

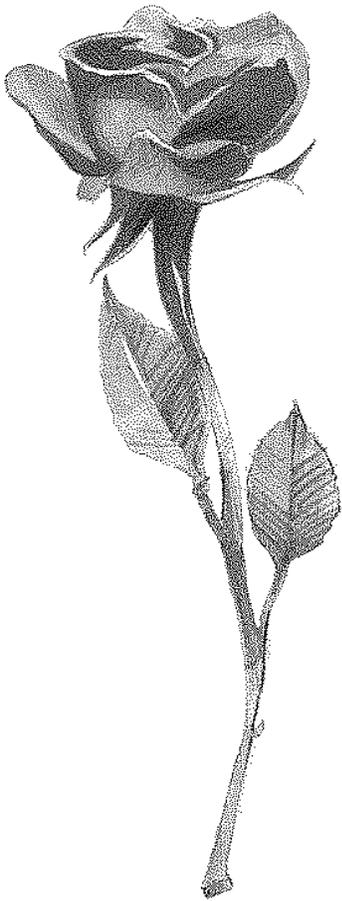
Lifespan *news*

Volume 34 Number 3

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 2005

Right to Life - LIFESPAN



*Invites you to its 15th Annual
Mother's Day Dinner
Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

*Honoring
Mother of the Year 2005
Margaret Rose Kolinski*

Student Art Contest Winners

See page 3 for reservation information

News & Notes

Lifespan Main Office has relocated

Our Main Office has moved just a short distance from its former location. Our new address is: 29200 Vassar, Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152. Our new phone number is 248-478-8878 and our new fax number is 248-478-8854.

We will be planning an open house soon; watch a future issue of this newsletter for details!

Another word about polls

Once again, another national poll asked respondents their opinion on the *Roe v. Wade* decision and once again, the question asked told those polled that the landmark decision made "abortions up to three months of pregnancy legal."

A Harris Interactive poll conducted between February 8 and 13 is just one more of a whole host of polls that fail to accurately explain the far-reaching impact of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. This language (3 months) is a "...myth that the Supreme Court itself has often repudiated, and it is polling malpractice, which has inflated the claimed support for *Roe v. Wade* by as much as 25 points," National Right to Life Committee legislative director Douglas Johnson said in an interview with LifeNews.com.

Interesting, even with the bias inherent in the question, Harris Interactive found that the support for the *Roe v. Wade* case that legalized abortion is at its lowest levels in 20 years.

Just 52 percent of Americans said they supported *Roe* under Harris' definition and 47 percent opposed it. The 47 percent who now oppose it is the highest number since 1985. The poll also found that the number of people describing themselves as "pro-life" is on the rise, while those who say they are pro-choice is declining. Some 44 percent say they are "pro-life" and that number has consistently risen since 1992 when 35 percent affirmed that position. Those saying they are pro-choice have dropped 7 percent from 58 percent in 1992 to 51 percent today.

We all know that poll questions are formulated to obtain the desired answer. Looks like those supporting abortion got more than they bargained for this time.

The UN and human cloning

After three years of contentious discussion, the UN General Assembly has adopted a Declaration (March 8, 2005) calling on nations to enact legislation to "prohibit all forms of human cloning." By a vote of 84 to 34, the Declaration received more support in the General Assembly than when it passed in the 6th Committee last month. The measure set an international standard that humans should not be created through cloning for any purpose, placing human life as a priority over scientific experimentation.

The pro-cloning countries, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Singapore and others, lost support as Costa Rica took the lead, along with the United States and pro-life groups, to educate countries that cloning would violate the human rights of both cloned embryos. The embryos would be created and destroyed at the whim of scientists and women would be treated as commodities to harvest their eggs.

—Excerpted from LIFESITENEWS.com

March 8, 2005

Human-mouse hybrid

A Stanford researcher has received initial permission to create a human-mouse hybrid as long as the creature acts like a mouse and not like a human being. The researcher hopes to use the studies to learn more about various diseases that plague humans. Stanford biologist Irving Weissman's research team would inject human cells into developing mice. Some cells would be cancerous or have other diseases while others would be perfectly healthy.

The development comes as the National Academy of Sciences is set to unveil guidelines on stem cell research and chimera this spring. Because federal law doesn't address the issue, the Stanford team asked the research university where it should draw the line.

