



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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House Passes Bill to Protect Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers

January 21st, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to clarify that pregnancy centers can receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funding from states.

"The House passage of HR 6945—the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act—reaffirms the necessity of the critical, life-saving and life-enhancing services that pregnancy centers provide, and protects the rights of states to support and fund them," said Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), an original co-sponsor of the bill, which was introduced by Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN).

Currently, there are more than 2,700 pregnancy centers operating throughout the United States.

[House Passes Bill to Protect Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers - LifeNews.com 1/21/26](#)

Trump administration ends federal funding for aborted fetal tissue research

The federal government will no longer allow taxpayer funds to be spent on research using tissue from the bodies of aborted babies, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced Jan. 22.

"Effective immediately, NIH funds will no longer be used to support research involving human fetal tissue from elective abortions. The policy applies across the NIH Intramural Research Program and all NIH-supported extramural research, including grants, cooperative agreements, other transaction awards, and research and development contracts. This action supersedes prior NIH guidance and reflects a clear shift toward next-generation, validated research models better suited to today's rapidly evolving scientific landscape."

[NIH Announces Major Policy Shift to End Use of Human Fetal Tissue in NIH-Supported Research | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) 1/22/26](#)

WASHINGTON BILL WOULD OPEN 'ABORTION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS'

A Washington State Senate bill SB 6182, introduced Jan. 16 during the 69th Legislature's 2026 regular session, would create an "abortion savings program" run by the Washington Department of Health. The program would distribute grants to "eligible organizations" that employ "health care providers authorized to terminate a pregnancy."

It would establish a funding stream for abortions by imposing a new assessment on certain health insurance carriers. The proposed measure drew swift criticism from a conservative group that is urging Washingtonians to oppose it.

[6182.pdf SB 6182 Washington State Legislature](#)

NEWSOM APPROVES \$90M FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has approved \$90 million in state funding to shore up Planned Parenthood after federal Medicaid cuts — doubling down on the state's role as an abortion stronghold.

[Governor Newsom signs legislation delivering \\$90 million in emergency funding for Planned Parenthood after Trump defunds organization | Governor of California 2/11/26](#)



PUERTO RICO LAW RECOGNIZES UNBORN CHILD AS HUMAN

Puerto Rico's governor has signed legislation amending the territory's Penal Code to recognize the unborn child as a human being — a move supporters say brings greater consistency to existing law.

The amendment modifies an article within Puerto Rico's Penal Code that defines murder. The law was named after Keishla Rodríguez, who was pregnant when she was killed in April 2021. Her death brought national attention to the question of how the law protects unborn children in cases of violence against pregnant women.

[Puerto Rico governor signs bill recognizing unborn child as human being - Zeale](#)

Minnesota bishops enact updated Catholic health care directives banning voluntary starvation, gender-transition procedures

The six bishops promulgated the Seventh Edition of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" — known as ERDs — as binding law in their dioceses on Feb. 11, the World Day of the Sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

[Minnesota Bishops' Joint Statement on Their Collective Promulgation of the Seventh Edition of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services - Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis 2/11/26](#)



President Trump Ends All Taxpayer Funding for International Abortions

President Donald Trump directed the expansion of the pro-life Mexico City Policy, effectively ending U.S. taxpayer funding for organizations that perform or promote abortions overseas as a method of family planning.

The policy, originally established by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, requires foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) receiving U.S. global health assistance to certify that they will not perform or actively promote abortion using funds from any source, including non-U.S. funds.

[LifeNews.com](#) 1/22/26

US COMPLETES ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM WHO

The U.S. has formally completed its withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing the agency's mishandling of COVID-19, failure to enact reforms, and susceptibility to political pressure from member states. The WHO directs significant resources toward promoting abortion worldwide.

[United States Completes WHO Withdrawal | HHS.gov](#) 1/22/26

VIRGINIA LAWMAKERS DEFEAT ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

A Virginia Senate committee voted Feb. 5 to block legislation that would have legalized assisted suicide for terminally ill patients with fewer than six months to live.

Ahead of the 8-7 vote by the Senate Education and Health Committee, the Medical Society of Virginia had switched from a neutral position on the issue to opposing assisted suicide. Family physician and former president of the society Thomas Eppes testified before the lawmakers: "Our profession needs to stand with patients from cradle to grave."

The committee's vote effectively halts the bill's prospects for the current legislative session.

[Virginia Senate committee defeats assisted suicide legislation - Zeale](#) 2/7/26

STEAK N' SHAKE TO MATCH TRUMP DOLLARS FOR EMPLOYEES' BABIES

The fast food company Steak 'n Shake has announced it will match \$1,000 in federal investment contributions for the newborn children of its employees, joining a growing number of companies participating in President Donald Trump's new savings initiative aimed at helping families build long-term wealth for their children.

[Steak 'n Shake on X](#) 1/28/26

Other companies, including Charles Schwab, Uber, Charter Communications, Bank of New York Mellon, State Street, Mastercard, Visa, Block, Robinhood, SoFi, Chime, Russel Investments, and Dell Technologies have all announced that they will match employee contributions to Trump Accounts.

WEST VIRGINIA BILL WOULD CONFRONT ABORTION PILL TRAFFICKING

West Virginia's Senate passed a bill that would ban abortion pills from being mailed into or delivered to mothers in the state, closing a loophole that had allowed pregnant women and abortion pill providers to circumvent the state's laws that regulate abortion and healthcare.

Penalties could include loss of a license for doctors who prescribe the pills or prison time for those who distribute the pills without a medical license. Pregnant women, their families, and fathers of unborn children would also be able to sue individuals or companies who procure abortion pills and cause an unborn baby to die.

[Abortion Medication Ban Passes Senate, Moves To House - West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) 2/13/26

6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – July 26, 2026

Pope Leo XIV has chosen a poignant theme for the upcoming Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: "I will never forget you."

The theme, taken from Isaiah 49:15 is meant "to be a message of consolation and hope for all grandparents and the elderly, especially those who live in solitude or who feel forgotten," the Holy See Press Office stated.

He urged the faithful to regularly visit the elderly and to create "networks of support and prayer with them."

[Press Release of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life: Theme of the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly](#) 2/13/26

Planned Parenthood is Fully Defunded After Dropping Lawsuit

Planned Parenthood has voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit challenging a defunding provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, marking a major victory for pro-life advocates who have long sought to end taxpayer support for the nation's largest abortion company.

The U.S. Supreme Court had previously affirmed in a related case last year that states have the right to exclude organizations like Planned Parenthood from Medicaid funding, a decision Baptist highlighted in praising the outcome.

[Planned Parenthood is Fully Defunded After Dropping Lawsuit - LifeNews.com](#) 2/3/26

Celebrating Pro-Life Women

Celebrate pro-life heroines and reflect on the impact of women who have tirelessly worked for an end to abortion, advocating for life from conception and supporting mothers and families in need.

They inspire us and they inspire future generations to continue the advocacy for life. Their dedication and courage serve as a testament to the power of women to effect change in society.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Susan B. Anthony, Joan Andrews Bell, pioneer in pro-life activism, Carol Everett, former abortion clinic owner, Virginia Evers, inventor of the 'Precious Feet' pin, and Nellie Gray, founder and president, March for Life are featured at: www.ProLifeWomenInHistory.com.

Please spread the word about this project, so that those who labor in the pro-life movement may know the inspiring history of this cause, learn from its successes and failures, and appreciate more deeply the great shoulders on which they stand.