



Why We Must Defend Hyde and Helms

Democrats Are Pushing For Repeal of Both Laws, Despite Historic Support

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE,
RESEARCH ANALYST

Regardless of what opinions they hold on abortion, Americans have long believed that taxpayers—many of whom are deeply opposed to abortion for moral or religious reasons—should, at the very least, not be forced to pay for a woman’s abortion through their taxes.

This position has long been non-controversial and widely accepted by even many Americans on the left.

But now, Democrats in Congress and within the Biden administration are calling for the repeal of both the Hyde and Helms amendments, laws which for decades have protected a large subset of Americans from being forced to pay for activities they find deeply morally objectionable.

For decades, both Democrats and Republicans in Congress have worked together to pass middle-of-



Amax Photo/Getty Images

the-road, compromise legislation that ensures that taxpayer dollars are not used to pay for abortions in federally funded programs. Over the years, dozens of bipartisan bills blocking federal funding for abortion have been passed with the support of both parties in Congress and signed into law by every U.S. president since Richard Nixon.

The Hyde Amendment has been included every year in the annual budget bill Congress uses to fund the government since 1976. The provision has always been passed as

part of Congress’ annual omnibus appropriations bill without serious opposition or controversy.

Passed in 1973 as an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Helms Amendment prohibits U.S. foreign aid from being used to pay for abortions in foreign countries. Additionally, the Helms Amendment also forbids U.S. foreign assistance dollars from being used to “motivate or coerce” any woman into having an abortion.

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

2 What Is China Hiding?

5 Discovering God’s Love

6 Russia Raising Birth Rate

7 Italy Losing Population

8 Vatican Affirms Marriage

9 Dominicans Defeat Abortion

11 Equality Act Endangers Us All

12 From the Countries



Actions Suggest that China Is Hiding Truth about Virus

by Steven W. Mosher

The former leader of the State Department’s task force investigating the origins of COVID-19 not only believes the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but also that it was the result of bioweapons research.

“The Wuhan Institute of Virology is not the National Institute of Health,” said David Asher. “It was operating a secret, classified program. In my view, and I’m just one person, my view is it was a biological weapons program.”¹

This is an explosive charge, given the millions of deaths that have resulted from the coronavirus, not to mention the trillions of dollars in economic damages that have resulted from the lockdowns.

But a growing body of evidence suggests that Asher may be on to something. Here are some key points:

- China does have a bioweapons program: Beijing joined the Biological Weapons Convention in 1984 but later — like almost every other international treaty it has signed — began violating it.

Since 2007, Chinese government researchers have been writing publicly about developing bioweapons using controversial “gain of function” research to make the viruses more lethal.²

In fact, the former president of China’s National Defense University wrote in his 2017 book *War’s New High Ground* that biotechnology will enable the development of — get this — “genetically engineered pathogens that target specific ethnicities.”³

“Beijing has told one story after another about the origin of the coronavirus. We’ve heard tales of bats and pangolins, caves and wet markets.

That same year, as Asher points out, China’s top state television commentator revealed that biowarfare, using viruses, was a new priority under Xi Jinping’s national security policy.⁴

- The Wuhan lab was engaged in such bioweapons research: The U.S. State Department under Mike Pompeo concluded that the Wuhan Institute of Virology — China’s most advanced lab — “has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017.”⁵
- The first “cluster of cases,” Asher reports, occurred among lab personnel in the fall of 2019. And Major General Chen Wei herself, the head of the People’s Liberation Army’s bioweapons research program, rushed down

(continued on next page)

The Population Research Institute Review is published bimonthly by:

Population Research Institute

109 East Main St.
Front Royal VA 22630
(540)-662-5240
pri@pop.org
www.pop.org

Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, PhD
(1920-2010)

Founder

Steven W. Mosher
President

Joel Bockrath
Executive Vice President

Jonathan Abbamonte
Research Analyst

Karen Shannon
Development Manager

Carlos Polo
Director, PRI Latin American Office

Carlos Beltramo
Director, PRI European Office

Katarina Carranco
Director, PRI Rome Office

Allen Baldanza
New Media Coordinator

Design by
Perceptions Studio
Amherst, New Hampshire

What Is China Hiding?, *continued*

to Wuhan to deal with it. Why? It's not unreasonable to think that it may have been one of Gen. Chen's pathogens that had escaped from the lab.⁶

- The novel coronavirus did not come from nature: Yet over the past year, Beijing has told one story after another about the origin of the coronavirus. We've heard tales of bats and pangolins, caves and wet markets. The Chinese authorities have even blamed the U.S. military for bringing the virus to Wuhan.⁷ Many Western scientists initially went along with the explanations offered by Chinese colleagues with whom they had close professional ties.

