

# Lifespan *news*

Volume 39 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 2010

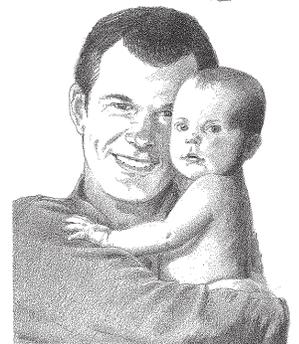


## *For the Privilege of Fatherhood*

Men undertake many projects—some very temporary, others long-lived. All projects will end sometime, from the smallest home repair to the largest business enterprise. But not a child. A child is forever. Helping create and develop a new human life is the most—to use an overworked word—truly *awesome* thing I will ever do. The roles of “husband” and “father” are the most important roles I will ever be called to fill. God, help me understand—with humility and gratitude—the significance and importance of these roles. Help me remember this when my children are making me proud or saying, “I love you, Dad,” and also when being their father is challenging and difficult. Above all, thank you for allowing me the privilege of being a father. Amen.

—Celebrate Fathers, Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood, Liguori

## *Happy Father's Day!*



# News Notes

## Largest Abortion Mill Opens

The largest abortion mill in America opened this week—one of many multi-million dollar mega centers expected to crop up throughout the nation in the next few years.

Planned Parenthood is making room for what they hope will be millions more clients as a result of the new federal healthcare law—particularly low-income and minority clients. The 78,000-square-foot mill that opened in Houston this Monday is in the middle of four Hispanic and Black neighborhoods. Another in development for St. Paul, MN is adjacent to university and minority housing. And quite tellingly, the brand new site in Portland, OR is located right along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The abortion industry's new strategy is to get a facelift. Smaller facilities are banding together, opening contemporary offices that, from all appearances, might as well be spas. It happened in Illinois two years ago when five affiliates merged together in favor of a single, larger site. Denver followed suit and opened a 50,000-square-foot office.

Reportedly, similar centers are in the works for an ever-increasing handful of other states as well.

These buildings—classy and attractive on the outside—are designed to detract from the horror of what goes on inside. It's another subliminal lie from Planned Parenthood: that abortion is safe, even pleasant.

They've demonstrated that they'll do whatever it takes to get more women through their doors. Abortion brings in nearly 40 percent of their revenue. And with about a third of its billion-dollar budget coming from the government, Planned Parenthood is America's rotten heiress.

But a pretty face doesn't make abortion any less evil or any less a modern-day holocaust. No amount of redecorating can hide the reality that abortion hurts, and it hurts whether women walk out of a designer facility or a plywood shack. Regardless of how many mega center abortion mills Planned Parenthood builds, millions of pro-lifers will always stand ready to share the love and compassion that young men and women are seeking. You can't compete with that.

—Bradley Mattes, Executive Director  
Life Issues Institute, May 14, 2010

## Adult Stem Cells for Parkinson's

Yale scientists have shown that adult stem cells from human endometrium can substitute for the brain cells lost in Parkinson's disease. Using a mouse model of Parkinson's, they showed that they could successfully transplant adult stem cells derived from one tissue, the endometrium (the lining of the uterus), into another kind of tissue (the brain) and that the adult stem cells could develop into cells with the properties of brain tissue, in particular the dopamine-secreting neurons.

The adult stem cells were obtained from nine women who did not have Parkinson's disease. In the laboratory they verified that the unspecialized endometrial stem cells could be transformed into dopamine-producing nerve cells like those in the brain. When injected into the brains of Parkinson's mice, the cells migrated to the site of damage and developed into dopamine-producing cells. Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, senior author, said:

"Endometrial tissue is probably the most readily available, safest, most easily attainable source of stem cells that is currently available. We hope the cells we derived are the first of many types that will be used to treat a variety of diseases. I think this is just the tip of the iceberg for what we will be able to do with these cells." The results are published in the *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*

There may indeed be a wide range of applications for endometrial adult stem cells. Another group recently reported on use of these cells for treatment of heart damage in a patient case study.

And when it comes to Parkinson's disease, adult stem cells from various sources are moving ahead. In 2008 an Australian group successfully treated Parkinson's in mice using adult stem cells from the nasal tissue of patients. And in February 2009, Levesque et al published a case study showing a Parkinson's patient's own neural adult stem cells ameliorated his symptoms for almost five years.

—David Prentice, *The Blog of Family Research Council*, [frcblog.com](http://frcblog.com), May 13, 2010



(C) John Francis Borra [www.veritatisthecartoon.blogspot.com](http://www.veritatisthecartoon.blogspot.com)

# Gallup Poll Finds More Americans Pro-Life Than Pro-Abortion, The “New Normal”

By Steven Ertelt

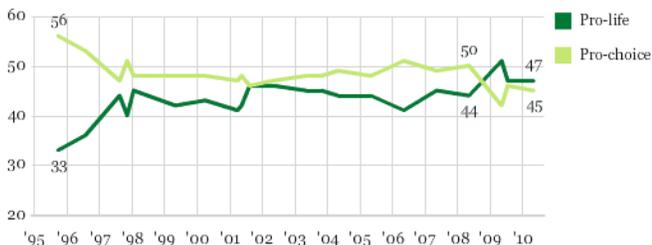
The Gallup released the results of a new survey confirming, for the third time in the last year, that more Americans call themselves pro-life than “pro-choice” on abortion. That’s enough for the respected polling firm to say a pro-life majority is the “new normal” in the United States.

According to a May 3-6 Gallup poll, 47 percent of Americans say they are pro-life on abortion versus 45 percent who say they are “pro-choice,” supporting legal abortions.

This is nearly identical to the 47% to 46% division Gallup found last July, which was down from the 51-42 percent split favoring the pro-life position last May. Because this is the third consecutive time Gallup has found more Americans taking the pro-life position, the polling firm calls the results “a real change in public opinion.”

## Americans’ Overall Position on Abortion

With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?



GALLUP

Looking at the Gallup polling data dating back to 1995, the pro-life movement has been successful in changing public opinion on abortion—as Gallup found a 56-33 percent pro-abortion split in 1995. That 23 percent pro-abortion majority has shifted 25 percent towards the pro-life position to the pro-life majority the movement against abortion enjoys today.

