

# Family & ProLife News Briefs

September 2024

## Fighting for Life is Heating Up

### Younger Americans Not Having Kids

Amid declining fertility rates in the U.S. & the rest of the world, polls indicate that many younger Americans are forgoing childbearing simply because **they just don't want to**. This raises the prospect of looming population declines and related social disruptions. Only a third of adults (ages 18-49) say they can't afford to raise child.

Professor Catherine Pakaluk (Catholic Univ. of America) said there are no easy ways to determine how to make people have more kids, including by government policy and financial incentives. "You probably could make certain aspects of having a kid cheaper, but would you get more kids? It depends on whether people want those kids" in the first place. Married couples who spoke with Catholic News Agency said having children is both deeply rewarding and very challenging, but the rewards are greater and the **joy is immense**. [excerpted from *National Catholic Register*, 8/25/24]

### **"Plaintiffs are irreparably harmed each day their First Amendment freedoms are infringed."**

That's what Fed. Judge John Sinatra said in a preliminary injunction (8/22/24) stopping NY Attorney Gen. Letitia James from restricting pregnancy centers' speech about **Abortion Pill Reversal (APR)**. The ruling is a huge loss for New York and will reverberate across the country to other states in cases where National Institute of Family and Life Advocates defends free speech rights of pregnancy centers. James abusively sued 11 NIFLA member pregnancy centers and Heartbeat International, which manages the Abortion Pill Rescue network, accusing them of spreading "false and misleading" information.

NIFLA also thanks Alliance Defending Freedom and Thomas More Society for their staunch defense of our First Amendment rights. In rendering his decision, Judge Sinatra said: "The First Amendment protects plaintiffs' right to speak freely about APR protocol and, more specifically, to say that it is **safe and effective** for a pregnant woman to use in consultation with a doctor."

Pregnancy centers truthfully inform women that it may be possible to halt the lethal effects of chemical abortion through APR (taking **progesterone**, a safe and naturally occurring hormone) that counteracts the fatal effects of abortion drugs 64-68% of the time. It is estimated that more than 5,000 unborn babies have been saved this way! [Federal Court Decision Devastates NY AG's Harassment of Pregnancy Centers, [www.nifla.org](http://www.nifla.org)]

*"Enough. The unintended cruelty of legalized euthanasia is now quite clear. It is about 'choice,' they say. It is about compassion, they say. Bah. That is just a veneer. Medicalized killing eventually becomes a form of abandonment."*  
[Wesley J. Smith, *Euthanasia Poisons People and Societies*, Human Life Review, Winter 2024]

### Killing Late-term Babies

Dr. Warren Hern has been killing late-term babies in the womb for decades, many of whom he **dismembers** could survive outside the womb. He is one of few abortionists willing to do late-term abortions. A glowing 2023 profile for *The Atlantic* noted that several times babies have come out of the womb alive despite his best efforts.

A recent profile in the *Los Angeles Times* ignores completely why someone might oppose the difficult, sweaty work of dismembering nearly full-term babies, then piecing their corpses back together like bloody jigsaw puzzles to make sure no limbs are left behind.

For decades Hern has advanced the iconoclastic position that pregnancy is not different from disease. "Pregnancy is not a benign condition," he writes. "It can kill you. The treatment of choice for pregnancy is abortion unless the woman wants to carry the pregnancy to term and have a baby," he concludes.

It makes a sick sort of sense: If **pregnancy is a disease**, then abortion is health care and the baby is a tumor to be removed. Most doctors treat infertility as a health issue; in Hern's view, it is pregnancy that is the disease. Hern has written: "The human species is an example of a malignant ecotumor, an uncontrolled proliferation of a single species that threatens the existence of other species in their habitats." [LifeSiteNews.com, 8/27/24]



### Smartphones vs. Schooling

NY Gov. Kathy Hochul recently called for legislation to ban smartphones in schools because of their addictive nature. And *USA Today* said lawmakers in at least half a dozen other states this year are considering passing legislation to do the same. One of the nation's largest, the Los Angeles Unified School District, now bans use of cell-phones & social media platforms during the school day.

### New Initiatives by Colleges

- Engineering and science students can earn a degree from the Catholic Institute of Technology at their campus in Italy. Courses include sciences & humanities. [[www.Catholic.Tech](http://www.Catholic.Tech)]
- With a 10:1 student-faculty ratio, the University of Mary saw record enrollments in 2023. Its free room-board for grads of Catholic high schools, & its tuition-free nursing academy now cover over 60 undergrad majors. [[www.umary.edu](http://www.umary.edu)]
- Florida's Aver Maria Univ. prepares students with great academics grounded in a Catholic community with internships, personal & professional growth. [[www.avemaria.edu](http://www.avemaria.edu)]
- Rated as the best value in the West by *US News & World Report*, Carroll College combines learning, faith & weekend excursions in its Montana region. [[www.carroll.edu](http://www.carroll.edu)]
- For media & business majors, with mentoring from professionals, consider John Paul the Great Catholic University in California. [[www.jpccatholic.edu](http://www.jpccatholic.edu)]

## What is Your Gender?

According to the Catholic Medical Assoc. (CMA), 85% - 90% of adolescents resolve their **gender dysphoria** without the harmful, irreversible effects of mutilating surgery, pubertal blockers and cross-sex hormones.

