

FOIA Marker

This is not a textual record. This FOIA Marker indicates that material has been removed during FOIA processing by George W. Bush Presidential Library staff.

Records Management, White House Office of Subject Files - ME002 (Messages Sent to Groups / Organizations)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	11	23	8	3	6458	61574	8526	8610

Folder Title:

497953

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Draft	[National Prayer Vigil for Life] - From: POTUS	2	01/18/2002	P5;
002	Draft	[National Prayer Vigil for Life] - From: POTUS	1	01/18/2002	P5;
003	Draft	[National Prayer Vigil for Life] - From: POTUS	2	01/17/2002	P5;
004	Draft	[National Prayer Vigil for Life] - From: POTUS	2	01/17/2002	P5;
005	Draft	[National Prayer Vigil for Life]	2	01/17/2002	P5;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - ME002 (Messages Sent to Groups / Organizations)

FOLDER TITLE:

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FRC ID:

6458

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

LB

497953
ME002



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 18, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings as you gather for the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life to mark the 29th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Welcome to Washington.

During these extraordinary times, we realize more than ever the beauty of life, the blessings of family and friends, and the enduring resolve, generosity, and compassion of Americans.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a memorable prayer vigil.

Approved 1/18/02 Returned to Chris Pauer

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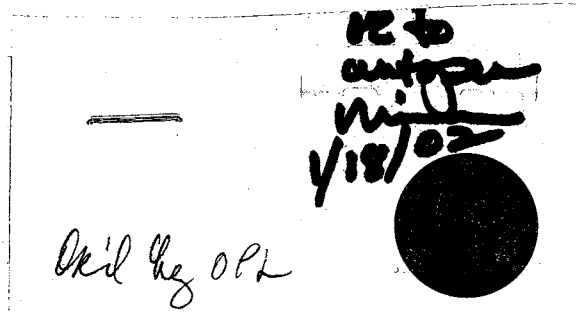
GWB/RTP/HKM/HM/emu-ckb (Corres. #2321739)
(1.roe)

GEORGE W. BUSH^A

cc: Linda DeHart, Presidential Messages, 9th Floor 1800 G Street

cc: Heidi Marquez, Presidential Correspondence, 9th Floor,
1800 G Street

~~*** RETURN TO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES, 9TH FLOOR,
1800 G STREET, X65505, FOR DISPATCH ***~~





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FOIA IDs and Segments:

2015-0037-F

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Executive Office of the President



FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: _____

Time: _____

Number of Pages including cover sheet: _____

To: HARRIET

Department: _____

Fax Number: 6-2215 Phone Number: _____

From: DES / LINDA

Fax Number: (202) 456-2993 Phone Number: (202) 456-7610

Comments: _____

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Presidential Correspondence
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

«letterdate»

«nameline»

«title»

«organization1»

«organization2»

«address1»

«address2»

«address3»

«address4»

«city», «statelong» «zip9»

Dear «salutation2b»:

Thank you for your letter on the important issue of abortion.

I believe all unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law. Over the years, I have championed compassionate alternatives to abortion such as helping women in crisis through maternity group homes, encouraging adoption, promoting abstinence education, and passing laws requiring parental notification and waiting periods.

I also strongly oppose partial-birth abortions and have said that I would sign legislation to ban it. I was disappointed that the Supreme Court recently overturned the people of Nebraska's decision to ban partial-birth abortions. I believe states should have the right to enact reasonable laws and restrictions, particularly concerning the brutal practice of partial-birth abortion. I will work with Congress to come up with a law that meets constitutional scrutiny.

People on both sides of this issue can agree that we should do everything we can to reduce the number of abortions in America. As President, I am committed to the goal of building a culture that respects life -- the full spectrum of life, from the unborn to the elderly.

I appreciate your taking the time to write me about this important issue.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2002

By the President of the United States

A Proclamation

This Nation was founded upon the ideal that each human being is given certain unalienable rights by his Creator, and that chief among them is life. The Signers of the Declaration of Independence strongly believed in the right to life, pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to guarantee every human being's right to it. They realized that because human dignity is innate, bestowed by a Creator, the promises of the Declaration are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone—including the elderly, the infirmed, and the unborn child.

On September 11, we realized more than ever the beauty of life, and we saw clearly the evil that took away life. Every innocent that died that day was the most important person on earth to somebody, and every death extinguished a world. Now we are engaged in a fight against evil and tyranny to preserve and protect life because that is an ideal upon which our Nation was founded. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government." Because life is an unalienable right given to all by their Creator, no civil authority is free to deny that right, only to protect it.

Because of this, our society has a responsibility to defend the elderly, the weak and the defenseless, to care for young mothers and their unborn children. America must strive for the ideal of a compassionate and generous society. We must reject the notion that there are some lives not worthy of living and embrace the belief that we should receive and protect all human life the Creator gives. We must oppose any practice that undermines the dignity of human beings, and work towards a culture where every life is valued and protected by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 20, 2002 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. I call upon all Americans to reflect upon the sanctity of human life, from conception to natural death. Let us recognize the day with appropriate ceremonies in our homes and places of worship, rededicate ourselves to compassionate service on behalf of the weak and defenseless, and reaffirm our commitment to respect the life and dignity of every human being.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this ___ day of ___, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

● Rachael L. Sunbarger

01/17/2002 03:17:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN SIGNING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 17, 2002

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING REAUTHORIZATION OF
THE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

The East Room

2:22 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, thanks, Laura. I appreciate those kind words, and I love you a lot.

