

*Free Copy*

Essay Contest Winners  
p. 5

# Lifespan *news*

Volume 28 Number 1

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

January 1999



## RALLY for LIFE

*26th Anniversary  
of Roe v. Wade*

Date: Sunday, January 17, 1999

Place: University of Detroit Mercy  
Ward Conference Ctr., Superior Room  
(Outer Drive Campus)

Time: 2:00 p.m.

**Rally map and information, p. 3**

# News & Notes

## Election analysis

On average, support for pro-life issues will drop just a little in both the U.S. House and Senate, pro-life experiencing a net loss of one seat in the Senate and maybe four seats in the House.

Pro-life strength will vary from issue to issue. In the Senate, even with the net average drop of one vote on pro-life issues, it is anticipated that support for passage of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act will increase by one, from 64 to 65 votes.

—National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, Inc., November 13, 1998

## Volunteers needed

The Allen Park Crisis Pregnancy Center is planning to hold training classes at the beginning of the year. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Center at (313) 386-4005, and leave your name, address and phone number for the Educational Director, Dianne Kwasniewski.

—CPC News 'N' Views  
July-September 1998

## Prom mom

A New Jersey woman who gave birth during her senior prom, then tossed her newborn son in the trash before returning to the dance floor, was sentenced October 29th to 15 years in prison for manslaughter.

Melissa Drexler, 20, who became known as the Prom Mom, will be eligible for parole in three years.

—Detroit Free Press, October 30, 1998

## Abstinence-first curriculum

Public schools in Chicago will introduce a new family health curriculum in January that teaches abstinence "as the No. 1 choice—not one of several equally legitimate options." The *Chicago Tribune* reports that the new emphasis was already underway with about 8,000 high school and elementary school students attending an "unprecedented 'abstinence rally' at the University of Illinois at Chicago."

Chicago Public Schools chief Paul Vallas said, "When I look at our health care curriculum now, abstinence gets a passing glance. We have pregnancy rates

of 40% in some of our schools. Our health care curriculum has to be oriented toward preaching that abstinence is the first, best way."

—The Pro-life Infonet (infonet-mod@prolife.org), November 22, 1998

## Not Dead Yet

"Kevorkian is a serial killer of disabled people, and should have been jailed long ago," says Diane Coleman, founder and President of Not Dead Yet, a national activist group leading the disabled community's fight against legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia. "If he were doing this to members of any other minority group, Kevorkian would be in jail by now and would never have gotten the bully pulpit of *60 Minutes*."

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, the overwhelming majority of Kevorkian's victims have been people with disabilities who were not terminal.

—The Pro-life Infonet (infonet-mod@prolife.org), November 25, 1998

## Calendar of Events

Jan. 16 ....Morning of Reflection, p. 3  
Jan. 17 .....Detroit Rally, pp. 1, 3  
Jan. 21 ....Display Luminaries, p. 7  
Jan. 22 ....26th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*  
Jan. 22 .....March for Life, p. 3  
Jan. 24 .....Sanctity of Life Sunday  
Mar. 14 .....Baby Shower, p. 11  
Mar. 15 ...Resource Book Ad Deadline, p. 4  
Mar. 15 Mother of the Year Nominations, p. 2  
May 4 .....Mother's Day Dinner

## Lifespan News

January, 1999 Vol. 28, No. 1

Published eight times a year, irregularly  
President & Editor - Ann R. Sands  
Layout/Design - Marge Bradley  
Contributor - Paula Ervin

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit** is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

**MAIN OFFICE**  
28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127  
Livonia, MI 48152-3736  
Phone: (248) 777-9090  
Fax: (248) 777-3556  
<http://www.ring.com/nprofit/lifespan>  
RTLifespan@aol.com



## Seeking Mother of the Year 1999

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner, on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, we will be honoring a "Mother of the Year."

We are looking for nominations from among our members or others for this ninth annual award. The nominee must be a resident of Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County and able to attend the award dinner on May 4 at the San Marino Club in Troy.

Nominations must be submitted in writing explaining why you feel this person qualifies for "Mother of the Year." Nominations must be received no later than noon, **Monday, March 15**. No nominations by, or for, Right to Life - Lifespan board members will be considered.

Our "Mother of the Year" will be an honored guest at the dinner on May 4. She will be awarded a plaque, a dozen long-stemmed roses and a \$200 gift certificate to J.C. Penney's.

If your nominee is chosen, you will also receive a free ticket to the dinner. If the "Mother of the Year" is nominated by two or more individuals, the first one received will be eligible for the free ticket, and the nomination letter will be printed in the dinner program and *Lifespan News*. You will also be asked to read your nomination letter at the dinner.

