

Lifespan *news*

Volume 41 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 2012





Lifespan Chapter News

Oakland/Macomb

Wayne County/Downriver

Thank You

On March 10th, the Oakland/Macomb Chapter of LIFESPAN had an opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteers at a luncheon at Marinelli's in Troy.

As usual, we surprised one of them with the Jane Condron Steadfast Volunteer of the Year Award. This year, the award went to Kathy McEwen. Kathy has spent countless hours at her computer, finding articles for us, or finding the names and phone numbers of schools, churches and individual educators. This is the kind of information we need in order to get pro-life material into the hands of those who would find it valuable. It is also the task that frequently gets pushed to the back burner when more pressing issues arise in the office. That is where Kathy comes in. We are very grateful to her, and her mom who also helps with this work, and we were delighted to be able to surprise her with this well-deserved award.

Another Thank You

This "thank you" goes out to all of you who have so graciously responded to our request for email addresses. With postage due to rise again (up to 50 cents per first class letter), we simply must use email more often for time-sensitive information.

Resource Book 2012

Last call to be listed as a Patron in the book of Life, better known as Lifespan's annual *Resource Book*. There are four categories of patrons: Gold \$100, Silver \$50, Bronze \$10 and Memorial \$10.

You can also submit any non-professional photo of your children or grandchildren, a birthday or anniversary celebration, etc. for our "Photo Album" ad—a 1/8-page (3.5"x2.5") for just \$35. This is a great way to share a special event with friends at a bargain price. Deadline extended to April 11. Please consider buying or selling just one ad to make this a successful fundraiser for the Main Office of Lifespan. Call for ad form.

Mother's Day Tribute

Now is the time to order a pro-life gift item for churches for Mother's Day. The long-stemmed, silk rose which is a symbol of Life, comes in various colors and is tagged "Thanks, Mom, for Life." In addition, we've added a fancy pen inscribed "Thanks, Mom, for Life" and "Happy Mother's Day." Church reps usually have them available for a donation after church services on Mother's Day. So, Dads, look for these items as they are a beautiful tribute to Moms on their special day from their children. These can be taken on consignment.

Many of you have responded by sending us your email address. We promise to use it wisely and carefully. If you have not sent it, won't you please do it today? If you don't have one, please let us know that too.

Elections Approaching

As we all know, there is an incredibly important election approaching. There has probably not been a more important election for pro-life people since Ronald Reagan ran for the office of President.

While LIFESPAN cannot, and does not, endorse or recommend any candidate, we can study each candidate's position on issues of importance to us. It is terribly important to be an informed voter.

Adlai Stevenson certainly recognized this when, during a campaign speech in 1952 he said, "I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them."

Somehow the lies seem to continue—and so must the truth!

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e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director • Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Programs Coordinator

"Celebration of Life" Annual Dinner (Formerly Mother's Day Dinner)

Come, spend an evening with friends and be entertained by pro-life, Christian, Comedian David Dean. (See page 3.) The Silent Auction is always a special added attraction. We plan on having transportation available to take dinner guests to the beautiful San Marino Club in Troy. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Call for time, cost and pick-up points. Please join us for a fun-filled evening planned for YOU!

Bake Sale Needs Bakers

A Mother's Day Bake Sale for Lifespan will be held at St. Raphael Church in Garden City (west side of Merriam Rd., just north of Ford Rd.) on the weekend of May 12 and 13. Lifespan members, even those who live outside the parish, may help with the event. Baked items may be dropped off at the Lifespan office in Livonia (address below) on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or at the church after 2 p.m.

14600 Farmington Rd., Ste. 108, Livonia, MI 48154-5431
Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116
e-mail: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-4; Friday Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director • Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN'S Celebration of LIFE Annual Dinner

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Silent Auction 5:45 p.m. • Dinner 7:15 p.m.

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



DAVID DEAN is a pro-life, Christian comedian. He cut his comedic teeth at the famous Second City School of Improv in Chicago. From there, his lightning speed, wit and ability to communicate scripture to people have made him a sought-after comedian and speaker at various events around the country. Over the past 15 years, David has been the featured speaker at Promise Keepers, Youth for Christ's DC/LA and numerous other outreach, youth and family conferences. "...It's rare to find someone who can both tickle the funny bone and touch the heart at the same time. God has gifted David Dean with that very special talent. He's one of the best!" says Wayne Rice, co-founder, Youth Specialties/Director, Understanding Your Teenager.

David also hosts week-long mission trips, four to five times a year, to the Dominican Republic. This has been a labor of love for the ministry board of "David Dean's Mission Possible."

David and "Saint" Betsy, his wife of 22 years, live in Huntington, Indiana with their 17-year-old daughter, "Hannah-Banana, from Indiana." Their son, Alex, 20, is currently serving with the United States Army.