I want to welcome you all to the White House. It's our honor to entertain you all and to let you witness a piece of history here. The bill I'm going to sign rests on the belief that our strong nation is built on strong families. The legislation reaffirms our country's commitment to helping children grow up in secure and loving families by encouraging adoption; by helping young adults make their way in life after they leave foster care; and by expanding mentoring for children who have a mom and dad in prison.

I'm proud of the men and women of Congress who worked hard to make this happen. This is a really good piece of legislation. In this town, sometimes the really good pieces of legislation aren't really recognized, because there hadn't been a lot of fighting and hair-pulling and gnashing of teeth. But this bill,

sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans, is a meaningful, real piece of legislation that's going to change people's lives.

I want to thank Mike DeWine, and I want to thank Ben Cardin, and I want to thank Deborah Price -- three of the bill's sponsors who have come today -- for your hard work. I am sorry that Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, and Wally Herger of California, are not here, as well. But the five names I just named are responsible for getting this piece of legislation through the House and the Senate and to my desk. And thank you all. (Applause.)

I, too, want to thank Tommy. He's worked really hard. He's a good, compassionate man who cares deeply about our society. And, Tommy, thanks for your hard work. You tell your staff, thanks, too, for working.

The family is the foundation of this society. And here's what I know. It's the place where we find deep human fulfillment, and where we find love. It is where character of our nation is shaped, and where values are forged. Families provide us with comfort and encouragement, compassion and hope, mutual support and unconditional love. No family is perfect, but every family is important.

Promoting strong families was my firm commitment when I was the governor of Texas, and promoting strong families remains a priority for me as your President. We all know that children who are surrounded by love have a strong foundation for success as adults. When someone thinks a child is the most important person in the world, that child will grow up to be confident in their self, and loving toward others. She'll make her community stronger, and her nation better.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program has a great goal, keeping families together whenever possible. It helps to prevent the removal of children from their homes. And if that must happen to protect a child's safety, it supports efforts to correct the problem that broke the family apart, and reunite the family safely and quickly.

It also supports adoption and post-adoptive services to place children with loving families, to ease a child's transition into a new family, and to help ensure that families stay strong and intact.

My budget next year will build on this good work, by requesting \$505 million in funding for promoting the Safe and Stable Families Program, \$130 million more than it receives this year. (Applause.)

The bill I sign today also supports children who grew up in foster homes by authorizing states to provide vouchers of up to \$5,000 a year for education and vocational training to teens who

have aged out of the foster care system. My budget next year will ask Congress for \$60 million to fully fund this program.

I'm especially pleased that this bill authorizes funds for a crucial part of my armies of compassion initiative, mentoring children whose parents are in prison. These children don't see their parents every day, but, like all children, need help with homework, someone to play catch with, someone to hug them. Countless adults are willing to open their hearts to these children, and we should do all we can to support their compassion. Government cannot love a child, but it can support those who do -- parents and family members and neighbors, and caring adults who have heard the call.

We have some parents with us today who have heard the call, who share their love with their children and are building strong families through adoption. Derek and Cindy Baliles are police officers in Montgomery County, Maryland, thank you all for coming. They knew they had a lot of love to offer, and they knew as soon as they met Taylor and Gerald -- better known as G-man -- (laughter) -- that the boys would make great additions to their family. The boys obviously feel the same way. Thanks to their hard work -- thanks to the hard work of a county social worker, their adoption was finalized quickly, on the same day as their mother's birthday.

Willie and Sybil Gray originally planned to adopt one little girl who would become a sister to their son, Christopher. But an adoption agency told them that Kenyetta and Katrina, two sisters who needed a new home, needed to be adopted. The girls and their new parents quickly bonded, and Willie and Sybil will finalize their adoption in the next few months.

Adoptive parents like Willie and Sybil and Derek and Cindy give their children the most precious gift possible -- their love. Advocates for adoption, many of whom are in this room, know that when you find a loving family, it makes a huge difference in a child's life, and know that our national goal must be to find a loving family for every child that needs one. (Applause.)

Sadly, a great American and a strong advocate for adoption and stable families passed away this week. Dave Thomas was best known as the founder of Wendy's Restaurants. But people who devote their lives to helping children know that Dave Thomas shared their commitment.

As a child who was adopted, Dave once said, I feel strongly that all children deserve a secure and loving family. His own family provided the foundation that allowed him and encouraged him to become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs -- and one of America's most familiar faces.

Dave's vision of America was one in which all children would

be a part of a loving family, so they could grow into healthy and happy and successful adults. This bill that I'm fixing to sign will bring us closer to his vision.

And now I'd like the members of the Congress and Secretary Thompson to join me as I sign the Promoting Safe and Stable Families legislation.

(The bill is signed.)

Thank you all for coming. (Applause.)

END

2:31 P.M. EST



W-199449
(1-16totm)

Jan 18/Jan 21
Assign to TOM

Hi Tim:

The Bishops' Conference would like for me to fax to your office a copy of their press release on the Pro-Life Vigil - The Vigil is the largest annual Catholic Mass in the US, and I understand there will be a statement from the White House read at this event. The release is attached, but I am not certain you will be able to see the graphics, which is why we would like to fax. But alas, I don't have a fax number... please let me know to which number I should send this.

Thanks!

