

From the desk of Tom Brejcha, Founder and President...

August 12, 2026

Dear Friend,

In George Orwell's dystopian novel, *1984*, his fictional Ministry of Truth was designed to *destroy the truth* by perverting the meaning of words. War was called "peace," freedom was "slavery." Big Brother ordered that everybody reject the evidence that they could see and hear with their own eyes and ears and instead obey commands imposed from above. If you dared not to comply, then you were branded a criminal and punished severely.

There was a time when this literary fiction was only that—mere *fiction*—understood and regarded as a powerful warning to Orwell's readers. C.S. Lewis saw this same danger. In his *Abolition of Man*, Lewis warned that for the wise men of an earlier era, the great challenge was "how to conform the soul to reality." But for modern regimes and their new rulers—social engineers and ideologues—the task was reversed: "*how to subdue reality to the wishes of men.*"

You can't change the truth, however. Truth is immutable. So, you change the words. You redefine what words like "choice" and "fraud" signify—and then, you prosecute and punish those who rebel and will not comply. That's precisely what is happening to the heroic pro-life ministries we are proud to represent, who dare to speak the truth!

Blue-state attorneys general are taking the word "fraud" and pointing it at people who tell women the truth, namely, that life is sacred and their infants' lives may be saved!

These government officials are harnessing the full powers and resources of their pro-abortion states to silence the very heroes who tell the truth—and offer a *real* choice...

This is Orwellian "doublespeak" at play here. In California, we've just wrapped up trial testimony in our latest major trial, where we went head-to-head for six weeks against the Golden State's Attorney General, Rob Bonta. Big Brother Bonta is **seeking \$20 million in penalties and an injunction** to shut down the heroic rescuers these women credit with saving their babies.

The state says this pro-life message "deceives" and "defrauds" women. The women themselves say they felt welcomed, given hope and helped by these alleged "fraudsters" who were, in reality, selfless angels of mercy—and their babies' precious lives were saved.

You'll hear their testimony in this letter, in their own words, truthfully spoken under oath, on the record and in open court. But first, I have some wonderful news about a pro-life father and his family whose long ordeal is finally over.

We won pro-lifer Paul Vaughn a six-figure settlement to redress Biden's weaponization of justice—securing closure for his family!

Friends, I have news that will make your heart sing. Our client Paul Vaughn—a devoted Christian father of eleven—has been granted a six-figure monetary settlement by the federal government. Backed by our legal advocacy, Paul and his family finally secured the just closure they deserve, as Trump's Department of Justice is righting the wrongs of the past.

Paul just published his own account of what happened in the Aug. 3 *Wall Street Journal* Opinion pages. His words are more powerful than anything we could write for him:

“On a quiet October morning in 2022, my life changed forever. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation pounded on my front door and arrested me at gunpoint in front of my wife and children... My children watched in fear as I was handcuffed and led away, and when my wife desperately asked what was happening, where the agents were taking me and on what authority, her pleas went unanswered.”

You well know Paul's story. The ordeal his family suffered is one no family should ever endure. He faced years of uncertainty—the threat of prison, the financial weight of a federal criminal prosecution and inability to work in support of his family, and the stigma of a felony conviction. His children had to live with the memory of armed agents at their door.

Our Senior Counsel Steve Crampton said: “This settlement is not just about one family... No American should ever again have to fear an FBI raid for praying and offering hope to women in need.” As Paul put it, *“the process is the punishment.”* Indeed so!

On January 23, 2025, upon our submission of formal petitions, President Trump pardoned Paul and twenty-three other pro-life advocates. But the pardons were not the end of the road. Paul and his family deserved acknowledgment and a degree of compensatory justice to redress the severe injustice that was wrongly done to them—and now this has been done!

Paul closed his *Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed with words every American should heed: “A Christian should be able to... peacefully share the pro-life message, and go home to his family without fear that a federal task force is building a file on him and taking cues from an abortion industry lobby. That isn't a radical request.”

Through your generous support, Paul's freedom is intact and his family now has their deserved recompense and closure. A Christian father of eleven is free, vindicated, and unafraid.

***Wall Street Journal*: San Francisco's Archbishop and Oakland's Bishop take California to task in powerful statement**

While our Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) trial was ongoing in Oakland, something remarkable happened in the pages of one of our nation's largest newspapers...