Prof. Henry T. Greely, director of the Center for Law and the Biosciences and leader of the committee that considered the proposal, told the *San Jose Mercury News*, "We concluded that if we see any signs of human brain structures... or if the mouse shows human-like behaviors, like improved memory or problem-solving, it's time to stop."

Opponents of Prof. Weissman's work accept that his mice are unlikely to show such obvious human traits, but voice concerns that the brain cells would begin to organize themselves in a way that was more human than mouse. There is growing unease over whether human stem cells could migrate to other parts of the animals, creating human sperm or eggs in their reproductive systems.

Wesley Smith, a consultant for the Centre for Bioethics and Culture, warned that "biotechnology is becoming dangerously close to raging out of control. Scientists are engaging in increasingly macabre experiments that threaten to mutate nature and the human condition."

—LifeNews.com, February 14, 2005

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Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Silent Auction 5:45 p.m. • Dinner 7:15 p.m.

San Marino Club • 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy



Featured Guest Speaker

Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson serves as the Executive Director and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center—a national, non-profit public interest law firm and educational organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of religious freedom, time-honored family values and the sanctity of human life. It is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Prior to his current role with the Thomas More Law Center, Mr. Thompson spent 24 years in the Oakland County, Michigan Prosecutor's office, the last eight of which, he served as the elected Prosecuting Attorney. Most notably, as the elected Oakland County prosecutor, Mr. Thompson was responsible for the prosecution of Jack Kevorkian. He firmly believed that he had a legal obligation to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, and bring to justice those, that under the guise of "compassion," participate in the killing of innocent human life. Richard Thompson has won many awards and has appeared on numerous nationally televised talk shows, including: *The O'Reilly Factor*, *MSNBC*, *FOX News Special Report*, *FOX & Friends*, *Hannity & Colmes* and *CNN Crossfire*. Mr. Thompson is married to Marylyn Thompson, also a practicing attorney. They have three sons, and reside in Ann Arbor.



Emcee

Rev. Keith Butler

Rev. Keith Butler is the founding pastor of Word of Faith International Christian Center Church. He is the Senior Pastor of the 21,000 member congregation. Rev. Butler is very active in political affairs and has appeared on various news programs to discuss the differing political issues facing the national and metropolitan Detroit communities. He can be seen on national and local TV and can be heard on various radio broadcasts. He is a contributing writer to *The Detroit News*. Rev. Butler and his wife, Deborah, have three children who now serve with them in the ministry.

Dinner Reservations: \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Advance reservations required by April 27.

Yes, I (We) plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door.)
Seat with _____

Yes, I (We) plan to sponsor a table of 10. Enclosed please find **one** check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ tables. (Please list names of all those for whom table reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door. Table arrangements will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation.)

I (We) are not able to attend. Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to support your pro-life efforts.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (area code) _____

*For Dinner reservations, please make checks payable and mail to:
Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084
For information, call 248-816-1546
(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)*

Adoption is a Loving Option

An Open Letter to Birth Mothers

Dear Birth Mom,

Due to current adoption laws in Michigan, you now have wonderful options available to you if you choose to create a parenting plan. Did you know that:

- ◆ You (not an adoption agency) can select the family that will parent your child,
- ◆ You can receive quality medical care during your pregnancy and delivery, paid for by the adoptive parents,
- ◆ You can receive housing and living expenses during your pregnancy and up to six weeks after delivery, paid for by the adoptive parents,
- ◆ You can select the attorney of your choice, to represent your rights in the adoption process, paid for by the adoptive parents,
- ◆ You can have the child placed directly with the family of your choice, at the hospital—no temporary foster care placement is necessary,
- ◆ You can have the peace of mind of knowing that help is there to make it possible for you to carry and deliver your child into a healthy and loving environment.

Direct placement adoption gives you the option of selecting the best home for your child, and provides you with the financial assistance, legal support and counseling services that you need when making such an important life-altering decision. For more information, call Debra Nance, 1-888-528-1117, toll free; Kemp Klein, 201 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 600, Troy, MI 48084.