Michelle Powers

Tarne Powers & Associates, Inc.

o: 703/684-8352 m: 703/447-0505



- att1.htm



- Final Vigil Release.doc


Writer -

see Larry Myers, do a welcome letter, thankful for our blessing, God bless mercy, etc -

Matthew E. Smith

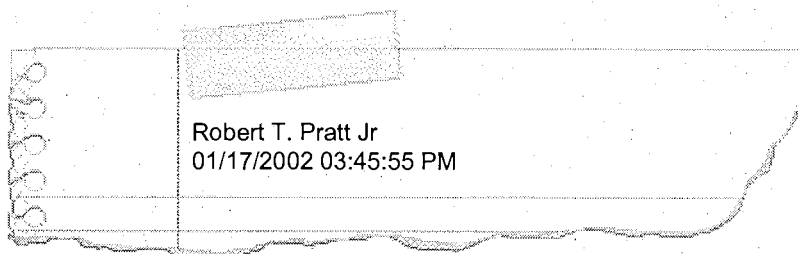
01/17/2002 05:24:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Robert T. Pratt Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Re: Pro Life Vigil and the Rose Dinner 

There maybe some overlap from the Vigil and the Rose Dinner. I think you are on the right track different - yet similar.

Some may have seen the proclamation, but I doubt we will be able to get it in their hands. Tim Goeglein may excerpt from it though in his remarks that will go along with the greeting from the President.
Robert T. Pratt Jr



Record Type: Record

To: Matthew E. Smith/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Pro Life Vigil and the Rose Dinner



Matt --

How are you?

This is Tom Pratt in Presidential Correspondence.

I am working on the draft for the Catholic Pro Life Vigil Monday night.....

Just wondering.....will the same people (leaders) be attending that Rose Dinner? (have you sent that information to Linda...I haven't seen the request over here...)

I am wondering about making sure the two messages are different -- yet similar -- since they are basically on the same topic.....(will participants get a copy of the Sanctity of Human Life proclamation as well...??)

Thanks....for your input..

TOM P

6-5515

Jan 18 / Jan 21



GEORGE W. BUSH CORRESPONDENCE

File Name Brohife Ugi 1

Writer Tom P

Date 1-17-02

Perino _____ Marquez HPM

Other approvals (circle as needed)

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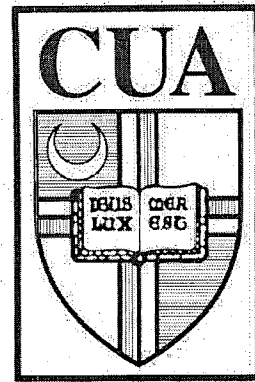
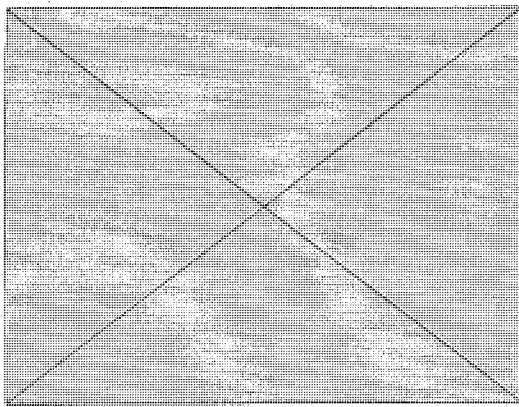
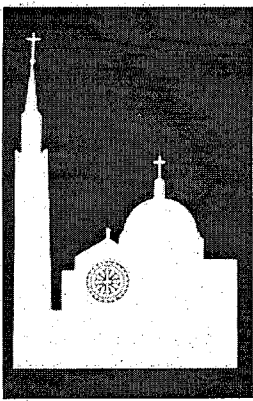
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 14, 2002

CONTACT:
Michelle Powers 703/684-8352
Peter Sonski 202/281-0615
Victor Nakas 202/319-5600

Largest Annual Catholic Mass in United States Marks Anniversary of Supreme Court's Abortion Decision

Pro-Life Vigil at National Shrine to be Held Monday Jan. 21

WASHINGTON, DC – The annual “National Prayer Vigil for Life” will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on January 21st. The Vigil marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion nationwide throughout pregnancy. The Vigil is the largest annual Catholic liturgical celebration in the United States, drawing 8,000 to 12,000 people from throughout the country. It is broadcast live on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) reaching 70 million cable homes in English and Spanish around the world, and millions more on shortwave, and AM and FM radio.

The Principal Celebrant and Homilist of the opening Mass is Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Chairman of the Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Pro-Life Activities. Fifty Bishops and 250 priests are expected to concelebrate the January 21st Mass.

The Vigil is cosponsored annually by the Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and The Catholic University of America. The Vigil Mass is one of several spiritual activities marking this year’s 29th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*. Other events include all-night prayer vigils in the National Shrine, overnight confessions at the Shrine and Catholic University, and a Solemn Mass celebrated on the morning of January 22.

(MORE)

“One of the most striking aspects of this celebration is that it draws thousands of high school and college youths by the busload from throughout the country,” said Gail Quinn, Executive Director of the Bishops’ Pro-Life Secretariat. “Their young witness, along with the thousands of others who participate in the vigil, show the strength, commitment and vibrancy of today’s Pro-Life movement.”

The National Shrine and Catholic University will house people overnight who come to Washington to pray and stand up for their belief in the value of all human life. There will be 400 people staying overnight in the Shrine, and 1500 youth staying at Catholic University’s athletic center.

