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### PRESENT ABORTION RELATED EVENTS AUGUST 2014

**Another Abortion Debate :** Recent news has been dominated by the young woman, whose pregnancy was terminated by caesarean section, resulting in the birth of a small baby at only 25 weeks gestation, now in an intensive care unit. While this is obviously a personal tragedy for both mother and baby, it is necessary to consider what changes in the law and medical practice had led to this sad avoidable situation. The full facts of the case are not available at time of writing, but it appears from media reports that the woman, a non-Irish national, arrived in Ireland pregnant allegedly through rape. At some point thereafter she approached the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), a pro-abortion lobby group which, astoundingly, receives taxpayer funding to give 'crisis pregnancy counselling'. There are grave questions surrounding the 'advice' the woman received from the IFPA and why there was a significant gap between her arrival at the IFPA offices and her referral to the health services. The sequence of events which occurred after her initial referral to a doctor until her admission to hospital is unclear at this point, but what is clear is that at some point she or her legal representatives invoked Section 9 of *The Protection of Life in Pregnancy Act 2013*, and sought to have her pregnancy terminated. Under Section 9 of the Act, 2 Psychiatrists must certify that the woman is suicidal before an Obstetrician certifies the manner in which the termination of the pregnancy is to occur.

**Two Victims of Abortion :** This pregnancy was terminated (or ended) by a caesarean section at 25 weeks gestation. The baby has been in intensive care since delivery due to being born so premature. Premature babies can be at greater risk for a range of disabilities and lifelong health conditions.

How did we find ourselves with such an unfortunate situation? The principal reason is the legislation passed by the government last year. Fine Gael and the Labour party passed deeply flawed abortion legislation which wrongly and without any supporting evidence states that where a woman is suicidal a termination of her pregnancy is warranted as a health care procedure.

**Experts Say Abortion Not a Cure for Suicidal Tendency :** The Government was warned that the legislation was deeply flawed; speakers from the pro-life movement addressed the Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children and made it clear that the legislation would not help either women or their children. Furthermore well known medical experts warned that the legislation was medically flawed. Suicide expert Professor Kevin Malone of UCD warned that the Bill could 'normalise suicide'. Dr Sam Coulter Smyth, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, said that there was 'no evidence' to treat threatened suicide with abortion and that he and his consultant colleagues would have major concerns with legalising abortion on suicide grounds. In spite of all the expert evidence, the Government, at the behest of the radically pro-abortion Labour Party forced the legislation through using the party whip ruthlessly. What we see in this recent story is the outcome of the deeply legally and ethically flawed *Protection of Life in Pregnancy Act 2013*.

**Despite Seductive Title Abortion Legislation Protects Nobody :** Do not be deceived by the euphemistic title of the legislation, the 2013 Act does nothing to protect life in pregnancy, instead it creates victims. In this case we have two victims; one is a vulnerable woman who was told that a termination of her pregnancy would help her mental health when there is no medical evidence to support that proposition. The second victim is a tiny premature baby struggling for life in an intensive care unit of an Irish hospital, needlessly taken from his/her mother's womb. The final tragedy to flow from these events is the craven attempt by *The Irish Times*, the Labour Party and their fellow pro-abortion advocates, to use this woman and her struggling child as a basis to launch a campaign to remove the pro-life amendment, Article 40.3.3 from the Irish Constitution. Not happy with the victims created by last year's flawed abortion legislation, they want to needlessly create more suffering in the name of 'choice' by introducing even more abortion into Ireland.

**Call to People Of Ireland :** The desire to insert Article 40.3.3 into the Constitution sprang from the Irish people not from politicians. The campaign to secure its passage lasted over 30 months of intense debate and it was passed by an overwhelming majority. Unlike some other referenda, the long intense debate ensured that a maximum number of voters understood what was at stake. **The Irish people must oppose any further attempts to allow an abortion culture to take hold in our country.**