



## Life Hike 2016

Our annual Life Hike was held in The Grampians on 26-28 May 2016 and completed by a group of keen walkers. The three day hike wove through magnificent scenery which varied from rock-climbing, walking on dirt tracks and climbing to the peak of The Pinnacles.



**Mary Collier**  
Event Organiser

Many of us were puffing after ascending steep staircases and precipitous pinches through the 470 metre elevation to the top! The photo is of the

Mackenzie Falls - one of the features of the walk. The photographer was at the scene just as we arrived and offered to take a long exposure shot of several walkers with a professional camera. We were lucky to have our excellent guide, Eric Ward who directed us through the difficult terrain.

Many thanks to Dianne and David Cutler, who for the second year provided the splendid homemade catering. This role involved a huge workload preparing, cooking, and cleaning after every meal. Thank you to our valued supporters who donated sponsorship money to individual walkers and to the overall campaign.

## Infant Viability Bill

Dear Valued Supporter,

It is with disappointment that I write to inform you that the Legislative Council has voted on my Infant Viability Bill, and has chosen to vote it down (with a division of 11 for, 27 against, and 2 abstained).



**Dr. Rachel Carling-Jenkins**

Voting in favour of the bill were: 3 members of the Liberal Party (Richard Della-Riva, Bernie Finn & Gordon Rich-Phillips); 3 members of the ALP (Daniel Mulino, Adem Somyurek & Nazih Elasmr); 2 members of the Shooters & Fishers Party (Jeff Bourman & Daniel Young); 2 members of

the National Party (Damien Drum & Melina Bath); and, of course, 1 member of the DLP (myself).

Unfortunately the parliament today decided to vote against the bill. This is disappointing for the thousands of supporters across Victoria and Australia.

I have always believed that this bill was about doing what is right. It is right to stand up for mothers and their babies. One day we will look back on this bill as a starting point, in turning the tide on abortion here in Victoria. It is our first proactive stand. It is not our last.

My resolve does not waver in the face of this opposition. I pray that yours does not either.

I want to thank you again for your contribution to this campaign, and to encourage you to continue this cause. Together, slowly, we are making a difference.

Kind Regards,  
Rachel

**Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins MLC**  
Member for Western Metropolitan

## FEDERAL ELECTION 2 JULY 2016

### The Federal Election and You

Those of us for whom the life issues have top priority when it comes to voting for members of parliament, need to have some guidance for whom they should vote. *(Continued on page 3)*

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## Letter from the President



Dear Friends of Life,

Yesterday was one of the saddest days I have experienced in my nearly half a century of working to uphold the right to life of babies in the womb.

The Infant Viability Bill moved by Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins (M.L.C., D.L.P) in the Victorian Legislative Council, was overwhelmingly defeated in a vote of 27 to 11!

Foolishly we had hoped that the depths to which we had sunk in the performing of abortions in this state would at least be a wake-up call for some of the more compassionate members of the Legislative Council.

After all, the Bill only sought to ban abortions after 24 weeks! Those women who have had a very premature baby are usually given hope that that the child will survive!

Best practice neonatal care is accorded these tiny babies! I personally am familiar with a bright little boy - now in his second year at school - who was born at 25 weeks and who survived because of the medical care and skill available today.

Yet those M.Ps trotted out the usual eugenic arguments defending the killing of babies with disabilities- either small or great- and harping on the woman's right to choose! No woman is allowed to choose to kill her newborn but if she wants her child killed at 37, 38 or 39 weeks – it can be done and the Federal government will pay both doctor and mother and father for their act of killing! As Rachel Carling-Jenkins brought her excellent speech to a close with the words of **William Wilberforce: You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know.**"

**Though we knew we and the babies were beaten, we all stood in the gallery and applauded her courage. I have never seen such a huge crowd of prolife supporters in the parliamentary galleries before, despite witnessing many debates over many years. The attendants were powerless to stop them!**

And I thought to myself, well at least we have these people committed to the cause and God bless Rachel Carling-Jenkins who tells us she will not go away!

And I know you people will not go away, despite the defeat of a bill that was designed to begin stopping at least some of the carnage.

