

## **Pro-Life Success in the States: A Strategy for the Current Decade and Beyond**

Lecture at the Pro-Life Science and Technology Symposium

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### **Part 1: Background**

- Among the 46 states reporting data in both 1999 and 1990 the number of abortions dropped by 18.4%.
- The improved economy likely played a role in this decline, but one factor that cannot be overlooked is the positive impact of state level pro-life legislation.

### **Increases in Pro-Life Legislation During the 1990s**

	<b>1992</b>	<b>2000</b>
Parental Involvement Laws	20	32
Informed Consent Laws	0	27
Waiting Periods	0	11
Partial Birth Abortion Bans	0	12

### **Part 2: Reasons for the Increase in State Level Pro-life Legislation**

- The Supreme Court's *Casey vs. Planned Parenthood* decision in 1992 gave states somewhat more leeway to protect the unborn.
- Increased success of pro-life candidates in state legislative races.

### **Year                      State Legislatures Controlled by Republicans**

1992	8
1994	19
2000	18

### **Part 3: Testing the Impact of State Level Pro-life Legislation**

- To test the effectiveness of state level pro-life legislation, a comprehensive regression analysis is conducted on state abortion data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI).
- Abortion data from nearly every state from 1985 to 1999 is analyzed.

- Two separate measures of the incidence of abortion are used.

1) Abortion rates which measure the number of abortions per thousand women between the ages of 15 and 44

2) Abortion ratios which measure the number of abortions per every thousand live births.

- Demographic and economic fluctuations are held constant.

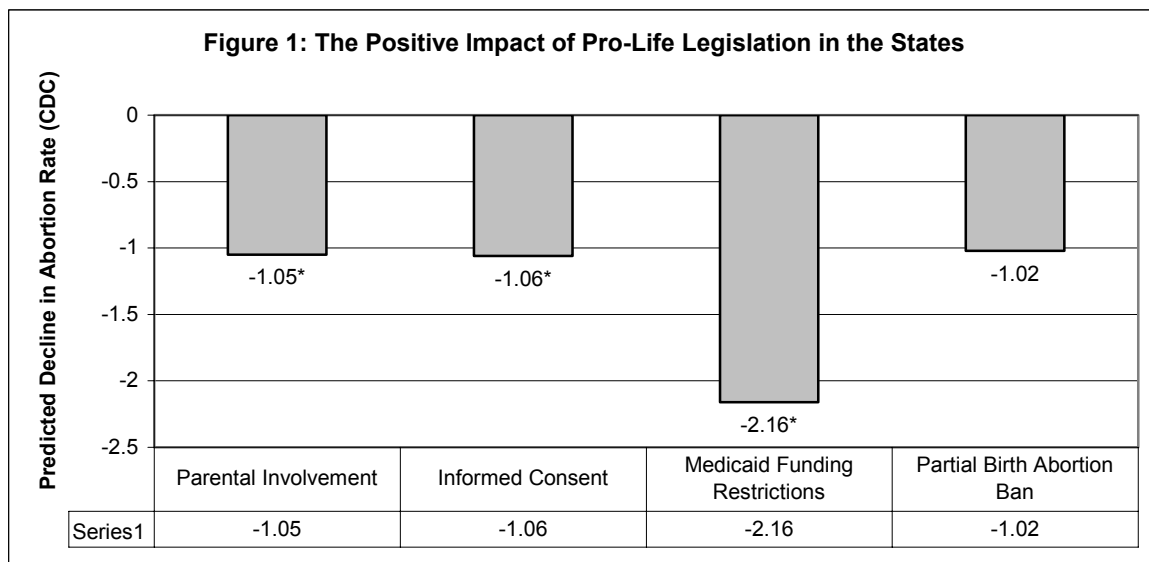
- The results provide very solid evidence that pro-life legislation in the states has been effective at reducing the number of abortions that take place.

