

Bioethics Public Policy Report February 2025

The Bioethics Public Policy Report is a collaboration between dioceses, parishes, Knights of Columbus councils, grassroots organizations, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center to inform the laity about developments in bioethics and human dignity.



National and International

- Republican senators expressed relief that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. indicated willingness to pursue pro-life policies while leading the Department of Health and Human Services after many had expressed fears about his past stances on abortion.
- The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, which led the campaign for Canada's medical assistance in dying (MAiD) program, is now calling for safeguards, citing instances of abuse. MAiD was responsible for approximately one in twenty deaths in Canada in 2023.
- The Vatican has officially opened the beatification process for King Baudouin of Belgium, who abdicated rather than sign into law a bill decriminalizing abortion in 1990.
- The House of Representatives passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which denies federal funding to entities allowing biological males to participate in women's sports.
- A study by a Canadian think tank indicates a positive association between declining marriage rates and declining birth rates in Western countries.
- Pope Francis has introduced a monthly bonus to Vatican employees with three children or more, and he has called for an end to child labor, exploitation, and abuse.



Federal Courts

- The US Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging a 2018 South Carolina executive order to defund Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood claims that the state violated federal law by denying Medicaid patients a right to coverage at a qualified provider. The Alliance Defending Freedom is representing South Carolina and asserts that Congress did not create any such right as Planned Parenthood asserts.
- An Ohio school district agreed to a \$450,000 settlement after forcing a teacher to resign two years ago for refusing to participate in the social transition of students expressing gender identity different from biological sex. The teacher had objected on religious grounds, believing such social transitioning is untrue and harmful.



States

- Texas has filed suit against a New York State abortionist for mailing medication abortion drugs to a Texas resident. State Attorney General Ken Paxton noted that the patient who was prescribed the pills via telemedicine had to go to the hospital for serious medical complications associated with the drug, and Texas is seeking \$100,000 in fines for each violation.
- In Washington State, a pro-abortion nonprofit has begun a program training pharmacists in dispensing abortion pills. The group, Uplift International, calls the program the Pharmacist Abortion Access Project, with the goal being to facilitate the use of the chemical abortion drugs mifepristone and misoprostol.

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For the full report, visit www.ncbcenter.org/bioethics-public-policy-reports.