



SECULAR PRO-LIFE

OUR BIG-TENT APPROACH *works*

"I'm grateful to know I'm not alone." I read the last line of the email with a knowing smile.

The author, Genevieve (a pseudonym), was a lifelong agnostic. Spending her daily life in an entirely pro-choice social circle, she had long let her pro-life views, as she put it, "go dormant." But after the Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling overturned Roe v. Wade, Genevieve's pro-choice friends grew more vocal and vitriolic. She felt alienated and frustrated. She searched online for nonreligious pro-life groups and found Secular Pro-Life (SPL).

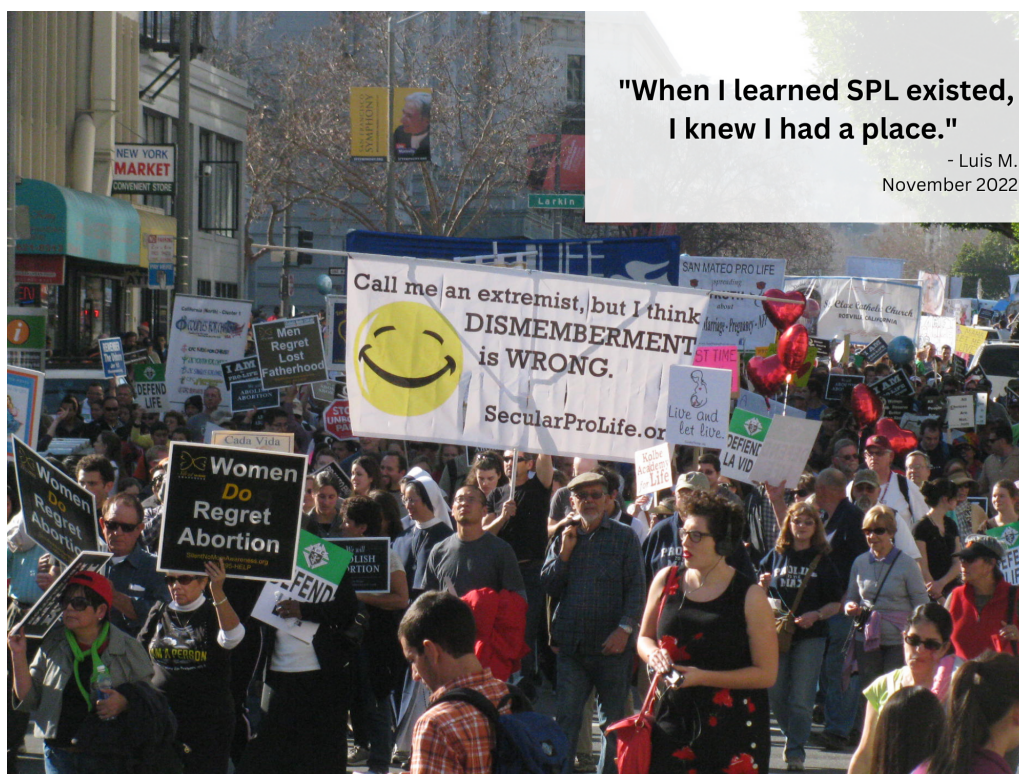


**"I'm grateful to know
I'm not alone."**

- Genevieve
October 2022

Genevieve was so grateful to find “her people” that she immediately signed up to be a monthly recurring donor. I reached out to thank her, and she replied telling me more about why she chooses to support us: “Abortion is a human rights violation. SPL doesn’t dilute the message. You speak the hard truths on my behalf.”

Since I began volunteering with Secular Pro-Life in 2009, I’ve heard many similar stories. Nick from California told us he had never met another secular pro-lifer in person and had been extremely lonely. Ricardo from Norway was disillusioned when a cocktail party guest glibly described prenatal children as parasites; he searched online “without much hope” for an atheist organization opposed to abortion and was relieved to see our website. Luis from Ecuador explained, “When I learned SPL existed, I knew I had a place.”



