



Life Issues

# CONNECTOR

October 2016

## 2016: A CALL TO ACTION to Protect & Further Local Pro-Life Legislation

The political climate facing the United States of America continues to be a major debate as the nation enters into the final leg of the presidential race. The importance of pro-life US Supreme Court nominations cannot be understated. But voting to replace the current President is only one way in which the pro-life movement can be advanced. Attention must be focused on both the state and local levels as well.

### THE BIG IMPACT OF SMALL SCALE

It shouldn't come as any surprise that local governments can often be overlooked in favor of large scale politics. But it's critical that the impact of voting on a local and state level should not be underestimated in the nation's haste to choose the next executive leader.

Although presidential elections allow voters to make a difference at a congressional level—voting in state races to fill Senate and House seats, or even county positions, are powerful opportunities for each citizen's voice to be heard. Yet, according to the Knight Foundation, 36.3% of the population voted in the 2014 midterm elections and only 1 in 5 eligible voters showed up for mayoral elections.

Though the statistics are shockingly low, those who do vote are the citizens that form the state government from the bottom up. After all, these smaller-level elections may prove to be the first

rung in the political ladder of an officeholder. We witnessed this with Barack Obama who started out as an aggressive pro-abortion Senator in the Illinois legislature before ultimately becoming the current president who's infamous for inflicting Obamacare and abortion-minded US Supreme Court justices on our country.

But beyond having the ability to choose the next contender in a major political race, state and county governments also provide convenient legislative access to all of their constituents. In other words, local elections allow citizens to decide on the hot topic issues that may directly affect protecting the unborn. This includes giving them the decision-making power over referendums that make their way onto local ballots that rarely, if ever, require an act from Congress or the president.

### SETTING STANDARDS

States are far from being the underdogs of the political world. Their ability to directly save lives through passed legislation should not be left ignored but, rather, recognized for the standards that they set.

Earlier in the year, Florida Governor Rick Scott made local headlines when he signed into law a requirement that issued a 24-hour waiting period for women wanting abortions. Though the bill won widespread support from the Republican-controlled legislature and the local public, it wasn't

without controversy.

It's also not the first state to set parameters on abortion as they focus on the localized needs of their citizens. Currently there are 27 states that incorporate waiting periods into their abortion laws or mandates. The waiting periods range anywhere from 18 to 72 hours, and some even specify further stipulations. In total, over half of the American women between the ages of 15 and 44 live in a state with abortion waiting periods.

The Guttmacher Institute, also known as the research arm of Planned Parenthood, issued a report in 2014 that admitted that Missouri's enacted 24-hour wait time did result in a lower abortion rate over a two year period—17% to be exact. In their own words, Guttmacher studies showed "a statistically significant association between mandatory counseling and waiting period laws and abortion rates."

Therefore proving that waiting periods do, in fact, save lives.

It's also worth mentioning that Jonathan Klick, at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School, studied competing pro-life and pro-abortion claims on laws of waiting periods and how they affect the mental health of women. His research uncovered the hidden relationship between a 10% reduction in the rate of adult female suicides and abortion waiting periods.

This isn't a coincidence. In fact, this is where the importance of voting on a local level is most visible—when elected state officials reflect the opinions of their constituents to protect the lives of both unborn children and their mothers.

### STATE TRIFECTAS

Just as states are a reflection of the enumerated powers of national government, they too may be impacted by trifectas held by major political parties.

These state government trifectas occur when one political party holds three positions in a state's government: the governorship, a majority in the state senate,

is critical in state lawmaking because the trifecta plays a decisive role in developing and passing legislation on topics such as informed consent, Planned Parenthood funding, assisted suicide and more.

Sometimes the trifecta works against protecting human life. California, whose governing body is composed of a Democratic Party trifecta, recently used this advanced state power to impede the pro-life movement. After two decades of failed attempts, last October California Senators introduced the End of Life Option Act which Governor Jerry Brown signed into law. Through their pro-death actions, California's

human life from womb to tomb, whether for better or for worse.

### A CALL TO ACTION

There are many layers to the American government and, albeit every election is crucial, it can be the local ones that have the most immediate impact on our pro-life mission.

