



LIFE ISSUES

# CONNECTOR

June 2016

## 2016: Call to Action to Protect the Court

By: Brittany VanSnepson

As the nation stands upon the precipice of major political change, both in the executive and judicial branches of the government, it's critical that pro-life issues are brought to the forefront.

It's no secret that Barack Obama has been the most forceful pro-abortion president in American history. With his efforts to usher in Obamacare as an everyday norm and nominating tenacious pro-abortion judges to the highest court, his aggressive efforts have continued to hinder the pro-life movement.

Now, more than ever, we need to encourage our pro-life senators to answer the call to action and stand firm in their pro-life stance as President Obama continues to thrust his so-called middle-of-the-road judicial nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, into the limelight to heighten pressure on Republican senators.

### **The Significance of Scalia**

As a nation, we mourned earlier this year over the unexpected passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. His strong

conservative appeal echoes in the cases he handled as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) and only further emphasizes how critical it is to the pro-life movement that the nominee chosen to replace him is equally pro-life.

Justice Scalia was vocal in his dissent of *Roe v. Wade*, referring to it as a case in "absurdity" and often indicating his desire to have the case overturned. In *Hodgson v. Minnesota*, Scalia reiterated his stance that the right to abortion is not in the constitution, going as far as to say, "I continue to dissent from this enterprise of devising an Abortion Code, and from the illusion that we have authority to do so."

So where does the loss of Scalia leave the pro-life community? Reeling.

With the nation's highest court now evenly divided in a four-to-four split, the balance of power has shifted and, with it, America's ethical and moral codes are left

swinging in all directions.

That is why it is so critical that Scalia's replacement nominee possesses the same leadership qualities and fundamental values that are present in the backbone of the constitution and in Justice Scalia himself.

### **Executive Influence**

President Barack Obama has already appointed two SCOTUS justices that have extreme pro-abortion mindsets. His current nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, is notoriously hush-hush in regard to most controversial issues, but especially pro-life issues.

In a *Time* article, written earlier this year, clerks that had previously worked intimately with Garland were hard-pressed to identify the judge's stance on abortion. However, one did claim that Garland's strong respect for legal precedent was a hearty implication as to what direction he would lean, if given the choice. In other words, Garland would most likely be disinclined to overturn *Roe v. Wade* considering

his stalwart deference to the government in previous cases. Knowing so little about Garland, the public is left to inform their opinion of him via President Obama's judgement.

And we all know where President Obama stands in regards to the 323,999 innocent lives killed by

I'm not convinced that he would be willing to play the role of a sufficiently aggressive check on an administration."

Senator Toomey hit the nail on the head. With Justice Scalia, the public knew where he stood. Garland's ability to play his cards close to his chest may be one reason the

urging him to maintain his strong resolve. Pressed by his community, Grassley has verified that he won't be considering Judge Garland for the open SCOTUS position.

Perhaps the most vocal and consistent in his declaration to not consider President Obama's nomination is Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell (R., KY). According to McConnell, Obama nominated Garland "not with the intent of seeing the nominee confirmed, but in order



*"I continue to dissent from this enterprise of devising an Abortion Code, and from the illusion that we have authority to do so."*  
- Justice Antonin Scalia

Planned Parenthood in one year alone. His open-arms display of affection for the pro-abortion movement leads pro-lifers to assume Garland is, at best, indifferent to the carnage inflicted on our nation.

### **Hold Firm**

In light of President Obama's controversial compromise in choosing a moderate nominee for the open SCOTUS seat, it's critical that senators remain true to their pro-life stance as recent Gallup polls continue to show that Americans believe abortion should be limited.

Furthermore, regardless of what liberal pro-abortion media is reporting, Republican senators have been vetting Garland informally for weeks. This form of informal interviewing style is typical during the judicial nomination process, as senators familiarize themselves with the Supreme Court nominee before the irreversible decision is weighed in a public forum.

