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# Pro-Life News

Maryland State Council  
Knights of Columbus



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## LeRoy Carhart

In his first year, since he was driven from Germantown and began operating in Bethesda in October 2017, LeRoy Carhart's clinic has performed more than 500 abortions. His spokeswoman, Chelsea Souder, in an interview with *Huff Post*, said that about 75 percent of them are second or third trimester abortions. There are only three facilities in the nation that offer third trimester abortions – the other two are in Boulder, Colorado and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Souder says that the Bethesda location is an improvement over Germantown because it provides patients more privacy. What she means is that it is more difficult for prayerful witnessing and sidewalk counseling because of the abortion-supportive management of the property. Further, the pro-life forces no longer operate a pregnancy counseling center immediately across the street from the abortion clinic.

Carhart employs three abortionists in Bethesda, and doesn't have plans to retire. Rather, he has established the Abortion Access Fund, which operates from his Bellevue, Nebraska clinic, to solicit on-line donations to help support his killings. For more information, go to [www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/anti-abortion-activists-trying-to-shut-him-down-one-year-later-his-clinic-is-thriving\\_us\\_5bc4cce8e4b01a01d68d508e](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/anti-abortion-activists-trying-to-shut-him-down-one-year-later-his-clinic-is-thriving_us_5bc4cce8e4b01a01d68d508e).

As to Carhart's future, God's will be done. Prayer and public witness continues at Wildwood Plaza, near his clinic in Bethesda, every Monday from 9:00-11:00 am. For further information, contact Dick Retta at [dickretta61@verizon.net](mailto:dickretta61@verizon.net).

## Independent Abortion Providers Declining Nationwide

Abortion Care Network, an organization supporting independent abortion providers, just released its second annual community report, stating that "independent clinics are closing at an unprecedented rate: the number of independent clinics has been reduced by nearly 28 percent since 2012". In 2012, there were 510 independent abortion clinics open in the U.S.; as of November 2018, 370 remain open.

Abortions in this country are done in private physicians' offices, hospitals, Planned Parenthood clinics, and at independent abortion clinics. While independent abortion care providers represent about 25% of the facilities providing abortions nationwide, they perform about 60% of the abortions. Planned Parenthood facilities perform an additional 35%, hospitals 4%, and physicians' offices 1%.

Independent clinics, like Carhart's, however, perform 94% of late-term abortions at 22 weeks of gestation and beyond. For more information, check <https://www.abortioncarenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/communities-need-clinics-Nov-2018.pdf>.

## Abortions Decline Nationwide

According to recently released data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), abortions in America decreased significantly, from 852,385 in 2006 to 638,169 in 2015, the most recent year reported. Although CDC information is voluntarily reported by the states, Maryland, California and New Hampshire do not submit data. While the actual numbers are higher, the decline is consistent with data from the Guttmacher Institute.

The U.S. abortion rate decline, which began in 1980, continues at a steady pace, dropping 26 percent over that period from 15.9 in 2006 to 11.8 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 in 2015. Very encouraging is that the rate among teens aged 15 to 19 fell 54 percent, the greatest drop among any age group reported.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, states that the drop in abortions “is due, in a significant way, to pro-life legislation that seeks to provide life-affirming solutions to abortion, combined with pro-life efforts that educate Americans about the effects of abortion and the humanity of the unborn child.” For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm?s\\_cid=ss6713a1\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm?s_cid=ss6713a1_w) and [www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-abortion-study/us-abortion-rate-plummeted-in-decade-ending-2015-cdc-reports-idUSKCN1NQ2AZ](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-abortion-study/us-abortion-rate-plummeted-in-decade-ending-2015-cdc-reports-idUSKCN1NQ2AZ).

## **Abortion Facilities and Pregnancy Care Networks in Maryland**

In Maryland, there are 17 known independent surgical abortion centers. Most are located along the Washington, DC-Baltimore axis. In addition, there are nine Planned Parenthood Centers, five of which perform surgical abortions, while four make referrals to other Planned Parenthood facilities.

In contrast, there are 44 pregnancy care centers in the state, 31 of which are medical care centers. These provide ultrasound services – 21 of the ultrasound machines in these centers were donated by the Knights of Columbus. Only four counties in the state do not have a pregnancy care center – Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne, and Somerset – but there also are no known abortionists operating in those counties.

## **Upcoming Events**

January 11, 2019 – Defend Life’s March for Life Kickoff Lecture. Rock Creek Council #2797, Bethesda, 7:30 pm. The speaker is Michael Voris, CEO of Church Militant. For more information, go to [DefendLife.org](http://DefendLife.org) or contact Lawrence Grayson at [LPGrayson@verizon.net](mailto:LPGrayson@verizon.net).

January 13, 2019 – March for Life Rally Kickoff, Fr. Rosensteel Council #2169, 5:15 pm. Free spaghetti and meatball dinner, followed by a host of pro-life speakers, dignitaries and musical entertainment. For more information, contact C. Michael Koon at (301) 922-9101.

January 18, 2019 – March for Life, Washington, DC. For more information, go to [marchforlife.org/mfl-2019](http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2019).

March 4, 2019 – Maryland March for Life, Annapolis, 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm.. For more information, go to [www.mdmarchforlife.com](http://www.mdmarchforlife.com).

## **KofC Ultrasound Program**

Two donations to the State Ultrasound Fund were received recently. Father Burggraff Council #2061 sent in \$250, while an individual Knight sent a check for \$500. Thank you both for your generosity. The ultrasound donation program needs additional funds to meet requests for sonogram machines from several pregnancy care centers. Can your council help? For more information or to make a donation, contact Lawrence Grayson at [LPGrayson@verizon.net](mailto:LPGrayson@verizon.net).

## **Cemeteries of the Innocent**

As of December 1, there are two Cemeteries of the Innocent standing in Maryland – St. John Francis Regis Parish in Hollywood (St. Mary’s County), and St. George Catholic Church Parish in Valley Lee (St. Mary’s County). To date, there have been ten cemeteries erected this year and 329 since the program began in 2004. For more information or to schedule an installation, contact Jim McFillin at [jimmcfillin@cs.com](mailto:jimmcfillin@cs.com).

*“When somebody says, ‘I’m Catholic, but...,’ it means they are not really Catholic!”* –

Abp. Fulton J. Sheen

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