



Bioethics Public Policy Report August 2024

The Bioethics Public Policy Report is a collaboration between dioceses, parishes, Knights of Columbus councils, grassroots organizations, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center to inform the laity about developments in bioethics and human dignity.



National

- Since the beginning of July, the Biden administration has switched its stance on sex-change surgeries for children twice. The administration now says that sex-change surgeries “are typically reserved for adults,” but “families should have the freedom to make the medical decisions that they and their doctors determine are best for them.”
- Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg) in North Carolina has disavowed a presentation given there suggesting that National Right to Life is a terrorist organization. National Right to Life, a sixty-year-old movement, consistently has denounced the use of any violence against anyone.
- Congressman Andy Ogles (R) of Tennessee introduced the Preventing Forced Abortions Act of 2024, which would prevent surrogate mothers from being forced by federal court orders to obtain abortions.



Federal Courts

- A US District Court judge in Kentucky blocked the Biden administration’s new Title IX regulations extending the definition of *sex* to include gender identity. Judge Danny Reeves, in his opinion, stated, “There are two sexes: male and female.”
- The US District Court for the Western District of Louisiana ruled that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will not be forced to provide for abortions of employees as the lawsuit over the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s new regulations moves forward.
- In *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, the Supreme Court overturned forty-year-old *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, which gave wide discretionary latitude to federal administrative agencies. Courts may no longer “defer to an agency interpretation of the law” when the law itself is unclear, which could relieve some pressure on religious organizations from federal agencies.
- Pro-life advocate Paul Vaughn was formally sentenced to three years of supervised release after being convicted under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. Though Vaughn avoided prison time, the Thomas More Society is seeking to appeal the conviction on his behalf and challenge the constitutionality of the FACE Act.



States

- Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs (D) vetoed a state bill that would require insurance coverage for de-transitioning procedures after transgender surgeries. Hobbs stated that such coverage would be “unnecessary and would create a privacy risk for patients.”
- The City of Baltimore, Maryland, is trying to change a ballot measure that would give \$1,000 to new parents on either the birth of adoption of a new child, stating that it would violate state law and the city charter to do so.
- The New York City Department of Health is proposing to throw out regulations that require abortion facilities to treat dead babies aborted after twenty-four weeks as human remains. The proposed change reads, “Disposition as human remains would remain available upon request by those who desire burial or cremation.”

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For the full report, visit www.ncbcenter.org/bioethics-public-policy-reports.