Dinner Reservations: \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Students (under 21) \$25 per person. Advance reservations required by Friday, 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 seating 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 _____

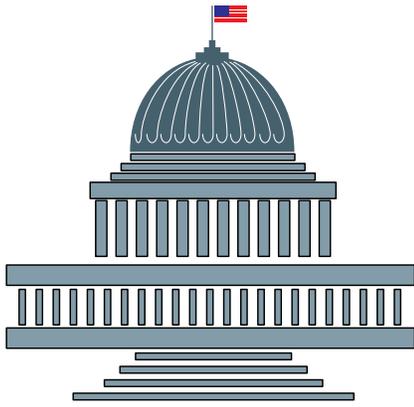
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (area code) _____ Email Address _____



**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**

Photos/video may be taken at this event and may be used on the web, in publications and/or other media. If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact Right to Life - LIFESPAN's Main Office at 248.478.8878 or mainoffice@rtl-lifespans.org.



Contact Information

President

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
Web contact: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/
Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.levin.senate.gov/
Website/Email: www.stabenow.senate.gov/

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.house.gov/
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
Website: www.michigan.gov/snyder
Email: Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov
Dear Governor Snyder:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.senate.mi.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senate Defeats Blunt Amendment to Stop Obama HHS Mandate

The Senate voted [March 1] against an amendment to restore the religious liberty protections for employers who don't want to be forced to pay for birth control or drugs that may cause abortions in their employee health plans.

Leading pro-life organizations called on the Senate to vote for the amendment to the mandate the Obama administration issued, but Democrats banded together against Republicans to defeat it on a 51 to 48 margin by adopting a motion to table, or kill, it.

In July 2011, the Institute of Medicine recommended several mandatory health services, as called for in President Obama's health law. This included a recommendation requiring health care plans to provide controversial preventive health services, including birth control, drugs that may cause abortions and emergency contraception. The Blunt Amendment would prevent health care providers and insurers from being forced to violate their principles to offer services they are morally opposed to, and it guarantees that all Americans are not penalized or discriminated against for exercising their rights of conscience.

The text of the Blunt Amendment consists of the language taken from the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (S. 1467, H.R. 1179). It would amend the Obama health care law ("Obama Care") to prevent the imposition of regulatory mandates that violate the religious or moral convictions of those who purchase or provide health insurance.

During the debate, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) spoke in support of an amendment introduced by U.S. Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri,

Hatch said that "...our Constitution demands that those individuals and institutions that object to providing these services on religious and moral grounds be protected." Hatch added that "under this administration, our Bill of Rights has been subordinated

to President Obama's desire to micromanage the nation's health care system."

How did Michigan's Senators vote? A Nay vote to oppose tabling the amendment is pro-life, a **Yea vote to kill the amendment by tabling it is not pro-life.**

Levin (D-MI), Yea
Stabenow (D-MI), Yea

For a fuller explanation of and commentary on this legislation, please see the following.

Why the Blunt Amendment was needed

Please keep in mind that the current debate is not really about access to birth control. It is really about what governmental body controls the practice of religion.

The Constitution guarantees us freedom to practice our faith belief (or not) and prohibits governmental interference from that practice. Name calling by anyone and false arguments like, "they do it anyway," do not change the fact that this action by our federal government tramples all over the doctrine of the separation of church and state. This doctrine is held inviolate by several well-known organizations that are strangely silent right now.

Allowing those who would force religions to bow to their will to frame the terms of the debate presents a grave danger. If you need more information about this, please call one of the LIFESPAN offices and we will do all we can to help you.

"The Blunt Amendment would amend Obamacare to protect the conscience rights of those who purchase or provide health insurance. This is needed because of the mandate issued by President Obama and Secretary Sebelius that virtually all employers, including religiously affiliated hospitals and schools, and even pro-life organizations such as the SBA List, must purchase health insurance plans that cover abortion inducing drugs and sterilization," she said. "We cannot let the Obama administration trample on our consciences or our Constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty."

"Make no mistake: Planned Parenthood and their allies in the White House and Congress will stop at nothing to take away the conscience rights of millions of pro-life Americans so

they can force their radical abortion agenda on the country," she added.

"For years, 'Who decides?' was the favorite incantation from the feminist movement. Now, President Obama asserts it is government, specifically himself as its spokesman, who decides what a properly formed conscience is. 'Who decides' which is more fundamental: religious freedom or an ideology of reproductive health care?"

The National Right to Life Committee calls the amendment "vital" and says the Obama HHS mandate could result in a mandate in the future that forces taxpayer funding of abortions.

