

SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENT

LIFE SENTINEL May 2021

Supreme Court Washington, DC

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FEATURE STORY:
THE BEGINNINGS OF NIFLA v. BECERRA

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NIFLA

THE BEGINNINGS OF NIFLA v. BECERRA

HOW YOUR SUPPORT PROTECTED HUNDREDS OF CALIFORNIA PREGNANCY CENTERS

It was all over the news. The anti-life, anti-pregnancy center legislation had passed and signed into law. California's Reproductive FACT Act was a pro-abortion law that required pro-life pregnancy centers to post signs in their offices referring for abortions. The pregnancy center directors in California knew they would be in for difficult times ahead. But they also knew they had a tremendous ally in NIFLA.

NIFLA's V.P. of Legal Affairs, Anne O'Connor had begun her pro-life work in California. She started at a center in the San Fernando Valley, which stood as a beacon of hope for women in unplanned pregnancies. Anne's love for the pregnancy center movement started here, first as a peer counselor and then serving on the board of directors. Only God knew how important those early experiences in the trenches of California's pro-life network would be for the future of free speech all over the country.

When the LA city attorney dropped the hammer on six pro-life pregnancy centers in The City of Angels, they knew who to call. Anne and the entire NIFLA team dropped everything and came to the rescue of these pro-life centers. That very center in which Anne began serving the pro-life movement is one of the centers which stood firm in the face of adversity. Even though the risks were high, the center refused to put the pro-abortion sign up in their office. This step was at the core of *NIFLA v. Becerra*.

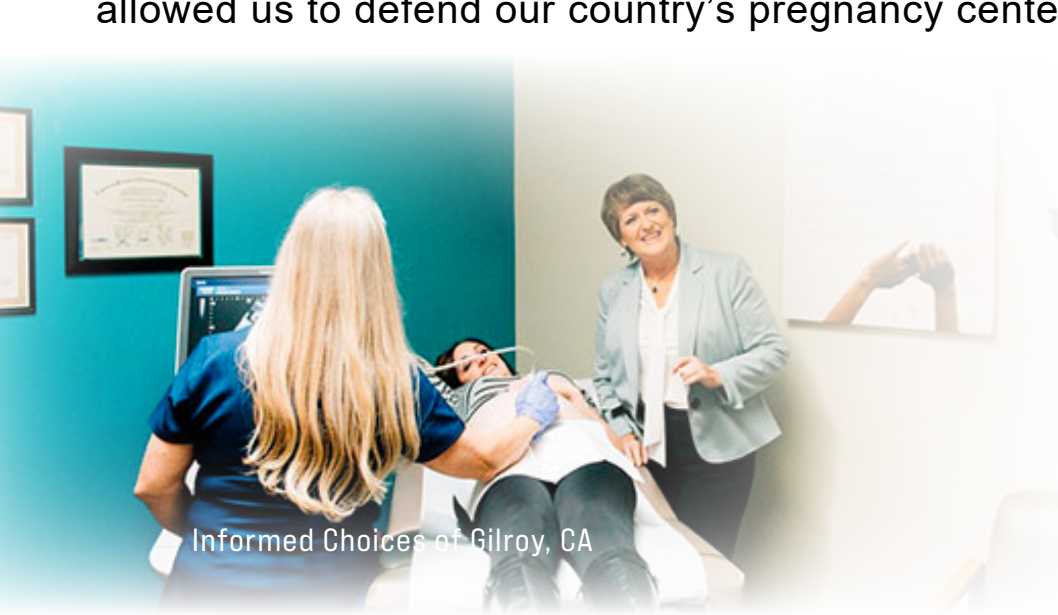
The next several months included attack after attack against the pregnancy centers. Many biased media outlets were releasing unfair pieces about this legislation, the case, and pregnancy centers in general. Because of our generous supporters, NIFLA was able to help with all aspects of the defense of our pregnancy centers. Christine Vatuone, then Director of Informed Choices in Gilroy, CA, knew she could call on NIFLA to help. She hosted a media training for the pregnancy center leaders. With NIFLA's help, she became one of the faces in the fight against the CA government's infringement on our free speech rights.

Christine reflects: "A big THANK YOU to Tom and Anne and all the NIFLA supporters who make it possible for centers like ours to receive free legal counsel whenever we need it! I have personally benefited from NIFLA's support in so many ways."

