

# LifeLINES



Fall 2014



## Ohio Abortion Licensing Fiasco!

What would you think if you were told that no abortion facility in Ohio holds a current facility license as required by law, *yet all of them continued to do abortions with full knowledge of state authorities?* That is not simply a hypothetical situation, it is the scandalous reality. Out of eleven abortion facilities in Ohio, none hold current, active Ambulatory Surgical Facility (ASF) licenses. While applications for licensure or license renewal have been made by all but one abortion facility, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has not approved or denied their licensing applications. Some have been pending for over a year — one facility has been waiting since 2012 for licensing renewal — even though the law requires that ASF licenses be renewed annually.

Making this even more troubling is the fact that *there has been no delay in the renewal of licenses for non-abortion facilities, leading to concerns that abortion facilities are being given too much leniency when they cannot comply with licensing laws.* Meanwhile, most of the abortion facilities continue to offer surgical abortions despite not meeting the requirements for legal operation in Ohio. Below is a summary of the licensing situation at each Ohio abortion facility. Curiously, the ODH lists many of the facilities with expired licenses as having “active” license statuses, creating a logical paradox. Is it really possible to have an active license that is expired as well?

- **Akron Women’s Medical Group** is affiliated with the Cleveland Surgi-Center that recently relocated to Shaker Heights. It openly provides both surgical and medication abortion via the abortion pill. *However, its facility license expired on April 30, 2013.* This abortion facility has a history of willingness to not report suspected child sex abuse along with botched abortions.
- **Cleveland Surgi-Center** (aka Cleveland Women’s Medical Group) was forced to move from its Pearl Road office in Cleveland in June after the property manager refused to renew its lease. It is now operating under three different names on Warrensville Center Road in Shaker Heights *without evidence that an application for licensure has ever been made.* However,

their website is actively advertising surgical abortions. They appear to be sending at least some women to their affiliated abortion facility in Akron, which is *currently operating under an expired ASF license.* Operation Rescue documented two recent medical emergencies by Cleveland Surgi-Center at its Pearl Road location, raising serious safety concerns about the facility’s operators.

- **Founder’s Women’s Health Center** According to the ODH, *Founder’s ASF license has been expired since March 31, 2014.* It remains open for business and conducting surgical abortions in violation of the law while it awaits notification of its license renewal or denial from the Ohio Department of Health. Founder’s abortionist, Harley Blank, has been sued for malpractice.

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**“...no abortion facility in Ohio holds a current facility license ...”**

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- **Northeast Ohio Women’s Center** recently bought out the old Capital Care Network abortion business in Cuyahoga Falls and began operations under the new owner, abortionist David Burkons. Its ASF license status is listed as “pending,” indicating that an application has been made but licensing has not yet been approved. Denise Leipold, Executive Director of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio, told Operation Rescue that she was able to schedule a surgical abortion at the Cuyahoga Falls facility this spring despite the lack of licensure. She notified the ODH that NEOWC appeared to be illegally conducting surgical abortions. On July 30, 2014, ODH notified Burkons of ODH’s intent to deny his license application because of serious violations discovered during an inspection at the facility. A receptionist told an Operation Rescue undercover investigator that the clinic still has plans to offer surgical abortions in the future,

(Continued on page 3)



According to the IRS, there are approximately 1.5 million 501(c)3 organizations in the United States. These are non profit entities to which you can make tax deductible donations. In addition, there are at least 100,000 or more who are registered as non profit organizations but do not have tax exempt status. Very small non profit organizations (those with less than \$5,000 in annual revenues) are not required to register with the IRS and, if counted, would increase the number of non profits even further.



There are many HUGE non profits like *National Public Radio, American Red Cross, Save The Children, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Goodwill* and even *Planned Parenthood* (who is ranked as #23 of the top 100 U.S. charities!). However, *most non profits are small*. In 2010, three quarters of charities had annual expenses of less than \$500,000, which is where we fit—although we are much, much farther down the list!



