

PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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New York, Abortion, and a Short Route to Chaos



It was the celebration that was particularly galling. On the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, the governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, signed into law a protocol that gives practically unrestricted access to abortion, permitting the killing of an unborn child up until the moment of delivery.

In the wake of the ratification, the legislators and their supporters whooped, hollered, and cheered, a display depressingly similar to the jubilation that broke out in Ireland when a referendum legalizing abortion passed last year. As I watched film of Andrew Cuomo signing this repulsive bill into law, my mind drifted back to 1984 and an auditorium at the University of Notre Dame where Cuomo's father, Mario—also Governor of New York at the time—delivered a famous address. In his lengthy and intellectually substantive speech, Gov. Cuomo presented himself, convincingly, as a faithful Catholic, thoroughly convinced in conscience that abortion is morally outrageous. But he also made a fateful distinction that has been exploited by liberal Catholic politicians for the past thirty-five years. He explained that though he was personally opposed to abortion, he was not willing to pursue legal action to abolish it or even to limit it, since he was the representative of all the people, and not just of those who shared his Catholic convictions. Now this distinction is an illegitimate one, which is evident the moment we draw an analogy to other public matters of great moral import: "I'm personally opposed to slavery, but I'll take no action to outlaw it or limit its spread"; "I personally find Jim Crow laws repugnant, but I will pursue no legal strategy to undo them"; etc. But at the very least, Mario Cuomo could declare himself deeply conflicted, anguished, willing to support abortion law only as a regrettable political necessity in a pluralistic democracy. But in a single generation, we have moved from reluctant toleration to unbridled celebration, from struggling Mario to exultant Andrew. And there is a simple reason for this. A privatized religion, one that never incarnates itself in gesture, behavior, and moral commitment, rapidly evanesces. Once-powerful convictions, never concretely expressed, devolve, practically overnight, into pious velleities—and finally disappear altogether.

[WORDonFIRE](#), 1/29/19

IT'S B-A-C-K

A federal judge put a nationwide hold on rules that allow more employers to opt out of providing women with no-cost birth control. U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone in Philadelphia agreed with a lawsuit originally filed by Pennsylvania, citing the potential harm to states should the rules be enforced. Numerous citizens could lose contraceptive coverage, Beetlestone wrote, resulting in the increased use of state-funded contraceptive services, as well as increased costs to state services from unintended pregnancies. Responding to the hold, Mark Rienzi, president of the Becket law group, said the decision "will allow politicians to threaten the rights of religious women like the Little Sisters of the Poor," whom Becket represents. "We never wanted this fight, and we regret that after a long legal battle it is still not over," said Mother Loraine Marie Maguire of the Little Sisters of the Poor. "We pray that we can once again devote our lives to our ministry of serving the elderly poor, as we have for over 175 years, without being forced to violate our faith." Also reacting, U.S. bishops [stated](#), "In a free country, no one should be forced to facilitate or fund things like contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs and devices, which go against their core beliefs. We pray that this decision will be appealed and that future courts will respect the free exercise arguments of the Little Sisters of the Poor and so many others who simply seek the freedom to serve their neighbors without the threat of massive government fines hanging over their heads."

[accessWDUN](#), 1/14/19

Protect Life Rule Finalized

Title X funds are supposed to be used to help low-income women and men receive birth control, cancer screenings and other health care services. While the tax money cannot be used to pay for abortions, it indirectly funds Planned Parenthood's vast abortion business. Under a new directive known as the Protect Life Rule, organizations receiving Title X funding will have 120 days to separate their family planning and abortion operations financially and one year to separate them physically. Since most Planned Parenthood entities are not expected to comply, the new rule could deprive the organization of as much as \$60 million in taxpayer dollars.