All of this spinning is intended to obscure the obvious: The China Virus has no analog in nature.

Chinese whistleblower Dr. Yan Li-Meng, who fled China last April, was the first to point out that the virus' closest cousin is a bat coronavirus originally isolated by the People's Liberation Army, but tinkered with to make it much more infectious. The lab-origin theory has received support from other scientists, including Dr. Steven Quay, who has taught at Stanford Medical School and concludes "beyond a reasonable doubt"

that the virus did not come from nature but is "laboratory derived."

How? It turns out that the coronavirus burrows its way into human cells using a special tool called a "furin cleavage site."

A new scientific report shows that, of the 1,000 — one thousand! — coronaviruses in nature that most closely resemble the novel coronavirus that caused COVID-19, not a single one possesses a similar "furin cleavage site."⁸

That suggests that this special tool is not a product of natural evolution, but was inserted.

In the Wuhan lab.

Even the former director of the Centers for Disease Control Robert Redfield said on Friday he believes the coronavirus leaked from the lab, stating that the disease's fast transmission doesn't make "biological sense."⁹

Why is the laboratory origin of the coronavirus just now coming out? China has engaged in a massive coverup these past 15 months, and it has not been alone. Officials at the World Health Organization have consistently downplayed the possibility that it came from the lab.¹⁰

A delegation of WHO scientists was finally allowed to visit Wuhan this past January, but they might

as well have stayed home. As Jamie Metz of the Washington-based think tank The Atlantic Council, later remarked, "Not only was it not a real investigation, it was more of a chaperoned two-week study tour where they were given highly curated information."¹¹

Those on this side of the Pacific who were funding the Wuhan lab, like EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak, were also eager to dismiss the lab-origin theory. (Daszak, curiously enough, was the only American on the WHO investigatory team.)¹²

In other words, an awful lot of people have been acting as if they had something to hide.

In the law, this is called "consciousness of guilt." This is like running out the back door of your house when the police show up at your front door. Or, in China's case, locking down the lab, destroying evidence, and blaming innocent bats.

Such behavior should raise everyone's suspicions.

Of course, none of the above constitutes absolute, ironclad, irrefutable proof that the coronavirus was a bioweapon under development at the Wuhan lab.

But it all certainly seems to point in that direction, doesn't it?

¹ <https://nypost.com/2021/03/16/more-reason-to-think-beijings-to-blame-for-the-pandemic/>

² <https://www.hudson.org/research/16762-transcript-the-origins-of-covid-19-policy-implications-and-lessons-for-the-future>

³ <https://japan-forward.com/biological-weapons-the-focus-of-chinas-military-research-in-the-last-20-years/>

⁴ <https://www.hudson.org/research/16762-transcript-the-origins-of-covid-19-policy-implications-and-lessons-for-the-future>

⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20210116020513/https://www.state.gov/ensuring-a-transparent-thorough-investigation-of-covid-19s-origin/>

⁶ <https://www.hudson.org/research/16762-transcript-the-origins-of-covid-19-policy-implications-and-lessons-for-the-future>

⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-usa-idUSKBN20Z196>

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589004220308348>

⁹ <https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/ex-cdc-director-believes-covid-19-came-from-wuhan-lab/>

¹⁰ <https://www.foxnews.com/world/who-china-coronavirus-probe-reaction>

¹¹ <https://www.hudson.org/research/16762-transcript-the-origins-of-covid-19-policy-implications-and-lessons-for-the-future>

¹² <https://nypost.com/2021/01/16/doctor-who-denied-covid-was-leaked-from-a-lab-had-this-major-bias/>

Hyde and Helms, *continued*

Recent polling shows that overwhelming majorities of Americans support the aims of both the Hyde and Helms amendments.

A Knights of Columbus/Marist survey from last year found that 59 percent of Americans are opposed to using tax dollars to pay for abortion procedures—exactly what is ensured through the Hyde Amendment.¹

Public support for the Helms Amendment runs even higher. According to the same survey, a full 76% of Americans say they oppose using tax dollars to pay for abortion in foreign countries.²

Progressives have attempted to argue that public funding for abortion is necessary for low-income women to effectively exercise their so-called “right” to abortion because without government assistance, they cannot afford an abortion. Progressives have also argued that compelling people who have moral or religious objections to abortion to pay for abortion procedures through their tax dollars is justifiable because all citizens are required to pay taxes for many things they disagree with.

