

[Bob Vander Plaats: Trump delivers 'presidential moment' on Islam](#)

[Bob on Trump's troubles: Mr. President, character counts](#)

[Bob challenges Trump: We need a champion](#)

[Bob on CRTV: Time for Trump to take on Congress](#)

In an interview with CRTV's ["Steve Deace Show"](#) on May 1, Bob Vander Plaats talked about the [grades he gave President Donald Trump and Congress](#) in Trump's first hundred days and suggested it's time Trump took on the "F"-rated Congress.

Among the key points Bob made:

- Republicans in Congress have long blamed media and congressional Democrats for road-blocking conservative principles. Given their actions (or inaction) since gaining a majority in both houses, it's clear many congressional Republicans are actually "in on it."
- President Trump needs to champion an issue and go directly to the American people, calling on them to put pressure on Congress to lead.
- Ultimately, if Trump wishes a second term, it will be his accomplishments on the issues that gets him reelected, not his rhetoric.

For more on Bob's grades of President Trump and Congress in Trump's first 100 days, [follow Bob on Twitter by clicking here](#).

VIDEO: Holy Week Service at Iowa Capitol

Legislators and staff, pastors and the public gathered in the Rotunda of the Iowa Capitol on April 10 to start Holy Week right and help the Capitol community reflect on Christ's purchase of freedom for us all.

From the sounds of "How Great Thou Art" sung a capella, drawing legislators out of chambers at the soul-stirring sound, to inspiring prayer and a presentation of the gospel based on 2 Corinthians 5:21, the service inspired hope in a place so often filled with human fallenness.

Watch video of the service below (time codes for specific speakers below the video):

0:00 Worship Team
7:58 Greg Baker – Welcome
10:35 Pastor Dave Martin
10:38 Bob Vander Plaats
22:20 Message – Pastor Todd Stiles
37:50 Greg Baker
39:40 Pastor Stanley Togba
42:46 Worship – “How Great Thou Art”

Abortion debate: Heartsill hears a “Who”

In the book “Horton Hears a Who” Dr. Seuss once wrote, “A person is a person no matter how small.”

In this powerful speech during debate over abortion on April 5, State Rep. Greg Heartsill quotes not just Dr. Seuss, but also science, the Supreme Court, the Bible, and the Declaration of Independence in asserting the personhood of every child, no matter how small, from the moment of conception.

Though lack of support forced Heartsill to withdraw his amendment to define life at conception, video of his poignant words can be seen below:

Join the growing movement of people who are boldly declaring, “That little girl in her mother’s womb? She’s a baby!” Visit ShesABaby.com today and click, “I agree, she’s a baby.”

Rally for Life: “We’re not done!”

STATEMENT FROM THE COALITION OF PRO-LIFE LEADERS:

At the March 30 Rally for Life at the State Capitol, Iowans had the opportunity to hear from their elected leaders at the highest levels of state government speak out on life.

Iowans also heard one comment made repeatedly from the podium: “We’re not done.”

Yes, the Legislature has brought forward some life-affirming bills this session; yet our elected leaders freely and publicly pledged, “We’re not done.”

The Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders also affirms, “We’re not done.” We will continue to work toward seeing a day when no tax dollars support abortion facilities and all babies are protected by law from the moment of conception.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE FAMILY LEADER:

It is now up to everyday Iowans to hold their representatives accountable to their words. The video below highlights their commitments:

[Ready to join the fight? Visit ShesABaby.com today and click “I agree, she’s a baby!”](#)

[VIDEO: Watch Rally for Life 2017](#)

At the Rally for Life at the Iowa Capitol on March 30, the display of thousands of pairs of empty baby shoes served as a solemn reminder of the thousands of babies killed in abortion every year in Iowa.

The hundreds of Iowans in attendance heard from the governor, lieutenant governor, and congressional leaders about the ongoing fight to defend those lost lives.

Two measures are currently advancing through the Legislature this year: an effort to redirect some taxpayer funds away from facilities that perform abortions and a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks.

Several elected leaders, however, openly pledged that Iowa's lawmakers "are not done," a promise Iowan voters should keep in mind.

Rep. Steven Holt went even further, saying if lawmakers will not pledge to support life-at-conception legislation, voters should "get a new candidate."

The FAMILY LEADER's Bob Vander Plaats called the Legislature's efforts this year good "baby steps," but insisted Republican leaders and executives need to exhibit more leadership in the days to come.

The Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders, who hosted the event, pledged that it would continue to fight until no tax dollars support abortion facilities and every unborn life is protected by law from the moment of conception.