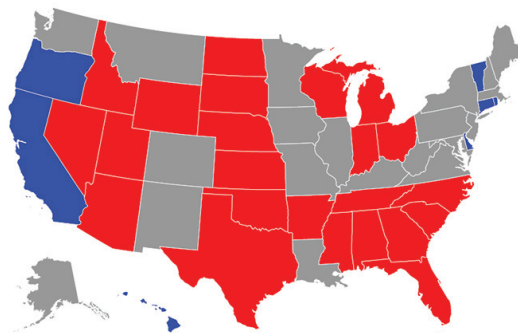
With the pro-life movement justifiably eager to show the door to the most notorious pro-abortion president in American history, it's vital that we keep from getting tunnel vision in our mission to save human lives, born and unborn. That's why we've created a political resource page to help inform you of where the nation and individual states stand on major life issues.

Learn about how all 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be vacant this election or how 34 of the 100 Senate seats will be up for grabs, as well. Discover where your state stands on consent laws and what their anti-coercion policies are. Explore the myriad of states starting to say "yes" to physician assisted suicide or how many are pushing to end Down syndrome abortions. Delve into hot topics like funding for Planned Parenthood and how 68% of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion—including those who identify as "pro-choice."

All of the major life issues are covered and they're on our 2016: A Call to Action Resources page. Visit [LifeIssues.org/2016/08/2016-call-action-resources](http://LifeIssues.org/2016/08/2016-call-action-resources) to learn more about each topic.

With the upcoming election in November, now is the time to take a stand on life saving issues. Critical decisions are being made this year and your influence over your state government must not be dismissed! We have a significant opportunity to change our culture on behalf of the sanctity of life. Perhaps more than any other time in decades, we have the chance to change the conversation—and legislation—about the value of life and the future of our nation.

OVER HALF OF THE 50 STATES ARE DISPOSED OF TRIFECTAS WITH **23 STATES** BELONGING TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND **7** HELD BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.



and a majority in the state house. Currently over half of the 50 states are disposed of trifectas with 23 states belonging to the Republican Party and 7 held by the Democratic Party. This has been a political plus in states controlled by pro-life legislative bodies where pro-life legislation has been passed.

With gubernatorial and legislative party control over the state government, the legalizing consensus of the state is more secure but still vulnerable to local pro-abortion judges, state supreme courts, federal courts or even possibly national action made by Congress or the president. This concept

governing trifecta effectively dealt a death blow to its citizens by legalizing assisted-suicide in the state of California.

Which begs the question: Who runs your state and where do they stand on LIFE?

Ballotpedia, the online encyclopedia of American politics and elections, identifies 12 state trifectas which may change parties with the 2016 elections. Meaning that millions of citizens across 12 states are voting on more than who will be the next president—but also on who might be the next major party to govern their state and dictate laws that will directly affect the protection of innocent

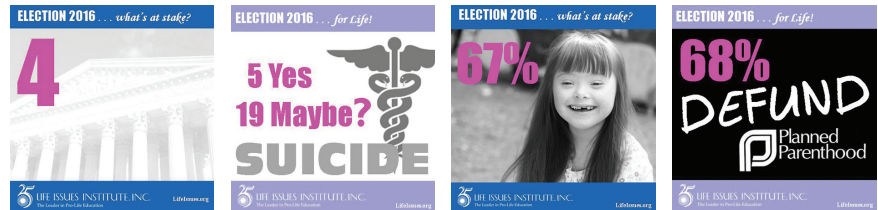
1821 W. Galbraith Rd. / Cincinnati, OH 45239  
513.729.3600 / [info@lifeissues.org](mailto:info@lifeissues.org) / [lifeissues.org](http://lifeissues.org)  
Bradley Mattes *President & Publisher*

The official publication of Life Issues Institute.  
Vol. 22 Number 3 / Subscription \$25.  
© Life Issues Institute, Inc. 2016  
*Articles may be reproduced with acknowledgment of their source.*



## 2016: A CALL TO ACTION RESOURCES

If you're interested in changing the tide on major life issues, then please use the resources found on our website to educate yourself and those around you on major legislation being passed and conversations taking place on life issues. We cover topics on both national and statewide levels that range from where states stand on life, the increase of anti-coercion policies among states, what Americans think about funding for Planned Parenthood, where the nation stands on physician assisted suicide and many more!

