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A publication of South Dakota Right to Life | Spring/Summer 2022 | www.sdRightToLife.org

### IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR...SO NOW WHAT?

By: Dale Bartscher, SDRTL Executive Director

#### ~ Know where your candidates stand on the RIGHT-TO-LIFE ~

This summer and fall South Dakotans again have the civic duty to vote for candidates of their choice for government positions (Federal, State and Local Races). This is an important responsibility! From the SD Secretary of State's Office (https://sdsos.gov) you'll find this election information and more:

> Date of South Dakota's **2022 Primary Election** - June 7, 2022 Voter Registration Deadline - May 23, 2022 Absentee voting begins - April 22, 2022 Date of South Dakota's 2022 General Election - November 8, 2022 Voter Registration Deadline - October 24, 2022 Absentee voting begins - September 23, 2022



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South Dakota Right to Life Committee Rapid City, South Dakota 57701 1107 Mount Rushmore Road Suite 1-B

A good question regarding elections is how do people determine for whom they will vote? I fear there may be too many that simply vote for a party candidate without giving much thought to that person's positions on relevant issues. If that is true, then people might be voting for candidates with whom they disagree. To avoid that, voters should educate themselves on the issues and then vote for the candidates who align themselves with their convictions. BTW -Candidates deserve and need to hear from their constituents!

For me, voting has been easy since 1973 because the US Supreme Court then made the decision that killing babies in the womb is appropriate if the expectant mother so chooses. My own conviction is that any candidate who has no problem with the killing of another innocent human being is unfit for office. I know there are people who do not think the baby in the womb deserves our protection, that it is a fetus not fully developed as a person. To me, that is illogical because the truth is a person is not fully developed until he or she has been through childhood and adolescence. Children and teens are humans while their bodies are developing: why not babies?

The abortion issue has been politically framed as the **Right to Choose** vs. the **Right to Life**: one or the other. I believe in both! A man and woman have the right to choose whether or not they will engage in behavior that may lead to her pregnancy. If they do and she becomes pregnant, then the baby in her womb has a right to life, and

they have the choice of whether to parent or make an adoption plan for their baby. This type of responsible behavior would have eliminated 95% of abortions in South Dakota over the last 5 years (SD Dept. of Health 2020 Induced Abortion Report, p11).

If candidates agree on this issue and support the 'Sanctity of Human Life' – from conception to natural death, I then go to other issues of importance to me and vote accordingly. I would suggest you join me in forming personal convictions on the issues and vote for those with whom you mostly agree. Please research your candidates, question them on their values and then begin by Voting Pro-Life Strong.

**NOTE:** Check-out our SD Right to Life's **Legislative Scorecard** on pages 4-5 in this LifeFacts Issue where we have compiled the '21-'22 voting record of SD Legislators on the legislation we supported or opposed.

> "We have a serious responsibility to pray for America, for the election, and for wisdom on how we should vote." - Franklin Graham



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April Dusek

South Dakota Right to Life is a non-profit, non-denominational organization whose philosophy is that all innocent human life is inviolable and is to be guaranteed protection from conception until natural death.

# Pease Fills Field Coordinator Position

By: Debbie Pease, SDRTL President



It is with a grateful heart that I signed on as a part-time Field Coordinator with South Dakota Right to Life this March. Our organization has been greatly blessed by the passionate, wise and tireless efforts of our Executive Director, Dale Bartscher. It is his hard work that has made this paid position possible.

As some of you may remember, before I joined the SDRTL Board, I served part-time for 5 years as the Lobbyist and State Field Coordinator for SDRTL. I was happy to step away from this position when the Board had the opportunity to hire Dale as our full-time Executive Director. It has been my pleasure to continue serving SDRTL as a Board Member, Vice President, and currently the President.

I feel like I am coming full circle, taking up many of the Field Coordinator responsibilities I was covering 4 years ago. This time, however, I am glad to be under Dale's wise and capable direction.

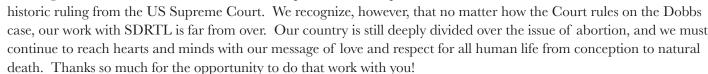
I'm excited to work more closely with our nearly 40 chapters, as they are truly the hands and feet of our organization. The work they do in their communities changes hearts and minds. I will coordinate ideas and resources between chapters to help us be even more effective at our mission.

If you are part of a current chapter or are interested in starting (or restarting) a chapter in your area, I would love to visit with you. As much as possible, I want to attend your chapter meetings. I want to get ideas from you and share them with other chapters. We are so much stronger when we work together.

