

## SPRING INTO ACTION



RIRTL's mission is to advocate for a state, nation, and world in which the innocent lives of the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, and the ill are respected by the citizenry and protected by civil law.



### YOUR INVITATION IS IN THE MAIL

Join us on **Thursday, May 25** at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown to support the Ancora Women's Mobile Care Center, Rhode Island's own mobile ultrasound pregnancy center. Call 521-1860 or visit [ancorabanquet.com](http://ancorabanquet.com)

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE SPRING CAMPAIGN - Ongoing through April 2

• <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/providence>

### Pro-Life Oratory Contest for High School Students

Thursday, May 11 at 4:30 PM at RI Right to Life

\$1500 in cash scholarships plus expense-paid trip to national contest in Pittsburgh. Email [info@rirtl.org](mailto:info@rirtl.org) for contest guidelines.



### Save the Date - Pro-Life Summer Academy

Begins Wednesday, July 12 -- 12:00 PM at RI Right to Life

Our annual summer academy for high school students begins at high noon and runs for 7 consecutive Wednesdays. Students will learn from pro-life leaders and experts, enjoy pizza, and engage in fun workshops with their peers... no charge!

### BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG - SPRING CAMPAIGN

Can your church spare some pocket change to help Right to Life Services provide diapers, wipes, clothes, gear and accessories AND to help keep Ancora on the road? **We are happy for the coins nobody else wants.** It's so easy! We need a dozen churches this May. Please contact us if you can help!



### Right to Life Services

Maternity Hope Chest

Our *Maternity Hope Chest* set a **new record** in 2022, distributing \$132,203 worth of diapers, wipes, toiletries, clothing, blankets, bassinets, cribs, strollers, carseats and other must-have baby gear and accessories, to 1,042 expecting mothers and families in need, many of whom visited us multiple times, for a total of 2,975 client visits.



Thank you to those who held Baby Bottle Boomerangs and Baby Showers to keep our shelves stocked. We have an ongoing need for diapers and, presently, summer clothing, new or gently used, age infant to 5T. Please contact Lydia at [services@rirtl.org](mailto:services@rirtl.org) or 521-1860 if you can



volunteer to help with this life-saving ministry. And remember to bookmark our Amazon Baby Registry, which can be found at this QR code.

# Right to Life News

March 2023

## Taxpayer-Funding for abortion-on-demand bill heard by RI House Judiciary Committee

Committee expected to schedule a vote

On Monday, March 6, the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee heard six hours of testimony, both pro and con, on a bill (H5006) that would remove prohibitions on state taxpayer funding for abortion-on-demand, through the state-managed Medicaid program and in state employees' health benefits plans. The bill was "held for further study" but we anticipate that it will be scheduled again "for consideration" in the near future.

**Here is a reflection from Miss Lydia Bartlett:**

This past Tuesday two of my coworkers and I headed to the State House to sign our names in opposition to taxpayer funded abortions. After signing, we were asked by fellow pro-lifers if we would be testifying. We explained that we hadn't prepared and didn't feel ready. I thought to myself, "I should make it my goal by the end of the year to testify." It ended up being a rather ironic statement as I found myself a few minutes later signing up to testify with my coworkers. Yes, I was nervous as I jotted down some ideas of what to say. Eventually, we got into the hearing room and sat before the House Judiciary Committee. One by one all three of us testified and spoke what was on our heart. As I was speaking, I felt surprisingly comfortable. It felt freeing to let my thoughts and opinions be known. Maybe you think you wouldn't know what to say. I encourage you to lead with your actions and let the words follow. There is something about standing for a cause with your words. We so often have the opportunity at the state level to testify. For a few words and a few minutes, raise your voice. Let your representatives know what we stand for. It is an easy and tangible action to take. Do it, anyone can.

## Special Election Advisory - Disaffiliate Now

Cicilline retirement provides pro-life opportunity

Rhode Island's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District U.S. Representative David Cicilline announced that he will be vacating the seat on June 1 to become president and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. A special election, *first a primary and then a general election*, will be held later this year to fill the seat. This provides a rare pro-life opportunity. To be ready for any eventuality, we urge all pro-life voters to verify that you are registered as *unaffiliated* and, if not, to *disaffiliate* as soon as possible so you may vote in either party primary. You can view, update, and modify your voter registration status at [vote.sos.ri.gov](http://vote.sos.ri.gov).