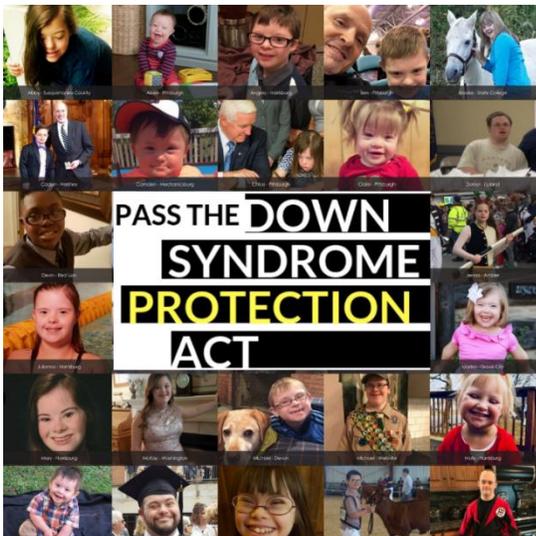
[LifeNews.com](#), 2/22/19

Perinatal Hospice

During the course of pregnancy, receiving an adverse prenatal diagnosis can be a tremendously jolting experience for parents. In severe cases, physicians may tell them that their unborn child has a condition that is "incompatible with life." While some children with this diagnosis may still receive helpful treatments and manage to live and even thrive for years, in other cases, no realistic treatment options exist and they may live only a matter of minutes or hours following their birth, particularly when they are born with severely damaged or missing vital organs. In the wake of the diagnosis, medical professionals will sometimes recommend and pressure parents to abort their unborn child. This unsatisfactory choice often relegates them to never reaching meaningful closure with respect to the difficult pregnancy they have traversed. It also tempts them to act contrary to every protective parental instinct they have, and deny the reality of their newest family member, as if he or she can simply disappear through the termination. Many hospitals and obstetrics programs, however, are now offering an improved alternative known as "perinatal hospice." This approach seeks to set up a particular supportive environment within the hospital or another setting, in which all the members of the family can receive the child following delivery, hold, and name and baptize the newborn, and fully acknowledge his or her brief but meaningful life. [The Pilot](#), 1/25/19

ACTION NEEDED

Pennsylvania law already prohibits having an abortion solely based on the sex of the baby. Just as Pennsylvania agrees an abortion should not happen solely based on the baby being a boy or a girl, we should also agree that an abortion should never happen solely based on a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Please contact your State Senator and Representative to co-sponsor and support this important legislation. To send an email, use the action alert at pafamily.org/protect.



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

CIGNA

Operations: insurance.

Please write to:

Mr. David M. Cordani, Chairman & CEO
Cigna Corporation
900 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield CT 06002

www.cigna.com

Tell him to stop funding Planned Parenthood

We have written to Cigna multiple times now - 1995, 2001, and more recently in January 2014. As you can see, they have been on The Boycott List for a very long time. Thank you all for your participation in this project.

Victory for Religious Freedom

Judge Stephanie M. Rose of the U.S. District for the Southern District of Iowa found that the University of Iowa violated First Amendment rights of a Christian student group to free speech, expressive association, and free exercise of religion. The court found the University of Iowa to be applying the Human Rights Policy to some groups but not others, namely religious groups. The court found the university in violation of viewpoint discrimination against Business Leaders in Christ (BLinC) by allowing groups like Love Works, a "gay-affirming" Christian group, to require its members to adhere to a faith statement but not the same for BLinC. "The Constitution does not tolerate the way [the university] chose to enforce the Human Rights Policy," the decision reads, in part. "The university wanted a license to discriminate, and Judge Rose said no way," Eric Baxter, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, which represented BLinC, said in a statement. "This ruling is a win for basic fairness, but it is also an eloquent plea for civility in how governments treat Americans in all their diversity," Baxter said. "As a governmental body bound by the First Amendment, the university should have never tried to get into the game of playing favorites in the first place, and it is high time for it to stop now." foxnews.com, 2/8/19

Victory for Children, Mothers, and Families

U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter for the Central District of California ordered the state of California to pay three pro-life pregnancy centers and a conservative law firm a total of \$399,000 in legal fees and other costs after a state law meant to force "crisis pregnancy centers" to promote abortion was struck down. In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court called the law "unjustified and unduly burdensome." foxnews.com, 2/19/19