



“Pro-Life” Hypocrisy on COVID-19

Summary

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, anti-choice political leaders have made it crystal clear that they don't value people's lives. As NARAL has previously documented, self-styled “pro-life” politicians and pundits have largely ignored the threat of the virus and failed to work towards solutions that could protect public health – instead, choosing to capitalize on the crisis to attack abortion access.

Now, against experts' recommendations, these so-called “pro-life” politicians and pundits have criticized and defied stay-at-home orders in states across the country. Their latest messaging on the COVID-19 crisis falls into six main themes:

- Prioritizing the Economy Over Public Safety
- Promoting/Attending Anti-Quarantine Protests
- Attacking Social Distancing Orders
- Attacking Health Authorities
- Discouraging / Not Wearing PPE
- Dismissing COVID Death Toll

If these anti-choice extremists truly valued people's lives as they claim, they wouldn't be telling them to put themselves in unsafe situations during a pandemic. There's nothing “pro-life” about deliberately putting people's health and safety at risk.

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Prioritizing the Economy Over Public Safety

Gov. Greg Abbott (TX)

In a call between Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas lawmakers, Abbott acknowledged that his plan to reopen the state would lead to more coronavirus cases. “Days after enacting a plan to re-open Texas' nonessential businesses on May 1, a leaked recording appears to reveal Gov. Greg Abbott acknowledging the order would lead to more COVID-19 infections. The recording, provided by the group Progress Texas, is purported to be audio of a May 1 call between Abbott and Texas lawmakers about the reopening plan [...] ‘How do we know reopening businesses won't result in faster spread of COVID-19?’ Abbott asks on the audio. ‘Listen, the fact of the matter is, pretty much every scientific and medical report shows that whenever you have a reopening ... it actually will lead to an increase in spread. It's almost ipso facto ... The goal never has been to get COVID-19 transmission down to zero.’” [San Antonio Current, [5/5/20](#)]

- **Abbott: “The fact of the matter is pretty much every scientific and medical report shows that whenever you have a reopening...it actually will lead to an increase in spread.”** “‘How do we know reopening businesses won't result in faster spread of COVID-19?’ Abbott asks on the audio. ‘Listen, the fact of the matter is, pretty much every scientific and medical report shows that whenever you have a reopening ... it actually will lead to an increase in spread. It's almost ipso facto ... The goal never has been to get COVID-19 transmission down to zero.’” [San Antonio Current, [5/5/20](#)]
- **Within two days of easing stay-at-home orders, Texas reported its second, third, and fourth highest daily spikes in coronavirus cases since the outbreak began.** “Within two days of easing state lockdown measures on May 1, Texas reported its second, third and fourth highest daily spikes in cases since the outbreak began. On May 2, Texas reported 1,293 new cases, the second-highest count of new cases in the state. It reported 1,026 new infections on May 3, the fourth-highest number and on May 1 it reported 1,142 new cases, the third-highest figure on state record.” [Newsweek, [5/5/20](#)]

Greg Abbott was a pro-life politician. “Governor Greg Abbott today spoke at the annual Texas Rally for Life at the State Capitol where thousands in attendance joined in their



commitment to protecting the rights of the unborn and advocating for pro-life policies in Texas. In his remarks, Governor Abbott celebrated recent legislative actions that further protect life, and he thanked pro-life leaders for their work in promoting and creating a culture of life in Texas. 'It's been 45 years since Roe v. Wade, and since then Texas has become the national leader in defending life,' said Governor Abbott. 'As Governor I will fight for every child to have a chance at life. I thank our legislative leaders who work to pass laws that protect life, and so many Texans who continue to give a voice to the voiceless and fortify the culture of life in this state.'" [Office of the Texas Governor, [1/27/18](#)]

- **Abbott spoke at the Texas Rally for Life and committed to “protecting the rights of the unborn and advocating for pro-life policies in Texas.”** “Governor Greg Abbott today spoke at the annual Texas Rally for Life at the State Capitol where thousands in attendance joined in their commitment to protecting the rights of the unborn and advocating for pro-life policies in Texas. In his remarks, Governor Abbott celebrated recent legislative actions that further protect life, and he thanked pro-life leaders for their work in promoting and creating a culture of life in Texas.” [Office of the Texas Governor, [1/27/18](#)]

Glenn Beck

Glenn Beck suggested that older Americans should risk getting sick with coronavirus in order to keep the U.S. economy going. “At the start of his Tuesday show, conservative radio host Glenn Beck spoke in an upbeat cadence over a jaunty music track, even as he discussed possibly sacrificing lives during the coronavirus outbreak to save the United States and its economy. ‘I would rather have my children stay home and have all of us who are over 50 go in and keep this economy going and working,’ Beck said. ‘Even if we all get sick, I’d rather die than kill the country. Because it’s not the economy that’s dying, it’s the country.’” [Washington Post, [3/25/20](#)]

Glenn Beck called himself pro-life. “Today, pro-life demonstrators are gathering in Washington, D.C. for the 45th annual March for Life. Glenn took the opportunity to share his journey from keeping quiet about abortion and pro-life issues to realizing that children’s lives are too precious for him not to speak up. ‘Abortion is wrong,’ Glenn spelled it out on today’s show. ‘It is evil. It is killing our children.’ Glenn also wanted to remind Americans that our country has an incredible history of valuing life. How can the same country that fought to stop Nazism and genocide allow hundreds of thousands of children to be killed each year?” [GlennBeck.com, [1/19/18](#)]



Former Gov. Chris Christie

Christie implied that people had to “sacrifice” lives to the coronavirus pandemic to “stand up for the American way of life.” “Asked how he would tell the American public about the need to reopen if he were the president, Christie responded: ‘The message is that the American people have gone through significant death before.’ ‘We sent our young men during World War II over to Europe, out to the Pacific, knowing, knowing that many of them would not come home alive,’ he said. ‘And we decided to make that sacrifice because what we were standing up for was the American way of life. In the very same way now, we have to stand up for the American way of life.’” [Daily Beast, Updated [5/5/20](#)]

- **Christie said his message to the American people about reopening the economy was “the American people have gone through significant death before.”** Asked how he would tell the American public about the need to reopen if he were the president, Christie responded: ‘The message is that the American people have gone through significant death before.’ ‘We sent our young men during World War II over to Europe, out to the Pacific, knowing, knowing that many of them would not come home alive,’ he said. ‘And we decided to make that sacrifice because what we were standing up for was the American way of life. In the very same way now, we have to stand up for the American way of life.’” [Daily Beast, Updated [5/5/20](#)]
- **Christie: “Of course, everybody wants to save every life they can--but the question is, towards what end, ultimately?”** “‘Of course, everybody wants to save every life they can—but the question is, towards what end, ultimately?’ Christie said. ‘Are there ways that we can thread the middle here to allow that there are going to be deaths, and there are going to be deaths no matter what?’ Echoing previous comments he’s made that the country cannot wait to reopen the economy, the former Trump transition team member asserted that ‘we’re going to destroy the American way of life’ if people don’t immediately get back to work.” [Daily Beast, Updated [5/5/20](#)]

Chris Christie said states could not wait to reopen their economies until they had the capacity to test all their residents. “Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), an ally of President Trump, said Monday that states will not be able to wait for the capacity to test all residents for the coronavirus before businesses and local economies will be forced to reopen. In an interview with ABC News, Christie said that increasing the capacity of testing is a priority but that state economies would not survive the wait required for officials to be able to test every citizen. ‘It’s very important, but not the be-all-end-all,’ Christie said. ‘It’s



important, but if we wait until we can test every American to be able to reopen our economy, we won't have an economy left,' he continued." [The Hill, [4/27/20](#)]

Chris Christie called himself pro-life. "New Jersey governor Chris Christie announced his support for a federal 20-week abortion ban on Monday, becoming the last Republican presidential hopeful to publicly back such a measure. 'I am proud to be a pro-life Republican. I believe that every life is an individual gift from God, and that no life is disposable,' Christie said in a statement." [The Guardian, [3/30/15](#)]

State Rep. Scott Clem (WY)

Clem admitted that Wyoming was likely to see a rise in cases and said that the state "must prepare to live with this disease while maximizing economic activity." In a Facebook post, Clem wrote: "When we approach April 17th, what is the next step? It is likely we will continue to see a rise in those who are infected. Is it reasonable to believe we can continue current restrictions for another month or two? Even if we do see a decline in numbers by the 17th, we can reasonably expect more waves of infection in the future. Are we going to shut down the Wyoming economy for 4-8 weeks at a time intermittently over the next 18 months? The damage to the economy, the state, and society may be worse than the disease, all while people get the disease anyway. We must prepare to live with this disease while maximizing economic activity." [Facebook, [3/31/20](#)]

State Rep. Scott Clem said social distancing measures were doing more damage than the coronavirus. In a Facebook post, Clem wrote: "We need a clear path forward, and shutting down the economy & halting our civil liberties for the next 4-8 weeks isn't it. The 'cure', as it's disingenuously [sic] called, is doing more damage than the disease." [Facebook, [3/31/20](#)]

- **Clem: "The damage to the economy, the state, and society" from stay-at-home measures "may be worse than the disease."** In a Facebook post, Clem wrote: "Are we going to shut down the Wyoming economy for 4-8 weeks at a time intermittently over the next 18 months? The damage to the economy, the state, and society may be worse than the disease, all while people get the disease anyway. We must prepare to live with this disease while maximizing economic activity." [Facebook, [3/31/20](#)]

Scott Clem called himself pro-life. "I have been a staunch pro-life advocate. In 2017, 4 pro-life bills were introduced that were either sponsored or co-sponsored by me. Two of these bills were signed into law, marking the first time in over 20 years that pro-life legislation was



passed in Wyoming. I will continue for [sic] fight for one of the premier rights endowed to us by our Creator: the right to life.” [Representative Scott Clem, [9/11/18](#)]

Sen. Ted Cruz (TX)

Ted Cruz said people who were “young and healthy and able to work” needed to get back to work sooner rather than later because of the economic impact of the shutdown. “We’ve got to deal with the economic devastation of all of the people who are hurting and I’ll tell you it is it is time for Texans to go back to work. I’m very glad that both the President and the governor are laying out a specific time frame, a specific plan to get Texans back to work. Listen, obviously, those who are very vulnerable, those who are elderly, those who have serious health conditions, you should stay home [...] But for people who are young and healthy and able to work, we need to get people back to work sooner rather than later. Because the consequences of this economic shutdown are serious and dire millions of small businesses, restaurants and bars and bowling alleys and movie theaters and oilfield services companies all facing potentially going out of business.” [KCBD, [4/14/20](#)]

Cruz said it made sense for young people to go back to work because shelter-in-place policies were “devastating” for the economy. “Cruz has been at the forefront of calling for workers to be allowed to return to their jobs. ‘If we continue shelter-in-place, that’s going to be devastating for the economy,’ Cruz told the Temple Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday. ‘For young healthy people, it makes sense to go back to work.’ The Texas conservative said the health quarantines have accomplished their goal in making ‘meaningful progress in flattening the curve and slowing the rate of transmission.’” [The Hill, [4/24/20](#)]

Ted Cruz called himself pro-life. Ted Cruz tweeted: “I am strongly pro-life and I have a proven record of defending life #txsencon” [Twitter, [5/3/12](#)]

Gov. Doug Ducey (AZ)

Gov. Doug Ducey’s administration shut down the work of academic experts whose predictions around COVID-19 did not align with his plans to reopen Arizona. “Hours after Doug Ducey, the Republican governor of Arizona, accelerated plans to reopen businesses, saying the state was ‘headed in the right direction,’ his administration halted the work of a team of experts projecting it was on a different – and much grimmer – course. On Monday night, the eve of President Trump’s visit to the state, Ducey’s health department shut down



the work of academic experts predicting the peak of the state's coronavirus outbreak was still about two weeks away." [Washington Post, [5/6/20](#)]

- **Washington Post: The decision to shut down experts' work "represented an abrupt turnaround from the state's request for expert input."** "On Monday night, the eve of President Trump's visit to the state, Ducey's health department shut down the work of academic experts predicting the peak of the state's coronavirus outbreak was still about two weeks away [...] The decision represented an abrupt turnaround from the state's request for expert input about six weeks ago, when Bailey vowed the modelers would have 'full, unfettered access to confidential . . . data from the Department.'" [Washington Post, [5/6/20](#)]
- **The decision to shut down the state's collaboration with academic experts happened on the eve of Trump's visit to Arizona.** "On Monday night, the eve of President Trump's visit to the state, Ducey's health department shut down the work of academic experts predicting the peak of the state's coronavirus outbreak was still about two weeks away [...] The decision represented an abrupt turnaround from the state's request for expert input about six weeks ago, when Bailey vowed the modelers would have 'full, unfettered access to confidential . . . data from the Department.'" [Washington Post, [5/6/20](#)]
- **Members of the team of experts said their work was halted without any notice.** "Will Humble, a former Arizona health director, said he was concerned by the timing of the abrupt suspension of the modeling work – hours after Ducey had announced plans to ease restrictions on restaurants and barbershops, among other retailers. Several members of the modeling group, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of concerns about professional retribution, said the work was halted without advance notice. One said the timing of the president's visit to the state was suspicious." [Washington Post, [5/6/20](#)]

Doug Ducey called himself pro-life. "My position has been that ... I am proudly pro-life," Ducey said Friday." [AZ Central, [5/17/19](#)]

Gov. Ron DeSantis (FL)

Gov. Ron DeSantis moved to reopen Florida "despite testing that is not near the...capacity recommended by many public health experts." "Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that Florida will start lifting stay-at-home orders starting Monday, with restaurants and shops being



allowed to reopen with limited capacity [...] In a plan he's labeling 'Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step,' DeSantis said the state will take a 'very slow and methodical approach' to reopening in order to convince the public it's safe. Like other Republican governors in southeastern states, however, DeSantis is moving to reopen despite testing that is not near the recommended capacity recommended by many public health experts." [Tampa Bay Times, [4/29/20](#)]

- **DeSantis began reopening Florida when the state's testing capacity was "far short" of the rate that public health experts said was necessary to safely reopen the state.** "Although Florida has significantly increased its testing capability in the last two weeks, the capacity is far short of what public health experts say is needed to safely reopen the state. Florida needs to test at least 150 people for every 100,000 residents every day —that's about 33,000 people every day, more than double the current rate, said Dr. Charles Lockwood, the dean of University of South Florida's College of Medicine at a news conference with DeSantis at Tampa General Hospital on Monday." [Tampa Bay Times, [4/29/20](#)]
- **Tampa Bay Times: DeSantis "[criticized] experts and the news media for citing projections showing the state could have faced a much worse pandemic."** "For the last two weeks, DeSantis has been touting the state's relatively low numbers of cases and criticizing experts and the news media for citing projections showing the state could have faced a much worse pandemic. On Wednesday, DeSantis spent the first 20 minutes of his hour-long news conference defending his handling of the crisis." [Tampa Bay Times, [4/29/20](#)]
- **DeSantis spent close to half an hour accusing the media of amplifying "doom and gloom and hysteria" around COVID-19.** "With a statewide audience tuned in, Gov. Ron DeSantis reprised his recent arguments against the media and narratives of 'doom and gloom.' 'What is our biggest obstacle? Fear. Fear of the unknown,' the Governor said Wednesday to media in Tallahassee and a statewide audience on television. 'Constant doom and gloom and hysteria that has permeated our culture for the last six weeks' has created 'fear,' said DeSantis [...] The Governor extemporized for close to half an hour before getting into specifics of reopening the state, the stated reason for the press conference." [Florida Politics, [4/29/20](#)]
- **DeSantis claimed that models predicting COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in Florida were "not accurate" and caused "hysteria."** "In a news briefing at an Orlando medical center, the governor again noted the 'hysteria' in the early weeks of the outbreak has not materialized in Florida, despite dire predictions that speculated



many more deaths than the state has recorded so far [...] ‘Florida has performed better than anyone predicted,’ the governor said. ‘People should be comforted in knowing that all those predictions of hundreds of thousands of people hospitalized were not accurate, and it has just not been the case so that’s a good thing.’” [Associated Press, [4/26/20](#)]

Gov. Ron DeSantis joked about Florida being “God’s waiting room” while giving a press briefing on coronavirus. “Gov. Ron DeSantis used ground zero, nursing homes and God’s waiting room all in one sentence at his press briefing on coronavirus Sunday, raising the eyebrows and the ire of a few. ‘Florida is ground zero for the nursing home, we’re God’s waiting room,’ DeSantis said Sunday. ‘We have a huge number of facilities, a huge number of residents.’ The term is a decades-old joke about the amount of retirees that move to Florida; it isn’t complimentary. The Florida governor made the remarks within the first 10 minutes into the briefing while saying that the state had acted quickly to protect the elderly.” [Local 10, [4/26/20](#)]