In life – Margaret Tighe



Overflow from the packed Legislative Council gallery 25/5/16

## Letter published in the Herald Sun 26/5/16

In every pregnancy there are two patients to be cared for, the mother of the baby and her baby.

The two are intimately bound. If we ignore either patient, we do so at our peril.

The Infant Viability Bill to be voted on in state parliament next week offers mothers over 24 weeks pregnant, holistic care instead of abortion.

I often think of my life's journey. I remember that I began my life as an unborn baby. I thank my mother who carried me in difficult circumstances.

I thank her that she did not end my life by abortion.

Somehow we can have a foot in two parallel worlds, the wonderful world of babies surviving after born alive at 24 weeks and the tortured world of a woman

considering abortion after 24 weeks, of pregnancy.

Let's support both mothers and their unborn children through the Infant Viability Bill.

Dr Katrina Haller

## Letter not published by The Age

Clementine Ford's article (The Age 18/5/16) on abortion is not surprising given the looming debate in the Victorian Legislative Council on the bill of Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins (D.L.P.) which seeks to ban abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Since the passage of the Abortion Law Reform bill of the Brumby government (2008) abortions have been allowed and are practised till birth in Victoria.

There is no room for conscientious objection on the part of medical personnel to refrain from any involvement in a practice which is the killing of an unwanted baby in the womb.

Some of the babies aborted are older than those receiving care in the neonatal wards. Many are aborted because of their gender or tragically because they have a disability such as Down Syndrome, cleft palate, a missing hand etc. – eugenics.

Yet Ms Ford trots out the old arguments of yore about women being forced to die without an abortion – despite the advent of antibiotics post the second world war drastically removing that threat.

As one who has spent nearly half a century pleading the cause of those babies, so brutally discarded in increasing numbers, and who has witnessed the increasing acceptance and practice of abortion, I believe that one day society will look back in anger and with incredulity that we allowed it to happen.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Tighe

President



(Continued from page 1)



## THE PRESTON REPORT

Dear Friends,

You may be able to guess why I am writing again – last report I said that the date for the verdict in the Tasmanian case had been put back again to a probable date of July 26 - well it has been put back a little further still, but I can now say it is set down for the definite (I hope!) date of Wednesday 27th July. Nearly two months away! Please pray for the Magistrate as she tries to make her mind up.

A few pro-lifers were able to come at short notice as a counter-protest to the pro-abortion rally held when MP Rob Pyne announced he was introducing a private member's Bill to make abortion legal in Queensland for the full nine months of pregnancy. I stood near the speakers and held up an enlarged photo of the broken body of an aborted baby and called out, 'Face the reality of what you say you want'. However the pro-abortionists quickly tried to cover up the picture while I continued to call out, 'Why are you trying to hide what you want to make legal?'

I said to the tv crews that I bet they would not dare to show the aborted baby picture on the news that night. Surprisingly, one station did show the picture along with me making that dare, but they blurred the picture so that you could not see what it was! Perhaps even more surprisingly the ABC news did show the picture clearly for some seconds. (In the photo below, notice the sign held by a woman, "Christian and pro-choice.")

The Bill has been sent off to a committee that was originally meant to report back its recommendations in November. It seems that the pro-abortionists could not wait that long though as the committee's report has been brought forward to August 26. So, a vote could come soon after that. A group is planning to have a vigil between 11.00 am and 12.00 noon outside Parliament House each Wednesday when Parliament sits – the next time is June 15. Anyone available is welcome to come along. Contact Anne Rampa – 0432260814.

Sincerely, **Graham**

Protect Life

### Cherish Life Conference, Brisbane 21st May 2016

Brad Mattes – speaking on Men and Abortion with Cindy Collins, speaking on post abortion counselling



The Hon Nick Goiran speaking on How to keep abortion out of Queensland



## FEDERAL ELECTION 2 JULY 2016

### The Federal Election and You (Cont.)

The federal government of the day uses taxpayers' monies that should be spent on health care to fund Australia's abortion holocaust.

The federal government of the day spends about ¼ of a billion dollars on IVF – in other words our taxes are used to pay for killing babies in the womb and for creating IVF babies!