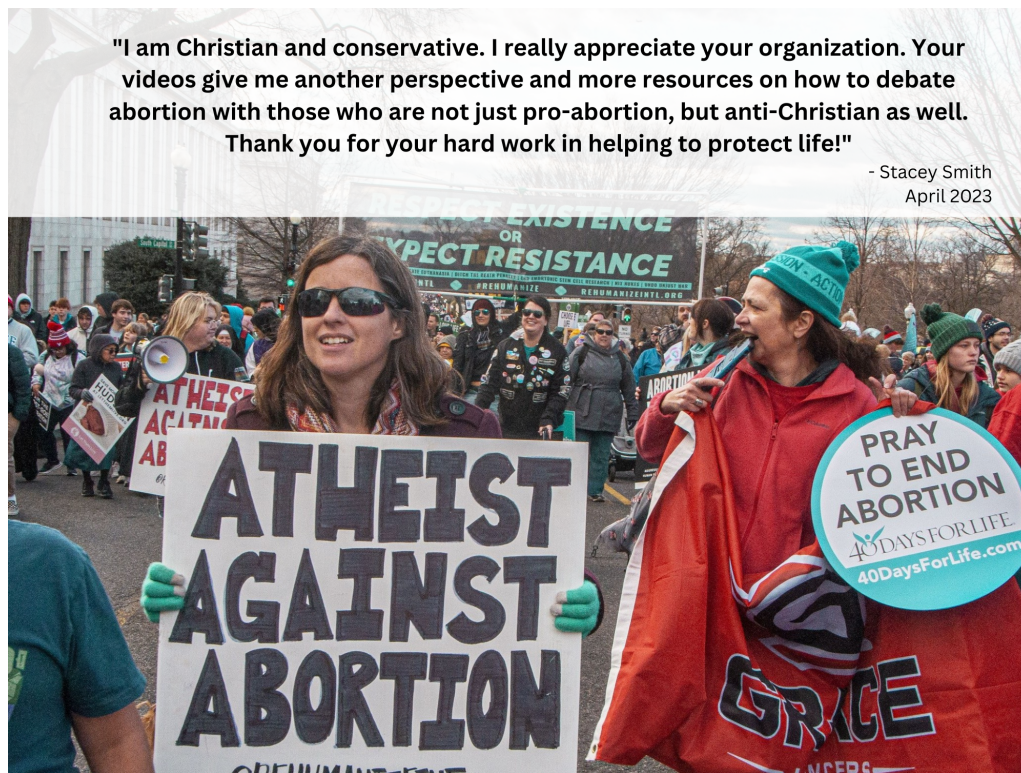
**"When I learned SPL existed,
I knew I had a place."**

- Luis M.
November 2022

I can relate.

Throughout my college years, multiple people in my highly educated, secular friend groups told me I was the only pro-lifer they had ever met. I didn’t know many other pro-lifers myself, at least not in person.

Meanwhile, the pro-life activist circles I began to enter weren't always much more welcoming. When I was 19, I tried to volunteer with a pregnancy resource center in San Francisco, but it required a signed statement affirming Christian faith. Clearly this wasn't a good fit. In my late twenties, I attended a conference where another attendee suggested pro-lifers should prioritize "getting the pagans out of political office." The hall burst into applause. In December 2021, I gave a speech outside the Supreme Court before Dobbs oral arguments, and that evening I attended a formal appreciation dinner. Speakers talked frequently about God's plan and the urgent need for prayer, at one point asserting "we are all believers here." These comments can make non-religious pro-lifers feel we aren't part of the team.



Those of us who sit precariously in the overlap of the "secular" and "pro-life" Venn diagram are often quite alienated. Secular Pro-Life works to correct that problem, functioning as a gathering space for not only atheists and agnostics, but also other "non-traditional" pro-life people, such as same-sex couples, trans men and women, and dyed-in-the-wool Democrats.

We likewise welcome "traditional" pro-lifers, including Evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics, and straight-ticket Republicans. Many among these groups prefer to use secular arguments to defend the right to life, and they turn to us for the words.