Silent No More Awareness Campaign

Editor's note: Jennifer O'Neill, author and actress, who was Lifespan's guest speaker at the 2004 Mother's Day Dinner, is actively involved with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. The Detroit group of Silent No More is in its infancy, but they are building a network of post-abortion women and men. For more information, call Mike Stack 248-548-1767.

What is the National Silent No More Awareness Campaign?

The National Silent No More Awareness Campaign is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. The emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. This effort is a key to make abortion unthinkable and persuade society that women deserve better than abortion.

How did the National Silent No More Awareness Campaign begin?

Through their work in abortion recovery and personal abortion experience, the co-founders saw the ongoing need to let the public hear from the many women who regret their abortion and do not believe abortion is a good thing for women. They wanted to show that NOW and NARAL do not represent all women on this issue. The campaign has grown primarily through a network of pregnancy resource centers, abortion recovery support organizations, and pro-life groups.

Why do we need the National Silent No More Awareness Campaign?

Many people believe abortion is something women need and freely choose, but it is actually a painful experience that many women come to regret. Women are told abortion is a simple choice and therefore are not prepared when they experience the negative consequences afterwards. These voices have been locked in silence due to pain, shame, denial and fear of judgment. It is time for those who have experienced the tragedy of abortion, and have received forgiveness, to speak the truth.

What's Up With the Youth?

Dear Teens, College Students, Young Adults, Youth Group Leaders, Teachers and Parents of Youth...

The planning session for the **Pro-Life Youth Jeopardy Game Night and Spelling Bee Contest** that will be held at the Auburn Hills Christian Center on Saturday, August 13, from 5:30-10 p.m., was very successful! There were 11 youth, 17 adults, lots of great ideas, happy faces and fun that evening!

See the flier on this page about the Youth Night! Please call me with the number of reservation forms you would like me to send you. The number is **248-816-1546**. **The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, July 13.** I hope many of you will want to participate in either the Jeopardy Game or the Spelling Bee Contest! (*Just so you know, I am also looking for some more volunteers to help out that evening—maybe some of you college students or youth leaders would like to help??? If you are interested, please call me as soon as possible!*)

I received more surveys from the **Bus Trip to DC**. Thanks a lot for the great ideas and excellent input as to what was good and what needs to be improved upon for next year. **ANY-ONE** who wants to help with preparations for the Bus Trip in 2006, please call me with your name, phone number, address, and what school, church or pro-life group you will represent. When we are ready to hold the first planning session **IN MID-JULY**, you will be notified by mail. Your participation in the planning will make for a better trip in 2006!!!

If you know of any youth who would like to receive our special Youth Mailing each month, please call me with their name, address, phone number, and what school, college, church or pro-life youth group they represent. The Youth Mailing is sent to youth as young as 12 years old.

Happy Spring!!!

—Lynn Gura, Representative Coordinator
Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb Chapter



Student Art Contest

Many thanks to all those who entered their beautiful work in our Student Art Contest.

We received 140 entries! We were very impressed by the pro-life conviction of these young people.

The winners (who have yet to be determined at the time this newsletter goes to press) will be awarded their prizes at the Mother's Day Dinner on May 3, at the San Marino Club in Troy. (See page 3 for more information about the Dinner.)

The winners will also be announced in the next *Lifespan News*.

Pro-Life Youth Jeopardy Game and Spelling Bee Contest

ATTENTION: Young People, ages 12-18 years old



The Pro-Life Youth Jeopardy Game will be back again this summer and is even better than last year!!! We have also added a Pro-Life Spelling Bee Contest to the evening!!!

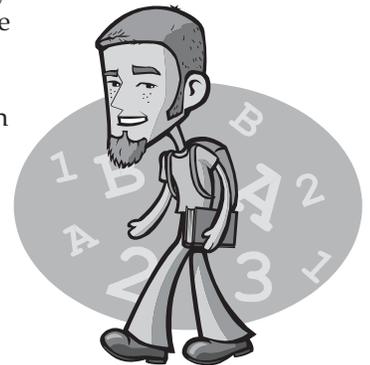
Come join us as a contestant on Saturday evening, August 13, from 6-10 p.m., at the Auburn Hills Christian Center, 2592 East Walton Blvd. (east of Opdyke, north of Squirrel).