Therefore, the nomination impasse isn't due to Republicans refusing to consider Garland's nomination, it's because they are slowly but surely vetting him and find him lacking.

According to U.S. Senator Patrick J. Toomey (R., PA), "Based on a number of decisions and my conversation with Judge Garland,

Democrats love him as a nominee, but Republicans are much more interested in a leader who doesn't wish to maintain a low-profile on hot-button issues.

### **What's at Stake**

As reported in the last issue of *Life Issues Connector*, there is a lot riding on today's current political climate. With Justice Scalia's seat presently vacant and four Supreme Court Justices over the age of 67 - the average age for Supreme Court retirement being 69 - the nation is looking at five potential vacancies within the next four to eight years.

Meaning, the next president will potentially have the power to create a 7-2 Supreme Court that caters to their personal ideology. Simply put, if the next president appoints four or five young justices, his/her party's philosophy will be almost guaranteed control over the Supreme Court for an entire generation.

That's why it's critical that Republican senators maintain their strong pro-life positions, regardless of liberal media's insinuations that they are not fulfilling their duties.

### **Rallying the Troops**

With a Republican majority in Congress, pro-life groups are rallying to support their pro-life representatives. In Iowa, nearly 4,000 petitions arrived at Senator Chuck Grassley's office,

to politicize it for the purpose of the election."

In what is being dubbed as an act of "political theater," the president's choice seemed to be carefully orchestrated in such a way that would decisively tip the balance of the Court's decisions on abortion and other issues in the favor of President Obama's political party.

With this in mind, now is the time to urge the Senate Republican leadership to hold fast to the promises that they made to their pro-life citizens and to answer their call to action. Their first duty is not to appease the president with a quick and easy selection process. Rather it's to make an informed decision to ensure that the most qualified jurist is appointed to the Supreme Court. If their decision takes an inconvenient amount of time for the current executive administration, then so be it.

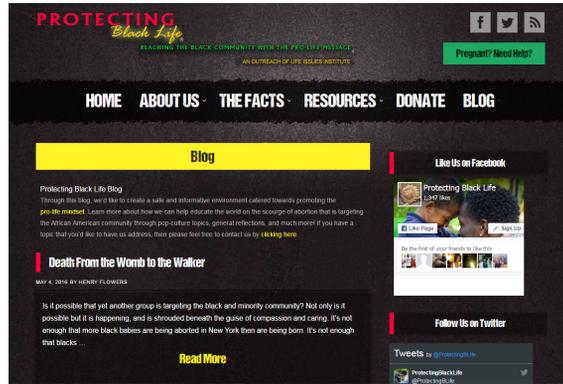
Today the pro-life community must not be meek! We must take a stand and our senators must stand with us! Now is the time to answer the call to action and contact your senators. Visit [lifeissues.org/contact-legislators](http://lifeissues.org/contact-legislators) for your senators' contact information. Call, write, or even visit to express the significance and urgency of their pro-life stance. Don't let another moment go by where we, as a pro-life community, could be saving lives!

Photo of Justice Scalia: By Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

# In The News

## Protecting Black Life Blog

Life Issues Institute is happy to announce that our urban outreach initiative, Protecting Black Life, has launched its new blog that went live on April 29! Through this blog, we'd like to create a safe and informative environment catered towards promoting the pro-life mindset. Learn more about how we can help educate the world on the scourge of abortion that is targeting the African American community through pop-culture topics, general reflections, and much more. If you have a topic that you'd like to have us address, then please feel free to contact us via email at: [info@lifeissues.org](mailto:info@lifeissues.org).



## Welcome, Joseph Sprengard Sr.

After over 35 years in the aviation industry, pro-life advocate Joseph Sprengard Sr. has joined Life Issues Institute as Executive Director. He began his new role on May 10th.

Raised in Cincinnati, Sprengard is active in outreach ministries that support the culture of life from fertilization to natural death.

