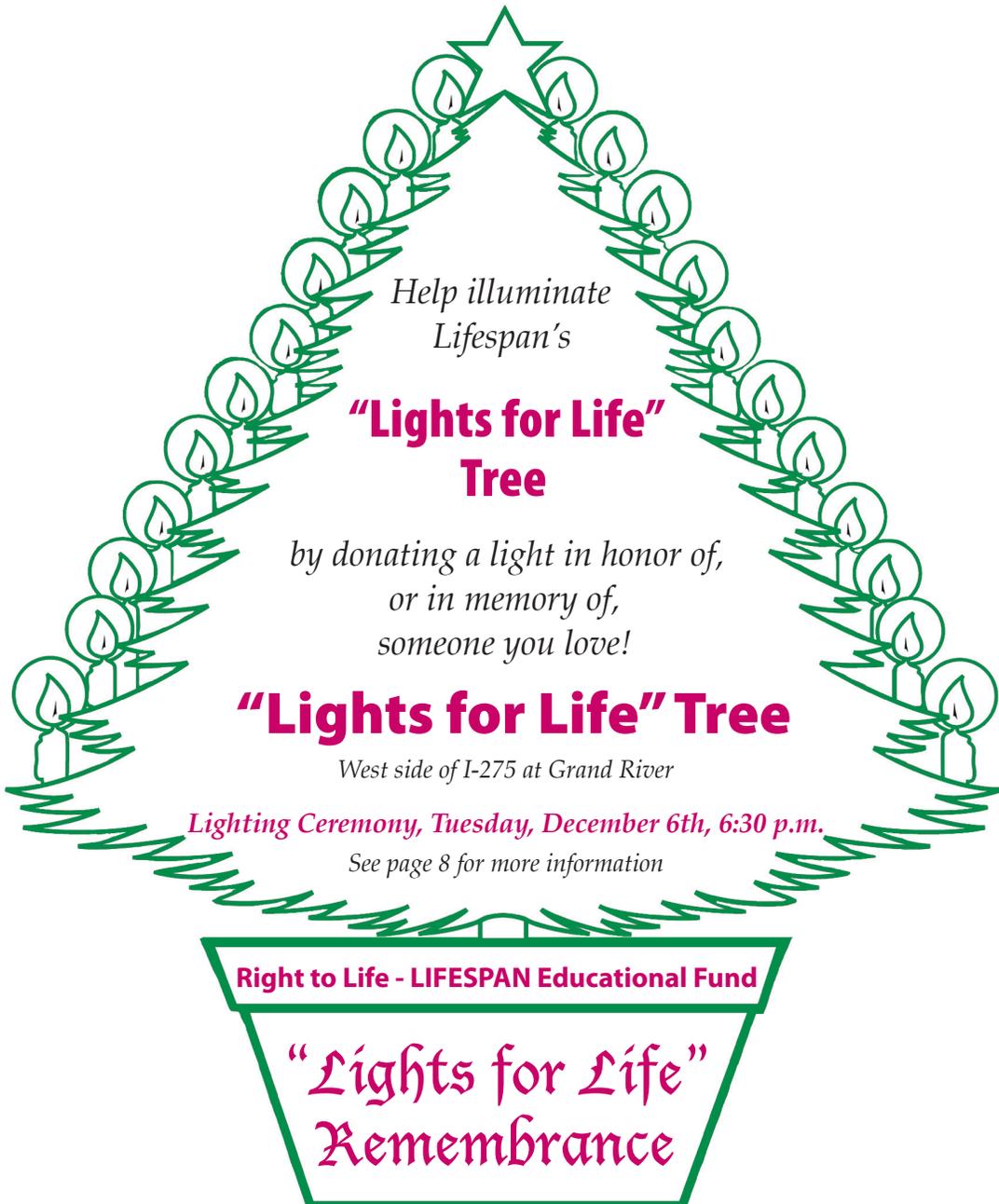


Lifespan *news*

Volume 40 Number 7

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

November 2011



Help illuminate
Lifespan's

**"Lights for Life"
Tree**

*by donating a light in honor of,
or in memory of,
someone you love!*

"Lights for Life" Tree

West side of I-275 at Grand River

Lighting Ceremony, Tuesday, December 6th, 6:30 p.m.

See page 8 for more information

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

**"Lights for Life"
Remembrance**

News Notes

Study in prestigious journal shows abortion harms women's mental health

By Susan E. Wills

The largest, most definitive analysis of the mental health risks associated with abortion was published September 1 in the prestigious *British Journal of Psychiatry*. Conducted by Priscilla Coleman of Bowling Green State University, the analysis examines 22 studies published between 1995 and 2009 involving 877,181 women, of whom 163,831 had abortions.

The findings:

- ◆ "Women who have had an abortion have an 81 percent higher risk of subsequent mental health problems compared to women who have not had an abortion.

- ◆ "Women who aborted have a 138 percent higher risk of mental health problems compared to women who have given birth.

- ◆ "Women who aborted have a 55 percent higher risk of mental health problems compared to women with an 'unplanned' pregnancy who gave birth.

- ◆ "Women with a history of abortion have higher rates of anxiety, depression, alcohol use/misuse, marijuana use, and suicidal behavior, compared to those who have not had an abortion.

Coleman notes that a 2010 study by Canadian researchers published after she completed her analysis of the 22 studies, arrived at "strikingly similar" conclusions regarding the increased risk of mental health problems associated with abortion.

