



THE TORCH

— Texas Eagle Forum —

January 2018 • Volume 31/Number 1



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Texas Eagle Forum's Website

Check out Texas Eagle Forum's website for campaign updates and news from around the state.

Go to texaseagle.org

Unborn Down Syndrome Babies Have a Right to Life

By **Texas Right To Life**, 10/30/17

The popular advocacy website, "The Mighty," shared a video on Facebook that captures the simple truth about abortion and Down syndrome. The video has reached nearly eight

million views, and once you watch, you understand why. In the video, Frank Stephens, who has Down syndrome, defends his Right to Life and the Right to Life of all people with disabilities. His words are simple and direct,

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and his message is that our society accept him and people like him as human beings. As Stephens says, “I am a man with Down syndrome and my life is worth living.”

Stephens testified in a Congressional subcommittee in order to advocate the importance of scientific research for Down syndrome. As he said in his opening statement, “No one knows more about life with Down syndrome than I do.” As an individual living with Down syndrome, Stephens speaks about his experiences to counter the narrative that people with Down syndrome suffer from an inferior quality of Life.

In the full testimony, Stephens explains that he has lectured at universities, acted in an award-winning film, and spoken to thousands of young people about the value of inclusion. And yet, Stephens makes clear, these accomplishments are not the reason why his Life has value, and he and every other person should be given a chance at Life.

In the world’s wealthiest nations an anti-Life attitude that a child diagnosed with Down syndrome in utero should be killed instead of given a chance at Life is increasingly common. The consequences of this culture of death are many. Stephens explains, “Sadly, across the world, a notion is being sold that maybe we don’t need research concerning Down syndrome.” Anti-Life doctors and politicians argue that with more advanced prenatal screening, more parents will be given a prenatal diagnosis and can choose to end their child’s Life in abortion, as Stephens says “those pregnancies will be terminated.” In Iceland, for example, the number of children born with Down syndrome is approaching zero, because almost all mothers who

receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome choose to end their children’s lives in abortion.

Clearly moved as he gave his testimony, Stephens says, “It’s hard for me to sit here and say those words.” He then makes a comparison to the Nazi’s genocidal “final solution,” saying, “I completely understand that the people pushing for this particular ‘final solution’ (aborting babies with Down syndrome) are saying that people like me should not exist.”

What is the message that people with Down syndrome and their families receive when they are told that their lives are not worth living? Stephens shows that even in the face of such grave injustice, he can still find humor while he courageously stands for his Right to Life and the Right to Life of all people with disabilities. His words and smile are a reminder that every abortion takes a Life, and we must work to protect all lives.

In Texas, preborn babies with Down syndrome can be killed in discriminatory abortions. Our strongest Pro-Life laws contain a deadly loophole that allows for the death of people like Stephens and other people with disabilities. Now that Joe Straus and his crony Byron Cook have resigned and no longer have a stranglehold on every Pro-Life bill to come before the Texas House, passing protections for babies with disabilities is long overdue and must be a priority for the next legislative session.

NOTE: January 22, 2018 is the 45th anniversary of Roe v Wade, which legalized the killing of unborn babies in this country. Please pray for the end of this tragic and unconstitutional decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Inspectors Stumble on Ghoulis Scene at Texas Abortion Chain

By **Family Research Council**, 10/31/17

Over a six-year period, the Texas Department of State Health Services stumbled on horrifying scenes in a chain of Texas abortion facilities. Despite raking in millions from its abortion business, Whole Women’s Health didn’t spend any of it ensuring that women had a safe or clean experience. Health workers found dirty and rusty equipment, tools that had been used on multiple patients without being disinfected, bloody suction machines, and staff that weren’t trained or licensed for the procedures they were performing. This is what happens when restaurants and tanning salons are more closely regulated than the abortion industry. Anyone who cares about women’s health and safety should want abortion facilities to be frequently inspected, no matter what their position is on abortion.