Joe and his wife Donna recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. They have two children and five grandchildren.



## Pro-Life Apologetic Video Series

Protecting Black Life has launched its new apologetic web series that is meant to help enhance the pro-life viewer's ability to articulate, defend, or persuade others concerning the pro-life conversation. Each segment will embark on a new mission to help raise awareness on choosing the right words, finding flawed premises, and other critical turning points to the pro-life discussion.

- Fewer Abortions: Newly Released!
- The Pro-Choice Lie: May 17th
- The Power of Proof: May 31st
- Choosing Your Battles: June 14th
- Becoming The Beast: June 28th



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## Welcome, Brittany VanSnepton

Brittany VanSnepton joined Life Issues Institute as the Director of Public Relations & Communications in an effort to promote our pro-life brands across all social, print, and digital avenues.

Raised in the Midwest, VanSnepton is a published writer and editor with a passion for fine-tuning creative works. Her extensive history working with a broad range of publishing formats from newspapers and magazines, to books and digital media inspired her to use her talents to not just change lives but to help save lives.



## More Evidence Planned Parenthood Markets Abortion to Minorities

By: Susan Enouen

Is Planned Parenthood purposely marketing abortion to minorities? According to author Willis Krumholz at *The Federalist*, Planned Parenthood's business model promotes that strategy because it's in their financial best interest to do so. Furthermore, he proposes that data showing the harm done to poor and minority women has been whitewashed by the formerly reliable Guttmacher Institute in order to protect the abortion giant.

Proof of Planned Parenthood's purposeful presence in minority areas was established by Protecting Black Life, an outreach project of Life Issues Institute, in a 2012 study finding that 79% of Planned Parenthood's surgical abortion facilities were located within walking distance of a Black or Hispanic neighborhood.<sup>1</sup> Using 2010 Census data, this study documented the racial demographics of each census tract (similar to a neighborhood) within a 2-mile radius of each of Planned Parenthood's 163 surgical abortion facilities operating in 2010.

A census tract was counted as a minority neighborhood if its minority racial percentage reached over 50% or if it was 1.5 times that of the county percentage. Census tracts with racial percentages below the national average population of 12.6% for Blacks and 16.3% for Hispanics were excluded.

An updated analysis in 2015 found that the new set of 173 Planned Parenthood surgical abortion facilities operating in 2014 continue their practice of heavily targeting minority neighborhoods for abortion, with 78% within walking distance of these communities.

In response to our 2012 research, the Guttmacher Institute blasted out an advisory claiming that only 9% of abortion facilities were located

in majority Black neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> Their study relied on zip code mailing areas, ignoring nearby minority neighborhoods in different zip codes, and revealing little about the actual demographics surrounding the abortion facilities. In addition, by only including Black populations of 50% or more, nearly 4 times the national average, it excluded the many neighborhoods where minorities have a strong presence without holding a majority. For perspective, 28 states have Black percentages under 12.6% and the highest Black population of any state is 30.5%.

In reality, this study was a smokescreen intended to allow media and pro-abortion activists to preserve the storyline that Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is not targeting minorities. To accomplish this deceptive conclusion, Guttmacher's study included all abortion facilities providing over 400 abortions per year and offered no supporting data to unravel the truth about PPFA's locations. But facts are stubborn things, and Protecting Black Life's research presents both facts and data.

So how is targeting minorities for abortion a financial win for PPFA? With abortion rates dropping in the early 1990's, PPFA's business relied heavily on providing low-margin contraceptives to poor women. Logically, the abortion giant's revenue flattened and net margins began to decline. It was time for a new strategy.

By 1997, PPFA had executed a new business plan to increase revenue by focusing on high-margin abortion, moving to larger facilities that took

advantage of economies of scale, and locating in dense urban areas where high concentrations of poor and abortion-vulnerable clients, particularly minorities, would be assured. Everything about this plan points to a strong financial incentive to market abortion to minority women.