The unjust killing of an innocent human being, however, can never be considered a right. From a moral perspective, no court decision or law passed by Congress can ever make abortion a right.

But even if we set aside moral considerations and just focus on the jurisprudence on abortion handed down by the courts, there can be found no right to government-funded abortion. The Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* erroneously held that

a woman has a qualified “right” to abortion. But the Court has never held that the government must provide the means by which a person can effectively exercise any right, let alone the so-called “right” to abortion.

The government has no obligation to pay for abortions and in fact should not do so, particularly when most Americans are deeply morally opposed to subsidizing the cost of abortion procedures.

The Hyde Amendment has not only protected the conscience rights of roughly half of the country, the law is also directly responsible for saving the lives of an estimated 2.46 million Americans since 1976.³

Thanks to the passage of the Helms Amendment soon after *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. government has never funded abortion procedures through foreign assistance. It is thus not possible to estimate a counterfactual for how many infant lives have been saved as a result of the Helms Amendment.

While many pro-abortion activists complain about the funding restrictions contained in the Hyde Amendment, the law is actually less restrictive than it used to be. During the Carter administration, exceptions were added in cases of rape, incest, and long-lasting damage to the physical health of the mother as certified by two physicians. After the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the original Hyde Amendment in its landmark decision in *Harris v. McRae*, Congress removed the exceptions but added them back in 1993.

“Recent polling shows that overwhelming majorities of Americans support the aims of both the Hyde and Helms amendments.”

Lawmakers and elected officials do not just represent people who share their partisan ideological leanings. They represent all their constituents. Policymakers must respect the conscience rights and deeply held beliefs of all citizens and not seek to force them to support government funded objectives that deeply offend their moral principles. The government should never get involved with funding abortion or the termination of life in the womb.

Lawmakers of all political leanings should get behind and support the Hyde and Helms amendments and other policies which prevent federal funding for abortion. Americans expect this of their leaders and citizens of this country should hold elected leaders accountable to it.

For this original full-length article, visit <https://www.pop.org/why-we-must-defend-hyde-and-helms-amendments/>

¹ <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/news-room/polls/poll-nos-tables012020.pdf>

² <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/news-room/polls/poll-nos-tables012020.pdf>

³ https://s27589.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/OP_hyde_9.28.3.pdf

PRI's special gift to you . . .

The Key to Unlock the Power Of God's Love in Your Life— You'll Never Be the Same!

You'll certainly be glad to have *Behold This Heart: St. Francis de Sales and Devotion to the Sacred Heart* to help you reflect and pray in June, the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. True devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus moves us to ponder the unrelenting love of Jesus, fully human and fully divine, as He poured Himself out for the world.

In these pages, Fr. Thomas Dailey, who holds the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, transports you beyond the prayers and liturgies and helps you to contemplate the Sacred Heart, which Pope Benedict XVI said, "has irreplaceable importance." Fr. Dailey shows you how to experience the way of prayer that formed St. Margaret Mary — the visionary to whom the devotion was revealed — in the religious order founded by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal.

Fr. Dailey's brilliant combination of Salesian spirituality and meditative devotion will help you to respond to Christ's "divine affection" and experience God's love as never before. Through a series of nine reflections on the Sacred Heart, Fr. Dailey will show you:

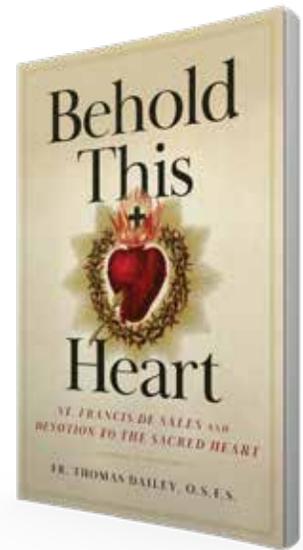
How you can live the devout life despite your many worldly responsibilities ... Proven ways you can release supernatural confidence and overcome fear ... The keys to developing the practice of mental prayer and entering contemplation ... How to listen for and discern

God's will for your life ... Ways you can discover your personal spiritual vocation ... Why Pope St. Paul VI called the Sacred Heart devotion "the most effective means of promoting the reform of life and the defeat of atheism."

