



OCTOBER 2007



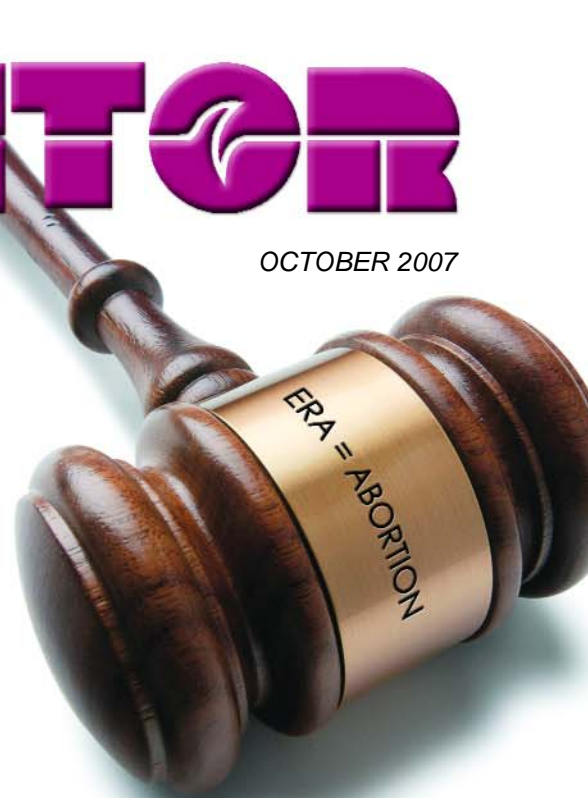
LIFE ISSUES INSTITUTE, INC.  
SERVING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

## EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

ENSHRINING ABORTION AS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

By J. C. Wilkie, M.D.

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.”



The *Equal Rights Amendment*, better known as the ERA, was a highly controversial social issue in the seventies and eighties. The reason for this is that legal experts say it would have placed the right to unrestricted abortion into the Constitution. Recently, the ERA has once again reared its ugly head, and pro-lifers should be concerned. But in order to fully understand its continued danger to unborn children and their mothers, we must first understand its history.

The proposed constitutional amendment wording above was passed in March of 1972 by both houses of Congress. Within two months, 13 states had ratified it, by nine months, 22, and by twelve months, 30 states. But then momentum stopped and the tide turned. In the next six years, five more states ratified the ERA but five rescinded it, leaving a total of 30. Thirty-eight states are necessary to ratify in order to make it part of the constitution. Why the turn around?

Basic credit for this goes to Phyllis Schlafly who sounded the alarm, publicized its scope and problems, lectured, wrote and successfully led the campaign against it. She focused the nation on much of the following:

A long series of amendments were proposed to this ERA wording during the debates in Congress. Each would have rec-

tified serious flaws. Each was defeated. An examination of these reveals their profound significance. These proposed amendments included:

- Women could not be drafted. Amendment 1065: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which exempt women from compulsory military service.” This amendment was voted down.
- Women could not be sent into combat. Amendment 1066: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which exempt women from service in combat units of the armed forces.” It was voted down.
- Two amendments would have ensured that women, wives and mothers would not lose certain civil and legal privileges that they have always needed, e.g. receiving homemaker benefits while the husband works. Amendment 1067: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which extends protections or exemptions to women.” Amendment 1068: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which extend protections or exemptions to wives, mothers, or widows.” Both were voted down.
- Women would not lose child support.

Amendment 1069: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which impose upon fathers the responsibility for the support of their children.” It was voted down.

- Schools, seminaries, sports, toilet facilities, etc. could continue to be segregated and have separate, private facilities. Amendment 1070: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which secure privacy to men and women, boys and girls.” It was voted down.
- Homosexuality would not be forced upon the nation as co-equal legally with the traditional heterosexual family in education, etc. Amendment 1071: “This article shall not impair the validity of any laws of the US or any state which make punishable crimes sexual offenses.” It was voted down.

Since the Senate rejected all of these limitations, it was logical to assume that they meant the ERA would allow or even direct that all of the above could or should happen. This marked the beginning of the campaign against the ERA.