After the 1992 Supreme Court ruling *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, the cost of new state regulations pushed out many smaller abortion providers, leaving Planned Parenthood in a highly competitive position. Since 2004, PPFA has opened at least 19



abortion mega-centers (with over 10,000 square feet), increasing its capacity for performing abortions by 200 per day.<sup>3</sup>

As a result, PPFA's revenue has increased dramatically from \$400 million in 1990 to 1.3 billion in 2013. By performing 2.5 times as many abortions in 2011 (333,964) as they did in 1990 (129,155), their 8% market share skyrocketed to 33% at a time when total abortions declined from 1.6 to 1.1 million.

Clearly, PPFA's new strategy has worked well for them financially. But what has happened to the poor and minority women that they claim to want to help? The picture for these women is much less rosy.

By leveraging substantial influence in securing Title X funding, PPFA has become the primary option for minority women who need low-cost contraceptives. While abortion offers a high profit margin, contraceptives do not. Therefore, PPFA affiliates have little incentive to provide high quality contraceptive care and instruction to clients. And yet, with PPFA's ubiquitous neighborhood presence, many minority women develop a dependence upon their contraceptives and become ensnared in the active sexual lifestyle they promote.

As PPFA knows, contraceptive failure (54% of women who receive abortions used contraceptives<sup>4</sup>) ensures a high likelihood that the client will return with an unintended pregnancy. This provides an opportunity for the much more profitable scenario of selling an abortion. Such a strong financial incentive can only increase the risk of abortion for vulnerable women.

In his article, "Gutmacher Erases Data To Protect Planned Parenthood, IUDs," Krumholz<sup>5</sup> points out that unintended pregnancy rates among poor women had dropped considerably in 1994 (Figure 1), before PPFA's "reinvention." The drop in 1994 was followed by a sharp rise in 2001, coinciding with PPFA's changed approach, and a

continued rise through 2008. Clearly, as PPFA's market share and revenue rose, unintended pregnancies for poor women increased significantly.

Krumholz then shows a similar graph, released by Guttmacher in March 2016 (Figure 2) where the 1994 data point has been removed, implying that unintended pregnancy rates took a smooth ride up from 1981 to 2008 and that Planned Parenthood's business plan had little effect on low-income women's unintended pregnancy rates during that period.

Meanwhile, the Guttmacher report expounds on the crucial need for publicly funded contraceptives for preventing unintended pregnancies. This may be Guttmacher's attempt to protect the narrative that Planned Parenthood (and thus its taxpayer funding) are helping poor women, when the actual data implies the opposite.

Guttmacher also reports that unintended pregnancy rates for Black women in 2011 are the highest of any racial or ethnic group, at 79 per 1000 women (aged 15-44), compared to 33 for white women. This is not good news for the Black community. Nor is the fact that from 1990 to 2008, before and after Planned Parenthood's reinvention, the percentage of abortions received by Black women increased by 9.0%;

for Hispanic women it rose 7.6% while the percentage of abortions received by white women declined by 11.1%. In fact, although Blacks and Hispanics together make up about a quarter of the population (29%), they now receive over half of the abortions (55%).<sup>6</sup>

Although many factors may have contributed to this bad news for minority women, it coincides suspiciously with Planned Parenthood's intentional abortion facility presence in minority neighborhoods and with its aggressive push to market abortions for the purpose of lining its own pockets. And it appears that Guttmacher doesn't want us to know it.

