

Bioethics Public Policy Report

March 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

- The day before the March for Life in Washington, DC, President Donald Trump issued pardons for twenty-three pro-life activists convicted under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act by the Biden administration for sidewalk counseling outside abortion clinics.
- Senate Democrats blocked the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection bill that would have required doctors to provide lifesaving care to infants who are born alive following an abortion. Republicans needed to obtain three-fifths of the Senate to pass the bill, but the chamber split along party lines, with a vote of 52 to 47, meaning that every Democrat voted against the bill.
- A study found that ulipristal acetate combined with misoprostol was as effective as mifepristone in inducing an abortion. Ulipristal, typically marketed as over-the-counter emergency contraception, is comparatively easier to obtain than mifepristone.



Federal Courts

- A federal judge dismissed with prejudice the case against Eithan Haim, a doctor who leaked documents in 2023 indicating that the largest pediatric hospital in Texas was violating state law by continuing to perform transgender procedures on children.
- Several faith groups, nineteen states, and the Department of Justice have submitted amicus briefs to the US Supreme Court asking it to recognize Catholic Charities as a religious organization following the Wisconsin supreme court's decision that deemed its activities as "primarily secular."
- In a letter to the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice has dropped the lawsuit against Tennessee regarding its statewide ban on transgender procedures for children but has asked that the Court still render a decision on the matter to resolve the legal issue for other states facing similar lawsuits.



States

- A New York doctor was indicted by a Louisiana grand jury for prescribing chemical abortion pills to a Louisiana girl, which marks the first case of its sort since *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The case will probably test the validity of New York's laws shielding its citizens from prosecution in other states for abortion-related offenses.
- A bill is making its way through the Delaware legislature to legalize so-called medical aid in dying. Last legislative session, the bill narrowly passed a vote but was vetoed by then-Governor John Carney. The Diocese of Wilmington has issued an action alert calling on citizens to contact their legislators to oppose the bill.
- Lawmakers in DuPage County, Illinois, have voted to remove the name of late US Representative Henry Hyde from the county courthouse. He sponsored the Hyde Amendment, a federal law barring the use of federal funds for abortion.

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