I will also be helping with a multitude of events. Dale has done an incredible job of representing SDRTL at an ever-expanding number of fairs, conventions, conferences, churches, GOP Lincoln Day Dinners and other events, but even he can't be in two places at once. With my help, SDRTL will have a presence at even more events, as I will assist in attending, setting up displays and coordinating volunteers when needed at upcoming events.

None of this work is possible without the generous support of our donors. I am so grateful for all that they have allowed us to do and will strive to cultivate those important relationships.

When SDRTL first started fifty years ago, no one expected it to take this long to overturn Roe. We are now on the cusp of what we hope will be a





Have you signed up to receive SDRTL's Executive Director's once-a-week only 'SDRTL Email Update'? Several thousand Pro-Life friends have and YOU CAN TOO by going to sd.RightToLife.org and click on the Subscription Box. Please sign-up today and be weekly Pro-Life informed!



# Why are you Pro-Life?

By: Kassidy Peters, SDRTL Youth Outreach Coordinator



Happy Spring! Although it felt like a long winter (it always does), it didn't stop the youth in South Dakota for standing up for life and getting involved. We had our annual Walk for Life and Hour of Reflection in January at the State

Capitol in Pierre. It was an amazing turnout, both adults and youth, and we had a great day celebrating life together.

Recently, Seth Gruber visited South Dakota

State University and gave an amazing presentation to the students. SDSU's Jacks for Life hosted him and did a wonderful job organiz-

ing the event and inviting people to come listen. If you haven't heard Seth speak, he is very influential and a great leader. We are hoping to bring him back to visit more campuses!

In January, I had the privilege to be the Keynote Speaker at Holy Cross Ipswich for their Pro-Life Night. It was encouraging to see everyone who showed up, but especially encouraging to see the youth that came to listen. With so many activities for kids to be involved in,



I'm so thankful they are taking the time to learn more about the pro-life movement. I started off my presentation stating why I am pro-life. I also challenged every single person to go home and think about their "why." This is so important because it lays the foundation. When we are explaining to a friend why they should be pro-life and what it means, our passion stems from our why. Think about a time you were talking to someone about

a certain topic and you could feel the passion behind their words. Now think about a time you were talking to someone about a topic and they were just spewing facts with no real emotion. Which conversation was more impactful? So, why are you pro-life?



Find additional information, including rules, at www.sdrighttolife.org

Questions? Call Debbie at 605-929-4933

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# A True Story

By: Valerie Johnson, NRLC Delegate



March 31st marked the 17th anniversary of Terri Schiavo's death by court ordered starvation and dehydration in Florida. Hers is a true story which should not be forgotten.

There are many myths surrounding Teri's death. To clarify, here are a few facts:

- Teri was not in a coma or a comatose-like state.
- Teri was not on life support machines. She could breathe on her own. She did have tube feeding because she had difficulty swallowing.
- Teri's family did not refuse to let her die. Teri was disabled; she did not have a terminal illness.

Death by starvation and dehydration is not painless. In Wesley J. Smith's book, Forced Exit, St. Louis neurologist William Burke said: "A conscious person would feel it [dehydration] just as you or I would. They will go into seizures. Their skin cracks, their tongue cracks, their lips crack. They may have nosebleeds because of the drying of the mucous membranes, and heaving and vomiting might ensue because of the drying out of the stomach lining. They feel the pangs of hunger and thirst. Imagine going one day without a glass of water! Death by dehydration takes ten to fourteen days. It is an extremely agonizing death."

https://www.nrlc.org/communications/mediamyths/terrimythsvreality/

Hopefully we are able to learn from Teri's story. Even though they lost in court, her family and friends fought for her right to life. How many disabled and medically vulnerable people do not have family and friends who would do the same? How many people are purposefully deprived of their right to life (put out of society's misery) because they are medically vulnerable?

Deadline: November 1, 2022

Accepting entries now

As Teri's brother Bobby Schindler warned, "The sooner we realize ... that we are battling a systemic, radical, anti-life, anti-Christian value-system, the more we will understand it is now our urgent duty to defend the medically weak. If we don't protect them now, it will be impossible to protect our own families if and when the time comes to do so."