In response, the proponents pointed out that none of the amendments above-mentioned abortion. This was true. However, if the sexes were to be complete-

*Continued on page 3*

# LEGACY *of* LIFE



James & Joan Gardner, Fred Barnes, Mrs. Willke & Dr. Willke



Tom Mueller, Caroline Melson & Linda Mueller

Life Issues Institute's annual banquet was held in downtown Cincinnati, OH on September 13, 2007. Fred Barnes, from FOX News, was the featured speaker.



Dr. John & Susan Tew, Tom Mueller, Marianne & Donald Klekamp, Marylyn & Raymond Clark



Jane Dugan, Fred Barnes, Fran Dugan



Mr. and Mrs. James Gardner, Honorary Banquet Chairs, welcome guests as Caroline Melson, evening Emcee, (center) looks on.



Jack Carew with Ellen & Bradley Mattes

Dr. Willke presented Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) Life Issues Institute's highest honor, the President's Award. Guests were entertained by the precision of the W.E.B. Du Bois Steppers, a local school-aged "stomping" group. The event was a great opportunity for old and new friends of Life Issues Institute to learn about our new programs and efforts.



W.E.B. Du Bois Steppers entertained



Dr. Willke presents Rep. Chris Smith with the President's Award.



Dr. Willke, Chris & Marie Smith, Bradley Mattes



Barb Trauth, Mary Anne & Bren Ryan



Rev. John & Marissa Stevenson, Barbara Culbreath & Rev. Arnold M. Culbreath



Dr. Tony & Pat Salem, Genny & Tom Sedler, Barb & Jack Carew, Rosemary & Ed Harding



Joan & Jack Nickert

ly equal then the rights that one sex had should be guaranteed to the other also. Men could have sex and walk away not pregnant, so if a woman had sex and got pregnant, she should have the right to be not pregnant also. If she were “forced” to stay pregnant that would be sexual discrimination.

In addition, if surgical operations peculiar to the male sex, e.g. prostate surgery, were paid for with tax money, operations that are peculiar to the female sex, e.g. abortion, should also be paid for.

But there was more. At the present, a homemaker has certain benefits because of what her husband earns. Under the ERA, she would have to pay Social Security taxes based upon the value of her contributed work at home in order to obtain retirement benefits. Obviously, if a homemaker was required to pay, say, \$2,000 a year in Social Security taxes, many or even most would have to leave their homes and work outside the home.

At the time, Senator Sam Erwin made another very cogent comment, “The ERA will transfer from the states to the federal government vast governmental powers which have been reserved to the states throughout our history. By so doing, this amendment would substantially thwart the purpose of the Constitution, which created an indestructible union composed of indestructible states and would reduce the states in a large majority to powerless zeros on the nation’s map.”

All this negative baggage that had accumulated around the ERA made it much less appealing to locally accountable elected state senators and representatives. So then what happened after the pro-ERA people were stymied in the state legislatures? They turned to state referenda. Accordingly, three years after the ERA’s introduction, statewide referenda were held in New York State and New Jersey. In both, the ERA was decisively defeated. Others were Wisconsin in 1973, Florida and Nevada in 1978, Iowa in 1980, Maine in 1984 and Vermont in 1986. All of these proposed state ERAs were defeated.

The next positive development was that states began rescinding their earlier ratification. This occurred in Nebraska,



“it [ERA] would have placed the right to unrestricted abortion into the Constitution.”

Tennessee, Kentucky, Idaho and South Dakota.

Then in March 1979, the seven-year limit for ratification expired. Congress extended the time limit for 30 more months. This extension was questioned constitutionally, however, this was never resolved. Even with the extension, the ERA expired in 1982 without any more states ratifying it.

But the proponents didn’t quit. In 1983, the same wording was reintroduced in both the House and the Senate and hearings were held. By now, abortion was the crucial issue. Testifying before a Senate committee, Senator Paul Tsongas answered this question, “Would the ERA lock the right to abortion and/or abortion funding into the Constitution?” His answer, “That issue will be decided in the courts.” The same answer was given to questions regarding women in combat, privacy issues, etc. This proved, in a rather devastating fashion to anyone listening, that the ERA could mean anything the Supreme Court interpreted it to mean. This was not too reassuring.

