

Why a Human Life Amendment? Why At This Time?

We, prolife Americans, have a tremendous opportunity. God has placed us in the position of ending abortion in America forever.

Background: Prior to 1967 every state in the Union had a law against abortion, except to save the mother's life. The logic behind these laws was that the preborn child was a full human being and should be protected by law. In 1967 several states liberalized their abortion laws, and in 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court made abortion legal throughout the nation up to term for any reason. The logic was that the preborn child is not fully a person. Since that time over 60 million unborn human beings have been killed by abortion. That is a fifth of the whole American population.

Over the years, Crusade for Life has fought for the babies. We have given talks, started pro-life groups, written pro-life literature, produced pro-life films, and sidewalk counseled at some of the biggest abortion clinics in America. We have even been arrested for blocking clinic doors, and have been taken to jail in handcuffs. We have also assisted pregnancy help centers with their work.

All these efforts have been positive and effective, and have been extended over several decades. Other groups have similarly worked, but the sad truth is that legal abortion has not been ended in America. It is still going strong. We have wondered whether there is some other way to bring the killing to an end?

Why a Human Life Amendment? In the depths of this dilemma the issue of slavery entered our thoughts. Like abortion, it was a long agonizing problem. It too was held in place by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. But in 1865 a group of determined legislators enacted a Constitutional amendment. Thus Amendment 13 overturned the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision, and slavery in America was ended forever.

Why at this time? The time is ripe for a pro-life amendment to the Constitution for the following reasons:

1. Both houses of Congress have a conservative majority and most claim to be pro-life.
2. The Republican platform is definitely pro-life.

3. The Constitution itself is pro-life in that Amendments 5 and 14 say "No person may be deprived of life without due process of the laws."
4. An amendment does not involve the President and the U.S. Supreme Court.
5. Over 30 of the state governors are conservative.
6. All but about 10 states have passed pro-life legislation.
7. In addition recent polls have shown that greater than 50% of Americans profess to be pro-life.
8. Add to all this that the internet gives us the opportunity to communicate rapidly with the entire nation. It can be seen that this is the time for the pro-life movement to act.

Yes, the time is ripe for a pro-life amendment. If we achieve this, abortion in America will be gone forever. Crusade for Life has weighed the odds, and has concluded that with the current political situation and internet communications it can be done. Please read about the proposed amendment in our treatise booklet, "Ending Abortion in America." www.crusadeforlife.org.

What can be done? We agree that the killing of America's unborn children is very grievous in God's sight. If Jesus were here today he would speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and rescue the innocent who are being taken away to death. Is the Church of Jesus Christ ready to do what Jesus would do?

Based on this concept we have launched the "National Coalition for Amendment 28." This amendment was foreseen by President Ronald Reagan in the Proclamation of Personhood that he issued in 1988. This proclamation has been reproduced in its entirety in our treatise booklet. The wording is simple and direct.

AMENDMENT 28

SECTION 1. As used in this constitution, the word person shall mean or refer to any and all living human beings from fertilization (conception) to death.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Why not go state by state with new laws? Over 30 states have pro-life laws in place that stop some abortions but often they are challenged, a judge will rule against the law and ultimately it will go to the Supreme Court and who knows what they will do!

Why not a Constitutional Convention?

(Article V Constitutional Convention)

Leftist organizations across the nation support a Constitutional Convention and some so-called conservatives mistakenly support this idea. Former liberal Chief Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a book on the six Constitutional amendments he is promoting. Current Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg also has her list.

A warning was given by **former Chief Justice Warren Burger**: "I have also repeatedly given my opinion that there *is no effective way to limit* or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or to one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey. After a Convention is convened, **it will be too late to stop the convention** if we don't like its agenda..."
eagleforum.org/topics/concon.

Can't we just live with abortion? NO! Although most churches support the local pro-life pregnancy center, it is not enough. Abortion must be made illegal in our country. Not only does God say, "*The Lord hates hands that shed innocent blood.*" Proverbs 6:16-17, he removes His protection from nations that shed innocent blood! It is detrimental to society and to the whole country.

What has happened since Roe v Wade? A review of Clarke Forsythe's book *Abuse of Discretion* is available on line at www.masscitizensforlife.org. He describes the long term health risks since *Roe v. Wade*.

"Studies have begun to provide evidence of at least six long-term physical and psychological risks from abortion. These risks include: increased risk of subsequent pre-term birth, increased risk of placenta previa in future pregnancies, increased incidence of drug and alcohol abuse, increased incidence of suicide and psychiatric admission after abortion, loss of the protective effect against breast cancer of a full-term pregnancy, increased incidence of violence and assault associated with abortion."

Roe also produced a schizophrenic effect on the laws regarding unborn children. Millions of abortions occur at the same time that advances in technology, such as ultrasound, are opening a window into a previously unseen world.

Forsythe concludes by asking the question, was *Roe* the solution for women's problems it was supposed to be? In its decision, the Court states that the choice for abortion would "spare a woman from a distressful life and future"

including "the distress associated with an unwanted child." Forsythe answers:

The claims made by abortion advocates in the 1960s have not come to pass. Child abuse and infanticide have increased. Domestic abuse and homicide of women who will not abort is increasing. It did not reduce the poverty rate. The numbers of births to unmarried mothers has doubled since 1972 with poverty rate in female headed families five times higher than that of married couples.

Roe has not affected maternal mortality. There are as many deaths from legal abortion today as from illegal abortion in the years preceding *Roe*. Countries that limit abortion, such as Chile and Ireland, have better maternal health than neighboring countries with legalized abortion.

The "population bomb" failed as population grew along with the standard of living. Food production soared, even in China where a famine in the 1960s killed millions of citizens.

Did *Roe* liberate women from the burdens of unwanted pregnancy and motherhood? Concludes Forsythe, "The notion of *Roe* as liberation is offset by the long-term risks, the increase rate of repeat abortion, the burden of male pressure, abandonment and coercion, the feeling some women sense of having no other options. Abortion is not liberating if the short-term relief it promises obscures lingering problems that will not go away over the long term." Forsythe continues:

"At the core of *Roe* is not the Constitution, nor values deeply rooted in American history and culture, but a short-sighted view of America and of human liberty. Despite the heavy imposition of a nationwide judicial edict proclaiming abortion to be a 'fundamental right,' Americans have proved remarkably resilient. Millions of Americans have turned aside from the blighted view of the human spirit, by supporting adoption and by reaching out to women through thousands of centers that did not exist in the 1960s. That view provides a more solid foundation for equal dignity and human flourishing in our democratic republic than the transient impulses reflected by the justices in *Roe v. Wade*."

"for such a time as this" Can pro-lifers come together and support Amendment 28 and put an end to legal abortion in America forever? The next few weeks and months will prove it. Let's all work together for the greater good that Amendment 28 will accomplish.

1. Help get good people elected.
2. Be positive that the future is hopeful.
3. Let everyone on your e-mail, facebook and so on know about Amendment 28.
4. Pray for success.

BOTTOM LINE: Be persevering, prayerful, positive and joyful. We **can** change the course of America!!