

## Legal & Social Battles Continue on Life Issues

### Gov. Phil Murphy Forces NJ Taxpayers to Fund Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz

Murphy bragged the legislation giving \$7.5 million yearly to Planned Parenthood is his first bill as the new governor: "New Jersey will once again stand strong for Planned Parenthood and reproductive rights."

"Today, Governor Murphy thumbed his nose at the hardworking citizens of NJ and signed two bills which will use **\$7.5M of our tax money** to fund the salaries and operation expenses of his favorite constituency, Planned Parenthood, regardless of their past record showing they engaged in Medicaid fraud," said Marie Tasy, executive director of NJ Right to Life.

The U.S. Inspector General for Health & Human Services found that the New Jersey-based family planning clinics run by the Planned Parenthood abortion business were **billing Medicaid** for services that did not qualify as family planning. The Inspector General recommended that New Jersey repay \$2,219,746 to the federal government, which it did.

"NJ Health officials testified that STDs have gone up in every state in the nation, but that NJ actually had one of the lowest increases in the nation, even though Planned Parenthood has not received state funding for the past eight years," Tasy said. [Micaiah Bilger, 2/21/18, *LifeNews.com*]

### 8,500 Pro-Life Billboards Planned

That's the 2018 goal of Prolife Across America that has been sponsoring highway billboards for almost three decades, bringing its life-saving messages to cities and states across America. [prolifeacrossamerica.org]

The year's theme is "Believe in Miracles." A key element of the group's campaign is **offering assistance through their toll-free Hotline**. Typical calls are like this: "I'm pregnant but everyone says to get an abortion. I need someone to talk to. Can you help me?" The Hotline connects callers with the help they need: pregnancy info, medical care, post-abortion services.

### Natural Family Planning: Difficult Yet Rewarding

"We understand the method, but practicing abstinence in our marriage is far more challenging than we expected. Do you have advice?" That concern was sent to Tom & Caroline McDonald, NFP teachers for over a decade. In pre-cana programs. "Couples need to be told of the discipline required. But **many worthwhile, beneficial practices in life are difficult**: dieting, exercise, changing diapers, committing to a regular [continued on page 2]

### Joy Villa Turns Heads with Pro-life Outfit at the Grammys

Joy Villa turned up at the 60th Grammy Awards in a white wedding dress that she hand-painted with the **image of an unborn baby** surrounded by a rainbow paired with a purse that read "choose life." She said she was inspired to paint this year's dress because **she gave up a baby for adoption** when she was 21, and she said she supports adoption over abortion.



"I'm a pro-life woman. This year I chose to make a statement on the red carpet like I always do," she told Fox News. "I'm all about life. There is a lot of hypocrisy among celebrities. I'm glad that conservative values are back at the forefront as a **pro-life woman**." [Leora Arnowitz, Morgan M. Evans, *Fox News*, 1/28/18]

### School District Scraps Sex Ed Program of Planned Parenthood [Dr. Susan Berry, Breitbart.com, 2/15/18]

The Cumberland County Board of Education (North Carolina) voted to scrap its Planned Parenthood middle school sex ed program after many **parents voiced their concerns**. The board voted to remove PP's Get Real program & return to the earlier curriculum begun in 2009.

An online petition states the Get Real program engages 6th graders with discussion about how feeling "comfortable and ready" is the primary criterion for sexual activity. It infers that anyone who disapproves of homosexual behavior is "against homosexuals" and is "cruel." It gives a **sexually explicit description** of "technical abstinence" to reduce the risk of STDs. It provides flash cards for 7th graders outlining proper condom usage, one of which reads "have vaginal, oral or anal sex." It recommends use of "non-microwavable saran wrap" as a prophylactic for certain non-reproductive sex acts, many of which we can't include here because of the vulgarity.

"The whole nature of this has been very secretive in how it's been rolled out to students here," parent & pastor Craig Autrey explained on Family Research Council's Washington Watch. "That's why it's so **imperative for parents to be involved** in your school – particularly middle school ages where you know sex education is being taught. The parents [continued on page 2]

## Natural Family Planning [continued]

prayer time. All are difficult at one time or another, yet all are keys to a fulfilling, joyful life. The same is true of abstinence for some days each month. If we rely on our own power, however, we will fail. Prayer as a couple will do wonders."

