

Josh Brahm taking a selfie with Emily Albrecht and the Knights for Life club at St. Norbert College, one of ERI's Affiliate Groups, after a campus outreach day.



## Shaping the Pro-Life Future

After almost 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned. Nationalized abortion-on-demand no longer exists as several states have banned abortion; but many others like New York, California, and Colorado passed laws preserving or expanding the abortion access required by *Roe*, and they aim to supply abortions to the rest of the country. This won't stop without majorities banning abortion in those states or at the federal level.

In other words, legal abortion isn't gone, and neither is the bitter divide among Americans about whether it should be a "human right" to kill unborn humans. Even though this is a moment of celebration, we need to understand that the pro-life struggle is far from over. In some ways, it's only just beginning.

Because of this, we believe that one of the primary tasks for the pro-life movement in the post-*Roe* world is to change individual minds on abortion. Now that states can pass laws about abortion, the opinions of people on both sides of the debate can actually affect the law.

In order to eliminate legalized abortion in America, we need to convince a large enough majority in the country as a whole, including millions of people in heavily pro-choice states, to choose the pro-life position. Abortion is in the news and on the minds of everyday Americans like never before. This is our opportunity. **Imagine what would happen if every pro-life person in America was**

**empowered to have conversations that convinced the pro-choice people around them that the fetus is a person with the same rights as you and me!**

**Equal Rights Institute is training pro-life people in the best arguments against abortion**, and we're helping them learn relational strategies to connect with pro-choice people and help them to listen to what we have to say. **This has never been more important than it is right now.** We're reaching out to pro-life and pro-choice people on college campuses, in churches, and on social media, and we're uniquely positioned to get people under 30 to actually consider pro-life arguments, often for the first time in their lives.

One of the most important ways we're doing this is through our Affiliate Group Program. Now that we've finished our first academic year, we want to tell you the ways pro-life college students and community members are winsomely challenging the pro-choice worldview.

### THE AFFILIATE GROUP PROGRAM AFTER ONE YEAR

We want to introduce you to Anna, our very first applicant for the Affiliate Group Program. As a pro-life advocate in a town with no pro-life presence to speak of, she was a bit overwhelmed. She'd dreamt of starting a pro-life group for years, but the task seemed

daunting...until she saw the ERI email last August announcing the Affiliate Group Program. After following ERI for years, here was an opportunity to receive personalized mentorship in both apologetics and effective community advocacy! One year later, her pro-life group is not merely alive but thriving. As her club coach, Emily spent numerous hours with Anna over Zoom to craft her vision into reality, guiding her every step of the way from branding to recruitment to leadership to meetings to apologetics to events and more! With over 12 active members in just their first year, they're already engaging in dialogue outreach this summer at their county fair, as well as promoting pregnancy resources and building an active pro-life community in the town's events.

With the Supreme Court case looming all school year, many college pro-life clubs have experienced increased hostility from their campus community, but our Affiliate Groups have confidently risen to the challenge. Margaret and Caroline each led their respective pro-life clubs to receive formal recognition by their student government after years of blatant discrimination had forced their clubs underground, and both clubs are thriving today while publicly and confidently hosting events and engaging in dialogues on their campuses. Our college clubs alone conducted 21 dialogue-style outreach events this past school year using ERI's apologetics to foster respectful

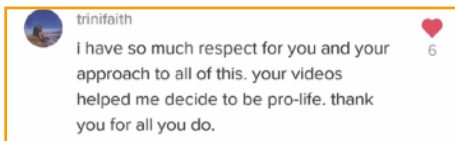
and productive conversations with pro-choice students on their campuses.

ERI Affiliate Group members like Anna, Margaret, and Caroline are rapidly becoming known for their attention to regular public advocacy utilizing the robust apologetics training that you know and love ERI for. One year into our program, we have 32 active clubs boasting 486 active members in 17 states and Denmark! While our club list continues to grow—and we’ve brought three additional club coaches on board to keep up with the demand!—so too does the number of members! Our average club has experienced a 200.83% increase in active membership just since joining our program.

Meanwhile, our two Affiliate Groups in Denmark have been gaining national attention! Thanks to Danish interest in the American Supreme Court case, club leader Jonathan was invited to represent the Danish pro-life movement in multiple national interviews, including a primetime television show. To prepare both him and his clubs for this increased attention, Emily spent numerous

hours on Zoom with Jonathan and his co-leader Pauline “practice dialoguing” (as we call it). As part of the personalized mentorship included in the Affiliate Group Program, club coaches like Emily are there to support student growth in apologetics, often resulting in multi-hour Zoom calls with “Pro-Choice Emily” to give students practice using the arguments in a mock dialogue with Emily’s support and constructive feedback along the way. Since August, Emily and her club coaching team have spent over 200 hours in private coaching sessions with our Affiliate Groups.

The Affiliate Group Program is just one of the ways ERI is working to shape the post-Roe future. Emily’s work on TikTok has led to a staggering 3 million views since launching the account in January, and it’s enabled us to reach people under 30—maybe one of the most challenging demographics to engage about life—and definitively change minds about abortion. Our YouTube Quick Response series



gives answers to the most common arguments for abortion in under five minutes, and it should be increasingly helpful as more people confront the question of what to do with abortion after *Dobbs*. Our blog and podcast continue to provide valuable training to pro-life advocates. And, we’re working with other pro-life leaders to help chart a path for the movement as ending legalized abortion becomes a reality in parts of the country.

We’re so excited about all of this—and we know you are, too! You are responsible for the good work being done by ERI, and we want you to know that. When you support us with financial donations, prayers, and encouragement, you enable us to continue working for the cause of life about which you’re so passionate. When we say we couldn’t do it without you, we really mean that.

So, as we enter this new phase—the beginning of the pro-life future in America, a better future than the pro-choice past—would you consider giving to enable ERI to advance the cause of life as we advance together into a post-Roe world?

## Personal Note to Josh’s Friends and Supporters

ERI just had the busiest speaking season we’ve ever had, because for the first time since we started, we have two speakers on staff who are being requested a lot by pro-life groups (Emily and I.) This year alone I’ve spoken in Washington DC, Charlotte, Kansas, Boston, Connecticut, and Alaska. (It was great having Hannah with me on the Alaska trip, and as you can see from the picture I took, it was gorgeous!)

It is surreal living in a post-Roe world. A lot of my work this year is focused on helping the pro-life movement to be as effective as it can be in this new phase of the abortion battle. Please pray for safety for my family and team, as violence against pro-life organizations has dramatically increased in the last few months.

Hannah has been taking voice lessons lately and seeing amazing improvement. (She was already great, but we can always grow, right?) We’ve been working on some great arrangements together, have filmed a few videos, and we’re getting ready to do some

open mic nights around town. Working on music together is literally our favorite thing to do when we have free time at home.

Hannah’s dream is to become a nurse practitioner and just finished her third semester of school. She gets all A’s and I couldn’t be more proud of her. (I’m also really glad that I don’t need to memorize the names of hundreds of body parts in my line of work.)

I’ve gotten really into cooking lately. It began with Hannah and I watching a lot of cooking shows while in hotel rooms on speaking trips. At some point Hannah said it would be fun to cook together, so I made a Pinterest account and started saving recipes. Now several times a week Hannah and I will make dinner together while loudly listening to love songs. The boys think it’s so gross but it’s super cute and awesome.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support! It really means the world to me.

