

**North Dakota
Family Alliance**

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**From the Executive
Director**

*“We Must Understand the Benefits
of Incremental Change.”
– Tom D. Freier, Exec. Dir.*

Life... It is said the most dangerous place for a child today is in the mother's womb. How true! One out of three will not survive. And the 3,300 American babies who are terminated every day represent a number greater than those killed on that tragic and memorable day, September 11th. These unborn little boys and girls have no voice; they have no means to defend themselves. Where is the outrage? Where is the resolve to stop this daily massacre?

As we pledge to save each of these precious little ones, we must avail ourselves to every aspect of help possible—not the least of which is calling on The Almighty.

One way we can help now is to educate and inform the public. We must share the real facts; the truth. The lies and distortions surrounding the abortion topic must be corrected. For public policy to be affected, the public needs to arm itself with valid information to be shared with public policy makers. Science and medical technology now has provided undisputable evidence greatly enhancing our view and understanding of the creation of life.

We need not only share information from a moral and faith perspective, but from an economic perspective. More than 1,200 abortions are performed in our state every year. How has the loss of now 35,000-plus in North Dakota affected the filling of job openings, the enrollment in schools, and solvency in our national social security system? Does anyone oppose keeping our young people in state? Maybe we should start with keeping our youngest people alive. Imagine the positive economic impact these children will never make.

The perspective of post abortive women demands to be heard. *(continued on page 4)*



**North Dakota's Legislative
Life Agenda Continues**

The North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) continues to pursue legislation to save the life of the unborn. As has been the case, our philosophy will continue to be to work to end *all* abortions, and at the same time to support efforts to save even one little unborn boy or girl.

We will continue to follow the South Dakota fall ballot initiative to ban abortions being used as birth control, and lend support as we can. NDFA will continue to consider the option of having similar legislation offered here in North Dakota. (For more details on the initiative, see separate SD Initiative article on page 3).

NDFA is in the process of developing, offering, and supporting a number of legislative initiatives: *(continued on page 4)*

**Voter Guide –
You Can Impact
ND Election Results!**

The North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) is preparing a North Dakota Voter's Guide to educate and inform the state's residents of statewide and legislative leaders up for election in the November General Election. Candidates' responses to questions important to the family will be featured in the guide.

Help put these 20,000 guides in your local area's churches, businesses and homes by contacting Lesli (lmccully@ndfa.org; 701-223-3575) at NDFA to receive a free shipment and ideas for distribution.

You can impact North Dakota's election results!



Who We Are

The North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) is a state-based organization dedicated to strengthening and upholding traditional family values.

NDFA is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-partisan organization founded in 1987.

We provide credible research and informational resources to groups, individuals and policy makers on important moral, social and public policy issues facing North Dakota.

Mention and/or publication of outside articles, websites and additional resources do not necessarily reflect NDFA's endorsement.

Helpless and Hopeless: Evidence and Testimonies of Post-Abortive Women

“I don’t know what would have changed my mind on the day I had the abortion. I felt helpless. There was nowhere to turn. I felt hopeless.” These are typical remarks from post abortive women as they tell their stories.

A husband, boyfriend, or even a mother or father, encouraged or even pressured them to exercise what was advised as their “only choice” — the choice to terminate the unplanned, unwanted, or inconvenient pregnancy. The positive benefits of bringing this baby into the world seem greatly outweighed at the time by feelings of despair. The thought process is focused on a short term immediate solution, and not on its long term dangerous effects, nor on the fact that the life of another living human being will be terminated.

What really is the aftermath of an abortion? What are the consequences? One post abortive woman shares, “A large part of my heart and soul died the day I had the abortion. I cannot begin to describe the pain that I felt. I only know that I would not wish this onto my worst enemy. To this day I don’t know how the nurses and abortionists can perform these abortions on a daily basis and live with themselves. I know that I could hardly live with myself and I only had one.”

Mental anguish is experienced by those who do not pursue a healing process. “Your self image is as low as it could possibly be. You are telling yourself, ‘I have done the worst thing imaginable; I have allowed my own child to be removed and terminated. It is nonreversible.’ ”

It is being found that many post abortive women experience the lowering of their morality standard in a downward spiral afterwards, too. Concepts of right and wrong are measured differently; decisions to do wrong are rationalized since they are seemingly no worse than the taking of their child’s life. Many face problematic issues of drugs, alcohol, depression, promiscuity, inability to bond with children, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies, and in many cases withholding themselves from their husband.

What a powerful insight into the heartache and pain caused by abortion.

So how do post abortive women deal with the long-lasting emotional effects of abortion? Many continue to live with the ongoing pain., but an increasing amount are succeeding in a healing process that confronts the devastating effects. Though not fast or easy, the process eventually provides an unimaginable sense of relief and change of heart and spirit. Many organizations and programs exist to assist in this healing process.*

There are others who have a story to tell—husbands, boyfriends, mothers, fathers, and doctors. Their roles and accompanying stories can shed additional light on abortions’ effects. They are also in need of healing, and subsequently are also becoming advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves – a lost generation. These testimonies and facts are capable of awakening one’s spirit to the truths of abortion, with God’s help.