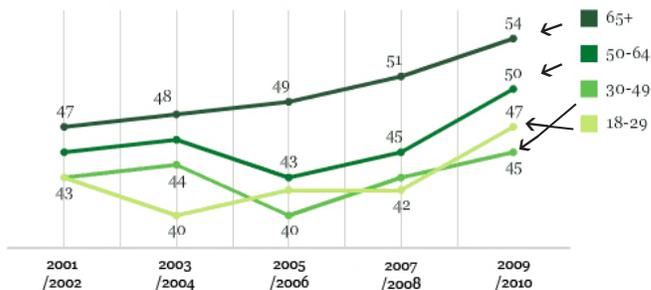
Massachusetts Citizens for Life president Anne Fox credits that shift to the pro-life movement’s focus on legislation such as a partial-birth abortion ban that highlights how abortion kills unborn children.

“The battles we have had to fight at the legislative level, Partial Birth Abortion Ban and Obamacare among them, and at the political level (which provides our only chance to get abortion into the media) are the cause of these positive moves in public opinion,” she said.

“You and I are working to educate people about the value of every human life and we are succeeding,” she added.

The new Gallup poll presents other good news for the pro-life movement.

## Percentage “Pro-Life” by Party ID—Biennial Averages



GALLUP

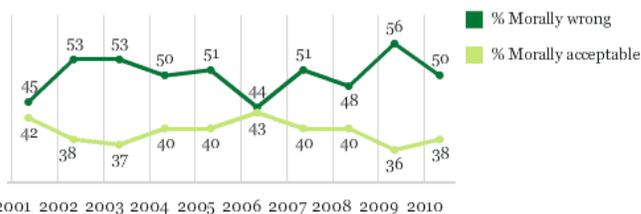
“All age groups have become more attached to the pro-life label since 2005, with particularly large increases among young adults and those aged 50 to 64 years,” the poll noted.

Meanwhile, men and women have also become more likely to identify as pro-life, with the increase among women coming mainly since 2008, whereas the increase in men started after 2006.

Conservative writer Ed Morrissey notes that the Gallup poll found 18 percent more Americans say abortion is morally wrong than say it is morally right.

## Morality of Abortion

Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about abortion?



GALLUP

He suggests the pro-life number is moving up because people are internalizing that through people they know who have experienced the pain of an abortion and are taking that message to heart.

“We are looking at a cultural shift on abortion, where its perceived morality (consistently rejected by majorities over the same period of time) has finally come into closer relationship with personal identification on the issue,” he said. “It’s not the political divide that’s driving these numbers—but it may be that the cultural shift has started to impact political identification as well. If so, pro-choice Democrats could find themselves in a minority party in the next several years.”

Gallup’s own conclusion is that politics are playing a role as Republicans and independents become more pro-life and Democrats more pro-abortion.

continued on page 14

# 2010 Pro-Life Student Art Contest Winners

Three teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's 6th annual Student Art Contest. The theme of this year's contest was "Celebration of Life."

A first-place prize of a \$500 savings bond has been won by **Rebekah Hughes**, 17, of Warren, a senior, at Warren Mott High School. Rebekah is the daughter of Bill and Linda Hughes.

The second-place prize of a \$200 savings bond has been won by **Sarah Bartnicki**, 17, of Highland, a senior at International Academy West. Sarah's parents are Joseph and Louise Bartnicki.

The third-place winner of a \$100 bond has been won by **Stefanie della Porta**, 17, of Royal Oak, a junior at Shrine of the Little Flower High School. Stefanie's parent is Christiane della Porta.

The savings bonds were awarded at the Mother's Day Dinner, in Troy, on May 4. Rebekah's first-place art work was reproduced on the cover of Lifespan's 2010 *Resource Book*. The three winning entries are reproduced on the following page.



*Rebekah Hughes*  
First-Place Art Contest Winner



*Sarah Bartnicki*  
Second-Place Art Contest Winner



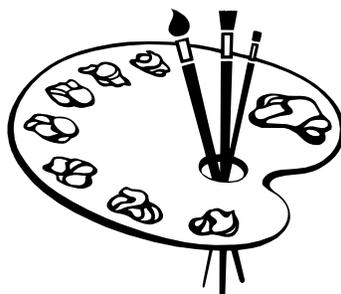
*Stefanie della Porta*  
Third-Place Art Contest Winner

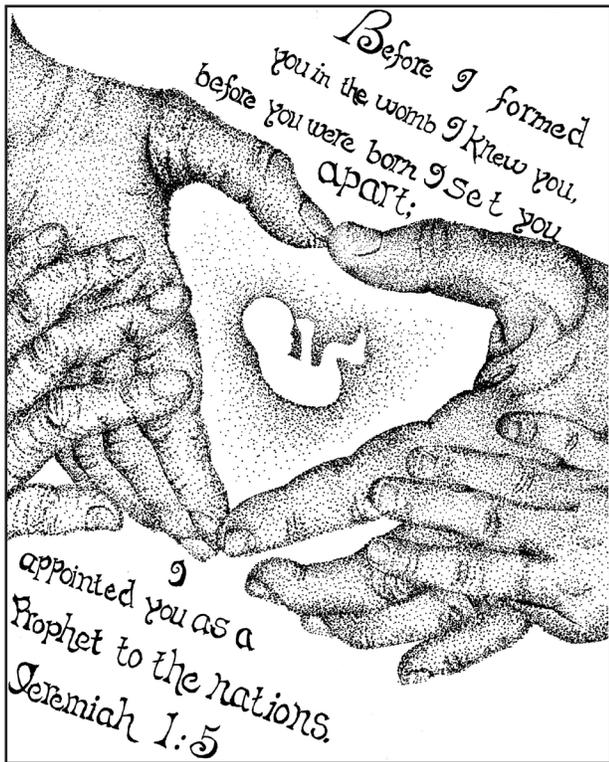
*We want to thank the judges who had the difficult job choosing the winners from the excellent entries we received:*

**Maura Short DeGrande** lives with her husband, David, in Shelby Township. Maura studied art history and literature at both Michigan State University and Wayne State University. She is employed as a family counselor with the Mt. Elliott Cemetery Association.