Behold This Heart: St. Francis de Sales and Devotion to the Sacred Heart is endorsed by Rev. Charles J Chaput, Archbishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia, and by Fr. Mike Schmitz, wildly popular Ascension Presents host, and author, who says, "This book unfolds, layer by layer, the depths of devotion to the Heart of Jesus in a way that I have never seen before or even considered. I am truly grateful to Fr. Dailey for this work. It is a true revelation."

With Fr. Dailey as your guide, these engaging meditations will transform you as you step through the pages of the greatest love story ever told.

Please let us send you one, or even two, copies as my heartfelt thanks for your gift of \$50 or more.



Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of...

*Behold This Heart: St. Francis de Sales
and Devotion to the Sacred Heart*

Gifts to PRI are tax deductible. Give today!

Russia Determined to Raise Birth Rate: Laws to Ban Pro-Abortion Propaganda

BY ALLEN BALDANZA, NEW MEDIA COORDINATOR

For many years Russia has had among the highest abortion rates in the world

In early March 2021, Russia's ruling "United Russia" party held a conference titled, "Legal and legislative aspects of supporting families and family values in the Russian Federation", which is part of a United Russia party project called "Strong Family."¹

The party proposed a series of legislation to protect traditional family values and unborn children, in part to fight Russia's dire demographic crisis. It was attended by deputies of the State Duma and the Moscow City Duma, members of the Federation Council and the Public Chamber, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Union of Orthodox Women and the Association of Large Families in Moscow.

Among the proposals include banning private clinics from performing abortions, as well as the removal of abortions from coverage from Russia's compulsory health insurance system.^{2,3} Also included would be laws intended to change the culture of Russia into a culture of life, which includes the banning of the "propaganda of abortion." Such propaganda that would be banned would include a ban on information that promotes abortion, calls for abortions, and advocates for the safety of abortions.

Deputy Vladimir Krupennikov proposed to strengthen the punishment for the promotion of abortion, stating "I believe it's necessary to propose a number of legislative initiatives

aimed at establishing responsibility for the dissemination of information propagandizing abortion and strengthening the legal responsibility for advertising, forcing, or inclining towards abortion, as well as advertising the safety of abortions."⁴

Inga Yumasheva, a member of the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children, proposed banning abortions in private clinics, as well as abortions for minors without parental consent.⁵ The deputy believes that in private clinics, abortions are often carried out the same day, stating that it is necessary to give women a "week of silence."

In the realm of supporting large families, State Duma Deputy Speaker Pyotr Tolstoy proposed progressive maternity capital, the size of which will grow with each new child.⁶ "The family in which children are born should become richer, not poorer," Tolstoy explained. To correct the demographic situation, in his opinion, it is also nec-

essary to increase payments to families with children.

He also insisted that Russia should join the pro-life Geneva Consensus, which argues that abortion cannot be considered a means of family planning, and that the family is the basis of the state. The United States, under the previous Trump administration, was a member of the Geneva Consensus.⁷

Reduction of abortion has been one of Russia's demographic goals, and in October of 2020, Russian president Vladimir Putin issued an order to improve Russia's abortion prevention efforts.⁸

Russia has already had some success in reducing the abortion rate. Since 2016, Russia's abortion rate has been reduced by 39 percent.⁹ Russia has for many years had among the highest abortion rates in the world. In 2000, Russia had as many as 2,139,000 abortions. In 2019, this has since been reduced to 622,000 abortions, according to Statista.¹⁰



ArtMarie/Getty Images

The conference included other measures as well. These measures would expand the promotion of a culture of life, and include a ban on information that offends family values, motherhood, large families and childhood.¹¹

Responding to the LGBT ideology that has become popularized in the West, the Russian conference proposed bans on such propaganda within the Russian Federation.¹² This includes measures to prohibit the propaganda of sex change, a ban on the

propaganda of bisexuality, transgenderism, and polyamory. In addition, the conference participants pushed for the introduction of a ban on LGBT symbols in state institutions.

Last year, a majority of Russians also voted for constitutional changes that would define marriage as a union between one man, and one woman.¹³

On other right to life issues, the conference also proposed a ban on euthanasia.¹⁴

With more pro-life legislation on the way in Russia, it could serve as a

good role model for other nations to follow, in both helping to reverse each nation's population decline and protecting the unborn. Others, such as Poland and Hungary, have also introduced a series of pro-life, pro-family legislation in their respective nations.