Then some states incorporated the same ERA wording into their state constitu-

tions. In a number of cases this wording was held to mean that abortion and its funding were legalized. For instance, in Connecticut the Medicaid program had paid for abortions only for life of the mother, rape and incest. In April 1987, its Superior Court ruled this restrictive law to be unconstitutional under that state’s ERA. “Since only women become pregnant, discrimination against pregnancy by not funding abortions is sex-oriented discrimination.” The US Catholic Bishop’s Conference and the National Right to Life Committee, among others, offered an

*Continued on page 6*



1821 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45239  
 Phone 513.729.3600 · Fax 513.729.3636  
 E-mail: [info@lifeissues.org](mailto:info@lifeissues.org) · [www.lifeissues.org](http://www.lifeissues.org)  
 President & Publisher J.C. Willke, MD  
 Editor in Chief Bradley Mattes  
 Design Andrew W. Mellish  
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# INFLUENCING THE NAACP TOWARD

# Life

By *Arnold M. Culbreath, Urban Outreach Director*

- *14,500,000 black babies have died by abortion in the US since 1973.*
- *425,000 per year and 1,200 per day.*
- *62.5% of Planned Parenthood's abortion mills are strategically located in black communities.*
- *Black women have 37% of the abortions, while making up only 13% of the US female population.*

These statistics should cause every black pastor, leader, organization and citizen to be outraged. However, this is not the case, largely because they are unaware of this problem. That's why Life Issues Institute and its urban outreach initiative, Protecting Black Life, is partnering with national black pro-life leaders like Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, and others to educate the African American community.

Groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) could use their influence to significantly address this problem. As we seek to save precious pre-born lives, we are discussing this issue with the leaders of the NAACP at the national, state and local levels. Considering the grave statistics above, we are saddened to know that, according to the organization, "the NAACP does not currently have a position on abortion." An old adage says, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem." Several black pro-life leaders and I have joined the organization to stand up for life.

In 2004, the NAACP went public with several bold pro-abortion statements in its *1992-2003 Health Policies and Resolutions* document, announcing support of the March Against Fear (a march by pro-abortion activists) in Washington, D.C. In this document, the NAACP stated:

**"WHEREAS, the NAACP has supported equal access to family planning materials and information since 1968 and; WHEREAS, more than eight**

**decades ago, the NAACP's most distinguished founder, Dr. W.E.B DuBois understood that making birth control available to poor women helped them gain control over their lives. Every woman, he wrote in 1920, must have the right of procreation 'at her own discretion,' and; WHEREAS, today, women of color seek abortion at rates higher than their percentage in the population, and overwhelmingly describe themselves as pro-choice in public opinion surveys, and WHEREAS, on April 25, 2004, thousands of pro-choice supporters will gather in Washington, D.C. for the March Against Fear to demonstrate their support for the right to choice, and WHEREAS, a woman denied the right to control her own body is denied equal protection of the law, a fight the NAACP has fought for and defended for nearly 100 years, and WHEREAS, many other organizations of women of color have endorsed the March, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP adds its endorsement and support for the March Against Fear and urges all who believe in equal rights to attend on April 25, 2004 in Washington, D.C."**

In response to this official statement, two pro-life resolutions were introduced in 2004 and again in 2007. A pro-life resolution was crafted by a local NAACP chapter in Macon, Georgia requesting that the NAACP renounce their pro-abortion position and become involved in educating the black community about this problem. In 2004 and again in 2007, this pro-life resolution was approved by both the local Macon chapter and the Georgia State Chapter, but failed to pass the national resolution committee. Although the NAACP did not agree to assist in educating the black community about the abortion problem, it did reduce its position to a so-called "no policy" on abortion.

The national NAACP office said the resolution was "filled with errors, and simply inaccurate," but could not tell me what the alleged errors were. It further stated that the Macon chapter would receive a



*Dr. Alveda King and Arnold M. Culbreath*

letter from the national office, informing them why the resolution was not approved. However, at the writing of this article, the Macon, Georgia chapter had still received no letter.

Several black pro-life leaders and I attended the 98th NAACP National Convention in Detroit, MI in July 2007. Although the pro-life resolution was not approved by the resolution committee, thus preventing it from being read at the convention, Dr. Alveda King and I were successful in educating many members of the NAACP. We personally placed copies of the pro-life resolution into the hands of Julian Bond, Chairman of the Board and Dennis Hayes, Interim President and CEO, who both said they'd look into it. Pro-life material was also given to over 600 convention attendees. The recipients' responses continually confirmed their lack of awareness of this problem. Through education, precious lives are being saved and mothers, fathers and families are avoiding the traumatic impact of abortion in their lives.