**Joanne (Pheney) Moening** is married to Mark with four children, ages 19-10. She has been involved in Right to Life activities since joining the Pro-Life club at Ladywood High School in 1981. Joanne is a parishioner of St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth where she is active in Christian Service and the Gospel of Life, and she is also currently pursuing a diploma in Pastoral Ministry at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

**Alicia Wludyka** has been married for almost 35 years and is a mother of three young adult children. She has been a Registered Nurse for 32 years and has worked both in the hospital and teaching nursing at the college level, concurrently for the last 32 years. She volunteers at Arbor Vitae, a pregnancy center on U of M campus and Cabrini Clinic, a free clinic for the uninsured and homeless, affiliated with Holy Trinity Church in Detroit.

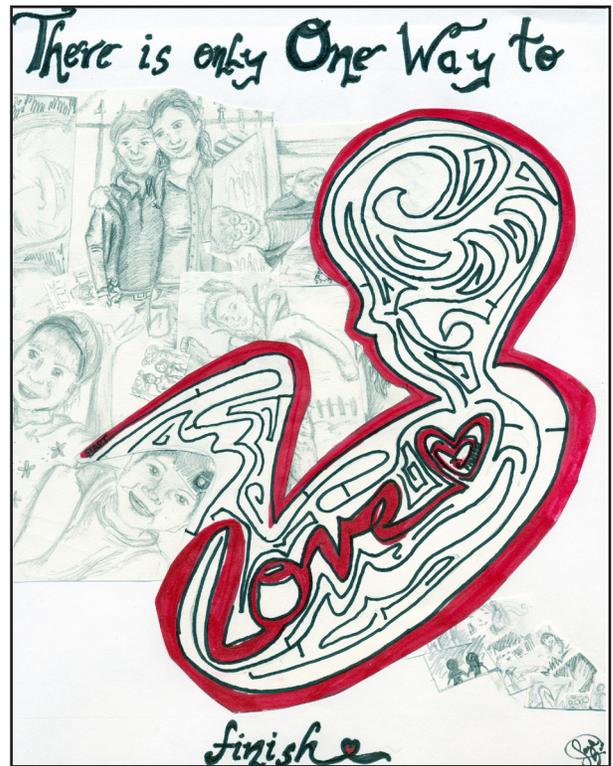




© Right to Life - LIFESPAN

**Generations of Love**  
by Rebekah Hughes  
First Place

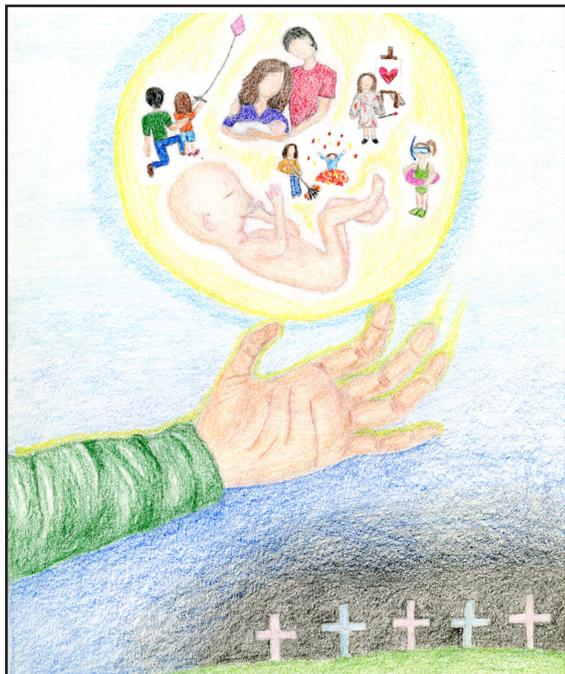
All ages need to protect life. The four hands surrounding the unborn baby represent different stages of life. All generations gather together to form a protective heart around the unborn child. The only way to stop abortion is together.



© Right to Life - LIFESPAN

**Life's Maze**  
by Sarah Bartnicki  
Second Place

The message of my artwork is that life should be carried out with love. I showed the baby maze with only one way to the finish through the path that spells love. This message is important to me because in the maze of life, many times people lose life's true significance.



© Right to Life - LIFESPAN

**Life Rises Above**  
by Stefanie della Porta  
Third Place

My art is about respecting the unborn, showing the greatness of life and tracing it back to where it began: a fetus that is a beautiful creation of God. Abortion musn't take this creation away. I believe life is a gift from God and living proactively means sharing this message.

# What's Up with the Youth!?

Hello Friends of LIFE!



Summer is approaching fast! Hopefully, you'll get to a pool or lake on a hot day to cool off and you'll be able to have a nice time with family and friends!

Maybe you'll even get an opportunity to take a road trip, do some camping, get to a summer fair, and get plenty of exercise to keep your body healthy and strong!

Perhaps this summer will bring extra special quality time with those you love and haven't seen in awhile like grandparents or siblings who have been away at college.

And, maybe you'll be able to do some volunteer work at a hospital or nursing home, at a pregnancy help center, or at the Oakland County 4-H Fair in Davisburg (July 13th-18th). The Oakland/Macomb Chapter of LIFESPAN is looking for volunteers to sit at its pro-life educational table. This is a fun and easy volunteer job! Call me at **248-816-1546** if you're interested in helping!



Be sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events/activities:

**"MOVEMENT IN MOTION" YOUTH BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE...** see flier, below.

**BOWLING FOR LIFE...Friday, July 30th**, see flier, page 7.

**LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST...Saturday, September 25th**; call 248-478-8878 or 734-422-6230 for more information.

**LIFE CHAIN...Sunday, October 3rd**; call 248-478-8878 or 248-816-1546 for more details.

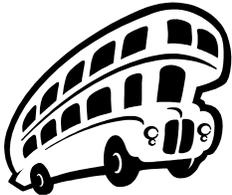
**CIDER WALK...Saturday, October 16th**; call 248-478-8878 or 248-816-1546 for more information—this will take place at the Paint Creek Trail in Rochester as well as another location on the west side (to be determined).

**PRO-LIFE DAY OF SILENT SOLIDARITY...Tuesday, October 19th**; go to [www.silentday.org](http://www.silentday.org) for more information on what this day is all about and how you can participate.

Celebrate Life!

*Lynn Gura, Youth Programs, Right to Life – LIFESPAN, Oakland/Macomb Chapter*

Attention: Jr. High, High School and College Students!



## "MOVEMENT IN MOTION" Youth Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. March for Life, January 2011

**REGISTRATION:** September 7th - November 30th (or sooner, depending on how quickly the buses fill up—the quicker you sign up, the better chance you'll have of getting on board!)