For more information, and to help protect yourself and others, go to https://www.nrlc.org/medethics/willtolive/



# South Dakota Right to Life 2021-2022 Legislative Scorecard



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(X) Supported SDRTL's Position; (O) Opposed SDRTL's Position; (E) Excused For more information: www.sdRightToLife.org

#### SDRTL's 2021/2022 Legislative Scorecard Explanation

(\*) Designates - Legislative Prime Sponsors

#### These Bills were Supported by SDRTL – Passed & Signed by the Governor:

SB 83 (2021 \*Castleberry/Soye) An Act to require the provision of information regarding perinatal hospice. [Note: Had no opposition, placed on the House Consent Calendar]

SB 103 (2021 \*Crabtree/Chaffee) An Act to provide for the confidentiality of personal information of persons affiliated with nonprofit corporations and to provide a penalty therefor.

SB 183 (2021 \*Schoenbeck/Hansen) An Act to declare certain contract provisions regarding abortion as deceptive acts or practices.

HB 1051 (2021 \*Deutsch/Novstrup) An Act to maintain the life of any child born.

HB 1079 (2021 \*Governor's Office) An act to limit certain actions that may be taken by the executive branch relative to nonprofit corporations or charitable trusts.

HB 1110 (2021 \*Governor's Office) An Act to prohibit the performance of abortions due to Down syndrome and to provide a penalty therefor.

HB 1114 (2021 \*Hansen/Novstrup) An Act to provide a definition of abortion.

HB 1130 (2021 \*Haugaard/Greenfield-Brock) An Act to establish requirements for the presentation of a written statement regarding the discontinuance of a drug-induced abortion.

HB 1113 (2022 \*Randolph/Castleberry) An Act to prohibit threats made with the intent to coerce an abortion and to provide a penalty therefor.

HB 1129 (2022 \*Chaffee/Smith-VJ) An Act to prohibit forms of discrimination in access to organ transplantation.

HB 1133 (2022 \*Olson/Symens) An Act to provide that the cost of a home study required for an adoption is the responsibility of the Department of Social Services. [Note: Had no opposition, placed on the House Consent Calendar]

HB 1318 (2022 \*Governor's Office) An Act to prohibit medical abortion by telemedicine and to increase the penalty for the unlicensed practice of medicine when performing a medical abortion.

#### These Bills were Supported by SDRTL and Defeated in the Process:

HB 1247 (2021 \*Hansen/Curd) An Act to provide for the protection of the consciences of medical professionals.

HB 1248 (2021 \*Hansen/Stalzer) An Act to require reports regarding the intentional disposal, destruction, or other disposition of human embryos.

HB 1311 (2022 \*Soye/Steinhauer) An Act to clarify the means of voluntarily terminating a relationship between a birth mother and a child.

#### This Bill was Opposed by SDRTL and was Defeated in the Process:

SB 137 (2022 \*Greenfield-Brock/Davis) An Act to establish gestational surrogacy arrangements and agreements.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22-24: Deadwood - SDRTL's Booth at the SD Knights of Columbus 118th State Convention.

April 23: Spearfish - SDRTL's presence at the Lawrence County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

April 28: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's presence at the SD Prayer Coalition Luncheon.

April 29: Redfield - SDRTL's Booth at the Spink County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

April 29: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's presence at the Alpha Center's Descendants Dinner.

May 2: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Sioux Falls Area RTL Chapter Mtg.

May 3: Yankton - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Yankton Area Right to Life Chapter Mtg.

May 4: Parker - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Turner County Area RTL Chapter Mtg.

May 6: Watertown - SDRTL's presence at the Codington County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

May 6-7: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Christian Home School Conference.

May 8: "Mother's Day!"

May 10: Watertown - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Watertown Ministerial Association.

May 13: Sturgis - SDRTL's Booth at the Meade County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

May 14: Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the Pennington County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

May 19: Vermillion - SDRTL's Booth at the Clay County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

May 22: Miller - SDRTL's E.D. to address the Sunshine Bible Academy's Graduation.

May 23: Voter Registration Deadline.

May 30: "Memorial Day!"

June 7: Primary Election Day.

June 11: Chamberlain - SDRTL Board Meeting Summit (9am – 4:30 pm).

June 19: "Father's Day!"