"When President Obama's health care legislation was under consideration in the Senate in 2009, NRLC warned that a provision dealing with "preventive health services" would empower the Secretary of Health and Human Services to mandate coverage of any medical service, including abortion, merely by adding the service to an expandable list," NRLC says. "Predictably, the Administration issued a decree in August, 2011, covering all FDA-approved birth control methods—a mandate that, unless overturned, will produce an irreconcilable conflict between conscience and the coercive force of government for many employers. In recent months, the Administration's "birth-control mandate" has elicited vigorous protests from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Southern Baptist Convention, and many other religious leaders, as an attack on religious liberty."

"But this is not a debate only about the specific parameters of the birth-control mandate. Exactly the same statutory authority could be used by the Administration—as early as next year—to mandate that all health plans pay for elective abortion on demand," NRLC added.

"The Blunt Amendment goes to the heart of the problem by amending the ObamaCare law itself, to prevent provisions of the law from being used as a basis for regulatory mandates that violate the religious or moral convictions of those who purchase or provide health insurance," the pro-life organization said.

The mandate has already become the subject of several lawsuits

Meanwhile, more than a dozen state attorneys general have signed onto a joint letter Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning started coordinating against the controversial Obama mandate requiring religious employers to cover birth control and drugs that can cause abortions.

"Make no mistake: Planned Parenthood and their allies in the White House and Congress will stop at nothing to take away the conscience rights of millions of pro-life Americans so they can force their radical abortion agenda on the country."

Bruning has contacted each of his colleagues in 49 states and has already been joined by a dozen, including South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. Together, the three lawmakers have co-signed a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis over the Obama mandate.

Also, the largest Catholic pro-life group and Catholic television station have filed suit against the new Obama mandate that forces religious employers like them to pay for birth control and abortion-causing drugs in employee health insurance. The *EWTN Global Catholic Network* filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Birmingham, Alabama against the Department of Health & Human Services, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and other government agencies seeking to stop the imposition of the anti-conscience mandate as well as asking the court for a declaratory judgment that the mandate is unconstitutional.

Priests for Life, a New York based international pro-life organization of Catholic clergy and laity, filed a lawsuit against the Obama Administration in an effort to seek injunctive relief from impending regulations that would

require the organization to pay for employee health insurance that covers abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization.

The Obama administration asked a federal court to dismiss yet another lawsuit filed against the Obama administration over its mandate.

This was its first opportunity to explain to the court and the country why the mandate is not illegal and unconstitutional. The Obama administration did not defend the constitutionality of the mandate, but said the lawsuit should be thrown out because the administration plans to revise the mandate to make insurance companies pay for coverage rather than employers, who will still have to make referrals.

"Plaintiff's challenge to the preventive services coverage regulations is not fit for judicial review because defendants [Obama and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius] have indicated that they will propose and finalize changes to the regulations that are intended to accommodate plaintiff's religious objections to providing contraception coverage," the Department of Justice (DOJ) wrote in its brief to the Washington, D.C. District Court.

Obama officials claim the mandate does not put forth any "immediate injury" to religious groups.

Luke Goodrich, Deputy General Counsel of the Becket Fund, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of Belmont Abbey College, a Catholic university, says he thinks the Obama administration's argument will not stand up in court.

"It doesn't argue that the mandate is legal; it doesn't argue that the mandate is constitutional," Goodrich said. "Instead, it begs the court to ignore the lawsuit because the government plans to change the mandate at some unspecified date in the future."

"Apparently, the administration has decided that the mandate, as written and finalized, is constitutionally indefensible," said Hannah Smith, senior counsel at The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty "Its only hope is to ask the court to look the other way

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Blunt Amendment

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based on an empty promise to possibly change the rules in the future.”

The panel that put together the mandate has been condemned for only having pro-abortion members even though polling shows Americans are opposed to the mandate.

More than 50 members of Congress banded together at a press conference to demand legislation to stop the new mandate pro-abortion President Barack Obama put in place forcing religious employers to pay for insurance coverage including birth control and abortion-inducing drugs.

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry held a press conference with supporters of the bipartisan, bicameral Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. His legislation would protect the religious liberty and conscience rights of every American who objects to being forced by the strong-arm of government to pay for drugs and procedures recently mandated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Fortenberry bill currently has the support of approximately 220 Members of Congress and Senators, the most strongly-supported legislative remedy to the controversial HHS mandate. This measure would repeal the controversial mandate, amending the 2010 health care law to preserve conscience rights for religious institutions, health care providers, and small businesses who pay for health care coverage.

H.R. 1179 enjoys the endorsements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Right to Life Committee, Americans United for Life, and other organizations. Numerous other organizations, including the Christian Medical Association and Family Research Council, have urged support of the bill.