A handful of "pro-choice" academics continue to churn out papers attempting to show that "the few" women who have mental health problems after abortion are those who had mental health problems before their abortion. They claim that having an abortion is better for one's mental health than giving birth to an "unplanned" (and therefore to their mind "unwanted") child.

Health care professionals have a duty to advise patients of the benefits and risks of a procedure "in a manner that reflects the current scientific literature," Coleman writes, so patients can make an informed choice.

As former abortion clinic staff attest, and as journalists in the U.S. and U.K. have discovered, counselors at abortion clinics conceal mental and physical health risks—as well as the fact that the procedure will violently end a child's life—in order to sell abortions.

Thanks to Coleman, the current scientific literature now proves that the increased risks to mental health from abortion outweigh any imagined "benefit" to women. Women considering abortion deserve to be told these facts—but they won't hear them once they're inside the clinic. It is up to us to get the word out.

Susan Wills is assistant director for education and outreach for the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-life Activities.

—National Right to Life News Today, September 28, 2011

Naming babies

Some of the names are haunting: Once, Chance, Lost. Others are haunting in a different way: Harmony, Melody, Wonderful. These are names parents gave children who lived only a few hours after birth and died in the hospital. Many of these dying children, says a nurse whose story appeared in *Portland* magazine, "don't get any names at all because they die so fast and the mother is exhausted and despairing and we don't press the matter. Those are the babies who are named A and B and such in the records. Baby Boy A, Baby Girl B."

The nurses name them. "I think every child born has a name just as every child born has a character and a personality that was never in the world before and never will be again," he says.

Me, personally, I think that when you are formed in your mother's womb you have a name that is part of every cell in your body. You are your name. Your name isn't a word or even a sound, it's the you of you...I go write it down so it doesn't get lost.

We keep the list private, just something among us working here, something important in ways that are hard to explain. Hey, you're a writer, you write it down and try to explain it. I can't. I just know it really matters somehow to listen for what her name is and then write it down. Somehow that's what I am supposed to do. There are a lot of things we are supposed to do that are really important in ways we will never understand but we do them anyway, right?

—First Things, October 2011



Baby Shower!

Lifespan is planning its 22nd annual Baby Shower to benefit crisis pregnancy centers on **Sunday, March 11, 2012**. Continuing this tradition of caring for mothers and their babies, born and yet to be born, Lifespan will host approximately 50 baby showers simultaneously at different church locations throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. Showers are usually held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., but may also be held after church services or simply as a gift drop-off shower. If you or your church would like to co-host a baby shower, call us at **248-478-8878**.

Lifespan News

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Christmas Cards 2011

Your purchase represents support for pro-life activities during the coming year. To place an order, arrange for pickup at a location near you and/or for more information, call your local Right to Life - LIFESPAN office: Oakland/Macomb **248-816-1546** or Wayne County/Downriver **734-422-6230**.



Nativity

This card is a beautiful, solid gold foil, embossed rendition of the Nativity scene with gold and bronze embellishments on a cream-colored background. Gold, foil-lined envelopes are included.

Actual size: 5-5/8" x 7-7/8"

\$16.50 per box of 20

Verse:

*May the love of the Infant Jesus
surround you and fill your heart
with the Spirit of Christmas, the comfort of hope,
the warmth of peace and a reverence for Life*

Merry Christmas

Gift of Life

This lovely selection, in sepia and cream tones with a gold-foil border, features the Blessed Mother gazing fondly at her newborn Child, Jesus. White envelopes are included.

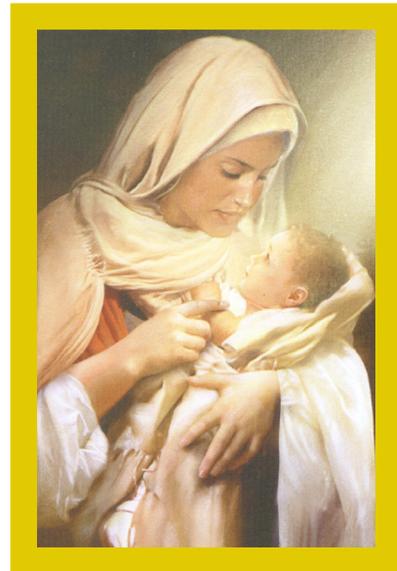
Actual size: 4-7/8" x 6-3/4"

\$7.50 per pkg. of 10

Verse:

*So gentle this time of wonder
So holy His moment of birth
So wondrous this Gift of Life
When Love was born on earth*

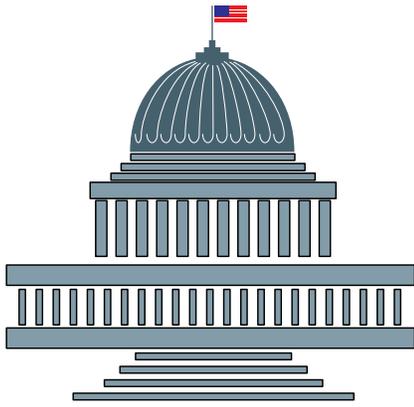
*May the Lord of Life
bless you this Christmas and
throughout the coming year*



Other Christmas cards from previous years are also available.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michigan Legislature Approves Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

The Michigan State House and Senate both approved bills on September 21 that would implement a state ban on partial-birth abortions and now the measures head to the governor.

Michigan could be the next state to ban partial-birth abortions following a Supreme Court decision in April 2007 upholding a federal ban on them. States are banning the abortions to allow local officials to assist federal authorities in enforcing the law and in case the federal law is ever repealed.

