



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

**News Release**

[www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org)

For immediate release:

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## **Abortion deaths decrease in 2007; state report shows Positive Alternatives helps pregnant women**

ST. PAUL — Deaths from abortion decreased in Minnesota in 2007, according to a state report released today. The 1.5 percent drop in abortions was a welcome sign for the first full year that the Positive Alternatives program empowering pregnant women was in place.

“We are very pleased to see the direct impact of Positive Alternatives on the state’s abortion numbers,” said Scott Fischbach, Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL). “Thousands of pregnant women in need are finding the practical help they need to choose life for their unborn babies.”

The report shows a total of 13,843 abortions were performed in the state in 2007, compared to 14,065 the previous year. The 2007 total is the fourth lowest number on record since 1975 but is higher than 2004 and 2005; abortions jumped by five percent in 2006 after four years of gradual declines. The full report for 2007 is available here: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/macros/main/2007abrpt.pdf>

“Abortions declined because 2007 was the first full year of the groundbreaking new state grant, Positive Alternatives, which brought individuals and organizations across the abortion spectrum together on a common-sense approach to decreasing the number of abortions in our state,” Fischbach explained. “The program’s simple, effective approach is to provide real help to women considering abortion, so that they know they have options — abortion is not the only choice.”

Without having an opportunity to prove itself, Positive Alternatives has been under attack in the Minnesota Legislature since it was passed in 2005. Now, the evidence is in hand: Providing resources and support to pregnant women does give them options, and many choose life for their unborn child. The state report shows that more women than ever (37 percent) cite economic reasons for undergoing abortion. This high percentage indicates that more Positive Alternatives assistance is needed.

“MCCL hopes that pro-life and pro-choice individuals will again come together, as they did when Positive Alternatives was first passed, to help ensure that this life-affirming grant program flourishes,” Fischbach said. “In so doing, we believe that the mothers and their babies will flourish as well.”

A total of 5,600 women received help in the first year of Positive Alternatives, according to the state program’s Web site: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/paa/files/positivealternatives.pdf>

MCCL is Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization with more than 70,000 member families and 240 chapters across the state. For more information about MCCL, visit [www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org).

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Additional analysis of the Minnesota Abortion Report is available here:

<http://www.mccl.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Document.Doc?id=171>

*Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization, MCCL has been dedicated for 40 years to the single issue of life itself.*