**COST:** For Red Eye Buses—\$110.00 per person; for Double Red Eye Buses—\$155.00 per person (which will include a dinner on Monday, a deluxe continental breakfast and buffet style lunch on Tuesday, and a scheduled group tour at the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in D.C.). A \$50.00 **non-refundable** deposit will be required to hold a seat on the bus of your choice.

**BASIC ITINERARY:** Five buses will leave Sunday evening, January 23rd from Troy and Livonia, arrive in D.C. Monday morning, January 24th, attend the Youth Rally / Mass at the Verizon Center (everyone is welcome) and participate in the **March for Life**. Overnight stay for Buses 3 and 4 at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria (Virginia) and tours on Tuesday, January 25th (including participation in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery, and touring the National Museum of Crime and Punishment and the National Museum of the American Indian), plus short stops at a few memorials in D.C. Arrive back home on Wednesday morning, January 26th.

**Note: Buses 1, 2 and 5 are the Red Eye buses; they will arrive back home on Tuesday morning, January 25th.**

**QUESTIONS? WANT TO REGISTER?** Call Lynn, Bus Trip Coordinator, RTL- LIFESPAN Oakland/Macomb Chapter office, at 248-816-1546 or e-mail her at [oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org](mailto:oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org). Be sure to put "Movement in Motion" in the subject line of your e-mail message.

**Help us spread the word about the trip to your family members, friends, pro-life group and youth group!**

*Right to Life - LIFESPAN Oakland/Macomb Chapter* 

# 28th ANNUAL "BOWLING FOR LIFE"

Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Friday, July 30, 2010

with starting times between 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

WOODLAND LANES

33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia



## BOWL 3 GAMES FREE!

### GRAND PRIZES FOR MOST MONEY COLLECTED

- 1st Prize ..... \$200 Savings Bond
- 2nd Prize ..... \$100 Savings Bond
- 3rd Prize ..... \$75 Savings Bond
- 4th Prize ..... \$50 Savings Bond

### ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR HIGH SCORES WITH HANDICAPS

- High Game for Men 14 years and older..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Game for Women 14 years and older..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Game for Children 7 - 13 years old ..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Series for Men 14 years and older ..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Series for Women 14 years and older ..... \$100 Savings Bond
- High Series for Children 7 -13 years ..... \$100 Savings Bond

### CHILDREN'S BUMPER BOWL...ELIGIBLE FOR GRAND PRIZES

## ★★★ FREE PIZZA FOR LIFESPAN BOWLERS ★★★

Bowlers with \$50 in pledges receive gold-plated pro-life jewelry

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES, AT LEAST \$50 MUST BE IN THE LIFESPAN OFFICE, 14600 Farmington Rd., Ste. 108, LIVONIA, MI 48154, BY MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010**

For sponsor pledge sheets or information, call Lifespan 734 422-6230

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Watch for more details in July/August Lifespan News

### Legislative Breakfast

September 25



### CIDER WALK

October 16



### LIFE CHAIN

October 3

## detroit

P. O. Box 24774  
 Detroit, MI 48224-1906  
 Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)  
 Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed  
 Mary Cascos, Office Manager

### Mother's Day Dinner a great success

What a fantastic time we had at our annual Mother's Day Dinner. The food, decorations, speakers and fellowship were simply divine. We never see all the work that is done behind the scenes, but we know someone had to do it.

God bless Oakland/Macomb Chapter, Diane Trombley for preparing the auction items and of course Marge Bradley for the terrific Resource Book. Make sure you bring your mom and friends next year.



### Bouquets of Thanks

Our annual Mother's Day Rose Sale was a great success. We wish to extend our sincere thanks and

profound gratitude to all our Detroit Church Representatives and their helpers. You gave up your precious time on Mother's Day on behalf of future Mothers who will hear our message of life and decide to give birth to their child. For all those who bought a flower, your continued support will help us keep the office open so that we can continue to educate a city that desperately needs to hear the truth about abortion. Thanks and God bless.



### Father's Day Reflection

Let us pray for our own fathers and thank them for playing ball with us or singing songs to us because they supported their wives and helped give us life. Let us pray for all fathers who will never get a chance to play ball

with their sons or sing songs to their daughters because of abortion.

### Garage Sales

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after spring cleaning? Why not get rid of your junk and turn it into someone else's treasure and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to LIFESPAN. Also remember to think of the little ones while you are out there garage-saling. Pick up a few gently-used baby items and donate them to your local pregnancy help center. God will bless you for your efforts.

## wee care

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN  
 Educational Fund  
 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545  
 Livonia, MI 48152-2193  
 Phone 248-478-8884 • Fax 248-478-8854  
 Office Hours: By appointment  
 Karen Patrosso, Director



Dear Friends,

It has been a very busy time at Wee Care! We are receiving more requests for help than ever before. Last year,

we gave out over 200 more layettes than any other year, and it looks like we will do the same this year.

What would I do without all of you? What would my babies do? Thank you so much for making this all possible! The baby showers this spring were wonderful, and individual donations were so appreciated.

One of the baby showers this year was held at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Westland, where later that week I was able to visit and pick up many cute gifts and met some lovely women who had made beautiful quilts for my babies!

I was also able to attend a very special event this month—a Baby Shower Tea, that was hosted by Geri Guzik at her home. It was an elegant afternoon filled with tea sandwiches, delicate pastries, treasured friends and adorable baby gifts!

And after at least 15 baby showers, I was finally able to attend St. Alan's Annual Baby Shower, in Troy, hosted by Sr. Mary Choiniere! "Overwhelming" is the best word I can think of to describe the event! Games were played, a delicious luncheon was served, new and old friendships were enjoyed and tables and tables were covered with baby gifts! Sr. Mary is awesome!

To all of you—I give my deepest thanks! God love you and bless you for all you do for my little ones!

*Love, Karen*

*All material and monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to **Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.***

## 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, Tanya Wrenn Ofc. Staff

### Counting crosses

We rarely have open weekends for the white cross display, but there are a few open dates before the end of June. If you would like to have this display at your church, or school, or some similar location, call the office, 248-816-1546 for scheduling.

### Mother's Day Dinner

As the host chapter for the annual Mother's Day Dinner, we would like to thank all of you who helped make it the enjoyable evening it was. If we start naming names of individual helpers, someone is sure to be left out so to all of you who helped set up, take down, seat people, took pictures, assisted with the auction, helped with registration, distributed our Resource Book etc, etc, a big THANK YOU from Oakland/Macomb!