The legislature approved Senate Bills 160-161 and the bills would prohibit partial-birth abortions (SB 160) and provide sentencing penalties for anyone convicted of violating the law (SB 161). Both measures received a 3-1 vote to move on to the next stage of the legislative process.

Senate Bill 160 passed the Senate 29-8 and House Bill 4109 passed the House 75-33. They now go to Republican Rick Snyder who plans to sign them into law.

Michigan Catholic Conference president Paul Long released a statement following passage: "Banning partial-birth abortion in our state is the most common-sense policy a civilized society could enact. There is no place in our state for those who seek to terminate the life of an unborn child partially delivered from his or her mother. Today, Michigan should stand proud in following the lead of dozens of other states and the federal government by prohibiting this most heinous and gruesome practice."

"With a 15-year struggle now behind us, and with legal and political obstacles having been removed, we look forward to Governor Snyder signing the ban into law. It must not be overlooked that this legislation received broad support from both Democrats and Republicans. Their vote today in support of justice for the unborn deserves applause," Long said.

State Sens. Goeff Hansen, R-Hart, and Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive sponsored the bills.

"I've always been pro-life and as a father and grandfather, it's a personal thing for me," Hansen told the *Muskegon Chronicle*. "Children are very, very special and they need to be protected."

"Every life, born or unborn, is sacred and deserves to be protected," Hansen said. "There should be penalties for performing or helping perform partial-birth abortions. My bill will help ensure that people who conduct these gruesome procedures face consequences for their actions."

Meekhof added: "Partial-birth abortion is a barbaric act that we need to stop. I'm proud to sponsor this measure because I believe every life is precious. I look forward to seeing this bill become law."

Hansen said the state law is needed even though Congress banned the practice, because it "makes it easier to enforce the ban in Michigan."

Those representing Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union voiced their opposition to a ban on partial-birth abortion during the committee hearing.

In June 2008, pro-abortion former Gov. Jennifer Granholm vetoed a ban on partial-birth abortions for a second time. She claimed the bill needed a health exception even though the Supreme Court had already upheld a federal ban saying such an exception was unnecessary. In fact, physicians groups had indicated that late-term abortions pose problems for women's health and there is no reason to ever do the disputed abortion procedure to protect the health of women.

In October 2003, Governor Granholm vetoed Senate Bill 395, the "Legal Birth Definition Act," which sought to prohibit partial-birth abortion by granting full legal status to the child as soon as any part of his or her body emerges from the mother.

The first Michigan law to ban partial-birth abortion was enacted in 1996, signed by Governor John Engler, but eventually overturned by the federal courts.

—*LifeNews.com*, September 21, 2011

Contact Information

President

President Barack Obama
The White House
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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):

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The Honorable Rick Snyder
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Email: Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov
Dear Governor Snyder:

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The Honorable (full name)
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Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
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517-373-1837
Web contact: www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

Congress to Investigate Planned Parenthood Abortion Business

By Steven Ertelt

A Congressional committee has taken the first steps in investigating the Planned Parenthood abortion business over abuses ranging from financial disparities to its compliance with federal regulations on taxpayer funding to concerns that it is covering up cases of sex trafficking.

In a September 15 letter LifeNews.com obtained, Rep. Cliff Stearns, a Florida Republican who is the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Investigations, writes to Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood.

"Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining the institutional practices and policies of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and its affiliates, and its handling of federal funding,"

Stearns writes. "That Committee has questions about the politics in place and actions undertaken by PPFA and its affiliates relating to its use of federal funding and its compliance with federal restrictions on the funding of abortion."

The letter asks Richards to comply with current federal regulations and legal obligations by providing Congress with a wide range of documents within two weeks of the date of the letter.

"Please provide all internal audit reports conducted by PPFA and its affiliates from 1998 to 2010. If not clearly indicated in the audit reports, please detail how much PPFA and each affiliate expended and received in Title XIX Medicaid funding, Title X family planning, and any other federal funding," the letter says.

The letter requests any information related to improper billing related to federally-funded programs, proof that federal funds are not being improperly used to pay for abortions by PPFA or its affiliates, audits by state agencies of any Planned Parenthood affiliate, and documentation of how many af-

filates currently receive Title X family planning funding.

The Stearns letter also requests documents on standards and practices related to billing issues, written policies and procedures, and it requests information on how the abortion giant keeps its family planning abortion monies separate and segregated.

The abortion business responded on Twitter, saying, "Stearns is misusing his position to attack Planned Parenthood & women's health care."

"Planned Parenthood is a trusted nonprofit health care provider that provides professional, reliable and quality health care, including birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, annual exams, and STD testing and treatment to three million women and men across the country," said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"This politically motivated investigation is a continuation of the efforts of earlier this year to undermine Planned Parenthood, and more disturbingly, women's access to the primary and preventive care they need."

Richards said the abortion business has "a strong record of fiscal responsibility and has, always complied with all laws and regulations applicable to the receipt and use of federal funds."

Planned Parenthood has come under heavy criticism in recent years for covering up cases of statutory rape by failing to report abortions done on unborn children of teen girls who have been victimized to authorities and by aiding and assisting alleged sex traffickers in obtaining abortions and other "services" for the women and girls they victimize. As such, as the Stearns letter asks for information related to those concerns.

"Please provide a summary of how PPFA detects criminal conduct and the policies and procedures in place to prevent it or report it," the letter reads. "Please provide the policies and procedures PPFA and its affiliates have in place to ensure that all Planned Parenthood clinics report all cases of suspected sexual abuse, including statutory rape, to proper authorities."

