

TEXAS NEWS

RIGHT TO LIFE

*Information
you won't see
anywhere else.*

May 2017

If the Texas Legislature does not pass
life-saving bills this session,

100,000 preborn children

will become victims of inaction.

INSIDE

Racing the clock
on the 85th Session

Pro-Life Aggies
host 5K

Y'ALL led event leads to increased activism

After Frank became involved with Texas Right to Life last winter, his desire to be more active with his Pro-Life convictions deepened.

Read Frank's account of traveling from Houston to Austin to visit the Capitol for the Y'ALL led Activism Day. Find within his story something similar to your own Pro-Life journey: a desire to *do more* to help put an end to the injustices of abortion and euthanasia once and for all.

When people ask me how long I've been Pro-Life, I always say 'since I was conceived.' I once participated in a Pro-Life march and prayer vigil in front of an abortion center, but I was only introduced to Texas Right to Life last winter. I followed Texas Right to Life on Facebook and was compelled to support their life-saving work financially. But I wanted to become more actively involved beyond financial support.

When I heard about the Y'ALL led Activism Day, I decided to go because I wanted to do my part to influence the Texas Legislature to protect Life from conception to natural death. I knew we would have time with our senators and representatives, but I didn't really know what to expect other than that. I was a little nervous to talk to my elected officials, especially because my state senator is a Democrat who is not Pro-Life. Typical though: When you do something for the first time, you're uncomfortable and the only way to get over that discomfort is to simply do the thing that makes you

uncomfortable. So that is what I did. I went to our state Capitol in Austin to speak to my legislators.

When we arrived at the Capitol grounds, we received a briefing from the Texas Right to Life Legislative team. They explained exactly what they do at the Capitol every single day. Now I understand and appreciate how they monitor *every single bill* that could be an avenue for someone to do something to hurt the Pro-Life cause. They need to mitigate and stop any attack on Life. If they don't pay attention, something could be slipped into a bill that could be a serious setback for Life.

After the briefing, we were sent out on our own to speak to our legislators, and if they weren't available, we could speak with their staff. When I walked into my senator's office, I was greeted at the front desk, but when they realized I was Pro-Life, they weren't exactly warm toward me. In the moment of their first fake smile I thought 'they aren't going to be too interested in what I have to say.' I told them I wanted to talk to my senator about the proposed ban on dismemberment abortion, but since she was unavailable, they directed me to a specific staffer instead. While I spoke with her, other staffers were standing nearby and listening to our conversation. I told this staffer that I wanted to talk about the priority Pro-Life bills that could save the most lives this session, and I specifically brought up Senate Bill 415.



I told her that I work as a pharmacy director of a children's hospital and I spend my life saving babies and improving their health after they are born, and I wanted to come to the Capitol today to voice my concern for children before they are born. I told the staffer "I understand that you're a Democrat. I'm not a hard-nose Republican. I support women's rights, but we need to think about women in the womb and be concerned with their rights."

At this point, I thought that surely they are not going to even tell my senator that one of her constituents was in her office voicing support for Pro-Life bills. My efforts felt futile, but I realized that feeling was wrong. I randomly told them that



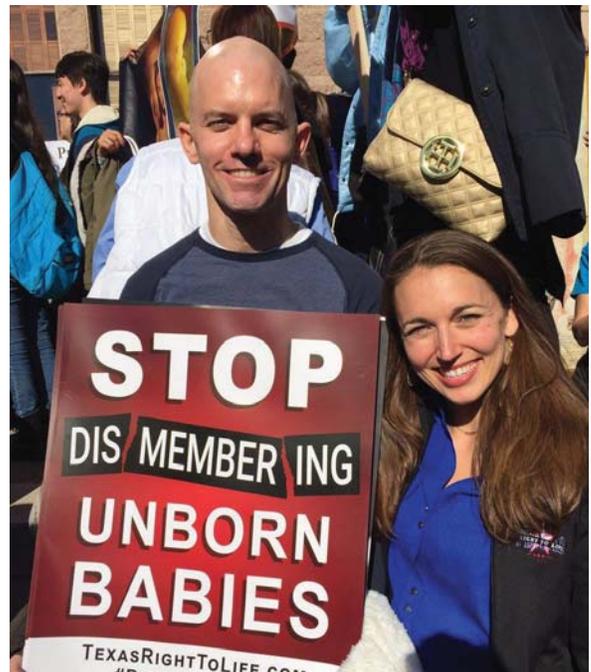
Senator Hughes greets young activist to the Capitol

I drove all the way from Houston to Austin to talk to my senator. This made a serious impression upon these staffers who clearly supported abortion. I have no doubt that they will remember that fact and my dedication to protecting Life. I continued to tell them that my hospital does maternal-fetal medicine when we operate on babies in the womb. If babies didn't have any value, we wouldn't be operating on them.