In support of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons that criticized chest & genital surgical interventions for the treatment of youth gender dysphoria, Dr. Michelle Stanford, CMA president, said: "Gender ideology is blind to the abundant **scientific data** already published on the treatment of gender dysphoria."

The Supreme Court temporarily blocked the President's expansive redefinition of Title IX, thereby defending the integrity of women's rights & the natural law. The proposed regulations sought to include gender identity, but the original intent of the law is to ensure that females have equal opportunities in education and athletics, preventing discrimination. Allowing biological males to compete in women's sports would erode the progress made in ensuring **fairness and safety for female athletes**. Catholic teaching affirms the unalterable biological reality of male and female as essential to a person's identity. [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 9/1/24]

Hundreds of doctors resigned from the British Medical Association in opposition to its support for **puberty blockers**, accusing the union of ignoring evidence-based medicine. The BMA council did not release information on its voting figures & how council members voted. LGBT activists have achieved phenomenal success by infiltrating and taking over organizations, and then imposing their agenda top-down.

In other gender-related news, Texas now prohibits changing sex on **driver's licenses** and state IDs for 'gender identity,' and a federal court backs a Christian teacher who refused to call kids by their transgender 'identity.'  
[www.LifeSiteNews.com](http://www.LifeSiteNews.com), 8/28/24]

*Near the Democratic National Convention (Chicago), where enthusiastic support for abortion was very much on display, Democrats for Life of America met to urge their party to craft policies that offer women and families support in an effort to reduce abortion. The group discussed their party's "increasing hostility" toward pro-life voters, while highlighting areas of possible cooperation such as expanding the child tax credit & eliminating out-of-pocket childbirth medical costs. Unfortunately, the party's platform was released pledging "national legislation to make Roe the law of the land again."* [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 9/1/24]

**Legal abortion makes men freer** than they would be without it, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said July 29<sup>th</sup>. He "is just admitting what we have always known about abortion: that it empowers men to **exploit women**," said Ashley McGuire, author of *Sex Scandal: The Drive to Abolish Male and Female* (2017). Such "'freedom' creates a world where men are 'free' to use women, and women are coerced into abortions they don't want to have" she said. "It's just domination by another name." Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said: "If men are part of creating a new life, they should **accept the responsibility** that goes along with caring for their child & the child's mother." [excerpted from *National Catholic Register*, 8/25/24]

## UN Agencies call prostitution "sex work"

A UN rights expert went as far as saying that prostitution is a respectable profession that young girls should feel free to consider. The UN-Women agency, created to protect women and girls, refuses to take a position against prostitution. It is widely known that **prostitution fuels sex trafficking**, yet even the U.S. State Department doesn't mention it in its annual Trafficking-in-Persons report. And God forbid you say anything against pornography! But a small but effective organization, the Center for Family & Human Rights (C-Fam), presents the full truth by testifying at Congressional hearings and in its sponsorship of UN events such as the World Day Against Human Trafficking. A video of that event can be viewed at its website. [[www.c-fam.org](http://www.c-fam.org)]

## Being Fully Woman

"Writers in the sex-realist feminism school ask what it might look like in our modern world for a woman to be fully a woman, attentive to her nature as oriented to the nurturing of life, not a being miserably fitted to the mold of man. Might we be seeing glimpses of what Pope John Paul II called for – a renewal of the **feminine 'genius'**? Abortion is anti-child, but also anti-woman, a consequence of the twisted regnant narrative of womanhood. Sex-realist feminism resonates with the hearts of many. May it be cultivated and amplified."  
Adeline A. Allen, assoc. prof. of law, Trinity Law School. [*First Things*, June/July 2024]

## It's Time to Stop Coddling Our Young ...

... pretending that their frivolous nonsense merits acknowledgment. It's time for us to be adults. We need to **accept responsibility** for those who depend on us and **guide them to virtue**. It's time to proclaim that we are neither cool nor hip nor conversant in the thin gruel that passes for culture these days. We've something else to offer, something far more precious, something eternal, without which none of us, old or young, can thrive.

Imagine if instead of trying desperately to appear relevant to our juniors—a posture that requires nodding politely when some misguided moron says that religion is inherently racist or that toddlers should be allowed to undergo genital butchery in pursuit of their preferred gender expression— we stood firm in our faith & offered them a clear & compelling case for **choosing right over wrong**. Imagine if we towered, like adults among children, telling the young that swiping right on a screen to summon a casual sexual encounter was corrosive to body and spirit alike. Imagine if instead of trying to appease and appeal, we offered the one thing that all humans, but particularly young ones, desire: a real, serious, meaningful, character-building challenge. [Liel Leibovitz, *First Things*, April 2024]

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