"Please provide the policies and procedures PPFA and its affiliates have in place to ensure that suspected sex trafficking is reported to the proper authorities," it adds.

The letter also includes four pages of legal instructions on how the abortion business should comply with the requests Stearns makes in the letter.

Stearns said earlier this year that he was planning an investigation of the abortion giant: "I believe my Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee should review the findings of this report and possibly hold a hearing on why taxpayers are funding Planned Parenthood with its record of abuse and violations of state laws," Stearns told *Politico*.

"The American people deserve a concrete reason for funding Planned Parenthood; a reason I do not believe exists."

The letter follows a request from AUL, members of Congress, and other pro-life groups urging an investigation. Americans United for Life issued a report featuring a groundbreaking analysis of the nation's largest abortion business and saying it has uncovered evidence of systemic financial irregularities within the abortion giant, which receives more than \$363 million in federal and state taxpayer funding, and that Congress should investigate.

AUL staff combed through 20 years of Planned Parenthood financial data and the report documents the known and alleged abuses by Planned Parenthood, including the misuse of federal health care and family planning funds, failure to report criminal child sexual abuse, failure to comply with parental involvement laws, assisting those engaged in prostitution and/or sex trafficking, and dangerous misuse of the abortion drug RU-486.

AUL officials held a press conference with Rep. Renee Ellmers, a North Carolina Republican, and Rep. Randy Hultgren, an Illinois Republican, who have invited other members of Congress to join them in calling for a congressional probe of the abortion giant. Congressman Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Republican, Rep. Chris

continued on page 10



oakland/macomb

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Irene Tharp, Director
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Email efficiency

We continue to ask you to email us your email addresses. We are trying every way we can think of to cut expenses here in the office and increasing email abilities is one of them. We try to send only the most important information via email. Often the information we want to get into your hands is time-sensitive and the most efficient way to get it to you is via email. We promise not to flood your inboxes with daily messages. Please email us at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org and put your email in the body of the message (not on the subject line). We will copy it as you print it to assure accuracy.

Awesome 4-D ultrasound

An incredible video from *National Geographic* showing 4-D ultrasound pictures of the developing baby is available on loan from Educational Center for Life, 248-816-8489.

Kroger customers!

Lifespan is enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. A percentage of the purchases of all those who register their Kroger Plus cards online will be rewarded back to Lifespan! This is a great way to help fund our pro-life efforts; we encourage everyone to *register online for this program!*

Go online to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com and be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy to register your card. (If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.) Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on "Create an Account." Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your email address and creating a password. Enter your zip code for the Kroger store nearest you. Enter your Kroger Plus Card number. Confirm your info and agree to terms and conditions. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click

Christmas cards

The cards are here and can be purchased from our office. Many area churches offer the cards to their faith communities. If you would be interested in helping with this project at your church, please call the office, 248-816-1546. There is no cost to your faith community. You set the date, pick up the cards from our office and when you are finished, return any unsold cards and funds from those you sold to our office. Most communities pick one or two weekends to offer the cards. If you have questions, give us a call.

Movement in Motion

Don't let the buses leave without you!! Registration is now underway for the Movement in Motion bus trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life in January. Once all the seats are taken, that will be it. Call the office and speak to Lynn for reservation details, 248-816-1546.

Embryonic stem cells

In 2004, the residents of California voted to fund EAS to the tune of \$3 billion dollars (\$6 billion with interest). The money was to fund EAS and human cloning with the promise of cures of all manner of diseases and conditions. In 2011, there are no cures from EAS. The state of California is considering going back to the voters for more money and to fund more **adult** stem cell research. It is not nice to say, "We told you so!" but sometimes that is the only thing that fits.

A thought for today

Don't base permanent decisions on temporary emotions.

on the link within the body of the email to activate your account. Log onto your account and use your email address and password to sign in. Click on "Edit Community Rewards Program" and input Lifespan's NPO number 83138, click "Search," select "Right to Life - Lifespan Ed Fund," and save selection.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for Lifespan until after you register your card online as described above. ALSO, KROGER REQUIRES THAT YOU REGISTER EVERY APRIL. If you need more information, see "frequently asked questions" on the Kroger website or call Lifespan at 248-478-8878.

Shop Amazon.com and Help LIFESPAN!

Lifespan has joined Amazon Associates, an affiliate program with amazon.com. When you visit **Lifespan's website, you will find a link to amazon.com on our Events page.** If you use this link to amazon.com and make a purchase, Lifespan will receive a percentage of your sale. What a great way to shop AND protect human life—all at the same time! See the events section on www.rtl-lifespan.org and click on the **Amazon link** on the **Events page** (3rd item) to shop today and help Lifespan in our mission to protect all human life!

wayne county/downriver

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

Free lending library

The book, *Holy Innocents*, by Bill Kassel, is a quick-read fiction which is highly praised by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life. He wrote, "As a pro-life leader, I deeply appreciate this book. We do not deal simply with 'issues,' but with people—people who are hurt and confused, and need our compassion. And we do our work with a longing for the unity of all the disciples of Christ. This book is a powerful reminder of these truths. It is well worth reading."

Most Rev. Kenneth J. Povish, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, had this to say, "*Holy Innocents*, a novel of today, is the story of a town shocked by the discovery of a dead baby in the trash...As the mystery is unraveled, readers are treated to a realistic picture of parish life, ecumenism and faith in a small American Catholic diocese." If you like mysteries, call now to reserve it.