Sen. Roy Blunt, a pro-life Missouri Republican, is putting forward the Blunt Amendment, #1520, again, and it is termed the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. According to information provided to LifeNews from pro-life sources on Capitol Hill, the Blunt Amendment will be the first amendment voted on when the Senate

returns to the transportation bill. The amendment would allow employers to decline coverage of services in conflict with religious beliefs.

Republicans are moving swiftly with legislation, amendments, and potential hearings on the mandate the Obama administration has put in place that forces religious employers to pay for birth control and abortion-inducing drugs for their employees.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement saying Obama's revised mandate involves “needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions” and it urged Congress to overturn the rule and promised a potential lawsuit.

Meanwhile, the Republican presidential candidates had been taking verbal swings at Obama for imposing the original mandate on religious employers, which is not popular in the latest public opinion poll and which even some Democrats oppose.

Congressman Steve Scalise has led a bipartisan letter with 154 co-signers calling on the Obama Administration to reverse its mandate forcing religious organizations to include drugs that can cause abortion and birth control in the health care plans of their employees.

The original mandate was so egregious that even the normally reliably liberal and pro-abortion *USA Today* condemned it in an editorial titled, “Contraception mandate violates religious freedom.”

The administration initially approved a recommendation from the Institute of Medicine suggesting that it force insurance companies to pay for birth control and drugs that can cause abortions under the Obamacare government-run health care program.

The IOM recommendation, opposed by pro-life groups, called for the Obama administration to require insurance programs to include birth control—such as the morning after pill or the ella drug that causes an abortion days after conception—in the section of drugs and services insurance plans must cover under “preventative care.” The companies will likely pass the added costs on to consumers, requiring them to pay for birth control

and, in some instances, drug-induced abortions of unborn children in their earliest days.

The HHS accepted the IOM guidelines that “require new health insurance plans to cover women’s preventive services” and those services include “FDA-approved contraception methods and contraceptive counseling”—which include birth control drugs like Plan B and ella that can cause abortions. The Health and Human Services Department commissioned the report from the Institute, which advises the federal government and shut out pro-life groups in meetings leading up to the recommendations.

—LifeNews.com, March 1, 2012

From the President's Desk

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not. Pregnancy is that special time when a new citizen is protected and nurtured during their most vulnerable stage of life. He or she will be one of the next generation. Pregnancy is not a disease—it is hope for the future.

One other thought about the birth control debate—pushing birth control is not the healthiest practice for women. Most women do not know that almost all birth control pills are abortifacients. With abortifacient use, the women could become pregnant, but the baby (zygote) is unable to implant on the uterine wall because the lining has been compromised by the change in hormones due to the pills—so the baby is expelled.

To my fellow sisters, I ask you, do you think the following is a sign of a schizophrenic society? We are told to eat well, exercise, don't smoke or drink excessively and use organic foods and products to protect our bodies. Yet these same progressive people pushing an organic natural life style see no problem with women ingesting abnormal artificial hormones into their bodies, even, pushing them onto 12-year-old girls. Do they really care about us women? I doubt it. It is madness!

Voice your opinion. Write, email, text or call your Congressman, Senator and President. Your voice counts.

Diane

Diane Fagelman, President

The New Scar on My Soul

This is a tragic story. The decision to use assisted reproduction has consequences.

My soul carries a new scar. The pain is fresh and keen, and I know that while time might see the pain fade, I will never fully recover from what I've seen, and done. For I have failed, intentionally and knowingly, in the first duty of a parent: protecting the lives of two of my children.

My wife and I wanted children; alas, we needed IVF treatment to realize this dream. Several cycles and multiple embryo implantations later, we welcomed our blessing from God, who is the light of our lives.

Recently, we tried for another.

"It never rains, but it pours," said the fertility doctor—of the three embryos that were implanted, all three took. We were faced with the news of triplets. I was shocked, knowing the burden that would entail, but since God gave us three, I was prepared to do whatever I needed to do to help, manage, and provide.

My wife? Something snapped. She insisted that we do a "selective reduction" from three to one, or else she would have a full abortion. She was adamant. She would not carry three. She would not carry two.

I was presented with a Coventry-esque decision: save one, or save none. I chose the former, though I tried on several occasions to convince her to at least keep twins. I failed.

We were told, point-blank, by the doctor who would do the procedure that they would inject potassium chloride into the placenta to stop the hearts. We were told, point-blank, that it was painless. Even then, I knew I was being lied to, but given the choice presented, I agreed anyway. My mantra became "Save one, or save none."

Before the procedure, my wife's eyes teared up; she asked the doctor over and over if they would feel pain, and was assured they would not. I asked again if my wife was sure about this because once done, it could not be undone. She said she was sure, but her tears and her looking away from the screen, deliberately, and her wanting me to not look either, told me the truth: she knew as well that this was wrong. I wanted to insist that she look, but I think that her mind—already fractured by the news of triplets—would have snapped permanently had she seen the images onscreen. And to save the one, and for the sake of the one we already had, I needed my wife sane.