WHAT: National Prayer Vigil for Life, the largest annual Catholic Mass in the United States.

Principal Celebrant: His Eminence Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua
Concelebrated by 50 Bishops and 250 Priests

WHERE: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC

WHEN: Opening Vigil Mass is Monday, January 21, 2002, 8:00 PM EST
Morning Mass is Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 AM (Principal Celebrant: His Eminence Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington)


CONTACT: For additional information, arrangements to obtain satellite feed, or to arrange an interview:

Michelle Powers at 703/684-8352 or mpowers@tarnepowerspr.com

Peter Sonski, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 202/281-0615 or pas@bnsic.org

Victor Nakas, The Catholic University of America, 202/319-5600 or nakas@cua.edu.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 29, 2001, Monday

CITE: Volume 37--Number 4

LENGTH: 874 words

HEADLINE: Statement to Participants in the **March for Life**

HIGHLIGHT:

An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

BODY:

January 22, 2001

Good afternoon, friends and fellow citizens. Two days ago, Americans gathered on the Washington Mall to celebrate our Nation's ideals. Today, you are gathered to remind our country that one of those ideals is the infinite value of every life. I deeply appreciate your message and your work. You see the weak and defenseless, and you try to help them. You see the hardship of many young mothers and their unborn children, and you care for them both. In so many ways, you make our society more compassionate and welcoming.

We share a great goal: to work toward a day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law. We know this will not come easily, or all at once. But the goal leads us onward: to build a culture of life, affirming that every person, at every stage and season of life, is created equal in God's image.

The promises of our Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone-- including unborn children. We are a society with enough compassion and wealth and love to care for both mothers and their children, to seek the promise and potential in every human life.

I believe that we are making progress toward that goal. I trust in the good hearts of Americans. I trust in the unfolding promise of our country--an expanding circle of inclusion and protection. And I trust in the civility and good sense of our citizens--a willingness to engage our differences in a spirit of tolerance and good will.

All of you marching today have never tired in a good cause. Thank you for your conviction, your idealism, and your courage. May God bless you all.

George W. Bush

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San Antonio Express-News

January 28, 2001, Sunday , METRO

SECTION: INSIGHT; Pg. 1G**LENGTH:** 838 words**HEADLINE:** **Bush** revealing his true intentions on abortion**BYLINE:** Jan Jarboe Russell

BODY: On the very day of the 28th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision of the Supreme Court, the 43rd president of the United States revealed that he was never confused about abortion. He was just biding time.

During the campaign, George W. **Bush** kept his lips as buttoned as possible on the unpleasant subject of abortion. When he did speak of it, it was impossible to make sense of what he said. One moment he claimed abortion is so morally wrong it should be outlawed, except in cases of rape and incest. The next, he implied he wouldn't lift a finger to overturn Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion nationwide. Now the accumulations of **Bush's** extreme position build up day by day, like lime inside a well-used teakettle. Those of us who are pro-choice now realize that the **Bush** presidency is not going to be a simple walk across a fair playing field. We are back into a pre-Roe era where we are in constant debate with our government over the most personal, private aspects of our lives: how - and whether - individuals choose to reproduce.

When his wife, Laura, said she thought Roe vs. Wade should stand, many women breathed a sigh of relief. Maybe George W. didn't really mean what he said about making abortions illegal. But he did.

The first signal of his real intent was his nomination of John Ashcroft as attorney general. A one-term Republican senator from Missouri, Ashcroft has been a relentless opponent of abortion rights for the past 30 years.

Then **Bush** banned funding to overseas family planning organizations that offer abortion counseling. The issue is not federal funding for abortions abroad - the organizations involved in family planning can't even mention the subject of abortion in Africa, Asia, Latin America.

The reason that both Laura **Bush**, the wife of the 43rd president, as well as Barbara, the wife of the 41st president, are reluctant to make abortion illegal is obvious, even though no one talks of it.

Here's the reason: one-half of the population has the luxury of talking about whether abortion laws should be repealed and of scoring political points along the way, while the other half of the population has the terrible burden of living with the consequences.

Any woman - especially mothers of daughters - realizes at a visceral level that the subject of abortion is not an either-or proposition. No one wants to have an abortion. Yet, at the same time, no civilization has ever been able to impose its highest values and ideals with absolute certainty. Even in this new Victorian age, every pregnancy is not going to be a blessed event. The need for safe medical abortions is a heartbreaking, complicated reality.

Our politics to the contrary, very few of us are either 100 percent pro-choice or 100 percent pro-life. Medical science and our own dark nights of soul-searching alert us to the reality that there are no easy answers.

For instance, in an era where RU-486 and other so-called "morning after" pills are legal and available, shouldn't the option of partial-birth abortion be medically obsolete in all but the most unusual cases?

Another for instance: how can we make sure that parents are notified if their teen-age daughters seek an abortion, but also provide for the many exceptions - such as incest - when parents are the problem, not the solution?

These are the kind of nuances that are typically lost in the political arena, which demands short answers that leave us more polarized than we already are.

In Texas, where the abortion legal battle began 28 years ago, the two women who are famously associated with Roe vs. Wade - Jane Roe and her attorney, Sarah Weddington, perfectly reflect the nation's split.