The point of telling you this is that when you're sitting watching television and the very expensive and effective advertising campaigns come on for the top charities, they tug at your heartstrings with carefully crafted rhetoric and photos like the top four at the left. It is difficult to resist donating to these charities when you see a photo of an innocent abused animal, starving children, a soldier who was disabled fighting on behalf of our country, or a child with cancer or some other disease.



Fr. Frank Pavone of *Priests for Life* said that America will never end abortion until America sees abortion. If we had the money (which we don't!) to run slick ad campaigns and could show pictures of aborted children (or the pieces and parts of aborted children that more accurately reflect what happens during an abortion —*like the last photo on the left*), chances are that media outlets would not even run these



ads, and people certainly don't want to see or respond to these ads. The reality of it is that our society for the most part doesn't teach values, morals or responsible behaviors which could deter us from making the decisions that lead to becoming pregnant in the first place.

People who see aborted children photos usually react with anger and disgust. If they have to recognize what these photos really are, then they also have to recognize their part in thinking that because abortion is legal, it must be OK, or they have to realize their complicity in condoning behaviors which can lead to the creation and then deliberate destruction of an innocent human life.

It was the same way with slavery and the holocaust. People could distance themselves from it if they didn't have to see it. I can't wait for the day when abortion will become a tragic part of history, just like slavery and the holocaust.

In the meantime, we don't have a huge marketing budget like *Planned Parenthood*...we have the truth on our side. We don't sink millions into deceptive messaging...we use the majority of our funds in missions to promote the sanctity of life from conception through natural death. We don't receive millions in government funding like *Planned Parenthood* which allows them to keep ENDING lives...we use what little we have to encourage SAVING life.

When you see an ad for a big charity, I'm not telling you not to give. I just want you to remember that life comes first, before anything else, and let your heartstrings point to us, too.

For Life,  
Denise Leipold  
*Executive Director*

**Ohio Abortion Licensing Fiasco** (Continued from page 1)

but failed to mention that their license application has been denied. Burkons continues to dispense the abortion pill at NEOWC even though he has no ability to conduct surgical abortions when the pill fails in 7-20 percent of cases, depending on gestational age when the pills are prescribed. While this practice is not illegal, it essentially abandons women suffering from incomplete medication abortions, leaving them on their own to seek emergency care that Burkons cannot legally provide. To make matters worse, *Burkons is responsible for 41% of all complications from medication abortions in Ohio – the highest in the state* – according to reporting forms filed with the Medical Board of Ohio. That fact does not bode well for Ohio women.

- **Toledo Women’s Center** also known as the Capital Care Network, was informed on August 2, 2013 of the ODH’s intent to shut down the clinic due to a failure to obtain a hospital transfer agreement. *Even though it has no required hospital transfer agreement or valid license, and has known for over a year it is in violation of the law, the abortion center remains open for business* conducting surgical abortions with no arrangement for emergency care in the event of abortion complications. Toledo Women’s Center is affiliated with abortionist David Burkons and the Northeast Ohio Women’s Center.
- The **Preterm** abortion facility in Cleveland was the site of a botched late-term abortion that resulted in the death of Lakisha Wilson in March. *Preterm’s ASF license expired on March 31, 2014.* The ODH has taken no known measures to halt abortions there despite Preterm’s expired license and at least one patient death.
- **Women’s Med Center** in Dayton is operated by the notorious late-term abortionist Martin Haskell under a “variance” allowing it to forgo the required hospital transfer agreement. In 2012, Haskell sought renewal of his ASF license but ODH has not approved or denied his applications. In 2013, Haskell requested a renewal of his variance. *The Women’s Med Center has continued supplying abortions over the past two years despite having no active ASF license or approved hospital transfer agreement or variance as required by law.* (Haskell’s Sharonville Women’s Med Center location was denied a similar variance and license renewal by the ODH after years of legal wrangling and has recently closed.)
- **Planned Parenthood – Campbell Medical Center** in Cincinnati continues to offer surgical abortions today, boasting of being the Cincinnati area’s last surviving abortion facility. *However, PP’s ASF license expired on May 31, 2013, and has never been approved for renewal,* placing its abortion operations outside the law.
- **Planned Parenthood – Bedford Heights Health Center** is an abortion referral center according to information on Planned Parenthood’s web site. However, Operation

