

*“An educational group for pro-life nurses”*

## Justice Sotomayor Is Wrong: Fetal Pain Is Not ‘Fringe Science’

*Science Demonstrates Unborn Babies Capable of Pain at 12 Weeks*

Justice Sonia Sotomayor incorrectly claimed during *Dobbs* oral arguments [December 2, 2021] that the existence of fetal pain before 24 weeks is only believed by a “small fringe of doctors,” seeming to ignore modern peer-reviewed studies that have influenced the work of Dr. Stuart Derbyshire, one of the world’s leading neuroscientists, who writes that fetal pain is possible “from as early as 12 weeks.”

Dr. Derbyshire, whose 2010 work is cited in the abortion industry’s *Dobbs* response brief, was for many years considered a “leading voice against the likelihood of fetal pain.” He was previously on record rejecting the possibility of fetal pain prior to 24 weeks.

**However, in response to a growing body of scientific evidence, Dr. Derbyshire last year changed his long-held position** and published a peer-reviewed paper in *BMJ’s Journal of Medical Ethics* concluding that the cortex is not necessary for pain perception, and that “the evidence, and a balanced reading of that evidence, points toward an immediate and unreflective pain experience mediated by the developing function of the nervous system from **as early as 12 weeks.**”

According to a 2021 Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) analysis of the most up-to-date science on fetal pain: **“For decades, most neuroscientists have operated by the axiom of ‘cortical necessity.’ This is the idea that a cerebral cortex—the thin, convoluted, outer layer of the brain that activates between 24 and 30 weeks’ gestation—is required to perceive pain.**

**“There has long been evidence to the contrary. But accumulating studies, especially two from 2016, strongly imply that cortical necessity is incorrect: evidence shows subcortical (lower) brain structures that develop much earlier than 24 to 30 weeks are sufficient for pain perception.”**

Complete citations and additional discussion are available in CLI’s 2021 report, “The ACOG Should Reconsider Fetal Pain.”

Dr. Maureen Condic, a CLI associate scholar and international expert on human embryology, discussed the science of fetal pain in CLI’s *Dobbs* amicus brief and explained the issue in a recent article for *National Review*.

Dr. David Prentice, CLI’s vice president of research and an expert on stem cell research, had this reaction after hearing Justice Sotomayor’s comments during the oral arguments:

**“Respectfully, we suggest that Justice Sotomayor follow the science, which has not stood still since *Roe* was decided in 1973. Modern research is revealing that unborn babies do feel pain at an early stage, and we see that science in action regularly during fetal surgery, in which doctors apply analgesia in utero to prevent the suffering of the unborn child.”**

—*National Right to Life News, December 2, 2021*



*Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor*



**Unborn Babies Feel Pain!**

# Michigan Nurses For Life

## Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

What an exciting year this will be! Those of us who believe that human life is worthy of respect, dignity and protection may see a whole new opportunity to put those beliefs into action.

On December 1, 2021, the United States Supreme Court heard a case brought to it from Mississippi (*Dobbs v. Jackson*). If the court rules in favor of Life, there is every reason to hope it will cause the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision to fall.

If that happens, and we have a victory from the court, the legality of abortion will become an issue for each state to decide. In Michigan, if no new laws are passed between now and the court's announcement, abortion will be illegal!

Clearly, there will be a mighty political struggle to keep unlimited abortion out of our state. Pro-abortion organizations are already forming political action committees to embed unlimited abortion into the Michigan State Constitution. Michigan Nurses for Life plans to be right in the middle of such activity and we will need your help. Renewing your membership with MNFL will help us in that struggle. With your help, we will do everything we can to protect those who are vulnerable—the moms, their babies, the elderly and the handicapped.

Should the Supreme Court not rule in our favor, and it is possible, our efforts to protect Life will not be diminished. There must be better solutions to human problems than destroying human life. With your help, we will ultimately find those solutions and abortion and other life-taking actions will be no more.