The fight quickly went through the court system and up to the U.S. Supreme Court. Those brave centers, which held their ground, were in the battle of a lifetime. And NIFLA was right by their side, representing them and protecting them.

Anne's deep roots with California pregnancy centers allowed her to provide legal help as well as emotional support. Anne reflected: "These directors are my friends and my clients. I worked closely with the pregnancy centers during this difficult time, speaking frequently and praying frequently. It was a gift to witness their courage. It was a tremendous blessing to represent these brave pro-life leaders and protect them against an attack on one of their most fundamental rights."

Many of you know how this story ends: NIFLA won that case; free speech rights prevailed; protection of pro-life rights was protected. That was all made possible by you. Thank you, our supporters, who have allowed us to defend our country's pregnancy centers.



MEET OUR STAFF

KATHERINE HAGER - DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

"I am honored to work with an organization that has a passion for providing excellence to pregnancy centers. The leadership puts Christ at the center of every aspect of service, whether it is legal counsel or medical guidelines. Everything is done for the benefit of the mother and the unborn."



MEET OUR DONORS

JEANNE REISER

"I first read about NIFLA in a newspaper editorial by a conservative writer. I had been thinking about the Right-to-Life movement and decided to donate to NIFLA so that I could be a small part of the fight against abortion. Over many years, I watched NIFLA fight hard to educate women about the awful realities of abortion, taking our fight to the Supreme Court. The people at NIFLA have courage. I believe that the pro-life movement is the cause of our time. We need to stand up for what is right, and I believe that there is no fight more important than the one to save the lives of our unborn brothers and sisters. **I am proud to stand with NIFLA in this fight.**"

MEET OUR MEMBERS

CLEARWAY CLINIC - SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

"Just thank you guys for your excellence...just thank you! You are doing a great job, and we need you, and we are so thankful you're there...God bless you."

-Nancy, E.D.



YOUR LOVING CHOICES - BLOOMSBURG, PA (NIFLA TLC MEMBERS)



"We were trying to transition to a medical clinic, but we were stuck. Someone suggested I go to visit another pregnancy clinic that had just transitioned and gone through the The Life Choice Project (TLC) with NIFLA. I visited and knew that this was the next step for our center. My nurse manager and I attended the training in Virginia and learned so much! We joined the TLC program in November of 2018, and we started our ultrasounds in May of 2019. TLC was so empowering, helpful, and educational! It gave us all the tools we needed to feel confident in opening a licensed medical clinic! Our consultant always carefully listened to our concerns and things we saw as difficulties or obstacles and their guidance, suggestions, and ideas (along with God's help) kept moving us forward. I never recommend TLC more highly! It answered our questions and gave us the essential policies and procedures we needed to operate with carefulness and integrity. We are truly THANKFUL that we enrolled in The Life Choice Project!"

-Ruth Joy, CEO

NIFLA'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AUGUST 2-4, 2021
THE FOUNDERS INN | VA BEACH, VA
NIFLALEADERSHIPSUMMIT.COM

"I love attending NIFLA's Summit because it is challenging and informative. It really helps me as an Executive Director of a pregnancy center to understand the legal landscape."



PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHT

THOMAS GLESSNER, J.D.
 PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

May is the month that Americans celebrate Mother's Day. NIFLA's network of 1,600 pro-life pregnancy centers and medical clinics is on the front lines of supporting, protecting, and defending motherhood

Thousands of pregnant mothers visit a NIFLA member center every week, undecided or intent, on terminating their pregnancy. When these mothers are provided an ultrasound confirmation of their pregnancies and see their unborn child, the vast majority (between 80 and 90%) choose life.

It is a very moving experience to witness, as I have had the opportunity to do, testimonies of these mothers at pregnancy galas across the nation. They state with passion and conviction that the work of the local pregnancy center introducing them to their unborn babies was the deciding factor in choosing life.

NIFLA exists to protect and defend the work of pro-life pregnancy centers in every community across the nation. Your support helps us continue the fight for life and bless the mothers who were once conflicted about their pregnancies, but after seeing the ultrasound image, they love their children as blessings. Thank you.

BECOME A LIFE DEFENDER!



SCAN ME

NIFLA is pleased to announce the **Life Defenders Monthly Giving Society**. The monthly contributions of our donors help NIFLA equip pro-life pregnancy centers with the tools they need to reach abortion-minded women.

Will you join us in defending the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, by becoming the next Life Defender?

Scan the QR code to join today!

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