All contestants must mail their registration form and entrance fee in by **July 13**. Please specify if you want to participate in the Jeopardy Game or the Spelling Bee.

The entrance fee for Contestants is \$10.00, and it should be sent in with your registration form. All others who attend as part of the audience will pay \$5.00 each. Children 5 years old and under are free.

Pizza, pop, munchies, desserts and beverages will be provided. Door prizes will be given to all contestants, and special prizes will be given to all winners of the Jeopardy Games and Spelling Bee Contests.

All contestants will be given study materials ahead of time so they can come prepared!! Call us at **248-816-1546** to receive a registration form and to get further details about the evening!!!





detroit

17336 Harper PMB 293, Detroit, MI 48224-1980
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Showers of love and thanks

Lifespan recently held its 16th annual Baby Shower. Hundreds of beautiful baby items were donated to local pregnancy aid centers. Because of your generosity, many mothers decided to keep their babies. The following Detroit churches participated this year: Christ the King, Assumption Grotto, Old St. Mary's, Sts. Augustine and Monica, St. Mary's of Redford and St. Clare of Montefalco in Grosse Pointe Park. Thank you all for your continued support, and may God bless you for all you do for His little ones.

Mother's Day roses

If you belong to a Detroit church and your church does not "Thank Mom" for LIFE on Mother's Day with beautiful silk roses, please

livingston

P. O. Box 1532, Brighton, MI 48116-9998
Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433)
Judy Zabik, Director

Mother's Day Dinner/ Silent Auction

Lifespan's Mother's Day Dinner is Tuesday, May 3rd, 5:45 p.m. at the San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., in Troy. Pastor Keith Butler is the Master of Ceremonies, while Dick Thompson, of the Thomas More Law Center, in Ann Arbor is the guest speaker. We are in need of donated items for the Silent Auction to be held during the Dinner! See page 3 for reservation information.

Mother's Day flowers

Any churches interested in selling flowers on Mother's Day weekend can order them through our office. The flowers are silk and last for years. They are a beautiful tribute to Mothers.

Livingston County Fair

The County Fair is coming soon! If anyone would like to help work in our booth, this is the time to call and pick your preferred times.

volunteer to help us this year. This is one of Detroit's most important fund-raisers. All it takes is for you to contact your pastor for permission, place an article in your church paper, which I can provide, and find a few of your family and friends to help you sell them after all the services on Mother's Day. Isn't this a beautiful tribute to your own Mom for giving you life by helping educate other young women to do the same? All roses not sold can be returned, so there is nothing for you to risk—but you will gain a great feeling and many blessings knowing you are helping us in our efforts to promote the dignity of all life, from the womb to the tomb. Call today to order your roses—313-640-8534.

Mother's Day Dinner

Tickets are still available for our wonderful celebration of Motherhood. This year's Dinner will feature Richard Thompson and Rev. Keith Butler. The Dinner will be on May 3 with a silent auction beginning at 5:45 p.m. and dinner at 7:15 p.m. The location is once again at the fabulous San Marino Club in Troy. Remember, there is a discount if you fill a table with your family, friends and church members. You will have a fun-filled evening and at the same time you will be supporting all of our on-going pro-life projects. For more information and tickets call the Oakland/Macomb Chapter at 248-816-1546.

We had a great spot last year, with literally thousands of people walking past, many stopping to pick up information and our free balloons, or just to ask questions. This is an easy way to get our pro-life message out, and it's fun!

Dresser Ministry

We have placed a dresser to be filled with donated baby clothes and necessities at the Caritas Women's Health Care Center in Ann Arbor. If you would like to know more about this program, please call our office and we will get an information packet out to you in the next mail.

Pro-Life bracelets

Are you looking for that perfect gift for Mom this Mother's Day? We have just the right thing that will be sure to make her smile while supporting our pro-life efforts. We have bracelets made of sterling silver and crystal beads that can be customized to your specifications. You can make Mother's Bracelets with birthstone colored beads for all her children. You can have them made in sterling silver blocks that might say "Love Life" or anything up to 16 letters. We need approximately a two-week lead time to place the order and ship in time for Mother's Day.

We also have the latest craze in bracelets, the silicone bracelet, that says "Pro-Life" in royal blue. Please contact our office 810-220-LIFE (5433) if you're interested in more information on our pro-life jewelry.