The Church's teaching on this topic is both beautiful and insightful. From *Humanae Vitae*, 16: "Married people may take advantage of the **natural cycles of the reproductive system** and engage in marital intercourse only during those time that are infertile, thus controlling birth in a way which does not in the least offend moral principles." [Family Matters, *National Catholic Register*, 9/22/12]

## R.I.P.: Billy Graham Said "My Heart Aches for America" Because of Abortion

While Reverend Graham was noted for his evangelical work in calling people to a relationship with Jesus Christ and repentance from sin, he also had a solid devotion to biblical principles. He said abortion has taken America's morality downhill — so far that the nation is on par with cities in the Old testament that God destroyed because of their lack of sexual morality.

Millions of babies continue to be aborted and **our nation seems largely unconcerned**. Self-centered indulgence, pride, and a lack of shame over sin are now emblems of the American lifestyle. In a 2012 open letter that addressed concerns about moral issues, Graham wrote: "My heart aches for America and its deceived people. The wonderful news is that our Lord is a God of mercy, and He responds to repentance."

Students for Life of America President Kristan Hawkins said: "At a time in which so many leaders in politics, pulpits and entertainment have proven flawed, the Rev. Billy Graham stands as an example of **humble leadership**, noteworthy for not only his **scandal-free life**, but for his consistency in calling for a life of faith and service. He is an example for us all of dignity, integrity and tireless courage in communicating timeless truths with love and respect."

"The legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren, and this great nation is crucial," Graham said. "I urge you to **vote for those who protect the sanctity of life** and support the biblical definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Vote for biblical values and pray with me that America will remain one nation under God." [Steven Ertelt, 2/21/18, LifeNews.com]

## Down Baby Named 2018 Gerber Baby

The 2018 Gerber baby is Lucas Warren, a 1-year-old from Dalton, Georgia who is the **first child with Down syndrome to be named a Gerber baby** since the contest's start in 2010. Courtney & Jason Warren learned that their son had been chosen from among 140,000 entries. Bill Partyka, CEO & president of Gerber, says Lucas's smile and happy expression captured the hearts of the Gerber team.

"We're hoping this will shed some light on the special needs community and help more **individuals with special needs be accepted** and not limited," dad Jason said. "They have the potential to change the world, just like everybody else."

Katie Driscoll, founder/president of Changing the Face of Beauty, a non-profit advocating for equal representation of people with disabilities in advertising & media, said: "We believe if brands represent children with a disability, they are communicating their value to our society. That moves us closer to a **more inclusive world**."

"He may have Down syndrome," said Courtney. "But he's got an awesome personality & goes through the milestones of every child. We're hoping when he grows up & looks back on this, he'll be proud of himself & not ashamed of his disability." [Terri Peters, *TODAY Parents*, 2/7/18]

Historic examples, not only in Germany but in Sweden and now in the U.S. show vividly how easily programs for **eradication of human defects** can undermine principles of equality, solidarity and respect for people with heritable conditions. Eugenics involves not only scientific experiments but **social experiments** and we have seen the results of such experiments. They do not end well. [D. A. Jones, "Editing human embryos: unethical research with eugenic goals," *Human Life Review*, Fall 2017.]

## School District [continued]

here had no clue ... It was piloted in schools where parental involvement is low."

**Planned Parenthood (PP)**, the nation's largest abortion provider, has been the focus of **many scandals** over the years, including alleged profiteering from the sale of body parts of babies aborted in its clinics. Get Real is a Comprehensive Sex Education program that assumes all young people will be sexually active. But PP doesn't like to involve parents or help children delay sexual involvement. Pro-life organization Live Action produced a video in 2014 that highlights PP's normalization of bondage, discipline, sadism & masochism for young people. Similarly, in 2015, Alliance Defending Freedom prepared a summary of PP's history of failing to report child sexual abuse.