My wife didn't look, but I had to. I had to know what would happen to my children. I had to know how they would die.

Each retreated, pushing away, as the needle entered the amniotic sac. They did not inject into the placenta, but directly into each child's torso. Each one crumpled as the needle pierced the body. I saw the heart stop in the first, and mine almost did, too. The other's heart fought, but ten minutes later they looked again, and it too had ceased.

The doctors had the gall to call the potassium chloride, the chemical that stopped children's hearts, "medicine." I wanted to ask what they were trying cure—life? But bitter words would not undo what had happened. I swallowed anything I might have said.

I know they felt pain. I know they felt panic. And I know this was murder. I take cold comfort in knowing that as far as we can tell, the survivor is still fine, and in knowing that this decision did not come from me; I would have taken the chance on triplets, even with all the work and effort it would have required. I pray that this one child will come to term, will be born into this world alive and healthy, and I know he or she will have all our love.

But that emotional scar will ache my whole life. I see my child's smile every night and anticipate a new one in some months...but I think of the two smiles I will never see. Every day, returning from work, I hear "Hi Daddy!" and know there are two voices and two giggles that I will never hear. I play with and cuddle my child, looking forward to the same with the second...but I know there are two sets of hands that will never touch mine, two sets of toes that will never be counted, two hugs that will forever be absent from my arms.

I pray to God every day to take those two innocents to Him, to welcome them, and I ask them every day for forgiveness. As I will every day for the rest of my life. I don't know what accommodation my wife will make mentally and spiritually. That is her business, and a burden her conscience must bear.

But let nobody fool you. It is not painless for the child, and anyone who says otherwise is a liar. Abortion is not an excision of a featureless bunch of cells; it is infanticide. We have revived the practice of child sacrifice to the new deities of casual sex and convenience.

We rationalize the reality of murder by altering our perspective of the nascent life through euphemisms like "fetus" or descriptions of "a clump of cells"...just like the Nazis convinced themselves that the people screaming as they were shot or gassed were "Untermenchen," subhuman, and therefore guiltlessly exterminated.

This is how every perpetrator of genocide has always rationalized his or her actions. By doing likewise, we condemn our own souls

I wept in joy, a few years ago, when I saw my first child's heartbeat on the screen. And I weep in agony now at the memory of two of my children's heartbeats being stilled. "Save one, or save none" has been eclipsed by "Out, out, damned spot!" as I wonder how I can redeem myself.

If, by baring this scar for others to see, I can prevent an abortion, perhaps that will help to balance the scales for when I face God's justice and I finally meet those two children—who I hope will forgive me for my failure.

*—The author's name has been withheld by request.
American Thinker, March 4, 2012*

* Youth News *

Right to Life – LIFESPAN's “MOVEMENT IN MOTION” YOUTH BUS TRIP 39TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

This year's March for Life was even better than the past few years I have been going. The Youth Rally and Mass at the Verizon Center were very uplifting and motivating. They made me want to go out and tell the world that I am pro-life and proud of it! Fr. Steve Pullis' homily at the Mass the night before the March really opened my eyes and gave me many things to ponder. This year's March is the most memorable because it was very encouraging to see so many people willing to March for Life even if it's cold out. I hope and pray that next year's March will be a March of triumph, where all pro-lifers again return to Washington, D.C. and march with joy and exuberance because abortion is no longer allowed!!

—Annie, homeschooled high school student

The D.C. trip for me and Felicia was a great experience for both of us. I can guarantee that none of us expected the things we did during this trip. From the way down to D.C. to the way back, it was a trip we will never forget and hope we can do it again...only next time, we hope it will be the march for letting life live!!

—Nico, homeschooled high school student

Go babies, go babies! This has been the best trip yet! The experience is always great with Lifespan! I plan on going next year! Viva la vida! Long live babies!

—Bobby, homeschooled high school student, leader of the Crusaders for Life of Michigan group who traveled with us

The trip was the best ever, I think! My first time at the Verizon Center was quite the experience! I really liked the female singer and also the Chastity, Charity, Consistency & Courage message. The homily was very inspiring and I loved it! I am “fearfully and wonderfully made” ...can I get an Amen? Amen! Breathtaking March!

—Nora, homeschooled high school student

I have been attending the March for Life for 8 or 9 years...five of those have been with Lifespan. I have enjoyed being able to experience the bus trip both as a student and now as a chaperone. Each March for Life is different and I have wonderful memories from each one. One of the memories that I will treasure from 2012 is being able to walk the March with the pro-life group, Crusaders for Life

of Michigan. Their cheers were uplifting and clever! I greatly enjoyed listening to them!