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco and Bishop Michael Barber of Oakland—the two Catholic bishops whose Dioceses encompass the Alameda County legal battleground where we’ve been defending against California Attorney General Rob Bonta’s persecution of our pregnancy resource center clients—just published a joint Op-Ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, laying bare the gross injustice of this bizarre prosecution.

The bishops wrote: “Everyone should oppose this... *California v. Heartbeat International and RealOptions* is a rare case that should bring together both sides of the abortion debate.”

“What kind of people see a pregnant woman who wants to reverse the effects of an abortion pill,” the bishops continued, “and think, ‘Let’s punish the nonprofits that informed her she has a choice?’”

And then the bishops bluntly asked the question the abortion industry and their allies in government cannot answer: “Are they really pro-choice, or do they just like killing?”

The Op-Ed also quoted the eminent Stanford legal scholar Prof. Michael McConnell, who said this lawsuit was “*designed to intimidate*” pro-life ministries that speak about something that is “*lawful but contrary to the ideological preferences of the government.*”

We’re extremely grateful for this moral clarity and forthright, outspoken leadership from the Archbishop of San Francisco and the Bishop of Oakland as they have spoken with one voice about our critical legal battle, defending Abortion Pill Reversal, in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Your gift today keeps our legal team on the frontlines defending Heartbeat International, RealOptions, and all our pro-life ministry clients!

Not a dry eye in the courtroom as mothers whose babies were saved by APR testified under oath. CA AG Bonta’s case is crumbling!

As the trial entered its second month, the judge and courtroom observers witnessed frank, deeply felt testimony from the women at the heart of this case—moms who immediately regretted taking the abortion drug, discovered Abortion Pill Reversal, and saved their babies.

Erika Carrillo testified that her partner was “adamant” she could not have the child and was in the room when she took the pill. She twice told the nurse she was not sure she wanted to proceed. Under pressure, she swallowed that first of the two pills for the abortion.

That night, she refused to take the second pill. By 2:00 a.m. she was searching online for any way to save her baby. She found the Abortion Pill Rescue Network’s hotline, called, and was connected to RealOptions. There, she testified in open court, “I felt warm and welcome.”

She received an ultrasound—the **first time she had seen her child**—and began progesterone treatment at no cost. She was told the treatment was “not a guarantee” and was never pressured. RealOptions even arranged volunteer transportation for her.

As her pregnancy continued, RealOptions staff “were always warm and reassuring,” Erika testified—they even surprised her with a take-home fetal heartbeat monitor so she could hear her baby’s heartbeat whenever she was worried. **Erika gave birth to a healthy baby boy.**

Elizabeth Barrett also took the stand. She told the court she took the abortion pill at a Planned Parenthood. But before she left the clinic, her boyfriend texted saying he wanted to keep the baby. *“I was desperate, borderline hysterical, and willing to try just about anything.”*

While still at Planned Parenthood, Elizabeth ran to the bathroom to try to throw up the deadly pill she had just swallowed. She tried twice more, pulling over on the side of the road on the way back home.

She and the unborn baby’s father went online, trying to find a way to reverse the abortion pill. They found Heartbeat International’s Abortion Pill Rescue Network online. Elizabeth called the number, and spoke to a nurse, who said she’d get a call back from a provider.

Just 10 minutes later, a doctor from a nearby pro-life pregnancy center called and got her an appointment later that day. By that night, Elizabeth had begun the Abortion Pill Reversal treatment. **Her daughter is a healthy toddler today.**

If Big Brother Bonta has his way, the pro-life ministry that connected Elizabeth to that doctor will be bankrupted and their ability to speak will be suppressed, and their message censored—and the next woman in Elizabeth’s situation will have nowhere to turn!

Uyen Pham, another APR mom, also testified that she regretted her decision almost immediately after taking mifepristone in July 2024.

She was overwhelmed and felt she had no one to turn to—until a friend stayed up all night researching her options and found a phone number. **Pham was connected to Heartbeat, then to RealOptions, and was seen *that same day!***

The staff explained the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol, answered every question, and never pressured her. **Her son was born healthy with no complications!**

Erika told the court she chose to share her story because *“every woman should be able to advocate for themselves”* and because she believes women in similar situations—pressured, isolated, without support—deserve to know that APR *“is an option for them.”*

Big Brother Bonta, on the other hand, wants this option to be censored. He’s failed to find a single “victim” of APR to put on the stand—only happy moms with healthy babies!