### Entertainment Books

Entertainment Publications is offering their pre-sale promotion again this year. Reserve and pay for a 2011 book now and receive a 2010 book, good until November at no cost. We have a good supply of the 2010 books in the office, but they are moving pretty quickly, so be sure to call the office to arrange your reservation and pick up soon.

### Movement In Motion, 2011

Believe it or not, planning is already underway for the 2011 bus trip to Washington, D.C. Some of you may think that it is a little early to be thinking of a January event, but plans must be made early to assure a good experience. If you want to go on the trip or help with the plans or chaperone a group, call the office and get the details from Lynn.

### Christmas cards

Speaking of early---if you would like to offer our Christmas cards to your faith community or organization, now is the time to set a date for that event. We generally have our cards in mid September, and October is not too early to make them available to your groups.

### Vote!!

Votes have consequences!! Many public servants are discovering this to be true. You will have an opportunity to vote in the Primary Election in August. Make your consequence one that supports life!

## wayne west/downriver

14600 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154-5431  
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.

### The day that abortion was legalized

*By Joy Crocker*

A little boy, warm inside mommy  
Happy, contented, inside her tummy  
He was perfect all over, eyes, nose and limb  
But he is with God now, and God is with him  
He was aborted, he now lives in heaven  
Now his mommy cries and regrets,  
today he would have been seven.  
This makes Jesus mourn  
A child to die when not yet born  
It happened on January 22, 1973  
The Roe vs. Wade just wasn't to be  
Roe said, "I just don't want this baby"  
"C'mon," she said, "Give a choice to a lady!"  
The evil law was passed  
Christians all over—stood still, aghast  
Babies die  
Jesus cried  
You see, it isn't our choice to end life

It isn't our job to control the knife  
We can't kill babies to cover our sin  
Now it's too late, let the truth sink in  
Thousands of babies killed every day  
And one day when we die, we will pay.

—Joy Crocker is a 14-year-old member of Lifespan  
Wayne West/Downriver Chapter

### Bowling for Life...Bowl 3 games free!

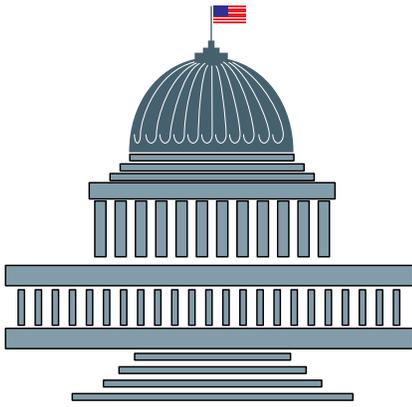


Don't get left out of the fun. Mark your calendars now for a "night out with family and friends." Lifespan's 28th Annual "Bowling for Life" FUNdraiser will be on Friday evening, July 30, at Woodland Lanes in Livonia. Starting times are between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

This is always a fun-filled evening with other pro-lifers. You don't have to be a good bowler to win exciting prizes. Sponsors can pledge by pin or a set amount of money per game. Example: \$1.50 per game pledged...bowler bowls 3 games...amount due \$4.50 OR...\$.01 per pin pledged...bowler scores 450...amount due \$4.50. By collecting pledges, you can bowl 3 GAMES FREE and WIN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS.

FREE PIZZA TO ALL LIFESPAN BOWLERS! See page 7 for more information.

### Entertainment Books Available!



## 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/](http://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: [www.senate.gov/](http://www.senate.gov/)  
Email: [senator@levin.senate.gov](mailto:senator@levin.senate.gov)  
[senator@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:senator@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  
Web contact: [www.house.gov/](http://www.house.gov/)  
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

### Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-3400  
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)  
Email: [migov@aol.com](mailto:migov@aol.com)  
Dear Governor Granholm:

### Michigan State Senator

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

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## One Citizen's Voice

March 27, 2010

Dear Mr. Levin,

Your email of March 26th is a masterful job of singing the praises of a health care reform measure that does not protect human life, does not protect the conscience of health care providers (doctors, nurses, hospitals, pharmacists), and that will ultimately force every American into a plan run by the government. You do not mention cuts to Medicare which will inevitably lead to less care (less care is also known by a less acceptable name—rationing), huge premiums, penalties to small businesses and individuals who choose not to accept government imposed health plans and other undesirable features too numerous to mention here. You cite benefits planned to start immediately to give us all a warm and fuzzy feeling about the reform package but neglect to mention that many of those immediate benefits have a very brief lifespan and will expire in 12-24 months. It is true that no single state escapes paying its Medicaid bills (Kornhusker's kickback—a "clear and transparent" vote-getting deal so embarrassing it had to be undone), every state simply pays more which means the taxpayer, because, as with the federal government, the states get their income from the taxpayers. I am of an age where it is possible that I will not live long enough to see this horror fully implemented, but my grandchildren will and so will yours. They will never enjoy the same standard of health care that I, and all citizens not serving in Congress, have enjoyed. Yes, there were areas of our health care delivery system that clearly needed fixing. However, one should never throw the baby out with the bath water.

While I cannot envision ever finding most of this "reform" package acceptable, what simply incenses me the most is the blatant dishonesty about "the Hyde Amendment assuring that tax dollars will not be used for abortion." From the top on down,

everyone who has invoked that deliberately deceptive phrase knows that the Hyde applies only to appropriation bills to HHS for Medicaid abortions, and cannot EVER be applied to the new health reform measure. Health care is a different money stream and cannot be impacted by Hyde. Further, Hyde must be approved each and every year and there is absolutely nothing that has transpired in the last several weeks that leads me to believe that the current Congress will vote to uphold it. Half truths are particularly disagreeable, but I guess if they are repeated often enough, as Mr. Lincoln said, "you can fool all of the people some of the time." What a shabby goal.

