



FAMILY  
COUNCIL

# Linda Collins- Smith



JUNE/JULY  
2019  
UPDATE LETTER

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

On Tuesday, June 4, our dear friend former Senator Linda Collins-Smith of Pocahontas was found dead at her home. As of this writing, details are scarce. Police are investigating her death as a homicide and an arrest has been made, but beyond that we won't go into what may have happened.

Linda was first and foremost a Christian who lived out her faith. She was fearless when it came to standing up for Christian values. I am reminded of the passage in Ephesians 6:13, "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." Linda always stood firm. In a tough vote at the Capitol, we could always count on her to stand. When the winds of politics blew hard against her, she stood firm. She had a smile big enough to light up the room. When people were down, she lifted their spirits. She understood that life was not about her, so she helped everyone, even her political adversaries. Linda had more energy than half-a-dozen lawmakers. When the rest of us were worn out and sleeping, Linda was still at work.

Our team went through the bills we worked on with Linda over the years. Here are the ones that stand out. When she first arrived at the Arkansas Legislature in 2011, Linda sponsored a bill to prevent Arkansans from paying for abortions with their tax dollars under Obamacare. In 2011, my team and I dubbed the House Public Health Committee the "Death Committee." It was controlled by pro-abortion democrats and Governor Beebe who did not want our pro-life bills to see the light of day. That didn't matter to Linda. Even though it was late in the session and the odds of passing it were slim, she filed the bill anyway. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time for us to get the bill passed, but the work she did in 2011 paved the way for us to pass similar legislation a few years later.

In 2012 Linda joined with other lawmakers in opposing the Obama Administration's heavy-handed tactics against religious liberty. In 2015 Linda was one of only three senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee who voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—a good bill that protects religious liberty in Arkansas. A version of the bill eventually passed on the final day of the regular session.

Then there was Act 577 of 2015 regulating dangerous abortion drugs like RU-486. Many people didn't think too much of it at the time, but that law forced Planned Parenthood to temporarily stop performing abortions in Arkansas last year. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU spent a lot of time and money fighting the law in court before finally dropping their lawsuit a few months ago. Children in Arkansas are alive today because of this one law that Linda sponsored and helped pass.

To give you an idea of Linda's level of conviction, over the objections of Gov. Hutchinson and a lot of Republicans in the Arkansas Legislature, she sponsored a bill ensuring that men could not enter women's showers, locker rooms, changing areas, and restrooms in government facilities in Arkansas. The bill failed, but Linda wasn't one to give up. She persuaded lawmakers to move the bill to Interim Study, where it could be discussed before the next legislative session.

Unfortunately, several at the Capitol didn't care for Linda's stance on the issues, so they orchestrated her defeat in the 2018 Republican Primary. Linda's time in the Arkansas Senate ended in January of this year. When my wife Doris and I went to the Capitol on a Sunday afternoon last January to help Linda move out of her office, she was at peace. Looking more rested than I had seen her in years, she said her goodbyes to the Capitol. Now we're the ones saying goodbye to Linda. But I'm sure she would tell us not to be sad. I'm sure that she's doing great and more at peace than ever before. But it's still heartbreaking to lose a friend.

Arkansas is a better place because of Sen. Linda Collins of Pocahontas. That should inspire us to leave the same kind of legacy. And now let me tell you a little more about how we're trying to do exactly that.



Family Council  
President Jerry Cox

## My Thoughts: We're On Track to All But Abolish Abortion in Our Lifetime

Americans are winning the fight to end abortion. I know it may not always seem like we are, but we really are. A few months ago the Governor of New York signed a pro-abortion bill into law to the sound of thunderous applause while Virginia's governor casually talked about killing babies born alive after a failed abortion. This spring Illinois' legislature passed a pro-abortion law that was even more egregious than New York's while crowds of men and women dressed in pink held signs to protest the possible closure of Missouri's last freestanding abortion facility.

A few ultra-liberal states are doubling down on abortion, and the media has drummed up a lot of controversy to give the impression that support for abortion remains high. Here's the truth: If our nation's abortion laws tracked with Americans' public opinion about abortion, abortion would not be available on demand for any reason. Abortion would be completely illegal after

the first trimester of pregnancy, and it would only be allowed in certain circumstances—such as rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

I told someone the other day that being pro-life in the public square right now is a little like being the visiting team at a football game: You score an amazing touchdown, but nobody cheers. You consistently outplay your opponent, but the stands are silent. The home team scores once, and the crowd goes wild. Meanwhile your team keeps scoring until you're forty points ahead. That's how the news media, the entertainment industry, and political pundits treat our pro-life victories. The pro-abortion elites on TV, online, and in print keep insisting that there's a lot of ballgame left and their team might somehow pull out a victory in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter.