I left a piece of paper with my senator's staff listing the priority Pro-Life bills that I, as her constituent, am urging her to support.

I gained a level of comfort and confidence and I can speak more easily about this topic. Now that I've gone to the Capitol once to talk to my legislators, next time won't be a big deal. I feel immensely more educated about the legislative process and the complexity of passing life-saving laws. With logical and rational method Texas Right to Life, with our support, is strategic and prudent about the laws they work to pass each session. This time, our priority is to ban abortion by dismemberment. Next time, we will win a little bit more. The time after that, we will win a little bit more. Eventually, abortion will never be able to return as law of the land.

You and I don't have to lead a march. You and I don't have to spend every single day at the Capitol like the Legislative team of Texas Right to Life does. We simply have to support them financially, contact our elected officials when there is a need, follow them online (like their website and social media), and become more involved in general with Texas Right to Life. A little bit of effort can go a long way toward saving lives.



Knocking an item off of his bucket list, Frank C. was thrilled to march with thousands of other Pro-Life Texans in January to tell Texas legislators to ban abortion by dismemberment. Pictured here with Development Director Elizabeth McClung, Frank eagerly displayed his poster at the Capitol.

Texas Right to Life grieves the loss of supporter and friend, Katie Garcia

Katherine Lorine Garcia was born January 10, 1983, to Paul and Tina Hoffman. Kate was the second of three children along with her older brother, Joseph Hoffman and younger sister, Lisa Loftice. The family grew up going to the lake, and Kate loved the lake best of all places. It was for her a refuge, a retreat, and a second home. Weekends and summers at the lake were mandatory, for it was there that she could truly relax and simply enjoy time with her family.

On August 11, 2007, she married David Thomas Garcia, her high school sweetheart. In 2010, they welcomed their first-born, John David, followed in 2011 by Lilia Marie, Thomas James in 2013, and Andrew Paul in 2014. In February 2016, Kate was diagnosed with appendiceal cancer, and after a brief remission in the fall, was diagnosed with stage IV in December. On April 5, 2017, while holding David's hand, she entered into her heavenly rest.

Kate loved Jesus and His church with a passion that could be felt by all who knew her. In public, she could be the life of the party or a quiet confidant, often switching from one to the other at will. Despite her gregarious nature and ability to befriend anyone she met, she was strongly introverted, and maintained a healthy balance of time with friends and time alone at home with just her children and David. She loved watching TV and movies, and would often spend

nights at home, snuggled on the couch with David, enjoying a show. She loved to write and kept a daily journal for most of her life.

Katie took her vocation to marriage and family life seriously, and worked tirelessly for her marriage and children. For Katie and David, marriage was like a garden: beautiful to see in bloom. And like a garden, it took work to keep it

pruned, to pull out weeds, to water, and feed. Kate was always reading and researching ways to be the best mother she could be for their four children, and she was an incredible mother: kind but firm, gentle even when disciplining, and purposeful in decision making.

Throughout her illness, Katie wrote and shared her thoughts and reflections online, touching hundreds, even thousands of hearts and drawing them closer to Jesus. That was always her driving force - to bring others closer to God. While at Franciscan University, Kate joined a sisterhood of faithful women—Stella Mariae. Their household greeting, though short, seems fitting as she departs us for her final reward:



“It is the deepest desire of my heart to see you in heaven.”

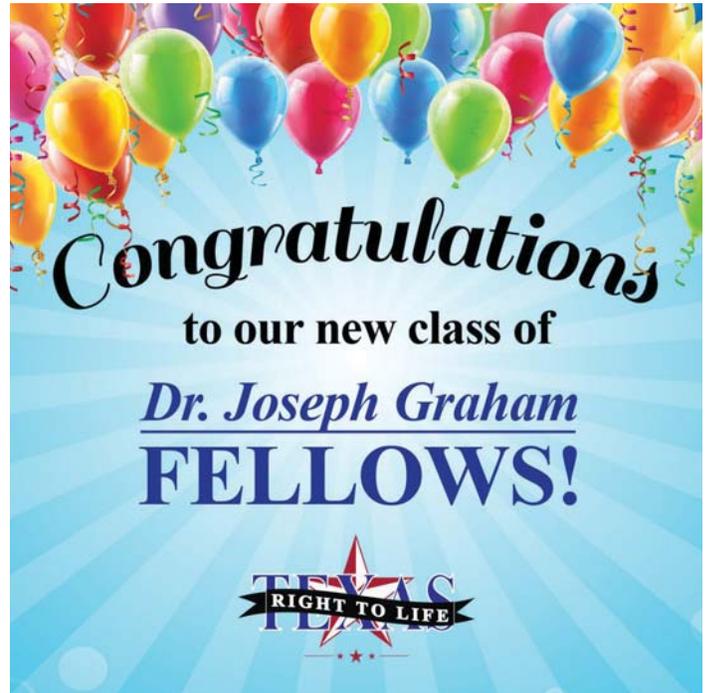
New class of Fellows to impact the Culture of Life on college campuses across Texas

Through the Dr. Joseph Graham College Fellowship, another outstanding group of students will join Texas Right to Life's efforts to expand the Pro-Life movement on campuses across Texas. **Thirty-seven new students have been awarded fellowships for the 2017–2018 school-year** (our largest Fellowship class ever!), and the following four Fellows are attending a school where they will establish a new Pro-Life group.