Your citation of "preventive care" might be persuasive if I did not know that Ms. Mikulski refused to exclude abortion from the definition of preventive care in her amendment. The Senate also refused to disallow payment for drugs such as RU486, which causes an abortion—how is that keeping tax dollars from funding abortion? I would still have disagreed with including any abortion funding in health care—abortion is NOT health care—if those voting on it had been honest and simply admitted that such funding was there. Curiously, it seems to me that pro-lifers must actually be a more powerful voting block than anyone is willing to admit, else it would not have been necessary to include untrue statements about Hyde or sign a totally meaningless executive order, pretending that Hyde was the pro-lifer's Holy Grail. We all know that executive orders, even those signed behind the closed door of the Oval Office, recorded for history not by network news outlets and news photographers but by the "official White House photographer" only, can be undone by the original signer or his/her successor in the blink of an eye. You and I both know that they do not have the force of law, and if challenged in court, would lose to established law (in this case, the new health care reform

*continued on page 12*

## A Long Night's Journey into Dehumanization and the Moral Incoherence of Abortion

By *Dave Andrusko*

"Doing second trimester abortion is clinical care at the boundary between life and death and in the context of political and social controversy, and, likewise, commitment."—Abortionist Lisa Harris

Over the last few days I have been transfixed by several accounts, each one more eye-opening than the one before, that attempted to do justice (so to speak) to abortionist Lisa Harris' "Second Trimester Abortion Provision: Breaking the Silence and Changing the Discourse." Harris' argument is not merely another tiresome iteration of the pro-abortion dictum that by "claim[ing] abortion"—including its violence—they will "strengthen our movement." As a woman who dismembered huge unborn babies at the very same time she was pregnant, Harris' account offers tragic insights into the human mind, heart, and soul.

The "ideas" for this essay, which appeared in "Reproductive Health Matters," were first presented the "Future of Abortion Conference" held in London in June 2008. Pro-lifers got wind of Harris' argument just recently when Harris posted (I am not kidding) on <http://abortioneers.blogspot.com>.

Since the entry has since been conveniently excised from the blog, I don't know how much of the original article from "Reproductive Health Matters" was included. Judging by quotes from other sources, it appears Harris, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, offered more than enough.

No dummy, Harris understands that sawing off hands and arms—especially later in pregnancy—is tough sledding for anyone whose conscience has not been amputated. So Harris' gambit is to first frankly deal with such issues as "personal and psychological considerations" as well as the undeniable violence of abortion (and its seeming incompatibility with what she sees as an essentially non-violent feminist movement). Then she offers "answers" that are not only morally incoherent and circular but also evade the very gut-wrenching red-flags Harris told the reader she would confront.

She accomplishes the latter by trying to create group solidarity by offering to transport them to a kind of Land of Oz for death peddlers, otherwise known as the "middle ground." Needless to say that middle ground is not to distinguish "acceptable" from "unacceptable" abortions, but to explain how "owning" the violence, and the discomfort, and the nightmares makes killing kids at any stage of development not only acceptable but "rewarding."

Let me offer two long quotes. Harris begins with a category she calls "Visual and visceral differences" between first and second trimester abortions.

"When I was a little over 18 weeks pregnant with my now pre-school child, I did a second trimester abortion for a patient who was also a little over 18 weeks pregnant. As I reviewed her chart I realized that I was more interested than usual in seeing the fetal parts when I was done, since they would so closely resemble those of my own fetus. I

went about doing the procedure as usual...I used electrical suction to remove the amniotic fluid, picked up my forceps and began to remove the fetus in parts, as I always did. I felt lucky that this one was already in the breech position—it would make grasping small parts (legs and arms) a little easier. With my first pass of the forceps, I grasped an extremity and began to pull it down. I could see a small foot hanging from the teeth of my forceps. With a quick tug, I separated the leg. Precisely at that moment, I felt a kick—a fluttery "thump, thump" in my own uterus. It was one of the first times I felt fetal movement. There was a leg and foot in my forceps, and a "thump, thump" in my abdomen. Instantly, tears

*continued on page 12*



(c) John Francis Borra [www.veritalisthecartoon.blogspot.com](http://www.veritalisthecartoon.blogspot.com)

## A Long Night's Journey into Dehumanization

*continued from page 11*

were streaming from my eyes—without me—meaning my conscious brain—even being aware of what was going on. I felt as if my response had come entirely from my body, bypassing my usual cognitive processing completely. A message seemed to travel from my hand and my uterus to my tear ducts. It was an overwhelming feeling—a brutally visceral response—heartfelt and unmediated by my training or my feminist pro-choice politics. It was one of the more raw moments in my life.”

Raw, indeed, and as eloquent a passage as you could imagine. I felt like I was there in the room with her. Then there is this, which fell under the category “Violence.”

The last patient I saw one day was 23 weeks pregnant. I performed an uncomplicated D&E procedure. Dutifully, I went through the task of reassembling the fetal parts in the metal tray. It is an odd ritual that abortion providers perform—required as a clinical safety measure to ensure that nothing is left behind in the uterus to cause a complication—but it also permits us in an odd way to pay respect to the fetus (feelings of awe are not uncommon when looking at miniature fingers and fingernails, heart, intestines, kidneys, adrenal glands), even as we simultaneously have complete disregard for it. Then I rushed upstairs to take overnight call on labour and delivery. The first patient that came in was prematurely delivering at 23-24 weeks. As her exact gestational age was in question, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team resuscitated the premature newborn and brought it to the NICU. Later, along with the distraught parents, I watched the neonate on the ventilator.

I thought to myself how bizarre it was that I could have legally dismembered this fetus-now-newborn if it were inside its mother's uterus—but that the same kind of violence against it now would be illegal, and unspeakable.

After two such powerful passages, how can Harris possibly reconcile the instinctive revulsion, the bizarre inconsistencies, and the violence? If we mean by that a ladder of logic that leads to a resolution of these tough issues, all I can say is there are a lot of rungs missing. As best I can understand Harris explains away everything with two arguments.

One, location. The unborn kid is inside the mother, the premature baby outside. (So much for complexity.) Two, owning the violence. By that Harris means a couple of things.

First, to decline a woman's request for abortion is also “an act of unspeakable violence,” so in her moral economy there is violence either way. This is moral equivalency with a vengeance.

Second, if you focus on the “difficult aspects of second trimester abortion” you “may further entrench abortion as morally tainted.” In other words, you can't because you can't. Honestly confronting the grotesque hideousness of abortion opens the door to the “stigmatisation and marginalization of those who do abortions.”

As I got to this point, I asked myself, is that all there is? I re-read the conclusion of Harris' essay.

No, there is the all-purpose excuse that covers not only all sins but all inconsistencies. It's what Harris calls the “gradualist” position. This simply means the older the baby is, the more “respect” she is owed. Harris insists this will “close the gap between pro-choice rhetoric and the reality of doing a second trimester abortion.”