According to Texas officials, agents have flagged and cited this same company for violating safety standards, “some dozens of times.” While the CEO of Whole Women’s Health has insisted “there is no safety problem around abortion in Texas,” her own network is exposing mothers to an environment most people wouldn’t want their pets in. Unfortunately, these are the effects of the gradual dulling of the senses for people in the abortion industry. If you destroy innocent lives day in and day out, how could you possibly care about the condition of patients? In the end, the only way to justify taking lives is to become calloused to them.

NOTE: The Texas Tribune (11/13/17) reported Whole Women’s Health proudly announced they provided 85 free abortions to women affected by Hurricane Harvey. If the TDH found such gross violations of the chain “dozens of times,” why wasn’t WWH closed down to protect women’s health?

U.S. Defends Capitalism at the U.N.

Condensed from an article by **Cathie Adams**, Eagle Forum International Issues Chairman, reporting from the United Nation Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, 11/18/17

President Trump's energy agenda assures a bright future for Americans. He and his delegation did an amazing job defending free-market capitalism, national sovereignty, and our standard of living in Bonn without pandering to the radical greens. To stay on this bright path, it is imperative that Americans understand the United Nations agenda, and boldly stand with our President.

The supposed purpose of the Bonn meeting was to create a rulebook to implement the Paris Agreement, but that work will continue into next year at meetings leading up to the next major meeting in Poland.

The real purpose of the Bonn meeting, and every climate change meeting, is to redistribute wealth from rich to poor countries. This statement by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) prior to convening in Bonn affirms the claim: "The LDCs are calling for COP23 to be a COP of finance and support...for two funds in particular, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund." They were highly successful as evidenced by these examples:

- Germany pledged 50 million Euros on the opening day of the conference to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and another 50 million Euros to the Adaptation Fund.
- Germany also pledged an additional \$125 million for an InsuResilience Initiative, a provision of insurance to 400 million poor people by 2020.
- The UK pledged 30 million Pounds to its Centre for Global Disaster Protection. And to immediately begin phasing out its coal usage.
- Norway, Unilever, and the World Bank pledged \$400 million to stimulate resilient social development, i.e. high productivity agriculture, smallholder inclusion, and forest protection. Laura Tuck, VP of sustainable development at the World Bank commented, "Achieving economic development and the eradication of poverty can't be achieved if we don't build climate resilience."
- Thirteen countries and the International Energy Agency pledged 30 million Euros to the "IEA Clean Energy Transitions Program" to support clean energy transitions around the world.
- Microsoft and Walmart also announced pledges to the UN climate change agenda. Microsoft pledged to cut CO2 emissions by 75 percent by 2030. And Walmart pledged to provide commodities that do not increase deforestation.
- A gender action plan, an indigenous peoples platform, and an oceans pathway were created, but the Fiji host did not get what they wanted most: money for storm loss and damage.

Billions or even trillions of dollars will never satisfy the radical greens. Rajjeli Nicole, regional director for Oxfam in the Pacific, put it this way, "For the most part, rich countries



showed up to Bonn empty-handed. Instead, we got a tepid agreement that they'll report back next year on progress towards their \$100 billion promise." The \$100 billion promise is the annual UN Green Climate Fund that currently contains only about \$10 billion.

Litigation abuse is another tool being plied by the radical greens. They have a number of legal cases hoping the courts will impose penalties for climate change on fossil fuel companies, similar to the penalties that were levied against the tobacco industry. They also bragged about potential litigation against major meat producers accusing them of liability for methane emissions.

The U.S. wisely kept a low profile in Bonn. Judith Garber, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, did address the delegations reiterating President Trump's plan to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, yet to remain open to rejoining under terms more favorable to the American people. She reported that while the U.S., since 2005, has reduced net greenhouse gas emissions by 11.5 percent, our economy has grown 15 percent, adjusted for inflation. She added that the U.S. will continue to support the cleanest, most efficient power generation, regardless of the source.