Ron Desantis called himself pro-life. DeSantis tweeted: “Proud to receive an A-rating from the Florida Right to Life PAC. The rating they gave me—100% pro-life—is a reflection of my unwavering commitment to protecting the unborn. I’ll always defend the sanctity of life! #sayfie” [Twitter, [7/9/18](#)]

Lyndsey Fifiel

Heritage Foundation social media manager Lyndsey Fifiel argued for reopening the U.S., claiming that people had enough information and were following guidelines. Fifiel tweeted: “Enough is enough. We have the information. We’re following the guidelines. Now LET Americans INNOVATE to live within *THOSE* boundaries of social distancing, wearing masks, following safety and sanitation standards and not making up rules as you go!” in response to a tweet that read: “Our local groomer who was providing curbside service with minimal employees was shut down by the police yesterday because they are deemed ‘non-essential.’ I don’t recognize America anymore. This is ridiculous. #ReopenAmerica @realDonaldTrump” [Twitter, [4/15/20](#)]

Lyndsey Fifiel called herself pro-life. Fifiel tweeted: “Being pro-life on the Internet is fun.” [Twitter, [7/18/18](#)]

Rep. Trey Hollingsworth (IN)



Rep. Trey Hollingsworth said politicians needed to “put on [their] big boy and big girl pants” and reopen the economy because it was the “lesser of two evils.” “Hollingsworth says he understands and appreciates what scientists are saying about the impact of the coronavirus. ‘But certainly the social scientists are telling us about the economic disaster that is going on. Our GDP is supposed to be down 20% alone this quarter. It is policymakers’ decision to put on our big boy and big girl pants and say it is the lesser of these two evils. It is not zero evil, but it is the lesser of these two evils and we intend to move forward that direction. That is our responsibility and to abdicate that is to insult the Americans that voted us into office,’ Hollingsworth said. Hollingsworth said no amount of effort out of Washington, D.C. is going to solve this problem the way Americans can solve this problem.” [WIBC, [4/14/20](#)]

- **Hollingsworth said the best decision for most Americans was to reopen the economy and get people back to work.** “We have to get Americans back to work, says Indiana Representative Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN-9). Hollingsworth was asked about the federal government’s response to the coronavirus Tuesday morning by 93 WIBC’s Tony Katz. ‘There is no zero harm choice here. We are going to have [sic] look Americans in the eye and say “we are making the best decisions for the most Americans possible” and the answer to that to get Americans back to work, to get Americans back to their businesses,’ Hollingsworth said.” [WIBC, [4/14/20](#)]

Trey Hollingsworth called himself pro-life. Hollingsworth tweeted: “Every life is worth protecting. I’m proudly 100% pro-life, and am honored to be endorsed by Indiana Right to Life. @irtl #IN09” [Twitter, [10/17/16](#)]

House Freedom Caucus

The House Freedom Caucus sent a letter to Trump arguing that the U.S. needed to reopen its economy and return to a “free and fair market” soon to resolve economic woes. “The House Freedom Caucus sent Trump a letter Friday saying some measures taken to stop the spread of coronavirus have caused tremendous suffering. ‘The American people are resilient, but they have suffered tremendously under the weight of this closed economy. Measures enacted by Congress have provided limited relief,’ the House Freedom Caucus wrote in the letter. ‘More government is not the answer to these economic woes—reopening the economy is the answer. We are a free people with a free and fair market. The sooner we return to it, the sooner our economy will again thrive.’” [Fox News, [4/18/20](#)]



Sen. Ron Johnson (WI)

Sen. Ron Johnson said he was “concerned that the cure [was] worse than the disease,” parroting claims by Donald Trump. “The president was very unfairly criticized for just [saying] what is indisputably true: “We need to make sure the cure isn’t worse than the disease.” And I am concerned that the cure is worse than the disease,’ said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). ‘If you’re a carpenter, every nail you see, the solution’s a hammer. The same may be true for epidemiologists.’ It’s a message at odds with the public health professionals advising Trump, who have warned against the country dropping its guard.’ [Politico, [4/15/20](#)]

- **Johnson: “We don’t shut down our economy because tens of thousands of people die on highways. It’s a risk we accept so we can move about.”** “Johnson did not shy away from that kind of calculus in an interview with me Tuesday. ‘I’m not denying what a nasty disease COVID-19 can be, and how it’s obviously devastating to somewhere between 1 and 3.4 percent of the population,’ he said. ‘But that means 97 to 99 percent will get through this and develop immunities and will be able to move beyond this. But we don’t shut down our economy because tens of thousands of people die on the highways. It’s a risk we accept so we can move about. We don’t shut down our economies because tens of thousands of people die from the common flu,’ Johnson said.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/18/20](#)]
- **Johnson: “A rational reaction to this would recognize the fact that the vast majority of people that get the coronavirus will survive without much worse symptoms than a cold or a normal flu.”** “Johnson’s overall argument seemed to be that people aren’t paying enough attention to two sides of the coronavirus equation: that most people who have it will be OK (and not die), and that the damage being done to the economy in the meantime is massive and possibly excessive. ‘We need hospitals to operate. We need grocery stores. We need distribution. We need manufacturers. We need, obviously, the people that manufacture drugs. We need our economy to continue to function. We can’t all just shut ourselves and stay home. The economy has to move forward. And again, a rational reaction to this would recognize the fact that the vast majority of people that get coronavirus will survive without much worse symptoms than a cold or a normal flu.’ [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/18/20](#)]

Ron Johnson was pro-life. “U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) said this Tuesday after voting to advance two bills that protect the right to life – specifically, in the case of babies who



survive failed attempts at abortion and in that of babies far along enough toward birth that they are capable of feeling pain: 'As a compassionate society we have an obligation to protect life, especially the life of the most vulnerable among us – the unborn, and those babies born alive despite an abortionist's attempt to kill them,' said Johnson. 'America is an incredible experiment in human freedom, founded by leaders who understood that the most basic right, the right to life, is unalienable. I am proud to support these bills that promote that primary mission of our country.'" [Ron Johnson Official Senate Website, [2/25/20](#)]

Gov. Brian Kemp (GA)

Gov. Brian Kemp reopened Georgia in the midst of a rising number of positive COVID-19 tests and over 600 deaths in the state, saying he "[didn't] give a damn about politics."

"Republican Governor Brian Kemp announced at a Monday press conference that some Georgia businesses would be able to reopen later this week. 'I don't give a damn about politics now,' said Kemp, who made the call after the state's health department advised that new cases were flattening. However, COVID-19 cases continued to climb in the state. There were 18,301 confirmed cases of and 637 deaths as of Monday, according to a Johns Hopkins University tracker." [Salon, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Kemp began the process of reopening Georgia while the state ranked 42nd nationally in testing capacity, which public health officials said was critical for successfully reopening economies.** "Kemp came under fire for what many officials in his state criticized as a tepid response. His state currently ranks 42nd nationally in terms of tests. Testing capacity is one of the key pieces required for a successful and phased reopening of the economy. 'The fundamental element of keeping our economy open is making sure you're identifying as many infected people as possible and isolating them,' Ashish Jha, the director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, said in a New York Times interview." [Salon, [4/20/20](#)]
- **Kemp did not inform members of his own coronavirus task force that he was planning to reopen Georgia.** "Key members of the coronavirus task force Gov. Brian Kemp tapped to shape the state's pandemic strategy said they didn't know about his decision to reopen some shuttered businesses until he announced it at a press conference. In interviews and public statements, a half-dozen members of the task force said they only learned about Kemp's move to let barber shops, theaters and dine-in restaurants begin to resume operations after he made it public." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [4/21/20](#)]



- **Headline: “Members of Kemp’s coronavirus task force didn’t know about his order to reopen businesses”** [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [4/21/20](#)]
- **Headline: “Georgia mayors alarmed by governor’s ‘reckless’ plan to reopen economy”** [The Guardian, [4/21/20](#)]
- **Lindsey Graham tweeted that he was worried that Georgia was “going to fast too soon” in reopening its economy.** Graham tweeted: “I support what South Carolina Governor @henrymcmaster announced yesterday -- a small reopening of our state's economy with a focus on social distancing. I worry that our friends and neighbors in Georgia are going too fast too soon.” [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

Kemp said he thought it was the “right time” to reopen Georgia despite admitting that the state was “probably going to have to see [its] cases continue to go up.” “If Kemp is forced to reintroduce social distancing measures though, his failure could deal a devastating blow to national reopening hopes and the desire of every American who is confined to their homes to a way out of lockdown misery. ‘I think this is the right approach at the right time. It’s not just throwing the keys back to these business owners,’ Kemp said, but admitted his move could cause more infections. ‘We’re probably going to have to see our cases continue to go up, but we’re a lot better prepared for that now than we were over a month ago,’ he said, claiming Georgia had sufficient hospital beds, testing, and knowledge to control the virus.” [CNN, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Kemp claimed that Georgia was “better prepared” to deal with coronavirus cases and said that the state had sufficient hospital beds, testing, and knowledge to control the virus.** “‘I think this is the right approach at the right time. It’s not just throwing the keys back to these business owners,’ Kemp said, but admitted his move could cause more infections. ‘We’re probably going to have to see our cases continue to go up, but we’re a lot better prepared for that now than we were over a month ago,’ he said, claiming Georgia had sufficient hospital beds, testing, and knowledge to control the virus.” [CNN, [4/21/20](#)]
- **Kemp announced that Georgia would reopen despite the fact that the state did not have a sustained downward trend in positive cases and its testing capacity was limited.** “In its rather vague guidelines, the White House plan calls for a downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period before incremental opening can begin. But Georgia has not had a sustained downward trend over the last two weeks. There were more than 5,700 new coronavirus cases last week.



The number was 6% down on the week that ended April 12, when 6,000 cases were added, but it's still higher than the week that ended April 5, when fewer than 3,800 new cases were reported [...] Experts also say that the state's comparatively low testing rate means there may be many cases that are not detected." [CNN, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Headline: "Georgia's reopening is a high-stakes public health bet -- and will likely please Trump"** [CNN, [4/21/20](#)]

Brian Kemp called himself pro-life. "Conservative businessman Brian Kemp is unapologetically pro-life. The father of three teenage daughters, he believes that life begins at conception and every human life is worth protecting. [...] Along the way, Kemp earned praise from pro-life advocates, recognition from the Georgia Life Alliance, and the Family Policy Alliance endorsement. To elaborate on his pro-life positions, Kemp issued the following statement [...] 'As governor, I will put principles and good policy ahead of politics. I will fight to advance the pro-life movement and defend the unborn at every turn. We must always do the right thing - even in non-election years.'" [Kemp for Governor, Accessed [4/21/20](#)]

Sen. John Kennedy (LA)

Sen. John Kennedy argued that the U.S. had to reopen the economy even if it meant that coronavirus would spread faster. "Sen. John Kennedy said Thursday that restrictive measures aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus are not worth the risk of economic collapse, even if that means more people become infected. 'We've got to open this economy,' the Louisiana Republican told Fox News host Tucker Carlson. 'If we don't, it's going to collapse. And if the U.S. economy collapses, the world economy collapses.' 'Trying to burn down the village to save it is foolish. That's a cold, hard truth,' he said [...] 'When we end the shutdown, the virus is going to spread faster,' Kennedy acknowledged. "That's just a fact. And the American people understand that." [USA Today, [4/16/20](#)]

John Kennedy was a pro-life politician. "National Right to Life endorsed John Kennedy in his bid to become the next U.S. Senator for Louisiana. National Right to Life supports pro-life candidates and causes around the nation to help protect the rights of unborn children [...] Kennedy said, 'I'm proud to receive the endorsement of National Right to Life. I believe that all life is precious and should be defended. I will proudly stand for life in the United States Senate.'" [John Kennedy Campaign Website, Accessed [4/17/20](#)]



Former Rep. Jason Lewis, Candidate for US Senate

Lewis tweeted that Minnesota had to be reopened and thanked Trump for providing “science-based solutions & leadership!” Jason Lewis tweeted: “We need to #ReopenMN now to protect businesses large and small. Our livelihoods depend on it! Of course we must continue to protect our most vulnerable, but that doesn’t mean we need to give up our freedom! Thank you @realDonaldTrump for science-based solutions & leadership!” in response to a tweet from Donald Trump which said: “LIBERATE MINNESOTA!” [Twitter [4/17/20](#); Twitter [4/17/20](#)]

Jason Lewis said a shelter in place order in Minnesota was “the wrong approach” and parroted Trump’s argument that “the cure [could not] be worse than the disease.” Lewis tweeted: “A #ShelterInPlaceMN order is the wrong approach. We need to be responsible, use best practices, and protect the vulnerable. But we cannot destroy Minnesota & the country in the process. People need jobs to return to! Simply put, the cure cannot be worse than the disease!” [Twitter, [3/25/20](#)]

Jason Lewis said that coronavirus could end up being a “big buying opportunity on Wall Street.” In an interview for War Room 2020, Lewis said: “The President's America First policy of controlling who gets in and who doesn't in this country is going to come to fruition, I think. So frankly, I think he's doing everything just about right, and the assault on Mike Pence is just totally unwarranted. So they just need to keep buckling down. I think this will—we will fix it. We are that island in the storm, as Steve was talking about. We'll get through this, and then who knows? We may look back, hopefully, and this will all be a big buying opportunity on Wall Street.” [City Pages, [3/13/20](#)]

Jason Lewis called himself pro-life. “Because I am pro-life, I believe that citizens should be able to pass state laws of their choice-without federal interference from activist courts.” [Jason Lewis Campaign Website, archived [8/19/16](#)]

Sen. Kelly Loeffler (GA)

Sen. Kelly Loeffler supported Gov. Kemp’s plan to reopen Georgia. “Sen. Kelly Loeffler told 11Alive she support's Kemp's plan. ‘I feel like the numbers show that we have flattened the curve, that our incidents of COVID-19 have peaked and that we absolutely need to look at the hurting Americans out there, 22 million jobs lost, families, farmers, small businesses are hurting,’ she said. ‘We need to address this or risk an even bigger crisis in our country,’ Loeffler told 11Alive earlier this week. ‘Right now, what we're seeing has never been seen in our



lifetimes. And we don't know where it's going, so we need to start to reopen the economy.” [11 Alive, [4/23/20](#)]

- **Loeffler: “We don’t know where [the coronavirus pandemic is] going, so we need to start to reopen the economy.”** “Sen. Kelly Loeffler told 11Alive she support's Kemp's plan. ‘I feel like the numbers show that we have flattened the curve, that our incidents of COVID-19 have peaked and that we absolutely need to look at the hurting Americans out there, 22 million jobs lost, families, farmers, small businesses are hurting,’ she said. ‘We need to address this or risk an even bigger crisis in our country,’ Loeffler told 11Alive earlier this week. ‘Right now, what we're seeing has never been seen in our lifetimes. And we don't know where it's going, so we need to start to reopen the economy.’” [11 Alive, [4/23/20](#)]

Kelly Loeffler called herself pro-life. Loeffler tweeted: “As a pro-life, Christian conservative, I look forward to working with @tperkins and the @FRCdc to advance policies that protect the unborn and most vulnerable among us. #gapol” [Twitter, [1/15/20](#)]

State Rep. Danny McCormick (LA)

State Rep. Danny McCormick on reopening the economy: “We can’t destroy the greatest nation on earth out of fear.” “Many of the protesters mentioned they are aware of the health risks that could come with reopening the economy too soon, but they say the financial risk with not opening is far greater. ‘There are risks in this life, and we’ve got to determine what's our risk,’ said Danny McCormick, District-1 State Representative. McCormick, who is also a small business owner joined protesters. He says he fears businesses may never fully recover. ‘[COVID-19 is] something they need to take very seriously, but we can’t destroy the greatest nation on earth out of fear,’ said McCormick.” [WAFB, [4/25/20](#)]

Danny McCormick called himself pro-life. “What do I stand for? ‘We The People’; Economic Development; Pro-Liberty; Lower Taxes; 2nd Amendment; Christian Values; Small Businesses Working Class; Pro-Life; Smaller Government” [McCormick Campaign Website, Accessed [4/27/20](#)]

House Candidate Tom Norton (MI)

Tom Norton was critical of stay-at-home orders’ impact on the economy, parroting Trump’s talking point that “the cure [was] worse than the disease” “Tom Norton, a Republican running to unseat Rep. Justin Amash, who left the Republican Party last year, told



WOOD that 'the cure is worse than the disease,' pointing to the impact of the shutdowns on small businesses and the potential for rising rates of depression and suicide." [NBC News, [4/15/20](#)]

Tom Norton called himself pro-life. Norton's Twitter bio read: "America First Candidate for MI-03. Veteran Advocate. Husband & Father. Afghan War Vet. Pro-Life. Anti-Red Flag Laws. #AmericaFirst #ImmigrationMoratorium." [Twitter, Accessed [5/4/20](#)]