It remains to be seen if these policies will reverse Russia's population decline, but such policies are a welcome trend that will encourage respect for human life and protect the traditional family unit as God intended.

¹ <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4713254>

² <https://www.pnp.ru/politics/yumasheva-predlozhila-zapretit-aborty-v-chastnykh-klinikakh.html>

³ <https://ria.ru/20210304/gosduma-1599928265.html>

⁴ <https://orthochristian.com/137811.html>

⁵ <https://www.rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/6063102f9a79478fee52a9e2>

⁶ <https://www.pnp.ru/social/aborty-v-chastnykh-klinikakh-khotyat-zapretit.html>

⁷ <https://www.pop.org/thirty-five-nations-declared-there-is-no-international-right-to-abortion/>

⁸ <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/10/27/putin-orders-government-to-improve-abortion-prevention-efforts-a71865>

⁹ <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11026303>

¹⁰ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1034529/russia-total-number-of-abortions/>

¹¹ <https://ria.ru/20210304/gosduma-1599928265.html>

¹² <https://ria.ru/20210304/gosduma-1599928265.html>

¹³ <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/03/05/russias-ruling-party-campaigns-to-ban-propaganda-of-polyamory-bisexuality-reports-a73157>

¹⁴ <https://ria.ru/20210304/gosduma-1599928265.html>

Meanwhile in Italy: Population Continues Decline

BY KATARINA CARRANCO, DIRECTOR, PRI ROME OFFICE

It is no secret that the sexual revolution has led to a drastic decline in family formation and childbearing in Western society. The decline in birth rates among native Europeans within the last couple of decades is unprecedented in human history.

Sadly, the Italians are leading the way. When it comes to birth rates, the country of Italy is ranked among the lowest of all Europe.

Studies show that Italy's population peaked in the years 2016 and 2017, but then began to see a demographic decline. Italy's national statistics agency, Istat, reported that there were only 435,000 births in Italy during 2019, the lowest number ever recorded in the country.¹ Paired with the 647,000 deaths that same year, it portends a bleak future for the country.

The steady rise in migrant and immigrant births helps to offset the declining domestic birth rates.² But the fear remains that Italy will soon pass the point of no return, when the number of newborn native Italians number fewer than the newborns of immigrants.

According to one study, Italians will be the minority in their country by 2080 with fifty percent of Italy's inhabitants hailing from Africa and Asia.³

President Sergio Mattarella laments the falling birth rate of native Italians, claiming that, "This is a problem that concerns the very existence of our country. The fabric of our country is weakening, and everything must be done to counter this phenomenon."⁴

¹ https://www.istat.it/it/files/2021/03/REPORT-IMPATTO-COVIDDEMOGRAFIA_2020.pdf

² <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2020/12/REPORT-NATALITA-2019.pdf>

³ <https://gefira.org/en/2018/01/18/the-incredibly-shrinking-italian-population-by-2080-italians-will-be-a-minority-in-their-own-country/>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-population/italy-faces-existential-threat-over-low-birthrate-president-idUSKBN2052E1>



HUMANAE VITAE COALITION

Affirmation of *Humanae Vitae* Welcomed by Most but Not All

by Dr. Christopher Manion, Director of the *Humanae Vitae* Project

On February 22, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued an authoritative *Responsum* (a response) to a question that has been advanced with increasing frequency: “Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?”

To be sure, the question is “not infrequently motivated by a sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons,” the Congregation writes. They should “receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God’s will in their lives.”

Nonetheless, the Church must bear in mind the “singular importance” that blessings have in their role as “sacramentals,” as well as their relationship to the sacraments themselves.

Sacramentals, the *Responsum* explains, are “sacred signs that resemble the sacraments,” and “when a blessing is invoked on particular human relationships ... it is necessary that what is blessed be objectively and positively ordered to receive and express grace, according to the designs of God inscribed in creation, and fully revealed by Christ the Lord.”

The *Responsum* concludes that “It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage (i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life), as is the case of the

unions between persons of the same sex” because such unions are “not ordered to the Creator’s plan.”

This faithfully resonates the words of Saint Paul VI, when he writes that marriage is “in reality the wise and provident institution of God the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design. As a consequence, husband and wife, through that mutual gift of themselves, which is specific and exclusive to them alone, develop that union of two persons in which they perfect one another, cooperating with God in the generation and rearing of new lives.” [*Humanae Vitae*, No. 8]

We Must Defend These Moral Truths

The language of the *Responsum* is careful but clear. It offers solace and hope to the faithful who celebrate marriage in its fullness and beauty in this troubled age. It also challenges us to go forth and defend marriage against all those who would defile this precious gift of the Creator.

