



# VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE REVIEW

Volume 52, Number 1 Winter 2024

Article 22 was passed into law by Vermont voters last November. The deceptive language along with misinformation and outright lies generated a frenzy of public sentiment leading voters to believe that they must vote in favor or women would die and miscarriages would be investigated. A far cry from the real

on Vermont's Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC's) and their right to freely speak and decline to perform abortions.

Throughout the legislative session, the bill was heavily promoted by Planned Parenthood's lobbyist and other powerful, pro-abortion lobbying organizations such as the

a certain gestational age, we tend to refer them to an OBGYN at UVMHC or some other local hospital or OBGYN clinic."

The question remains, why wouldn't she have those numbers? Perhaps because they really only provide abortions?

## "Pro-Choice" is a LIE

truth that the wording "personal reproductive autonomy" would seal into our constitution abortion throughout pregnancy.

Fresh off that victory, Planned Parenthood of Vermont redoubled their efforts to further their *real* goals in the 2023 legislative session – expanding abortion rights to out-of-state residents (including minors) and shutting down the competition at the Pregnancy Resource Centers to ensure that abortion is the only choice.

The 2023 legislature passed Senate bill 37 (*An act relating to access to legally protected health care activity and regulation of health care providers*). Once signed into law with Governor Phil Scott's signature and enacted, the law is now referred to as Act 15. While the new law is cause for concern on a number of levels, most alarming is the blatant attack

Vermont Medical Society, the LGBTQ Director, Vermont's Attorney General and others.

Under the guise of protecting girls and women from clinics that do not offer abortion or abortion referrals, it became patently obvious that the motivation behind passage of the law was to close down all of Vermont's Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC's).

The legislation was a top priority for Planned Parenthood's abortion business as the seven PRC's in Vermont offer women real choices and alternatives to abortion.

When Planned Parenthood's lobbyist, Lucy Leriche, was questioned in the Health Care Committee about the number of clients who had abortions versus how many clients carried their pregnancies to term she declined to answer stating: "So like, I don't have those exact numbers because once a, once a patient gets to

As pro-life Vermonters know, PRC's raise all of their funds from their local communities and exist to offer women and young girls the kind of support they need to choose life. Nearly all of the clinics offer free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, parenting classes and much more. Even more importantly, witnesses in favor of passage could not point to a single complaint that had ever been filed against the pro-life centers by any of their clients!

The newly-enacted law grants sole discretion to Vermont's Attorney General Charity Clark (who is openly and stridently pro-abortion) to decide whether or not "limited services pregnancy centers" are engaging in "deceptive speech." Act 15 allows the imposition of fines up to \$10,000 on each center should the AG decide that any one of Vermont's Pregnancy Resource Centers have

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Mary Hahn Beerworth,  
Executive Director

## A Unified Pro-Life Vermont

By Mary Hahn Beerworth, Executive Director, VRLC

While we all understand that passage of Article 22, the pro-abortion amendment to the Vermont Constitution, was a setback for the pro-life movement, I am happy to report that there remains high levels of enthusiasm for pro-life efforts

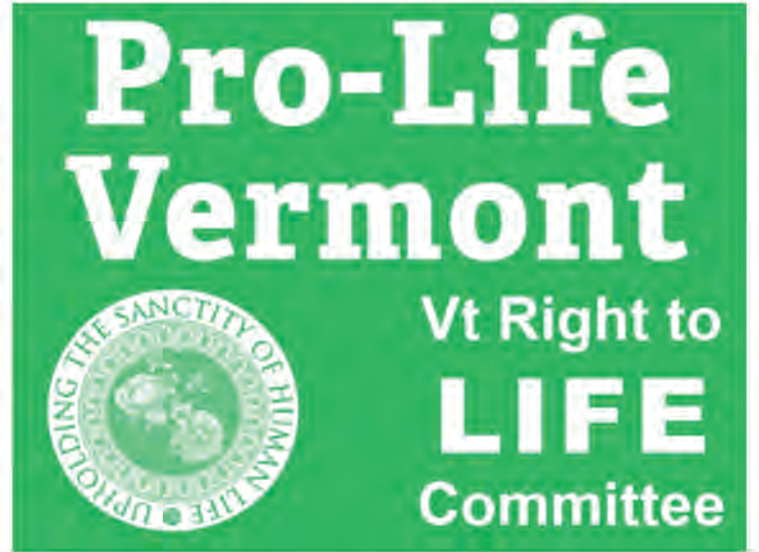
around the state.

