



Legal Tips

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The Declaration of Dependence, A Unifying Statement in Support of the Unalienable Right to Life, Needs Your Support and Signatures

This month commemorates the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the infamous decision of the United States Supreme Court that opened the floodgates for abortion on demand in this nation. Since this decision, more than 57 million unborn children have been killed by abortion, and countless men and women have been emotionally scarred by this act.

The pro-life movement has worked hard over the years in many areas to end abortion. Many organizations have worked in the political scene, the educational scene, and, of course, in pro-life Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) and Pregnancy Medical Clinics (PMCs). Such efforts have had a positive impact in reducing abortions. The latest statistics from Centers for Disease Control, a federal agency, report that abortions in 2010 (the latest year statistics are available) were reduced by 3% from the previous year of 2009. Today annual abortions number between 1.1 and 1.2 million. This is a dramatic decrease from the high mark in 1992 when it was estimated that 1.6 million abortions occurred annually.

This decrease in the numbers of abortions is encouraging, but we must soberly understand that over one million abortions annually in America cannot be tolerated. Our goal must be to achieve an abortion-free America where every life, born and unborn, is cherished and protected by the law.

Historically, the pro-life movement has experienced deep divisions over both political and non-political strategies to end abortion. Such divisions have undoubtedly resulted in many failures to pass legislation that would further reduce abortions. They have also caused difficulties for PRCs and PMCs to effectively work in their communities to end abortion.

The Declaration of Dependence: NIFLA believes that all factions of the pro-life movement must unify through a statement of foundational principles that, if implemented, will ultimately achieve an abortion-free America. To this end, NIFLA President Thomas A. Glessner, has drafted **The Declaration of Dependence**, a unifying statement in support of the self-evident and unalienable right to life. As a

tool, this statement is available for all Americans to read, sign, and assert their support for an end to abortion.

The Declaration of Dependence seeks to unify Americans on a set of life principles which, if pursued successfully, will bring about an end to abortion. The principles of this document are derived from the foundations of the American republic, which began with the passionate statement in the Declaration of Independence, that all human beings are created equal and endowed by our Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Declaration of Dependence reaffirms these foundational principles and acknowledges that all of our rights, including the right to life, come from our Creator, and not the government. We must declare our dependence upon our Creator as the ultimate source of such rights. By reaffirming our dependence upon God, we reaffirm the unalienable rights, including the right to life, which He has granted to us.

The Declaration of Dependence does not advocate a specific political agenda to end abortion. It acknowledges that people will continue to disagree on political strategies to achieve the personhood of the unborn and end abortion. However, **The Declaration of Dependence** does set forth unifying, life principles upon which all Americans who value the sanctity of human life can agree. It is through this agreement that an abortion free America can be achieved.

The Declaration of Dependence can be read and signed at: www.declarationofdependence.org. It is our goal to secure the signatures of thousands of Americans to show our unity to end abortion and to state that our ultimate success will come when we declare our dependence upon our Creator. Periodically, as more and more signatures

are obtained, they will be delivered to Congress to show the unity and commitment of Americans to end abortion.

NIFLA is asking that all of its members join with us to secure the signatures of thousands of Americans on this document. We want to challenge each member to obtain at least 100 signatures. To do this you can:

- 1) Read and sign the document at www.declarationofdependence.org
- 2) Have all of your PRC/PMC Board members read and sign.
- 3) Have all of your volunteers read and sign.
- 4) Promote the Declaration's website in your newsletters, email communications, and in your presentations to churches and supporters.
- 5) Pray for the response of our nation to this Declaration and that the hearts of our people will turn to our Creator and work to bring an end to abortion.
- 6) Pass along to your own social networks, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc, information about **The Declaration of Dependence**. Urge them to sign the document and spread the word.

By Thomas Glessner, President, **NIFLA**
(tglessner@nifla.org);

Anne O'Connor, Vice-President for Legal Affairs
(aconnor@nifla.org)

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NIFLA
5610 SOUTHPOINT CENTER BLVD. #103
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22407