So, what comes next? Now that trial testimony has completed, our legal team has begun drafting the *closing briefs*. That’s where both sides submit written arguments applying the evidence presented at trial to the law, and make their case. **Those briefs are due in late August.**

Next, *oral closing argument* is scheduled for **September 17** and will be delivered in open court. From that point, we expect that the court will hand down its decision **within 90 days!** Please keep our legal team and clients in your prayers as we enter this final phase of the trial.

We just stepped in to defend a faithful sidewalk counselor threatened with arrest in Salem, Oregon!

For twelve years, our client—a Sidewalk Advocates for Life counselor—has stood on the public sidewalk outside an abortion facility in Salem, Oregon. She offers women a word of hope and life-affirming information, both peacefully and prayerfully. She has never blocked a driveway, never raised her voice, and never been anything other than a gentle, faithful presence.

But **twice** last month, a Salem police officer showed up and **told her to stop**—not because the officer witnessed any wrongdoing, but because someone filed a bogus complaint.

The second time, our Sidewalk Advocate client was threatened with arrest! The abortion facility doesn't want her there, and an unfounded complaint was enough to get an officer to threaten to haul her away, under arrest and facing a criminal prosecution.

Our Senior Counsel Steve Crampton has sent a formal legal notice to the Salem Police Department, demanding that they stand down. The First Amendment protects our client's right to offer literature to drivers entering abortion business parking lots.

Just last year, our team won *Florida Preborn Rescue v. City of Clearwater* in the Eleventh Circuit, where this Florida city tried to ban sidewalk counselors from even walking over an abortion facility driveway where it crossed the sidewalk. On this issue, fundamental First Amendment free speech law is clearly on our side.

Our client intends to resume her ministry... and if her rights aren't respected, we are fully prepared to go to federal court for her. This is what your Thomas More Society does every day—we defend faithful sidewalk counselors nationwide against those who want to suppress their lifesaving ministries!

Your gift today defends life and freedom on every front!

Right now, our attorneys are still fighting California's Attorney General, battling to defend Abortion Pill Reversal against a \$20 million attack. Paul Vaughn's family finally has closure after years of federal persecution.

Two Catholic bishops have joined the chorus of voices bringing national attention to our California trial, shining a powerful light on the case in the *Wall Street Journal*. And in Salem, Oregon, we're standing between a faithful sidewalk counselor and the threat of arrest for her wholly peaceable, constitutionally protected pro-life outreach.

You and I know that the abortion industry is overflowing with resources. State attorneys general wield the full prosecutorial power of their offices. They are counting on us running out of money. **We cannot let that happen.** Thankfully, there's good news...

We have the truth on our side, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on our side, and **supporters like you** to help us press the advantage. So please, **will you help us defend life, families, and freedom with a gift of \$500, \$250, or \$100?** We also need lots of gifts in the range of \$75, \$50, \$35—or whatever you can sacrifice.

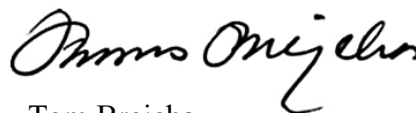
We will gratefully accept your generous contribution... no matter how small, no matter how large! If the Lord has blessed you financially, please consider sending a gift of \$5,000, \$2,500, or \$1,000.

I'm also praying that two heroes will step forward with a gift of \$10,000, five heroes with \$5,000, and ten heroes with \$1,000. Gifts in that range are tremendous blessings.

Imagine Erika Carrillo, alone at 2:00 a.m., desperately searching for a way to save her baby—and in our courtroom battle in Oakland this pivotal issue is being decided, right now: *whether the next woman in her situation will ever be able to hear that a second chance exists.*

Your gift today ensures our legal team stays in that fight—and wins it. Your prayers and generosity sustain our mission at Thomas More Society. May God bless you and your loved ones in His own best way!

Yours faithfully,



Tom Brejcha
Founder and President
Thomas More Society

P.S. What if your legacy could secure for future generations the legal protection needed to live out their beliefs and defend the dignity of every human life? **August is National Make-a-Will Month**—and through planned giving, there is no better time to make your faith and values a meaningful part of your legacy.

By including Thomas More Society (Tax ID Number: 36-4270023) in your will, trust, or estate plans, you join our **Legacy Circle**—a community of donor partners who are building a future where truth is not silenced and conscience is not coerced.

Please visit www.thomasmoresociety.org/legacy to learn more—or simply let us know you've already included us in your plans so we can welcome you into the Legacy Circle!