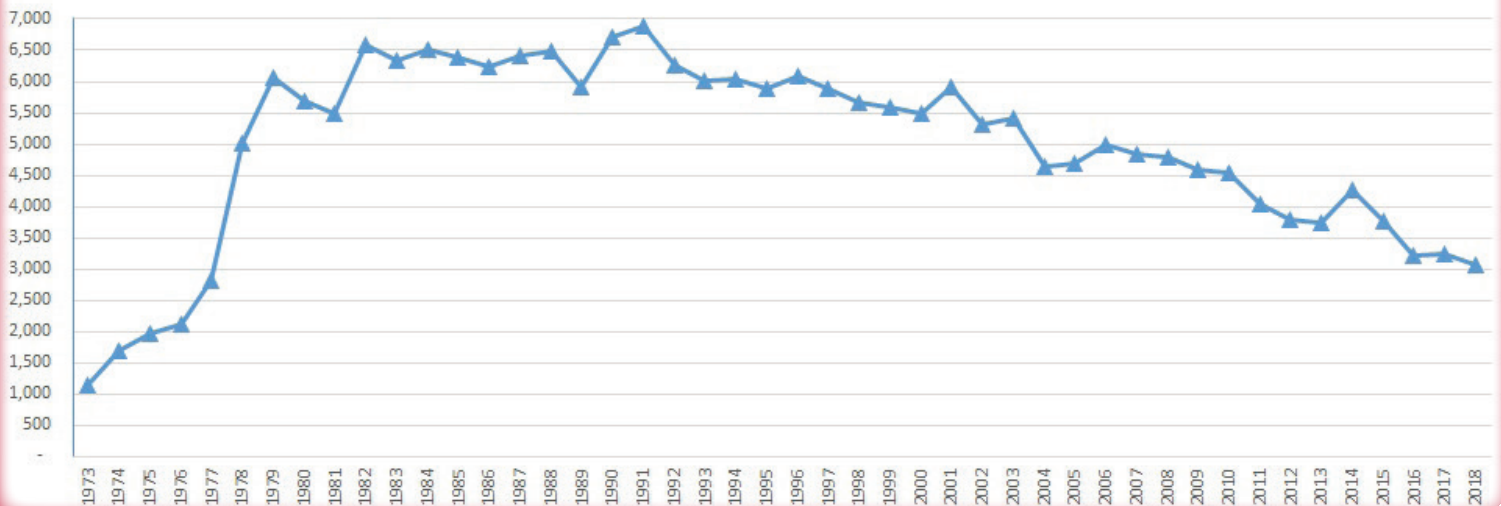
Our society is pretty fickle, and I don't want to take anything for granted. But we are winning the fight against abortion. If you want to know for sure, don't listen to the noise from the bleachers—the media. Look at the numbers on the board. With that in mind, I hope you'll keep reading this letter to find out more about the abortion "scoreboard" in Arkansas.

## Abortion in Arkansas Hits 42-Year Low

In June the Arkansas Department of Health released its annual abortion report calculating the number of abortions performed in Arkansas last year, the types of abortion procedures used, and other important data. The report shows there were 3,069 abortions performed in Arkansas last year. While that's still a staggering number, abortion, overall, has fallen to a 42-year low in Arkansas. To put it another way, the last time abortion numbers were this low, Roe v. Wade had been handed down just four years earlier and the very first Star Wars movie was a blockbuster hit.

Our abortion numbers have fallen about 28% in the past four years, and they've been cut by more than half since peaking in 1991. We still have a lot of work left to do to make abortion both illegal and unthinkable, but the numbers don't lie: Slowly but surely we are winning the fight to protect innocent human life.

No. of Abortions in Arkansas Since 1973



## Teen Abortion Is At An All-Time Low in Arkansas

In the 1980s, one out of every three abortions in Arkansas was on a teenage girl. Today that number has dropped to one in ten. Teenagers used to be the age group most at risk for having an abortion. Today, they are among those who are least likely to have one.