—Bus 3 Chaperone

The March meant quite a bit to me. We marched against something I strongly disagree with. I was amazed to see how many people showed up to the March!

—Johnny, Our Lady of the Lakes (OLL) high school student

I loved that in my senior year I was given the opportunity to participate in such an amazing experience! I cannot say thanks enough! I love babies!

—Amy, OLL high school student

My experience on this trip was very touching. The Mass was beautiful. While on the March, I learned a lot about abortion and all the new facts made me more pro-life! It made me really sad to hear peoples' opinions on pro-choice. I loved this trip and had an awesome time. I am going back next year!

—Kelsey, Marian High School student

As a veteran and chaperone on the March for Life trip, I am often reminded to set a good example for our youth, but I feel that it's the youth this year who have set the example! I was truly inspired by several young pro-lifers' enthusiasm and zeal for the cause of Life! They showed that no matter how long or hard you have fought for the cause it's important to keep the joy of Life itself in mind. It is their courage and enthusiasm that will continue to inspire me all year! With such dedicated workers, I can't imagine that any anti-Life law will stand for long!

—Chris, Bus 4 Chaperone

This is my second trip to the Youth Rally and March for Life. The Papal delegate was a true blessing and testament to the role of the papacy in the lives of our youth. I am blessed to be a part of a school which has so many students and staff willing to speak their faith and demand that Life be held sacred! Thank you for this gift!

—Jim, Bus 1 Captain



Bus 2, Our Lady of the Lakes group

What an experience! This was my first trip. Hope this cause ends but until it does, I am glad to be part of the solution!

—Lindsay, young adult, St. Anastasia

I am so glad I came on this trip! The experience really taught me about how big a problem abortion is...I now know that abortion affects many people and is a very evil thing. But I also now have hope that things will change! The vast number of people there proved as much!

—Alyse, Mercy High School student

I am unable to put into words my extreme gratitude for having been able to have had this life-changing eye-opening experience! This was my first of what I hope will be many more pro-life marches. I will keep supporting this cause until it is finally set right! Thank you!

—Mariel, Mercy High School student

To all who helped on the trip, I really enjoyed my first Right to Life March! Thanks to you, it was life-changing and very educational! I will definitely go back next year!

—Charlie, attends Ss. Cyril and Methodius

My first year doing the March for Life! A great experience...great memories! I'm glad I came!

—Joe, U of D

This is my 3rd year going on the March for Life trip and it gets better every year! Being able to march with thousands of other people with the same beliefs as mine is so amazing!

—Christopher, U of D



Anna Robb, Sarah Szakal and Emily Bennett

First time out and I really enjoyed it! Everything went smoothly even in the rain! Pro-life for life!

—Danijel, U of D

The whole trip was a really great experience! It was my first year and I'm really glad I went! The Mass was really cool. It was all for a good cause! Thanks for all the accommodations!

—GL, Marian High School student

Highlights: multiple hugs from my daughter at the Verizon Center, Mass at the Baptist Church and Mass at the Verizon



Center, Fr. Steve's homily at the Baptist Church and Monsignor's homily at the Verizon Center, seeing Fr. Joe Rogers in the confessional room at the Verizon Center, the March for Life, the march for memorial touring, the "Kids Rally" in the social hall at the Baptist Church, the angel's voice who cantored at Sunday night's Mass, hanging out with the Jesuit Scholastics, and a bus driver I will truly never forget! A pilgrimage is a journey, an encounter with God, a moving closer to God. I truly feel that I have encountered God in a unique way on this trip, most especially in our youth who are so full of hope and joy!

—Ray, Bus 6 Captain

I loved the trip as usual...the most rewarding, exhausting, frustrating, wonderful time again! I am so proud of the kids who don't get a lot of support at school for this, but are willing to take a day or two off even though it will take extra work to catch up. What a joy and honor to see the kids take a stand for Christ and Life! As a Bus Captain, I have to say this was an amazing organization that you pulled off. It's a plug and play program which I could just take and run with, with very little adjustments. Thanks for all the work to make it go smoothly!

—Dan, Bus 6 Captain

Many happy and young faces surrounded me as I marched for Life in D.C! There was so much upbeat singing and chanting going on, led by Bobby Smith of the Crusaders for Life (Michigan), within our group of young people as we walked up Constitution Avenue past the Capitol and headed toward the U.S. Supreme Court. It was mighty powerful and other groups joined in with us! I could feel an incredible amount of hope and joy from everyone I passed. The Holy Spirit was so alive! You could feel His presence all around you in the faith of those you marched with shoulder to shoulder. In my estimate, there were even more people at the 2012 March (in spite of the cold and rainy weather) than last year which would put us well over 400,000! My commitment, strength and energy were once again renewed by all the young people I was with this year. I am so proud of them for their courage and unwavering dedication to Life!