And that defense is all the more necessary, because the *Responsum* fanned the fires of passion among advocates of “homosexual unions.” They are grimly determined to force the Church to accept “homosexual marriage” and bestow upon it the same status as the sacrament of holy matrimony.

It’s clear that the *Responsum* fomented their frustration as well as

their ire. For years opponents of *Humanae Vitae* have claimed victory regarding contraception. After all, rare are the Catholics, lay or cleric, who will speak out with clarity and defend the Church’s timeless teaching on the dangers posed by the contraceptive mentality to married love. Indeed, the more damage to marriage that has been wrought by the defiance of God’s law in the past 50 years, the louder and more triumphant have been the calls for perpetuating that defiance.

Prominent leaders in the hierarchy quickly rose in defense of the *Responsum*. Raymond Cardinal Burke told EWTN that he saw the outrage as a sign that the “the aggressive homosexual agenda is now dominating even in certain ecclesial circles and even among certain bishops.”

Chicago’s Cardinal Blase Cupich begged to differ, expressing his “disappointment” with the document. Austria’s Cardinal Christoph Schönborn went even further: “God will not deny same-sex couples a blessing,” he said. In a daunting and perilous move, Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Germany and hundreds of other bishops and priests in Germany and Austria openly vowed to defy the *Responsum*.

Like all moral truths, those expressed in the *Responsum* are simple, clear, and profound. We must all prayerfully prepare to defend them in coming days, as they are relentlessly attacked by the Culture of Death.



Life Wins in Dominican Republic: Parliament Beats Abortion Forces

by Carlos Polo, Director, PRI Latin American Office

In March, when the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic was debating amendments to the Penal Code, the international abortion industry trotted out the same old arguments for the umpteenth time.

Its advocates demanded that abortion be decriminalized in three cases: rape, congenital defects, and the health of the mother. These three exceptions to the protection of the unborn sound familiar, don't they? That's because they've been used by the agents of the Culture of Death for five decades now, in country after country around the world.

This time around, they didn't even bother to change a word of their formula. Why?

Maybe they took for granted that, these days, decisions are based more on political and economic power than on objective and scientific facts. No way around it: that attitude is all too common in our culture's post-truth era. And the pro-abortion forces were on a roll: they had used the same formula to gain victories in Colombia, Chile, and more recently, in Argentina.

Moreover, on this occasion they had the express and public support of Dominican President Luis Abinader, who had taken great pains to appoint a special commission to recycle the "three exceptions" one more time. Undoubtedly, he expected that his seal of approval would provide added authority to the cam-

“ One of the most powerful voices to enter the fray at this critical moment is that of Argentine political scientist Agustín Laje.

paign to include them in the new penal code.

However, the result was not what abortion advocates expected. On March 24, the Chamber of Deputies made public their decision to continue the work on the reform, while rejecting completely the three exceptions to the prohibition of abortion.

In the final tally, 115 of the 190 deputies voted to exclude the three exceptions from the proposed draft of the Penal Code. The rejection was so overwhelming that President Abinader personally conceded to the decision of the Congress.

From Argentina, Rises A Strong New Voice

One of the most powerful voices to enter the fray at this critical moment is that of Argentine political scientist and *Pandemonium* contributing author Agustín Laje. He was invited to participate in the debate on abortion by a group in the Dominican Republic who knew him through his videoconferences, writings and media appearances. Even with the anti-life censorship so common in social media, Laje's YouTube channel has

garnered almost a million followers, a reflection of his impact on social networks.

Laje also uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Twitch, and he draws a surprisingly young audience despite all impediments the channels use to block him. He is a permanent target of the "cancel culture," and his success provides an example of how that culture's efforts can be overcome with street smarts and a strong dose of common sense.

In the Dominican Congress's deliberations, Laje's numerous appearances in mainstream media and on social networks exposed the "three exceptions" mantra as nothing more than a prefabricated pro-abortion script.

It is not an original creation of anyone in the Dominican Republic. Frankly, it's just a "copy and paste" charade. Laje cited several countries where it had been used, exposing the fraud promoted by the president's "commission of experts" and their chorus of NGOs financed from the U.S. and European countries.