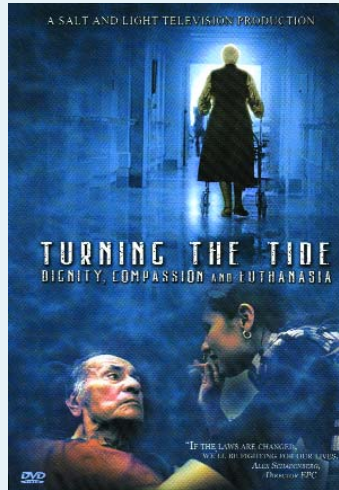
Because of our efforts, we were invited to teach a workshop at the NAACP's Georgia State Convention Oct. 3-6, 2007. In this workshop we educated attendees on the problem of abortion in the black community, and Planned Parenthood's targeted efforts to control and eliminate the black population through abortion. Therefore, many more African Americans are being educated and influenced toward life. We ask for your prayers and your help as we influence the NAACP's position on abortion. Please contact me at [arnold@ProtectingBlackLife.org](mailto:arnold@ProtectingBlackLife.org) and let me know your thoughts. 🌹

# EXPANDING YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON EUTHANASIA

The goal of Life Issues Institute is to provide educational tools for the pro-life movement and public at large. This involves producing excellent quality materials that will help change the hearts and minds of people around the world on the life issues. It also includes promoting effective educational materials, tools and events that other pro-life organizations have developed.

Euthanasia is one of the life issues that seems to be somewhat lacking in adequate educational materials. This is especially troublesome because it can be difficult for individuals or organizations to articulate a pro-life position on end-of-life issues. That's why Life Issues Institute is pleased to make you aware of two ways in which you can expand your knowledge and expertise in this area.

*Turning the Tide* is a powerful DVD on euthanasia and assisted suicide. It was co-produced by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Salt and Light media foundation. It was designed to effectively reach a secular audience, one that relates more to a patient's autonomy versus the sanctity of human life. The goal of *Turning the Tide* is to shift the focus off autonomy and onto the real heart of the matter, protecting



innocent human life from intentional death by euthanasia or assisted suicide. Paramount to this is presenting the personal real-life stories of individuals who are vulnerable to euthanasia or assisted suicide. There is also a focus on the central issue of pain and symptom management, as well as proper end-of-life care. In addition to exploring the problems of euthanasia in today's society, the program offers tangible solutions to improve the care of at-risk patients.

This twenty-eight minute program features euthanasia experts and notables such as Wesley Smith with the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and Bobby Schindler, Terri Schiavo's brother, who is with the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation. The *Turning the Tide* DVD comes complete with a

Discussion Guide, which is ideal for small group or classroom presentations. It will help those who speak on end-of-life issues to organize a more effective presentation.

You can order the complete DVD *Turning the Tide* package by contacting the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition at [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca) or phone 877.439.3348. Their address is Box 25033, London ON, N6C 6A8, Canada.

## INTERNATIONAL EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE SYMPOSIUM

Another excellent way to equip you for becoming better acquainted with end-of-life issues is to attend the upcoming International Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Symposium. It will be held in Toronto, Canada on November 30 through December 1, 2007, and will be a who's who gathering of authorities in the field of euthanasia. Speakers include experts from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, United States and Canada. Attendees will be coming from Europe, throughout North America, Canada and as far away as Australia. Don't miss this opportunity to benefit from what will likely be a rare opportunity to hear so many experts gathered at one event. You can get additional details and register for the symposium by going to [www.lifeissues.org/euthanasia/index.html](http://www.lifeissues.org/euthanasia/index.html)

Life Issues Institute is delighted to announce that its pro-life programming on both radio and television have been nominated for prestigious awards.

The National Religious Broadcasters has nominated:

Life Issues, our daily radio commentary, for **Radio Program of the Year - Short Form.**

Facing Life Head-On, our weekly pro-life TV program, for **Best Television Talk Show.**

In order to receive these nominations, Life Issues and Facing Life Head-On have had to compete with a variety of top quality radio and television programming. It is an honor to be recognized by this highly esteemed international organization.

amendment, “Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant or secure any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof.”

If this had been attached, the ERA would have swept through both houses and would have become part of our Constitution. But radical feminist groups and the ACLU would not have it. They insisted on the un-amended original wording, which was defeated by six votes in the Senate. Without any question, the ERA was defeated on the horns of the abortion issue.