1. Enouen, Susan W., *New Research Shows Planned Parenthood Targets Minority Neighborhoods*, Life Issues Connector, October 2012; article and data found at the Protecting Black Life Interactive webpage: [http://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp\\_targets/index.html](http://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp_targets/index.html)

2. Guttmacher Institute Media Center Advisory, *Claim that Most Abortion Clinics Are Located In Black or Hispanic Neighborhoods is False*, July 2014; found at: <https://www.guttmacher.org/infographic/2015/claim-most-abortion-clinics-are-located-black-or-hispanic-neighborhoods-false>

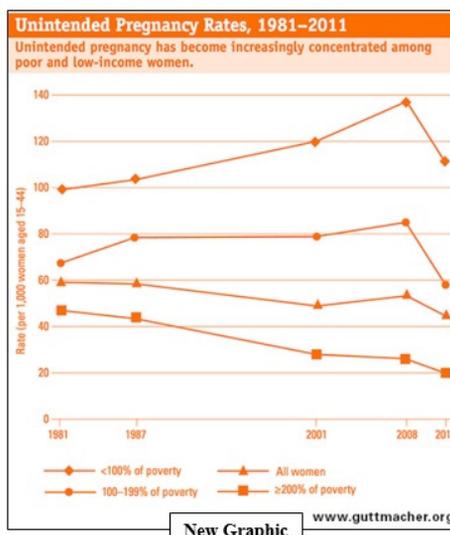
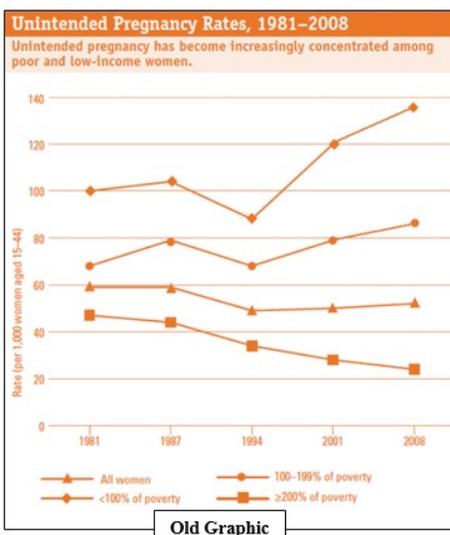
3. American's United For Life, *The New Leviathan: The Mega-Center Report, How Planned Parenthood Has Become Abortion, Inc.*, 2015; found at: <http://www.aul.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/AUL-Mega-Center-Report-06-24-2015.pdf>

3. Guttmacher Institute Fact Sheet, *Guttman Facts on Induced Abortion in the United States*, March 2016; found at: <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>

4. Krumholz, Willis L., *The Federalist, Guttmacher Erases Data To Protect Planned Parenthood, IUDs*, April 2016; found at: <http://thefederalist.com/2016/04/12/guttmacher-erases-data-to-protect-planned-parenthood-iuds/>

5. Guttmacher Institute, *Fact Sheet, Unintended Pregnancy in the United States*, March 2016; found at: <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>

6. Compiled from CDC's U.S. *Abortion Surveillance Reports*, 1990 through 2011.



Old Graphic

New Graphic

www.guttmacher.org

## Life Issues Institute Celebrates 25 Years

By: Bradley Mattes

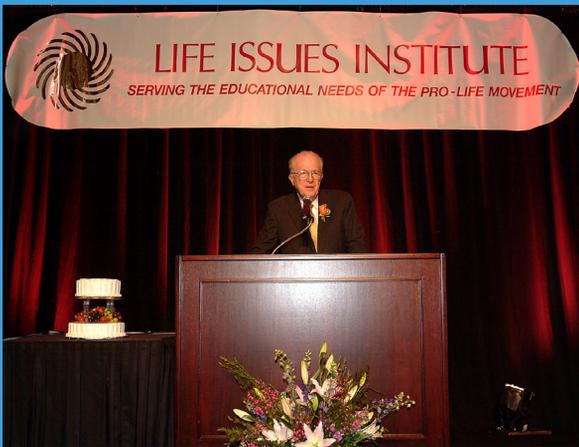
This issue of *Life Issues Connector* continues to celebrate our Silver 25th Anniversary with images and a look back at where we've been in our efforts to end abortion on demand.