(continued on page 10)



Pro-Lifers in the Dominican Republic

Life Wins in Dominican Republic, *continued*

Laje persuasively explained how the “exceptions” were merely the first step in a well-rehearsed campaign designed to promote constantly more-permissive laws with less demanding standards. In practice, he warned, the ultimate goal was always abortion on demand.

Perhaps the most decisive part of the successful pro-life effort was defeating the abortionist advocates’ emotional argument. That ploy paints a picture of wonderful doctors whose work is hampered by pro-life laws: “Why, here they are, just trying to preserve the life or health of the mother in obstetric emergencies, and because of these restrictive laws, their hands are tied.”

Today’s pro-life activists know that this fallacy flies in the face of current medical science. Such “cases” are virtually non-existent. After all, the doctor always attempts to save both the life of the mother and that of the child. But the objection still appeals to many who don’t know the facts.

So Laje confronted the allegation head-on. He surprised abortion ad-

vocates by eloquently addressing the emotional situation, appealing to the affection that the Dominican public has for doctors in the midst of the pandemic in such a poor country.

Both the current Penal Code and the text of the reform under discussion protect everyone, Laje and his allies argued—both physicians and the unborn child. The Penal Code’s language states that abortion is not punishable when it is “practiced by specialized medical personnel in health establishments, public or private”—if, “in advance, in order to save the lives of the mother and the fetus in danger, all available scientific and technical means are exhausted to the extent possible.”

“That is not an abortion, because there is no intention to abort,” Laje explained on a widely viewed television program. “The intention is to save the two lives, those of the two patients.

“If unfortunately someone dies in spite of all the doctor’s efforts, there should be no penalty because there

is no intention to kill. And that make sense. After all, you can’t ask doctors to do the impossible. Fortunately, medical science has advanced a great deal, but there are cases in which success is simply not possible,” Laje concluded.

It is no coincidence that one of the most popular hashtags for any pro-life campaign on twitter is #SalvemosLas2Vidas—#LetsSave-BothLives.

In ethical terms, penal code’s article contains the well-known “principle of double effect.” For the common citizen, this pro-life story made it evident that the “three exceptions” abortion propaganda was a crude excuse of the abortion lobby.

But for the deputies who had to make the decision, it was primarily a technical solution, in accordance with the prevailing legal principles of the country. Equally important, it was a reaffirmation of the sovereignty of their Parliament in the face of the very well-financed foreign campaign to allow the legal killing of future generations of Dominicans.

Equality Act Will Change Everything

BY CHRISTOPHER MANION

On February 25, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 211 to 195, passed H.R. 5, the “Equality Act.” At this writing, the Senate is now considering it.

Here is the official summary provided by the Congressional Research Service, in full:

“Equality Act: This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.

“Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

“The bill expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services.

“The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.”

The bill's reach is as expansive as its terms are ambiguous and even contradictory.

If it becomes law, the bill has onerous consequences for those whose per-

ception — accurate or inaccurate — of a person's “gender identity” might lead to unlawful discrimination. But that provision also applies to the individual allegedly discriminated against: that individual must perceive — accurately or inaccurately — in the mind of the discriminator a “perception” or “belief.”

Hence, a case against an alleged violation of the Equality Act can be brought on the basis of what one person believes another person believes.

And, speaking of “perception”: “gender identity” is also a matter of perception not only on the part of the transgressor, but also on the part of the individual who chooses to adopt a qualifying “gender identity.” Even though H.R.5 criticizes the “discredited practice known as ‘conversion therapy,’ the individual choosing one's “gender identity” is free to amend that choice at will, converting his sexuality quite arbitrarily, without public notice, if the individual's sexual whims change.

Imprecision, ideology masquerading as settled law, unlimited breadth of application — all imposed by brute force. The devastation that the Equality Act will wreak is immeasurable.

Will minor children be allowed to choose “sex-change” surgery and drugs without parental knowledge or consent? Rachel Levine, the Biden Administration's chief health official, refuses to answer.¹

That's only one example; there are countless others. Employers, workers, medical professionals, families, women, and unborn children will be targeted.² Religious institutions of all kinds

and at every level will be attacked and disrupted, many of them closed down.³

One need only observe the cost incurred by organizations like the Little Sisters of the Poor. To defend themselves against the HHS Contraceptive Mandate they were forced to spend untold millions of dollars on account of one federal regulation. The Equality Act will apply to every private and public action performed in “both private sector and Federal, State, and local government actors, including in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Nothing will be exempt. The Equality Act allows no hiding place from the Gender Thought Police.