The federal government of the day allows abortion drug RU486 to be on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme so that it can be procured for as little as \$12

Yet some other lifesaving drugs are denied this priority - drugs that are essential for certain conditions but too expensive for the government.

In other words, paying for the destruction of human life, with our taxes, is part of the Australian culture.

Now RU486 can even be procured by mail order!

The federal government of the day defends its use of aid money for the activities of Planned Parenthood –which includes abortions – in underdeveloped countries.

Ask your candidates their view on the life issues.

## Abortion threat for Queensland



– Jennine West

A private member's bill to decriminalize abortion in QLD has been introduced in State Parliament by independent MP Rob Pyne, as our abortion laws are seem to be lagging behind some of the other states. To date, abortion is legal up to 22 weeks gestation or on the advice of a medical practitioner.

The move gained the support of 10 Labor MP's, including Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, at a pro-choice rally outside Parliament House on May 10.

Trad professed to being 'unashamedly pro-choice' and wants abortion removed from the criminal code, as she deems that a woman's right to choose takes precedence over the rights of the unborn. Both ALP and Liberal MP's will take a conscience vote on the issue.

The passing of this Bill would eventually see the abortion laws in QLD mirroring the heinous laws of Victoria and the ACT, where women are permitted to abort up until birth.

You need to act now!!! Please contact your local MP's in writing and express your opposition to such a move.



## Why I don't support euthanasia (and you shouldn't either)

Euthanasia marginalises an already vulnerable group and should not be legalised.

– Shakira Hussein (17 May 2016)

*Writer and academic in multiculturalism and Muslim studies*

A report from a Victorian parliamentary committee is expected to recommend legislative changes that would permit assisted dying. The stage for such change has already been set through a series of recent media articles and public events.

Earlier this year, *The Age* reported the case of 55-year-old Anthony Virgona, who died after declining to undertake the regular dialysis treatment that had been keeping him alive. After 20 years of living with multiple sclerosis, 12 years of residential care, and three years of kidney disease, he'd had enough. Before his death, he told *The Age* that he believed that patients like him should be able to "make a choice to go peacefully" by taking a pill, rather than by waiting to die from renal failure after the withdrawal of treatment.

Of course, he was not alone in this belief. Earlier this year, *The Age* ran a lengthy story about octogenarian Peter and Patricia Shaw's double suicide, undertaken in order to avoid what they considered to be the unbearable humiliations of old age. And late last year, broadcaster Andrew Denton embarked on a campaign in favour of legalised euthanasia in a series of events including a public lecture, podcasts and an episode of Q&A.

Both Denton's op-eds and the report about the Shaws' suicides have been widely circulated on social media, where they received a sympathetic response from many who fulminated about right-wing religious politicians refusing to allow patients to choose the time and manner of their deaths. And it's an issue that is gaining momentum. The legalisation of euthanasia is Greens policy and is widely supported by many who would consider themselves to be broadly left-wing and/or feminist. Yet I would argue that this constituency ought to be very wary of the attitudes and assumptions underlying legalised euthanasia.

I did not give the issue of euthanasia any serious consideration until after my diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Like so many others,

I considered that opposition to euthanasia was a cause for right-wing social conservatives, not for leftie feminists like me. However, as the disease becomes more active, I began to see the ways in which the campaign to legalise euthanasia devalues the lives of people living with a disability and/or chronic disease.

Those who support the legalisation of euthanasia stress that it would be voluntary and that since they would not impose their beliefs about euthanasia upon me, I am not entitled to impose my beliefs upon them. However, this claim is based on an extremely reductive understanding of the context in which such decisions would be made: we are not all equal players in the healthcare market. Euthanasia advocates loudly proclaim their commitment to maintaining their independence, even at the expense of their lives.

But "independence" of the type under discussion is perhaps better described as privilege. For Andrew Denton, the fear that legalised euthanasia would undermine the welfare of people living with a disability is a cynical red herring. It would be "voluntary", after all; disabled people need not fear that we would be coerced into taking our lives. However, this reads to me like a wilful misunderstanding of our concerns. I wish with all my heart that the late, great, disability activist and euthanasia opponent Stella Young were still here to give him the good hard kick up the arse that he so royally deserves for his patronising exclusion of disabled voices.