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (TX)

VIDEO: Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick argued that older Americans should sacrifice themselves for the sake of getting younger Americans back to work sooner. "As a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that America loves for its children and grandchildren?" And if that is the exchange, I'm all in," Patrick said. [Dan Patrick, [3/23/20](#)]

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick boasted that doctors "[didn't] run the show" when it came to Texas' reopening process. "Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who has been more aggressive than Abbott in pushing for an economic restart, sought to address the agitation during a tele-town hall Tuesday with conservative activists. He said the state's reopening process is being partly 'driven by what doctors tell us, and they don't run the show, but we do listen to their advice, and ... they're gonna be a little bit more cautious than you as an entrepreneur [or] myself might be.' 'And so I think we've struck the right balance,' Patrick said during the call hosted by Texas Values. At the same time, Patrick said he 'sure would've liked to see barbershops and salons open up ... and I think that's gonna come pretty soon, maybe before the next step, which is May 18.'" [Texas Tribune, [4/30/20](#)]

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he would risk contracting COVID-19 and endangering his life in order to prevent the U.S. economy from being destroyed for his children and grandchildren. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, chiming in to support President Donald Trump's new focus on the economy over fierce warnings from public health officials, suggested on Fox News on Monday night that he would rather die from the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus than see instability in the American economic system. 'No one reached out to me and said, "As a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren?" And if that's the exchange, I'm all in,' he said. 'And that doesn't make me noble or brave or anything like that.'" [Texas Tribune, [3/23/20](#)]



- **Patrick insinuated that grandparents and other people older than 70 should “take care of [themselves]” during the coronavirus pandemic and stop the U.S. economy from being sacrificed.** “I just think there are lots of grandparents out there in this country like me ... that what we all care about and what we all love more than anything are those children,” [Patrick] added. ‘And I want to, you know, live smart and see through this, but I don’t want to see the whole country to be sacrificed, and that’s what I see.’ [...] ‘My heart is lifted tonight by what I heard the president say because we can do more than one thing at a time,’ Patrick said. ‘We can do two things. So you know, my message is that: Let’s get back to work. Let’s get back to living. Let’s be smart about it, and those of us who are 70-plus, we’ll take care of ourselves, but don’t sacrifice the country. Don’t do that. Don’t ruin this great American dream.” [Texas Tribune, [3/23/20](#)]
- **When asked whether he was more afraid of U.S. economic ruin than losing his life to COVID-19, Patrick answered “Yeah.”** “At the end of the Fox interview, host Tucker Carlson repeated his interpretation of Patrick’s argument: ‘You’re basically saying that this disease could take your life, but that’s not the scariest thing to you, there’s something worse than dying?’ To which Patrick answered in the affirmative: ‘Yeah.’” [Texas Tribune, [3/23/20](#)]

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he was “thankful” that Texas was reopening its economy and that the process was “long overdue.” “After facing intense criticism for suggesting on Fox News last month that he’d rather perish from the new coronavirus than see instability in the state’s economic system, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said last night that he’s thankful Texas is beginning the process of reopening its economy because the restrictions are currently ‘crushing small businesses’ and the economic market. ‘I’m sorry to say that I was right on this and I’m thankful that now we are now finally beginning to open up Texas and other states because it’s been long overdue,’ he told interview host Tucker Carlson.” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Patrick: “I don’t want to die, nobody wants to die, but man we’ve got to take some risks and get back in the game and get this country back up and running.”** “What I said when I was with you that night is there are more important things than living. And that’s saving this country for my children and my grandchildren and saving this country for all of us,’ Patrick said. ‘I don’t want to die, nobody wants to die, but man we’ve got to take some risks and get back in the game and get this country back up and running.’ His comments were in reference to a March 23 interview with Carlson where Patrick implied he would rather die from the widely spreading coronavirus than



see the economy destroyed for his children and grandchildren by overreaction to the disease.” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Patrick: “There are more important things than living. And that’s saving this country for my children and grandchildren and saving this country for all of us.”**
“What I said when I was with you that night is there are more important things than living. And that’s saving this country for my children and my grandchildren and saving this country for all of us,” Patrick said. ‘I don’t want to die, nobody wants to die, but man we’ve got to take some risks and get back in the game and get this country back up and running.’ His comments were in reference to a March 23 interview with Carlson where Patrick implied he would rather die from the widely spreading coronavirus than see the economy destroyed for his children and grandchildren by overreaction to the disease.” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

Patrick said that social distancing restrictions were “crushing the market” and bragged that Texas was in the lead on getting people back to work. “‘I’m a small business guy and I’ve been around the block long enough to see what was going to happen,’ Patrick said. ‘We’re crushing the average worker. We’re crushing small business. We’re crushing the market. We’re crushing this market.’ On Monday, the price for a barrel of oil plunged negative. ‘Tucker, we can not endure this much longer,’ Patrick said. ‘Every month we stay closed, it’s going to take two to three months to rebuild. It’s time to get back to work,’ Patrick continued. ‘Texas is on the lead.’” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

Dan Patrick called himself pro-life. Patrick tweeted: “During the #txlege session, the Senate led in passing 2 of my pro-life #txlege priorities, including one of the strongest pro-life bills ever.” [Twitter, [6/5/17](#)]

Dan Patrick called himself pro-life. Patrick tweeted: “I will be front and center providing authentic conservative leadership on pro-life issues #txlege #tcot #tx2014 #dpltg.” [Twitter, [2/4/14](#)]

Sen. David Perdue (GA)

Sen. David Perdue said that he and other Republicans were trying to reopen the economy quicker than people expected, arguing that restrictions were threatening the free market system. “With one in 10 American workers suddenly unemployed and dismal corporate quarterly earning reports expected, key Republicans on Capitol Hill say it’s time to shift strategies now. ‘We’re really trying to get this thing going quicker than a lot of people may



expect,' said Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., in a radio interview. He spoke to the president over the weekend, he said, and Trump was already thinking about the transition. 'What we see right now is the free market, free-enterprise system is under threat,' Perdue said. 'Don't come in and tell us how to run our lives.'" [Associated Press, [4/16/20](#)]

Perdue supported Gov. Kemp's decision to reopen Georgia. "Georgia senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue are behind beginning the process of reopening Ga. businesses [...] 'Look, I applaud what the governor is trying to do. He's trying to phase in in a measured way reopening the economy in Georgia. And there's a human cost to closing down businesses just like there's a human cost to the disease, to the virus,' said Perdue." [WTOC, [4/22/20](#)]

- **Perdue compared the "human cost" of closing down businesses to deaths from coronavirus.** "Georgia senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue are behind beginning the process of reopening Ga. businesses [...] 'Look, I applaud what the governor is trying to do. He's trying to phase in in a measured way reopening the economy in Georgia. And there's a human cost to closing down businesses just like there's a human cost to the disease, to the virus,' said Perdue." [WTOC, [4/22/20](#)]

David Perdue called himself pro-life. "U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), U.S. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), and colleagues introduced a bill to prevent the tax deductibility of abortions [...] 'It is absurd that current law allows tax deductions for abortion procedures,'" said Senator Perdue, a member of the Senate Pro-Life Caucus. 'Ending this loophole is an important step toward promoting a culture that values life. As a father and grandfather, I believe every child is a blessing and will continue fighting to protect the unborn.'" [David Perdue Official Senate Website, [1/13/20](#)]

Gov. Kim Reynolds (IA)

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a public health order allowing businesses to partially reopen in the largest population centers in the state. "Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) eased restrictions in 77 of the state's 99 counties, allowing restaurants, gyms, churches and other businesses to open at limited capacity, even as coronavirus cases in the state continue to rise. On Wednesday, Reynolds signed a public health order allowing the partial reopening of businesses beginning Friday in the state's 22 remaining counties, including retail stores and enclosed shopping malls, as long as they operate at 50 percent capacity. The order covers some of the largest population centers in the state, including Des Moines and Cedar Rapids." [Washington Post, [5/7/20](#)]



- **Iowa epidemiologists said the state ignored them when they presented models showing that it was too early to reopen.** “Iowa experts who presented the state with models saying it was too early to reopen said they were ignored. ‘My concern is that the [Iowa Department of Public Health] – they’ve been saying the curve has been declining for a month now and it never really has,’ said Eli Perencevich, an epidemiologist at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and a member of the team preparing modeling for state health officials. The way the state is counting cases, he said, ‘it’s always going to look like it’s going down.’” [Washington Post, [5/6/20](#)]
- **Headline: “As Iowa reopens, workers are being forced to choose between a paycheck and their health”** [Washington Post, [5/7/20](#)]

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation that loosened social distancing measures in 77 Iowa counties on May 1. “Today, Gov. Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration until May 27, 2020. The proclamation loosens social distancing measures in 77 Iowa counties effective Friday, May 1 and continues other restrictions until 11:50 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2020. Watch the governor’s news conference here. In the 77 counties, the proclamation permits restaurants, fitness centers, malls, libraries, race tracks, and certain other retail establishments to reopen in a limited fashion with public health measures in place.” [Office of the Governor of Iowa Kim Reynolds, [4/27/20](#)]

- **Reynolds announced Iowa’s reopening while there continued to be large daily increases in the statewide number of COVID-19 cases.** “There continue to be large daily increases in the statewide number of COVID-19 cases, but Reynolds said the counties being allowed to reopen either have no confirmed cases of the virus or the number has been declining over the past 14 days. She said the strategy marks a transition from mitigating the spread of the virus to managing its presence. ‘The reality is we cannot stop the virus, that it will remain in our communities until a vaccine is available,’ Reynolds said at her Monday press conference. ‘Instead we must learn to live with COVID virus activity without letting it govern our lives.’” [Iowa Public Radio, [4/28/20](#)]
- **Infectious disease experts said it was too soon to reopen Iowa businesses safely because state health officials weren’t sure about the virus’ spread in rural areas.** “State health officials have said the peak of coronavirus cases may still be 2-3 weeks off, but Reynolds said extending business closures for the entire state indefinitely was not sustainable [...] Infectious disease experts said it’s too soon to reopen



businesses safely because state health officials cannot be sure how far the virus has spread in rural areas. Too little testing and contact tracing are available outside of hot spots at meat packing plants and long-term care centers, said Dr. Megan Srinivas, an infectious disease researcher and physician in Fort Dodge.” [Iowa Public Radio, [4/28/20](#)]

- **Professor of Epidemiology: “We’re really setting ourselves up for a rapid rise [in COVID-19 cases].”** “Some counties that are reopening are next to the state’s current hot spots. Opening too early raises the risk for higher rates of community spread as people travel to open counties and gather for religious services, said Dr. Eli Perencevich, a professor of internal medicine and epidemiology at the University of Iowa. ‘We’re really setting ourselves up for a rapid rise,’ Perencevich said. ‘My biggest concern is we’ll have spent the last six weeks doing all this incredible effort staying at home for nothing because it could bounce right back and our hospitals could be overwhelmed.’” [Iowa Public Radio, [4/28/20](#)]
- **Reynolds: “We must learn to live with COVID virus without letting it govern our lives.”** “There continue to be large daily increases in the statewide number of COVID-19 cases, but Reynolds said the counties being allowed to reopen either have no confirmed cases of the virus or the number has been declining over the past 14 days. She said the strategy marks a transition from mitigating the spread of the virus to managing its presence. ‘The reality is we cannot stop the virus, that it will remain in our communities until a vaccine is available,’ Reynolds said at her Monday press conference. ‘Instead we must learn to live with COVID virus activity without letting it govern our lives.’” [Iowa Public Radio, [4/28/20](#)]

Kim Reynolds called herself pro-life. “Gov. Kim Reynolds said she supports a Republican-led effort at the Iowa Capitol this session to add anti-abortion language to the Iowa Constitution. ‘I’m pro-life. I’ve made it very clear that I’m pro-life,’ the Republican governor told reporters Tuesday. ‘I’m proud to be pro-life. I’m never going to stop fighting on behalf of the unborn.’” [Des Moines Register, [2/5/19](#)]

Rep. Chip Roy (TX)

Rep. Chip Roy: “Yes, the virus is going to continue to exist. But we have to get our economy going.” “But a growing drumbeat on the Right [...] are imploring Trump to change course, arguing the deepening recession is poised to wreak more havoc on the U.S than the pandemic. ‘Yes, the virus is going to continue to exist. But we have to get our economy going,’



Rep. Chip Roy told the Washington Examiner on Thursday. The Texas Republican, an early proponent of limiting the economic shutdown, estimates based on conversations with business owners that 'we probably have two or three weeks at most' to begin transitioning back to normal if the country is to have any chance for quick rebound." [Washington Examiner, [4/10/20](#)]

Chip Roy called himself pro-life. "I'm strongly pro-life and my opponent wants to INCREASE taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood. Stand for unborn life and vote tomorrow!" [Facebook, [11/5/18](#)]

Tom Shakely

AUL's Tom Shakely: "We have to open America and get back to work." Shakely tweeted: "We have to reopen America and get back to work. Next (and final) Congressional relief should be at least this generous, but has to be tied to venturing into our new normal together. Mask up, venture out, and return to our lives together." [Twitter, [4/15/20](#)]

Shakely argued that a second and final round of Congressional relief had "to be tied to venturing into [the] new normal." Shakely tweeted: "We have to reopen America and get back to work. Next (and final) Congressional relief should be at least this generous, but has to be tied to venturing into our new normal together. Mask up, venture out, and return to our lives together." [Twitter, [4/15/20](#)]

Gov. Kevin Stitt (OK)

Gov. Kevin Stitt began the process of reopening Oklahoma when it ranked among the bottom four states in testing capacity. "Some shuttered Oklahoma businesses can reopen as soon as Friday, Gov. Kevin Stitt announced Wednesday. Businesses such as hair salons, spas, nail salons and pet groomers will be allowed to open by appointment only starting Friday so long as they maintain social distancing recommendations and 'adhere to strict sanitation protocols,' Stitt said [...] Oklahoma is in the bottom four states for testing for COVID-19, according to an email sent this week by the White House coronavirus task force." [The Oklahoman, [4/22/20](#)]

- **Stitt began reopening Oklahoma over a month before the "safe-reopening date" suggested by White House models.** "State secretary of science and innovation Kayse Shrum said officials have been in communications with the White House regarding accuracy of data on Oklahoma. According to reporting on the White House model for



reopening, Oklahoma's safe-reopening date would be closer to June 8." [Tulsa World, [4/22/20](#)]

Kevin Stitt called himself pro-life. "As a Christian and father of six, I know that there is no gift more precious than a child. I'm strongly pro-life. I believe human life begins at conception and I'll fight to protect the rights of the unborn in Oklahoma and across the nation." [Stitt for Governor, Accessed [4/22/20](#)]

President Donald Trump

Donald Trump wanted to lift social distancing and quarantine guidelines early, saying we "cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself." "WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF," Trump said in a late night tweet. "AT THE END OF THE 15 DAY PERIOD, WE WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHICH WAY WE WANT TO GO!" [The Hill, [3/23/20](#)]

Donald Trump called himself pro-life. "TRUMP: Well, if that would happen, because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states. If we put another two or perhaps three justice on, that's really what's going to be. That'll happen automatically, in my opinion, because I am putting pro-life justices on the court. I will say this: It will go back to the states, and the states will then make a determination." [On The Issues, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

Matt Walsh

Matt Walsh claimed that the government "tearing the economy apart" to save dying adults when it "happily [tolerated]" the murder of babies. Walsh tweeted, "We happily tolerate the murder of a million babies a year. Our government facilitates and funds the slaughter. Only when adults start dying do we shut everything down and tear the economy apart to save them. So please don't give me the 'every life is precious' routine." [Matt Walsh Twitter, [03/31/20](#)]

Matt Walsh was pro-life. "On Monday, Daily Wire writer and podcast host Matt Walsh sparked a pro-life rally in response to Democrat state Rep. Brian Sims proudly harassing women and young girls praying outside a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic over the weekend. 'Let's organize a giant pro-life rally at the abortion clinic in Center City where [Brian Sims] has been harassing children and elderly women. Let's see him come out and harass all of us. Retweet this and let's get it organized,' posted Walsh. 'I'll be there, Brian. I'd be happy to



have you come stick a camera in my face. Though I know you prefer to target women and children.” [Daily Wire, [5/7/19](#)]

Promoting/Attending Anti-Quarantine Protests

State Rep. Darren Bailey (IL)

State Rep. Darren Bailey attended a protest against stay-at-home orders in Springfield, Illinois. “Hundreds of people gathered in Springfield to rally against Gov. JB Pritzker's extended stay-at-home order Friday afternoon. Protesters of all ages joined the chorus to reopen Illinois. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office says there were about 500 people participating, although organizers hoped to see close to 1,000. Most of the people outside the Capitol participated without face coverings and few were concerned about social distancing [...] Rep. Darren Bailey (R-Xenia) was also welcomed as a hero for his court battle against the governor.” [25 News, [5/1/20](#)]

