Nearly 1 in 7 Christian Colleges Maintain Abortion Industry Ties, Studies Show

Support for Planned Parenthood and abortion vendors has risen on faith-based campuses since Roe's reversal, according to multi-year research

By Lisa Bennett

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A series of investigations by Students for Life of America's Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement has found that a significant and growing number of U.S. colleges and universities affiliated with Christian denominations maintain relationships with Planned Parenthood or other abortion-related organizations—despite their institutions' claimed Christian foundations.

The 2023 Christian Schools Project examined 767 colleges and universities affiliated with Christian churches. Researchers identified 76 schools—approximately one in ten—with some form of connection to Planned Parenthood or the abortion industry. That figure represented a roughly 10 percent increase from the 69 schools flagged in a similar 2021 review. Infractions commonly included listing Planned Parenthood as a student "health resource," offering internship or volunteer opportunities with the organization, hosting related events, or making public statements supportive of abortion. Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, and Lutheran institutions accounted for large shares of the documented cases.

Researchers noted that the rise occurred in the period following the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*. "At this critical time in history, when women and children need life-affirming pregnancy and parenting help, an alarming number of Christian schools have abandoned the Biblical value of the sanctity of life in favor of propping up the abortion industry," the 2023 report stated.

The most recent installment, the 2025 Christian Schools Project, surveyed 725 institutions described as affiliated with Christ-centered denominations that publicly claim a historical Christian foundation. (Denominations that openly affirm abortion, such as the Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, Quakers, and Moravians, were excluded.) The investigation found that 114 schools—more than one in seven—maintained some relationship with the abortion industry or Planned Parenthood specifically. Researchers initially identified 118 schools with 533 total infractions before outreach prompted a handful of institutions to remove some or all connections, leaving 114.

According to the 2025 findings, support for Planned Parenthood and abortion-related activity at these Christian schools has increased by nearly 20 percent since the 2022 *Dobbs* decision and by more than 38 percent since the prior year's report. The most frequent category of infractions involved listing abortion providers as health or pregnancy resources (about 26 percent). Other common issues included classroom materials, internship pipelines for academic credit, promotion of events or speakers, and positive highlighting of alumni working in the abortion field. Methodist-affiliated schools accounted for the largest share of infractions (nearly 37 percent in one summary of the data), followed by Catholic institutions (under 25 percent).

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, has repeatedly criticized the trend. "Especially at Christmas time, it's disappointing to see so many faith-affiliated institutions fail to teach the students about the irreplaceable value of every life, born and preborn," she said in connection with the 2023 findings. In later comments tied to the ongoing project, she emphasized that cultural change must begin with the church and institutions dedicated to enduring values.

Not every development has been negative. Across the years of the project, dozens of schools have severed documented ties after contact from researchers or public awareness efforts—eight in the 2023 cycle alone in one accounting, and 50 connections removed between 2024 and 2025 according to the latest report. The number of schools earning top "A+" grades for having no abortion-industry connections *and* actively supporting local pregnancy help centers has also grown. The vast majority of the surveyed institutions continue to receive clean or high marks for the absence of such ties.

The Demetree Institute grades schools on a scale from A+ (no infractions plus promotion of life-affirming pregnancy centers) to F (four or more infractions). In the 2025 data, 47 schools received failing grades. American University in Washington, D.C., recorded the highest number of infractions in that cycle.

The reports argue that parents, alumni, donors, and church constituents reasonably expect institutions bearing the "Christian" name to uphold core biblical teachings on the sanctity of life. Researchers say the findings reveal a gap between those expectations and certain institutional practices visible on public websites, student health materials, career resources, and academic programming.

Full white papers and lists of infractions from the Christian Schools Project are available through the Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement and Students for Life of America. The Liberty Bell Newspaper will continue to monitor responses from the institutions named in the studies.