Years ago I recall that there were separate efforts in the pro-life movement – some pro-lifers felt called to pray, some to pray and protest in front of the abortion clinics, others to advocate for legislative efforts and educational out-reach, while still others were called to offer women and young girls real assistance to carry their pregnancies to term.

Today, those efforts are overlapping and combining to unify pro-lifers and to encourage participation in all the various ways to contribute to reducing the number of abortions.

Those of us advocating for life in the State House were able to warn our friends who work and volunteer in the

This fall, the 40 Day's for Life Campaigns in Vermont covered Burlington, Barre and Rutland as brave pro-lifers stepped up to pray to end abortion. Pro-life volunteers signed up to pray from their homes and others prayed in front of the various Planned Parenthood clinics.



Those on the front lines who support women and girls at the Pregnancy Resource Centers in 6 locations in Vermont combined to give 176 ultrasounds and to help 476 clients in 2022!

Vermont Right to Life's local chapters staffed booths at 6 countywide fairs involving over 200 volunteers and reaching thousands of fairgoers with the pro-life message. The Chittenden County Chapter once again held their well-attended Dinner and Silent Auction. Washington County Right to Life and Rutland County Right to Life are both re-organizing and revitalizing.

The pro-life movement in Vermont is alive, well, and working together for the unborn!

## The Pro-Life Movement in Vermont is Alive and Well!

Pregnancy Resource Centers of the upcoming attack on their services (see article on Act 15.) VRLC lobbyists provided additional testimony before the committees of jurisdiction and helped to expose the real goals of the abortion lobby. VRLC was also able to help garner national legal support to challenge the constitutionality of this new law. That challenge was filed in Federal court on July 25, 2023.

## Vermont Abortion Providers

The Vermont Right to Life Committee keeps track of the physicians and non-physicians who perform abortions in our state for those who would prefer a pro-life health care provider who does not engage in terminating human life. The largest provider of surgical abortions and medication/chemical abortions is Planned Parenthood of Vermont. Planned Parenthood clinics averages around 90% of all abortions done annually in VT and

advertises that they will perform them up to 21 weeks and 6 days gestation. There are close to 100 abortions annually performed at the UVM Medical Center and a small number performed in a few doctor's offices. If you have information that we can add to our list of abortion providers, please let us know at [vrlc@vrlc.net](mailto:vrlc@vrlc.net). If you have questions about your own physician, feel free to call and we'll share what we have learned: 802-229-4885.

Vermont Right to Life Review  
Vol. 52 No. 1  
Winter 2024  
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The Vermont Right to Life Review (ISSN #1086-7384) is published regularly by the Vermont Right to Life Committee, Inc., PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601. Phone (802) 229-4885. Subscription price is \$15.00 per year and should be directed to VRLC, PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601



## Who is Charity Clark?

Charity Clark of Williston, VT, was elected Attorney General in 2022. During her campaign for office Clark showcased her position on Pregnancy Resource Centers in a Facebook video. See transcript below:



Charity Clark, Attorney General, Vermont

*Transcript from Clark's campaign video:*

*"So how pregnancy centers that use deception about abortion or pregnancy are unacceptable, but did you know they also violate Vermont law? I'm Charity Clark. I'm running for Attorney General. And here's how I think we can use the Consumer Protection Act in the wake of the Dobbs decision. The Consumer Protection Act forbids deception in the marketplace when three elements are met 1) there was a misrepresentation. 2), there was reasonableness by the consumer when they relied on that misrepresentation, and 3), the misrepresentation was material to the ultimate choice the consumer made. In Vermont, deception, in the marketplace is never okay, but especially not when making a personal healthcare decision. When Dobbs came out, I released my plan to make Vermont a safe harbor, this was in it. As your Attorney General I will use the Consumer Protection Act to protect you."*

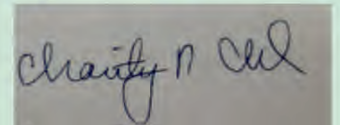
Charity Clark also signed on to the following letter, joining with 16 other AG's.

