



NEWS

*Information
you won't see
anywhere else.*

INSIDE

December 2017

Texas Right to Life recognizes Dr. Joseph Graham Fellowship during the 20th Annual Celebration of Life.

You help us defend preborn babies from dismemberment abortion in the Dismemberment Abortion Ban trial.



You came. You saw. You celebrated.

This fall, hundreds upon hundreds of Texans gathered together in Houston and Dallas to celebrate Life. The 20th Annual Celebration of Life in Houston on November 3, and the 2nd Annual North Texas Celebration of Life on November 10, generated crowds of more than 1,000 and 400 respectively.

Masses of Pro-Lifers flocked to these two cities to partner with Texas Right to Life in our life-saving educational, legislative, and political work. Keynote speakers Dan Compton and Jewels Green both shared riveting stories of how abortion has affected their lives.

Dan's own mother visited the infamous late-term abortionist George Tiller while she was pregnant with him. Jewels' pre-conversion life, having an abortion and working in the abortion industry, made her conversion to the Pro-Life side much more powerful.

Elected officials who boldly contributed to Texas's passage of life-saving laws this year were honored at both events. Championing the Right to Life of vulnerable patients in hospitals across Texas, Honorable Greg Bonnen, M.D., (R-Friendswood) was instrumental to passing the Patient Consent for Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders bill. Dr. Bonnen, a neurosurgeon, carried one of Texas Right to Life's priority bills regarding Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders, mandating that patient consent be obtained before a DNR Order can be issued by a doctor. Texas Right to Life was honored to present Dr. Bonnen with a Pro-Life Hero Award.

Senator Brandon Creighton was first elected to the Texas House in 2007 and then to the Texas Senate in 2014, and he has consistently achieved high Pro-Life rankings throughout his political tenure. For his outstanding Pro-Life commitment, and his successful passage of the Pro-Life Health Insurance Reform bill, Texas Right to Life honored Senator Creighton as a Pro-Life Hero of 2017.

For several sessions, Senator Larry Taylor has carried one of Texas Right to Life's priority bills to eliminate health insurance coverage of elective abortion, ensuring you do not subsidize the abortions of others through private and public health insurance premiums. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Senator Taylor passed the insurance bill not once, not twice, but four times.

Nine years of the Dr. Joseph Graham Fellowship were spotlighted, giving even the most seasoned Pro-Lifer hope for the next generation. The Dr. Joseph Graham Fellowship has grown from being a program that trained eight undergraduates to training 77 in the 2017-2018 school year alone. These 77 students on 29 college campuses join the ranks of hundreds of young adults who are building the Culture of Life among their peers, faculty, and communities.

Keep an eye on your email and the next newsletter for the dates of our galas in 2018.

[See photos on page 6.](#)

Why the end of 2017 motivates YOU to give

The holidays are upon us. While the rest of the world is preparing to line the perimeter of their Christmas trees with presents, we have an additional preparation this season.

We are readying our hearts to celebrate the first coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Proclaiming Jesus's birth is particularly relevant to our Pro-Life convictions and work. Until Christmas day, Jesus was a preborn child. He shared our time in the womb just as he shares our humanity.

Some people view December 31 as the last day to give their charitable contributions for the chance to write that gift off with their taxes. For those of us who see Jesus as the reason for the season, our giving is motivated by more than a tax deduction.

Our giving is motivated by our relationship with Jesus.

Because of His willingness to be humbled to the point of becoming but a babe among us, we in turn want to exhibit the same humility and selflessness. We give because love motivates us to do so.

Until Christmas day,
Jesus was a preborn child.

Before 2017 comes to a close, know that everyone at Texas Right to Life is eternally grateful for your generosity.

Whether you are called to support the Texas Right to Life Committee (our legislative efforts), the Texas Right to Life Educational fund (our programs for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students), or the Texas Right to Life Political Action Committee (to elect Pro-Life men and women to office), know that your donation is being turned into a tool by which the Culture of Life is being built.