—Lynn, Bus Trip Coordinator for Lifespan and Chaperone on Bus 3

The Parable of the Kosher Deli

continued from back page

question generated by a government mandate is whether the government will impose its belief that eating pork is good on objecting Orthodox Jews. Meanwhile, there is no imposition at all on the freedom of those who want to eat pork.

That is, they are subject to no government interference at all in their choice to eat pork, and pork is ubiquitous and cheap, available at the overwhelming majority of restaurants and grocers. Indeed, some pork producers and retailers, and even the government itself, are so eager to promote the eating of pork, that they sometimes give pork away for free.

In this context, the question is this: can a customer come to a kosher deli, demand to be served a ham sandwich, and if refused, bring down severe government sanction on the deli. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

So in our hypothetical story, because the hypothetical nation is indeed committed to religious liberty and diversity, these arguments carry the day. In response, those proposing the new law claim to hear and understand the concerns of kosher deli owners, and offer them a new “accommodation.”

You are free to call yourself a kosher deli; you are free not to place ham sandwiches on your menu; you are free not to be the person to prepare the sandwich and hand it over the counter to the customer. But we will force your meat supplier to set up a kiosk on your premises, and to offer, prepare, and serve ham sandwiches to all of your

customers, free of charge to them. And when you get your monthly bill from your meat supplier, it will include the cost of any of the “free” ham sandwiches that your customers may accept. And you will, of course, be required to pay that bill.

Some who supported the deli owners initially began to celebrate the fact that ham sandwiches didn’t need to be on the menu, and didn’t need to be prepared or served by the deli itself. But on closer examination, they noticed three troubling things. First, all kosher delis will still be forced to pay for the ham sandwiches.

Second, many of the kosher delis’ meat suppliers, themselves, are forbidden in conscience from offering, preparing, or serving pork to anyone. Third, there are many kosher delis that are their own meat supplier, so the mandate to offer, prepare, and serve the ham sandwich still falls on them.

This story has a happy ending. The government recognized that it is absurd for someone to come into a kosher deli and demand a ham sandwich; that it is beyond absurd for that private demand to be backed with the coercive power of the state; that it is downright surreal to apply this coercive power when the customer can get the same sandwich cheaply, or even free, just a few doors down.

The question before the United States government—right now—is whether the story of our own Church institutions that serve the public, and that are threatened by the HHS mandate, will end happily too. Will our nation continue to be one committed to religious liberty and diversity? We urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the answer must be yes. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to answer the same way. ♦

Wee Care

Prayers needed! A young lady called on a Thursday and said that she had an appointment scheduled on Monday to have an abortion. She was living in a homeless shelter, frightened and alone. We spoke about her precious baby—how developed it was and how its tiny heart was beating within her. We spoke about how much we cared about her too. We spoke about the possible lifetime physical and emotional problems that many women experience. We spoke about the loving option of adoption. We spoke about all of the resources that were available and what Wee Care could do to keep her little one fed, clothed, diapered and warm. And we spoke of the overwhelming love she would feel when she held her cherished baby in her arms for the very first time. After many prayers and many tearful conversations, the young mom decided not to abort her baby, but to carry her child, love her child and give her child life.

It’s been a couple of weeks since that heartbreaking phone call. An ultrasound today will tell us when this baby will arrive in the Spring. Our mom has moved into a new home and things are looking up. We were the first people she called with her new address. With each conversation, she tells us that we are her only family and that she loves us.

Pretty awesome, huh? A baby’s life has been saved and a young lady’s life is no longer filled with fear and isolation, but with hope, friendship and love (not to mention the immeasurable joy her baby will bring)! And you all know who is responsible for all of this—YOU! Wee Care would not have been there to answer that desperate call if it weren’t for you! So often, I have said that you will never know the difference that you make in so many lives. This is one very special time that we do know how your generosity, your love and your prayers have touched two precious lives. Please, please keep our mom and her baby in your prayers. The months ahead will be difficult, but with your love, they will be filled with hope and joy. God bless you!
—Karen Patrosso, Director, 248-478-8884
PS: I will keep you updated on “our” baby’s progress!

New Main Office/Wee Care address

We have moved! Our new address is: **32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305**; north side of Schoolcraft Rd., west of Merriman.

New email addresses

Please note these new email addresses for Lifespan offices.

Wayne County/Downriver Chapter: wcdcr@rtl-lifespan.org

Wee Care: weecare@rtl-lifespan.org

Lifespan Editor: editor@rtl-lifespan.org

Youth Programs: youth@rtl-lifespan.org

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

I feel a sense of déjà vu—over 40 years ago, Dr. Bernard Nathansen, an avid abortionist, met with his co-workers at NARAL (National Association to Repeal Abortion Laws) to discuss how to change the laws in the U.S. and legalize abortion (the killing of a pre-born child).