#### CAROL MYERS......DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER ALFRED L. MILLER......DALE AND JANET BARTSCHER JAXON BERWALD......AUSTIN AND REBECCA BERWALD RUTH HORNIG.....TERRY AND MARY BLUE MARY LOU BRUINSMA.....LE ROY BRUINSMA JOHN JENSEN...... JAMES AND CYNTHIA CLEVELAND "ALL ABORTED BABIES"......FRANCIS AND JEANETTE DOOM ARLYN "BUTCH" SMITH......DAVID AND KAREN DUFFY GLENDA BUNKERS.....DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD GARRET REURINK......DOUGLAS AND JULIE EPPARD GOSNELL VICTIMS......CHRISTOPHER FLANAGAN JEREMIAH FONDER......CORAL FONDER FRED GEISLER...... CHARLES AND ELAINE FUERNISS RAY AND ODILIA GENGLER.....KATHLEEN GENGLER BOB, RITA AND PATTY GRADOVILLE......WILLIAM GRADOVILLE LOWELL SALONEN......ANDY AND JOANN GROOS ROSEMARY GILL......ANDY AND JOANN GROOS GARY GASPER...... ANDY AND JOANN GROOS ALL ABORTED "BABIES"......RALPH AND HARRIET HOFFINE JEANETTE JACOBSON......CHERYL JACOBSON VIVIAN KAUFMAN.....MELODY JOHNSON JANICE WALLENMEYER.....MELODY JOHNSON LEON JURGENS...... LEON AND CINDY KRUSE DON MEADE.....LEON AND CINDY KRUSE PETER J & SUSAN MACK...... PETER AND DONNA MACK ACOB AND ELMIRA JELLESMA......PETER AND DONNA MACK BAYLEE MCKEEHAN.....KENTON MCKEEHAN

VIVIAN KAUFMAN.....DWIGHT AND DENISE MELIUS

June 23-25: Watertown - SDRTL's Booth at the SD GOP Convention. June 24-25: Atlanta, GA - National Right to Life Convention July 4: "Independence Day!"

July 16-17: Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the Hills Alive Music Festival.

August 3-6: Edgemont - SDRTL's Booth at the Fall River County Fair.

August 6-13: Sioux Falls - SDRTL's Booth at the Sioux Empire Fair.

August 11-13: Vermillion - SDRTL's Booth at Clay County Fair.

August 15-18: Parker - SDRTL's Booth at the Turner County Fair.

August 16-21: Aberdeen - SDRTL's Booth at the Brown County Fair.

August 19-27: Rapid City - SDRTL's Booth at the Central States Fair.

September 1-5: Huron - SDRTL's Booth at the SD State Fair.

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1: Rapid City - SDRTL's 51st State Convention!

#### SAVE THE DATE!

50th Annual SD Captiol Walk for Life & Hour of Reflection

Sunday, January 29th, 2023 in Pierre, South Dakota





Keynote Speaker: Carol Tobias (President, National Right to Life)

> 12:00pm- Walk for Life 1:00pm- Refreshments 2:00pm- Hour of Reflection Where: Captiol Rotunda

#### Donations in Memory of: Submitted By:

MARY K FOGG	MARILYN MENDENHALL
MICHAEL VINTON	MARILYN MENDENHALL
ANN SANDRA MESSENGER	SAM MESSENGER
GLADYS LUMB	MARIE PETERSON
TOM AND ANN DEVINE	JOHN AND MARY RUANE
JOHN AND MARY RUANE SR	JOHN AND MARY RUANE
DENNIS SAHLI	ALMA F SAHLI
RAY, KATHLEEN AND JAMES GOEBEL	JIM AND MARY SANDNESS
GLENIA JOHNSON	DONNA SCHAFER
RICHARD SCHULTE	KATHY SCHULTE
MARIE ROBBENNOLT	CHARLES AND SHELLEY SIMON

#### Donations in Honor of: Submitted By:

ADRIAN ASHER MACKENZIE	LISA BREVIK
TERRY SULLIVAN	CHRISTOPHER FLANAGAN
TOM KLOSTERMAN	KEVIN NELSON
"OUR GRANDCHILDREN"	LENNY AND BETTY SAATHOFF
DALE BARTSCHER	JASON WILLIAMS

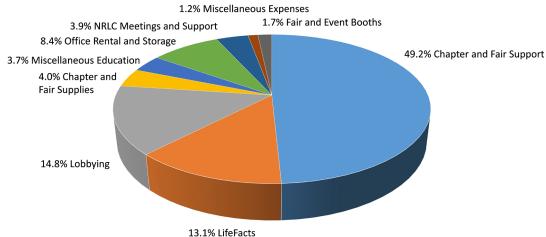
#### Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2022

By: Spencer Cody, SDRTL Treasurer

As 2022 continues let us take a look at how South Dakota Right to Life has worked to ensure that the most is made of every contribution that we have received and hope that you will partner or continue to partner with us as a sustaining member through the rest of 2022. So far in 2022, roughly 49% of your donations have gone toward providing staff in support of chapters, pro-life outreach, and coordinating booths and exhibits at fairs and other events. Lobbying for pro-life legislation each session in Pierre has taken up another 14.8% of our budget.