### The Positive Impact of Pro-Life Legislation

Variable	Abortion Ratio	Abortion Rate	Abortion Ratio	Abortion Rate
Data Source	CDC	CDC	AGI	AGI
Parental Involvement	-18.22*	-1.05*	-6.92	-0.48
Informed Consent	-8.06*	-1.06*	-18.21*	-1.91*
Medicaid Funding Restrictions	-31.68*	-2.16*	-33.81*	-2.47*
Partial Birth Abortion Ban	-14.74*	-1.02	-52.49*	-1.86
Waiting Periods	-3.01	-0.27	-2.74	-0.19

\* indicates statistical significance ( $p < .10$ )

Note: CDC refers to data obtained from the Center for Disease Control, AGI refers to data obtained from the Alan Guttmacher Institute



## Part 4: Considering Other Possibilities for the Abortion Declines

- It is conceivable that pro-life legislation is not responsible the declines in abortion rates and ratios. Possibly, the adoption of more conservative values is causing both the enactment of pro-life legislation and the declines in abortion.
- This can be tested by comparing states where pro-life legislation was enacted to states where pro-life legislation was passed, but subsequently nullified by the judiciary.
- If value shifts are causing the declines, then nullified and enacted legislation should have similar effects. If legislation is causing the declines, enacted legislation should have a greater impact than nullified legislation.
- Overall, these tests strongly suggest that pro-life legislation, and not changes in values correlated with the passage of pro-life legislation, is responsible for the abortion declines.

### Examining The Impact of Informed Consent Laws

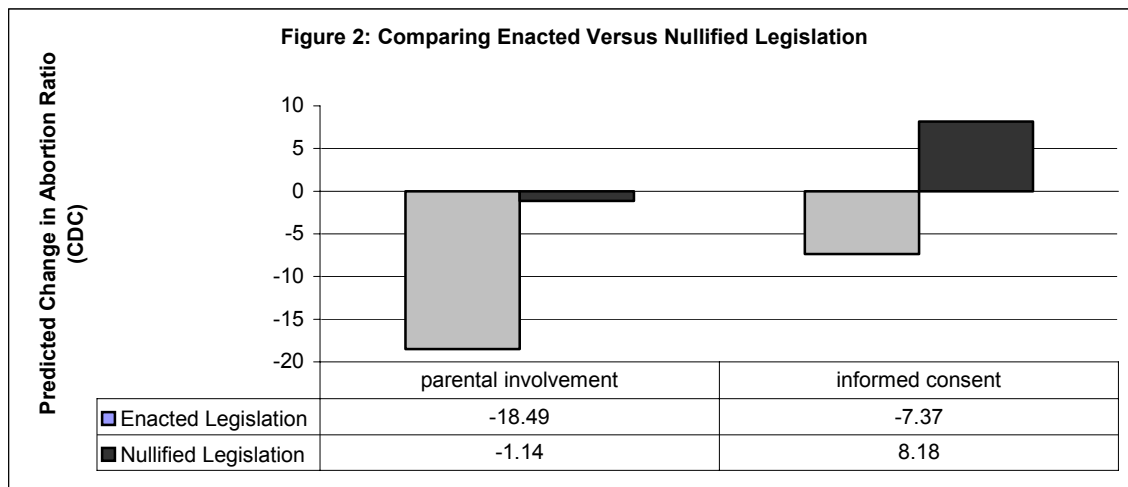
Status of law	Enacted	Nullified	Difference
Abortion Ratio (CDC)	-7.37	8.18	-15.55*
Abortion Rate (CDC)	-1.03	0.49	-1.52*

\* indicates a statistically significant difference (p < .10)

### Examining The Impact of Parental Involvement Laws

Status of law	Enacted	Nullified	Difference
Abortion Ratio (CDC)	-18.49	-1.14	-17.35*
Abortion Rate (CDC)	-1.03	0.08	-1.11*

\* indicates a statistically significant difference (p < .10)



## Part 5: A Closer Look At Parental Involvement Legislation

- Parental involvement laws are the most common type of pro-life legislation, as over 30 states have a parental involvement law in effect.
- These laws differ greatly in their features.
- Some parental involvement laws require parental consent, others require parental notification.
- Some parental involvement laws have judicial bypass provisions, others do not.
- Preliminary analysis suggests that these differences have a sizeable impact on the effectiveness of parental involvement legislation.

### Examining The Impact of Parental Involvement Laws

Type of Law	Notification	Consent	Notification	Consent
Judicial Bypass	Yes	Yes	No	No
Abortion Ratio (CDC)	-2.01	-16.14*	-72.66*	-39.45*
Abortion Rate (CDC)	-0.15	-0.92*	-4.62*	-3.43*

indicates a statistically significant difference ( $p < .10$ )