* Organizations to assist you, or someone you know, with the healing process:

- www.operationoutcry.org 1-866-4-OUTCRY
 - www.rachelsvineyard.org 877-HOPE-FOR-ME
 - www.silentnomoreawareness.org
- Local pro-life pastors and counselors

“...a large part of my heart and soul died the day I had the abortion. I cannot begin to describe the pain that I felt.”

Key Updates from South Dakota

South Dakota (SD) Initiated Measure #11

As you may already be aware, voters in South Dakota will cast their ballots November 4th on Measure #11, which is an act to protect the lives of unborn children, and the interests and health of pregnant mothers, by prohibiting abortions except if the mother's life or health is at risk, and in cases of rape and incest. If successful, this measure would not protect every unborn child, but would affect 98% of current South Dakota abortions that are occurring for birth control purposes.

The outcome of this measure in South Dakota is of great importance to us here in North Dakota, and all across the nation. It will have a tremendous effect on all states as they prepare their own upcoming legislative agendas occurring after this decision.

We are needed to:

REJOICE – that South Dakotans submitted petitions with over 50,000 signatures (one of the largest numbers in SD history) to get this initiative on the ballot...in just two and a half months during one of the coldest winters in decades...with a 100% volunteer effort...with no out-of-state volunteers helping to gather signatures...and by keeping the petitions in fire-proof safes to present to the SD Secretary of State's office last March. Here's what was said about this back then, *"Thank you to all the pro-life people of South Dakota who made it all happen. You did it! To God be the glory!"*

PRAY – We must ask God to intervene on behalf of the unborn by influencing this SD vote that can spur on other states' pro-life legislative journeys.

SUPPORT – We must support this initiative with our time, talent, and treasure. Learn how at SD's website - www.voteeyesforlife.com

An Incremental Change Victory for South Dakota, and Why the Nation is Watching

As reported in the Fargo Forum on Sunday, July 20th, South Dakota doctors must now, as of July 18, tell a woman seeking an abortion that the process "will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique living human being."

Rather than comply, Planned Parenthood closed its doors on Monday, July 21, of the only abortion facility in South Dakota. It is not known at the time of this writing whether this is temporary or long term. Dr. Allen Unruh, a leading pro-life advocate who works with South Dakota's Alpha Pregnancy Center, told LifeNews.com that Monday was a historic day. "...for now, the regular abortions were canceled today as the abortionist refused to show up," he explained. "We will see if any other abortionists plan to take the risks involved with full disclosure of what they do to women and their unborn children," he added.

The now required script has been tied up in court since 2005 due to a Planned Parenthood challenge. Since July 1, South Dakota doctors are also required to ask a woman seeking an abortion if she wants to see a sonogram of the fetus...something that once seen, often changes the mind of the woman. Those same doctors are also required to say that "abortion increases the risk of suicide ideation and suicide." The messages must be delivered no earlier than 2 hours before the abortion procedure...and the women must say in writing that she understands.

Why is the nation watching South Dakota's impact on the abortion crisis? *(continued on page 4)*

From the Executive Director *(Continued from page 1)*

The emotionally traumatic effect of an abortion cries out for help and healing, and provides a necessary and unique insight. Others having a role must share their perspectives, including husbands, boyfriends, mothers, fathers, and doctors.

While we work to save every unborn life, we must understand the benefits of incremental change as well. Ultrasound legislation, alternatives to abortion education and strengthened informed consent language can and will save one unborn life at a time.

As of this letter’s printing South Dakota Planned Parenthood has indefinitely stopped providing abortions as a result of the recently upheld informed consent law. The law requires such facilities to inform an abortion-seeking woman that she is terminating a life and exposing herself to a higher risk of suicide and depression. SD Planned Parenthood abortionists are currently frightened out of practice.

As we offer and support these incremental initiatives, we wait with great anticipation to see the outcome of the South Dakota’s most sweeping attempt—a fall ballot initiative that will ban abortions for the purpose of birth control.

God bless your and your family.



Tom D. Freier

*“...And he who believes on Him
will by no means be put to shame.”*

1 Peter 2:6 NKJV

North Dakota’s Legislative Life Agenda Continues
(Continued from page 1)

NDFA is in the process of developing, offering, and supporting a number of legislative initiatives:

1) Informed Consent

a. Ultrasounds required. We believe North Dakota law should require an ultrasound to be performed on the woman requesting an abortion. Both the viewing of the sonogram image and the hearing of the audible heart tones must be offered to the woman and her response documented. Provisions must be incorporated to guarantee the accuracy and full disclosure as ultrasound information and findings are reviewed and shared with the woman.

b. Disclosure—clarifying the outcome of the procedure. Included in the information being shared with the woman requesting an abortion would be that the abortion will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being, and that by having an abortion her existing relationship and constitutional rights with regards to that relationship will be terminated. Necessary documentation would need to be filed for review.**

2) Enhance alternatives to abortion educational programs. As the current ‘Alternatives to Abortion’ program is reviewed, provisions should address the ability to enhance the effectiveness of reaching a higher percentage of those contemplating an abortion with necessary and appropriate information.