It is interesting to note that the right-to-life movement originally did not take a position on the ERA, as they saw it only as women’s rights and did not see the direct abortion connection. The same was true of the US Catholic Bishop’s Conference. When, however, all of the evidence firmly tied the ERA to an abortion liberty, both of these major organizations insisted on the amendment. It was not added, so they opposed it.

There was one other thing that legal experts saw as very crucial — the issue of “strict scrutiny.” When the Supreme Court ruled that the Hyde Amendment was constitutional, it stated that forbidding the use of tax funds for abortion was constitutional because it was not based on a “suspect classification” and as such did not trigger “strict scrutiny” by the courts. ERA advocates have emphasized that the principle legal effect of these words in the Constitution would be to make sex a “suspect classification” under the Constitution. The most important such classification at present is race. If such “sex discrimination” were treated like “race discrimination” any government refusal to fund abortion or to permit it would be treated like a refusal to fund medical procedures that affect members of minority races, for example sickle cell disease for black people. During the 1983 hearings, an ERA sponsor, strongly pro-abortion Congressman Don Edwards, specifically

stated that the ERA would impose such “strict scrutiny” on “pregnancy classification.” Such classification was mentioned and upheld by other legal authorities.

#### *And Now Today*

The current Democrat majority in Congress, confident and feeling its oats, has reintroduced the ERA in its original wording. Let us remember the detailed history above so we’re less likely to repeat it. These facts are relevant to and would directly apply if such wording were now put into our Constitution. We should spread this information as broadly as we can. ☀

*Coming January 22nd*

SANCTITY OF LIFE:

# *Telling the Story!*

Special half-hour pro-life radio programming.

Host Brad Mattes shares the personal stories of women who have chosen abortion.

Special guest, Jim Garlow, nationally known author and radio host, and Brad discuss how individuals and the Church can minister to hurting women after abortion.



**Check with your local Christian radio station for air times.**



Bradley Matthews

*It's not your parents' pro-life movement anymore*

For some people, being pro-life isn't just a slogan. It's a way of life. This is the case with Kristina and Joey. The three of us recently shared lunch together in a great little Italian restaurant. Naturally, our conversation centered on abortion and the future prospects of ending this modern-day holocaust. Kristina told me her mother, a pro-life activist from years ago, had introduced her and twelve brothers and sisters to the grass roots pro-life movement very young in life. She grew up stuffing envelopes, attending marches and even demonstrating outside an abortion mill. Kristina had good reason to be proud of her pro-life heritage.

I relayed my initiation into pro-life activism as a student in high school. Back then — did I really say those two dreaded words? Yes, back then young pro-life activists were almost rare. They certainly were much less common. The vast majority of the pro-life movement was made up of adults, more mature ones at that.

Over our Italian cuisine, Kristina and Joey's faces lit up when they spoke about their daughter, Mikayla. Just the weekend before, she had tirelessly worked to persuade a college friend not to abort her unborn child. It seems the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It's truly satisfying to see your children hold onto the values you instilled in them. It's even more fulfilling to witness them putting those beliefs into action.

Unlike the pro-life generation before her, Mikayla has more peers at her side working to protect unborn babies from abortion. Today it's much more cool and mainstream to be young and pro-life in America.

By the time the waitress had returned to offer us desert, which we dutifully declined, I was telling Kristina and Joey that polling shows the next

generation is much more pro-life, much to the chagrin of many of their pro-abortion parents! Just a few years ago several studies were conducted to determine how America's youth view the world, including their opinion on abortion. Researchers were surprised with their findings. One such study was done by UC Berkeley's Survey Research Center. Berkeley is a bastion of liberal, pro-abortion thinking, but the results showed the nation's youth aged 15-22 were noticeably more pro-life than those 27-59.

Zogby International, a highly respected polling firm, found a considerable increase in the number of young adults aged 18-29 who support a total ban on abortion. An extensive study of American college freshmen also concluded pro-life sentiment was gaining ground among this segment of the student body. A *New York Times/CBS News* poll resulted in similar findings.

One of the reasons given for the next generation's pro-life convictions is the "survivor syndrome." These kids fortunately survived their nine-month pregnancy and were not legally aborted. Kelly, a junior at Boston College, said, "When I talk about being a survivor of abortion, I am talking about it from a personal place."

