

**News Conference
State Capitol Rotunda
Wednesday, July 13
11 a.m.**

Sponsored by the Following Coalition of Arkansas Pro-life Organizations:

- Americans United for Life
- Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council
- Arkansas Pregnancy Care Center Association
- Center for Constitutional Policy
- Concepts of Truth
- Family Council
- 40 Days for Life
- Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Little Rock

Announcing a Public Forum

July 26, 2011

7-9 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Markham & Shackelford

Little Rock, Arkansas

Featured Guest at the July 26 Public Forum

Abby Johnson

Abby Johnson is the author of *Unplanned*, a book providing a behind the scenes look at Planned Parenthood. From Planned Parenthood's Employee of the Year in 2008 to leaving the organization in 2009, Abby Johnson made the journey from abortion advocate to abortion opponent. Her book and her public events provide a unique look at the nation's largest provider of abortions—Planned Parenthood.

Attachments:

- **News Release: For Release after 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 13**
- **Additional Information About Abby Johnson**

For more information, contact Jerry Cox at Family Council at 501-375-7000 or 501-912-6600.



PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Jerry Cox
Office: 501-375-7000
Cell: 501-912-6600**

FOR RELEASE: 11 A.M. JULY 13

Pro-Life Coalition Bringing Former Planned Parenthood Leader to Little Rock

On Wednesday, a coalition of eight pro-life leaders held a press conference at the Arkansas Capitol Building to announce a major pro-life event.

“On July 26, here in Little Rock at Crowne Plaza Hotel from 7 to 9 p.m., Abby Johnson, author of *Unplanned* and former director of a Planned Parenthood clinic, will address the public about her firsthand experience from inside Planned Parenthood and her journey from abortion advocate to abortion opponent. This free event, open to the public, is being organized by the largest coalition of pro-life groups ever assembled in Arkansas,” said Family Council President Jerry Cox.

“Abby Johnson’s insights into the true nature of the abortion industry couldn’t have come at a better time,” Cox said. “As you may know, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland plans to merge with its Arkansas counterpart to increase abortions in our state, so what she has to say is of great importance to us. Who better than Planned Parenthood’s own former Employee of the Year to tell us what goes on behind the scenes at Planned Parenthood?”

A website has been launched in tandem with this event at www.July26LittleRock.com. Anyone interested in receiving up-to-date information can visit the website and fill out the short contact form.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Arkansans to learn about the inner-workings of the nation’s largest provider of abortions,” Cox said.

Today’s Little Rock press conference was one of three press conferences held across the State of Arkansas, at which pro-life leaders assembled to promote the July 26 event. Other press conferences were held in Fayetteville and Fort Smith. Organizations promoting the event include 40 Days for Life, Americans United for Life, Arkansas Faith & Ethics Council, Arkansas Pregnancy Care Center Association, the Catholic Respect Life Office, the Center for Constitutional Policy, Concepts of Truth, and Family Council.

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

###

ABOUT ABBY JOHNSON

Abby Johnson was the director of a Planned Parenthood clinic. In October 2009, she quit her job as clinic director and switched sides, joining Coalition for Life, a pro-life organization. She now works as Chief Research Strategist for Live Action, a pro-life organization.

Although unsure of her reasons, Johnson had begun to question her work and the motivations of Planned Parenthood a full year before she left the company. Then, in September 2009 Johnson assisted in an ultra-sound guided abortion on a 13-week old baby and witnessed the infant fight against them, but eventually lose and die. The next month, Johnson left Planned Parenthood and walked down the street to a local chapter of Coalition for Life.

When Planned Parenthood learned the reason why Johnson had quit her job as clinic director, the company insisted on a temporary gag order and took her to court. They also informed the media about the gag order.

While the media picked up the story, the judge dismissed the case against Johnson on the spot. The next day she appeared on the *O'Reilly Factor* and has since been interviewed by other national news sources.

Johnson's book, *unPLANNED*, which details her journey from volunteer to employee of Planned Parenthood, her dilemma in leaving, and her current place in the pro-life movement, was released on January 11, 2011.

Johnson holds a B.S. in psychology from Texas A&M University and an M.A. in counseling from Sam Houston State University. She worked at Planned Parenthood for four years and had volunteered there for four years previously. She, her husband, and their young daughter live in Texas.