Christmas cards

We have two outstanding Christmas cards for 2011, "Nativity" and "Gift of Life." See page 3 for descriptions.

wee care

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



it—the holidays will be here!

The holidays for Wee Care are such a hectic, crucial time. We make sure that before Christmas, every newborn is provided for, as well as any little ones who will be born in January. It also is a time when we ask (beg!) churches, organizations, clubs, schools and families to help provide for our precious babies.

A church may do a Giving Tree (tags on tree with a baby item requested).

Dear Friends,
Christmas trees and decorations are in the stores—it must be October!

And, as much as it does make me cringe—it is a reminder that before we know

We need more members who will show our cards at work, group meetings, in churches or from their homes to neighbors, family and friends. If cards are being sold from your church, please volunteer to help.

Entertainment Books

HELP! HELP! HELP! We desperately need your HELP!! Our sales have dropped in recent years from 1120 books to 830 in 2010 and in 2011, we have only sold around 400. We must sell 430 more books to meet our quota to receive a good profit. Please consider buying a book and selling another to help us. Books are only \$25 which is a savings of \$10 from retail stores. With each book, you will receive a FREE \$25 dining certificate which also gives you access to shopping and entertainment offers. Entertainment Books make great house-warming, hostess, birthday, anniversary and Christmas presents. It's the gift that keeps giving.

Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, we are reminded of our many blessings. A few come quickly to my mind: Thirty-nine babies were saved on the first day of 40 Days for Life. *LIFESPAN News* is filled with good happenings, especially here in the Michigan Legislature. St. Maurice Parish hosted a bake sale and raised over \$500, and there's another planned at St. Mary Church in Wayne. We thank these churches and our Lifespan bakers who've been busy, busy, busy. Of course, we are always thankful for our Board of Directors, Pastors, Benefactors, Members, Church Reps and Volunteers. May God bless each of you!

An organization may collect baby clothes.

A club may make a monetary donation.

A kindergarten class may collect small stuffed animals.

A preschool may collect pacifiers, bottles and soft blankets.

A scout group may collect diapers or lotions.

A family may purchase baby gifts or an individual may crochet a beautiful afghan for one of our moms who is expecting near Christmas.

The list is endless for ways that you can help our cherished infants.

What better way to celebrate the birth of that tiny baby so many, many years ago than to provide for His little ones!

In the meantime, thank you for all you do for my babies year round and have a beautiful Fall!

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.

* YOUTH NEWS *

Hello, all young people in junior high, high school and college, parents, young adults, youth group leaders and coordinators at schools and churches, teachers, principals, pastors, priests, deacons and all others who work with young people!

Happy Fall! Some of you will cringe, but this is my favorite time of the year with the vibrant, beautiful colors of the mums and leaves on the trees, being cozy in sweaters, and enjoying the delicious tastes of hot chocolate, apple cider, homemade apple crisp and pumpkin custard as well as stew, chili and chicken and dumplings!

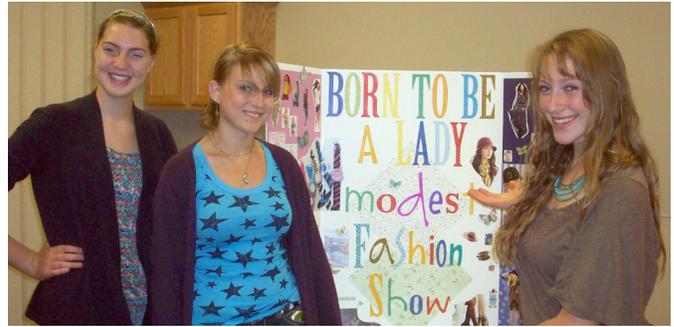
“Movement in Motion” - January 2012 Youth Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.

Registration is well underway. I am surprised at the great response we have had for the 2012 trip from groups who come with us each year to a few joining us for the first time! It is amazing! By the time you receive this newsletter, there may not be any seats left on any of the buses for young people and their chaperones, but if you're interested in the trip, please call me at 248-816-1546 or e-mail me at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org (put in the subject line: “Movement in Motion”) to find out if you can still hop aboard!

“Born to be a Lady” Modest Fashion Show

Young ladies, ages 13+, you are invited to this very special afternoon on **March 24, 2012** that includes lunch and dessert, the Fashion Show and speaker as well as Modesty Shopping Guidelines and other helpful information about modesty, abstinence, dating, etc.

Vendors will be selling jewelry and cosmetics. Model Applications have been collected and will be reviewed in



the month of November. All those who have applied will be notified of their status in December.

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions about the Show and/or you would like a registration form to attend the Show. When e-mailing, please put “Fashion Show” in the subject line.

Student Essay Contest

Also judged in the month of November are the Student Essay Contest entries; the theme is: “Who is Your Pro-Life Hero?” Those who entered the contest will be notified of their status in December.

Next month, we will begin promoting the Student Art Contest. All those students from 9-12 grades who enjoy drawing and painting, stay tuned in for more details!

I hope everyone has a very nice Thanksgiving holiday with loved ones! I am heading to North Carolina for a week with my husband to see some of his siblings and their families. My young nieces will keep “Aunt Lynn” really busy!