*"You may never know the results of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results."*—Ghandi

Love Life! Diane



## Upcoming Events

### CROSSROADS CARE CENTER BENEFIT

Royal Park Hotel, Rochester  
Friday, March 4 – 7:00-9:00 pm  
Speaker: David Bereit, Founder 40 Days for Life  
Contact: 248-293-0070 x 107

### BE THE CHANGE (7<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> Grade Students)

Divine Child Church – Wayne Co., Friday, March 11  
Auburn Hills Christian Center – Oakland Co., Saturday, March 12  
Sponsored by RTL-LIFESPAN  
For more information, contact Lynn: 248-816-1546

### LIFESPAN BABY SHOWERS

To benefit local Pregnancy Help Centers  
Sunday, March 13  
Call Lifespan to register your church: 734-524-0162

## Michigan Nurses For Life HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please help us keep unlimited abortion out of our Michigan State Constitution. Return your dues today!



# Prenatal Tests Wrong 85% of the Time, But They're Used to Kill "Disabled" Babies in Abortions

By Micaiah Bilger

Early prenatal tests for rare disorders often lead to thoughts about abortion for expecting parents. Sometimes, doctors and genetic counselors pressure parents to abort their unborn babies after a positive test, and both healthy and unhealthy unborn babies are killed in abortions as a result.

Now, a new analysis by the *New York Times* has found that some of the most common prenatal screening tests are not as reliable as parents often are led to believe and many healthy unborn babies are being aborted as a result of false positives.

Examining five non-invasive prenatal tests, which involve drawing blood in the first trimester, the *Times* found an average false positive rate of 85 percent.

To conduct its research, the newspaper examined multiple studies and interviewed researchers about five of the most common microdeletion (chromosomal disorder) tests performed on pregnant mothers: tests for Di-George syndrome, 1p36 deletion, Cri-du-chat syndrome, Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes.

According to the report, experts said early prenatal tests for Patau syndrome (trisomy 13) and Turner syndrome (monosomy X) also have a lot of false positives, but tests for Down syndrome and Edwards syndrome are more reliable.

One of the problems with the high inaccuracy rates in the tests is that "there are hundreds of microdeletion syndromes, and the most expansive tests look for between five and seven," according to the *Times*. This means that not only are the false positives a problem, but the results also are not proof that the baby does not have the disorder.

Despite the lack of certainty, the tests are marketed as "reliable" and "accurate," the report found. The test companies do recommend follow-up testing to confirm the results, but parents do not always do this. More accurate tests come with a risk of miscarriage and can be expensive, so some parents go on the early, unreliable results alone to make a decision about their unborn baby's life.

One geneticist told the *Times* about a recent case where an early prenatal test came back positive for a rare disorder, so the parents aborted their unborn baby. Later, however, a follow-up test after the abortion showed that the unborn baby had been healthy, the geneticist said.

The report continues: "A 2014 study found that 6 percent of patients who screened positive obtained an abortion without getting another test to confirm the result. That same year *The Boston Globe* quoted a doctor describing three terminations following unconfirmed positive results."

The expanded use of prenatal testing has led to more unborn babies with disabilities being targeted for abortions. Recent reports in *The Atlantic* and *CBS News* found that nearly 100 percent of unborn babies who test positive for Down syndrome are aborted in Iceland, 95 percent in Denmark, 77 percent in France and 67 percent in the United States.

The deadly discrimination is getting worse with the expanded use of prenatal testing. *The Telegraph* reports a recent article in the *European Journal of Human Genetics* found that the number of babies with Down syndrome born in the United Kingdom dropped 54 percent since the non-invasive prenatal screening tests became available about a decade ago.

