



CATHOLIC BAR
ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

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THE CATHOLIC BAR ASSOCIATION DENOUNCES THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S PROMOTION OF ABORTION

As an organization that educates, organizes and inspires its members to uphold faithfully and bear witness to the Catholic Faith in the study and practice of the law, the Catholic Bar Association (CBA) objects to statements by political leaders and other high-profile persons, especially those claiming to be devout Catholics, that aggressively promote practices such as abortion and in vitro fertilization (“IVF”) that represent profound assaults on human dignity.

From its earliest days, the Catholic Church has taught, “You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish.” (*Didache* 2,2) No one, under any circumstances, can claim the “right” to destroy an innocent human being. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, hereafter CCC, # 2258). Human life is to “be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.” (CCC #2270). Abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law (CCC #2271). IVF not only destroys the link between love and fertility in the marital act, but often results in the taking of human life and is also gravely sinful (CCC #s 2376, 2377).

Despite this clear teaching, President Joe Biden and his administration have aggressively promoted not just the legal permission to perform abortion and IVF, but the use of taxpayer dollars to fund both practices. In his 2024 State of the Union address, President Biden warned that the Supreme Court’s decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the Alabama Supreme Court’s recognition that a child conceived in a test tube is a human being entitled to legal protections are

among the greatest assaults on freedom and democracy since the Civil War. He exclaimed, “My God, what freedom else [sic] would you take away!” After the Arizona Supreme Court upheld a pre-*Roe* pro-life state law, Biden ran a 30-second commercial, promising women he “will fight like hell to get your freedom back” to abort their children. During an April 23, 2024 campaign rally focused on abortion rights, Biden made the Sign of the Cross, a gesture that several Catholic bishops rightly condemned as sacrilegious.

President Biden promised after the *Dobbs* decision that his administration would “do everything in his power” to promote abortions. Because Congress does not share his pro-abortion agenda, Biden has aggressively pushed abortions through regulatory action. A new rule under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act has taken a law passed to support pregnant employees and twisted it into a requirement that employers accommodate abortions. The Biden administration has claimed that the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) supersedes state laws limiting abortion. The FDA has likewise abandoned safety precautions that had heretofore accompanied the abortifacient drug mifepristone.

President Biden’s words and actions betray a fundamental misunderstanding of what human freedom means. Any claim of “right” or “freedom” must take into account the rights of others and respect for the common good. As the saying goes, “Your right to swing your fist ends at my nose.” But more importantly, rights must be grounded in the truths of the human person. Here, no one has a “right” to abortion or IVF and participating in either is not a proper exercise of freedom because both practices ignore the rights of the unborn child and the common good of society. Both abortion, which ends a human life, and IVF, which employs artificial means to initiate human life, treat unborn children like objects that adults can manipulate at will, not persons whose inherent dignity and inalienable rights we are bound to respect. Unfortunately,

President Biden is not alone in these errors—his principal opponents in the upcoming presidential election have also expressed views with respect to IVF or abortion that are contrary to Church teaching on these matters.

Reasonable minds may differ concerning the government’s proper role in civil society, but all people of goodwill should be able to agree that the law must protect the most innocent and the most vulnerable and prevent the powerful from exploiting the weak. Heartfelt sympathy for the pain of infertility does not justify IVF. First, IVF does not treat or cure infertility. Second, IVF contradicts what reason demonstrates and what the Catholic Church teaches about the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. When self-identified Catholics, especially those who have been admitted to the Bar, pretend that these practices are the exercise of freedom, we in the Catholic Bar Association must raise our voices in protest as we do in this statement, which has been approved by a majority vote of our Directors. We also pray for the return of right reason to all in the public arena, whether self-proclaimed Catholics or otherwise, who would advance the pernicious practices of abortion and IVF under the false flags of liberty and freedom.

The Catholic Bar Association is a national organization of Catholic attorneys with members in 35 states. It is a tax-exempt organization recognized under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; it neither endorses nor opposes any candidate for any political office.