ATTENTION Students, Parents, Teachers, Pastors

## Dr. Mildred Jefferson 2023 Memorial Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school students

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$500 Scholarship plus paid trip to Pittsburgh, PA for National Contest, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$400 Scholarship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$300 Scholarship, 4<sup>th</sup> Place \$200 Scholarship, 5<sup>th</sup> Place \$100 Scholarship

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at RI Right to Life  
Contact [info@rirtl.org](mailto:info@rirtl.org) for contest guidelines.

## Page 3 - CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens

## Ancora Means Hope

Right to Life Services Ancora Women's Mobile Care Center is on the road offering free pregnancy tests, STI tests, and limited obstetric ultrasounds. To expand our schedule, we need more licensed medical professionals. Please call Raquel if you are interested in this life-saving ministry. And please attend our May 25 Ancora Banquet to learn more.



## Annual State House Pro-Life Rally

Thank you to all who attended our State House Rally on Saturday, January 28!



## Rhode Island State House Update

As of this writing, 1858 bills have been filed in the Rhode Island General Assembly, 1172 in the House and 686 in the Senate, since the session began on Tuesday, January 3. Fifteen of these bills are of direct concern to the pro-life movement, 5 good and 10 bad, and we are watching a handful of related bills. A hearing has already been held on House Bill 5006, which would legalize state taxpayer funding for abortion-on-demand. A hearing is scheduled this week (March 20-25), on House Bill 5210, which seeks to legalize assisted suicide, and on House Bill 5426, which creates a mandate for “preventive services” in all health insurance plans but does not contain a conscience exemption for groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor who object to providing for abortifacients and contraceptives as a requirement for operating their charities in Rhode Island. Hearings will also soon be held on these bills in the Senate. We expect the legislative session to close, as usual, during or near the last week of June. We continue to ask for prayer teams to join us on weekdays at the State House. Please make sure you are signed up for our Action Alerts < [rirtlaction.org](http://rirtlaction.org) > so you can stay informed and make your pro-life voice heard at the appropriate time.

Founded in 1969, your Rhode Island State Right to Life Committee, Inc., is the only state-wide, non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational pro-life organization in Rhode Island. We champion the cause of the most vulnerable members of our society by fighting euthanasia, abortion, and embryo-destroying stem cell experimentation. We are the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, and seek to work together with all who believe in the sanctity of human life.

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## Tips for Testifying at the State House

Some speakers believe they can persuade others simply by sharing massive amounts of information. Facts are necessary, of course, but are just one part of effective witness. Before beginning to craft our message, we must consider the audience for whom our message is intended and how we as a messenger relate to that audience *and* to the message we speak. The actual crafting of an effective message requires careful attention to (1) identifying our key point(s), (2) accurate information, and (3) presentation.

**The Audience** - Who am I Trying to reach? What am I asking them to do? Will what I am planning to say reach the people in front of me and accomplish this specific goal? A very old adage asserts that what is received is received according to the mode of the receiver. *If the people in my audience can not understand or meaningfully relate to my message, it will fall on deaf ears.*

**The Messenger** - Begin your testimony by stating your name, the town or city in which you reside, as well as any relevant credential, expertise, affiliation, or specific life experience, if any. Clearly state your position “for” or “against” the bill at hand and how this relates *to you*. Keep in mind that like is known by like, and thus the more the members of your audience can relate *to you as a person*, and can see how this issue concerns or relates *to you*, the more receptive these people will be to *your* message. *It’s not only what is said, but who says it.*

**The Message 1: Identifying Key Point(s)** - There are many compelling points you might make when discussing the life issues (abortion, assisted suicide, rights of conscience). But not every point is necessary to every discussion. Given the limited time you will be allotted when testifying before a legislative committee, typically two minutes (250 to 300 words), you must focus on no more than three points, indeed it is often best to thoroughly develop just one key point. *Limit the number of points you make, trusting that others will address other key points.*

**The Message 2: Accurate Information** - When speaking about life issues, be ready to substantiate what you say, particularly when making a specific claim. This does not mean you need to go into great detail; in fact it is usually counterproductive to get into the weeds, especially if you are not an expert in the field. But it does mean that, if challenged, you can elaborate on your testimony and cite reputable sources to defend the accuracy of facts you have asserted. If you find yourself unable to respond to a question posed to you, simply reply that you do not have that information at hand but you will get it for them. *Keep it simple, but be prepared to back up what you say.*

**The Message 3: Presentation** - Your key points(s) and accurate information need to be “packaged” to resonate with the people in your audience. Whenever possible, try to provide a story, analogy, event, scenario, anecdote, parable, song, or poem to exemplify or put an exclamation mark on the key point(s) you are trying to make. Get creative! This makes for impactful and memorable testimony. *Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.*

## 2022 Giving Summary for Tax Returns

We've sent out a good number of 2022 giving summaries, both through email and snail mail. With April 15 nearly upon us, please email [accounting@rirtl.org](mailto:accounting@rirtl.org) if you need one to complete your taxes.