*Your friend for Life,
Lynn Gura, Youth Programs Coordinator
Right to Life – LIFESPAN Educational Fund*

Place a Light on the “Lights for Life” Tree

Celebrate with us this Christmas Season, remembering those you love. In keeping with the Christmas spirit of giving, caring and sharing, Lifespan invites you to help illuminate our “Lights for Life” Tree by donating a light in honor of, or in memory of, someone you love. Your tax-deductible contribution may be made throughout the Christmas Season. The Tree will be illuminated December 6 through first week of January. Join us for the Lighting Ceremony, December 6, 6:30 p.m. The Tree will be located on the grounds of Weingartz, 39050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, Michigan. Contributions will be used to benefit Wee Care, a Lifespan outreach program for moms and their babies. Honorees’ names will appear in Lifespan News. For more information, call 248-478-8878.



In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Your name(s) _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Lights to “shine” _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated. If you need additional space, please attach another sheet of paper.

Please make your check payable to Lifespan Educational Fund

Note “Lights for Life” on your check memo and mail to Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Ste. 545, Livonia, MI 48152

Who Should Decide

continued from back page

duced between January 3–February 1, of 2017, and passed by August 15 of the same year, meaning after that date, its powers remain in perpetuity.

Defenders of IPAB blithely assure that the board does not have the power to ration care or cut benefits. True for now, but for how long? Even before the IPAB is up and running—beginning 2014—President Obama has stated he wants to increase its scope of policy options. Moreover, the influential *New England Journal of Medicine* has even proposed legally expanding IPAB's jurisdiction beyond Medicare to include "all payers," which would mean the private health insurance sector as well as public programs.

IPAB is anti-democratic in that it removes lawmaking power from popularly elected officials to unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats. It already has the power to detrimentally impact the delivery of health care to Medicare recipients—say, by reducing compensation to doctors and hospitals, which could make it far more difficult for seniors to obtain care. Moreover, once cowardly politicians see that people will accept rule by bureaucrats, look for them to grant the IPAB even more muscular methods of cutting costs, such as the ability to ration care, perhaps even to alter benefits.

Worse, if Medicare costs can be controlled by bureaucratic fiat, why not delegate decision making about other volatile issues that cause politicians electoral headaches to all-powerful appointed boards of "experts"? In this sense, unless it is repealed or its powers reduced to the truly advisory, the IPAB could become the cornerstone of a new and democratically unaccountable bureaucratic state.

—To *The Source*, August 25, 2011

Editor's Note: The following two articles are companion pieces and reflect what may happen if the IPAB (see "Who Should Decide," beginning on back page) functions as outlined. Is this what we can expect?

Futile Care Theory: It Depends on Meaning of "Medically Inappropriate"

By Wesley Smith

Definitions matter. That point hit me hard as I read an article that wants doctors to be given the right to stop treatment from a man diagnosed to be in a persistent unconscious condition, from "When Family and Doctors Disagree on When to End Life."

Hold on: Bad title! Doctors shouldn't "end life." They can ethically *withdraw treatment* in some circumstances, which can result in death. But that isn't the same thing.

Where were we? Oh, yes: From the column by Hilary Young in *The Star*:

In 2010, Hassan Rasouli had surgery to remove a brain tumor. Unfortunately, there were complications and his doctors say Rasouli is now in a permanent vegetative state. According to them, he will never regain consciousness or be able to survive

without the help of a machine that breathes for him. They think it's medically inappropriate to keep him on a ventilator and want it turned off. His physician wife, however, disagrees with the diagnosis and still hopes for a miracle. Unable to agree whether to "pull the plug," the wife and doctors went to court.

How can successfully maintaining life be "medically" inappropriate? The treatment isn't to be withdrawn because it doesn't work. It isn't to be withdrawn because it is having a materially adverse effect on the patient. Rather, doctors want to remove it precisely because it is working: It is keeping Mr. Rasouli alive. To put it another way, doctors want to stop the treatment because it is efficacious. In other words, we are being told that efficacious treatment is medically inappropriate, which is nonsense.

Let's translate. Doctors believe that Mr. Rasouli's treatment should come to an end because of their judgment about the quality of his life. They believe his treatment isn't worth the money or their time, that is, they want to *impose their values* on their patient and his family.

If they succeed, *it will be the patient that has been declared inappropriate*. Redefining the term "medically inappropriate" from *treatment that doesn't work*—say laetrile for cancer or antibiotics for a viral infection—to include treatment that *does work but doctors don't want to provide* is meant to mask the hard truth of what is being advocated behind euphemism. But that's how the culture of death advances—through word games.

—*First Things*, Wesley Smith's Blog: *Secondhand Smoke, Your 24/7 Seminar on Bioethics and the Importance of Being Human*
September 26, 2011

Futile Care Theory Metastacizes: Terminal Cancer Patients' Lives Not Worth Extending

By Wesley J. Smith

"Get out of the lifeboat you expensive terminal cancer patients! Sure, your lives could be extended months, maybe even years,—but it isn't worth the money! You're going to die sooner or later, so it might as well be sooner. We need the money for more important and productive patients."

That, in a harshly stated nutshell, is the recommendation of a committee of doctors in *Lancet Oncology* who recommend money by rationing therapies that don't save the lives of cancer patients, but can extend their lives.

From the *Daily Mail* story:

Patients with terminal cancer should not be given life-extending drugs, doctors said yesterday. The treatments give false hope and are too costly for the public purse, they warned. The group of 37 cancer experts, including British specialist Karol Sikora, claimed a 'culture of excess' had led doctors to 'overtreat, overdiagnose and overpromise'... 'We clearly would want to spare the patient the toxicity and false hope associated with such treatment, as well as the expense,' the experts told the European multidisciplinary cancer congress in Stockholm. The doctors point out that many patients do not want to spend their final days undergoing exhausting chemotherapy in hospital and would rather be at home surrounded by loved ones.