Really? At this point the reader is still left with the uncomfortable truth that we are disarticulating babies whose “resemblance” (my word) to born babies is impossible to deny.

Harris gets out of the corner she has painted herself into by arguing in circles. There must be good reasons why a woman waits until late, late in her pregnancy to abort. And only the pregnant woman can understand the “texture and complexity” of her life. “Therefore, rather than see the gradualist demand for ‘good reasons’ as a threat to choice,” Harris cheerfully concludes, “we can see it as helping to focus the terms of the abortion debate on women themselves, in the contexts of their lives.”

It is as if she is saying that the more that most morally sentient people would revolt at the abortion, the greater the pass that must be extended.

Harris's final conclusions are that the abortion set needs more opportunities to bond and that, for all her talk of the “burdens” of second trimester abortions for abortionists, a “robust evaluation of these [broader] perspectives should focus on the unique rewards it brings as well.”

I would very much appreciate your comments and insights. I would especially ask you to help me understand how someone--anyone--could go from writing that “tears were streaming from my eyes” when her own unborn baby kicked at the same time she was snuffing out the life of another unborn baby to bragging about lobbying her own abortion clinic to move the outer edge of their “practice” from 14 weeks to “inching up to 22 weeks”?

—*Today's News & Views, National Right to Life Committee, Oct. 20, 2009*

*Dave Andrusko, Editor of National Right to Life News*

*Send comments to [daveandrusko@gmail.com](mailto:daveandrusko@gmail.com)*

## Letter to Senator Levin

*continued from page 10*

law). This charade was a colossal insult or the height of arrogance—you pick.

A question for you—will you be accepting the same health care benefits, or lack thereof, that you have voted on for the rest of us?

You see this as the beginning of something good. I see it as the beginning of the end of what is American and the “Europeanization” of our great nation. Europe is a great place to visit—but I live here! Can I do anything about it? I don't know—but I do know I am going to try. I will start with your staffer who will undoubtedly be the one who reads this far too long message—I hope he or she will always hold true to their strongly held convictions but do so honestly, without spinning any words or concepts to make it more palatable. Let that conviction stand, or fall, on its own merits. If it needs weasel words, half truths, outright untruths, or fancy vocabularies to attract others, it probably is not worth hanging onto.

*Respectfully, Diane E. Trombley, RN, BSN*

# Mother's Day Dinner 2010



## Attention, Lifespan Voters!

Watch for delivery of our July *Lifespan News* containing a candidate questionnaire for primary election candidates in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. This issue should arrive in your mailboxes mid July. Please make use of it for your absentee ballots and when you go to the polls to vote on August 3.



## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Why the disconnect? That is the question that I keep mulling over in my head but just don't have an answer to. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the people I know who claim to be pro-life yet voted for Mr. Obama.

So many things he has done since his election have enmeshed the culture of death further into the fabric of this country. Since he took office, we have so many more anti-life policies, from supporting embryonic stem cell research to health care reform that rations care to the elderly and which directly and indirectly causes the deaths of thousands of our fellow citizens.

Now, he has selected another potential Supreme Court Justice who will be voting for abortion rights, possibly for the next 40 years or more. How can we ever change these hideous laws that kill off our future children with these progressive thinkers who will continue to push their ideology regardless of who it hurts?

Kagan, as a Supreme Court Justice, would be another Ginsberg. Some would say, well, at least we are replacing a progressive with another progressive. That is true, but what of the next nominee.

Elections are important, they have consequences, and this is one of the consequences. We have a militant pro-abortion President. While in the Senate, he voted against the bill which would have put an end to partial-birth abortion. You can't make a clearer statement than that as to how far you would go to promote abortion. Yet so many good people ignored this fact. His views were well known before the election, and yet so many good people voted for him.

As a leader of this movement for the past 40 years, I challenge anyone who voted for him and reading this article to call me or email me and explain how you were able to justify this vote. I'm not trying to judge, I'm just trying to understand. Maybe if I understand, I will be a better leader. I will be able to find the key that will persuade you and people like you that elections do matter.

No matter how well-intentioned a person might be on other issues, if he or she does not first give life to our future citizens, there will be no need to worry about other issues. It's all about priorities. Life must come before anything else.

So, please, tell me why did 50% of Catholics vote for Mr. Obama? Why are people who work to promote respect for human life going into the voting booth and pulling the lever for a pro-abortion candidate? Maybe it's what some people have told me—it's all about voting the party line. Is that true?

Please help me out here! Please tell me if you voted for Mr. Obama—WHY?



*Diane Fagelman, President, Right to Life - LIFESPAN*

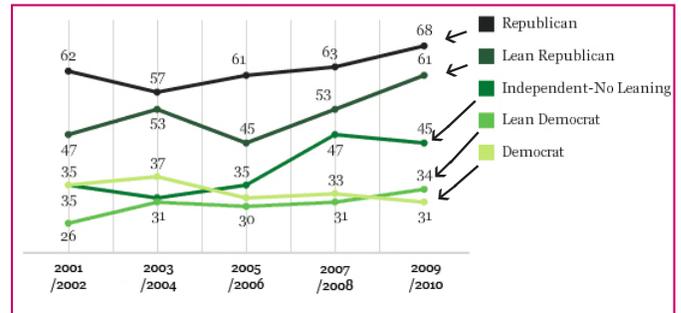
## Gallup Poll Finds More Americans Pro-Life

*continued from page 3*

Republicans have become more likely to call themselves pro-life since polling conducted in 2003/2004, as have Republican-leaning independents since 2005/2006. Independents who lean to neither party also became more likely to call themselves "pro-life" between 2003/2004 and 2005/2006, but have since held steady.

Democrats' self-identification with the pro-life position has moved in the other direction, declining from 37% in 2003/2004 to 31% in 2009/2010. Among independents who lean Democratic, there has been no movement in either direction.

Percentage "Pro-Life" by Party ID—Biennial Averages



GALLUP

"Barring evidence that Americans are growing more wary about the morality of abortion per se, the trends by party identification suggest that increased political polarization may be a factor in Republicans' preference for the "pro-life" label, particularly since Barack Obama took office," Gallup notes.

"Whatever the cause, the effect is that the pro-life label has become increasingly dominant among Republicans and to a lesser degree among independents, while the pro-choice label has become more dominant among Democrats," the polling firm concludes.

