Ohio Legislature Passes Bill to Ban All Abortions After an Unborn Baby’s Heartbeat Begins

The full Ohio legislature passed a bill April 10th to protect unborn babies once their heartbeats are detectable, moving it to the governor’s office for final approval.

House lawmakers voted 56-39 to approve the pro-life bill, amid interruptions by pro-abortion protesters. Statehouse News reports abortion activists could be heard throughout the session shouting and chanting.

Quickly afterward, the state Senate approved the final version of the bill in a 18-13 vote, the Dayton Daily News reports. The Senate passed the bill in March; however, the bill had to return to the Senate because the House amended it to include stiffer penalties for abortionists who violate the measure.

Gov. Mike DeWine supports the legislation. He is expected to sign it soon.

It is Young People Who are Leading the Fight against Pornography

Two Catholic University undergraduate seniors sponsored a very modest bill which simply asked that porn no longer be accessible on the University Wifi Network.

Hundreds of students supported the restriction. They cheered at the passing of the bill. The student body president defended the bill on more or less secular libertarian grounds — in contrast to the bill itself, which argued the grounds of natural law, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church — which is interesting in itself. But the message has been sent. https://catholicherald.co.uk/dailyherald/2019/04/09/it-is-young-people-who-are-leading-the-fight-against-pornography/

Virginia Governor Who Supported Infanticide Signs Bill to Make Animal Cruelty a Felony

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has a clear moral disconnect. Earlier this year, Governor Northam came under massive national criticism for appearing on a radio show and supporting infanticide. During his interview he advocated for merely keeping babies comfortable as parents leave them to die shortly after birth.

While protecting newborn babies who survive abortions is apparently too much for Northam to support, a law against animal cruelty isn’t. Today he signed a new bill into law that would make animal cruelty a felony in the commonwealth. The bill increases the penalty for “cruelly or unnecessarily beating, maiming, mutilating, or killing a dog or cat” to a felony charge.

The law only applies to dogs and cats. Unfortunately it doesn’t also apply to newborn babies who survive abortions. https://www.lifenews.com/2019/04/02/virginia-governor-who-supported-infanticide-signs-bill-to-make-animal-cruelty-a-felony/

Connecticut Legislature Defeats Bill to Legalize Assisted Suicide

The Connecticut legislature yesterday defeated a bill that would have targeted disabled and elderly people with assisted suicide. The Nutmeg state follows Maryland and New Mexico this year in defeating measures to legalize assisted suicide, while New Jersey has approved a measure that is awaiting signature from its governor.

Had Connecticut voted in favor of the legislation, it would have become the 7th state to legalize assisted suicide. Six states (California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont) and Washington D.C. permit the dangerous practice of allowing physicians to write lethal prescriptions to certain groups of persons to kill themselves. https://www.lifenews.com/2019/04/02/connecticut-legislature-defeats-bill-to-legalize-assisted-suicide/

Uber Driver Fired After Refusing to Take a Passenger to an Abortion Clinic

An Uber driver was fired after he refused to take a passenger to get an abortion, and the passenger is considering taking legal action against him as well. A 20-year-old woman in upstate New York intended to get an abortion. The nearby Planned Parenthood clinic did not have any available appointments, and she did not have a car, so she summoned an Uber to take her to a clinic about an hour away. The driver pulled over and said he could not complete the trip. He offered to take her back home, but said he would not take her to the clinic. They were approximately at the midpoint of the hour-long journey. The woman contacted her boyfriend, who informed the clinic she would be late. Then she took a cab to the abortion clinic. She reported the driver to Uber, which terminated him, and also reported the incident to the police. She said she wants to take legal action against him, but is not yet sure how to proceed. https://www.dailywire.com/news/46319/woman-plans-sue-uber-after-driver-refused-take-her
Court Ruling Bans Catholic Social Services from Placing Foster Children in Philadelphia

A federal appeals court ruled against foster families and the Catholic foster care agency working with them to provide loving and stable homes for foster children in Philadelphia.

The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the City of Philadelphia for its ban of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Catholic Social Services (CSS) from its foster placement program. The city ended its contract with CSS because the archdiocese’s program adheres to Church teaching on marriage and won’t place kids with same-sex couples.

In March 2018, the City of Philadelphia had issued an urgent call for 300 new foster families. But then, in spite of the serious need for homes for 6,000 children in its foster care system and also CSS’ record as one of the city’s most successful foster agencies, the city abruptly banned CSS from placing any children.

The city did this even though not one LGBTQ couple had ever approached CSS seeking certification and the agency never prevented a child from finding a home.


MARIJUANA

More states are legalizing marijuana, yet the drug has become increasingly potent. And Catholic medical experts are concerned. “The studies are very clear that not only is marijuana addictive in and of itself, but desensitizes the brain to more harmful substances,” said Jeff Berger, the medical director for Guest House, a Michigan rehab center for priests.

Berger said the evidence also shows marijuana addiction is linked to higher risks of impaired short-term memory, difficulty retaining information, and impaired coordination that interferes with driving skills, which increases the risk of injury and death. The 2014 study in the New England Journal of Medicine reported that roughly 17 percent of teenagers who smoke pot regularly become addicted.

https://legatus.org/the-longtime-low-from-living-high/