We strive to create a nonsectarian, nonpartisan coalition. To be frank, we don't care what your religious beliefs or political views are. We care that you are with us in fighting abortion.

And our big-tent approach works. Secular Pro-Life expands and strengthens the pro-life movement in several major ways:

① We catch the alienated non-traditional pro-lifers who may have otherwise gone mute or, worse, defected to the pro-choice side. In a sea of uncompromising identity politics, we're the harbor. Many unconventional pro-lifers feel uncertain about a broader pro-life movement with which they seem to have little in common. We make them feel understood and welcomed.

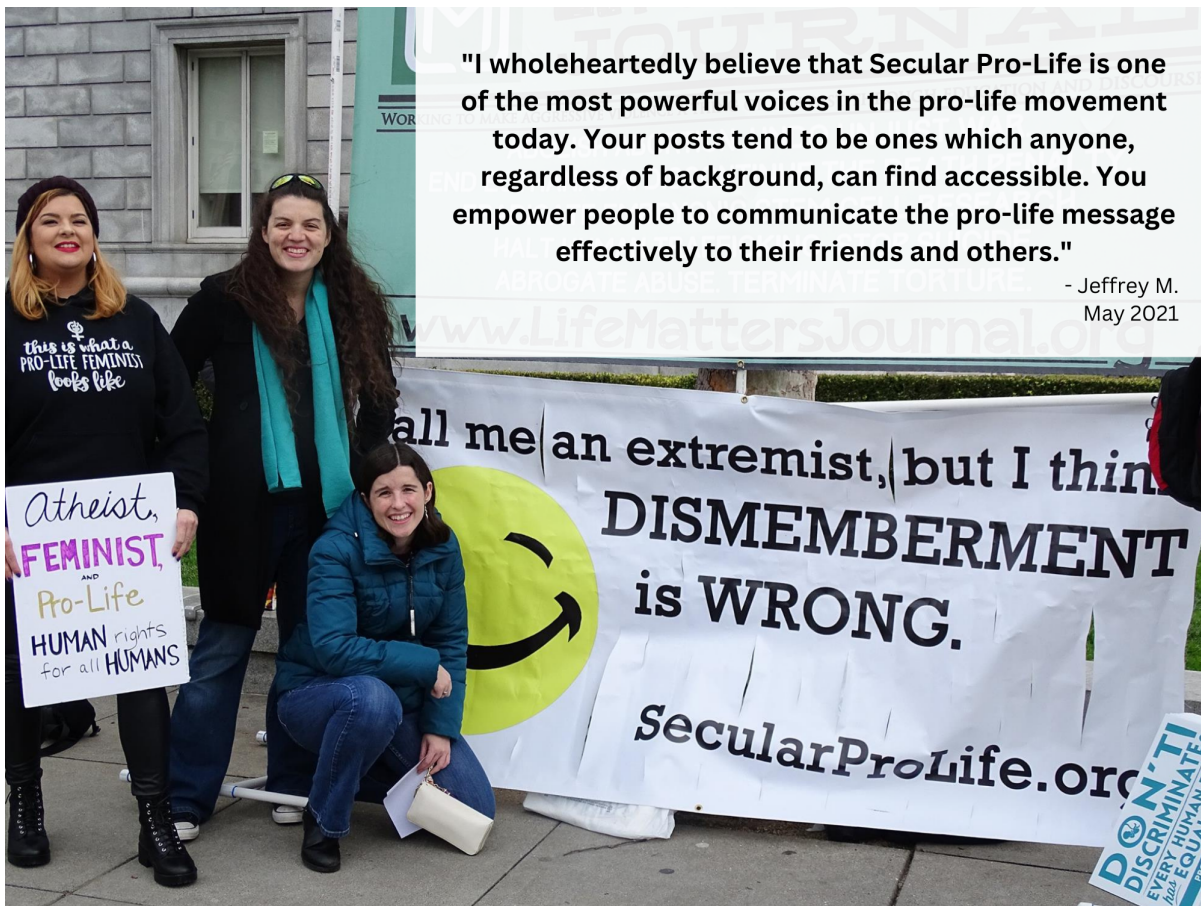
"Monica's Myths Presentation single-handedly changed my mind. It threw me down the rabbit hole of research, and I was mind blown at how nefarious and concerted the efforts were to keep those myths alive. This issue is *not* religious. It is one of ethics and intrinsic human value."