—LifeNews.com, May 17, 2010



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

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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.

### Calendar of Events

June 10-13 ..... Used Book Sale  
 June 19-20 ..... Father's Day Candy/Pens Tribute  
 June 20 ..... Happy Father's Day!  
 July 30 ..... Bowling for Life  
 August 23 ..... Deadline, Bowling for Life Pledges  
 September 25 ..... Legislative Breakfast  
 October 3 ..... Life Chain  
 October 16 ..... Cider Walk

### Remember Roe

In a surprisingly favorable article, *Newsweek* writer Sarah Kliff sets out some rather amazing information. Quoting extensively from organizations such as NARAL, NOW and Planned Parenthood, Kliff reveals that the leaders of those organizations are quite concerned about the strength and youth of the pro-life movement. Given the information about the recent Gallup poll, found on page 3 of this newsletter, this article, "Remember Roe! How can the next generation defend abortion rights when they don't think abortion rights need defending," is a must read for all pro-lifers. Click on Newsweek.com and then in the search box, type *Remember Roe!*

## Turn Your Vacations into Donations!

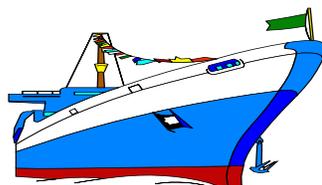
Right to Life - LIFESPAN now has its own travel website at: [www.ytbtravel.com/lifespan](http://www.ytbtravel.com/lifespan)  
*Our travel website is powered by the same websites you normally use to book travel—Travelocity.com, Hotels.com and Cheaptickets.com—giving you the same great features and low prices!*

### How Does This Work?

Every time you use a travel website, the travel companies pay commissions for your reservation. Now, when you book travel on our website, Right to Life - LIFESPAN will get a portion of the travel commission. You'll experience competitive travel prices and significantly help fund Lifespan. Please note that Right to Life - LIFESPAN is not involved with your travel arrangements. When you book travel through [www.ytbtravel.com/lifespan](http://www.ytbtravel.com/lifespan), you are dealing directly with the vendors just like you would on sites like Travelocity.com.



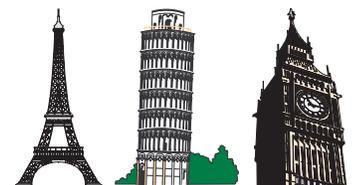
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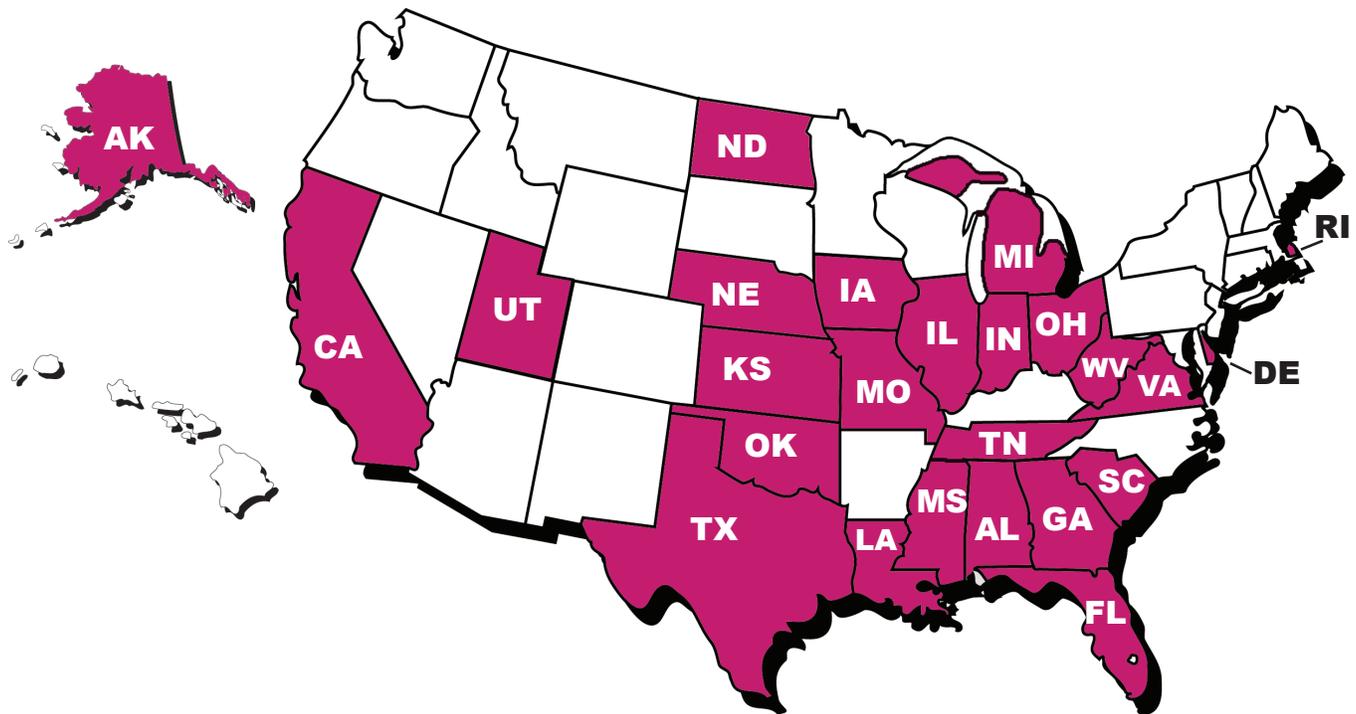
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## States Opt Out

The graphic above shows the number of states that desire to “opt out” of the recently passed Health Care Reform measure. The original graphic was designed by Americans United for Life.

Many of those who support abortion are still trying to persuade the public, and perhaps themselves, that no federal funds are made available in the reform measure for abortion services. We know this is simply not true, and the executive order signed by the President has no force of law to prevent tax dollars from being used for abortion services.

We should not assume that the primary reason so many states are attempting to opt out of the plan is opposition to abortion, but it is encouraging to note that even representatives from Planned Parenthood feel threatened. Laurie Rubiner of PP told *Fox News* that they are going to “...work very hard to make sure that these states do not pass these initiatives which would prevent women with their own funds from purchasing abortion coverage.”

AUL has much more information on their web site, [AUL.org](http://AUL.org), on this issue, as well as some interesting information on Supreme Court nominee Kagan.