Pray to Stop Abortion!

oakland/macomb

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066
e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Valuable volunteers

For the past several months, our chapter has been fortunate in having several workers from the Judson Center helping us in the office.

The Judson Center, located in Royal Oak, provides Supportive Employment for workers with disabilities. Originally a children's home, the agency has evolved into a comprehensive community-based human services center, recognized nationally for fostering independence through innovative programs.

At the LIFESPAN office, our helpers do labeling, stuffing and sealing envelopes, tying ribbons and tags together, assembling candle kits and stamping and counting pamphlets. They are always accompanied by their job coach KATHY. Our LIFESPAN helpers also work at the Salvation Army Store, Speedway and local churches.

wayne west/downriver

27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203
Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116
e-mail: wwdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director; Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr.

Mother's Day Dinner

Come spend an evening with pro-life friends, and meet Lifespan's 2005 "Mother of the Year," guest speaker, Richard Thompson and emcee, Rev. Keith Butler. We hope to have a school bus or vans available to take Dinner guests to the San Marino Club in Troy. Reservations for the bus will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call for cost and pickup points. Join us; this evening is planned for YOU!

Resource Book 2005

Don't miss the opportunity to be listed as a patron in the "Book of Life," better known as Lifespan's annual "Resource Book."

*Gold Patron	\$100
*Silver Patron	\$ 50
*Bronze Patron	\$ 10
*Memorial	\$ 10
*Nurse's for Life (any donation)	

Final deadline for these ads is April 11. If each Lifespan member bought or sold an ad, this would be a very successful fundraiser for Lifespan's Main Office.

KERRI enjoys watching Wheel of Fortune, MICHAEL keeps fit exercising; SUE enjoys bingo and crossword puzzles; BRIAN is a great Star Wars fan; CAROL also enjoys bingo and TV; TIM and MARY enjoy socializing with our office staff, especially Lynn! We are so happy to have such wonderful people helping out in our office.

Valued volunteer

At our Volunteer Luncheon, Jean Martell was awarded the first annual Jane Condron Steadfast Volunteer Award. Jean was as surprised as she was deserving of this award. The family of Jane Condron, a long time director of the Oakland/Macomb chapter, was in attendance. Jean has been volunteering for LIFESPAN almost as long as there has been a LIFESPAN, and we are so pleased that she was the first recipient of this award.

Boycott benefits

Life Decisions International implemented a nationwide boycott in 1992 of corporations and businesses backing Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortion in the United States. By way of a copyrighted list, LDI informs those interested of firms that donate to Planned Parenthood. The list is obtainable by subscription from LDI. (Call the office for more information). LDI's latest report show the pro-abortion group (Planned Parenthood) has lost \$35 million as a result of the boycott list.

Thanks

Our thanks to Dianne Soules, Mary Kiesling, Carol Bloomfield and their helpers from St. Mary Parish in Wayne for another outstanding bake sale. Parish and Lifespan bakers filled the tables with their favorite recipes to titillate the buyers' appetites, and the *goodies disappeared quickly*. The net income was \$1245.00 which brought a big smile to our treasurer's face all the way to the bank. Special thanks to Fr. Jack Baker, Pastor, who allows this annual event to help Lifespan with our pro-life work. Your loyalty to the right-to-life movement never falters. *Readers: Will your church have a bake sale for us? Lifespan bakers will help.*

Mother's Day tribute

Now is the time to order silk-like, long-stemmed roses for your church. They are tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life," come in various colors and can be taken on consignment. The rose, the symbol of Life, is a tribute to mothers on their special day. We also have a fine selection of pins which celebrate motherhood. Call to reserve flowers and/or pins.

Father's Day recognition

Our chapter will be offering pens for dads on Father's Day for a donation. They will be printed, "Thanks, Dad, for Life! Happy Father's Day. This tradition has been very well received by pastors; if you'd like your church to participate, call as soon as possible, so enough pens will be ordered.