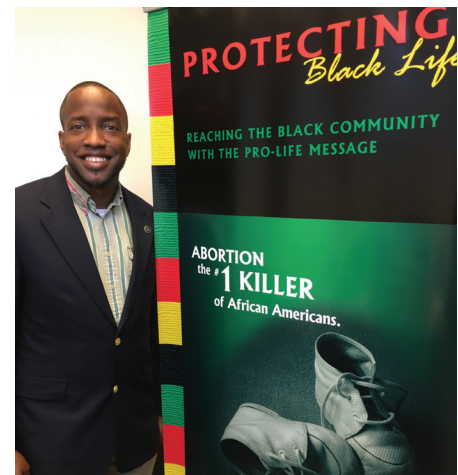


Learn More: [LifeIssues.org/2016/08/2016-call-action-resources/](http://LifeIssues.org/2016/08/2016-call-action-resources/)

## FUELING THE ABORTION FIRE VIDEO SERIES

Protecting Black Life will soon be releasing its next video series that you won't want to miss. Our Urban Outreach Director, Henry Flowers IV, will be addressing the four main causes of abortion. He'll be focusing on relevant facts and statistics from credible sources to encourage viewers to view the abortion issue from multiple perspectives online at [www.protectingblacklife.org](http://www.protectingblacklife.org). It is our hope that by the end of this series, audiences will gain more tools to help them take a stronger stance on life and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

**Family Flaws:** October 3  
**Single Mom Madness:** October 17  
**Terrible Teens:** October 31  
**My Life Matters:** November 14



## THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US!

Life Issues Institute depends 100% on contributions for our efforts, and this year your support has already made possible:

- Broadcasting to 4 million radio listeners each week
- Reaching .5 million social media users through online videos
- Engaging and educating staff and volunteers from America, Canada, Europe and Australia.



- Providing educational materials to individuals and organizations on 4 continents
- Maintaining 5,000+ pages of online resources including text, graphs, videos and MP3 files

# PRO-LIFE LAWS PUNISH WOMEN: FACT OR FICTION?

By: Bradley Mattes, MBS

During recent years pro-abortion activists stepped up their accusations that pro-lifers are prosecuting and punishing women who have abortions. This is being accomplished, they claim, through the many state pro-life laws passed across the nation.

According to those who defend abortion throughout pregnancy, the pro-life movement doesn't really care about women. They only want to stop abortion. In fact, pro-lifers are repeatedly accused of being a bunch of prudes who want to "punish women for having sex." (Justin Rosario, July 20, 2013, [www.addictinginfo.org](http://www.addictinginfo.org))

They make these declarations with great authority as if they have facts to back them up.

**A March 30, 2106 Huffington Post article read:** "A record number of restrictions on abortion have been passed since Republicans swept control in a slew of state legislatures in 2010; many of these provisions are meant to dissuade patients from seeking abortions and punish them if they do."

**Robin Marty in a Care2 online post:** "Anti-Abortion Movement Breaks Promise Not to Investigate Miscarriages."

**Atima Omara with The American Prospect:** [vetoed 2016 Oklahoma bill] "Its intentions were clear: to impose criminal penalties on women attempting to exercise their right to choose abortion."

**MSNBC's Irin Carmon:** "... women are already being prosecuted and even convicted on suspicion of having abortions."

A myriad of pro-abortion activists have called pro-lifers misogynists who care little about the women involved. They further claim that laws protecting unborn babies and their mothers in reality punish women.

Are these nothing more than the rantings and hyperbole of extreme pro-abortion advocates? Or are we and the public to believe the true agenda of the pro-life movement is to continue a "war on women?"

Let's look closely at each specific accusation and then you will be able to judge for yourself.

Writing for the *Huffington Post*, Elise Foley, Igor Bobic and Samantha Lachman alleged in a March 30, 2016 article that pro-life laws passed in various states "are meant to dissuade patients from seeking abortions and punish them if they do."

Lines like these make news and are repeated in other media outlets, but if readers get past the inflammatory headlines, it is then they realize what the authors mean by "punish," and the authors' interpretation of the word is quite different from the average American's.

A waiting period before an abortion that allows a woman to contemplate her life-or-death decision is, according to them, "a form of punishment." Ultrasound and an explanation of the development of the unborn child is also "punishment." And laws protecting taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortion on demand is, you guessed it, punishment.