The life-size bronze in our entry depicts Christ offering forgiveness to a woman who's had an abortion. His outer cloak is wrapped around her baby in His arms. It aptly demonstrates our "Love Them Both" message. These two features have been used regularly by our staff and multiple times by groups of post-abortion events for women.

Dr. Willke was no stranger to the White House over the years and was responsible for changing George Bush, Sr.'s position on abortion while he was a Vice Presidential candidate on Ronald Reagan's ticket.

During this period of time, Life Issues Institute, like many other pro-life organizations, turned to the World Wide Internet to expand our impact even further. We were one of the first pro-life websites in existence, which now number four in our efforts to reach various segments of the population.

Little did we realize then what monumental changes lay in store to help us educate Americans and people around the world to the truth about abortion and its cancerous effect on mankind. More about those details in our fall issue.



On Dr. Willke's 80th birthday we held a banquet in his honor with Steve Forbes the keynote speaker

On Dr. Willke's 80th birthday the Institute hosted an unforgettable celebration banquet with Steve Forbes as our keynote speaker. At a later time, our banquet event honored Congressman

Dr. and Mrs. Willke traveled to and spoke in over 85 countries. Their impact has been literally felt around the world. A highlight during this period included their private audiences with Pope John Paul II. The Willkes' travel continued until their advanced ages and the insistence of their children compelled them to stay stateside.

The new office building and expanded square footage made it possible to build an on-site chapel.

Chris Smith with Life Issues Institute's prestigious President's Award. Congressman Smith has been a crucial figure over the years to pass protective legislation in Washington, DC and we have treasured our close relationship with he and his wife, Marie.

On occasion Dr. Willke and Bradley's travels have taken them to the White House. The pictured event was hosted by President George W Bush at the time of the March for Life.



Dr. Willke & Bradley Mattes at the White House during the George W Bush presidency



Dr. and Mrs. Willke with Pope John Paul, II in Rome



Dr. Willke & Bradley Mattes present Life Issues Institute's Presidential Award to Congressman Chris Smith with his wife Marie



Barbara & Jack Willke at a UN conference in Istanbul, Turkey



A bronze of Christ offering forgiveness to a woman who's had an abortion in our office entry



# The Walls are Talking and We Need to Listen



PRESIDENT BRADLEY MATTES

I consider Abby Johnson a good friend. She and I became acquainted just weeks after Abby left the abortion industry. We flew her to Cincinnati to be interviewed for our TV program, *Facing Life Head-On*. I immediately knew her message was one the pro-life movement needed to hear.

Abby's second book, *The Walls Are Talking*, is a compilation of her experiences and others who've worked in the abortion industry. This quick read is packed with jewels of advice you and I should take to heart in our efforts to end abortion. The entire book is written in first-person so that the reader is never certain whether the words are coming from Abby or another anonymous former worker.

*The Walls Are Talking* is quick to point out that pro-life education is a critical foundation for avoiding future decisions that lead to and include taking the life of their own babies. Abby's plea to parents is educate your children; otherwise the abortion industry will be more than happy to fill that void with values opposite your own.

Revelations permeate the book. For example, pro-abortion activists and industry workers publicly assail any and all stigma attached to abortion, but ironically we see that same stigma alive and well within the hearts and minds of their own comrades. One woman revealed that she stood side-by-side with other pro-abortion activists, chanting their unrestrained support of abortion, while keeping her own abortion past a secret.

In my experience counseling hurting fathers who've lost a child to abortion, anger is the most consistent symptom

to contend with. *The Walls Are Talking* confirms that this indicator of post-abortion stress is also prominent in abortion staff, especially the abortionists themselves.

As we all know, the abortion industry has very little to do with "choice" and is almost entirely about pressure, coercion or outright force to secure another abortion to fatten the bank accounts of those who pedal death. Even so, the specific accounts are stunning. In the brief period of about two years, one worker revealed multiple examples of how her facility operated with a blatant disregard for women's rights—a direct divergent from their carefully orchestrated image.