Boycott lists

Wayne West/Downriver has 30 Life Decisions International boycott lists at \$3.00 each. Call to reserve yours now.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Addresses

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
e-mail: President@whitehouse.gov

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3121

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837

Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837

Dear Representative (last name):

Michigan's Legal Birth Definition Act Delayed

Enforcement of Michigan's Legal Birth Definition Act, which will change the legal definition of birth to the first moment any part of a fetus is outside a woman's body and is showing signs of life, was scheduled to go into effect on March 30, but has been delayed until June 15 pending a federal court challenge of the law's constitutionality. The measure (SB 395), which was vetoed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) in October 2003, but became law in June 2004 when the Legislature overrode the veto, includes language that would allow doctors to favor the health of a woman having a miscarriage over that of a fetus that potentially could not survive on its own, but would ban so-called "partial-birth" abortion. The American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood Federation of America on March 1 filed suit in federal court to prevent enforcement of the law. A spokesperson for Michigan's Attorney General said the state needs more time to respond to the lawsuit, but the attorney general reached an agreement with the three groups to delay enforcement of the measure until June 15. U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood approved a temporary restraining order preventing the law from being enforced until June 15.

—*Detroit Free Press, March 14, 2005*

Ultrasound and Abortion-Minded Women

On March 3, 2005, Michigan Representative David Robertson (R-51st) introduced House Bill 4446 which would require an abortion practitioner to offer a woman seeking an abortion an ultrasound image of her unborn child.

A poll conducted by Care Net and conducted by The Polling Company in August, 2003 interviewed 802 registered women voters and found that 51% felt it was important for women considering abortion to view ultrasound pictures and found that the majority agreed that providing ultrasound services is worthwhile.

A statement from Rep. Robertson's office indicated that people on both sides of the abortion issue agree that the decision is one of the most important a person will make in her lifetime. The bill does not require the woman to look at the image, but is merely offered an opportunity to view it and take a copy home if she wishes. Having an abortion, like any major medical decision, should not be made lightly, and a prospective patient should have every technology available to reflect on her pending decision to ensure that abortions are indeed safe and rare.

The bill will likely need to go through the House Health Policy Committee, and a hearing probably won't be scheduled until late Spring.

Informative Websites

www.nrlc.org

National Right to Life's site provides the latest information on pro-life issues in Congress. The Legislative Action Center contains easy-to-use tools to help identify your elected representatives and enables you to send them the right message at the right time. By entering your zip code, you can see information about your U.S. Senators and U.S. House member, including how they voted on major pro-life issues and whether they have co-sponsored good or bad legislation. You can also view the latest alerts and updates on what is happening in Congress, including suggested messages to

your representatives on upcoming votes. Using these features, you can send lawmakers e-mails directly from the website or copy the phone numbers, fax numbers or mailing addresses.

michiganvotes.org

For the most up-to-date information on Michigan legislation regarding abortion or any pro-life issue, visit *michiganvotes.org*. Visitors to the website can search for bills by topic, review lawmakers' voting records, e-mail their representatives, post public comments on issues and receive e-mail updates when action occurs on bills in their areas of interest.

Terri Schiavo

As this is being written, Terri Schiavo's life is slipping away. In spite of every effort by her parents, her church, even her government, her feeding tube has been removed, and the brain-damaged woman is slowly starving to death.

What each of us must clearly understand is that no matter whether she is/was responsive, no matter what the future held for her recovery, she is not and was not terminally ill. She is not and was not dying. The only way the euphemistic words, "let her go," can be turned into action is for her to be killed—by starving her body of the nutrients we all need for existence.

While reports say she is able to swallow and could be given nutrition by mouth, this was not permitted. With her feeding tube removed, the only outcome is death by starvation.

Our Washington legislators have been criticized for taking an interest in her case. It must be remembered that the first obligation of government is protection of its citizens. Our legislators' actions made sure that she and her family had access to all avenues of that protection. All citizens have the right to these protections. They must ask for them—which Terri's parents did for her.

This was a family tragedy, which became a legal tragedy when her husband went to court to remove her feeding tube in 1998 and has become a national tragedy as we watch her die.

Abortion Non-Discrimination Act Hyde/Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment

In December of 2004, President Bush signed into law a measure that includes a provision prohibiting discrimination against hospitals and health care providers who choose not to provide or participate in abortions. The provision is known as the "Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment," sponsored by Representatives Henry Hyde (R-IL) and Dave Weldon (R-FL).