- **Around 500 people attended the protest and most did not wear masks or follow social distancing guidelines.** “Hundreds of people gathered in Springfield to rally against Gov. JB Pritzker's extended stay-at-home order Friday afternoon. Protesters of all ages joined the chorus to reopen Illinois. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office says there were about 500 people participating, although organizers hoped to see close to 1,000. Most of the people outside the Capitol participated without face coverings and few were concerned about social distancing [...] Rep. Darren Bailey (R-Xenia) was also welcomed as a hero for his court battle against the governor.” [25 News, [5/1/20](#)]
- **Protesters attended the Springfield rally with signs featuring swastikas and other Nazi references targeting the state’s Jewish governor.** “White supremacist organizations have infiltrated stay-at-home protests such as those in Springfield and Chicago last week, according to the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism [...] Members of extremist groups appear to have been those protests with signs featuring swastikas and other hate messages, including one at the state Capitol, which read Heil, Pritzker. ‘You have a democratically elected governor who



happens to be Jewish and you're using Nazi references to attack him or compare him to Hitler,' he said. 'We are deeply concerned about this sort of trend,' he said, speaking of swastikas and Hitler references at rallies." [NPR Illinois, [5/6/20](#)]

Darren Bailey called himself pro-life. "I'm going to Springfield to fight for and protect the rights of the unborn,' Bailey said. 'I'm proud to be recognized as the pro-life candidate to support in this race. It isn't enough to just vote PRO-Life, we need leaders who will stand up for values and the sanctity of life.'" [Darren Bailey for State Senate, [10/22/18](#)]

State Rep. Aaron Bernstine (PA)

State Rep. Aaron Bernstine attended an anti-quarantine protest at the state Capitol in Harrisburg. "About 2,000 people honked, cheered and jeered against coronavirus restrictions Monday in Harrisburg, Pa., the latest and one of the largest rallies in a growing movement nationwide against governors balancing healthcare and economic concerns [...] 'Unfortunately, some people have lost their lives to the virus,' said state GOP Rep. Aaron Bernstine, amid the signs for 'Work not welfare' and 'Church is essential.' 'My heart goes out to every one of those people. But my heart also goes out to the 1.5 million people in Pennsylvania out of work.'" [USA Today, Updated [4/21/20](#)]

Aaron Bernstine called himself pro-life. "Aaron Bernstine, a New Beaver businessman and farmer, announced Tuesday that he will seek the Republican nomination in this year's campaign for the 10th District state House seat now occupied by Rep. Jaret Gibbons, D-Franklin Twp [...] Bernstine, 31, laid out a five-point platform that includes job growth, education reform, limiting spending, government reform and a defense of district values. His campaign website list his

Rep. Dan Bishop (NC)

Rep. Dan Bishop attended a Reopen NC protest advocating for an end to the state's stay-at-home orders. "Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Bishop's Democratic opponent has blasted his participation in this week's "Reopen NC" protest, the latest sign of how politics is coloring the COVID-19 response. Bishop joined an estimated 1,000 protesters in Raleigh on Tuesday urging Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper to lift the stay-at-home order that has closed many businesses. On Thursday Cooper extended the order through May 8. And on Friday, Cooper announced public schools across North Carolina will remain closed until at least August." [Charlotte Observer, [4/24/20](#)]



- **Bishop told protesters that he had to attend the rally to “remind the governor that [their] rights [didn’t] exist by his benevolence.”** “Bishop, of Charlotte, spoke to the protesters at the rally. ‘I knew I had to come here to remind the governor that our rights don’t exist by his benevolence,’ he told them. ‘The 1st Amendment is not under a stay-home order.’” [Charlotte Observer, [4/24/20](#)]
- **Bishop’s opponent criticized him for not following social distancing practices at the protest.** “Asked what was reckless about Bishop’s participation, Wallace said the congressman did not appear to be social distancing himself from other protesters, who themselves marched close together. However he did have a mask, which he removed when he spoke to reporters or protesters. ‘It was clear in the images that he did not do that and it endangered him and people around him,’ said Wallace.” [Charlotte Observer, [4/24/20](#)]
- **Bishop said his opponent should demand that Gov. Cooper “publicly disclose the secret data and modeling he [was] using to justify his shutdown scheme.”** “In a statement Friday, Bishop said, ‘Instead of obsessing over my every movement, Ms. Wallace should demand Roy Cooper publicly disclose the secret data and modeling he’s using to justify his shutdown scheme that’s cost over 700,000 North Carolinians their jobs in the last month with no end or relief in sight.’” [Charlotte Observer, [4/24/20](#)]

Dan Bishop called himself pro-life. “Dan is pro-life and will fight extremist Democrats’ to stop infanticide and late-term abortion on demand.” [Dan Bishop for Congress, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

House Candidate Mary Burkett (UT)

House candidate Mary Burkett participated in an anti-quarantine protest in St. George. An email sent by Burkett’s campaign read: “Dear friends, voters, and delegates, Please see the Press release my campaign released today concerning my participation in the Walk for Freedom event in St. George, Utah today April 15, 2020. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I hope you will join us at the Walk for Freedom today.” [Mary Burkett Campaign Email, [4/15/20](#)]



Mary Burkett called herself pro-life. In an interview with Alex Madajian titled “100% Pro-Life - with Mary Burkett,” Burkett said: “Well I am the mother of six, so I think that kind of gives it away. I am very much pro-life.” [YouTube, [6/28/19](#)]

State Rep. Chad Christensen (ID)

State Rep. Chad Christensen was a speaker at an anti-quarantine protest at the Idaho Capitol. “Several hundred protesters showed up at the Idaho Capitol on Friday afternoon waving flags and signs while protesting – and proudly violating – Gov. Brad Little’s stay-home order amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Disobey Idaho protest, hosted by three conservative groups – the Idaho Freedom Foundation, Idaho Second Amendment Alliance and Health Freedom Idaho – advocated for reopening the state for regular business and featured Rep. Tammy Nichols, R-Middleton, as emcee. Among the other speakers were Republican Reps. Chad Christensen and Christy Zito, and a few business owners.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

- **Most attendees of the protest did not follow social distancing guidelines and many carried guns.** “Attendees were ‘encouraged to follow social distancing procedures,’ according to a press release from the Idaho Freedom Foundation, but most didn’t. The crowd gathered closely and engaged with a few counterprotesters; many were not wearing masks, but were carrying guns.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

Chad Christensen called himself pro-life. Chad Christensen for Idaho wrote: “I am absolutely 100% pro-life. Abortion is murder! It takes away that human’s liberty or his/her God-given rights!” [Facebook, [10/26/18](#)]

State House Candidate Danny Devito (PA)

State House candidate Danny Devito campaigned at a protest against Pennsylvania’s stay-at-home orders. “On April 20, about 120 protesters took to Grant Street in Downtown Pittsburgh to protest the stay-at-home orders and business closures that have come in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. But for at least two local political candidates, it offered an opportunity to campaign, and that isn’t resting well with some people in the Pittsburgh area. State House candidate Danny DeVito (R-Carnegie) and state Senate candidate Jeff Neff (R-Sewickley) campaigned during the protest.” [Pittsburgh City Paper, [4/24/20](#)]

- **DeVito said he was proud to stand as “one family of American patriots” against Gov. Wolf and multinational organizations.** “In a statement to CP, DeVito said he was



proud to rally with small business owners and said he would never stop fighting for Pennsylvania's 'silent majority.' 'Pennsylvanians from every background, age, and ethnicity stood strong as one family of American patriots against Governor Wolf and the multinational corporations that are using this as an opportunity to drown Pittsburgh businesses,' said DeVito." [Pittsburgh City Paper, [4/24/20](#)]

Danny DeVito was pro-life. "This Danny DeVito, 27, is a self-proclaimed working class conservative who is seeking the Republican Party nomination on a pro-drilling, pro-industry platform [...] DeVito also is pro-life and wants to see a heartbeat bill introduced in Pennsylvania. He also is pro-second amendment." [Trib Live, [1/24/20](#)]

Lyndsey Fifield*

**Has not attended an anti-quarantine protest*

Heritage Foundation social media manager Lyndsey Fifield defended anti-quarantine protesters and claimed "VERY FEW" were not taking social distancing seriously. Fifield tweeted: "So you're mocking perhaps 3-5 people out of the thousands that have turned out to protest with masks and from their cars and while socially distancing? The vast majority are taking it seriously while demanding to reopen. Lumping them in with the VERY FEW who don't is lazy." [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

Lyndsey Fifield called herself pro-life. Fifield tweeted: "Being pro-life on the Internet is fun." [Twitter, [7/18/18](#)]

Sen. Josh Hawley (MO)*

**Has not attended an anti-quarantine protest*

Sen. Josh Hawley criticized Facebook for removing anti-quarantine protests that violated states' stay-at-home orders. Hawley tweeted: "Because free speech is now illegal America?" In response to a tweet from Oliver Darcy that said: "Anti-quarantine protests being organized through Facebook in California, New Jersey, and Nebraska, are being removed from the platform on the instruction of governments in those three states because it violates stay-at-home orders, Facebook spokesperson @andymstone tells @donie." [Twitter, [4/20/20](#); Twitter, [4/20/20](#)]

Josh Hawley was a pro-life politician. "Now the nation's youngest U.S. Senator, Hawley was sworn into office earlier this month and has already taken steps to fight for the pro-life values the people of Missouri sent him to Washington to protect. Senator Hawley is the



co-sponsor of the Child Interstate Abortion Notification; the Protect Funding for Women's Health Care Act; the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act; and the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2019." [Josh Hawley Official Senate Website, [1/18/19](#)]

House Candidate Brett Kokinadis (NM)

House candidate Brett Kokinadis helped organize an anti-quarantine protest in Albuquerque. "A small group of protesters demanding the reopening of New Mexico's economy gathered at Civic Plaza Friday while the death toll from the coronavirus in New Mexico continues to mount. The demonstration – organized locally on Facebook by longshot Republican congressional candidate Brett Kokinadis and a group called 'NM Freedom Rally - Operation Gridlock NM' – mirrored other anti-quarantine protests held in Santa Fe and across the country in recent weeks calling for the softening of social distancing restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic." [Daily Lobo, [4/26/20](#)]

Brett Kokinadis called himself pro-life. "Pro-life & Abortion Stance: Brett stands with President Trump to end late-term abortion. Life is a gift, and New Mexicans, regardless of party support ending late-term abortion. New Mexico is one of seven states that support abortion up to birth, which Brett believes is unethical and immoral." [Brett Kokinadis for Congress, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

State Sen. Dave Lawson (DE)

State Sen. Dave Lawson attended an anti-quarantine rally in Dover where hundreds of attendees often did not follow social distancing guidelines. "Hundreds rallied in Dover on Friday afternoon, demanding the lifting of Gov. John Carney's emergency restrictions made during the coronavirus pandemic [...] In both rallies, protesters often stood less than 6 feet apart – the recommended distance between people to limit the spread of the virus – and did not wear face masks as police watched from the perimeters [...] Sens. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford; Dave Lawson, R-Marydel; and David Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred, attended the Dover rally in support of the rally-goers. All three wore masks. Looking out on the crowd, Wilson acknowledged that some of the rally-goers were not following social distancing guidelines. 'The question is, are the guidelines really effective?' chimed in Lawson. 'There's no proof that those things are doing any good.'" [Delaware Online, [5/1/20](#)]

Dave Lawson attended a pro-life rally sponsored by Delaware Right to Life. "Donna Latteri of Delaware Right to Life and Senators Dave Lawson and Bryant Richardson will take part in a



'Right to Life' rally on Wednesday at Legislative Hall, sponsored by Delaware Right To Life. Senator Richardson said the better the turnout the better the chances of changing the laws in Delaware to favor women and the unborn, so please send out information to your contacts and encourage them to attend!" [Sussex County GOP, Google Cache, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

State Sen. Doug Mastriano (PA)

State Sen. Doug Mastriano held a press conference at an anti-quarantine protest, where he called for the resignation of the Department of Health secretary. Mastriano tweeted: "I formally requested the resignation of PA Department of Health Secretary Rachel Levine during a Monday morning press conference, citing ongoing flaws with the COVID-19 emergency declaration and mitigation efforts. @PASenateGOP..." The tweet includes a photo that shows Mastriano speaking in front of anti-quarantine protesters who are not following social distancing guidelines." [Twitter, [5/11/20](#)]



Doug Mastriano called for people to join him at a Reopen PA rally at the state Capitol. Mastriano tweeted: "Join me tomorrow at the #ReopenPa rally tomorrow taking place at the capitol!" [Twitter, [5/14/20](#)]

Doug Mastriano was a pro-life politician. "Is Doug pro-life? Doug believes, life begins at conception and that unborn children are guaranteed all the Constitutional rights we enjoy every day... including the right to life." [Doug Mastriano for Congress, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

State Rep. Danny McCormick (LA)



State Rep. Danny McCormick attended an anti-quarantine protest. “Many of the protesters mentioned they are aware of the health risks that could come with reopening the economy too soon, but they say the financial risk with not opening is far greater. ‘There are risks in this life, and we’ve got to determine what’s our risk,’ said Danny McCormick, District-1 State Representative. McCormick, who is also a small business owner joined protesters. He says he fears businesses may never fully recover. ‘[COVID-19 is] something they need to take very seriously, but we can’t destroy the greatest nation on earth out of fear,’ said McCormick.” [WAFB, [4/25/20](#)]

Danny McCormick called himself pro-life. “What do I stand for? ‘We The People’; Economic Development; Pro-Liberty; Lower Taxes; 2nd Amendment; Christian Values; Small Businesses Working Class; Pro-Life; Smaller Government” [McCormick Campaign Website, Accessed [4/27/20](#)]

Vicki McKenna

Conservative talk radio host Vicki McKenna promoted anti-quarantine protests in Wisconsin on her program. “Vicki McKenna, a conservative talk radio host who has promoted the rallies on her program, said she hoped they inspired county sheriffs and local public health departments to defy the governor’s coronavirus orders. ‘You go to central and northern Wisconsin, you have folks who are looking at Milwaukee and saying, ‘We understand that they need help, but why do we have to sacrifice our entire livelihood for them?’” she said.” [New York Times, [5/12/20](#)]

Vicki McKenna called herself pro-life. McKenna’s Twitter bio read: “WI talk show host. Right-wing hippie. #ProLife #ProMen #KissYourDog #PitBulls #BuyGuns #Vote #Vape” [Twitter, accessed [5/14/20](#)]

State Rep. Mike Moon (MO)

State Representative Mike Moon spoke at an anti-quarantine protest in Missouri. Jack Suntrup tweeted a photo of Mike Moon holding a microphone in front of a crowd of anti-quarantine protesters with the text: “That’s Mike Moon, who is running for state Senate in southern Missouri. #moleg” [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

Mike Moon was pro-life. Under the “Issues” section of his official campaign website, Moon listed “Protecting Innocent Life - From Conception to Natural Death.” [Mike Moon for Missouri, Accessed [4/22/20](#)]



Mike Moon called himself pro-life. Moon tweeted: “This is an interview with Graham Ledger about our efforts to stop abortion and the pro-life groups not helping.” [Twitter, [5/7/17](#)]

State Rep. Tammy Nichols (ID)

State Rep. Tammy Nichols emceed an anti-quarantine protest at the Idaho Capitol.

“Several hundred protesters showed up at the Idaho Capitol on Friday afternoon waving flags and signs while protesting – and proudly violating – Gov. Brad Little’s stay-home order amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Disobey Idaho protest, hosted by three conservative groups – the Idaho Freedom Foundation, Idaho Second Amendment Alliance and Health Freedom Idaho – advocated for reopening the state for regular business and featured Rep. Tammy Nichols, R-Middleton, as emcee. Among the other speakers were Republican Reps. Chad Christensen and Christy Zito, and a few business owners.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

- **Most attendees of the protest did not follow social distancing guidelines and many carried guns.** “Attendees were ‘encouraged to follow social distancing procedures,’ according to a press release from the Idaho Freedom Foundation, but most didn’t. The crowd gathered closely and engaged with a few counterprotesters; many were not wearing masks, but were carrying guns.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

Tammy Nichols called herself pro-life. “[Where does] Representative Tammy Nichols stand on the issues? Pro Gun; Property and Water Rights; Pro Agriculture; Limited Government/Taxes; Pro Business; Pro Life; Pro Constitution; Pro Family.” [Tammy Nichols District 11 Representative, Accessed [4/29/20](#)]

House Candidate Tom Norton (MI)

Republican primary candidate Tom Norton attended an anti-quarantine protest at Michigan’s state Capitol building.