Norma McCorvey, who was "Jane Roe" in the 1973 case, now lives in Dallas, where she runs a Christian ministry called "No More Roe." In 1995, McCorvey reversed her pro-choice position on abortion after she converted to Christianity and was baptized in the backyard swimming pool of the Rev. Flip Benham, a pro-life activist. On the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, "Miss Norma" - as she prefers to be called - was in Wichita, Kan., where she called for the ruling to be overturned.

In Austin last week, Weddington nervously calculated the odds that Miss Norma may get her wish. Of the nine justices on the court, only three support Roe vs. Wade outright, three favor weakening the law, and three strongly oppose it.

"The only anniversary of Roe vs. Wade I felt really good about was the first one, when I felt the law was written in granite," Weddington said. "I certainly don't feel good about this one."

The reason she feels ill?

Three elderly justices have openly talked about retiring, which means **Bush** - not his wife or his mother - will name their replacements. It's only a matter of time before Miss Norma's wish - no more Roe - is the law of the land.

Jan Jarboe Russell can be reached at 250-3480 or email jjarboe@express-news.net.

GRAPHIC: TOM REEL/STAFF : A group of pro-life demonstrators moves past the Supreme Court Building in Washington last week for the **March for Life** 2001 parade.

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Public Papers of the Presidents, January 22, 1992

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 22, 1992

CITE: 28 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 143

LENGTH: 261 words

HEADLINE: Remarks in a Teleconference with the **March for Life** Rally

BODY:

I admire your conviction and dedication as you watch out for the most helpless members of our human family.

The most compelling legacy of this Nation is Jefferson's concept that all are created equal. It doesn't say "born equal." He says "created." From the moment the miracle of life occurs, human beings must cherish that life, must hold it in awe, must preserve, protect, and defend it. It's there in our Declaration of Independence that we are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness.

I want to reaffirm my dedication and commitment to the simple recognition that all life is a precious gift, that each human being has intrinsic dignity and worth. We are making progress towards this recognition, and I will continue to oppose and fight back attempts by Congress to expand Federal funding for abortions.

Much remains to be done as we reflect upon the gift of life. So, let us redouble our efforts, both in public and private sector, to encourage alternatives such as adoption.

And on a personal note, I find the figures on the numbers of pregnancies that are terminated by abortion simply unconscionable.

So, thank you for what you're doing, for your heartfelt, selfless work. For 19 years you've been tirelessly committed to a righteous cause. And I am out there with you in spirit. And may God bless you all.

Thank you very much.

Note: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House to rally participants gathered on The Mall.

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Public Papers of the Presidents, January 22, 1991

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 22, 1991

CITE: 27 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 68

LENGTH: 282 words

HEADLINE: Remarks to Participants in the **March for Life** Rally

BODY:

Once again, it is my distinct honor to address Nellie Gray and those courageous and determined Americans gathered on The Mall for the Rally for Life. January has become -- in large part due to the dedication and hard work of the **March for Life** -- a time of reflection, a time of rejuvenation for pro-life forces. And so, I'm pleased that my voice is part of the growing chorus that simply says, "Choose Life."

As I look back at past years' Rally for Life, I am encouraged by the progress which has taken place. Attempts by Congress to expand funding -- Federal funding -- for abortions have been defeated, and the Supreme Court has taken welcome steps toward reversing its *Roe versus Wade* decision.


Despite these successes, much remains to be done. Abortion on demand continues unabated in this country. And as I have said in the past, this prevalence calls into question our respect for the fundamental right to life. Government and private sector must be more involved in encouraging alternatives such as adoption.

And you, the thousands of tireless volunteers who have gathered here from across the United States, must make it your goal to keep this issue alive and predominant in the Halls of Congress, the courts, and in the minds of the American people.

Thank you for your commitment and God bless you.

*Note: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House, via an electronic hookup with the rally site. Participants had gathered on the Ellipse for a march to the Supreme Court on the 18th anniversary of the Court's decision of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion. Nellie Gray is president of **March for Life**.*

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Source: [All Sources](#) > [News](#) > [News Group File, All](#) ⓘTerms: **public papers of the president and march for life** ([Edit Search](#)) Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery*Public Papers of the Presidents, April 28, 1990***Public Papers of the Presidents**

April 28, 1990

CITE: 26 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 673**LENGTH:** 389 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to Participants in the Rally for Life**BODY:**

Well, thank you, Henry Hyde. Thank you for the introduction, and thank you, as well, for your commitment to life. Incidentally, this magnificent rally looks very, very good on television. How do I know? Because I've seen some of it. I want to pay my respects to our able Vice President, Dan Quayle -- thank him for his commitment -- to other Members of Congress that are there, to Dr. Willke, to Dr. Dobson, and a special greeting to my friend -- Your Eminences Cardinal O'Connor and Cardinal Hickey and others that might be in attendance.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express to you my deeply held views about abortion on demand. In January of this year, I addressed the **March for Life** on this very issue, and I said then and reaffirm now that your presence on The Mall today reminds all of us in government that Americans from all walks of life are committed to preserving the sanctity and dignity of human life. Like you, I realize that the widespread prevalence of abortion in America is a tragedy not only in terms of lives destroyed but because it so fundamentally contradicts the values that we as a nation hold dear. When I look at adopted children, I give thanks that their parents chose life.

Today, as a nation of faith and compassion, our mission must be to help more and more Americans make the right choice -- the choice for life. One day your lifesaving message will have reached and influenced every American. Until then, continue to work for the day when respect for human life is sacrosanct and beyond question. I know from your devotion and selflessness that this day cannot be far away.