[Ready to join the fight? Visit \[ShesABaby.com\]\(http://ShesABaby.com\) today and click "I agree, she's a baby!"](#)

Watch every speech from the rally in the two videos, Part 1 and Part 2, below:

Part 1:

To hear a specific speaker in Part 1, navigate to the following times:

0:00 Simon Conway – Welcome
0:29 Rev. Ron Woods – Opening prayer
3:52 Simon Conway – Opening remarks
5:40 Bob Vander Plaats – The FAMiLY LEADER
16:11 Father Chris Reising
19:06 Simon Conway – additional comments
24:45 Sen. Bill Dix
27:17 Gov. Terry Branstad
38:44 Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds
46:54 Sen. Brad Zaun
49:34 Sen. Jake Chapman
54:46 Sen. Amy Sinclair

Part 2:

To hear a specific speaker in Part 1, navigate to the following times:

0:00 Rep. Steven Holt
9:46 Sen. Sandy Salmon
15:46 Simon Conway – additional comments
18:33 Rep. Linda Upmeyer
25:59 Sen. Walt Rogers
28:51 Rep. Skyler Wheeler
32:45 Jenifer Bowen – Iowa Right to Life
47:34 Martin Cannon, Attorney – Thomas More Society
54:22 Pastor Ryan Jorgenson – Closing Prayer
58:16 Knights of Columbus – Endbad

VIDEO: Bob and LGBTQ activist share message of civility

The FAMIly LEADER's Bob Vander Plaats and former One Iowa Director Donna Red Wing, a prominent national voice of LGBTQ activism, have formed an unlikely, but exemplary friendship.

Choosing to approach one another with respect, as neighbors rather than enemies, they have sparked a national interest in restoring civil dialogue, especially in a country so often bitterly divided.

First reported in the Des Moines Register, their friendship has also been reported by the Washington Post and by Mutual of Omaha. Various colleges, as well, have invited Bob and Donna to share with students the secrets of their civil dialogue, a secret Bob sums up in one phrase: "Speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

On March 6, Bob and Donna spoke to students at Des Moines Area Community College, or DMACC, in Ankeny, Iowa. The second video below is a recording of that conversation. The first video was created by Mutual of Omaha to introduce Bob and Donna's relationship and was frequently referenced at the DMACC event. We recommend you watch the Mutual of Omaha video first:

Mutual of Omaha:

DMACC:

If civil dialogue and "speaking the truth in love" has touched YOUR heart the way it has ours, would you consider [making a donation](#) to the work of The FAMIly LEADER today? Your gift of

\$25, \$50, \$100, or more helps us in the mission of cultural transformation and the vision of a revived America that honors God and blesses real people. [Click here to give today!](#)

[**GOP senator calls Republicans to do more for life**](#)

On Tuesday, March 14, Sen. Rick Bertrand, R-Woodbury, stood up during debate in the Iowa Senate on a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks post-conception. While he voted for the bill, he explained why he was “disappointed” Iowa’s Republicans didn’t go further and pass life-at-conception legislation:

[Isn't it time ALL babies' lives were protected? Visit ShesABaby.com and click "I agree, she's a baby" to give babies a voice today!](#)

[**Bob announces “Trump Watch” on Steve Deace Show**](#)

[VIDEO: Iowa's pro-life Leaders launch viral #ShesABaby initiative](#)

At a press conference at the Iowa Capitol on Feb. 28, the The Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders, or CoPLL – a united group of ten, pro-life organizations active in Iowa – announced a new video, radio, and grassroots initiative called [“She’s a Baby.”](#)

But the truth is, [“She’s a Baby”](#) is already going viral.

[“She’s a Baby”](#) posters and T-shirts were already widely displayed across the Capitol during the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on SF 253, the Life at Conception Act, on Monday, Feb. 27. Sen. Jake Chapman even referenced the [“She’s a Baby”](#) materials during testimony at the hearing.



Similarly, [“She’s a Baby”](#) ads have been heard on WHO-Radio, and the [“She’s a Baby”](#) video and Facebook profile photo have been spreading through social media.

Watch the [“She’s a Baby”](#) video below:

The [“She’s a Baby”](#) initiative specifically encourages Iowa’s lawmakers to pass legislation like Senate File 253, the Life at Conception Act, and encourages Iowans to support their legislators in taking leadership on defending human life.

[Iowa’s babies still need YOUR help! Click here to encourage the Iowa Senate to advance SF 253 today!](#)

“To assist in tangible encouragement to all the legislators ...

we are launching a comprehensive [“She’s a Baby”](#) initiative,” explained Bob Vander Plaats of The FAMiLY LEADER, a CoPLL member, at the press conference. “This is to have their back, but it’s also to deliver a message to all of Iowa that that little girl in her mother’s womb, she is a baby. It is to highlight the Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders, our unity, and our resolve to pass this bold, courageous, and right statement for life at conception.”

“Frankly, we’ve heard all the arguments [about abortion],” Vander Plaats continued at the press conference. “But there’s one fact we cannot argue away: That little girl in her mother’s womb, she’s a baby. ... With this video and with this initiative, we are really hoping that Iowans will step up to the plate and lead and give life a chance.”

Watch video of Tuesday’s press conference below:

“Iowans have the opportunity right now to finally do something that will protect the lives of our most innocent,” said Jenifer Bowen of Iowa Right to Life, a CoPLL member, prior to the press conference. “With pro-life majorities in the House, Senate, and the governor’s mansion, and SF253, the Life at Conception Act, on the table, it’s time for Iowans to stand united and declare that together, we will defend Iowa’s babies from death by abortion.”

[Iowa’s babies still need YOUR help! Click here to tell the Iowa Senate to advance SF 253 today!](#)