Rescue confirmed that this facility operates a heavy schedule of surgical abortions. Why list the Bedford Heights facility as only offering abortion referrals? Perhaps because *its ASF license expired on December 31, 2013* and has not been approved for renewal, an inconvenience that hasn’t stopped this abortion center from operating outside Ohio law. This abortion facility was fined \$25,000 on July 30, 2014, for violating state code and operating an unsanitary clinic. Why it was not shut down remains a mystery.

- **Planned Parenthood – East Health Center** This Columbus abortion facility conducts surgical abortions but does so without *the legally required ASF license that expired on December 31, 2013.* The ODH has taken no action to approve or deny its renewal application in at least eight months, during which time the abortion business has been allowed to operate in violation of state laws.

Certainly the abortion facilities in Ohio are more than willing to continue selling and supplying abortions whether they have a license or not. These businesses are more than willing to push the legal envelope as far as possible in order to keep their money stream intact even if it is at the expense of the lives and health of their patients.

However, the Ohio Department of Health must shoulder a portion of the blame. It has been their policy of delaying action on Ambulatory Surgical Facility applications and renewals that has allowed abortion facilities to continue operating on long-expired or inactive licenses. The ODH’s willingness to turn a blind eye to facilities that are operating without proper licensure is a failure of the ODH’s enforcement duties.

In addition, Ohio law contains a huge loophole that the State Legislature must address. Currently, non-licensed facilities that fall outside the ODH’s oversight authority are allowed to freely dispense abortion drugs without any capacity to treat incomplete abortions, a common complication that requires surgical completion. This omission in the law leaves women exposed to inadequate or delayed treatment for a potentially life-threatening complication that occurs at a minimum in seven percent of all medication abortions.

“If the law says that an abortion facility requires a license in order to operate, then if the license has expired, it should be closed down. If my driver’s license were to expire, I would not be allowed to legally drive until I got it renewed. If I was pulled over by police with an expired license, I would be ticketed. Yet nothing is happening to these abortion centers when their licenses expire. They just continue to operate in spite of the law,” said Troy Newman of Operation Rescue. “If they can’t meet licensing requirements or their licenses expire, these facilities must be shut down in the interest of public safety and the rule of law. What good are laws if no one will enforce them?”

*This is an edited version (reprinted with permission) of an Operation Rescue article written by Cheryl Sullenger on August 31, 2013. For the full unedited version, visit Operation Rescue’s website at [www.OperationRescue.org](http://www.OperationRescue.org).* ■

Some feminists, liberals, Democrats, family planners, population control “experts,” and pro-choice advocates charge that men, conservatives, Republicans and pro-lifers are waging a War on Women. They make this charge because the latter seek to protect the unborn and the religious freedom of those who object to paying for contraceptive/abortifacient drugs and devices with their tax dollars. How accurate is this charge? I would maintain that it is the former who are really waging war.

There is no more direct attack on females than abortion. They constitute half of the over 57 million human beings killed by abortion in the United States over the 41 years since January 22, 1973. By way of contrast, the total number of Americans having died in all our wars from the Revolutionary War to the present (239 years) is 1.3 million. The CDC reports that 411 **maternal** deaths have occurred from legal abortion between 1973 and 2009 (latest data

available), while two separate studies indicate the CDC underestimated maternal deaths in specific locations by 30% and 419%! The coding procedures adopted by the CDC actually make it difficult to identify maternal deaths due to abortion.

