

# Ohio Right to Life Position Statements

## 1) Position Statement on Abortion

Ohio Right to Life is committed to the dignity and value of life from the moment of conception / fertilization. Therefore, Ohio Right to Life is opposed to induced, elective abortion in any form, but does not oppose medical treatment to prevent the death of the mother that may result in the unintended death of the child.

## 2) Position Statement on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Ohio Right to Life is committed to the sanctity of human life and human dignity for those nearing the end of life. The so-called “Right to Die” movement is based on a utilitarian ethic that would devalue members of society who are functionally unable to contribute, based on mental or physical disabilities or due to the progressive burdens of age.

The practice of euthanasia is fundamentally at odds with a life-promoting ethic. Incurable diseases with intractable pain and suffering can be dealt with under currently available programs of chronic pain management and hospice care. Radical autonomy is not an adequate justification for providing legal means for ending one’s own life.

Assisted suicide is a variant of euthanasia. Though legal in some states, it is incompatible with the historically beneficent aims of the medical profession.\*

\*Contact Stephanie Krider at [skrider@ohiolife.org](mailto:skrider@ohiolife.org) to see the longer position statement on euthanasia for further details.

## 3) Position Statement on Emergency Contraception

Ohio Right to Life opposes the use and over-the-counter sales of levonorgestrel, also known as “Plan B”, or the “morning-after pill”. Such “emergency contraception” may sometimes act as an abortifacient. Its use is exploitative of women and may promote unsafe sexual practices.

## 4) Position Statement on Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Ohio Right to Life is opposed to any method of assisted reproduction that produces unimplanted embryos to be discarded or frozen for later use. Since human life begins at conception / fertilization, the destruction of embryonic life is immoral.

## 5) Position Statement on Embryo-Destructive Research

Recent developments in cell biology and embryology have raised the possibility of using embryos as research material for the creation of stem cell cultures. Since an embryo, however created, is a human being, the destruction of embryos is immoral, and cannot be justified by any utilitarian “greater good.”

Recent developments have shown alternative sources to be at least as beneficial, and in many cases, superior as a source of stem cells for the development of certain medical treatments. Therefore, Ohio Right to Life is opposed to embryo-destructive research in all its forms.

## 6) Position Statement on Human Trafficking

Ohio Right to Life believes that human trafficking is a violation of the fundamental right to life and human dignity. As a result, human trafficking causes long-term harm to women, our society and the unborn. One of the many degrading aspects of human trafficking is that its women victims are often coerced to have abortions by the traffickers. ORTL is positioned to respond to human trafficking by taking the following actions:

- Advocating on behalf of those who are hurt by trafficking by advancing legislation that will combat trafficking and criminalize the trafficker.
- Promoting and supporting organizations and groups that offer shelter, assistance and counseling to trafficking victims.
- Providing educational resources to our supporters and local communities on the issue of trafficking both to reduce Ohio’s vulnerability for this crime and to raise awareness for those who are victimized by it.