God bless you, and God bless life. Thank you very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. by telephone to the rally site from the Oval Office at the White House. Participants had gathered on The Mall to affirm their commitment to outlaw abortion and their support of last year's Supreme Court decision opening the way for States to restrict abortions. In his remarks, the President referred to Representative Henry Hyde; John C. Willke, president of the National Right to Life Committee; James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family; James Cardinal Hickey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington; and John Cardinal O'Connor, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York.

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25 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 110

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Public Papers of the Presidents, January 23, 1989

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 23, 1989

CITE: 25 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 110

LENGTH: 305 words

HEADLINE: Remarks to Participants in the March for Life Rally

BODY:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is George Bush in the Oval Office. And before you begin your march today, on this first Monday of my Presidency, I wanted to take just a few brief moments to restate my firm support of our cause and to share with you my deep personal concern about our American tragedy of abortion on demand. We are concerned about abortion because it deals with the lives of two human beings, mother and child. I know there are people of good will who disagree, but after years of sober and serious reflection on the issue, this is what I think. I think the Supreme Court's decision in Roe versus Wade was wrong and should be overturned. I think America needs a human life amendment. And I think when it comes to abortion there's a better way: the way of adoption, the way of life.

I know that this morning several of your leaders had a meeting in the White House with Vice President Quayle. I know, too, that you and hundreds of thousands with you across the country have raised a voice of moral gravity about abortion, a voice of principle, a voice of faith, a full voice that properly asserts and affirms the basic dignity of human life. I'm confident that more and more Americans every year -- every day -- are hearing your message and taking it to heart.

And, ladies and gentlemen -- and, yes, young people as well -- I promise you that the President hears you now and stands with you in a cause that must be won.

God bless you all, and God bless life.

Note: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House via an electronic communications link with the rally site. Participants had gathered on the Ellipse for a march to the Supreme Court on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Court's decision of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

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24 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 73

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Source: [All Sources](#) > [News](#) > [News Group File, All](#) Terms: [march for life rally and reagan](#) ([Edit Search](#)) Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery*Public Papers of the Presidents, January 22, 1988*

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 22, 1988

CITE: 24 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 73**LENGTH:** 1204 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to Participants in the **March for Life Rally****BODY:***The President.* Hello to you, Nellie Gray.--*Miss Gray.* Hello, President **Reagan**.*The President.* -- and to all of you in the 15th annual **March for Life rally**.

Miss Gray. Mr. President, I want to welcome you to this 15th March for Life. The prolife Americans are coming here from every State of the Union. We appreciate so much your prolife words, but we do want to mention that we are somewhat disappointed that once again in December you unfortunately were assigning some public monies for abortions here in the District of Columbia. and we do want to ask today, as we join, that even though we have spent a lot of time lobbying with the White House, unfortunately, those monies were appropriated to kill the preborn children in the District of Columbia. We would love to hear from you today, Mr. President, that we will not have any more appropriations for abortions in the District or anywhere else.

The President. Well, Nellie, sometimes these things happen, because, as you know, there are people that are in great disagreement with us. But we are continuing to work and to do our best to end any Federal funding.

Miss Gray. Wonderful. We welcome you, Mr. President, and we await your message now.

The President. Well, all right. The first of your noble marches came just one year after the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Rowe v. Wade*. And for a decade and a half, you've worked to end the tragedy that -- since that day when the Court, in the stroke of a pen, legalized abortion across our nation -- has claimed the lives of more than 20 million infants.

Twenty million -- that's more than twice the population of New York City, and close to the population of all of California. And yet our opponents tell us not to interfere with abortion. They tell us not to impose our morality on those who wish to allow or participate in the taking of the life of infants before birth. Yet no one calls it imposing morality to prohibit the taking of life after a child is born. We're told about a woman's right to control her own body. But doesn't the unborn child have a higher right, and that is to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Or would our critics

say that to defend life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is to impose morality? Are we to forget the entire moral mission of our nation through its history?

Well, my answer, and I know it's yours, is no. America was founded on a moral proposition that human life -- all human life -- is sacred. And this proposition is the bedrock of our national life, the foundation of our laws. It's the wellspring of our Constitution. Courts may ignore it, and they have. They cannot -- and I should add -- have not denied it. When reverence for life can have no boundaries, when we begin to take some life casually, we threaten all life.

A few years ago, I spoke about the pain that we now know an unborn fetus experiences in the course of an abortion. At the time there was an outcry -- enraged criticism and angry denials. But criticism wasn't the only response. It so happened that I received a letter signed by 24 medical doctors, including eminent physicians like the former chief of pediatrics at the St. Louis City Hospital and the president of the New York State Medical Society. They discussed recent advances in medical technology and concluded: "Mr. President, in drawing attention to the capability of the human fetus to feel pain, you stand on firmly established ground."

Well, you know, I couldn't help noticing, that letter received far less coverage than the many derisive attacks that preceded it. Modern medicine treats unborn children as patients. Mothers are advised to calm the fetus with music. Some say that Mozart is particularly soothing. Isn't there enough evidence for even skeptics to admit that those who assert the personhood of the fetus may be right? And if we are to err, shouldn't it be on the side of life? I believe it's time the law caught up with science.