The measure ensures that state and local governments receiving money from the federal Health and Human Services department cannot discriminate against health care providers that do not perform abortions, pay for abortions, provide insurance coverage for abortions or refer to agencies that perform abortions.

The law is being challenged by such entities as The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association and the attorney general of the state of California. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) stated that she would

introduce a bill to repeal the Hyde/Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment. It was promised that Sen. Boxer's proposal would be allowed a vote in the Senate before April 30, 2005. If passed, the Boxer measure is not expected to receive the President's signature.

Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act

During the trials defending the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban, experts explained that the unborn child most likely feels pain during the abortion. In fact, it is suggested that the child's perception of pain is 2-4 times greater than that of an adult.

After hearing pertinent expert testimony under oath from both sides, on August 26, 2004, U.S. District Judge Richard C. Casey made certain formal "findings of fact," including these: "The Court finds that the testimony at trial and before Congress establishes that D&X [partial birth abortion] is a gruesome, brutal, barbaric and uncivilized medical procedure. Dr. Anand's testimony, which went unrebutted by plaintiffs, is credible evidence that D&X abortions subject

fetuses to severe pain. Notwithstanding this evidence, some of the plaintiff's experts testified that fetal pain does not concern them, and that some do not convey to their patients that their fetuses may undergo severe pain during a D&X."

Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ) have introduced S-51 and HR 356, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, that would require an abortion provider to explain to a woman seeking an abortion after 20 weeks that her child has the capacity to feel pain. After that, the woman must either accept or refuse (by signing a form) the administration of pain-reducing drugs directly to the unborn child. The bill would apply to all abortions past 20 weeks, regardless of the method used.

In a Wirthlin poll conducted in November, 2004, the public supported "laws requiring that women who are 20 weeks or more along in their pregnancy be given information about fetal pain before having an abortion" by a 75-18 percent margin.

Contact your elected officials in Washington and ask that they support S-51 and HR 356.



Wee Care has relocated, with Lifespan's Main Office. Our new address is 29200 Vassar, Ste. 545. Wee Care's new phone number is 248-478-8884.

God creates every baby for a purpose. What a tragedy when parents stop that little life before it has even been able to take its first breath. They will never know how that baby could have touched and changed their lives and possibly the world.

Our family is rejoicing in the birth of a very tiny nephew. Born prematurely, Owen William has turned our world upside down. Only 6 days old and he has brought so much faith, love, hope and joy to his family. His impending birth, that no amount of medicine or bedrest could stop, touched the faith of so many who pleaded with God for his life and who later thanked Him for our little miracle.

The love that his family had for him before his birth—does not compare to the “catch your breath - heart bursting” love that they feel now when they stroke his tiny arm.

The hope he brings to everyone—but especially to his grandparents who are fighting cancer—is priceless.

And the joy he brings to friends and family and especially to his half sisters and brother whose family is now complete—that joy is indescribable.

All this and he is just 6 days old!

Let's all continue to work for a world where every baby is seen as a gift from God and is cherished as much as this little guy.

*Karen Patrosso, Director 248-478-8884
Wee Care, A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN*



*Owen William
Six days old*

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends in LIFE,

Terri Shiavo is a name that has been heard for the past ten years in conjunction with the Right to Die debate through legislation and litigation. The decision made on her behalf will be far reaching for all of us living in the United States. I will not rewrite all the arguments, as you no doubt have been following this case as I have.

As we go to press, the Federal Courts are in the battle, and where it will end I do not know. It seems that the courts in this country want her dead. She is slowly dying and the court still will not allow the feeding tube to be reinserted. Make no mistake Terri is dying a slow and painful death. The criminals on death row get more attention by the courts and by society than does Terri Shiavo.

The only news station that, in my opinion, has given fair and balanced reporting was *Fox News*. Not all of us have cable, however, and, consequently, are not able to get fair and honest reporting—those without cable get their news from the traditional stations that push the liberal, politically correct agenda. Public opinion is turning against Terri and much of it is due to the delivery of the story by the news media.

A poll taken on March 4 showed that 6 out of 10 would remove her feeding tube, or put in another way, kill Terri by passive euthanasia. It is very telling as to how far the pro-death movement has permeated society.

