



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

A Monthly Publication of the
St. Teresa of Avila Pro-Life Committee

Issue No. 155 August 1, 2016

Dianne Machesney, Editor 412-366-7869

Supreme Court Overturns Texas Abortion Restrictions in Landmark Decision

Justice Anthony Kennedy was once again the decisive swing vote in a case that could jeopardize similar laws in other states

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday overturned two parts of a 2013 Texas law that strengthened safety standards at abortion facilities, in a 5-3 ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* that underscored the majority's firm adherence to *Roe v. Wade*.

State abortion businesses had challenged the Texas law, arguing that its real purpose was to impose unnecessary and burdensome standards that would force many of them to close. The law required abortion centers to abide by the same standards that apply to ambulatory surgical facilities and said abortionists must have privileges at hospitals within 30 miles of the businesses where they worked.

Writing for the majority, Justice Stephen Breyer stated that "neither of these provisions offers medical benefits sufficient to justify the burdens upon access that each imposes."

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/supreme-court-overturns-texas-abortion-restrictions-in-landmark-decision/#ixzz4CtuMjp4e>

Planned Parenthood Will Try to Overturn Pro-Life Laws Nationwide After Supreme Court Ruling



On June 27th, the Supreme Court reversed part of a pro-life Texas law that protected women's health, saved the lives of thousands of unborn children and closed abortion clinics that could not ensure adequate health and safety protections for women. (See previous article)

Encouraged by the pro-abortion ruling, Planned Parenthood announced plans Thursday to challenge more abortion regulations in eight states: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, **Pennsylvania**, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of the abortion giant, issued a gloating statement: "I'm proud to announce that today, in eight states, lawmakers and Planned Parenthood affiliates are launching a campaign to repeal these restrictive laws. And many more states will follow in the coming weeks. "We will fight back state by state and law by law ... No matter how long it takes, these laws will fall," she continued.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/06/30/planned-parenthood-will-try-to-overturn-pro-life-laws-nationwide-after-supreme-court-ruling/>

Weekend Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing

Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held **September 16-18, 2016** at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park.

In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women (and men) struggling with abortion's aftermath. To register or for more information, call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348 or email: toniafj1@comcast.net

American Medical Association May Drop Its Opposition to Assisted Suicide

In a very concerning development for the pro-life movement and its battle alongside medical, religious and disability rights groups to stop the spread of assisted suicide, the American Medical Association appears to be studying dropping its longstanding opposition to assisted suicide.

On June 13, at its annual meeting in Chicago, the American Medical Association (AMA) rejected a Louisiana State Medical Society proposal to reaffirm the AMA's long-standing policy against physician assisted suicide. Instead it approved a study-resolution to explore AMA adoption of a neutral position on physician assisted suicide, which was often referred to as "aid-in-dying" in the debate. The study will be led by the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, which will study a possible change to the AMA policy and report back with recommendations to the AMA Annual Meeting next year.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/06/14/american-medical-association-may-drop-its-opposition-to-assisted-suicide/>



ABC Promotes New App That Gives Birth Control to Kids Without Parental Consent

ABC's *Good Morning America* spent four minutes on June 21st promoting a new birth-control app where doctors can dispense contraceptives without a face-to-face visit.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/06/23/abc-promotes-new-app-that-gives-birth-control-to-kids-without-parental-consent/>

PROJECT MUSTARD SEED



LAUREATE

Operations: **education** (postsecondary):
Kendall College, The National Hispanic
University, New School of Architecture &
Design, Santa Fe University of Art & Design,
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences,

Walden University).

Please write to:

Mr. Douglas L. Becker
Chairman & CEO
Laureate Education, Inc.
650 S. Exeter Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
www.laureate.net

Tell him to
stop
funding
Planned
Parenthood

Laureate Education has been on *The Boycott List* since
July 2007 and we last wrote to them in June 2010.



ACLU Sues to Stop Catholic Groups Helping Refugees Because They Don't Promote Abortions

For decades, U.S. Catholic agencies have been on the front lines helping to provide young immigrants and refugees with the physical and emotional support they need after they arrive in America.

But a new lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union could put the much-needed aid programs in jeopardy.

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), arguing that the government should not give money to the Catholic aid programs because they do not refer or provide abortions or birth control to young, unaccompanied minor refugees and immigrants, the New York Times reports. The ACLU argues in the lawsuit that the agencies are legally required to provide access to contraception and abortion because they receive government funding.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/07/01/aclu-sues-to-stop-catholic-groups-helping-refugees-because-they-dont-promote-abortions/>

Catholic Nursing Home Sued for Refusing to Kill Patients in Euthanasia

Even though euthanasia clearly infringes on the religious beliefs of the Catholic Church, a Catholic nursing home was ordered to pay civil damages in Belgium for refusing to participate in an euthanasia killing. [Christianity Today](http://www.christianitytoday.com) reports the incident happened in 2011 when Huize Sint-Augustinus home in Diest refused to allow an elderly woman's doctor access to see her – when it was thought she was about to be given a lethal injection. The home has been ordered to pay €6,000 (approx \$6,600 or £5,000) in damages to the family of the woman.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/07/05/catholic-nursing-home-sued-for-refusing-to-kill-patients-in-euthanasia/>

Ominous Sign: Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Washington Pharmacy Case

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear a conscience-rights case raised by pro-life pharmacy owners came with a stark warning from the three dissenting justices who voiced concerns about the future of religious liberty in the United States.

"This case is an ominous sign," said Justice Samuel Alito. "If this is a sign of how religious-liberty claims will be treated in the years ahead, those who value religious freedom have cause for great concern."

Alito wrote a dissent — joined by Justice Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice John Roberts — after the Supreme Court denied an appeal to hear a conscience-rights case on June 28. The case challenged Washington state rules that required pharmacies to dispense abortion-causing drugs and prevented those who object to abortion from referring customers elsewhere.

Alito said the rules could make a pharmacist unemployable if he or she has religious objections to dispensing certain prescriptions. Alito said there are "strong reasons" to doubt the regulations were adopted for a legitimate purpose. "(T)here is much evidence that the impetus for the adoption of the regulations was hostility to pharmacists whose religious beliefs regarding abortion and contraception are out of step with prevailing opinion in the state," he said.

In 2007, the Washington Pharmacy Commission began to require pharmacies to dispense the abortion-inducing drugs Plan B and ella. The commission made conscience-based referrals illegal.

Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/ominous-sign-supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-washington-pharmacy-case/#ixzz4DBX97JZk>

Abstinence Education Successful as Number of Teenagers Having Sex Has Dramatically Declined

On June 9, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the new 2015 data from the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which updates what we know about youth and their engagement in health risk behaviors.

The results show that fewer teens are drinking than before, less are involved in physical fighting, and teen smoking hit its lowest level since the government began tracking it in 1991.

But the big news is the dramatic increase in the percentage of teens who have never had sex. Since 1991 (the first year the CDC began tracking youth risk behaviors), the percent of high school students who have never had sex has increased 28 percent. In real numbers, that means that nearly 6 in 10 teens are making the healthiest choice by waiting for sex—the highest percent to date.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/06/20/abstinence-education-successful-as-number-of-teenagers-having-sex-has-dramatically-declined/>