The open letter reads in part:

### OPEN LETTER FROM ATTORNEYS GENERAL REGARDING CPC MISINFORMATION AND HARM

"We are 16 Attorneys General representing consumers across the country. We have watched with increasing concern in recent years as anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) have proliferated in our states, outnumbering abortion clinics by a three-to-one ratio, while misleading consumers and delaying access to critical, time-sensitive reproductive healthcare. As the legal officials charged with enforcing our jurisdictions' consumer protection laws, we support Yelp's efforts to ensure that consumers receive clear information about the limitations of the services and staff available at CPCs (Crisis Pregnancy Centers also known as Pregnancy Resource Centers). CPCs do not provide full-scope reproductive healthcare and often use deceptive tactics to lure in patients seeking reproductive healthcare. These tactics can have dire health consequences and rob patients of their healthcare choices. Efforts such as Yelp's warnings help educate consumers and ensure patients are informed of what services are and are not available at CPCs, which ultimately protects the public health."

"Abortion and abortion services are healthcare."



CHARITY R. CLARK  
Attorney General of Vermont

*Editor's note: Charity Clark leaves little room for doubt about how she will use her office and new power under Act 15 to shutter Vermont's pregnancy centers.*



VRIC Board Secretary, Kathy Grange of Graniteville, Vermont, felt inspired to create the LOVE design as a description of what it means to be pro-life



SAVE THE UPCOMING DATES

## PRO-LIFE LOBBY DAY At the State House in Montpelier Wednesday February 21, 2024

8:30am to 2:30 pm

Join pro-lifers from across the state for the first Pro-life Lobby Day since 2019. Vermont Right to Life will sponsor a pro-life display in the Card Room inside the Vermont State House, and will invite pro-life participants to enjoy a coffee or beverage and light breakfast in the cafeteria.

The event is an opportunity to:

- Wear a pro-life button and stand for LIFE!
- Arrange to meet up with your Representative(s) or Senator(s) or at least let them know you care enough about the babies to be in attendance.
- Write your legislators a note and share your concern for the unborn and the direction the legislature is taking to favor abortion only.
- Listen to proceedings on the House floor.
- Be a reminder to lawmakers, by your presence, that pro-life Vermonters care about all lives ~ from conception until natural death.
- Stand up for life inside the People's House and encourage our pro-life legislators to uphold the sanctity of EVERY human life.

*Despite the weather forecasters predicting a torrential rainstorm, over 200 pro-life Vermonters turned out on Saturday, June 22, 2023, to celebrate the overturning of Roe v Wade. The group also enjoyed BIRTHday cake and a celebration of LIFE. In the end, the predicted rain did not materialize! Once the scientifically accurate display of human life growing in the womb is seen, the truth cannot be denied. Abortion takes the life of a human child.*

## Mark Your Calendar for the Annual BIRTHday PICNIC ~ State House Grounds Saturday, June 22, 2024 ~ 11:30 to 1:00pm



## EXPECT MAIL DELAYS

Since the July flooding of the City of Montpelier, the Post Office has been closed down. Some mail was lost to the rising water but things are back on track, but expect delays.

Incoming mail to VRLC's address (PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601) is being rerouted through the Barre Post Office and

that will lead to minor holdups for receiving mail and delays in getting "thank you" notes out to our generous donors.

The situation appears likely to remain this way for at least another year as the damage was significant to the downtown location.

Vermont Right to Life appreciates your patience and understanding.



## BIRTHday PICNIC 2024 ~ June 22nd, STATE HOUSE GROUNDS



Mark your new 2024 Calendar for **Saturday June 22, 2024** and join us for the next BIRTHday Picnic! While Planned Parenthood shouts “who loves abortion,” pro-lifers will be singing Happy Birthday! The event will feature games, prizes, informational tables, BIRTHday cake for all, music, short speeches and fellowship. This is a family friendly event so plan to bring children and friends.