Further evidence of a youthful pro-life population explosion is all around us. If you've recently been to the annual March for Life held in Washington, DC, you'd come away with one clear, unmistakable observation. A good majority of the tens of thousands of marchers are made up of America's youth.

Also now evident are pro-life youth organizations like Students for Life of America (check out the following page for more information on these remarkable college students). There's Rock for Life — music is the key element here. And Wash

for Life, a network of youth who on a select day conduct a nationwide carwash with all proceeds going to local women help centers that assist women with unexpected pregnancies. There are other groups not mentioned here.

That's why Life Issues Institute is working hard to further educate America's youth to the reality of abortion. We've developed an interactive CD-ROM for computers called *Truth Unmasked*, designed exclusively for high school and college youth. It takes them through the issue of abortion — fetal development, statistics, physical and psychological complications, and yes, actual images of what abortion does to these babies. This innovative tool integrates venues that America's youth excel with — computers and the Internet. We've packaged pro-life education into a "high-tech brochure" with the appeal today's youth demand.

We've also partnered with other pro-life organizations that have expended considerable resources of time, money and research on the most effective ways to communicate with youth via the Internet. If *Truth Unmasked* users have Internet access on their computer, they are only a click away from the top pro-life websites designed just for them — thus considerably expanding their pro-life education and passion.

We'll be happy to put this CD-ROM into the hands of your local youth for free. Just contact us and we'll tell you how.

Yes, it's likely the next generation will determine the future of your children and grandchildren. If we are to put the future of next generations into their hands, we must equip them in the best and most effective way we know how. With a multitude of youth more passionate about protecting unborn babies than past generations, the future looks more promising than ever before! ☀



1821 W. Galbraith Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45239

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*IN THIS ISSUE*

- 1 *THE ERA IS BACK*
- 2 *LEGACY OF LIFE*
- 4 *INFLUENCING THE NAACP*
- 5 *EUTHANASIA KNOWLEDGE*
- 7 *NOT ANYMORE*
- 8 *COLLEGE ACTIVISM*

# STATES

# X C H A N G E

## *Effective Ideas for College Activism*


Students for Life of America is an organization dedicated to mobilizing pro-life college students on campuses throughout the nation. Their goal is to equip fellow students with the knowledge and tools to help overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

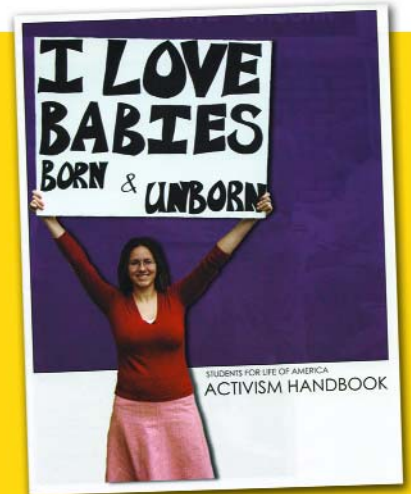
The philosophy of Students for Life of America to educate Americans to the horrible reality of abortion is one shared by Life Issues Institute. If pro-life educational information is presented factually and in a calm and rational manner, more hearts and minds will be changed on abortion.

This college pro-life group has come up with an excellent, hands-on tool to help any campus student effectively persuade others on abortion, euthanasia, stem cells and other critical related life issues. They have developed an activism handbook, which greatly assists pro-life students in organizing a pro-life presence on their university campus. In addition, it tells students how to engage in key projects such as writing an editorial for the school paper, holding a candlelight vigil or interning with other pro-life organizations.

The handbook walks you through the process of setting up your own Students for Life chapter by providing a sample constitution and explaining organizational structure. It's packed with practical guidelines to reach fellow students on the life issues.

Contact Students for Life of America and receive your own copies of this handbook. They will be more than happy to assist your local pro-life efforts to change hearts and minds on the life issues. They can be reached at [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org) or by phone at 703.351.6280. Their address is 4141 N Henderson Rd., Suite 4, Arlington, VA 22203.

Now is the perfect time to organize or revitalize your pro-life efforts on the college and university campuses across the nation. 



HOW TO START A GROUP  
GROUP CONTINUITITY  
ACTIVISM IDEAS  
PUBLICITY  
FUNDRAISING