We've analyzed more than 40 years' worth of abortion data. As far as we can tell, since abortion was legalized in Arkansas in 1973, Arkansas' teen abortion rate has never been lower than it is right now.

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Abortion's decline in Arkansas has been nothing short of dramatic, but the most drastic decline has been among teenage girls. A lot of people assume that's because teenagers have better access to contraceptives today, but Arkansas' teen birth rate hasn't fallen the same way Arkansas' teen abortion rate has. If contraceptives explained the decline, then both rates should have

plummeted. A high teen birth rate isn't something to brag about, but it indicates that teenagers are choosing options besides abortion. That's always a good thing.

## Surgical Abortions Declining While Chemical Abortions Rising

In 2014 there were 3,665 surgical abortions in Arkansas. Last year there were 2,090. That's a 43% drop in surgical abortions! Surgical abortion is a grisly procedure in which an unborn baby is physically torn apart, and it carries a number of serious health risks for the pregnant woman. That's why the Arkansas Legislature passed a law prohibiting some dismemberment abortion procedures in 2017. This good law has been tied up in court ever since. But while abortion is falling to record lows overall, and the number of surgical abortions has dropped, the number of drug-induced abortions has increased the past two years. That means that while fewer women are having abortions, those who do have abortions increasingly are using abortion drugs like RU-486.

The Arkansas Legislature has passed good legislation addressing chemical abortion, and that legislation actually prompted Planned Parenthood temporarily to stop doing abortions in Arkansas last year. Arkansas is winning the fight against abortion, but we still have work to do when it comes to restricting dangerous abortion drugs like RU-486.

## Data Shows Single Moms are Most At Risk for Abortion

Since 2015, nearly 66% of abortions performed in Arkansas were on women who already had one or more children. Roughly 86% of all abortions in Arkansas are performed on unmarried women. Taken together, these figures indicate that the typical woman walking into an abortion clinic is a single mom who already has one or two children. If we want to eliminate the demand for abortion, Christians need to help single moms, and they need to encourage couples to form stable, healthy families.

All of this underscores the importance of Arkansas' pregnancy resource centers. Pregnancy resource centers help women and families with unplanned pregnancies. From diapers and baby food to parenting classes and adoption referrals, they offer a little bit of everything—all free of charge. These centers take a lot of the stress and anxiety out of unplanned pregnancies, and they empower mothers to choose options besides abortion.

## Planned Parenthood Kicked Out of Fayetteville Location

We received word recently that Planned Parenthood's abortion facility in Fayetteville will be moving out of its current location following the landlord's decision not to renew the facility's lease. The decision came on the heels of the spring 40 Days for Life campaign in Fayetteville, during which pro-life Arkansans prayed daily outside the Northwest Arkansas abortion clinic. The landlord reportedly decided not to renew Planned Parenthood's lease, even though he didn't have another tenant lined up to replace them. The lease will expire this summer.

This is fantastic news! Every year hundreds of unborn babies are aborted by means of dangerous abortion drugs at Planned Parenthood's facilities in Fayetteville and Little Rock. If Planned Parenthood stops doing abortions in Northwest Arkansas—even temporarily—that's going to translate into lives saved.



## Throwback to 1994: Little Rock Police Arrest Anti-Abortion Activists for Trespassing



*Pro-life demonstrators protest outside Arkansas Health Counseling for Women in Little Rock. Photo taken from the Arkansas Citizen, Volume 5, Issue 8, 1994.*

From July 6 - 9 of 1994 pro-life organization Operation Rescue held a series of protests outside four abortion facilities in Little Rock: Health Counseling for Women, Little Rock Family Planning Services, Women's Community Health Center, and Women's Pregnancy Counseling Services. It's worth noting that of these four facilities, Little Rock Family Planning Services is the only one that is still in operation today.

More than 125 people—many from out-of-state—participated in the protests. About 50 pro-abortion activists and 30 police officers stood between the pro-life groups and the clinics. The pro-life and pro-abortion groups said very little to one another, although the pro-lifers did sing hymns and preach the gospel.

On July 8, 1994, 29 pro-life activists reportedly blocked the

entrances to the Health Counseling for Women abortion facility on Markham Street in Little Rock. Police arrested the protesters for trespassing; only three of the activists were from central Arkansas. On July 9, Operation Rescue hosted a memorial service for the victims of abortion. Holocaust survivor Eva Edl gave a moving speech at the ceremony.