Now, I'm going to ask your support on a few things. We have sent up to Congress the prolife bill. It states that abortion is the taking of a human life and stops all Federal funding of abortion by making the Hyde amendment permanent. It needs your support, and it deserves your support.

We will soon publish regulations that will cut off Federal family planning funds from abortion-related activities. The law prohibits using Title X money to encourage or promote abortion in any way. Yet under the current guidelines, Title X programs must offer abortion counseling and referrals.

It has been argued that this is evenhanded, a way of ensuring that young women are presented with all options. But that's not how it's worked out. Too often, the same Title X funded programs that give referrals have financial ties to programs that perform abortions. In practice, young women using their services have sometimes been led to believe that abortion is their best, if not their only option. As one young woman reported recently in a comment on our new regulations: "I was not given a complete picture [by the family planning clinic]. . . . The decision I made for abortion was no decision at all. It was a coercion."

Well, our new regulations will put an end to this conflict of interest in cases where Title X funds are involved. They will prohibit using Title X money for any program that performs abortions, or counsels or refers for abortions, or promotes abortion through the media, the courts, or anyplace else. They will require family-planning programs to be both financially and physically separate from facilities that use abortion as a method of family planning. No mingling of silver. We are getting Title X back to Congress' original intent: reducing the number of abortions. But as you know, original intent is controversial these days. We'll need your help in defending these regulations.

Now, before I hang up, let me suggest that we all take a moment for a silent prayer -- prayer for wisdom and, since ours is a merciful cause, that we ourselves will know mercy for the suffering of women who have had abortions and for the troubled mind with which so many Americans meditate on this issue. Shall we pray?

Amen.

Good luck, and God bless you all.

Miss Gray. We thank you, Mr. President. And we want to join with you, and we will work to perfect those bills. We also want to include in our prayers and our silent prayers the prisoners of conscience who are in the jails because they have tried to stop the abortions, and we are sorry that Joan Andrews is not with us today. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you all. God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House via an electronic hookup with the rally site. Participants had gathered on the Ellipse for a march to the Supreme Court on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Court's decision of Rowe v Wade, which legalized abortion.

Miss Gray is President of March for Life. In her closing remarks, she referred to Joan Andrews, who was convicted in Florida of illegal antiabortion activities.

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Public Papers of the Presidents, January 22, 1986

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 22, 1986

CITE: 1986 Pub. Papers 80

LENGTH: 662 words

HEADLINE: 1986 March for Life Rally

HIGHLIGHT:

Remarks to Participants in the Rally.

BODY:

The President. Hello, Nellie Gray?

Ms. Gray. Hello, Mr. President. [Applause]

The President. Nellie, first of all --

Ms. Gray. Mr. President, that is pro-life America welcoming you to this 13th March for Life, and we wait to listen to your words. The President. Well, thank you very much. And Nellie, first of all, thank you all for those beautiful red roses that have arrived here for Nancy and myself.

But now, I'm pleased to tell all of you who've come today to march for life, welcome to Washington, and thank you all for your commitment and support for the right to life. When you insist upon legal protection for all human life, you're simply being true to our most basic principles and convictions as Americans. We'll continue to work together with Members of the Congress to overturn the tragedy of Roe versus Wade.

By your presence today, you reaffirm the self-evident truths set forth in our Declaration of Independence. Each year remarkable advances in prenatal medicine bring even more dramatic confirmation of what common sense has told us all along: that the child in the womb is simply what each of us once was, a very young, very small, dependent, and very vulnerable live member of the human family.

Last year in my State of the Union Address, I stated that abortion is either the taking of human life or it isn't. And if it is -- and medical technology is increasingly showing it is -- it must be stopped. Now, together --

Ms. Gray. Yes, Mr. President?

The President. -- together, we will ensure that the resources of government are not used to

promote or perform abortions.

And I know that many of you provide compassionate care for women seeking alternatives to abortion. The heroic efforts of these women who choose life are a moving testimony to our reverence of human life. Each child about to be born is a unique, unrepeatable gift. Each child who escapes the tragedy of abortion is an immeasurable victory.

Last month, I had a very special visitor in the Oval Office. Mother Teresa was in town, and we were able to exchange holiday greetings. We've often heard Mother Teresa say that: "Abortion has become the greatest destroyer of peace. If we really want peace, if we're sincere in our hearts that we really want peace, we should make a strong resolution that we will not allow a single child to feel unwanted, to feel unloved." That was Mother Teresa's reminder to us.

Our nation's affirmation of the sacredness of all human life must begin with respect for our most basic civil right: the right to life. And again this year, let me say I'm proud to stand with you in the log march for the right to life. God bless you all.

Ms. Gray. Mr. President, we want to thank you very much for being with us today, and we liked, particularly, your words which said that each and every human life is precious. And we want to work with you and your administration. Particularly, we want to stop the funds for abortion in the District of Columbia -- no exceptions and no compromise. We want, also, to work with you to assure that we have pro-life judges appointed. And, Mr. President, we are here in unity today -- unified -- the grassroots movement with our noexception position, and we will be working for the paramount human life amendment. May we work with you, Mr. President?

The President. You certainly may. And again, God bless you all. Thank you all.

Ms. Gray. Thank you, Mr. President, and God bless you. We are so pleased that you are in the White House.

The President. Thank you very much. Goodbye.

Note: The President spoke at noon from the Oval Office via a loudspeaker hookup with the rally site. Participants had gathered on the Ellipse for a march to the Supreme Court on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on the abortion issue.