- Madison S.
May 2022



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We embolden closeted pro-lifers to identify themselves. Pro-lifers who exist in predominantly pro-choice environments are potential ambassadors; they're uniquely positioned to pierce echo chambers, destroy stereotypes, and introduce others—often for the first time—to sound pro-life arguments. We encourage these “dormant” pro-lifers to speak up by leading by example, and by giving them the arguments and the emotional support to take a stand.



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We articulate a nonsectarian, nonpartisan pro-life vision and provide resources (research, talking points, rebuttals) that people of any faith or no faith can use as they engage in abortion conversations in diverse social settings.



Myth #1: *Biologically*, we don't know when human life begins

- Scott Gilbert, *Developmental Biology*, 11th Edition. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, 2016
- T.W. Sadler, *Langman's Medical Embryology*, 10th edition. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006
- Keith L. Moore, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 7th edition. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2003
- Scott Gilbert, *Developmental Biology*, 6th Edition. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, 2001
- Ronan R. O'Rahilly and Fabiola Müller, *Human Embryology & Teratology*, 3rd Edition, New York: Wiley-Liss, 2001
- Ida G. Dox, B. John Melloni, Gilbert Eisner, *The HarperCollins Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, 2001
- William J. Larsen, *Essentials of Human Embryology*, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1998
- Bruce M. Carlson, *Patten's Foundations of Embryology*, 6th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996
- Erich Blechschmidt, Brian Freeman, *The Ontogenetic Basis of Human Anatomy*, North Atlantic Books, June 2004
- Keith Moore and T.M. Persaud, *Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology & Birth Defects*, 4th edition. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 2008
- Clark Edward C. ...
- E.L. Potter and J.A. ...
- J.P. Greenhill and E.A. ...
- ... is Brained An ...

"Excellent presentation. I had been having doubts about abortion for the last three years. This presentation helped me to clearly recognize that abortion is wrong. Life really does begin at conception. Thank you for doing this presentation."

- YouTube commenter
August 2019

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We get the attention of fence-sitters. Secular Pro-Life gives them space to explore their thoughts on abortion without the distraction of partisanship, and gives them arguments they can contemplate without specific political or religious prerequisites.

"Monica's arguments alone made me become pro-life. Congrats to her on her new position. Keep up your amazing work."

- YouTube commenter
September 2021



When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the landscape of the abortion debate shifted from a national fight to state-by-state battles. The pro-life movement needs a variety of strategies for a variety of environments. We know the most intractable states will be the less religious and conservative ones. Secular Pro-Life is uniquely positioned to make inroads with demographics less open to traditional pro-life messaging.

We foster an environment and create content that bring people into the pro-life movement, and we've been able to do this work as an historically all-volunteer organization. But the all-volunteer structure limited our abilities: no single person was taking the helm, and Secular Pro-Life was the project we fit in after many other priorities

So we're shifting. I took the first step in mid-2021 when I left a position I loved in a forensics lab to become Secular Pro-Life's first Executive Director and make SPL's mission my full-time job. The second step is to fund the position of a volunteer coordinator, to ensure that the dozens of people willing to gift us their time and talents are set up for success. And we dream of the steps beyond that, such as building a staff that includes directors in development, communications, and programs.

The need in the fight against abortion is enormous, and we're eager to meet it. Your financial support widens our stage from which we welcome non-traditional pro-lifers, embolden pro-life ambassadors, catch the attention of fence-sitters, and equip people of all political and religious persuasions to take the debate into their communities. Will you help us by making a contribution today?