BUILDING PRO-LIFE FOUNDATIONS

**BOOTS ON
THE GROUND**

JANUARY 27-28, 2018

**WILLIAM B. TRAVIS BUILDING
1701 CONGRESS AVE. #1
AUSTIN, TX 78701**



**A PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**PRESENTED BY *TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE*
HOSTED BY *TEXAS STUDENTS FOR LIFE*
AT THE *UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS***

REGISTER NOW!

BOOTSONTHEGROUNDTX.COM

Historic hearing on Dismemberment Abortion Ban concludes

A five-day trial on the Pro-Life Dismemberment Abortion Ban concluded November 8 in Federal District Judge Lee Yeakel's court. The trial is the latest development in a challenge to the law by several abortion clinics and abortionists contending the measure is unconstitutional. Blocking the enforcement of the bill, Judge Yeakel granted a temporary restraining order in September that expired in late November. The full trial alone is a noteworthy victory for the Pro-Life movement in Texas.

The ban outlaws a gruesome abortion procedure in which a living preborn child is torn limb from limb while his or her heart is still beating. The dismemberment of a living child *in utero* is a barbaric and inhumane practice, and legislators acted upon their compelling state interest by protecting preborn Life with the Dismemberment Abortion Ban.

In this trial, abortion clinics like Whole Woman's Health and multiple Planned Parenthoods argued that outlawing dismemberment abortions would force Texas abortionists to resort to unsafe, unfamiliar, and "experimental" abortion procedures to comply with Senate Bill 8. When on the stand, Texas abortionists challenging SB 8 contradicted one another and admitted to being trained in alternative abortion methods in compliance with the Dismemberment Abortion Ban. At the end of the day, the abortion industry was forced to graphically describe the draconian and violent process of taking a child's life through dismemberment, while also defending the practice they claim Texas has no right to prohibit.

Former abortionist Anthony Levatino, M.D., gave the court a brutal step-by-step explanation of the abortion procedure and his gut-wrenching personal conversion story that caused him to become a Pro-Life activist. Other important witnesses were current abortionists or neutral medical experts in Texas who entirely contradicted claims by the plaintiffs who explained the straightforward and common-sense ways that the abortion clinics challenging the law could comply.



Lastly, a public health expert and OB-GYN systematically and patiently went through a plethora of the relevant medical, scientific, peer-reviewed literature to read into the court record how claims being made by the abortion industry about dismemberment abortions and the alternative procedures were categorically false.

In closing arguments, the attorney general's legal team passionately defended Texas's compelling state interest in protecting the life of the preborn child. The legal team argued that this state interest, protection for the preborn, is identical to the legal basis for the Supreme Court's 2007 ruling in *Gonzales v. Carhart* that upheld a ban on partial-birth abortion. That state interest justifies outlawing the similarly gruesome and inhumane procedure of causing the deaths of preborn children by removing their limbs from their bodies in the womb. Underscoring the brutality of the procedure, the attorney for the state keenly declared the "dark irony if the same constitution that requires humane execution of criminals is the same constitution that bars Texans from banning live dismemberment of an unborn child."

Judge Yeakel, who has ruled against Pro-Life legislation in several high-profile cases, is not expected to have the final ruling on this landmark case. Yeakel's anti-Life rulings are routinely appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals where Pro-Life legislation typically receives a fair assessment. Texas Right to Life supports Attorney General Ken Paxton's efforts to defend the Dismemberment Abortion Ban in the highest court necessary to honor Texas's intent to protect innocent human Life.

Texas Right to Life was in the federal court for the entire five-day trial. We will publish additional analyses at TexasRightToLife.com regarding Yeakel's ruling and the progression of the case.

EARN UP TO \$8,000 FOR COLLEGE!

APPLICATIONS DUE

MAR

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2018

**Dr. Joseph Graham Fellowship
For College Pro-Life Leaders**

Requirements:

- Devote 50 hours per semester to on-campus Pro-Life work at your university.
- Attend two all-expensepaid trainings at the Texas Right to Life HQ in Houston.
- Submit brief weekly updates.
- Start a Pro-Life group if one doesn't exist at your university.