Family Council never has utilized the aggressive protest tactics of some organizations. Personally, I believe the peaceful efforts of 40 Days for Life and the annual Life Chain are much more effective, but it's telling that today a Little Rock abortion facility would be hard-pressed to find half a dozen people who would counter-protest a pro-life demonstration, much less 50. If anything this shows support for abortion in Arkansas today is nowhere near what it was 25 years ago.

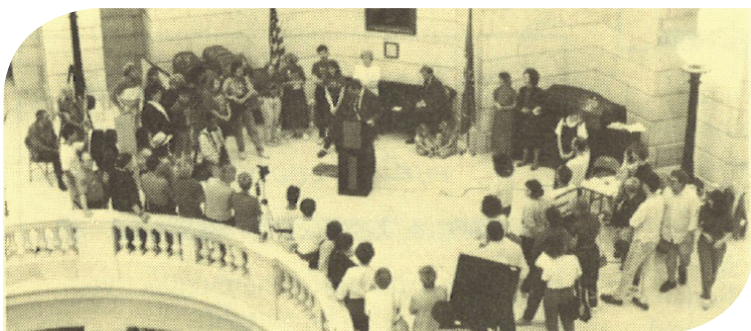
*LRPD block pro-life and pro-abortion protesters from one another.*



## Throwback: Pro-Abortion Group's Little-Known Constitutional Amendment From 1990

Twenty-nine years ago the Committee for Reproductive Choices launched a petition drive to place a pro-abortion amendment on the ballot in Arkansas. This amendment would have made abortion a constitutional right in Arkansas and adopted the most extreme abortion policy in the nation, at the time.

The amendment's supporters included the ACLU and Advocates for Reproductive Information and Support (ARIS). The pro-abortion amendment's ballot title and text read,



*The Committee for Reproductive Choices launches its effort to make abortion a constitutional right in Arkansas. Photo taken from the Arkansas Citizen, Volume 2, Issue 7 1990.*

### AN AMENDMENT PREVENTING STATE INTERVENTION IN REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

**Section 1.** The State shall not intervene in any woman's personal reproductive decisions, including but not limited to, the right to choose to become pregnant, to carry a pregnancy to term and to bear a child or to prevent pregnancy or to terminate her pregnancy through abortion by a licensed medical doctor through the twenty-fourth week of pregnancy. The state shall not intervene in a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy to protect her life or health.

**Section 2.** Nothing in this provision shall restrict a person's religious freedom.

Thankfully, the Committee for Reproductive Choices was not able to gather the signatures it needed to place this bad amendment on the 1992 ballot. A lot has changed since 1990. In 29 years Arkansas has gone from being a state where some groups wanted to make abortion a constitutional right to being one of the most pro-life states in the country. We passed nearly a dozen anti-abortion laws this spring that will save more than 600 unborn children every single year. However, none of those good laws would have been possible had this bad constitutional amendment from 1990 been adopted in Arkansas.



Assistant Executive Director  
David Cox

## Being Part of a 2,000-Year-Old Christian Tradition

By David Cox

Just how old is the pro-life movement? Forty years old? Fifty years old? What if I told you Christians have been fighting abortion almost since Pentecost in the second chapter of the Book of Acts?

One of the oldest Christian documents outside of the New Testament is a book called the Didache. It's an early primer

on Christian living, and even secular scholars who believe the New Testament was fabricated in the second or third century concede the Didache was written sometime before the end of the first century A.D. That would make it about the same age as the Book of Revelation.

The second chapter of the Didache tells Christians to avoid sins like murder, adultery, fornication, stealing, and magic. In the middle of that chapter, it says, "you shall not murder a child by

abortion nor kill that [child] which is born." Other translations say, "thou shalt not procure abortion, nor commit infanticide."

To be clear, the Didache is not part of the Bible, but it underscores that Christians in the ancient Greco-Roman world opposed abortion and infanticide. Ancient Romans practiced crude forms of abortion, and historians tell us unwanted babies routinely were left to die from exposure on hillsides on the outskirts of towns and villages. Many early Christians who opposed abortion established orphanages and adopted these abandoned children.

The pro-life movement did not start with the so-called "Religious Right." It wasn't invented in the 1980s to help Ronald Reagan defeat Walter Mondale. The pro-life movement began in the days of James the half-brother of Jesus—not in the days of James Dobson. It was started by Christians who might have known Simon Peter personally or been evangelized by the Apostle Thomas.