Online columnist Robin Marty's headline on Care2's website declared "Anti-Abortion Movement Breaks Promise Not to Investigate Miscarriages." The circumstance that generated this



accusation was an unborn baby found in a toilet of a Texas high school. Marty was incensed that the police were summoned and that there was an investigation to find the mother of the baby. In the end officials surmised that this was indeed a miscarriage and that no legal steps were necessary. They did not release the mother's name. But that wasn't good enough for Marty who insinuated that the only action required was to extract the evidence and that by no means was an investigation warranted.

Quite the contrary. At the very least they needed to identify the young mother to see to her immediate medical needs and to notify her parents. A baby floating in a high school toilet is a big deal and no pro-life legislation was responsible for officials taking action.

Atima Omara declared in her June 16, 2016 column with *The American Prospect* that a pro-life law vetoed this year by Oklahoma's Governor Mary Fallin had "clear" intentions and those were "to impose criminal penalties on women" getting abortions. This is patently false.

The law in question was actually an amendment to an existing law, "An Act relating to physician licensure amending 59 O.S. 2011, sections 509 and 637." This law dealt with unprofessional conduct of physicians and was amended to limit abortion after the first trimester. The penalty remained the same, which is to revoke the license of a physician who violates its directives in a wide variety of situations, now including limited abortion. It would not have penalized women.

MSNBC's Irin Carmon joined the fray in a March 30, 2016 online post stating, "...women are already being prosecuted and even convicted on suspicion of having abortions." Carmon is quick to cite their poster child, Purvi Patel, to drive home this misinformation, she is cited by many hard left writers. Let's

bleeding necessitated that she visit a hospital where she then denied having given birth. The protruding umbilical cord evidenced otherwise, so Patel then said she had a miscarriage at two months. Medical experts estimated Patel was 28-30 weeks into her pregnancy. It was determined the baby died from blood loss, asphyxiation, hypothermia or lack of medical assistance.

Patel was charged and convicted for feticide which was later reversed on appeal. It's unlikely she will face further charges.

Those who perpetuate the falsehoods that the pro-life movement wants to punish women point to the Patel case and others as unassailable evidence. These cases were pursued under fetal homicide laws that were established to

and was passed, not only refrains from punishing women but goes to considerable lengths to make sure they do not.

During 2003 the *Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act* was enacted. In part it read: "A woman upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed may not be prosecuted under this section, for a conspiracy to violate this section, or for an offense under section 2, 3, or 4 of this title based on a violation of this section."

In 2004 the *Unborn Victims of Violence Act* was enacted which read in part: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the prosecution... (3) of any woman with respect to her unborn child."

Federal pro-life legislation that was introduced but not passed included the: *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* and *PRENDA (Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act)*. All three of these bills included specific and thorough language that prohibited the prosecution of women.

A Personhood bill was introduced in the 112th, 113th and 114th Congresses but did not pass. It included the following wording regarding the mother: "However, nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the prosecution of any woman for the death of her unborn child."

Allegations by pro-abortion advocates that the pro-life movement is not sympathetic toward women do not pass serious scrutiny. In reality, upon closer investigation it shows we are the only ones working to protect women and standing alongside them when their world crumbles after an abortion decision.

## PATEL AND OTHER WOMEN HAVE FACED CRIMINAL CHARGES WHEN THEY OPERATE OUTSIDE THE LIBERAL LAWS PERMITTING LEGAL ABORTION. PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION IS NOT THE CULPRIT.

take a closer look at the tragic circumstances surrounding Ms. Patel.

To hear pro-abortion advocates tell it, Patel was ruthlessly charged and convicted for being the innocent victim of a miscarriage. However, the documented facts don't substantiate their claims.

Instead of having a legal abortion, Purvi Patel illegally ordered chemical abortion pills online from overseas and took them. She delivered the baby, who was believed to have been alive and breathing, but was put into a plastic bag and thrown into a dumpster behind her family's restaurant. Continued

punish third parties who harm pregnant women that result in the death of their babies. They were never intended for circumstances like Patel's. It's a safe assumption that all 38 states with this type of law contain an exemption for legal abortion.

Patel and other women have faced criminal charges when they operate outside the liberal laws permitting legal abortion. Pro-life legislation is not the culprit.

If further evidence were warranted, look to federal legislation that the pro-life movement has devoted untold resources of time and talents to by lobbying for them in Congress. This legislation, that both failed



# LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

With this issue we wind up our 25th Anniversary celebration through pictures. 25 years of working to protect innocent human life from fertilization to natural death is, at best, a difficult task. However, we have seen considerable progress during this time and are truly optimistic that we will win this life-and-death battle.

