf attire required - No sleeveless shirts or jeans permitted - Soft spikes mandatory*

**My foursome includes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

If using check, please make payable to WVFL Ed Trust Fund. Mail, with this form, to WVFL, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508. If by credit card, please complete the following:

VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations for tournament prize items and players' gifts are also needed - contact us for more details.**

*All proceeds benefit the WVFL Educational Trust Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization.  
1-304-594-9845*

*Amounts are tax deductible less goods and services received.*

*West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

**PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE**

*Registration forms are downloadable at [www.wvforlife.org/events](http://www.wvforlife.org/events)*



## Monongalia County Walk-for-Life



Whole Group Prior to Walk

## Monroe County Walk-for-Life



Senators Vince Deeds and Jack Woodrum proudly hold the banner.



Secretary of State Mac Warner addressed the Walk crowd.



Senator Mike Oliverio



## Nicholas County



Rock Moyer, Kathy Thompson, Larry Powers and Tony Giles, with Jim's widow, Brenda Gilbert

## Summers County Dinner



## WVFL Board bids Mary Anne Buchanan Happy Retirement







### **Doddridge County:**

The Doddridge chapter passed out 150 silk flowers to each mother on Mother's Day at several restaurants in the West Union area, as well as at several local churches.

### **Greenbrier County:**

Many of the members continue to be actively involved with the organization of a new pregnancy resource center in the Lewisburg area. In April they premiered their newly-acquired technology (TV, stand, and videos) for educational use at events and meetings. They will be participating again in the Alderson 4th of July parade, and will have a booth with brochures, cards, and a give-away. Informative videos will also be shown at the booth. Please visit their website: [miracleoflife.us](http://miracleoflife.us)

### **Harrison County:**

Three pastors and their wives attended the Rose Dinner as guests of the Harrison County Chapter. Several members also attended the dinner. Pastor Doug Joseph is still getting opportunities to help other state affiliates with their pro-life election efforts by providing the digital voter guide lookup system. Mary Tillman has continued to watch seminars, webinars, etc. and has been closely following developments in the end-of-life area. In this arena, a very important lawsuit has been filed in California, alleging that their assisted suicide law violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Also, Vermont recently passed a law that removes its residency requirement, which makes it likely that it will become a "suicide tourism" state (like Oregon).

### **Monongalia County:**

The Mon County Chapter had a successful Mother's Day Walk for Life on Saturday, April 29. Twenty walkers participated in the 3.4 mile route along main streets in Morgantown. This was followed by a Rally with lunch. Prizes were awarded to walkers who raised the most money. Secretary of State Mac Warner and Senator Michael Oliverio spoke to those in attendance.

The Chapter donated \$200 to the Dutch Miller Auto Golf FORE Life Tournament as a hole sponsor.

The Precious Baby Photo Contest will take place via the WV For Life - Monongalia County Chapter Facebook page through July 18. Baby pictures (sonogram - age 24 months as of July 18, 2023) can be submitted by email to [info@wvforlife.org](mailto:info@wvforlife.org) or by mail (a 4" x 6" photo) to: PB Photo Contest, P.O. Box 1479, Morgantown, WV, 26507-1479 by July 18. Votes are \$.25 each, and must be placed by mail. Precious Baby photos and a running tally of the votes can be found in the Photo Album on the Mon County Facebook page. The winner will ride in the car at the County Fair Parade in Morgantown on July 31, and all contestants are invited to walk with us. For more information, contact 304-594-9845.

### **Nicholas County:**

The 7th Annual Jim Gilbert Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 20th at Summersville Memorial Golf Course. The team scramble tournament benefits the Nicholas County Pro-Life Chapter and crisis pregnancy centers in West Virginia. Returning Champions (pictured left, Rock Moyer, Kathy Thompson, Larry Powers and Tony Giles, with Jim's widow, Brenda Gilbert), will try to become the first team to threeppeat. The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM and features a pulled pork luncheon during the awards ceremony. Door prizes and hole sponsorships will be provided by area businesses. The 1st place team will receive \$550, 2nd place \$350 and the 3rd place team \$150.