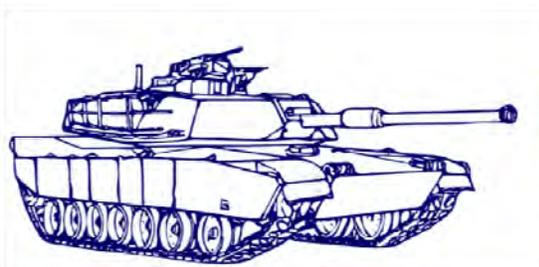
Moreover, legal abortion has resulted in many walking wounded. Over 40 years of medical research has demonstrated that undergoing a legal abortion increases a woman’s chances of suicide, breast cancer, ectopic pregnancy, prematurity and low birth weight affecting subsequent wanted children, depression and other psychological maladies, drug abuse, and relationship problems with men and children. From 2011 through 2013, pro-lifers outside abortion clinics have videotaped or witnessed 80 women being rushed away by ambulance, the apparent victims of botched abortions. These are just the events witnessed, as not all clinics are watched all the time, and some events are not reported. Forty-nine percent of the clinics involved were Planned Parenthood clinics.

I would maintain that legalizing abortion on demand has also contributed to an increase in the attacks on would-be mothers whose boyfriends do not wish to accept their responsibility as fathers. Men are more likely to get angry if a girlfriend will not do something that is legal, as opposed to refusing to do something that is illegal. Mark Crutcher of Life Dynamics, Inc. has compiled a list of 56 cases from 2000-2010 involving the

murder of women who refused abortion. He describes these as “just a representative sample.”

Groups like NARAL and Planned Parenthood like to present themselves as concerned about women’s health. Yet, allied with some family planning/population control organizations, they

- Oppose common sense regulations governing abortion clinics, such as informing women of alternatives, giving them information about fetal development and possible risks of abortion, and requiring clinics to have admitting privileges at local hospitals;
- Seek to close down pro-life pregnancy help centers offering women alternatives, giving the lie to the claim that they are “pro-choice;”
- Deny the findings of science regarding the beginning of human life, and the negative effects of legal abortion on women;



- Ignore or downplay the negative effects of hormonal contraceptive/abortifacient drugs and devices on women’s health, even though several drug companies have paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in lawsuits to compensate for the deaths and damage they caused.

- Seek to modify the FDA’s protocol regarding the use of the abortion drug RU 486 and to dispense it via webcam which negates a woman’s having a personal examination by the prescribing physician;
- Fail to report cases of statutory rape as required by law, thus facilitating the predations of rapists and sex traffickers;
- Lobbied for laws which now permit women and the partners of minor girls to obtain morning-after pills over the counter without a physical check-up by a physician, and finally,
- Fail to oppose the ultimate discrimination against women—sex selection abortion, the killing of a child in the womb because it is not of the desired sex. The majority of the victims are females!

Along with facilitating actual physical assaults on women and their health, the pro-choicers’ propaganda tells women they cannot be free or accomplish their goals unless they are able to kill their offspring in the womb, doing additional harm to their psychic and spiritual welfare.

*For documentation of the above facts, visit our website and click on “Issues” and the related topic, or visit [LifeNews.com](http://LifeNews.com) and search.*

The Ohio Department of Health released its annual report on *Induced Abortions in Ohio, 2013* in September. Statewide, reported abortions decreased by 8.8% from 2012, totaling 23,216 in 2013, an average just under 64 per day. (The full report may be seen on-line).

Results were similar in our local area. Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne counties, those most likely to use Akron's two abortuaries, were also down by 8.9% overall. Summit County abortions decreased for the eighth straight year in 2013! While there may be other reasons for these decreases, including over-the-counter abortifacients in drug stores, our media campaign in concert with area pregnancy help centers, and the educational and witnessing efforts of other area pro-life groups and individuals certainly deserve some of the credit.