And center managers were quick to remind employees that the Planned Parenthood main office was in the habit of tapping their phone calls and sending in spies to make sure everyone was towing the company line.

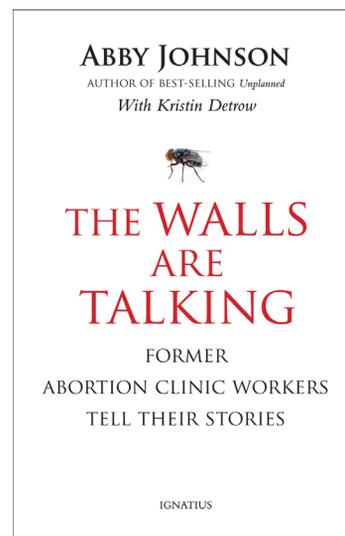
One petite young girl will forever remain in the memory of a worker who recalled her naturally conceived pregnancy of identical boy quadruplets. To say she was pressured by her thug boyfriend to abort the children would be an understatement, yet she had no ally in this bastion of feminism. Returning to the abortion center after a mishandled chemical pill abortion, the tiny girl was in the final stages of labor. The first of four dead baby boys was born in the toilet. The second two were born in the hall with their arms wrapped around each other. The final baby had to be extracted in pieces.

Scattered among profoundly heart-tugging accounts were additional revelations about the industry: As

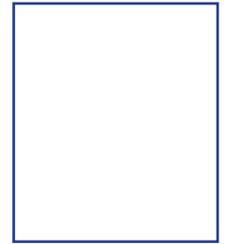
long as the business is profiting "there's no [moral or ethical] line" that can be crossed. And approximately seventy percent of Planned Parenthood employees are themselves post-abortive.

One of the most important lessons *The Walls Are Talking* imparts is that all of our interactions with abortion industry workers should be wrapped in love and girded with prayer. A peaceful pro-life presence outside abortion facilities has by the abortion staff's own admissions increased the rate of no-shows up to 75%. Furthermore, the importance of prayer should never be underestimated because those inside the walls of death are being impacted.

Everyone in the pro-life movement should read *The Walls Are Talking*. It validates that abortion's victims aren't only the babies and their parents. Abortion is a cancer. It maims, kills or destroys everyone in its wake. Equipped with this realization, we can more readily purge our anger and animosity toward them. As Abby said, "When we hate, we are no better than those who kill."



1. *2016: Call to Action*
3. *In the News*
4. *Planned Parenthood Markets Abortion*
6. *Celebrating 25 Years*
7. *The Walls are Talking*
8. *Pro-Life Strategies*



## *Pro-Life Strategies: A Pro-Information Mindset*

*By: Brittany VanSnepton*

This astounding documentary explores the compelling story of one woman on a mission to educate herself, and the world, on the connection between abortion and breast cancer.

Trudging through the highly controversial subject of abortion, Punam Kumar Gill sought to weed out the biased research from the factual. With one goal in mind: to find the truth for the sake of women's health, Gill was determined to interview medical organizations, corporations, and doctors to unravel personal politics to reveal these basic truths.

Her research exposed breast cancer connections to abortion, premature birth, and psychological problems

in relation to women's long term health. Her digging publicized how 50 million women could be affected worldwide – that's 1 in 3 American women right outside our front door.

In an ironic twist, Gill is a self-professed advocate for a woman's right to abortion but, as stated in the film, people must be pro-information in regards to female health. *HUSH* is perhaps the strongest documentary, regardless of where you stand on life issues, that provides information and insights that everyone would find valuable by shedding light on the harmful effects of abortion on a woman's long term health.

It's critical to the health of future generations that women are made

aware of the research provided in this documentary. Please visit [www.hushfilm.com](http://www.hushfilm.com) for more information, to purchase the DVD, or to license the film for screenings.