- Abigail Bumsted; Lone Star Community College-Tomball
- Mary Pinedo; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Mary Henriquez; University of Houston
- Han Gia Nguyen; University of the Incarnate Word

These other 33 Dr. Joseph Graham Fellows will add support to their already existing campus organizations.

- Marissa Trujillo; Abilene Christian University
- Andrew Russell; Angelo State University
- Hannah Fieglein; Houston Baptist University
- Patricia Long; Houston Baptist University
- Danielle Lofgren; LeTourneau University
- Benjamin Lichnovsky; Lone Star Community College-Montgomery
- Olivia Garza; Our Lady of the Lake University
- Katherine Coleman; Sam Houston State University
- Mackenzie Young; Southern Methodist University
- Carla Flores; St. Mary's University
- Crystal Barnett; St. Mary's University
- Allison Claassen; Stephen F. Austin State University
- Ashlyn Ellis; Stephen F. Austin State University
- Jonathan Reed; Texas A&M University
- Katherine Paxton; Texas A&M University
- Katherine Proctor; Texas A&M University
- Kyle Kilgore; Texas A&M University
- Luke VanNorman; Texas A&M University
- Cassandra Guardiola; Texas A&M International University
- Lauren Ibarrola; Texas Christian University
- Kylie Larzelere; Texas State University
- Campbell Williams; Texas Tech University
- Skylar Moore; Texas Tech University
- Trey Schwartz; Texas Tech University
- Kailey DeLuca; Trinity University



- Andrew Collart; University of Dallas
- Mary Kate Tomassi; University of Dallas
- Daminh Tran; University of St. Thomas
- Lloyd Lyssy; University of St. Thomas
- Daniel Tighe; University of Texas-Arlington
- Emily Sykes; University of Texas-Arlington
- Marisa Creixell; University of Texas
- Gabriel Martinez; University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley

In years past, all new Fellows attended a weeklong training in Houston during the month of June, but Texas Right to Life is thrilled to announce an additional training for new Fellows to take place in North Texas July 30–August 5! The new Fellows listed above will attend one of the two trainings during the summer which will equip them with Pro-Life knowledge and leadership skills for them to take back to their campuses for a new school year of volunteering, activism, and outreach to their college peers.

Please pray for our new Fellows and the Texas Right to Life Education department as preparations are made for the trainings in Houston and North Texas and for the 2017–2018 school year!

Pro-Life Aggies' 7th Annual 5K supports pregnant and parenting students

Pro-Life Aggies at Texas A&M celebrated their 7th Annual "Run for Their Lives" 5K on February 25, 2017.

With more than 200 runners (and walkers, joggers, strollers, babies, and pets) in attendance, the event was a vibrant mashup of athletic contest, fundraiser, and scholarship ceremony. The race began and ended with music, warmups, and cheers over a loudspeaker, and was followed by a raffle, medals for 1st-3rd place, and free food sponsored by Chick-Fil-A.

Attendees gathered in the grass during lunch to hear Claudia Turcott's story of choosing Life for her daughter while in college, after walking out of an abortion operating room twice. That same daughter, Taylor Turcott, is now a recipient of Texas Right to Life's Dr. Joseph Graham Fellowship, and she is the Meeting Coordinator of Pro-Life Aggies. Claudia and Taylor are wonderful witnesses to the fact that women can overcome the hardship associated with pregnancy in college, and that both mothers and their children can be successful amid a crisis.

The Turcott's story was the perfect transition to the crux of the 5K event: an award ceremony for the Pregnant & Parenting Student Scholarship, established by Pro-Life Aggies in 2010. This year, six young parents at Texas A&M, either currently pregnant or already raising their children, were selected to receive scholarships based on both merit and need, to assist with the new financial responsibilities



The 2016-2017 officer team of Pro-Life Aggies.

of parenthood in addition to college. One mother was set to receive \$1,000, and five others were to receive \$500 scholarships.

Allyson Hunter, the current Pro-Life Aggies president, announced a pleasant surprise to everyone in attendance that due to funds raised within the hour of the 5K, scholarship recipients were now each going to receive \$1,000. To cheers and plenty of high fives, each beaming mother posed for a photo with her oversized scholarship

"Pro-Life Aggies" continued on page 6→



A PPSS recipient and her son.