In addition to a 50/50 raffle, the tournament will also feature a field event where golfers will pay to get three chances to chip a golf ball into a boat that will be anchored in the middle of a pond. Mulligans and pink tees will be sold to help teams record a low score.

### **Ohio County:**

On May 13, the Chapter held their Mother's Day Walk for Life. As the rain fell, about 20 pro-life prayer warriors gathered outside with umbrellas and ponchos at Wheeling Park, to pray for the unborn and their parents. They prayed for women who are facing unplanned, unwanted, and difficult pregnancies to be blessed with hope, help, compassion, courage, and a passionate protective love for their babies. They prayed that the fathers of these babies would take responsibility for their babies, and be an encouragement to these mummies to choose life. They also prayed that women and men who suffer from the emotional trauma of past abortions would find healing and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

As the rain continued, the prayer warriors were joined by others who walked with them from Wheeling Park to St. Michael's Angelus Center. Many of these joined the chapter for the first time this year. The walk was followed by fellowship and a lunch, graciously hosted by the St. Michael's pro-life group.

In late February, the Chapter began a series of pro-life discussions called "Table Talks." Chili, rolls, and dessert were donated and served to those in the community, as they learned how to reply to the lies told by the abortion industry. This first event covered claims related to abortion being necessary to save the life of the mother. The 2022 WVFL Conference was helpful in learning how to respond to this issue, and others. The chapter plans to hold a special event in September, with the purpose of teaching how to empower women with the truth. Watch for coming details.

### **Summers County:**

The chapter hosted a free Mother's Day Spaghetti Dinner on May 13th at Fairview Baptist Church. Invitations were sent to local churches in communities throughout the County. The turnout was excellent, with about 100 meals provided, and more than \$1900 in donations. The delicious meal, celebrating mothers, was much-appreciated.

### **WV Teens for Life:**

The "Leadership for Life" Weekend Retreat will be held August 25-27 at Camp Horseshoe, in Parsons. It will be led by WVFL board member Delegate Riley Keaton and his wife Sadie, WVFL Legislative Director. The event is focused on pro-life leadership skills, mingled with traditional summer camping activities. Registration (only \$25) is now open: Go to <https://www.wvforlife.org/event/leadership-for-life-weekend/>

### **WVU Mountaineers for Life:**

Several students attended the 25th Annual Rose Dinner.

At our annual Leadership for Life Weekend, teens experience a unique combination of traditional **fun-in-the-sun** summer camping activities and leadership training to **SAVE LIVES** in the pro-life movement.

**PRO-LIFE LEADERSHIP**  
*Weekend Retreat*

**August 25-27th, 2023**

Friday, arrival: 4-6 pm

Sunday, pick up 9-10 am

Rock Climbing • Hiking • Swimming • Arts & Crafts  
Camp Fire • Strategizing • Archery • And More!

Address: Horseshoe Run Rd, Parsons, WV 26287  
Contact Info: 304-476-9015 or [sadie@wvforlife.org](mailto:sadie@wvforlife.org)  
Learn More and Register at: [wvforlife.org](http://wvforlife.org)  
Who: Youth ages 13-17 (High school)



West  
Virginians *for* Life

11th Annual

Dutch Miller Auto

GOLF FORE  
LIFE

TOURNAMENT

There are several ways to participate in the Dutch Miller Auto Golf FORE Life Tournament, from playing in the tournament, sponsoring a hole, donating tournament prizes or gifts, or doing all of the above!

Learn more and register your team (page 9)  
or register online. ASAP!

[www.wvforlife.org/golf](http://www.wvforlife.org/golf) or 1.304.594.9845

West  
Virginians *for* Life

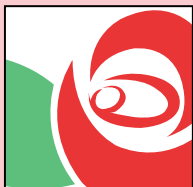
25 Canyon Road  
Morgantown, WV 26508

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Summer 2023

Life



Matters

Vol. 45, Number 2



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Virginians *for* Life

Most  
Successful  
Rose Dinner  
on Record



*Jay Sekulow  
addresses  
crowd remotely*