## Client Characteristics

Following is a summary of the characteristics of the women obtaining abortions whose information was known:

Age: Under 20, 12.6%; 20-24, 34.7%; 25 & over, 52.6%

Race: White, 53.1%; Black; 40.9%, Other, 6.0%

Education: High School or less, 56.8%; Some college, 30.8%; College or higher degree, 12.3%

Marital Status: Never married, 80.8%; Married, 10.4%; Separated, Divorced, Widowed, 8.8%

Number of Living Children: None, 35.4%; One, 27.8%; Two or more: 36.8%

Number of Prior Abortions: None, 53.6%; One, 28.6%; Two or more, 17.7%

Using Contraception at Time of Conception?: Yes, 28.4%; No, 71.6%

## Observations

Four observations may be made about these data. First, it is evident that many women and men are not exercising their legitimate moral right to control their own bodies. That is, although they do not wish to have a child at this point in their lives, they engage in an activity that can have that result. They then resort to destroying the body of the child they are responsible for conceiving.

Second, as is true nationally, Blacks in Ohio are overrepresented in the abortion count. While they make up only 12.5% of Ohio's general population, they account for 40.9% of its abortions, about 3.3 times greater than their population numbers would lead one to expect. Abortion is devastating the African American community.

Third, given the facts that 71.6% of the women were not using birth control at the time they conceived, and that almost one-fifth had already had two or more children, it appears that many use abortion as birth control.

Fourth, these and similar data from previous years in Ohio, and national data as well, indicate that the contraceptive approach to curbing unplanned pregnancies and abortion is not working. In 1940, before the pill and other modern contraceptives, and before "comprehensive" sex education in the schools, when the accepted norm was "wait until marriage," only 3.5% of births in the U.S. occurred out of wedlock. In 2013, it was 40.6%. Moreover, several studies have shown that abortion rates increase with the increased use of contraceptives in a society.

Hence, the solution to unplanned pregnancy and abortion is the same as that which worked so much better in the past – abstinence before marriage, complemented by modern fertility awareness programs. There is nothing inevitable about current trends and practices. We can and must follow the maxim, "If you don't follow the manufacturer's [God's] instructions, the machine (individuals, the family, society) breaks down."

## *Limited seating...register soon!*



**Right to Life of Northeast Ohio Education & Appreciation Dinner**

**Saturday, March 21, 2015**

featuring keynote speaker

**Bobby Schindler**

Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network

*(brother of euthanasia victim Terri Schiavo)*

For registration and more information, visit our website: [www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com](http://www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com)

Speaking before a joint session of Congress in October, 2009, President Obama said, “... under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortion.” In order to convince two pro-life Democrats (Rep. Bart Stupak and Senator Ben Nelson) that they should vote for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), he also issued a Presidential Executive Order which said: “...the Act maintains current Hyde Amendment Restrictions governing abortion policy and extends those restrictions to newly created health insurance exchanges.”

Pro-life spokespersons pointed out that requiring citizens to write a separate check for abortion coverage (whether or not they desired it) was simply an accounting gimmick meant to maintain the fiction that only private dollars would be paying for abortion. If the federal government requires citizens to put money into a fund and then administers that fund, it becomes federal funds. Moreover, the ACA specifically forbade insurance companies from telling consumers whether or not the plan they were buying covered abortion before they bought it. Secondly, pro-lifers pointed out that Presidential Executive Orders cannot override a law (the ACA) passed by Congress.

On September 16, 2014, a report by the non-partisan Government Accounting Office (GAO) documents massive new public funding of abortion under the President’s healthcare law. The GAO reports that in 2014, taxpayers are funding over 1,000 Obamacare plans that subsidize abortion on demand in defiance of the Hyde Amendment policy. The report notes: every Obamacare plan in New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island and Hawaii pays for abortion on demand, even though at least one plan in each state was supposed to be abortion-free. Also, 405 of 426 plans in New York, 86 of 90 in California, 109 of 111 in Massachusetts, 92 of 102 in Oregon and 23 of 34 in Washington, D.C. pay for abortion with tax dollars. Furthermore, none of the 18 insurance companies interviewed by the GAO are collecting the abortion surcharge separately, and consumers must first buy a plan before they find out if it covers abortion.