The Equality Act is a monstrosity and a lie. It flies in the face of our country's founding principles that recognized with deep gratitude the God who created us equal in His sight.

The House of Representatives has passed this bill as a payoff to powerful donor interest groups. If the Senate passes the legislation, the president has committed to signing it.

It is up to us to do everything we can — call our senators, tell our friends, write your local newspapers and call your local talk shows. They are attacking everything precious that we hold dear.

For the original full-length article, visit <https://www.pop.org/the-equality-act-will-change-every-aspect-of-american-life/>

¹ <http://www.nationalreview.com/2021/02/the-absurd-criticism-of-rand-pauls-rachel-levine-questioning/>

² <http://www.heritage.org/gender/heritage-explains/the-equality-act>

³ <https://www.usccb.org/equality-act>

From the Countries



UNITED KINGDOM UK rushes abortion in Northern Ireland

LIVE ACTION—One year since legal abortions were imposed on Northern Ireland by the United Kingdom (UK) government, the lawmakers are now pushing through a speedier process of undergoing abortions, according to a report from pro-life organization Live Action.¹

Beginning in March of 2020, abortions were allowed up to 12 weeks of pregnancy for any reason, and up to 24 weeks “for a so-called risk to the mother’s life or health,” the article said. This wording, however, has been proven worldwide to be so vague as to essentially allow abortion on demand for virtually any reason. In the UK, 98 percent of abortions are committed for supposed mental health reasons, according to the report.

However, pro-life Northern Ireland resisted the radical abortion law, and most doctors refused to participate. With reports of more than 100 women traveling from Ireland to England to undergo abortions, UK lawmakers decided to take action, the article stated.

Live Action reported that leaders, including Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, Westminster leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), have warned that legislating without the approval of the Executive would cause problems, and complained that abortion was “foisted” on them by the UK.



INDIA Parliament Passes Late-Term Abortion

LIFESITENEWS—The Parliament of India has passed a radical pro-abortion bill that legalizes late-term abortion up to the moment of birth, according to *LifeSiteNews*.²

Rayja Shaba, India’s upper legislative chamber, voted to broadly legalize the killing of unborn babies up to 24 weeks into pregnancy, stated a report from India’s NDTV.³ The lower chamber of India had approved the bill a year ago.

Previously the law already permitted abortions between 12 and 20 weeks of pregnancy if at least two doctors signed off on it, the article stated.

Under the new legislation, called the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment, abortions are allowed until 20 weeks of pregnancy based on a single doctor’s opinion. The bill also legalizes abortion between 20 and 24 weeks for “therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian and social” reasons.

According to the report, the 24-week limit could be extended for babies with “substantial fetal abnormalities,” greenlighting abortion virtually up to the moment of birth.

By 20 weeks, unborn babies are nearly one foot long and feel pain, sometimes with greater sensitivity than adults. At 24 weeks, babies have highly developed organs and facial muscles, and are viable with proper treatment.



GERMANY 800 Pro-Lifers Join Munich’s First March

LIFESITENEWS — Some 800 pro-lifers gathered in Munich, Germany, this spring for the first-ever “March for Life” in Bavaria’s capital, according to *LifeSiteNews*.⁴ The most prominent March for Life in Germany takes place in Berlin every September.

The small beginning of this first-ever march in the capital reflects extensive COVID regulations with a participant limit of 550 people, masks, and social distancing requirements, along with snowy weather and limited advertising for the event.

The event was nevertheless a celebration, according to the article, with colorful balloons instead of the Berlin event’s white wooden crosses, and the colors blue and yellow to mark the “pro-life generation” in southern Germany.

The organizers are part of the association “*Stimme der Stillen*” (Voice of the Silent), and invited speakers from around the world, including Australia, Croatia, Spain, Argentina, the United States, Belgium, Italy, and Austria.

“We are totally overwhelmed,” said organizer Silja Fichtner. “Despite the COVID-related constraints and the wintry weather, our approved event was able to take place with so many participants.”

¹ <https://www.liveaction.org/news/united-kingdom-rushes-expand-abortion-northern-ireland/>

² <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/india-passes-radical-late-term-abortion-bill-with-church-being-largely-silent>

³ <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/rajya-sabha-passes-bill-to-raise-abortion-upper-limit-to-24-weeks-in-special-cases-2392158>

⁴ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/800-pro-lifers-joined-first-march-for-life-in-munich-germany>