The last several years of our work could be defined by the effective utilization of technology.

A first for America, Life Issues Institute directed and produced its own half-hour TV program, with wide distribution on various television networks. We had access to over 100-million households, with additional saturation in Canada. The program called *Facing Life Head-On* ran for eight seasons and garnered three Regional Emmy® awards for pro-life content! The program targeted women of childbearing age that may not necessarily be with us on abortion, and viewer email showed we hit the mark.



*Facing Life Head-On* TV crew on location in Southern California



Brad interviews Pittsburgh Pirates 3rd baseman Andy LaRoche on the field just before game time

We also moved forward to produce an annual half-hour radio special that airs around the anniversary of *Roe v Wade*. Nearly 600 stations carried the program in 2016. At the same time we've continued the growth of *Life Issues*, our daily radio commentary. The first pro-life radio program to air debuted in 1985 under another name with Dr. Willke as the host. *Life Issues* is now aired on 1,145 radio outlets throughout America, reaching over four-million listeners each week.



Henry Flowers, IV, director of *Protecting Black Life*

We were also one of the first pro-life organizations to develop a program to reach the Black community. Called *Protecting Black Life*, we developed unassailable research documenting that Planned Parenthood targets women of color for abortion. The visual and interactive research is available on [ProtectingBlackLife.org](http://ProtectingBlackLife.org).

Life Issues Institute was quick to utilize the Worldwide Web to educate the masses. Mountains of hard copy pro-life educational materials used to be mailed daily but are now available at the click of a mouse. We have developed four websites to educate key constituencies around the world. Our flagship website, [LifeIssues.org](http://LifeIssues.org), holds over 5,000 pages of pro-life educational information covering fertilization to euthanasia.



Some change is less welcome and comes at a high cost. The death of our founder and mentor, Dr. Jack Willke was a difficult adjustment, but at his insistence, we were well-prepared for the change of leadership. Bradley Mattes was elected as the new president and our mission of continuing the pro-life educational legacy begun by Jack and Barbara Willke nearly six decades ago continues at a robust pace. A touching and fitting memorial service was held in Washington, DC in Dr. Willke's honor and included a who's who of pro-life leaders and politicians.



Denise Cocciolone, Congressman Chris Smith and Marie Willke-Meyers, MD at Dr. Willke's DC memorial reception



Charmaine Yoest and Bradley Mattes at Dr. Willke's DC memorial reception



Dr. and Mrs. Willke taught us to change with the times to continue being effective in reaching millions of Americans with the pro-life message. As a result, you will continue to see Life Issues Institute use new and innovative ways to communicate the threats against innocent human life. We're so glad to have you beside us along the way!

Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke

# SLAMMED IF YOU DO SLAMMED IF YOU DON'T



By: President  
Bradley Mattes

We've all heard it. Pro-abortion activists claiming pro-lifers don't care at all about women. They say we only want to stop abortion. You and I know that's absurd, especially considering the thousands of pro-life women help centers throughout the nation offering free services and post-abortion help. Still it doesn't stop the baseless accusations.

Rafaella Gunz, writing a post on theantithesistns.com, had this less-than-flattering analysis of pro-life efforts: *The pro-life movement, which consists mostly of right-wingers, cares nothing about children once they are born. . . So tough sh\*\* if you're a young, single parent raising a child.*

A June 19, 2016 headline on dailykos.com boldly proclaimed: "Pro-Life" is Pro-LIE; They Don't Care That Women Suffer and DIE

Extreme voices like these are a constant background din while pro-lifers faithfully give of themselves and their resources to assist women and

age-old proverb "no good deed goes unpunished" certainly applies here. And the pro-aborts' shrill rebuke is voiced publicly, with much righteous indignation. Allow me to give you a recent case in point.

My good friend Carol Everett is known by many in the pro-life movement. She ran and owned abortion facilities with the goal to become a millionaire—that is until God intervened and now she serves Him by protecting life.

Carol is the founder and CEO of The Heidi Group, named after her daughter lost to abortion.

Anyone who knows Carol is familiar with her incredible passion to protect babies and their moms from abortion. But her passion runs much deeper.

She sought and received a Texas state grant of \$1.6 million to provide quality healthcare



HB2 that was recently largely overturned in the US Supreme Court, Planned Parenthood and cohorts said the commonsense protections would put them out of business and leave women in vast areas of the state without healthcare—even though most of their focus is following the money in big cities.