As we work with partners, both legislative and like-minded association allies, we will share more detail as to the specific legislation.

** South Dakota (SD) Bill 1166 passed by the 2005 SD legislature and was upheld by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals

An Incremental Change Victory for South Dakota, and Why the Nation is Watching *(Continued from page 3)*

Why is the nation watching South Dakota’s impact on the abortion crisis? These are milestone changes for South Dakota, and what happens in one state often carries over to others. About 700+ abortions are performed in South Dakota each year. Also, anti-abortion forces in South Dakota have been trying for years to halt the procedure and to build a winnable challenge to the Roe v Wade 1973 decision legalizing abortion nationwide. We must pray for the legal minds and efforts surrounding this challenge, for the outcome *will* affect North Dakota’s unborn. The next South Dakota mile-marker is November 4, when its state’s voters will be asked in a November 4th Initiated Measure to consider broad limits on abortion for the second time since 2006 (the first time did not include the exception clauses as listed above, and therefore failed). North Dakota is close behind, with similar legislative actions taking place in January 2008.

For updates on these issues — go to www.ndfa.org or www.voteyesforlife.com.

New Board Member, James Kerian, Shares His Story

How did your early life mold you religiously?

I was born and raised in Grafton, ND, the second of five children from John & Susan Kerian. Every aspect of my parents' lives has been formed by their Roman Catholic faith and this has always helped my siblings and me to see the foolishness of trying to keep faith under a basket.

Did your parents have an effect on you politically?

Although my parents were of different political parties, they both shared a great love for this country and this state. They shared this love with us at an early age and expected us to be very conscious of what was going on politically and culturally both in North Dakota and in the United States as a whole. My childhood contained many political meetings and conventions; we worked on mass mailings, protested outside of abortion clinics (all of which have now closed thanks be to God) and distributed voters' guides from the Christian Coalition door-to-door in Grafton. Despite all the political activity we were always the first priority. The fact that we were homeschooled has helped to keep us all very close as a family.

What types of extra-curricular activities were you involved in?

I was involved in 4-H, started a fencing club, played basketball for Grafton High School and was a Boy Scout from Tiger Cubs to Eagle Scout. My convictions often carried over into these aspects of my life. For my Eagle Scout Project I collected donations from local businesses, churches, and community organizations to pay for a memorial to the babies killed by abortion. My fellow Scouts and I placed this memorial in the Grafton City Cemetery where it remains to this day as a place of mourning for our community.

Where did life take you after finishing high school?

I attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington from 2001 to 2005 and there I earned my B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering. My wife, Eleri, and I were married there in June of 2006. While still at school Eleri and I fought what turned out to be a losing battle for the Catholic identity of the university as it was being taken over by the secular and anti-Christian influence that now runs rampant in so much of the academic world. Since graduation I have worked at Kerian Machines Inc, a small factory in Grafton that is co-owned by my family. Eleri and I now share our lives with our two beautiful little girls.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy writing on public policy issues that interest me from immigration and economics, to abortion and marriage.

Has your work been published?

Recently "Yellow Science," an article that I wrote about the global warming debate, was picked up by the Wall Street Journal On-Line.

Of the ND Family Alliance issues, which one is closest to your heart?

Abortion is the primary issue facing each and every one of us right now. Not just morally, but politically, culturally and socially. There is nothing to compare with the mass murder of millions of completely innocent children that is taking place right in front of us. This is an issue that can, and must, bring us together across political and religious lines. We must all step forward to help the North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) in whatever way we can to change public policy and to save the lives of these children. The NDFA has been a solid and consistent defender of the unborn and I believe that supporting this organization is the best way to promote a culture of life here in North Dakota.

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

- President George Washington

*Encouraging Hearts, Equipping Minds,
Empowering Lives...
Strengthening Families in North Dakota*

Family Week in North Dakota!

Building on last year's successful North Dakota Family Week initiated by us at the North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFA) and proclaimed by Governor Hoeven, we will be promoting activities again that focus on the family and/or that encourage families spending time together. Family Week will occur the 3rd week in November.

Encourage a family emphasis at your church, school, and in your community in whatever ways you deem appropriate. Contact us for general Family Week posters for your area. And be sure YOU have valuable family time. God will honor your actions.



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Have You Been To Our Website Lately?



Look at the latest news!

www.ndfa.org

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Contributions to the North Dakota Family Alliance are tax-deductible as stated under the IRS code, section 501 (c) (3).

N DFA

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