In nominating the 1999 Mother of the Year, please include your name, address and phone number and also the name, address and phone number of your nominee.

Mail or deliver your nomination for "Mother of the Year" to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152 for **receipt no later than noon on Monday, March 15**.

For more information on dinner reservations, call (248) 777-9090.

# January Activities

## 26th Annual March for Life

On Thursday, **January 21**, the March for Life Education and Defense Fund will hold a convention at the Hyatt-Regency Capitol Hill Hotel, Washington, D.C. Registration is \$15.

Then, on Friday, **January 22**, beginning at noon, pro-lifers by the thousands, from all over the U.S., will gather for the 26th annual March for Life, with a Rally in the Ellipse, just south of the White House. The March proceeds along Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and Supreme Court. The theme of this year's March is: "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" After the March, participants are urged to lobby their legislators.

A Rose Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. The cost is \$50.

For more information about the Convention, March or Rose Dinner, please call (248) 777-9090 or (202) LIFE-377.

## Say it with roses!

In conjunction with March for Life activities, live red roses will be delivered to each Member of Congress, the Supreme Court, the President and Vice President, along with an individualized letter to educate them about the humanity of each unborn child. If you too would like to "say it with roses," send your name, address, city, state, zip and phone, along with a tax-deductible contribution (\$3.00 per rose is suggested), to MARCH FOR LIFE, Box 90300, Washington, D. C. 20090.

## Memorial candles

Pro-life homes across the metro area will remember the millions of aborted babies by burning candles the evening of **January 21**.

Right to Life - Lifespan chapter offices have candles for your use; contact your local office for information and/or to obtain the luminaries for yourself or members of your church.

## Bells for babies

Throughout the country, many churches will be ringing their bells at 12:00 noon on Friday, **January 22**. You may wish to ask your church to participate in ringing their bells on this occasion. We urge you to pray at this time, asking God to heal our land.

## Morning of Reflection

Bishop Allen Vigneron invites all pro-life supporters to Sacred Heart Major Seminary's Third Annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday, **January 16**, from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Admission is free.

A "gift of encouragement and hope," this morning of reflection is designed to educate and uplift those active in the pro-life movement and those who want to learn more about the "culture of life."

Sacred Heart Major Seminary is located at 2701 Chicago Blvd., one mile from the Lodge Freeway, in Detroit. For more information, call (313) 883-8682.

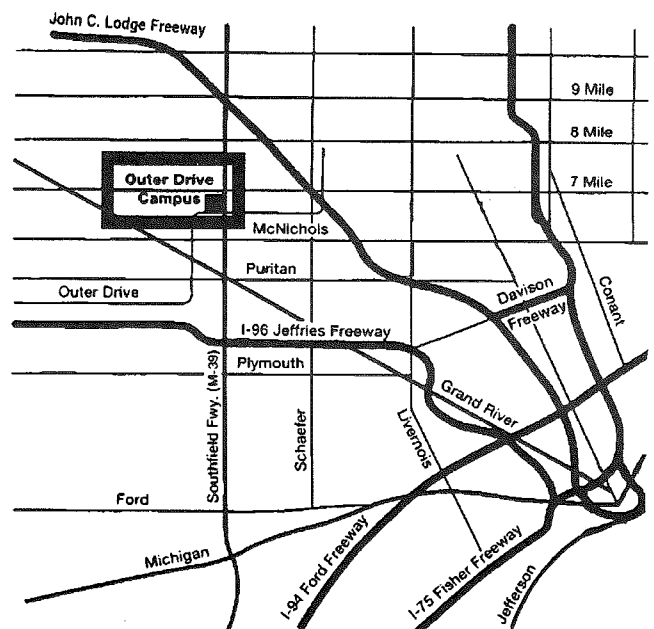
# 26th Annual Rally for Life

**Sunday, January 17 • 2:00 p.m.**

**University of Detroit Mercy, Ward Conference Center**

An indoor Rally will be held on Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the University of Detroit Mercy (Outer Drive Campus), Ward Conference Center, Superior Room. This 26th annual pro-life rally is hosted by Right to Life - Lifespan. This year's indoor rally features invited guest speakers State Senator Mat Dunaskiss; Pastor Rick Parker, Bethany Pembroke Chapel; Bill and Gloria Gross of Abigayle Ministries; Dr. John Damiani; Rev. John Riccardo, Divine Child Church. The Lifespan Student Essay Awards will be presented, and we will again enjoy the music of Richard Hovey. We would like all those who believe in the sanctity of human life to be present for this occasion.