### Do NOT Mark Your Calendar for a January Rally For Life in Vermont

Pro-lifers no longer have to “save the date” for the annual Rally for Life in January. The annual outdoor event was held despite the fact that temperatures usually dropped below zero! Each year for the past 50 years, the Rally for Life was held in January to commemorate the lives aborted due to the January 22, 1973 US Supreme Court decision (*Roe v Wade*) legalizing abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in every state in the US. On June 24, 2022 the US Supreme Court finally overturned the 1973 decision and returned abortion policy back to the duly elected members of state legislatures. This is a great victory for life. We hope to see you on **Saturday, June 22, 2024** to celebrate this historic victory together!

### National March for Life ~ Saturday, January 19, 2024 ~ Washington, DC



Vermonters who wish to commemorate the Roe vs Wade Anniversary are welcome to join the annual March for Life in Washington DC. If you have never attended, this is an exciting opportunity to march with hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers from around the country.

Here is why the National March for Life is still happening despite the overturning of the 1973 US Supreme Court ruling. The following is taken from the website [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)

“Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently. Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is expected to decrease only by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America. Many national legislative battles loom, including even keeping longstanding Hyde protections, which limit government funding for abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nation’s history, but now cannot be taken for granted. Last, our most important work is changing hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable.”

SAVE THE UPCOMING DATES



## A report from Tom Kelly, organizer for Barre 40 Days for Life:



On Friday, October 27, a motorist approached one of our volunteers, Frank, on Highland

Avenue in the vicinity of the Planned Parenthood Clinic in the public right-of-way. Frank told me he was holding a “Pray to End Abortion Sign” and was praying. The woman exited her vehicle, said she was the victim of rape and other abuse at the hand of her rapist. She said that abortion saved lives. She berated Frank for standing with his sign; she “got in his face” and told him to “get out.”

She grabbed the sign, proceeded to fold the sign and placed it in her car and, before driving off, dared Frank to take down her license plate and report her. Frank did call “9-1-1,” and continued praying for some time (he would not let the woman force his departure). For whatever reason there was no contact with the police near the clinic (Frank saw a cruiser pass by when he was headed for his car to leave). About an hour after the incident Frank visited the police station and was told by the assigned officer that the woman had visited the police, “apologized” (to the police but not to Frank) and “returned” the sign – again, to the police. Perhaps the Holy Spirit inspired the returning of the sign and the apology? Frank retrieved his sign (now with several creases where it had been folded) and prepared a sworn affidavit.

Frank deserves great credit for his dedication to prayer and his public witness to the scourge of abortion. He told me he will pray for the woman, her unborn child and all those impacted by abortion, as should we all. Frank knows that rape is a terrible evil and that rapists should be in prison; that abortion does not remove the rape and only adds pain; and, that human dignity is not defined by the circumstances of our conception. Frank received a new sign today. He will not be dissuaded from his dedication to the vigil.

## “Pro-Choice” is a LIE

(Continued from page 1)

engaged in what the law loosely defines as “deceptive speech.”

Thanks to the national legal team at Alliance Defending Freedom, along with the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, a legal challenge was filed in Federal District Court on July 25, 2023. Essentially, “this case is a challenge by pro-life pregnancy services centers and their membership organization to a state law that unconstitutionally restricts the centers’ speech and provision of services.”

Be sure to find out how your legislators voted on S.37/Act 15. Visit: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/roll-call/2024/55>

*Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is one of the leading Christian law firms committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, marriage and family, parental rights, and the sanctity of life.*

*National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) exists to protect life-affirming pregnancy centers that empower abortion vulnerable women and families to choose life for their unborn children.*



The Vermont  
State Fair  
Rutland County



Vermont Right to Life Committee

## VRLC Expands Pro-Life Message Outreach

Once the scientifically accurate display of human life  
growing in the womb is seen, the truth cannot be denied.