Now that The Heidi Group is serving rural women, Planned Parenthood, NARAL and pro-abortion legislators are kicking their propaganda machines into high gear, trying to stop the grant. Why? Because Planned Parenthood thinks the money should be going to them to promote and provide abortion on demand in Texas.

NARAL has been the loudest voice questioning the credibility of The Heidi Group. Pay no mind that NARAL and their fellow pro-abortion activists are making no effort to help these underserved women, they just don't want the pro-lifers doing it.

So why aren't they cheering on The Heidi Group for doing what they claim to be their mission of helping women? NARAL and the others know that behind the slick storefronts and glossy media appearances the abortion industry doesn't actually care about women's health. In reality, it's all about furthering their political agenda, while lining their pockets with the blood money of abortion, and their job is made harder if pro-lifers are seen in a positive light.

These extreme pro-abortion organizations are terrified of the competition, pure and simple. And knowing Carol's enthusiasm, passion and work ethic, she's going to leave them in the Texas dust.

## EXTREME VOICES LIKE THESE ARE A CONSTANT BACKGROUND DIN WHILE PRO-LIFERS FAITHFULLY GIVE OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR RESOURCES TO ASSIST WOMEN

their babies, many of them providing assistance to women well after they give birth.

Does this mean pro-abortion condemnation transforms into accolades and thanks when pro-lifers go beyond helping women through an unexpected pregnancy?

Nope. They attack the pro-lifers for actually providing the critically needed assistance pro-abortion activists have for so long obsessed over. The

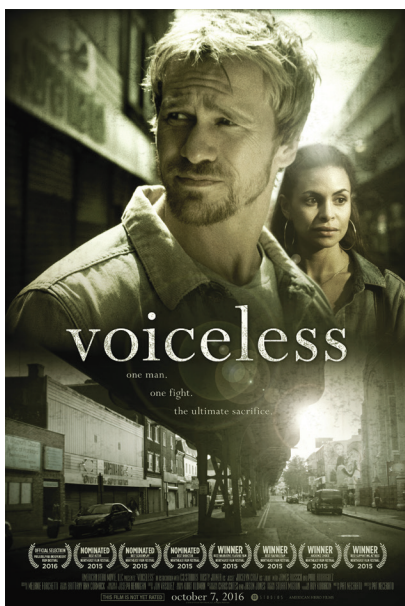
to low-income women through the Healthy Texas Women project. A network of 27 medical providers, including two pregnancy help medical clinics, expect to aid over 50,000 women with a goal of reaching 100,000 during the next year. The Heidi Group serves 70 Texas counties, over half of them rural areas. She's operating in regions of Texas never before assisted.

During the great debate over Texas pro-life legislation

- 1 2016: Call to Action
- 3 In the News
- 4 Pro-Life Laws Punish Women?
- 6 Celebrating 25 Years
- 7 Slammed if You Do
- 8 Pro-Life Strategies

## PRO-LIFE STRATEGIES: BEING THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

By: Henry Flowers IV



Displaying the power that arises from a man who is able to speak for those who cannot speak for

themselves, *Voiceless* is a movie that will change the pro-life landscape in an incredible way. In an effort to continue shining the light on the darkness surrounding abortion in America, this movie does an amazing job accurately depicting the multi-faceted struggle surrounding this global tragedy. *Voiceless* exposes the real trauma that women can face after an abortion. It depicts the true battle that the church faces when it chooses to be vocal or to be silent about abortion. It also bravely challenges the "One Nation Under God" idea that seems to be weakening more and more with every dead, unborn child.

There is another issue at stake that is being brought to the forefront by this cinematic marvel, and that is the role that men play in the constant slaughter of the innocent. The

main character, Jesse Dean, in his efforts to reach at-risk, inner-city teen boys, has pointed to a huge area of opportunity that is too often being missed by the pro-life crowd. At some point, on a greater level, we've got to begin to address the needs of our fatherless young men who desperately need mentoring and loving support that can only come from the direct involvement of an older male counterpart. That effort has been forwarded by the The Bullpen project at Protecting Black Life and it seems to be resonating with the producers at C3 Studios, as well.

*Voiceless* draws a roadmap that truly leads to the end of abortion in America. More importantly it encourages people to be the change that they want to see in the world and be the voice of the Voiceless.