But that didn't prevent U.S. Democratic Senators from Rhode Island, Oregon, Hawaii, and Massachusetts from showing up in Bonn to make delusional claims: "Trump is just a temporary resident of the White House ... Climate outlasts Presidents ... We hold the Trump card ... The American people are still in [the Paris Agreement]."

The undeniable truth is that America's free-market capitalism, our clean air and water, and our standard of living are lights on a hill that can greatly benefit the rest of the world. Should the radical greens choose to take off their socialist blinders, they too can follow our successful path to an even brighter future.

Trayce Bradford Receives the Patriot Award

TEF President Trayce Bradford was honored to receive the 2017 Patriot Award from the Center for Security Policy on November 15 at their annual Keeper of the Flame event in Washington, DC. Trayce was one of eight recipients from Texas to receive this award, which recognizes individuals who pursue freedom, promote “peace through strength,” and remind others who share their commitment to liberty of the work yet to be done. The event also included the presentation of “The Keeper of the Flame” Award to Senator Ted Cruz. Founded by Frank Gaffney, the Center for Security Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to the time-tested philosophy of promoting international peace through American strength. It accomplishes this goal by stimulating and informing national and international policy debates, in particular those involving regional, defense, economic, financial, and technology developments that bear upon the security of the United States.

SOURCE: centerforsecuritypolicy.org



Pro-Life Social Media Saves Lives

Pro-lifers aren't just winning in Washington, D.C. and state houses ... They're winning online! The internet and social media are changing the debate for Life every day. Pro-abortion activist Robin Marty wrote an encouraging column about the domination of the pro-life movement on the internet. “Abortion opponents use the social media platform like a weapon, and with absolute precision,” she says, “and they're winning as a result.” Marty decided to find out how pro-lifers got to be “so good at this.” A lot of movement leaders credit the young generation of pro-lifers. But, Marty thinks, the answer may be the closeness of the community, which is determined to protect Life. “What really makes the anti-abortion movement's Twitter campaigns so successful is that their leaders all work cohesively together, turning several groups into one large social media unit.” It's a cohesion, she says, that's “often lacking in the world of pro-abortion rights activists, and one that is probably unlikely to ever exist.” So take heart! The next time you log on, remember what a difference you're making! Your Facebook page, your Twitter feed, and your Instagram photos can all change the way human life is valued in this country.

SOURCE: Family Research Council, 10/20/17

U.S. Immigration Population Hits Record 43.7 Million

A new analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies of recently released U.S. Census data finds that the nation's immigrant population (legal and illegal) hit a record 43.7 million in 2016. The data also shows more than 16.6 million U.S.-born minor children with an immigrant parent. Immigrants and their young children thus now account for nearly one in five U.S. residents. Growth in the immigrant population was not the same for all countries. There were significant increases in the total number of immigrants from the Middle East, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin American countries other than Mexico, while the number of those from Mexico, Europe, and Canada grew not at all or declined. Dr. Steven Camarota, the Center's director of research, said, “The enormous number of immigrants already in the country coupled with the settlement of well over a million newcomers each year has a profound impact on American society, including on workers, schools, infrastructure, hospitals and the environment. The nation needs a serious debate about whether continuing this level of immigration makes sense.”

SOURCE: Center for Immigration Studies, 10/16/17

Quote of the Month

“The so-called ‘progressive’ left is turning patriotic Americans into aliens in our own country. Anyone who was born here, who is proud of the Founding Fathers, and proud of what America has done for the world, is made by cultural elites to feel like strangers so the left can complete its ‘fundamental transformation’ of America.”

~ Gary Bauer,
American Values, 11/27/17

Great American Quote

“I am convinced that Americans do not want to play God with the value of human life. It is not for us to decide who is worthy to live and who is not.”

~ President Ronald Reagan,
Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation, 1983

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