

Prolife Leaders March in D.C. to Commemorate 60 Million Killed

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By Quinn Weimer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Friday, Jan. 29, 50 prolife leaders marched through Washington, D.C., and concluded their protest at the back of the U.S. Supreme Court. The march was held to remember the more than 60 million children who have been killed by abortion since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and to demonstrate that prolife Americans are not going away despite the proabortion policies of the Biden administration.

Because of covid, the annual March for Life rally that usually draws tens of thousands of supporters took place virtually this year.

Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), who was in attendance today, answered some questions from *CNS News* regarding the state of the prolife movement in Congress and the new administration.

CNS News: Why are you marching today? Or why are you here today?

Rep. Smith: “Well, to witness for the sanctity of human life, unborn children, their mothers and people with disabilities and the frail elderly. This is a movement that says no one can be disenfranchised or written out of legal protection and, unfortunately the court did that in 1973. Sixty-two-and-a-half million unborn babies have been killed.

“I wrote it in my [recent] op-ed to all the men, women, and children living in Italy—I mean it’s an enormous amount of child loss. So we need to keep witnessing, try to get good policies out of Congress, out of the White House, which will be very hard now with Joe Biden, who is the Abortion President already.

“I am kind of shocked how quickly he moved to advance an antilife agenda—because he used to be not totally with us but largely with us, but now he’s completely thrown his core values away.

“And that is tragic. So that’s why I’m here. I’ve known the prolife leaders. I’ve been in this movement for 48 years. I’ve been to every march but one. Beginning in 1974, I was at that one.

“And it is a great time to recharge your batteries, to pray with like-minded people who again believe in the sanctity of life.”

CNS News: “Absolutely. And how will Congress respond to Biden’s recent pro-choice policies?”

Rep. Smith: "We will push back as hard as we can. It is going to be hard. During the Obama and the Clinton years, unfortunately they provided billions of dollars to the abortion industry, and he's now trying to do that in this new administration.

"We have strategies that we're working on to try to mitigate the danger and hopefully do what we can to prevent African countries and Latin American countries and Asian countries from being pressured by these organizations to legalize abortion on demand, and that's what they're trying to do."

CNS News: "And just one last question. Do you think Donald Trump was the most prolife president in history?"

Rep. Smith: "He was extraordinarily prolife. He put people in gatekeeper positions—Azar, Pompeo—who where for them the defense of life is a core conviction, and they were serious about it. So he did much good."

The president of the March for Life, Jeannie Mancini, explained why she was marching.

CNS News: "Why are you marching today? Why do you think this is necessary?"

Mancini: "Well, today is the 48th annual March for Life and, even though the march looks a little bit different this year, it's totally critical with everything happening, especially with the new administration.

"We've got our work cut out for us. But I'd also say, just more broadly, our culture is at a crossroads right now in terms of respect for each other, the welcomeness to dialogue and all of those kinds of things."

The president of the Susan B. Anthony List, Marjorie Dannenfelser, then explained why she was marching,

CNS News: "Why are you marching today?"

Dannenfelser: "I love women and children, and I'm also the president of the Susan B. Anthony List, and I'm marching because I want to be in solidarity with all kinds of the other prolife organizations in the country. We're at the strongest place we've been since Roe v. Wade, and it would be easy to see a small group and think otherwise.

"But the reality is, with the work that the prolife movement did to get a pro-life Supreme Court, a completely revamped federal judiciary and the strength that we have in the states and the strong prolife legislation that they're sending on, means that we have really an opportunity to dismantle Roe through legislation in the states. And that really is where the big win is.

"I mean this is—this is important. We wanted to win the presidency, we wanted to win the Senate, we wanted to win the House. But, if you had to choose which thing you really needed, you'd choose what we have, which is that strong Supreme Court and federal judiciary. And then the really robust governor and legislation trifectas across the country—they're sending legislation laws to be tested under at the Supreme Court."