## 2022 Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the students for making their pro-life voices heard!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior Division - \$150 Scholarship  
**Mr. Joshua Kline** - Bishop Hendricken High School
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Division - \$150 Scholarship  
**Miss Grace Jelinek** - The Prout School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Senior Division - \$100 Scholarship  
**Miss Avery Lough** - Bishop Feehan High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Junior Division - \$100 Scholarship  
**Miss Mia Lynn Marie Alvizures** - Homeschooled
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Tie) Senior Division - \$50 Scholarship  
**Miss Madeline Yvette Plante** - Homeschooled
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Tie) Senior Division - \$50 Scholarship  
**Miss Kaelie Kennedy** - Westerly High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Junior Division - \$50 Scholarship  
**Mr. Cameron Lough** - St. Philip School

## CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens to begin selling abortion pills

Since its controversial approval by the Clinton administration Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in September, 2000, mifepristone has been used to terminate the lives of more than 5 million preborn babies in America.

Originally known as RU-486 and now frequently referred to as “the abortion pill,” mifepristone blocks the hormone progesterone, causing the lining of the mother’s uterus to break down; deprived of oxygen and nutrients, the child starves to death. Two days after taking mifepristone, the mother is directed to take misoprostol, which induces powerful uterine contractions to expel the corpse.

The abortion pill now accounts for more than half of the abortions committed annually in the United States, its popularity having grown significantly since 2016 when the Obama administration FDA extended its approval from seven weeks “through ten weeks gestation (70 days or less since the first day of a patient’s last menstrual period).”

In 2018, the Trump administration FDA released data showing thousands of women had experienced adverse events after taking abortion pills, including 768 hospitalizations and 24 deaths since 2000.

Using the recent pandemic as both an excuse and a distraction, the Biden administration FDA relaxed a variety of requirements on the abortion pill, particularly in-person examination by a certified prescriber and in-person dispensing from a certified prescriber. The Biden protocol now allows for “telehealth” examinations and for dispensing of the deadly pills by a “certified” pharmacy, either “brick and mortar” or even by mail. Sadly, CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens have announced their intentions to become certified to sell the abortion pill in jurisdictions where abortion remains legal.

Rhode Island Right to Life has provided information at our online action center <[rirtlaction.org](http://rirtlaction.org)> for contacting these three pharmacy chains to ask them to reconsider. We strongly encourage customers of these three pharmacies to visit your local branch and express your concerns to your pharmacist, letting them know that you will consider taking your business elsewhere -- to an independent pharmacy or to a supermarket pharmacy -- should they begin dispensing abortion pills.

On a related matter, a ruling is soon expected in *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*. Plaintiffs argue the Clinton FDA did not properly study the safety of mifepristone, unlawfully fast-tracking its approval through an accelerated process intended for treatments of life-threatening illnesses. The case is overseen by Trump-appointee Matthew Kacsmayrk in the Northern District of Texas. While a favorable ruling could possibly make the deadly drug unavailable nationwide, the abortion industry and the Biden administration will immediately appeal such a ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and would likely attempt other measures to guarantee continued availability of the deadly drug.

## New! Tuesday Lunches & Lectures - Ask Us

### Touch the Future

#### Leave a Legacy of Life



By including a charitable gift to Rhode Island Right to Life in your will or estate plan, you will help continue our life-saving work well into the future. You will continue to make a difference in the lives of those who come after you.

When the lives of preborn babies and their mothers are at stake, when elderly or handicapped persons are threatened with euthanasia, you will be helping.

Make sure you have an up-to-date will or living trust that reflects your desire to leave a legacy to RIRTL. Contact your financial advisor (*a financial planner, lawyer or accountant*) to ask for help in establishing a charitable gift to RIRTL.

Please also contact us about possibly tax-advantaged donations of [appreciated securities](#) and [charitable minimum distributions](#) from your IRA.