“Thousands of demonstrators descended on the state Capitol in Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday to protest Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s restrictive stay-at-home order, clogging the streets with their cars while scores ignored organizers’ pleas to stay inside their vehicles [...] Tom Norton, a Republican running to unseat Rep. Justin Amash, who left the Republican Party last year, told WOOD that ‘the cure is worse than the disease,’ pointing to the impact of the shutdowns on small businesses and the potential for rising rates of depression and suicide.” [NBC News, [4/15/20](#)]



Tom Norton called himself pro-life. Norton's Twitter bio read: "America First Candidate for MI-03. Veteran Advocate. Husband & Father. Afghan War Vet. Pro-Life. Anti-Red Flag Laws. #AmericaFirst #ImmigrationMoratorium." [Twitter, Accessed [5/4/20](#)]

State Sen. Candidate Don Pridemore (WI)

State Senate candidate Don Pridemore attended an anti-quarantine protest. "More than a thousand people cheering 'USA' and 'open up' gathered on the steps of the Wisconsin State Capitol on Friday to protest Gov. Tony Evers' restrictions on their daily lives, rallying in close quarters on a day the state saw its highest daily increase in positive cases of coronavirus [...] Near the Capitol, former state Rep. Don Pridemore and his wife, Tina, were collecting signatures in support of forming an exploratory committee to recall Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. Asked if he wanted to recall Evers, Pridemore, who is running for state Senate and once ran against Evers for state schools superintendent, said, "That would be the ultimate goal, but we're taking this in steps." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [4/24/20](#)]

- **Pridemore and his wife collected signatures in support of forming an exploratory committee to recall Gov. Evers at the protest.** "Near the Capitol, former state Rep. Don Pridemore and his wife, Tina, were collecting signatures in support of forming an exploratory committee to recall Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. Asked if he wanted to recall Evers, Pridemore, who is running for state Senate and once ran against Evers for state schools superintendent, said, "That would be the ultimate goal, but we're taking this in steps.' [...] The Pridemores briefly had a money jar open to accept donations but removed it after Capitol police told them they could not collect money on Capitol grounds." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [4/24/20](#)]
- **Pridemore attempted to fundraise during the protest before police told him he was not allowed to collect money on Capitol grounds.** "Near the Capitol, former state Rep. Don Pridemore and his wife, Tina, were collecting signatures in support of forming an exploratory committee to recall Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. Asked if he wanted to recall Evers, Pridemore, who is running for state Senate and once ran against Evers for state schools superintendent, said, "That would be the ultimate goal, but we're taking this in steps.' [...] The Pridemores briefly had a money jar open to accept donations but removed it after Capitol police told them they could not collect money on Capitol grounds." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [4/24/20](#)]

Don Pridemore had a 100% rating from Wisconsin Right to Life. [VoteSmart.org, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]



State Sen. Bryant Richardson (DE)

State Sen. Bryant Richardson attended an anti-quarantine rally in Dover where hundreds of attendees often did not follow social distancing guidelines. “Hundreds rallied in Dover on Friday afternoon, demanding the lifting of Gov. John Carney's emergency restrictions made during the coronavirus pandemic [...] In both rallies, protesters often stood less than 6 feet apart – the recommended distance between people to limit the spread of the virus – and did not wear face masks as police watched from the perimeters [...] Sens. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford; Dave Lawson, R-Marydel; and David Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred, attended the Dover rally in support of the rally-goers. All three wore masks. Looking out on the crowd, Wilson acknowledged that some of the rally-goers were not following social distancing guidelines.” [Delaware Online, [5/1/20](#)]

Bryant Richardson supported pro-life legislation. “Sen. Richardson, R-Laurel, who represents the 21st District, made his announcement in the Senate chamber at Legislative Hall before members of Delaware Right to Life and the Faith & Freedom Coalition of Delaware, who hosted a Rally for Life on the cold Tuesday afternoon. ‘(Tuesday was) the 46th anniversary of the Roe versus Wade decision,’ Sen. Richardson said. ‘This is a day when we mourn more than 60 million babies that have been deprived of life since 1973. I wonder each day how many more innocent lives will be lost until we as a nation come to our senses? Last week I started circulating two bills for co-sponsorship and I will be releasing them at the end of this week – the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the Women’s Ultrasound Right to Know Act.’” [Delaware State News, [1/23/19](#)]

State Rep. Shae Sortwell (WI)

State Rep. Shae Sortwell attended an anti-quarantine protest. “Shae Sortwell, a Republican state representative from Manitowoc County, said his caucus’s G.O.P. leadership suggested members not speak at the rally to try to make sure it comes across as ‘a citizen-led effort.’ Mr. Sortwell said he had no qualms about attending the rally. ‘Do we want to take away what people have to live for in the sole pursuit of one singular goal of additional survival,’ Mr. Sortwell said. ‘Is it safe, is it unsafe? I don’t know.’” [New York Times, [4/23/20](#)]

- **Sortwell: “Do we want to take away what people have to live for in the sole pursuit of one singular goal of additional survival?”** “Shae Sortwell, a Republican state representative from Manitowoc County, said his caucus’s G.O.P. leadership suggested members not speak at the rally to try to make sure it comes across as “a citizen-led



effort.” Mr. Sortwell said he had no qualms about attending the rally. ‘Do we want to take away what people have to live for in the sole pursuit of one singular goal of additional survival,’ Mr. Sortwell said. ‘Is it safe, is it unsafe? I don’t know.” [New York Times, [4/23/20](#)]

Shae Sortwell was endorsed by “pro-life” groups Wisconsin Family Action and Pro-Life Wisconsin. [Shae Sortwell Campaign Website, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

President Donald Trump*

**Hasn’t attended an anti-quarantine protest.*

Wall Street Journal: “Trump signaled his support for protests in state capitals across the country against stay-at-home orders.” “President Trump signaled his support for protests in state capitals across the country against stay-at-home orders, one day after telling governors that they will be the final decision makers about reopening their economies. In a series of tweets on Friday, Mr. Trump highlighted three states—Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia—where Democratic governors have faced criticism from groups of protesters, some carrying guns and declaring their support for the president, who oppose social-distancing rules.” [Wall Street Journal, [4/17/20](#)]

- **Trump tweeted “LIBERATE VIRGINIA” and claimed that Second Amendment rights in the state were “under siege!”** Donald J. Trump tweeted: “LIBERATE VIRGINIA, and save your great 2nd Amendment. It is under siege!” [Twitter, [4/17/20](#)]
- **Trump tweeted “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!”** Donald J. Trump tweeted: “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!” [Twitter, [4/17/20](#)]
- **Trump tweeted “LIBERATE MINNESOTA!”** Donald J. Trump tweeted: “LIBERATE MINNESOTA!” [Twitter, [4/17/20](#)]
- **Headline: “Trump Encourages Protests Against Governors Who Have Imposed Virus Restrictions.”** [New York Times, Updated [4/20/20](#)]

Donald Trump called himself pro-life. “TRUMP: Well, if that would happen, because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states. If we put another two or perhaps three justice on, that’s really what’s going to be. That’ll happen automatically, in my opinion, because I am putting pro-life justices on



the court. I will say this: It will go back to the states, and the states will then make a determination.” [On The Issues, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

State Rep. Nino Vitale (OH)

State Rep. Nino Vitale attended an anti-quarantine protest at the Ohio statehouse. Tyler Buchanan tweeted: “Republican State Rep. Nino Vitale attended today's protest at the Ohio Statehouse and gave an interview w/polemicist Ohio Gun Owners group. Vitale: gov't should not work to protect Ohioans' lives because death is ‘inevitable.’” [Twitter, [4/18/20](#)]

- **Vitale called the Ohio Department of Health Director an anti-Semitic slur.** “Ohio State Representative Nino Vitale took to Facebook this morning to call Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton a ‘globalist.’ The comments were in response to Dr. Acton, who is Jewish, extending the Ohio Stay-at-home order to May 29. ‘Globalist’ has long been an anti-Semitic slur.” [CityBeat, [5/1/20](#)]

Nino Vitale called himself pro-life. “Pro-Life: The sign to the left was designed by me and is currently in several locations throughout Champaign County. I believe life starts at conception and ends at natural death. I have been a member and vice president of Champaign County Right to Life for over 7 years. I personally have designed billboards which are all over Champaign County and performed literature drops at local colleges and work our fair booth.” [Conservative Republican Nino Vitale, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (WI)

Wisconsin’s state Assembly Speaker Robin Vos would not confirm whether or not he was planning on joining an anti-quarantine protest. “‘There’s a lot of frustration out there,’ said Republican state Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who is among those who filed the lawsuit against Evers. ‘The fact that Governor Evers’ voicemail is full and people aren’t getting a reply to their emails makes people feel like they’re not being heard.’ Vos, who made headlines for declaring Wisconsin polling places safe for voters while covered in protective gear, would not say whether he will attend Friday’s rally. His counterpart in filing the lawsuit, state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald – who is running for Congress – did not respond to requests for comment.” [Associated Press, [4/24/20](#)]

- **Vos declined to say in an interview whether it was safe for thousands of people to gather to protest stay-at-home orders.** “Still, few people wore masks or other protective equipment at the weekend rallies. And Mr. Vos, who wore body-length



personal protective equipment during his shift as a poll monitor in his hometown, Burlington, on April 7, declined to say in an interview whether it is safe for thousands of people to gather in protest at the State Capitol. 'I'm not a doctor,' Mr. Vos said. 'I don't give advice to people on how surgery should be done. I think people should make their own choices.'" [New York Times, [4/23/20](#)]

- **AP: Vos “made headlines for declaring Wisconsin polling places safe for voters while covered in protective gear.”** “Vos, who made headlines for declaring Wisconsin polling places safe for voters while covered in protective gear, would not say whether he will attend Friday’s rally. His counterpart in filing the lawsuit, state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald – who is running for Congress – did not respond to requests for comment.” [Associated Press, [4/24/20](#)]

Robin Vos had a 100% rating from Wisconsin Right to Life. [Vote Smart, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

GOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward (AZ)

Arizona GOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward encouraged anti-quarantine protesters to wear scrubs and masks to rallies. “Dr. Kelli Ward, a former state senator and primary care physician, tweeted on Friday that people participating in protests to end the government-imposed closures of regular business should wear scrubs and masks. ‘Planning protest to #ReOpenAmerica? EVERYONE wear scrubs & masks - the media doesn't care if you are really in healthcare or not - it's the “message” that matters,’ she wrote.” [CNN, [4/28/20](#)]

- **Ward: “The media doesn’t care if you are really in healthcare or not - it’s the ‘message’ that matters.”** “Dr. Kelli Ward, a former state senator and primary care physician, tweeted on Friday that people participating in protests to end the government-imposed closures of regular business should wear scrubs and masks. ‘Planning protest to #ReOpenAmerica? EVERYONE wear scrubs & masks - the media doesn't care if you are really in healthcare or not - it's the “message” that matters,’ she wrote.” [CNN, [4/28/20](#)]
- **Headline: “Arizona GOP chair encourages anti-stay-at-home protesters to dress like healthcare workers.”** [CNN, [4/28/20](#)]

Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Kelli Ward accused healthcare workers who protested anti-quarantine protesters of being “actors playing parts.” Ward tweeted: “EVEN IF these 'spontaneously' appearing ppl at protests against govt overreach (sporting the same



outfits, postures, & facial expressions) ARE involved in healthcare - when they appeared at rallies, they were actors playing parts. #Propaganda #FakeOutrage" [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Ward tweeted that "people who wear scrubs and masks & stand around scowling are rarely healthcare workers."** "Life lesson #243: people who wear scrubs and masks & stand around scowling are rarely healthcare workers. Most of us understand scrubs & masks are for when we are at work, we don't have time to stand around, & the vast majority of us have smiling, caring, sunny dispositions!" [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

Kelli Ward called herself pro-life. "On Faith & Family: I believe that traditional principles and values strengthen our communities and make America stronger. Pro-Life; Pro-Family; Pro-Freedom" [On The Issues, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

Kelli Ward called herself pro-life. Ward tweeted: "Dr. Kelli Ward has a 100% Pro-Life Voting Record. #RetireMcCain #DefundPP" [Twitter, [7/7/16](#)]

State Rep. Blaine Wilhour (IL)

State Rep. Blaine Wilhour attended a protest against stay-at-home orders in Springfield, Illinois. "Hundreds of people gathered in Springfield to rally against Gov. JB Pritzker's extended stay-at-home order Friday afternoon. Protesters of all ages joined the chorus to reopen Illinois. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office says there were about 500 people participating, although organizers hoped to see close to 1,000. Most of the people outside the Capitol participated without face coverings and few were concerned about social distancing [...] Later, other Republican lawmakers joined the calls to reopen the state and demand transparency from the Pritzker administration. 'Accountability, transparency and the truth - we're not getting that from our government,' said Rep. Blaine Wilhour (R-Beecher City)." [25 News, [5/1/20](#)]

- **Around 500 people attended the protest and most did not wear masks or follow social distancing guidelines.** "Hundreds of people gathered in Springfield to rally against Gov. JB Pritzker's extended stay-at-home order Friday afternoon. Protesters of all ages joined the chorus to reopen Illinois. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office says there were about 500 people participating, although organizers hoped to see close to 1,000. Most of the people outside the Capitol participated without face coverings and few were concerned about social distancing [...] Later, other Republican lawmakers joined the calls to reopen the state and demand transparency from the Pritzker administration. 'Accountability, transparency and the truth - we're not getting



that from our government,' said Rep. Blaine Wilhour (R-Beecher City)." [25 News, [5/1/20](#)]

- **Protesters attended the Springfield rally with signs featuring swastikas and other Nazi references targeting the state's Jewish governor.** "White supremacist organizations have infiltrated stay-at-home protests such as those in Springfield and Chicago last week, according to the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism [...] Members of extremist groups appear to have been those protests with signs featuring swastikas and other hate messages, including one at the state Capitol, which read Heil, Pritzker. 'You have a democratically elected governor who happens to be Jewish and you're using Nazi references to attack him or compare him to Hitler,' he said. 'We are deeply concerned about this sort of trend,' he said, speaking of swastikas and Hitler references at rallies." [NPR Illinois, [5/6/20](#)]

Blaine Wilhour was pro-life. "I've seen first-hand the effects of a dysfunctional government that doesn't promote business growth and development. Instead, we are burdened with policies that lack common sense, stifle our economy and ignore the reality the average citizen faces each day,' Wilhour said. Blaine is not a career politician – his priorities are simple [...] PROTECT OUR CONSERVATIVE VALUES – Pro-Family, Pro-Gun and Pro-Life rights." [Shoppers Weekly, [10/12/17](#)]

Blaine Wilhour invited pro-life activists to rally at the state capitol against "extreme abortion bills." "Thank you to the many Illinoisans who traveled from my district and all around our state to rally for Life today! Your voices for the unborn are important to stop the extreme legislation to allow for the killing of babies even up to the time of birth. The other bill would take away parental notification if an under-age daughter wanted to obtain an abortion. You may view the video (approx. 45 minutes) by clicking [HERE](#)." [Blaine Wilhour State Representative, [3/20/19](#)]

State Rep. Christy Zito (ID)

State Rep. Christy Zito was a speaker at an anti-quarantine protest at the Idaho Capitol. "Several hundred protesters showed up at the Idaho Capitol on Friday afternoon waving flags and signs while protesting – and proudly violating – Gov. Brad Little's stay-home order amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Disobey Idaho protest, hosted by three conservative groups – the Idaho Freedom Foundation, Idaho Second Amendment Alliance and Health Freedom Idaho – advocated for reopening the state for regular business and featured Rep. Tammy



Nichols, R-Middleton, as emcee. Among the other speakers were Republican Reps. Chad Christensen and Christy Zito, and a few business owners.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

- **Most attendees of the protest did not follow social distancing guidelines and many carried guns.** “Attendees were ‘encouraged to follow social distancing procedures,’ according to a press release from the Idaho Freedom Foundation, but most didn’t. The crowd gathered closely and engaged with a few counterprotesters; many were not wearing masks, but were carrying guns.” [Idaho Statesman, [4/17/20](#)]

Christy Zito called herself pro-life. “Life is sacred. While many have debated on where it begins, and even on how it should perhaps end, the bottom line is that every life matters. Personally, I believe that life begins at conception. I am a pro-life candidate in opposition to abortion. I also believe that there is an equal challenge in our society today to protect life at its natural end. As such, I do not agree with doctor-assisted suicide.” [Christy Zito Conservative Republican, Accessed [4/29/20](#)]

Attacking Social Distancing Orders

State Rep. Darren Bailey (IL)