If these polls continue to show public opinion in favor of letting her die, it will be a very disturbing sign. Today, it is Terri whom society kills because she is considered a vegetative person—tomorrow, it could be you or me if we become non-productive citizens. Human beings have rights because we are human; we have a right to exist without a litmus test to our worth.

We had a similar debate 35 years ago which encompassed the beginning of life. We lost that debate—again in the courts. Since then, 1.5 million of our people die every year.

Today, we have a huge debate about Social Security; if this problem is not resolved, I predict that in 35 years we will see 1.5 million people killed clearing out our nursing homes to get rid of the non-productives—think how much money will be saved! The polls show a society that it is willing to destroy humans to solve social problems. We must work to change hearts and minds.

Please write your legislator and let those who voted in favor of Terri's life know how much you appreciate their vote for life. If they did not vote in favor of her life, let them know of your disappointment.

We have a lot of work to do—please invite someone to join Lifespan and become a part of this pro-life movement with us. We have a lot of work to do in order to change hearts and minds. WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP!

**Donations have been made—
In loving memory of:**

Jackie Belanger

Given by: Margaret and Thomas Barylski

John Vincent, M.D.

Given by: Patti and Jev Baskin
Hargis Family
Mike and Alma Cahill
Cynthia and Thomas Kaminski
Dr. John and Mary Hartigan

Doris Bradley

Given by: Helen Kleinbrook
Pat and Bob Holscher
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Diane and Jerry Fagelman
Doug and Marge Bradley
Wayne West/Downriver Board and Friends

James K. Mulvihill

Given by: Conway Family

Mary Scanlon

Given by: Aimee and John Wiktor

Matthew Fary

Given by: Rich and Maryann Dixon

In honor of the 90th Birthday of:

Paula Ervin

Given by: Mike and Mary Jo Ervin

***In thanksgiving for blessings of
50 years of marriage:***

James and Maurine Brennan

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be

made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - LIFESPAN will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office, pp. 6-7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number **800-BETHANY**. Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries **586-326-0459** or Casa Vitae **248-559-5407**. For post-abortion counseling, call Project Rachel **888-722-4355**. For those with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice **734-464-7810**; Cranbrook Hospice **248-334-6700**, or Hospice of Michigan **888-HOM-5656**. Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering abortion or assisted suicide; for this counseling assistance, call **800-281-2102**.

Calendar of Events

- April 9..... Nurses for Life Seminar
- April 11..... Resource Book Patron ad deadline, p. 7
- April 15..... Silent Auction donations deadline
- May 3 Mother's Day Dinner, p. 3
- May 7-8..... Mother's Day Flower Sale, pp. 6, 7
- May 8 Happy Mother's Day!
- June 18, 19 Father's Day Pen/Candy Tribute, p. 7
- June 19 Happy Father's Day!
- July 13 Youth Jeopardy Game/Spelling Contest
..... Registration Deadline, p. 5
- July 31 Bowling for LIFE
- August 10-21..... Michigan State Fair
- August 13 .. Youth Jeopardy Game & Spelling Bee, p. 5
- October 2 LIFE CHAIN

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form



Right to Life - LIFESPAN believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 20.00 _____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar, Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152-2193**. For more information, call **248-478-8878**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



HERE THEY ARE!

Our Pro-Life wrist bands have arrived!!!

LIFESPAN'S bracelets are royal blue. We wanted to be sure that our Pro-Life bracelet was not confused with any other worthy cause (pink for Breast Cancer Research, green for the Environment, yellow for Lance Armstrong's Live Strong campaign, etc.) so we selected a beautiful royal blue bracelet.

Blue is a color associated with the purity of the sky, just as the unborn child is pure and innocent and deserving of our protection. Blue is also a color associated with healing, just as we hope to help heal the scars, physical and emotional, left by an abortion decision. Blue is also a color associated with truth and loyalty, just as those who wear our bracelet will be *true blue* in their support of all human life.

A donation of \$1.00 per bracelet is suggested to offset the cost of manufacturing them. Call a Lifespan Chapter office to order yours today: Detroit **313-640-8534**; Wayne West/Downriver **734-422-6230**; Oakland/Macomb **248-816-1546**; or Livingston **810-220-LIFE (5433)**.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN
Oakland/Macomb Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540



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