Claudia Turcott with Veronica Arnold Smither and Taylor Turcott.



Allyson Hunter presents a check to a PPSS recipient.

To achieve victory in Texas, you have to beat the clock

One hundred forty days. Twenty weeks. Five months. Tick tock. One hundred eight thousand lives gone and voices lost.

One hundred forty days every two years is the only chance we have to rescue these precious souls from the slaughter, to save as many as we can, but we are up against an unyielding and apathetic clock.

Of course, the apathy of the clock would be meaningless if we did not also have to fight the indifference of those with power to use the clock against us. Republicans in House leadership have thus far buried our life-saving legislation into the no man's land of committees that have not and may not set these bills for hearings. (Keep in mind these are Republicans that have campaigned to you, the voters, as Pro-Life champions.)

The Texas Constitution prohibits bills that are not emergency items from being debated on either chamber floor before 60 days of session. While committees may hear bills before then, the real work rarely starts in committees before the 60 day mark, for better or worse. Committees will seldom meet more than once a week, and with every committee schedule posted without your legislation's inclusion, your bills lose another chance, and their life spans lose another week.

This, of course, can be positive for conservatives. After all, the system is designed to stifle bills, to encourage less government, and enable fewer restrictions on your liberties. This is why we only meet every other year, why we pay our lawmakers part-time salaries, and tell them not to quit their day jobs. Texans don't want our elected officials constantly thinking about passing new laws, but this system has the power to be used for good and evil.

The Dismemberment Abortion Ban (HB 844 by Representative Stephanie Klick) was referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on February 21. This life-saving legislation is the top priority of Texas Right to Life and a

strong priority of the Texas Senate, which passed the bill on March 20. The deadline for House bills to be voted out of committee and still eligible for the House floor is May 8.

For the month of May until session ends on May 29, a calendar* begins circulating around the Capitol. Officially called the "Deadlines for Action," this is colloquially referred to as "The Death Calendar" by anyone whose bill hangs by a thread. This calendar may ring familiar for attentive Pro-Life activists or anyone watching the Texas Legislature closely. During the last days that House bills and

Senate bills are eligible for the calendar, conservative and Pro-Life priorities are strategically placed at the end of the 15-page docket. This invites the Democratic biennial tradition, which Republicans repeatedly enable, known as "chubbing." In other words, Democrats act out on the floor, theatrically asking asinine questions or seizing extra opportunities to speak while the clock inches closer to midnight and bills continue to die. Establishment Republicans then blame Democrats for the death of these bills by pretending the injury was not self-inflicted.



If the Texas Legislature doesn't pass life-saving bills, **100,000 PREBORN BABIES WILL DIE** by the next time they convene.

TexasRightToLife.com
#ProLifeStrong

Recall in 2011 when a bill to outlaw coerced abortions was on the end of a long calendar on the last day House bills could be debated on the floor. And again in 2015, when a bill prohibiting your insurance premiums from paying for abortion coverage, SB 575 by Senator Larry Taylor, was sent to the House and became victim to the same death on the House floor.

At the end of the day, Pro-Life voters are awaiting action on life-saving legislation from the Texas House. The clock is ticking. Because at the end of 140 days, bills will be far from the only things that die.

* <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/scanned/calendars/2017calendar.pdf>

■ by *Emily Horne*

← “Pro-Life Aggies” continued from page 4

check and the leaders of Pro-Life Aggies.

After all the events, two of the founders of the Pregnant and Parenting Student Scholarship, Jennifer Rumpf and Veronica Arnold Smither, gathered all the current leaders for the annual reminiscent photo. Jennifer Rumpf led Pro-Life Aggies as the president in 2011, and is now months away from starting her residency program as an OB-GYN. Veronica Arnold Smither led Pro-Life Aggies as the president in 2010, and now works as the Education Director for Texas Right to Life. Both are avid, proud supporters of Pro-Life Aggies to this day.



The crowd gathering to watch the post 5K events.

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

In Memory/In Honor of

Sandy Zeek
Pauline Wiegand
Joseph A. Gross
Pauline Wiegand
Pauline Wiegand

Given By

Sandra T.
Joe & Barbara
Joyce D.
Russell & Teresa
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Occasion

Memorial
Memorial
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Please mail your contribution and this completed form to us.

Texas Right to Life
9800 Centre Parkway, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77036

Enclosed is our gift of \$ _____.

Thank you for your gift.

100% of your gift goes into our scholarship fund to educate and equip the next generation of Pro-Life leaders. No part of your donation will be used for fundraising, overhead costs, or salaries.

Because of your generosity, new Pro-Life heroes are being trained on college campuses daily. Thank you.

In Memory of: _____

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