I have no trouble envisioning scenarios in which I might prefer death to another round of excruciating physical pain. I support the right of patients to refuse treatment (especially in cases where the treatment is more painful than the disease that it is supposed to treat), as well as their (our) right to be provided with sufficient medication to relieve pain, even when it might shorten their/our lives. But these measures occupy an entirely different moral space to euthanasia. Those of us who live close to the margins know how often the choices provided to us are nothing more than *Hobson's choice*.

Studies *have found* that support for euthanasia is significantly lower among African-Americans than among the general population. Some analysts speculate that this is due to higher levels of religiosity, and this may well play a role. But in a society that is still coming to terms with the idea that "Black Lives Matter", it is not paranoid for African-Americans to be concerned about the implications of medically assisted suicide. The Victorian parliamentary inquiry has not had the time or the resources to adequately assess the impact of legalised euthanasia upon the most vulnerable members of Australian society.

I would like to have met Anthony Virgona. Although it is important to emphasise that multiple sclerosis has taken a far less serious toll on me that it did on him, some aspects of *his online journal* are hauntingly familiar. The journal is clumsily written, but it is also lively and engaging. In its early stages, he says he wants it to provide hope to other people coming to terms with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. He also chronicles episodes of suicidal depression in the early stages of the disease, during which medical staff did not leave him unsupervised for fear that he might "do something silly".

Some euthanasia advocates (most obviously Philip Nitschke) believe that patients like Virgona ought to be provided with the

*(Continued on page 5)*



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means to “do something silly”, even at that early stage of the disease. Others, of course, believe that euthanasia should only be an option when death is already imminent. Virgona himself got through those early suicidal periods to become an advocate and mentor for other patients living with multiple sclerosis. For me, his life ended as and when it should have done – when the only means of prolonging it would have been to force him to continue an intrusive and grueling treatment against his will.

## South Australia

### M.Ps debating Voluntary Euthanasia Bill

Labor MP Stephanie Keys and Liberal MP Duncan McFetridge have introduced a bill which would allow people with a medical condition experiencing “unbearable and hopeless suffering” to choose voluntary euthanasia under certain circumstances.

The bill is at the second reading stage, and MPs will have a conscience vote.

Liberal backbencher Vincent Tarzia said the majority of people he represented in the seat of Hartley opposed voluntary euthanasia. He raised concerns that the law could be abused.

“My fear is that, due to the thirst of some for money or power... no matter how many safeguards we put in place, these safeguards and hurdles can still be evaded.” ... “We will actually see more legal disputes regarding consent to die... undue influence by family members or third parties and (in) the more extreme (circumstances) potential charges for manslaughter if things go wrong.”... “I believe that by accepting this Bill in its current format some may take the view that some lives are worth less than others.”... “I do not want... the killing of people thought to be undesirable by some.”

The meaning of “unbearable” is to be determined subjectively and need not meet an objective standard, that is, it is up to the person and cannot be questioned. “Suffering” can be physical or mental and is a matter of opinion of the sufferer. “Hopeless” is defined as no immediate medical treatment available, which would apply to many chronic long-term illnesses such as multiple sclerosis.

The euthanasia request can be witnessed by relatives or friends, not an independent person.

You can self-administer, so Mr Nitschke can assist you. He believes that suicide drugs should be available at the supermarket for all including troubled teens.

In the few countries that have legalised euthanasia, old, sick and incompetent people are killed without their consent, and studies confirm there is no way of stopping this.

Please write to your local MP expressing your concern regarding this dangerous bill

## New South Wales

Greens M.P. Mehreen Faruqi intends to move a bill that would remove abortion from the NSW Crimes Act, and Labor M.P. Penny Sharpe intends to introduce a bill for a 150 metre anti-abortion protest zone around abortuaries. The Legislative Assembly had passed Zoe’s law, which takes into account preborn babies who die as a result of a motor vehicle accident, but it did not get to Legislative Council before the NSW election, so it lapsed, and needs to be raised again.