Last January, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “No Taxpayers Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act” (HR 7). However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D, Nevada) has not allowed a vote on the bill. *It is unlikely to be passed unless more pro-life candidates are elected to the Senate this November.* ■



Left: Right to Life of Northeast Ohio took part in National Pro-Life Chalk Day on October 2 by chalking the sidewalks at the Akron Metro Transit Center bus station.

Right: More than 80 students from Holy Name High School in Parma Heights chalked the school’s parking lots

You can view more National Chalk Day pictures in the photo gallery on our website!

# GOLF FOR LIFE

The weather on September 15 was perfect, and a fun day was had by all at the annual Right to Life of Northeast Ohio *Golf for Life* fundraising event sponsored by Davis Eye Center at Silver Lake Country Club.

Honorary chairperson Robin Swoboda gave an emotional and powerful speech at the steak dinner as she stressed the importance of supporting our efforts to protect the sanctity of life.

You can view more photos of the event by visiting the photo gallery on our website.

Next year's event is already being planned at Silver Lake Country Club on Monday, September 21, 2015.



*Golfers enjoyed a great lunch before teeing off.*



*The winning team from Davis Eye Center!*



*Robin Swoboda spoke at the steak dinner.*

# Life Chain

It was unseasonably cold with occasional rain, but hundreds of faithful supporters showed up to line the streets of Akron on October 4 and Public Square in Ravenna on October 5 for the National Life Chain. This was a peaceful and powerful message to our community about the sanctity of life. We were encouraged by the overwhelming support from the shouts and beeping horns of passersby! View more photos in the photo gallery on our website.



*Supporters in Akron spanned the distance from the abortion facility on East Market to Planned Parenthood on West Exchange.*



*Supporters in Ravenna lined both sides of Main Street near the Portage County courthouse.*



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**Our Mission**

*Protecting the sanctity of human life from  
 conception through natural death*

**The Issues**

*Abortion  
 Embryonic Stem Cell Research & Cloning  
 Euthanasia & End of Life Decisions*

**Our Goal**

*Building the Culture of Life*

**Our Strategies**

**Educate** with the facts concerning life issues  
**Legislate** by promoting laws protecting innocent  
 human lives  
**Advocate** as a voice for the voiceless  
**Unify** those seeking to defend life  
**Multiply** our voices to increase in strength

**Right to Life**  
 of  
**Northeast Ohio**

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 Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Amy Zimmerman  
 Vice President

Dr. Ray Adamek  
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Youth For Life of Northeast Ohio  
 is a program of  
 Right to Life of Northeast Ohio.

Life Education Fund is a 501c3  
 affiliate with Right to Life of  
 Northeast Ohio.

Contributions to Life Education Fund  
 are tax deductible under IRS rules.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**



- Learn about the issues
- Stay current on pro-life news
- Find out about upcoming events
- Discover opportunities to volunteer
- And much, much more!

visit our website at  
[www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com](http://www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com)

**CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR**

**Wish List ?**

Running a non-profit organization on a shoe string budget is very difficult, especially when you need to spend money on yourself. As you approach this holiday season, we are hoping that you remember us! We are in real need of the following:

- An **tabbing machine** to help us with our mailings, approximate cost: \$4,700
- A new **desktop computer** system for our office administrator....the current one is slowly dying!
- A new **laptop computer** for our director...the current one is not quite as bad as our office administrator's but we're ready with the CPR!
- (3) **5 shelf commercial shelving** units , approximately \$65 each

**PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785**



**MAKE A DONATION...**

...to help us continue in our fight to protect innocent human life from conception through natural death. You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter to make your donation by mail, or:

**PLEASE....CALL TODAY! 330-762-2785**

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