Miss Nellie Gray is president of **March for life**.

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Linda,

This is the information about Monday night's mass.

Thanks for your help. I am faxing over the invitation to the President to the Rose Dinner that we also would like to request a greeting for.

Matt

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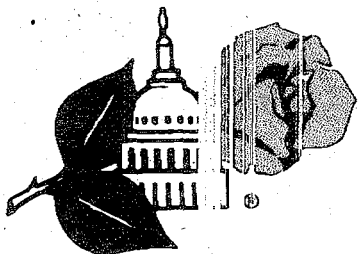
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P. O. Box 90300
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TEL: 202 - LIFE - 377
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December 6, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to extend this invitation from the *March for Life Fund* Board of Directors and from thousands of prolife Americans that you please join with us for the 29th annual *March for Life Rally*, on Tuesday, Noon, January 22, 2002 at the Washington Monument. The theme is: "**Truth Uncovers Abortion Evils.**" America needs your leadership to stop the intentional killing of our preborn brothers and sisters.

Let me give you some information about our *March for Life*. It began January 22, 1974, one year after *Roe v. Wade*, when thousands of grassroots prolife volunteers came to Washington to petition Congress for redress of our Supreme Court's infamous abortion decisions. In *Roe v. Wade*, we saw America self-inflict herself with the innocent blood of preborn humans and begin the slippery slope into other absolute evils — euthanasia, assisted suicide, partial birth abortion, trafficking in fetal body parts, embryonic stem cell research, cloning and much more. These untenable violations of the sanctity of human life have infected our whole society with wounds such as family breakdown and school shootings.

Each victim of abortion is our Neighbor, including each preborn child, the child's mother and father, public officials favoring abortion, proliferers, and feminists/abortionists themselves. We must relieve all victims from *Roe v. Wade* evils.

The *Life Principles* guide our work. They are simple: (1) that each human life begins at fertilization, (2) that each born and preborn human in existence at fertilization has an equal right to life — an equal right to life for both a pregnant mother and her preborn child, and (3) that when in doubt whether a human life exists, opt for life. Thus, (4) there is no justification for a person or the State intentionally to kill an innocent born or preborn human in existence at fertilization or authorize anyone else to do so. No Exception! No Compromise! And so, America may not tolerate even a little bit of abortion.

It is good, Mr. President, that you have told us you are prolife. But, we know that the prolife imperative is not high on the agenda of most elected or appointed public officials. Thus, prolife Americans must *March for Life* on January 22 to continue to educate Washington officials that *Life Principles* must guide their work. In conscience, America must not

continue to tolerate the unjust decriminalization of the intentional killing of even one preborn human being in existence at fertilization. Prolifers suffer as we must live side-by-side with the intentional killing of an estimated 4,000 preborns each day, 1,500,000 each year, and 40,000,000 since *Roe v. Wade*. Feminists/abortionists cover their evils by (1) duplicity in code words and (2) closed doors. Truth shows that intentionally killing preborns is not respectable and is not tolerable.

The prolife imperative is not a mere political issue — it is a universal human rights responsibility which spans political preference and social divisions such as man-woman, religious-nonreligious, republican-democrat, rich-poor, conservative-liberal, north-south-east-west. We learn from the Nuremberg Trials that no class of human beings may be destroyed with impunity. And, prolife Americans join with you to work to assure that "**no child is left behind,**" which, of course, includes that no preborn child is left behind in surgical waste.

Our prolife work is to assure that our Constitution protects the unalienable and paramount right to life endowed by Our Creator and vested in each human being at fertilization. We shall focus on fertilization, because it is equally as heinous intentionally to kill a tiny one cell preborn as a larger preborn.

Our personal tools are prayer to God and petition to all branches of Federal, State and local governments. Our most visible tool is the peaceful annual *March for Life*, January 22.

Mr. President, we send you this invitation to speak to the *March for Life Rally* so that we prolife Americans may give you our warm greeting. We want to work with you, in Faith, Hope and Charity, so that our society again is assured that our unalienable right to life is protected. We work for Love of God, of our born and preborn Neighbors, and of our Country. Please come.

Sincerely in Life,

Miss Nellie J. Gray
President

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22 Years of Prolife Work for God, Country and Neighbor

Late in October 1973, grassroots prolife leaders became concerned that January 22, 1974, might come and go without properly memorializing the Supreme Court's infamous abortion decisions and without petitioning Congress for redress. No established right-to-life organization desired or was prepared to undertake the planning, financial and operational responsibilities for a prolife March on the U.S. Capitol. But, grassroots proliferers wanted to march!

Meeting in Washington around a dining room table, veteran prolife leaders from their state, county, and community organizations, resolved themselves into a temporary committee, selected a chairman, and began making plans and decisions. They divided the many jobs and established the famous Rose Committee for the "Say It With Roses" Campaign.

In 1974, the MARCH FOR LIFE was incorporated as a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization. It is action-oriented. Knowing that no sound action can grow out of a vacuum of purpose, MARCH FOR LIFE formulated the Life Principles as a forthright, comprehensive statement of the position motivating the prolife movement. The Life Principles guide MARCH FOR LIFE work, and are shown on the back and inside-back cover of this Annual Report. Life Principles formed the basis for developing the language of the "Paramount HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT," by which the Constitution shall protect the unalienable and paramount right to life of each human being in existence at fertilization.