## For Victorians – Legislative Alert

### Say NO to patient killing!

We expect the Report of the Victorian Legislative Council on “End-of-Life Choices” to recommend legalisation of euthanasia. It is essential that you immediately write to your local Members of the Legislative Council and Assembly and ask them to oppose the legalisation of patient killing. Write also to the Premier, Daniel Andrews, Parliament House, Spring St. Melbourne 3000. If you know a personal story explain why that person is not “better off dead.” Pick one or two points below.

Ten Reasons Why Euthanasia Should not be Legalised - by Dr. Peter Saunders, U.K., Chief Executive of the Christian Medical Fellowship and Board Member of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association.

1. Voluntary euthanasia is unnecessary because alternative treatments exist
2. Requests for voluntary euthanasia are rarely free and voluntary
3. Voluntary euthanasia undermines medical research
4. Hard cases make bad laws
5. Autonomy is important but never absolute
6. Voluntary euthanasia leads to euthanasia tourism
7. Voluntary euthanasia changes the public conscience
8. Voluntary euthanasia violates historically accepted codes of medical ethics
9. Voluntary euthanasia gives too much power to doctors
10. Voluntary euthanasia leads inevitably to involuntary euthanasia

### Speaking of Inheritances

When you write or update your Will, please include a bequest to The Right to Life Australia. “I bequeath to The Right to Life Australia, ABN number 12 774 010 375, the sum of \$xxxxx (or xx% of my estate), for the general purposes of The Right to Life Australia, 161A Donald St. East Brunswick VIC 3057.”  
On behalf of the most vulnerable members of our community, thank you.



## Mum who rejected abortion displays quintuplet babies

SPUC, 11 May 2016

An Australian mother who gave birth to quintuplets in January has released a photo shoot of her five new babies.

It took Kim Tucci, 26, just two minutes to give birth to the massive set of new arrivals - four daughters and one son - who were conceived naturally.

Doctors had advised Kim to abort some of her five unborn children on health grounds but she refused, going on to give birth to all five babies.



Proud mum Kim Tucci with her five new babies

## Northern Territory

**REPRIEVE FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY FROM THE DANGERS OF RU 486 (Chemical abortion agent). – Dr. Isobel Gawler**

The proposed NT “Medical Services Amendment Bill 2015” was set aside by the Northern Territory Parliament when a Motion for Precedence for the Bill to be debated was defeated. The Bill will not be debated due to time constraints during the June Sittings of Parliament, and the (RU 486) Bill will therefore “lapse” as a result of the Parliamentary Elections in August 2016.

A majority of NT Members of Parliament contended that there were important matters requiring further scrutiny in relation to the additional new amendments that the Member for Goyder, Ms Kesia Purick had added to her proposed Bill. These amendments had not been introduced at the Second Reading of the Medical Services Amendment Bill (2015). The Attorney General, Mr. Elferink, insisted that there had not been sufficient scrutiny of the impacts of the Bill’s proposed amendments by experts – both legal and medical. Mr. Elferink stated, “It is my concern that we can pass a bill which .....for all the reasons I have outlined in the past, that it needs to be more restrictive in this jurisdiction than is necessary in other jurisdictions.....The Member for Nelson, (Mr. Gerry Wood recommends)...the Committee system, which can look at (Private Members) proposed Bills.”

There are major concerns that lives will be lost or endangered by the introduction of RU486 to remote Northern Territory clinics, where there would not be adequate services to ensure safety for patients. For example, the tyranny of distance and the risk of haemorrhage are major risks for remote women. RU 486 would be hazardous for Indigenous women where there are cultural and language difficulties.”

## Queensland Action Alert – Bad News

On 26 May 2016 the Parliament agreed that the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Family Violence Prevention Committee consider Rob Pyne’s “Abortion Law Reform (Women’s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016” and make recommendations regarding:

1. Existing practices in Queensland concerning termination of pregnancy by medical practitioners;
2. Existing legal principles that govern termination practices in Queensland;
3. The need to modernise and clarify the law (without altering current clinical practice) to reflect current community attitudes and expectations;
4. Legislative and regulatory arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions including regulating terminations based on gestational periods; and
5. Provision of counselling and support services for women.

The committee is required to report by Friday 26 August 2016.