**FOR MORE INFO AND TO
APPLY NOW
VISIT: TEXASRIGHTTOLIFE.COM**

QUESTIONS?
Contact: Fellowship@TXRTL.com
713-782-5433



SAVING LIVES • DEFENDING THE INNOCENT • PROMOTING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Bioethicist Wesley J. Smith tours Texas schools

November 6-10, renowned bioethicist, attorney, and author Wesley J. Smith toured Texas medical and law schools with an important message. Smith's tour, "Medical Ethics: Patient vs. Doctor Rights in the Texas Advance Directives Act," informed medical and law students of changes in health care law that threaten conscience protections for physicians, and threaten patients' rights against rationed healthcare. Smith explained the Texas Advance Directives Act specifically, the most dangerous of such laws in the nation and colloquially known as the "10 Day Law," which allows health panels to make judgment calls on a patient's quality of life and remove life-sustaining treatment against a patient's will with no due process.

To adequately prepare these students for their future careers as physicians and attorneys, Smith educated students in conscience rights, euthanasia policies, and the protections for patients and physicians against policies that view humans as no more than dollar signs.

Smith's tour stopped at six schools in five cities:

- UT Health, San Antonio
- McGovern Medical School, Houston
- Texas A&M College of Health, College Station
- UT Medical Branch, Galveston
- UH Law Center, Houston
- SMU School of Law, Dallas



Texas A&M nursing and medical students have a joint group, with regular attendance of 65 students per meeting.



UTMB Galveston medical student leaders market their meetings and attract students to attend the lecture.



UT Health Science Center San Antonio hosts 40 students, many of whom stayed for conversation long after the lecture.



Wesley J. Smith tells stories of protecting patients and doctors from unethical medical policies.

20th Annual
Celebration of Life
 November 3, 2017
 Benefiting *Texas Right to Life*



Texas Right to Life recognizes Senator Brandon Creighton as a 2017 Pro-Life Hero.



Keynote speaker Dan Compton and his wife, Jana (left), with Dr. Rob and Terri S. (middle). Their daughter, Madeleine, and her friend Candice attend their first Celebration of Life.



Students from across Texas are recognized for their Pro-Life work on college campuses.

Dr. Greg Bonnen receives a 2017 Pro-Life Hero Award.



Over 1,000 Pro-Lifers gather at the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston.



Senator Taylor receives an award for his service as an unwavering Pro-Life warrior.



Jason and Angela L. have long been friends of Texas Right to Life.

Celebrate Christmas with fellow Pro-Life young adults at the Young Adult Life Link (Y'ALL) Christmas Party in Houston on December 15, and North Texas on December 16. Wear your tackiest Christmas sweater and join us for an evening of fun! Young adults build the future, and shape a Culture of Life.



Y'ALL CHRISTMAS PARTY
 YOUNG ADULT LIFE LINK HOUSTON
DECEMBER 15, 2017
 7:30 – 9:30 P.M. | ADULTS IN THEIR 20s & 30s
CHUY'S - WESTCHASE \$10 AT THE DOOR
 9305 WESTHEIMER RD. WEAR A TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!
 HOUSTON, TX 77063



Y'ALL CHRISTMAS PARTY
 YOUNG ADULT LIFE LINK NORTH TEXAS
DECEMBER 16, 2017
 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. | ADULTS IN THEIR 20s & 30s
THE HOME OF DR. AND MRS. REEVES \$5 AT THE DOOR
 7120 GASTON AVE. DALLAS, TX 75214 WEAR A TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

In Memory/In Honor of	Given By	Occasion	In Memory/In Honor of	Given By	Occasion
Gladys Mendiola	Mr. & Mrs. Michael M.	Memorial	Margaret & Mo Petitbon	Mr. & Mrs. M. & Rosiana L.	Memorial
Gladys Mendiola	Mrs. Evelyn P.	Memorial	Madison James Rinaldi	Mr. Thomas B. B.	Memorial
Gladys Mendiola	Mrs. Amy F.	Memorial	Andrew Dojs	Mr. Lucille S. L.	Memorial
Norma M.	Anonymous	Honor			

Texas Right to Life Educational Trust Fund Memorial and Honor Tribute

Please mail your contribution and this completed form to us.
 Texas Right to Life
 9800 Centre Parkway, Suite 200
 Houston, TX 77036

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

For (occasion): _____

Enclosed is our gift of \$ _____

Address: _____

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.

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

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

Phone: _____