State Rep. Darren Bailey accused Gov. JB Pritzker of being a “failed leader” for enacting stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus pandemic. “The question of the day is are you ready to restore Illinois and ready to regain our freedom. Free us,’ Bailey said. Many supporters are calling the Eastern Bloc lawmaker ‘Gov. Bailey,’ as he continues his court battle with the real governor over abuse of executive powers. Bailey says the case will move forward swiftly, and ‘justice will be served.’ ‘JB Pritzker will be found unconstitutional. He will be found to be a failed leader, a failed governor of this state,’ exclaimed Bailey.” [25 News, [5/1/20](#)]

Bailey called Pritzker’s stay-at-home orders “unconstitutional and even illegal activity” and said he was disappointed that more “patriots” hadn’t stood up against them. “Bailey said he was baffled why there were not more patriots like him in the Chicago area. ‘I am terribly alarmed that society will allow – against everything we’ve ever been taught in our history classes – a person to stand up and say and do and get by with what I’ve called out as unconstitutional and even illegal activity,’ Bailey said of the governor’s orders.” [WBEZ, [5/12/20](#)]



Bailey filed a lawsuit against Gov. Pritzker after he extended Illinois' stay-at-home orders. "The state on Wednesday began its efforts to fend off a court ruling that exempts downstate Rep. Darren Bailey, a Xenia Republican, from Pritzker's stay-at-home order, asking the Illinois Supreme Court to take up its appeal directly. The Clay County court's narrow ruling only allows Bailey to ignore the directive [...] Both lawsuits argue that Pritzker has gone beyond his legal boundaries in extending the stay-at-home order." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/20](#)]

- **Bailey's lawsuit argued that approval from the General Assembly was necessary to extend a disaster declaration.** "The attorney general's office also seeks to poke holes in Bailey's argument that approval from the General Assembly is required to extend a disaster declaration beyond 30 days. Pritzker and his two immediate predecessors, Republican Bruce Rauner and Democrat Pat Quinn, all issued disaster proclamations for flooding and extended them beyond 30 days, according to the filing. When Pritzker did so amid flooding in May 2019, 'his efforts were celebrated by Bailey himself,' the filing said." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/20](#)]
- **In May 2019, Bailey celebrated the extension of a disaster declaration without GA approval.** "The attorney general's office also seeks to poke holes in Bailey's argument that approval from the General Assembly is required to extend a disaster declaration beyond 30 days. Pritzker and his two immediate predecessors, Republican Bruce Rauner and Democrat Pat Quinn, all issued disaster proclamations for flooding and extended them beyond 30 days, according to the filing. When Pritzker did so amid flooding in May 2019, 'his efforts were celebrated by Bailey himself,' the filing said." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/20](#)]
- **Headline: "He Gained National Attention For Fighting Illinois' Stay-At-Home Orders. But Who Is Darren Bailey?"** [WBEZ, [5/12/20](#)]

Darren Bailey called himself pro-life. "'I'm going to Springfield to fight for and protect the rights of the unborn,' Bailey said. 'I'm proud to be recognized as the pro-life candidate to support in this race. It isn't enough to just vote PRO-Life, we need leaders who will stand up for values and the sanctity of life.'" [Darren Bailey for State Senate, [10/22/18](#)]

House Candidate Mary Burkett (UT)

House candidate Mary Burkett claimed that all levels of government had "overstepped [their] authority in their quest to 'protect' Americans." An email sent by Burkett's



campaign read: “Burkett states, ‘The government, at all levels, has overstepped its authority in their quest to ‘protect’ Americans from a virus. While well-intentioned, it’s naïve for the Mayor, and others, to think shutting down our local economy will ‘protect’ families. The American citizen is perfectly capable of deciding how to best protect themselves. We have a rich history of solving problems without government interference. Give us information and suggestions, if you must, then step aside and allow Americans to take care of solutions.” [Mary Burkett Campaign Email, [4/15/20](#)]

- **Burkett said that Americans were “perfectly capable of deciding how to best protect themselves.”** An email sent by Burkett’s campaign read: “Burkett states, ‘The government, at all levels, has overstepped its authority in their quest to ‘protect’ Americans from a virus. While well-intentioned, it’s naïve for the Mayor, and others, to think shutting down our local economy will ‘protect’ families. The American citizen is perfectly capable of deciding how to best protect themselves. We have a rich history of solving problems without government interference. Give us information and suggestions, if you must, then step aside and allow Americans to take care of solutions.” [Mary Burkett Campaign Email, [4/15/20](#)]

Mary Burkett called herself pro-life. In an interview with Alex Madajian titled “100% Pro-Life - with Mary Burkett,” Burkett said: “Well I am the mother of six, so I think that kind of gives it away. I am very much pro-life.” [YouTube, [6/28/19](#)]

State Rep. John Cabello (IL)

State Rep. John Cabello filed a lawsuit against Gov. Pritzker for extending Illinois’ stay-at-home orders. “The Clay County court’s narrow ruling only allows Bailey to ignore the directive. Rep. John Cabello, a Machesney Park Republican and a Rockford police officer, said he seeks broader results from the lawsuit he filed Wednesday in Winnebago County [...] Both lawsuits argue that Pritzker has gone beyond his legal boundaries in extending the stay-at-home order. Cabello’s lawsuit accuses Pritzker of distorting the state’s Emergency Management Agency Act to create a ‘police state’ through his stay-at-home orders. The suit contends Pritzker has used police powers reserved for the legislature to enforce his order and that he has usurped powers to limit travel that are reserved for local health departments.” [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/20](#)]

- **Cabello’s lawsuit accused Pritzker of creating a “police state” through enacting stay-at-home orders.** “Both lawsuits argue that Pritzker has gone beyond his legal boundaries in extending the stay-at-home order. Cabello’s lawsuit accuses Pritzker of



distorting the state's Emergency Management Agency Act to create a 'police state' through his stay-at-home orders. The suit contends Pritzker has used police powers reserved for the legislature to enforce his order and that he has usurped powers to limit travel that are reserved for local health departments." [Chicago Tribune, [4/29/20](#)]

John Cabello was pro-life. "Abortion & Reproductive Issues: a) Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation? Pro-life" [Vote Smart, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

State Rep. Scott Clem (WY)

Clem defended anti-quarantine protesters, saying that people were "obligated to practice civil disobedience" when the government did "something repugnant to the Constitution." "Clem said he expects growing civil disobedience, which he would understand. 'No one is advocating for violence, but I do think when the government does something repugnant to the Constitution, the people are obligated to practice civil disobedience,' Clem said. 'People are rising up here. It's bubbling in our state. Government's walking a fine line here.'" [Washington Post, [4/21/20](#)]

Scott Clem called himself pro-life. "I have been a staunch pro-life advocate. In 2017, 4 pro-life bills were introduced that were either sponsored or co-sponsored by me. Two of these bills were signed into law, marking the first time in over 20 years that pro-life legislation was passed in Wyoming. I will continue for [sic] fight for one of the premier rights endowed to us by our Creator: the right to life." [Representative Scott Clem, [9/11/18](#)]

Sen. Ted Cruz (TX)

Ted Cruz tweeted that he was fortunate to live in Texas where leaders weren't "authoritarian zealots" who arrested people for violating social distancing orders. Cruz tweeted: "I'm going to go play T-Ball, on a paddle board, at the beach, with my kids, while worshiping God on Easter Sunday. Fortunately, I live in Texas—where we protect public safety, but aren't authoritarian zealots—so they won't arrest me!" [Twitter, [4/11/20](#)]

Ted Cruz called himself pro-life. Ted Cruz tweeted: "I am strongly pro-life and I have a proven record of defending life #txsencon" [Twitter, [5/3/12](#)]



Gov. Ron DeSantis (FL)

Gov. DeSantis called other states' stay-at-home orders "draconian" and claimed that Florida had a better rate of hospitalizations. "Florida trailed most states in issuing a stay at home order. DeSantis rolled out restrictions in a piecemeal way, such as closing bars and prohibiting non-essential, elective surgeries in March, but waited until April 1 to announce his 'safer at home' order. He defended that decision Tuesday. 'You look at some of the most draconian orders that have been issued in some of these states and you compare Florida in terms of our hospitalizations per 100,000 in terms of our fatalities per 100,000. I mean you go from DC, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio - you name it, Florida has done better,' DeSantis said. 'Everyone in the media was saying Florida was going to be like New York or Italy, and that has not happened.'" [Associated Press, [4/28/20](#)]

Ron Desantis called himself pro-life. DeSantis tweeted: "Proud to receive an A-rating from the Florida Right to Life PAC. The rating they gave me—100% pro-life—is a reflection of my unwavering commitment to protecting the unborn. I'll always defend the sanctity of life! #sayfie" [Twitter, [7/9/18](#)]

Lyndsey Fifiield

Heritage Foundation social media manager Lyndsey Fifiield questioned why local governments were continuing to keep churches closed. Fifiield tweeted: "If they're wearing masks, standing apart, washing their hands, not crowding into the building, and have been isolating for 8 weeks like everyone else the better question is why are local governments keeping churches closed when I just meandered around Lowes for an hour?" [Twitter, [5/9/20](#)]

Lyndsey Fifiield called herself pro-life. Fifiield tweeted: "Being pro-life on the Internet is fun." [Twitter, [7/18/18](#)]

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest (NC)

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest argued that extending North Carolina's stay-at-home orders would "needlessly crush businesses and destroy livelihoods" in places that didn't have any cases. "GOP Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, Cooper's November opponent, said extending the stay-at-home order 'will needlessly crush businesses and destroy livelihoods in places that



don't even have a single case of coronavirus.' He called the governor's proposal a 'one-size-fits-all approach.'" [Charlotte Observer, [4/24/20](#)]

Dan Forest called himself pro-life. "Who is ready for the next PRO-LIFE Governor of North Carolina? 🗳️ ♂️ 🗳️ ♀️ 🗳️ ♀️ VOTE March 3rd - Dan Forest for Governor. www.DanForest.com #Forest2020 #RunForestRun" [Facebook, [1/22/20](#)]

Independent Women's Forum

Independent Women's Forum published a blog post arguing that "government officials...enacted a host of seemingly arbitrary restrictions" in response to COVID-19. "But even those who believe, as I do, that COVID-19 poses a serious threat to our nation should still be able to admit that some government officials have enacted a host of seemingly arbitrary restrictions in response to the threat. Washington has banned all recreational fishing, notwithstanding that fishing is a relatively-safe outdoor activity that can be done alone. Michigan allows people to buy drywall, but not paint at Home Depot. And in Steamboat, Colorado, anyone who doesn't wear a mask at the grocery store is subject to a \$5,000 fine and 18 months in prison. Granted that masks are important, but don't these penalties seem a bit stiff?" [Independent Women's Forum, [4/20/20](#)]

Michael Knowles

Michael Knowles attacked California's Gov. Newsom's reopening plan for the state, tweeting "faithful Californians should defy him." Knowles tweeted: "California governor @GavinNewsom announced today that he will reopen schools, daycare, retail, and other facilities within 'weeks, not months' but will keep churches closed for 'months, not weeks.' Faithful Californians should defy him." [Twitter, [4/28/20](#)]

In response to research that indicated people should practice social distancing measures through 2022, Knowles tweeted "Yeah whatever. Reopen the country." Knowles tweeted: "Yeah whatever. Reopen the country." In response to a tweet from Bloomberg which read: "Harvard researchers say people around the world might need to practice some level of social distancing intermittently through 2022." [Twitter, [4/14/20](#)]

Michael Knowles called himself pro-life. Knowles tweeted: "As pro-life advocates continue to expose the scientific and ethical reality of abortion, we must also console the millions of Americans who carry the heavy burden of an enormous sin." [Twitter, [5/22/19](#)]



State Sen. Dave Lawson (DE)

State Sen. Dave Lawson questioned whether social distancing guidelines were effective.

“Sens. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford; Dave Lawson, R-Marydel; and David Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred, attended the Dover rally in support of the rally-goers. All three wore masks. Looking out on the crowd, Wilson acknowledged that some of the rally-goers were not following social distancing guidelines. ‘The question is, are the guidelines really effective?’ chimed in Lawson. ‘There’s no proof that those things are doing any good.’” [Delaware Online, [5/1/20](#)]

- **Lawson: “There’s no proof that [social distancing practices] are doing any good.”**
“Sens. Bryant Richardson, R-Seaford; Dave Lawson, R-Marydel; and David Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred, attended the Dover rally in support of the rally-goers. All three wore masks. Looking out on the crowd, Wilson acknowledged that some of the rally-goers were not following social distancing guidelines. ‘The question is, are the guidelines really effective?’ chimed in Lawson. ‘There’s no proof that those things are doing any good.’” [Delaware Online, [5/1/20](#)]

Dave Lawson attended a pro-life rally sponsored by Delaware Right to Life. “Donna Latteri of Delaware Right to Life and Senators Dave Lawson and Bryant Richardson will take part in a ‘Right to Life’ rally on Wednesday at Legislative Hall, sponsored by Delaware Right To Life. Senator Richardson said the better the turnout the better the chances of changing the laws in Delaware to favor women and the unborn, so please send out information to your contacts and encourage them to attend!” [Sussex County GOP, Google Cache, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

Former Rep. Jason Lewis (MN)

Jason Lewis argued that “freedom-loving Americans [would] rebel” against stay at home orders in response to the coronavirus pandemic. “In an open letter published in the Fargo Forum, Lewis wrote it’s ‘next to impossible to enforce a law that people won’t follow. From prohibition to speed limits to closing businesses, sooner or later freedom-loving Americans will rebel.’” [City Pages, [3/27/20](#)]

Jason Lewis called himself “pro-life”. “Because I am pro-life, I believe that citizens should be able to pass state laws of their choice-without federal interference from activist courts.” [Jason Lewis Campaign Website, archived [8/19/16](#)]



State Rep. Mayes Middleton (TX)

State Rep. Mayes Middleton said Texas needed to move faster to reopen and defended anti-quarantine protests as a “symptom” of frustration with stay-at-home orders. “We need to move faster. Hospitals are ready. Businesses are ready. And Texans are ready,’ state Rep. Mayes Middleton, chairman of the Texas House Freedom Caucus, said in an interview. He called the outgrowth of protests even in places that are moving ahead with reopening orders ‘a symptom’ of growing frustration that is also being unleashed in calls and letters to officials. ‘From what I have seen, people have followed the rules and guidelines. It’s time to allow people to go back to work,’ Middleton said. ‘They want to go back and they are ready to go back to work.’” [Politico, [4/27/20](#)]

Mayes Middleton called himself 100% pro-life. “Mayes is 100% pro-life and endorsed by Texas Right to Life. Life is a gift given to us by God. We need to protect our innocent preborn and provide support for mothers before, during, and after their children are born. The Christian principles that our state was founded on have been eroded and need to be restored and protected.” [Mayes Middleton for Texas State Representative, Google Cache, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

Gov. Kristi Noem (SD)

Gov. Kristi Noem argued that people were “primarily responsible” for their own safety during the pandemic and implied that stay-at-home orders were “draconian.” “In explaining her rationale against issuing a stay-at-home order, Gov. Kristi Noem told reporters, ‘The people themselves are primarily responsible for their safety.’ She also pointed to the state and national constitutions that ‘prevent us from taking draconian measures much like the Chinese government has done.’” [CNN, [4/4/20](#)]

- **Noem said that stay at home orders reflected a “herd mentality” and refused to enact them despite public health officials saying they were necessary.** “As governors across the country fell into line in recent weeks, South Dakota’s top elected leader stood firm: There would be no statewide order to stay home. Such edicts to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus, Gov. Kristi L. Noem said disparagingly, reflected a ‘herd mentality.’ It was up to individuals – not government – to decide whether ‘to exercise their right to work, to worship and to play. Or to even stay at home.’ [...] She batted away questions about a statewide stay-at-home order – or even countywide ones. But public health experts say such an order is what’s needed, even in a rural state such as South Dakota.” [Washington Post, [4/13/20](#)]



- **Noem said that the fact that South Dakota was discovering more positive coronavirus cases was “not a bad thing.”** “Gov. Kristi Noem (R-SD) said the number the rest of the country should be focusing on is hospitalizations, not the number of positive cases in South Dakota. ‘The fact that we’re finding these positives is not a bad thing,’ Noem said. On Thursday, the South Dakota Department of Health reported the state’s seventh death and 143 new cases statewide. Minnehaha County also passed 1,000 cases.” [KELO, [4/16/20](#)]

Kristi Noem called herself pro-life. Noem’s 2010 House campaign website read: “I am, and always have been, pro life. From the miracle of conception to a dignified death, life is precious and should be protected. The federal government has no business forcing taxpayers to pay for abortions. If elected to Congress, I will maintain a 100% pro-life voting record.” [ontheissues.org, Accessed [4/17/20](#)]