Oh, quit pretending that it's for the patient. It's about money.

continued on page 10

Congress Approves Bill Banning Patenting of Human Embryos

Congress has given final approval to legislation that contains a pro-life provision ensuring the federal government can't issue patents covering unique human beings, including human embryos.

With scientists pushing the envelope in the world of embryonic stem cell research and human cloning further and further, there is a concern that scientists could apply for patents on human beings for research. But, language added to HR 1249, the America Invents Act, which received a final vote September 15, will codify an important pro-life policy rider included in the federal appropriations bills since 2004. This amendment, commonly known as the Weldon amendment, ensures the U.S. Patent and Trade Office can't issue patents allowing companies or individuals to patent a human being.

Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL), a pro-life doctor, was behind the original language that pro-life groups supported, saying a patent is a government-conferred property right and human beings shouldn't be considered "property." The provision would ban patents for genetically engineered human embryos or human beings but would not prohibit patents on tissues, cells or other biological products that are not actual humans. —*LifeNews.com, September 15, 2011*

Congress to Investigate Planned Parenthood

continued from page 5

Smith, a New Jersey Republican, and Rep. Bill Huizenga, a Michigan Republican, joined the event as well.

In a letter to her colleagues, Ellmers wrote, "I invite my colleagues to review the findings of this report and to join us on Thursday as we voice our concerns about the issues raised and express our renewed commitment to seeking accountability for taxpayers and for investigating whether taxpayers are funding an organization that misuses government funding and violates state laws."

Stearns later told Americans United for Life more about his feelings on the matter of Planned Parenthood, saying, "Taxpayers deserve accountability, and the report prepared by Americans United for Life demonstrates egregious abuses of taxpayer funds by Planned Parenthood. The legal team at Americans United for Life reviewed two decades of reports, audits, and financial statements regarding Planned Parenthood."

"The report outlines Planned Parenthood's record of violating state sexual assault and child abuse reporting laws, and of encouraging young girls to lie about their ages to circumvent state reporting laws. They also found as government funding of Planned Parenthood rises, so does the number of abortions. They found repeated instances of overbilling government health care programs," he added.

Planned Parenthood previously responded to the report claiming the information is false.

"We are proud of the trust millions of women place in us every year to provide high quality health care. We approach our work with a deep sense of responsibility to the patients we serve, and recognize that the importance

of our work is growing because in many communities we are often the only source of affordable quality health care for women," the abortion business said. "This so-called report is a politically driven attack by an organization opposed to birth control and expanded access to birth control. It uses discredited, recycled and misleading claims to attack Planned Parenthood and should be viewed with a skeptical eye." —*LifeNews.com, September 27, 2011*

Futile Care Theory Metastacizes

continued from page 9

Indeed, we are now seeing a drive to extend the cancer of Futile Care Theory beyond ICU-style life-sustaining treatment, to other forms of care in which the patient may not even be hospitalized. When I was researching *Culture of Death*, I interviewed an advocate of medical futility and noted that refusing ICU treatment wouldn't save a lot of money. I asked, what will utilitarians try to cut next? He responded, "marginally beneficial care."

And here we are. Don't get me wrong. I support people deciding not to go for the last shot of chemo, with the terrible side effects that can bring. But the decision *should not be up to the doctors* to withhold what is, after all, efficacious treatment that extends life. Doctors should give clear and honest pros and cons of the treatment—including onerous physical effects—but it *should be up to the patient* to decide whether the time has come to enter a hospice situation.

Patient advocates are pushing back:

But a spokesman for the Rarer Cancers Foundation said: 'Describing all treatments near the end of life as futile is tantamount to writing patients off. Just because they cannot be "cured" does not mean that we cannot give them valuable treatment, care and support.' Ian Beaumont of Bowel Cancer UK said money was not the sole issue. 'While cancer care can be expensive, it is unjust to put a cost on the lives of patients, especially when modern treatments can often give them precious time with their loved ones and increase their length and quality of life,' he added. Only last week a pill for prostate cancer, Abiraterone, was made available in the UK for the first time at a cost of £35,000 a patient. Although on average it only extends lives by a few weeks, some patients survive for five years.

We all have our stories. When my dad was dying of colon cancer—for which he generally received awful care (I now know) from the Veterans' Administration—doctors very reluctantly offered him a last ditch chemo that might give him a few months, with terrible side effects. He took it, and the cancer actually went into remission for a year. Not only that, the side effects were few. Indeed, it was a time of relative health for my dad, in which he and mom traveled and he thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

Bottom line: By accepting the philosophical premises of Futile Care Theory, bioethicists have opened the door to now imposing greater restrictions in the name of "fairness." We should not let utilitarian central planners to take away hope and create a putative "duty to die."

—*First Things, Wesley Smith's Blog: Secondhand Smoke*
September 27, 2011

Attorney and award winning author Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism. He is also a consultant to the Patients Rights Council, and a special consultant for the Center for Bioethics and Culture.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

As you read this article, October is almost past. This has been a very busy month. I hope you were able to take part in one of our many activities. Sometimes I wonder if these events reach the people who need to have their hearts changed. Sometimes I feel that we just speak to the choir. But when I think it through, I realize we need something for everyone. Variety is needed to keep all parties engaged and educated. Hopefully, in our efforts, we will be changing hearts and minds. The impact we have on society will remain a mystery.