The LifeFacts that you receive goes to 17,000 households and makes up more than 13% of this year's budget. A remaining 3.7% of donations are

#### Where Your Donations Have Gone in 2022



spent on miscellaneous education outreach. Every dollar that you donate gets fully utilized in the most meaningful and impactful way possible. Thank you so much for supporting South Dakota Right to Life!

Cut & mail to: SDRTL, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Suite 1-B, Rapid City, SD 57701

Name	Mailing Address
CityPhone	Email
My Special Gift in Support of Life: \$	I would like to donate by: (check one)
My Sustaining Gift in Support of Life (check one)Bronze: \$10/mo. or \$120/yr.	Online bank transfer or Bill Pay (I will contact my bank for this option)
Silver: \$25/mo. or \$300/yr.	Credit Card- (costs us 3% of your gift)
Gold: \$50/mo. or \$600/yr.	Card Number:Card Month:
Platinum: \$100/mo. or \$1200/yr.	Card Year:Card CVV Number:
Titanium: \$250/mo. or \$3000/yrDiamond: \$500/mo. or \$6000/yrAmount of your choosing \$/mo.	Check (Make out to either - SDRTL, non tax deductible; or SDRTL Ed Trust Fund, tax deductible)
	How Often May We Anticipate This Donation?Once;Monthly
*Due to IRS regulations donations to SDRTL and the SDRTL PAC are not deductible. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, then please donate to the SDRTL Education Trust Fund.	This Donation is made (check one if it applies) "In Memory of":
*A donation may yet also be given "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" of a loved one upon request.	"In Honor of":  If you wish to donate electronically please visit sdRightToLife.org

# SAVE THE DATE!



# 51st Annual SD Right to Life Convention

September 30 - October I, 2022

First Assembly of God Church 4905 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Rapid City, SD

#### Friday, September 30th, 2022

Open and Free to the Public

6:00pm- Doors Open (Registration, refreshments & exhibit hall browsing)

7:00 - 8:30pm- Program (Keynote Speaker and Introducing of Pro-Life SD Legislative Candidates)

#### Saturday, October 1st, 2022

Open to Registered Convention Guests

8:00am- Doors Open (Registration, Refreshments & Exhibit Hall Browsing)

9:00am - 4:30pm- Program (Keynote Speakers & Introducing of Pro-Life SD State Candidates)

#### REGISTER SOON AT www.sdRightToLife.org

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Karen Cross Political Director National Right to Life Director Committee



Angela Copenhaver Andy Griffith Founder and Executive WeTeachThink



Founder & President Pro Life Man



Alex Schadenberg **Executive Director** Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

#### ~ SDRTL CONVENTION LODGING POSSIBILITIES ~



#### **AmericInn Lodge & Suites**

1632 Rapp Street, Rapid City, SD (605) 343-8424

AmericInn Lodge & Suites will offer a SDRTL Convention rate at: 9/30/22: \$99.00

Complimentary breakfast - Free parking - Indoor heated pool with water slide and hot tub Daily hotel fee of \$8.95 + tax per room will be waived - Distance to the Convention: 6.6 miles

There is a block hold on 25 rooms for SD Right to Life for Sept. 29 - Oct. 2. Special rate available until - August 15, 2022.



#### The Rushmore Hotel & Suites

445 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Rapid City, SD (605) 348-8300

The Rushmore Hotel & Suites will offer a SDRTL Convention rate at: \$139 (+ tax) per night for either a King or Two Queens

Convenient Downtown Location - Free parking - Distance to the Convention: 3.8 miles There is a block hold on 25 rooms for SD Right to Life for Sept. 29 – Oct. 2. Special rate available until August 29, 2022



#### **Quality Inn**

750 Cathedral Dr., Rapid City, SD (605) 341-9300

Quality Inn will offer a SDRTL Convention rate at: \$159.20 (+ tax) per night for either a King or Two Queens

Complimentary breakfast - Free parking - Distance to the Convention: 2.2 miles There is a block hold on 20 rooms for SD Right to Life for Sept. 29 – Oct. 2. Special rate available until August 29, 2022.



#### **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** 1611 Caregiver Circle, Rapid City, SD

(605) 718-0772

Holiday Inn Express & Suites will offer a SDRTL Convention rate at: \$165 (+ tax) per night for either a King or Two Queens

Complimentary breakfast - Free parking - Indoor pool - Distance to the Convention: 1.7 miles There is a block hold on 25 rooms for SD Right to Life for Sept. 29 - Oct. 2.

Special rate available until August 29, 2022.