Former Rep. Ron Paul

Former Rep. Ron Paul said that enacting social distancing measures would “likely make the disease worse.” “On Face the Nation, Fauci did his best to further damage an already tanking economy by stating, ‘Right now, personally, myself, I wouldn’t go to a restaurant.’ He has pushed for closing the entire country down for 14 days. Over what? A virus that has thus far killed just over 5,000 worldwide and less than 100 in the United States? [...] If anything, what people like Fauci and the other fearmongers are demanding will likely make the disease worse. The martial law they dream about will leave people hunkered down inside their homes instead of going outdoors or to the beach where the sunshine and fresh air would help boost immunity. The panic produced by these fearmongers is likely helping spread the disease, as massive crowds rush into Walmart and Costco for that last roll of toilet paper.” [Ron Paul Institute, [3/16/20](#)]

Ron Paul was a pro-life politician. “When Ron Paul spoke at the Ames Straw Poll earlier this month, he did not start by launching into a tirade about the Federal Reserve or lamenting the United States’s military policy in Afghanistan. Instead, Paul first spoke about abortion. It was a surprising twist. Paul is pro-life, and has been for his entire career. But his serious pro-life perspective has often taken a back seat to his views on the economy and foreign policy.” [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]

- **Headline: “The Pro-Life Ron Paul”** [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]



Republican Leadership (WI)

Wisconsin's Republican Assembly Speaker and Senate Majority Leader filed a lawsuit in an attempt to block Gov. Evers' extension of stay-at-home orders. "Republicans who control the Wisconsin Legislature asked the state Supreme Court on Tuesday to block an extension of the Democratic governor's stay-at-home order, the most partisan divide yet in the fight against the coronavirus [...] The lawsuit was expected after Gov. Tony Evers' health secretary last week ordered most nonessential businesses to remain closed until May 26 [...] On Monday, Evers released his plan for reopening Wisconsin that requires, among other things, a 14-day decline in positive COVID-19 cases and more protective equipment, tests and other supplies to deal with the pandemic. He said his plan mirrors guidelines issued by President Donald Trump's administration." [Associated Press, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Evers' plan mirrored the guidelines issued by the Trump administration.** "On Monday, Evers released his plan for reopening Wisconsin that requires, among other things, a 14-day decline in positive COVID-19 cases and more protective equipment, tests and other supplies to deal with the pandemic. He said his plan mirrors guidelines issued by President Donald Trump's administration." [Associated Press, [4/21/20](#)]

State Rep. Heather Scott (ID)

State Rep. Heather Scott criticized social distancing measures enacted by Idaho and accused the media of "[pushing] global and socialist agendas" by saying COVID-19 was an emergency. "Quite frankly, I don't know why Idaho is falling in line with some of the most liberal governors across the nation," said Rep. Heather Scott, a state lawmaker from Blanchard, in northern Idaho. On her YouTube channel and in her regular newsletter to constituents, Scott called COVID-19 the virus that threatened to kill the Constitution. She also routinely casts doubt on the severity of the pandemic. "The lying, Trump-hating media who continues to push global and socialist agendas has told us that there is an emergency," Scott said in her YouTube video." [NPR, [4/13/20](#)]

- **Scott: "Quite frankly, I don't know why Idaho is falling in line with some of the most liberal governors across the nation."** "Quite frankly, I don't know why Idaho is falling in line with some of the most liberal governors across the nation," said Rep. Heather Scott, a state lawmaker from Blanchard, in northern Idaho. On her YouTube



channel and in her regular newsletter to constituents, Scott called COVID-19 the virus that threatened to kill the Constitution.” [NPR, [4/13/20](#)]

State Rep. Heather Scott called Idaho Gov. Brad Little “Little Hitler” and claimed that non-essential workers were being treated like Jewish people during the Holocaust. “Idaho state Rep. Heather Scott has suggested workers deemed ‘nonessential’ during the COVID-19 pandemic are being treated like Jews during the Holocaust. Scott, a Republican whose district includes Bonner County, compared Gov. Brad Little’s shutdown orders to Nazi Germany during an hourlong Zoom interview with Jess Fields, a Houston-based podcast host, that was posted online Thursday. She referred to the governor as ‘Little Hitler’ and questioned his authority to decide who can and can’t continue working during the pandemic.” [Spokesman-Review, [4/16/20](#)]

- **Scott said Gov. Little’s decisionmaking about who was an essential worker during the pandemic was “no different from Nazi Germany.”** “She referred to the governor as ‘Little Hitler’ and questioned his authority to decide who can and can’t continue working during the pandemic. ‘I mean, that’s no different than Nazi Germany, where you had government telling people, “You are an essential worker or a nonessential worker,” and the nonessential workers got put on a train,’ Scott said. Trains were used during the Holocaust to forcibly transport Jews and other victims to ghettos, forced labor camps and extermination camps.” [Spokesman-Review, [4/16/20](#)]
- **Scott defended her use of the analogy and claimed that “biased” media was twisting her intent as part of an “ongoing war of hate towards conservatives.”** “She complained that ‘biased local and national media continue to twist and turn facts away from their original intent and into their ongoing war of hate towards conservatives and Americans in general. ‘My videos and interviews are generating a lot of positive responses and people are waking up. My recent analogies are poignant and relative to our times. While human lives are certainly more valuable than a business, we cannot underestimate nor ignore that our businesses are the life blood of the citizens who own them, the communities they are in and to the customers they serve. Losing the former destroys the latter.’”

Heather Scott was pro-life. A press release on Scott’s official website states: “Idaho State Representatives Heather Scott (R-1) and John Green (R-2) released a draft of their ‘Idaho Abortion Human Rights Act’ today. The two conservative Republican legislators have taken a stand to protect the most vulnerable of all Idahoans, the unborn. Always overlooked in the abortion industry and forgotten by the masses, the preborn are endowed with the same set



of inalienable human rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Abortion is, without question, the chief means of depriving unborn Idahoans of the most fundamental of all human rights, which is the right to life.” [Official Website of Rep. Heather Scott, [1/22/19](#)]

State Sen. Duey Stroebel (WI)

State Sen. Duey Stroebel said indefinite shelter-in-place orders were “counterproductive” and would lead to civil disobedience. “The critical comments from state Sens. Steve Nass, of Whitewater, and Duey Stroebel, of Cedarburg, demonstrated growing Republican criticism of how Evers has handled the pandemic a month since he first declared a public health emergency. [...] Stroebel called for a ‘fresh look’ to re-evaluate policy choices and begin planning for ‘reopening our civil life.’ ‘Every sickness and death is a tragedy, but so are businesses and livelihoods ruined by shelter in place orders,’ he said. ‘Besides being counterproductive, indefinite sheltering orders will eventually lead to civil disobedience.’” [Associated Press, [4/10/20](#)]

Duey Stroebel called himself pro-life. “I joined some of my Pro-Life colleagues earlier today to urge Governor Evers to sign these important bills.” [Facebook, [6/20/19](#)]

Sen. Pat Toomey (PA)

Sen. Pat Toomey argued that social distancing measures were “completely unsustainable.” “While there are differing opinions about how – and when – it should be done, most Republicans agree it’s imperative to start thinking about ways to reopen the country, warning there will be dire economic and even mental health consequences if they don’t. ‘We’re extremely unlikely to overwhelm our hospital capacities. In fact, in a matter of days and in some cases the moment may even have passed, that we’ve reached the peak of the rate of infections,’ said Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.). ‘This is a completely unsustainable place we’re in.’” [Politico, [4/15/20](#)]

Pat Toomey called himself pro-life. “Senator Toomey is pro-life and believes that all children should be welcomed into the world and protected by its laws. While reasonable people may differ on the question of abortion rights, we should all be able to agree on policies that encourage adoption over abortion, that avoid taxpayer funding of abortions, and that allow more parental involvement in decisions that involve minors.” [Pat Toomey Official Senate Website, Accessed [4/17/20](#)]



Former Gov. Scott Walker

Former Gov. Scott Walker questioned why Wisconsin's lockdown orders were extended longer than Indiana's. "If Midwest Governors have a pact to reopen why does Indiana's order expire on May 1 and Wisconsin is locked down until May 26?" [Twitter, [4/22/20](#)]

Walker celebrated a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision that "[knocked] down" the state's stay-at-home order, calling it a "good reminder of how important judicial picks are."

Walker tweeted: "Wisconsin Supreme Court knocks down stay-at-home order." and ".@DonaldJTrumpJr The rule of law must be upheld - even in emergencies. Also, a good reminder of how important judicial picks are - I appointed 2 of the 4 justices on the 4 to 3 majority." [Twitter, [5/13/20](#); Twitter, [5/13/20](#)]

Scott Walker called himself pro-life. "WALKER: Well, I'm pro-life, I've always been pro-life, and I believe that an unborn child can be protected, and there are many other alternatives that can also protect the life of that mother. That's been consistently proven. Unlike Hillary Clinton, who has a radical position in terms of support for Planned Parenthood, I defunded Planned Parenthood more than four years ago, long before any of these videos came out. I've got a position that's in line with everyday America." [On The Issues, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

Attacking Health Authorities

Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ)

Reps. Ken Buck and Andy Biggs wrote an op-ed blaming Dr. Anthony Fauci's recommendations for the "economic calamity" caused by the coronavirus pandemic. "For Fauci, is it merely a societal or economic inconvenience that about 17 million workers are unemployed because of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, with many more to come in the weeks and months ahead? The economic calamity lies largely with the origination of policies resulting from Fauci's recommendations." [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Buck and Biggs accused Dr. Deborah Birx of "trying to boost the fatality rate" of COVID-19.** "Case fatality rates include all deaths of anyone with COVID-19, or the symptoms of the virus. These are classified as a virus-caused death regardless of other health issues that might have contributed to the death. This method of



counting is promulgated by Fauci's associate Deborah Birx. It almost sounds as if she is trying to boost the fatality rate." [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Buck and Biggs said that Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx should no longer be the “primary voices at the table” because they prioritized policies to protect public health over economic considerations.** “Fauci is a respected healthcare professional, who has contributed a great deal to his country. But he can no longer be one of the primary voices in this crisis, especially not after his assertion that the economic effects and devastation from this shutdown are merely inconvenient [...] Fauci and his team of experts deserve some credit for mitigating the spread of this virus. But they should no longer be the primary voices at the table. Fauci and Birx have indicated pretty strongly that they do not consider the greater needs of the country.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]
- **Buck and Biggs criticized Dr. Birx for warning Americans that coronavirus cases could have a secondary surge if social distancing measures were lifted too early, accusing her of wreaking “economic destruction” on the U.S.** “Birx also recently indicated that we should not open up the country yet because there might be a second time around for the virus. Has she considered the economic destruction she is content with wreaking on the nation? One wonders if she has thought about the emotional toll – the suicides, the increase in domestic and child abuse, drug and alcohol dependence, and a host of additional societal pathologies. Has she considered the loss of life-savings, businesses, and capital?” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]
- **Buck and Biggs called lockdown policies intended to prevent the spread of coronavirus “draconian” and said that models predicting fatalities from COVID-19 were “panic-inducing” and “unreliable.”** “Fauci has admitted that the models he relies on are unreliable. The models, and their panic-inducing projections, have seemingly been revised down every couple of days [...] A study, which may have been the catalyst for many of the draconian lockdown policies in the U.S. and the United Kingdom, that predicted the deaths of over 2 million Americans and 510,000 from the U.K., was recently revised to predict just 20,000 fatalities in the U.K. That’s not a trivial revision – that study affected the lives and livelihoods of millions, if not billions, of people around the world.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]
- **Buck and Biggs: “The question is whether the medicine [Fauci] prescribed will prove to be more harmful than the disease in the long term.”** “Fauci insists this



because of his policy prescriptions, but time and data from the United States and other nations will reveal whether that is true. We have heard Fauci say the economic cost and societal impacts of his policies were not considered when he devised his epidemic response plan. But the question is whether the medicine he prescribed will prove to be more harmful than the disease in the long term.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

Andy Biggs called himself pro-life. Biggs tweeted: “Pro-Life and Law Enforcement leaders stand with Andy Biggs because Andy Biggs stands for the sanctity of life and the rule of law. #AZ05” [Twitter, [10/26/16](#)]

Rep. Ken Buck (CO)

Rep. Ken Buck claimed that there was a lot of “hype about fatalities” and said that elected officials had to decide how many deaths from coronavirus were acceptable. “Biggs and Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) penned an op-ed in the Washington Examiner on Saturday titled: ‘Is Anthony Fauci helping or hurting?’ ‘You’re dealing with a lot of hype about fatalities,’ Buck said in an interview. ‘I don’t know anybody that wants to be the person who says, “33,000 deaths is okay, but 100,000 is not acceptable.” But that’s what officials are elected to do.’” [Politico, [4/15/20](#)]

Reps. Ken Buck and Andy Biggs wrote an op-ed blaming Dr. Anthony Fauci’s recommendations for the “economic calamity” caused by the coronavirus pandemic. “For Fauci, is it merely a societal or economic inconvenience that about 17 million workers are unemployed because of the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, with many more to come in the weeks and months ahead? The economic calamity lies largely with the origination of policies resulting from Fauci’s recommendations.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Buck and Biggs accused Dr. Deborah Birx of “trying to boost the fatality rate” of COVID-19.** “Case fatality rates include all deaths of anyone with COVID-19, or the symptoms of the virus. These are classified as a virus-caused death regardless of other health issues that might have contributed to the death. This method of counting is promulgated by Fauci’s associate Deborah Birx. It almost sounds as if she is trying to boost the fatality rate.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]
- **Buck and Biggs said that Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx should no longer be the “primary voices at the table” because they prioritized policies to protect public health over**



economic considerations. “Fauci is a respected healthcare professional, who has contributed a great deal to his country. But he can no longer be one of the primary voices in this crisis, especially not after his assertion that the economic effects and devastation from this shutdown are merely inconvenient [...] Fauci and his team of experts deserve some credit for mitigating the spread of this virus. But they should no longer be the primary voices at the table. Fauci and Birx have indicated pretty strongly that they do not consider the greater needs of the country.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Buck and Biggs criticized Dr. Birx for warning Americans that coronavirus cases could have a secondary surge if social distancing measures were lifted too early, accusing her of wreaking “economic destruction” on the U.S.** “Birx also recently indicated that we should not open up the country yet because there might be a second time around for the virus. Has she considered the economic destruction she is content with wreaking on the nation? One wonders if she has thought about the emotional toll – the suicides, the increase in domestic and child abuse, drug and alcohol dependence, and a host of additional societal pathologies. Has she considered the loss of life-savings, businesses, and capital?” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]
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- **Buck and Biggs: “The question is whether the medicine [Fauci] prescribed will prove to be more harmful than the disease in the long term.”** “Fauci insists this because of his policy prescriptions, but time and data from the United States and other nations will reveal whether that is true. We have heard Fauci say the economic cost and societal impacts of his policies were not considered when he devised his epidemic response plan. But the question is whether the medicine he prescribed will



prove to be more harmful than the disease in the long term.” [Washington Examiner, [4/20/20](#)]

Ken Buck called himself pro-life. “We then turned to news coverage of Buck’s public statements. Buck has said in response to questions from voters that he opposes abortion and that includes pregnancies that result from rape or incest. ‘I don’t believe in the exceptions of rape or incest. I believe that the only exception, I guess, is life of the mother,’ Buck said. ‘And that is only if it’s truly life of the mother. To me, you can’t say you’re pro-life and say -- if there is, and it’s a very rare situation where one life would have to cease for the other life to exist. But in that very rare situation ... we may have to take the life of the child to save the life of the mother. In that rare situation, I am in favor of that exception. But, other than that, I have no exceptions in my position.” [Politifact, [10/18/10](#)]

Concerned Women for America

Concerned Women for America tweeted an article titled “The U.S. Should Not Fund the World Health Organization.” CWA tweeted: “The U.S. Should Not Fund the World Health Organization” and linked to an article with the same headline. [Twitter, [5/1/20](#)]

Conservative Action Project

Conservative Action Project published a blog post arguing that the United States suspend its financial support for the World Health Organization. “Conservatives stand with the Trump Administration in suspending US taxpayer financial support for the World Health Organization as officials review the future of federal funding of the WHO.” [Conservative Action Project, [4/30/20](#)]

- **Conservative Action Progress cited WHO’s support for abortion access during the pandemic as a reason that the U.S. should not support it.** “As part of its response to COVID19, the WHO has spent time advocating that abortion drugs remain ‘essential’ during this global pandemic – in keeping with the organization’s long track record of pro-abortion advocacy. The WHO’s western hemisphere subsidiary, the Pan American Health Organization repeatedly carries water for Cuba’s military dictatorship.” [Conservative Action Project, [4/30/20](#)]
- **Conservative Action Project: “The WHO is a corrupt, politically manipulated organization that serves the interests of Communist countries over the mission of global public health.”** “The WHO is a corrupt, politically manipulated organization



that serves the interests of Communist countries over the mission of global public health. We support the administration's efforts to review, and potentially to revoke, the U.S. contribution." [Conservative Action Project, [4/30/20](#)]