Every abortion stops a beating human hear.



Volunteers for Franklin County Right to Life staff booths at three fairs in the county and a number of Christmas Bazaars. The Franklin County Chapter brings their “Did You Know” game – fairgoers spin the wheel and if they answer a pro-life question accurately they win a prize. Young people love to play and they learn about the unborn at the same time.



Thanks to Gregory Thayer of Rutland, who organized area volunteers, a pro-life booth was displayed at the Vermont State Fair for the first time in over a decade! Pro-lifers also attended a meeting in October to discuss re-organizing the Rutland County Right Life Chapter!



# Anniversary of the Tragic Death of Unborn Twins from Bennington, VT

## “Bennington Babies” would have been 15 years old in 2024

In August of 2009, Patricia Blair was pregnant with six-month old unborn twins while driving her van with her husband and family. The Blair’s were excited to welcome their twins, Caleb and Harley, into the world. Their excitement was compounded as the Blair family had suffered the grievous loss of their newborn daughter the prior year. (Shannon Blair lived 19 hours after delivery and was held by loving parents and siblings until she passed away.)

Due to an impaired driver who recklessly crossed the highway line and smashed into the Blair’s van, the twin unborn babies would lose their lives. The physician who attended to their delivery told Patricia that the babies would have been perfectly healthy and had reached viability, but did not survive the impact from the crash.



While struggling with the loss of her twin babies and trying to recover from her own injuries, Patricia was dealt an additional blow. The State of Vermont did not consider her twins to be human beings and news reports went out with headlines blaring that “there were no fatalities as a result of the crash.”

Following the tragic crash the Blairs pushed hard for Vermont to enact a law to protect unborn children from crimes but Planned Parenthood of Vermont derailed her efforts as a “threat to abortion rights.”

Patricia Blair will join us at the State House for “Pro-Life Lobby Day” to share with attendees about the need for Vermont to join 38 other states that have enacted laws protecting unborn children from crimes.

## American Medical Association Rejects Proposal to Support Assisted Suicide

Great news: The American Medical Association (AMA) upheld their opposition to assisted suicide and euthanasia.

This was a huge win as AMA delegates voted down the attempt to change the code of ethics to support or become neutral on assisted suicide and they voted down the attempt to change terminology from assisted suicide to Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). The term Medical Aid in

Dying includes assisted suicide and euthanasia. The take home message is that medical professionals, young physicians and medical students must be involved in the AMA.



Look for your 2024 Vermont Right to Membership Drive fundraising letter to arrive in the mail shortly and we hope you will be as generous as you can be ~ unborn lives depend on it!

VRLC  
PO Box 1079  
Montpelier, VT 05601





VERMONT RIGHT TO LIFE

# REVIEW

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**NO OTHER ISSUE  
MATTERS  
IF YOU AREN'T  
BORN FIRST.  
NOT ONE**



## VERMONT FAMILY ALLIANCE

- Empowering and Equipping Parents and Families
- 

Vermont Family Alliance (VFA) was established to advocate for parental rights and minor protections at the State and local level. We testify before legislative committees on bills that usurp parental rights and put minors at risk of exploitation, as well as hold school boards accountable for transparency on policies that circumvent or allow for the circumvention of parental involvement that can also lead to exploitation.

Vermont Family Alliance believes parents and legal guardians are the best advocates for their children, and that they have the right and responsibility to raise their children free from government interference. VFA believes the vast majority of Vermont families love and care for their children in a way that government and public schools can never do, and we recognize that there are numerous state programs and legal options available to those families who

need intervention.

If you would like to be informed of legislation and school district policies that threaten the rights of

parents and legal guardians and put minors at risk, receive legislative calls-to-action, and acquire tools and resources to equip parents and guardians to protect their children, sign up for our email list at [vermontfamilyalliance@gmail.com](mailto:vermontfamilyalliance@gmail.com). Visit us at our new website [www.vermontfamilyalliance.com](http://www.vermontfamilyalliance.com).

VFA rarely sends emails during the summer and sends emails once or twice a week during the legislative session, so please do not hesitate to sign up!