What's more, parents frequently report feeling pressured to abort unborn babies with disabilities. One mom recently told the *BBC* that she was pressured to abort her unborn daughter 15 times, including right up to the moment of her baby's birth. Another mother from Brooklyn, New York said doctors tried to convince her to abort her unborn son for weeks before they took no for an answer. Many say they did not receive adequate counseling about the disorder or the support available to families of children with disabilities.

—LifeNews.com, January 3, 2022



## One of Many Scientific Facts that Prove Unborn Children are Human Beings Surgeons have successfully performed surgery on fetuses at 15 weeks' gestation.

When ultrasound scans reveal structural defects or life-threatening diseases early in the pregnancy, doctors may recommend prenatal surgery. Recent medical advances have enabled some babies to receive life-saving treatments while still in the womb—long before they are born!

—LifeNews.com, September 14, 2021



# Michigan Nurses For Life

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## Why “precedent” is no obstacle to overturning *Roe v. Wade*

By Dave Andrusko

It's important to remember, when thinking about Mississippi's “Gestational Age Act,” that while observing “precedent” (*stare decisis*) ordinarily is important, the Supreme Court has reversed itself when it has made egregious errors.

Welcome to “Precedents Are No Obstacle to Overturning *Roe v. Wade*,” an op-ed by Robert P. George and Christopher Kaczor. If there is a textbook case for overturning precedent, *Roe*—and its 63 million victims—qualifies.

George and Kaczor write:

**In *Roe v. Wade* seven members of the Supreme Court of the United States imposed their moral belief that women have a right to abortion on the American people. Most jurists and constitutional scholars recognize that the decision lacked any basis in the text, logic, structure or original understanding of the Constitution. Nevertheless, *Roe* has been in place for nearly 49 years and the Court reaffirmed its basic holding in the 1992 case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.**

They list prominent instances where the Court has reversed itself. They quote the very liberal Erwin Chemerinsky who summarized several key reversals:

**The power of these examples is that they are non-partisan. Liberals and conservatives alike can agree that the court was wrong in *Dred Scott v. Sanford* in holding that slaves are property and not citizens, in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in upholding separate but equal and in *Korematsu v. United States* in ruling in favor of the authority of the government to evacuate Japanese-Americans from the west coast during World War II.**

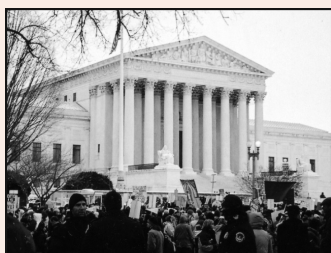
They add “Overturning a Supreme Court ruling is scarcely unheard of or even particularly novel. The Court has done it nearly 150 times.”

Having disposed of the canard that reversal is all but unprecedented, George and Kaczor further make the case that the High Court's abortion rulings are “not merely mistaken interpretations of the Constitution; they can scarcely be described as interpretations at all. They represent the sheer imposition of judicial will—the ‘exercise of raw judicial power,’ as liberal Justice Byron White said in his dissent in *Roe*.”

One other of the many compelling arguments they make: *Roe* is as contentious and divisive today as it was in 1973, perhaps more so.

*Roe* supporters would have you believe the decision “settled” the issue. In fact, “The Court's unwarranted exercise of raw power did nothing to temper the division and much to enflame it. In that respect, as in others, it profoundly resembles *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, and deserves to join that infamous ruling on the ash heap of history.” A very solid contribution to the case for overturning *Roe*.

—National Right to Life News, January 4, 2022



### *Prayer for the Supreme Court*

Holy Trinity, Source of LIFE and TRUTH, we entrust our nation to you. We ask for mercy for the decades of legalized abortion that has been permitted in our land. We ask that the sacredness of every human LIFE be protected and upheld both in law and in culture. In a special way, we commend to you the justices of the Supreme Court. Please grant them clarity, wisdom and right reason. Overthrow, at last, by your power, the scourge of abortion in our land and usher in a new era of protection for the unborn. By the power of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, may Your perfect justice be established on earth. Amen.