As I stood at Life Chain on October 2, I counted the participants standing to profess their love of life, and although the numbers at this one location were modest, their influence reached far beyond the boundaries of the Chain. I counted the number of cars that passed in five minutes, and by doing the math, a total of 4,572 cars passed in 1-1/2 hours. Estimating at least two people in each car, those standing sent a message to at least 8000+ people that "Abortion Kills Children," "Abortion Hurts Women," "Adoption is the Loving Option," etc. You cannot put a dollar value on this type of messaging. Who was influenced and whether hearts were changed, we will never know, but influence passersby, we did!

Our Cider Walk, October 9, was for those who wanted to support our work and have a fall outdoors experience at the same time. Without those willing to help us raise the needed funds, we could not do the work we do, especially in our Wee Care outreach program. This event, CIDER Walk, sends a message to society—"Children In Utero Deserve Equal Rights" and that says it all.

Our Town Hall Meeting and Breakfast on October 15 was informative and gave us the needed tools to work with legislators to promote the pro-life cause.

We are looking forward to our next events, our "Lights for Life" Christmas tree, Rally for Life in January and our 22nd annual Baby Shower in March.

I thank all of you for your participation and loyalty. May we continue, together, to protect and promote the respect

for human life. Have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. I have a lot to be grateful for, especially my family and co-workers in the pro-life movement!

It is with deep sadness that I say goodbye to Fr. Daniel Horman who passed away August 9th at the age of 68 from cardiac disease.

Lifespan has for many years been in the forefront of bringing events to southeastern Michigan to address the many issues related to the attack on human life. One of the issues we addressed early in the abortion debate was the issue of the early sexualization of our young people. To combat this, we felt we needed to bring to teachers and parents the tools necessary to help combat the promiscuous sex education programs indoctrinating our children in the schools.

In the early '80s, we had a weekend conference at Colomiere, organized to promote the only healthy sex respect program—abstinence before marriage. We had a wonderful panel of professionals including Dr. Colleen Mast, who presented her school curriculum on teaching sex respect to our young; a medical doctor, a teacher and a clergy representative, who was Fr. Dan.

Fr. Dan's ministry was working with young people, and he knew the many problems confronting the youth. He brought his special and unique experience to the program. He helped us understand why it is hard to counter the pressure of the promiscuous life style being promoted by society.

Fr. Homan founded Subiaco Retreat House, located on the grounds of St. Benedict Monastery in Oxford, Michigan. There, he worked with 140,000 teens helping them, in a retreat setting, to find God in this turbulent world. Fr. Daniel Homan was a strong advocate for pro-life causes; our community is a better place because of his love for Life and the positive influences he had on our young people.

My sympathy to his family and to the Benedictine Community to which he belonged. May your soul rest in peace, Fr. Dan; you will be missed.

Diane Fagelman, President

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
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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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Pearls of Wisdom

WHO SHOULD DECIDE?

By Wesley J. Smith

Medicare is going broke, almost everyone agrees. But there, the comity ends. The big and very controversial question is, what do we do about it? How we answer that question will materially impact the health and wellbeing of our seniors, the economy's continuing viability, and the ethical values that serve as the foundation for the practice of medicine—and it turns out, the very future of American self-governance.

Self-governance? Let me explain. Politicians hate volatile issues such as controlling Medicare's cost inflation because "third rail" controversies can rouse voters to kick them out of office. According to this careerist mindset, far better to protect their own political health by delegating responsibility for these difficult decisions to unelected bureaucrats. And here's the beauty part from the POV of the cynical politician: If regulators enact unpopular policies, they can self-righteously point fingers against the very bureaucrats the elected officials empowered.

That is why the Affordable Care Act (sometimes called "Obamacare") legally established a new and popularly unaccountable bureaucratic method of controlling Medicare costs—the benignly named Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Worse, the law grants IPAB an unprecedented concentration of near-authoritarian power to make law in its area of jurisdiction. Made up of 15 "experts" nominated by the president and approved by the U.S. Senate, beginning in 2014, the IPAB won't merely

"advise" policy makers as its name would imply. Nor is its power limited to implementing law that has already passed Congress and been signed by the president—the usual bureaucratic role. Rather, the IPAB will be a virtual mini government onto itself with the power to force Congress to legislate. Even more startlingly, the IPAB's decisions surmount a presidential veto and will be exempted from judicial oversight!

IPAB's power flows from its almost unchecked "fast track" authority to force the Congress to enact an annual accelerating cost-cutting agenda. Here's how it will work:

- By January 15 each year, IPAB must submit a proposal to Congress and the president for reaching Medicare savings targets in the coming year. The majority leaders in the House and Senate must introduce bills incorporating the board's proposal the day they receive it.
- Congress cannot "consider any bill, resolution, amendment, or conference report... that would repeal or otherwise change the recommendations of the board" if such changes fail to meet the board's budgetary target.
- The secretary of health and human services must implement the Independent Payment Advisory Board's proposal, as passed by Congress and signed by the president, on August 15 of the year in which the proposal is submitted.
- If Congress does not pass the proposal or a substitute plan meeting the Independent Payment Advisory Board's financial target before August 15, or if the president vetoes the proposal passed by Congress, the original Independent Payment Advisory Board recommendations automatically take effect.

Further demonstrating the Star Chamber-like powers of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, Congress cannot consider any bill or amendment that would repeal or change this fast-track congressional consideration process without a three-fifths vote (60) in the Senate. And making the IPAB even more removed from democratic control, it can only be dismantled by a 3/5 vote of Congress, intro-

continued on page 9