Believers who oppose abortion and infanticide are not part of some twentieth-century political movement. If you are pro-life, you belong to a Christian tradition that is almost as old as Christianity itself. That's a heritage worth remembering.

## Suicide and Euthanasia: The Next Battlefronts in the Pro-Life Fight

Americans are winning the fight to end abortion. Both in Arkansas and across the country, polling shows Americans believe abortion ought to be completely illegal or legal only in a few circumstances. Earlier this year public opinion polling found an overwhelming majority of Americans think abortion should be prohibited after the first trimester. This simply was not true a few years ago.

At this rate, in another 10 – 20 years Roe v. Wade and the abortion industry as we know it will be history. That's the good news. Here's the bad news: At this rate, assisted suicide will be legal in most states—if not all 50—and suicide in general could be one of Arkansas' top five or six leading causes of death.

Arkansas' suicide rates and fatal drug overdose rates have climbed in recent years. Suicide is Arkansas' tenth leading cause of death, and suicide rates have gone up in virtually every state over the past 15 years. At the same time, we've seen several proposals in state legislatures—including Arkansas'—that would legalize physician-assisted suicide. Countries like Canada are sprinting down assisted suicide's slippery slope, and many people would like to bring their anti-life policies here.

It's great to be anti-abortion, but being pro-life is about much more than opposing abortion. It's about respecting the sanctity of innocent human life from conception until natural death. That means opposing suicide in all its forms—including when it's prescribed by a doctor. Suicide and euthanasia are the next battlefronts in the pro-life fight, and Family Council is committed to fighting them.

## Death by (Canadian) Doctor

By John Stonestreet, Radio Host and President of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview

In 2018, there were 280,000 deaths in Canada. The leading causes were the usual suspects—cancer, cardiovascular disease, etc. But a new cause of death is quickly climbing up the charts there: physician-assisted suicide.

According to a recent Health Canada report, between January and October, 2018, 2,600 people were euthanized there, an average of 218 a month. Thus, by the end of 2018, it's likely that at least 3,000 Canadians died by doctor-assisted suicide.

That's as many people as were killed in automobile accidents that year.

While people are rightly alarmed by handgun murders and deaths by automobile, the response to the Canadian report has been crickets. Except for some of the pro-life groups.

It's almost like people have already become numb, or even worse, comfortable with the idea of doctors killing their patients. If so, that would be the most troubling part of this story.

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John Stonestreet,  
Radio Host and President of the Colson Center for  
Christian Worldview



## Good News: AETN Opts Not to Air Children's Cartoon Depicting Same-Sex Wedding

In May the longstanding children's television program "Arthur" made headlines when one of its characters—a teacher named Mr. Ratburn—married another male character in a same-sex wedding onscreen. We were contacted by a concerned mother who saw the episode online ahead of its scheduled air date. After learning about the episode, we contacted several leaders in Arkansas who reached out to local PBS-affiliate AETN. In the end, we learned AETN chose to air a rerun of "Arthur" instead of the new episode promoting same-sex "marriage."

I wish I could say the decision to depict a same-sex wedding in a children's cartoon was controversial, but unfortunately it generally was not. After the episode was released, adults took to Twitter to congratulate the producers of "Arthur" for the episode. Thankfully, the managers at Arkansas' AETN still have sense enough to know that some things simply are not suitable for children.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

As you can see, we are winning the fight to protect unborn children. Abortion is near record lows in Arkansas, and the pro-life legislation we have helped pass is saving hundreds of lives every year. We're able to do this important work, because families and churches all over Arkansas believe in our mission enough to support us financially.

If you are able, I hope you will partner with us by sending a generous, tax-deductible donation to Family Council today. No gift is too small, and every dollar you give will be stretched as far as possible to save unborn children, promote religious liberty, protect home schooling, educate voters, equip ministers, and make Arkansas a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you for standing with us. Please let me know if there is ever anything we can do for you.

Sincerely,



Jerry Cox, President

*Thank you!!*

P.S. Abortion in Arkansas is near record lows. We're doing a lot of good in our state. That's why I hope you will send us a generous, tax-deductible donation, if you are able. Your gift will help us promote, protect, and strengthen traditional family values in communities just like yours.



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