



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas 4th Most Pro-Life State in the Nation

Family Council Director Jerry Cox released a statement Tuesday hailing Arkansas' ranking as the 4th most pro-life state in the nation.

"Americans United for Life released a list ranking every state in America from most pro-life to least pro-life," Cox said. "Arkansas was number four on the list.

"This is a big deal. Arkansas has always ranked fairly high on AUL's list, but this year we've actually moved up from number five to number four.

"The difference is the pro-life legislation Arkansas has implemented," Cox said. "This ranking came as a result of our respect for the lives of the unborn, the sick, and the elderly. Arkansas has always been good about affirming the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, but to be ranked so high among all the states in the nation—and to actually be moving up the rankings—is very encouraging.

"Everyone in Arkansas has heard the saying 'Thank God for Mississippi.' It seems like every year a new study or survey is released showing Arkansas to be 48th or 49th in the nation when it comes to important issues. This is one thing that Arkansas is doing right."

Cox said he has a lot of respect for Americans United for Life. "They've been doing pro-life work for 40 years, now. They've lobbied Congress, and they know their legislation. Their survey considers everything from a state's abortion laws to its laws governing physician-assisted suicide and how we care for the terminally ill. If they say we're number four, you can count on it."

Cox said he hopes Arkansas will move to number one in 2012, after the legislature has had an opportunity to pass new pro-life legislation into law.

Family Council is a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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AUL's Life List Shows Cutting Edge Legislation Protects Life at the State Level

*By Americans United for Life
Thursday, January 20th, 2011*

AUL'S LIFE LIST SHOWS CUTTING EDGE LEGISLATION RESTRICTS ABORTIONS/PROTECTS LIFE AT THE STATE LEVEL

LAUNCHES NATIONAL PETITION TO URGE THE SAME AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (01-20-11) – For the sixth year in row, Americans United for Life released the "Life List" – a ranking of all 50 states based on the way each deals with a comprehensive list of life issues – from euthanasia to abortion. AUL CEO and President Dr. Charmaine Yoest said that the model legislation AUL specializes in, and the state-based approach to protecting life in the law, is "changing the momentum towards life at the state level. We are seeing a cultural shift toward protecting life and rolling back the tide of unrestricted abortions that *Roe v. Wade* produced."

"The results reveal that legislative action at the state level is turning the tide toward life with strategic refinement of the law," said Yoest. AUL has produced 38 pieces of model legislation and been influential in drafting opt-out language for states that do not wish to pay for President Obama's health care plan that includes abortion coverage.

In the top 5 spots in 2011 are 1: Oklahoma, 2: Louisiana, 3: Pennsylvania, 4: Arkansas and 5: Texas. At the bottom of the list were New Jersey, Vermont, Hawaii, California and Washington State.

AUL released the Life List in advance of the Saturday anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, and also announced a national initiative – a petition to influence the national abortion debate by targeting the millions of tax dollars going to abortions. Sending Congress the message that "Life Counts" with the American people, a top AUL legislative priority will be Defunding Planned Parenthood.

"Common ground on the abortion issue is possible when we begin with the fact that no tax money should go to abortion, a principle violated by the Democratic leadership in the health care law," said Yoest. "The new pro-life leadership in the House will find that defunding Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, is essential to protecting life."

For media interviews, contact press@aul.org.