One of the big discussion points was how to use the anti-Catholic sentiment within the country to promote the cause. Tell the public the Pope was trying to police their bedroom and that would energize the base—the debate would center, not on the issue of killing human life, but on the Catholic Church dictating its beliefs to society.

Well, it worked. The issue became the Catholic Church telling citizens what to do—changing abortion laws was minor—the Catholic Church was not going to change the life styles of the rich and famous.

Now, here we are again. HHS (Health and Human Service) is telling people that the outcry of Catholics against the inclusion of birth control in health care coverage is because of Catholic beliefs, and that women deserve to have this service as part of their health care regardless of the church's view. They are still using anti-Catholic sentiment to divert people from the truth; the truth being that the government is mandating that a church must do something which goes against its core beliefs.

This is against our Constitution which gives us—freedom of religion. Your religious beliefs are secondary to this present administration. The U.S. Constitution does not matter.

All this controversy is over the health care policies of "ObamaCare." I, as an RN, ask you what part of birth control pill usage pertains to one's health? Birth control is used to prevent a pregnancy, therefore, those who use the pill as part of health care are saying that pregnancy is a "disease."

There are some conditions wherein hormone therapy is used to treat some gynecological conditions, but it is not called birth control. For those who see pregnancy as a disease. I am here to tell you, it most certainly is

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Donations have been made— In honor of:

Cecilia Slonina

Given by: Andrew Slonina

In loving memory of:

Margaret Spas

Given by: Marie Feeley

Ed Burger

Given by: Katie and Russ Hesch
Laurie Masiarak and Pat Holscher
WC/DR Lifespan Board and Friends

Frank Hutira

Given by: Lynn Spalla
Kim Peterson
David and Maryann Hinman
Dolly Malysz

Members of the Lutz and Roland Families

Given by: Doina Lutz

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.

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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 \$ 25.00 _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 15.00

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Email address _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305.** For more information, call 248-478-8878. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

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The Parable of the Kosher Deli

On Wednesday February 16, 2012, the Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport and Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Religious Liberty, gave testimony before Congress. He appeared before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the United States House of Representatives.

Bishop Lori spoke on behalf of all of the Catholic Bishops of the United States. They are unanimous in their effort to have the HHS Edict which seeks to compel Catholic institutions and organizations to distribute contraceptives and abortion inducing drugs as well as offer sterilization rescinded. Now is not the time for Catholics to be critical of the US Catholic Bishops. Now is the time for all of us to stand with them.

The Bishop's testimony was brilliant. We want all of our readers to learn from it as we all undertake the struggle to defend the Church against this unjust Edict and a New Catholic Action. We call upon all of our readers around the globe to pray for his Excellency—and for all of our Bishops. We pledge to stand in unwavering solidarity with them. Here is Bishop Lori's complete testimony:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify today. For my testimony today, I would like to tell a story. Let's call it "The Parable of the Kosher Deli."

Once upon a time, a new law is proposed, so that any business that serves food must serve pork. There is a narrow exception for kosher catering halls attached to synagogues, since they serve mostly members of that synagogue, but kosher delicatessens are still subject to the mandate.

The Orthodox Jewish community—whose members run kosher delis and many other restaurants and grocers besides—expresses its outrage at the new government mandate. And they are joined by others who have no problem eating pork—not just the many Jews who eat pork,

but people of all faiths—because these others recognize the threat to the principle of religious liberty.

They recognize as well the practical impact of the damage to that principle. They know that, if the mandate stands, they might be the next ones forced—under threat of severe government sanction—to violate their most deeply held beliefs, especially their unpopular beliefs.

Meanwhile, those who support the mandate respond "But pork is good for you. It is, after all, the other white meat." Other supporters add "So many Jews eat pork, and those who don't should just get with the times." Still others say "Those Orthodox are just trying to impose their beliefs on everyone else."

But in our hypothetical, those arguments fail in the public debate, because people widely recognize the following.

First, although people may reasonably debate whether pork is good for you, that's not the question posed by the nationwide pork mandate. Instead, the mandate generates the question whether people who believe—even if they believe in error—that pork is not good for you, should be forced by government to serve pork within their very own institutions. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Second, the fact that some (or even most) Jews eat pork is simply irrelevant. The fact remains that some Jews do not—and they do not out of their most deeply held religious convictions. Does the fact that large majorities in society—even large majorities within the protesting religious community—reject a particular religious belief make it permissible for the government to weigh in on one side of that dispute? Does it allow government to punish that minority belief with its coercive power? In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Third, the charge that the Orthodox Jews are imposing their beliefs on others has it exactly backwards. Again,

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