- **Headline: "The U.S. Should Not Fund The World Health Organization."** [Conservative Action Project, [4/30/20](#)]

State Sen. David Craig (WI)

State Sen. David Craig accused DHHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm of "trampling" the state's economy because she extended stay-at-home orders. "Gov. Tony Evers on Thursday closed all K-12 schools for the remainder of the academic year and extended Wisconsin's stay-at-home order for another month [...] But Republicans voiced their loudest objections to date, especially in the state Senate which has yet to confirm Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm and could vote to fire her. The Senate has already fired Evers' agriculture secretary. 'She must not be allowed to continually trample on the constitution or the state's economy,' Republican Sen. David Craig said of Palm. 'Enough is enough!'" [Associated Press, [4/16/20](#)]

David Craig called himself pro-life. Craig tweeted: "Prohibiting the use of Medicaid for abortions will further protect our most vulnerable and remove the last vestiges of taxpayer-funded abortion here in Wisconsin. #ProLife" [Twitter, [4/11/19](#)]

Family Research Council

The Family Research Council attacked the World Health Organisation for being "one of the biggest promoters of #abortion. FRC tweeted: "The World Health Organization is a lot more than the world's disease and infection police. It's also one of the biggest promoters of #abortion and peddlers of radical sex ed." The cited article read, "If you're still not convinced, Slater offers additional damning evidence from the WHO-supported learning objectives for children from the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education which encourage everything from gender and sexual experimentation to abortion, shocking acts of sexual pleasure, and departures from their parents more traditional views." [Family Research Council Twitter, [04/24/20](#); Family Research Council, [04/23/20](#)]

The Family Research Council claimed that the WHO was "one of the biggest promoters of #abortion and peddlers of radical sex ed." FRC tweeted: "The World Health Organization is a



lot more than the world's disease and infection police. It's also one of the biggest promoters of #abortion and peddlers of radical sex ed. #WHO" [Twitter, [4/24/20](#)]

FRC: "If Americans are upset about anything, it shouldn't be that the president temporarily cut WHO's funding," but that taxpayer dollars went "to a group that doesn't share most people's values." "But the 'watchdog' of the global health is a lot more than the world's disease and infection police. It's also, as more Americans are starting to learn, one of the biggest promoters of abortion and peddlers of radical sex ed. At this point, it's undeniable. And it's been their agenda for many years. If Americans are upset about anything, it shouldn't be that the president temporarily cut WHO's funding. It should be the incredible injustice that's been done to taxpayers by sending billions of dollars to a group that doesn't share most people's values." [Family Research Council, [4/23/20](#)]

FRC: "Family Research Council is grateful that President Trump has stopped funding for WHO." "Clearly, the American taxpayer should not foot the bill for these kinds of policies. They are a danger to public health, promulgated by an international organization designed to protect health. Family Research Council is grateful that President Trump has stopped funding for WHO. Their mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic is just the latest egregious example of the problem with WHO." [Family Research Council, [4/23/20](#)]

Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson said the WHO should never receive money for the U.S. because it wasn't "about health or keeping people safe." Johnson tweeted: "Two organizations that should NEVER receive money from the United States of America. The World Health Organization and Planned Parenthood. Neither are about health or keeping people safe." [Twitter, [4/7/20](#)]

Michael Knowles

Michael Knowles claimed the World Health Organization was being used to spread Chinese propaganda. Knowles tweeted: "The villain is China, which uses the World Health Organization along with the left-wing American press to spread its propaganda." [Twitter, [4/8/20](#)]

Knowles criticized people who wanted Fauci to lead the U.S. response to the pandemic, saying "Dr. Fauci does not rule us." "The 'i JuSt WaNt To LiStEn To Dr. FaUcI!' crowd seems unaware that Dr. Fauci is not the president. He may be a fine and intelligent man. His expertise may be helpful. But Dr. Fauci does not rule us." [Twitter, [4/2/20](#)]



Knowles said U.S. politics shouldn't be outsourced to unaccountable 'experts' such as Fauci. Knowles tweeted: "My issue isn't with Fauci. My issue is with the Fauci fan club that would outsource our politics to unaccountable 'experts.'" [Twitter, [4/2/20](#)]

Michael Knowles called himself pro-life. Knowles tweeted: "As pro-life advocates continue to expose the scientific and ethical reality of abortion, we must also console the millions of Americans who carry the heavy burden of an enormous sin." [Twitter, [5/22/19](#)]

Live Action

Live Action said the World Health Organization was an "advocate for abortion and sexual liberation" and encouraged followers to "question [its] agenda." Live Action News tweeted: "The World Health Organization (WHO) proved itself to be an advocate for abortion and sexual liberation after it declared abortion to be an essential service during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic." The linked article's headline was: "Why Pro-lifers should question the agenda of the World Health Organization." [Twitter, [5/6/20](#)]

State Sen. Doug Mastriano (PA)

State Sen. Doug Mastriano called for the resignation of Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine. "Pennsylvania state Sen. Doug Mastriano from Franklin County has called for the resignation of Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine, saying there have been flaws with the COVID-19 emergency declaration and mitigation efforts. Mastriano said Levine's response to the elderly has been substandard. He also said that Levine continues to ignore nursing homes and that actions taken by the Health Department have not helped." [WPXI, [5/12/20](#)]

Doug Mastriano was a pro-life politician. "Is Doug pro-life? Doug believes, life begins at conception and that unborn children are guaranteed all the Constitutional rights we enjoy every day... including the right to life." [Doug Mastriano for Congress, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

State Sen. Steve Nass (WI)

State Sen. Steve Nass accused Wisconsin's top health official Andrea Palm of promoting "excessive levels of fear" around COVID-19. "The critical comments from state Sens. Steve Nass, of Whitewater, and Ducey Stroebel, of Cedarburg, demonstrated growing Republican



criticism of how Evers has handled the pandemic a month since he first declared a public health emergency. Evers and the state's top health official, Andrea Palm, defended their handling of the crisis, saying their decisions have been driven by science and a desire to slow the spread of the virus. Nass accused Palm of promoting 'excessive levels of fear.' Nass also said state health officials told lawmakers that they want to see safer-at-home restrictions extended for up to six months." [Associated Press, [4/10/20](#)]

Steve Nass was a "proud cosponsor" of four pro-life bills. "Today, the Wisconsin State Senate will debate and pass four very important Pro-Life bills. I am a proud cosponsor of these bills, since they reflect the strongly held values of my constituents in the 11th Senate District. Sadly, in recent months we have seen a horrifying national effort by many Democrats to implement new policies promoting abortion on-demand and without limitations. People of good faith and compassion can no longer defer on engaging in this debate. We must all be willing to stand for the protection of babies and against the grim efforts to increase the number of abortions in this country." [The Nass Report, [6/5/19](#)]

Steve Nass was a pro-life politician. Steve Nass signed a letter described by Right Wisconsin as such: "The following is a letter from pro-life legislators calling on the Administration of Governor Tony Evers and the Department of Health Services to shut down the state's abortion clinics as part of Evers' 'Safer at Home' response to the Coronavirus." [Right Wisconsin, [4/2/20](#)]

Former Rep. Ron Paul

Ron Paul called for the firing of Dr. Anthony Fauci and claimed that health officials made "dire predictions so that they could go ahead and destroy peoples' civil liberties." "Even the bad guys are admitting it, and that is they made these dire predictions so that they could go ahead and destroy peoples' civil liberties and spend a lot of money and make up an excuse on why the stock market actually went down – all kinds of things by having this coronavirus event blown way out of proportion,' Mr. Paul said. 'He should be fired,' Mr. Paul said about Dr. Fauci. 'But if you don't do it in the literal sense, the people have to fire him. And they have to fire him by saying "he's a fraud.'"" [Washington Times. [4/10/20](#)]

Ron Paul was a pro-life politician. "When Ron Paul spoke at the Ames Straw Poll earlier this month, he did not start by launching into a tirade about the Federal Reserve or lamenting the United States's military policy in Afghanistan. Instead, Paul first spoke about abortion. It was a surprising twist. Paul is pro-life, and has been for his entire career. But his serious pro-life



perspective has often taken a back seat to his views on the economy and foreign policy.” [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]

- **Headline: “The Pro-Life Ron Paul”** [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]

Lila Rose

Lila Rose attacked the World Health Organization for being a “radically pro-abortion... dishonest, abusive [organization].” Rose tweeted: “Why does America give hundreds of millions of dollars to @WHO? They are radically pro-abortion. They won’t even recognize Taiwan, because WHO is loyal to Taiwan's political enemy, human rights abuser China. Why are we spending money to support a dishonest, abusive org?” [Lila Rose Twitter, [04/04/20](#)]

Students for Life

Students for Life tweeted that the U.S. should permanently defund the World Health Organization. Students for Life tweeted: “The World Health Organization is pro-abortion! We should permanently defund them!” [Twitter, [4/20/20](#)]

Discouraging/Not Wearing PPE

Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson encouraged people not to wear face masks, arguing that it would help build immunity to COVID-19. Johnson tweeted: “The amount of people who are allowing themselves to be controlled by the government is truly astounding. Wake up, people. The sooner we stop wearing masks, the sooner we will build up immunities to fight this virus. Guess what? IT’S NOT GOING AWAY.” [Twitter, [5/13/20](#)]

- **Johnson criticized people for “allowing themselves to be controlled by the government” during the coronavirus pandemic.** Johnson tweeted: “The amount of people who are allowing themselves to be controlled by the government is truly astounding. Wake up, people. The sooner we stop wearing masks, the sooner we will build up immunities to fight this virus. Guess what? IT’S NOT GOING AWAY.” [Twitter, [5/13/20](#)]



Bryan Kemper

Anti-choice activist Bryan Kemper joked about “[giving] in” and wearing a face mask, tweeting a photo of himself wearing a mask over his eyes. Kemper tweeted: “I gave in, I’m wearing a face mask. #covid_19 #coronavirus #thursdaythoughts #thursdayvibes” [Twitter, [5/7/20](#)]



President Donald Trump

VIDEO: Trump indicated that he would not follow the CDC guidelines that recommended wearing a mask. “The CDC is advising the use of non-medical cloth face covering as an



additional voluntary public health measure,' the US president told reporters on Friday. 'This is voluntary. I don't think I'm going to be doing it.'" [The Guardian, [4/3/20](#); CNN, [4/4/20](#)]

Donald Trump called himself pro-life. "TRUMP: Well, if that would happen, because I am pro-life, and I will be appointing pro-life judges, I would think that that will go back to the individual states. If we put another two or perhaps three justice on, that's really what's going to be. That'll happen automatically, in my opinion, because I am putting pro-life justices on the court. I will say this: It will go back to the states, and the states will then make a determination." [On The Issues, accessed [5/15/20](#)]

State Rep. Nino Vitale (OH)

State Rep. Nino Vitale said he wouldn't wear a face mask because it would prevent people from seeing "the likeness of God" in his face. Tyler Buchanan tweeted: "GOP State Rep. Nino Vitale on why he won't wear a face mask: 'This is the greatest nation on earth founded on Judeo-Christian Principles. One of those principles is that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. That image is seen the most by our face.'" [Twitter, [5/4/20](#)]

- **Headline: "Ohio GOP lawmaker says he won't wear a face mask because God doesn't wear one"** [RawStory, [5/4/20](#)]

Nino Vitale called himself pro-life. "Pro-Life: The sign to the left was designed by me and is currently in several locations throughout Champaign County. I believe life starts at conception and ends at natural death. I have been a member and vice president of Champaign County Right to Life for over 7 years. I personally have designed billboards which are all over Champaign County and performed literature drops at local colleges and work our fair booth." [Conservative Republican Nino Vitale, Accessed [5/12/20](#)]

Tabitha Walter

Eagle Forum's Tabitha Walter questioned why Virginia's reopening plan required people eating outside at restaurants to wear face masks. Walter tweeted: "So you can sit outside and eat... with a mask on?," in response to a tweet from NBC Washington that read: "Virginia's Phase 1 plan: Salons reopen w/ strict rules, restaurants can reopen outdoor seating 50% capacity, gyms outdoor only w/ less than 10, non essential retail 50% capacity, masks required. Churches allowed 50% capacity. Entertainment stays closed." [Twitter, [5/8/20](#)]



Dismissing COVID Death Toll

State Sen. Amanda Chase (VA)

State Sen. Amanda Chase dismissed the 277 deaths from coronavirus in Virginia, saying that the seniors who died “lived good lives.” In an audio clip tweeted by American Bridge, Chase said: “As of last night, we have a total death of 277. And while every life is precious, these are good people who have lived a good life. They’ve lived in nursing homes, they’re in long-term care facilities.” [Twitter, [4/21/20](#)]

Amanda Chase called herself pro-life. Chase tweeted: “Met with Virginia reps from @StudentsforLife. This is a great #grassroots organization. #Prolife” [Twitter, [2/19/20](#)]

Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson dismissed the COVID-19 death toll, saying the virus “very, very, very, very rarely” killed people. Johnson tweeted: “Oh gosh. You can’t even compare. Abortion ALWAYS kills. COVID very, very, very, very rarely does. 100% compared to 1.3%.” [Twitter, [5/13/20](#)]

Sen. Ron Johnson (WI)

Sen. Ron Johnson: “Getting coronavirus is not a death sentence except for maybe no more than 3.4 percent of our population.” “Johnson acknowledged that coronavirus has a far higher fatality rate than the seasonal flu, but said, ‘getting coronavirus is not a death sentence except for maybe no more than 3.4 percent of our population (and) I think probably far less,’ he said.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [3/18/20](#)]

Ron Johnson was pro-life. “U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) said this Tuesday after voting to advance two bills that protect the right to life – specifically, in the case of babies who survive failed attempts at abortion and in that of babies far along enough toward birth that they are capable of feeling pain: ‘As a compassionate society we have an obligation to protect life, especially the life of the most vulnerable among us – the unborn, and those babies born alive despite an abortionist’s attempt to kill them,’ said Johnson. ‘America is an incredible experiment in human freedom, founded by leaders who understood that the most basic right, the right to life, is unalienable. I am proud to support these bills that promote that primary mission of our country.’” [Ron Johnson Official Senate Website, [2/25/20](#)]



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (TX)

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick claimed that the 19,458 positive cases of COVID-19 and 495 deaths in Texas were not high enough to warrant shutting down the entire state. “During his latest interview on Fox News, Patrick said that, in Texas, the death toll wasn’t high enough to warrant shutting down the entire state. According to the latest data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, 19,458 Texans have been sickened from the virus, while 495 have died. ‘Let’s face reality of where we are: In Texas, we have 29 million people. We’ve lost 495 and every life is valuable, but 500 people out of 29 million and we’re locked down,’ Patrick said.” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

- **Patrick criticized the modeling of coronavirus infections and deaths and implied that the revised death toll numbers were more acceptable.** “Abbott said the reopening will happen in phases, and be guided by data and science. But during his interview last night, Patrick implied that revised death toll numbers don’t paint as grim of a picture for the deadly pathogen. ‘They told us, Tucker, to follow the science. Well what science?’ Patrick questioned. ‘At the end of January, Dr. [Anthony] Fauci – who I have great respect for – said this wasn’t a big issue. Three weeks later we were going to lose two million people and another few weeks later it was 100,000 to 200,000. Now it’s under 60,000.’” [Texas Tribune, [4/21/20](#)]

Dan Patrick called himself pro-life. Patrick tweeted: “During the #txlege session, the Senate led in passing 2 of my pro-life #txlege priorities, including one of the strongest pro-life bills ever.” [Twitter, [6/5/17](#)]

Dan Patrick called himself pro-life. Patrick tweeted: “I will be front and center providing authentic conservative leadership on pro-life issues #txlege #tcot #tx2014 #dpltg.” [Twitter, [2/4/14](#)]

Former Rep. Ron Paul

Former Rep. Ron Paul was dismissive of thousands of deaths caused by coronavirus. “On Face the Nation, Fauci did his best to further damage an already tanking economy by stating, ‘Right now, personally, myself, I wouldn’t go to a restaurant.’ He has pushed for closing the entire country down for 14 days. Over what? A virus that has thus far killed just over 5,000 worldwide and less than 100 in the United States?” [Ron Paul Institute, [3/16/20](#)]



Ron Paul was a pro-life politician. “When Ron Paul spoke at the Ames Straw Poll earlier this month, he did not start by launching into a tirade about the Federal Reserve or lamenting the United States’s military policy in Afghanistan. Instead, Paul first spoke about abortion. It was a surprising twist. Paul is pro-life, and has been for his entire career. But his serious pro-life perspective has often taken a back seat to his views on the economy and foreign policy.” [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]

- **Headline: “The Pro-Life Ron Paul”** [National Review, [8/29/11](#)]