The Committee invites submissions, closing date is Thursday 30 June 2016 by 4pm. Late submissions may not be accepted unless agreed to prior to the closing date.

Submissions should be sent to:

Research Director,  
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family  
Violence Prevention Committee

Parliament House,  
George St

Brisbane QLD 4000

Email: [abortionlawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:abortionlawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Please write a submission, addressing any aspect of the Bill or terms of reference. More info: [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HCDSDFVPC](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HCDSDFVPC)

## Western Australia

“Firstly I would like to thank all of you who attended or promoted Tuesday night’s very successful Walk and Rally for Life which I am pleased to say had the highest attendance ever. It’s encouraging that every year, more and more people are realising how important it is to stand in the gap for those who can’t speak for themselves.”

Warmly,

Hon Nick Goiran MLC

Member for the South Metropolitan Region



# Life Hike 2016



## THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN MUG

Would you like to indulge yourself (or someone else) and raise funds for Right to Life at the same time? Why not consider buying one or more of The Great Australian Mug's special edition "Inspirational Mugs"?

Each has the caricature (who shall remain nameless) shown here on one side and you can choose to have one of the following quotes printed stylishly on the other:

- Evil men don't get up in the morning saying, "I'm going to do evil!" They say, "I'm going to make the world a better place!" Christopher Booker
- Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity. J.C. Collins
- Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. Mother Teresa
- Civilization is the imposition of human good upon human evil. It is a battle that has to be fought every day. Andrew McCarthy
- To educate a man's mind, but not his morals, is to educate a menace to society. Theodore Roosevelt

The 350ml mugs are high quality white china, and dishwasher and microwave safe. The cost of each mug is \$15.00 plus secure packaging and postage of \$10.00, a total of \$25.00.

Right to Life will receive a donation of \$10.00 for each mug sold. This offer is available until June 30th.

To order, or for further information, phone Michael on 03 9789 5291 or email at [mmta@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mmta@iprimus.com.au)



Pinnacles walk, Bridal Veil Falls



Morning tea Fish Falls



LifeHikers Paul Gardner and Anton Pergl



McKenzie River Walk





## USA – Donald Trump Hires Pro-Life Advocate as Top Domestic Policy Director

LIFENEWS.COM, STEVEN ERTELT MAY 5, 2016

Likely Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is winning praise from pro-life advocates for hiring a



top pro-life advocate as a key domestic policy advisory. The presumptive GOP nominee hired long-time conservative congressional aide John Mashburn as his policy director.

Mashburn is pro-life and has worked for pro-life lawmakers including the late Sen. Jesse Helms, former Senate Republican leader Trent Lott and current North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. As the Washington Examiner reports, pro-life groups see the move as Trump making serious overtures to pro-life voters and hail it as Trump indicating he will govern in a pro-life manner if elected president.

"If I were running for president, I would want John Mashburn as a top advisor, too," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life organization. In a statement to Trump, she added, "If elected, no doubt John Mashburn will serve you well as you fulfill your campaign promises to defund Planned Parenthood, advance and sign into law the popular Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and appoint Justices to the bench who will protect and defend the Constitution."

If Trump is the nominee, he would present a stark contrast on abortion to pro-abortion Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump has specifically promised he would sign a bill as president to de-fund Planned Parenthood. In an interview with David Brody of CBN, Trump made that promise:

David Brody: "As a President Trump, if a bill came to your desk that would defund Planned Parenthood you would support that, you would sign that?"

Donald Trump: "Yes, because as long as they do the abortion I am not for funding Planned Parenthood... As long as they're involved with abortion, as far as I'm concerned forget it, I wouldn't fund them regardless. I would defund Planned Parenthood because of their view and the fact of their work on abortion.... I am for defunding Planned Parenthood as long as they are involved with abortion."

Meanwhile, Trump said he thinks the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court case that ushered in an era of 48 million abortions was "wrongly decided." Trump said he would appoint "very good judges" who would ultimately "change it" but he opposed Roe without specifically saying it should be overturned.

## USA – Little Sisters of the Poor Win Big in Obamacare Case

The Daily Signal, Roger Severino / Elizabeth Slattery May 16, 2016, abridged



Catholic nuns holding signs in front of the Supreme Court building. (Photo: Jeff Malet Photography/Newscom)

### COMMENTARY BY

Roger Severino

Roger Severino is the director of the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation.

Elizabeth Slattery@EHSlaterry

Elizabeth Slattery writes about the rule of law, the proper role of the courts, civil rights and equal protection, and the scope of constitutional provisions such as the Commerce Clause and the Recess Appointments Clause as a legal fellow in the Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies.

The Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling on Monday in the consolidated challenge to Obamacare's requirement that nonprofit employers collaborate in the provision of employee health insurance coverage that includes abortion-inducing drugs and devices.

This is a victory, not only for the Little Sisters, but for all individuals and organizations who step outside the four walls of a house of worship to serve the poor, heal the sick, or educate the next generation.

In a unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court "vacated," meaning erased, all of the lower court cases and required them to reconsider the claims brought by the Little Sisters of the Poor and others that the regulations promulgated pursuant to Obamacare violate their religious exercise.

The Little Sisters of the Poor could not in good conscience play such an indispensable part in the machinery that provides abortion-inducing drugs and devices through health plans and infrastructure that they are paying for and providing to their employees.

Failing to provide the objectionable notice meant the Little Sisters of the Poor faced \$70 million per year in penalties.

But the Supreme Court now says that "the government may not impose taxes or penalties on petitioners for failure to provide the relevant notice." This is precisely what the Little Sisters of the Poor have been asking for as relief.

The ruling means that all the lower court opinions that went against the religious freedom of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the other religious nonprofits are wiped away and their flawed reasoning cannot be used as precedent in the future.

It illustrates that the government could have

accommodated the Little Sisters of the Poor all along without affecting contraceptive coverage, but chose not to. And it guarantees that the government cannot force the Little Sisters of the Poor and the other challengers to choose between violating their consciences as the government demands or face crippling fines and penalties.

In the coming months, the lower courts will reconsider these challenges, but it is hard to see how the administration and the lower courts can find a way to get around the Supreme Court's unanimous order—making the decision a big victory for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

## POLAND – Hospital halts abortions after every single doctor refused to commit them

LIVE ACTION NEWS, MAY 31, 2016, CALVIN FREIBURGER 11 COMMENTS

Abortions have come to an end at Specialist Hospital Pro-Familia in Rzeszów, Poland, after all the hospital's gynecologists signed a conscience clause opting out of committing the procedure.

The decision affirms that abortion, the killing of an innocent child, is not health care, but a violation of the role of doctors to heal and not harm.

Abortion is illegal in Poland except to save a mother's life, or in cases of rape or genetic abnormalities, although controversy arose on January 14, when midwife Agata Rejman exposed the hospital for committing abortions two years ago, Rzeszow News reports.

Hospital management threatened to sue Rejman if she did not retract her statements, but pro-lifers protested the hospital to support Rejman. The hospital also filed criminal and civil charges against two of the protesters for characterizing abortion as killing, thereby harming its reputation and business, though the criminal court cleared them of wrongdoing.

Now SHPF has ceased abortions, effectively ending the controversy, although hospital director Radoslaw Skiba denies the conscience signatures convinced management to change. Natalia Dueholm reported for LifeSiteNews:

The first reason for the change is associated with the 2015 decision of the Constitutional Court giving doctors the right to sign the conscience clause. Another reason is linked with the owners and experiences of a Pro-Familia sister hospital located in Łódź. Professor Dariusz Borowski, who owns the second Pro-Familia, admitted that "there were discussions on the subject. We showed which way would be just and brave." Ultimately, Pro-Familia in Rzeszów followed the lead of her sister-hospital, which has a long and fruitful relationship with a local perinatal hospice run by Fundacja Gajusz.

Nevertheless, Polish pro-lifers are taking the case as a sign for hope. "One Pro-familia doctor thought back then that abortions should be performed in every hospital in Poland," Mariusz Dzierawski of Poland's Right to Life Foundation noted, but "if the hospital most aggressive against pro-life activists can stop killing the unborn, then any and every hospital can and should do it. Only courage and perseverance are needed."