The Outer Drive Campus of the University of Detroit Mercy is located in northwest Detroit on West Outer Drive at the Southfield Freeway. From northbound Southfield, exit at McNichols (Six Mile Rd.) Proceed north on service drive to second traffic light and turn left on West Outer Drive. Crossover Southfield Freeway and the University is located on your right. From southbound Southfield, exit at Seven Mile Rd. Proceed south on service drive to third traffic light and turn right onto West Outer Drive. The University is located on your right. Free parking is readily available directly outside of the Ward Conference Center at U of D Mercy. For more information, call (248) 777-9090.





# Right to Life - Lifespan 1999 RESOURCE BOOK

## Advertising Contract

This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is Monday, March 15, 1999.**

**Advertising Contract:** I wish to publish \_\_\_\_\_ page ad for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please run \_\_\_\_\_ last year's ad; \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed, new ad.

Full page (7 x 10) \$200  Back cover (inside) \$250  Back cover (outside) \$350	1/4 page (3.5 x 5) \$75	1/8 page (3.5 x 2.5) \$40
	Half page (7 x 5) \$125	

*Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. Add an additional \$10.00 if ad is not copy-ready and/or a photograph is included in the ad. Payment must accompany ad and contract. All advertisers will receive a copy of the Resource Book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.*

A complimentary dinner ticket to the 1999 Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 4 will be given to any individual for every \$200 worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Contact Person _____	Phone (area code) _____
Name of Advertiser _____	
Address _____	City _____ Zip _____
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Phone (area code) _____

**Make checks payable and mail to:**

**Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152**

**For further information, call (248) 777-9090**

Contributions to Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.

# Pro-Life Student Essay Contest Winners

Three metro Detroit teens won savings bonds in Lifespan's Pro-Life Student Essay Contest on Abortion, Infanticide or Euthanasia. The first-place prize of a \$500 savings bond will be awarded to Andrea Holowecky, 14, a freshman at Ladywood High School in Livonia. Andrea is the daughter of Charles and Tina Holowecky of Livonia. The second-place prize of a \$200 savings bond will be presented to Heidi Lesner, 17, who is a senior at Southfield Christian High School. Her parents are William and Denise Lesner of Northville. The third place winner of a \$100 bond is William Higgins, 14, a freshman at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac; William's parents are Jim and Colleen Higgins of Rochester Hills. The savings bonds will be awarded at the Detroit Rally at the University of Detroit Mercy, Ward Conference Center, January 17.

We want to thank the judges who had such a difficult job choosing the winners from so many excellent entries. Ginger Bloomfield has worked at AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center since 1994. She is Administrative Director in charge of fundraising and special events. Ginger has associates degrees in Small Business Management and Business Management. Bob Ervin took his bachelors and masters degrees in science from Notre Dame University in 1938 where he afterwards joined its faculty to work on the early germ-free life research. In 1957, he joined the Parke, Davis Research department in Michigan where he retired in 1975 as Director of Research Administration. He has been part of Lifespan since its beginning. Maureen Church Prest is a certified hospice nurse and is a clinical educator for Hospice of Michigan. She travels throughout the state educating others who believe in the hospice concept.

*(The following essay is fiction.)*

## First-Place Essay Right to Life

I walked slowly up the steps of an abortion clinic. At the double doors I paused for a moment to look at my reflection in the glass. The face that stared back at me seemed unfamiliar. A face that was once so lively appeared sunken and pale. I then smoothed back my hair, stood up straight, and determinedly entered the building. The atmosphere inside was like that of any other doctor's office. Although I tried to seem confident when I signed in and talked to the receptionist, deep inside I was feeling fear and doubt.

had not thought much about him. The dream made the boy real. I saw him smile; he was so beautiful. He laughed and sounded so happy. My reaction was to reach out and hold him, but my arms would not move. The baby grew older, and I saw him go to school and learn to ride a bike and play like normal children. Older still, I saw my child go on his first date, go to the prom and go to college. I saw him live his complete and happy life, and during this life, I always tried to touch him, but I couldn't move. With a start I woke up, and found my pillow soaked with tears. To my surprise, I had been crying in my sleep. Then I started to cry

that what I had done was wrong. Abortion was a form of murder, and I had murdered my own child. The doctor referred to him as a "fetus," a part of my own body. But he was not just an extension of myself, he was an individual person with his own body, mind and spirit. Guilt bore down on me and I saw how selfish I was. I had never even thought about all the consequences of abortion until it was too late.

Though I can't bring him back, I can try to tell people my story to keep them from making the same mistake. I deeply regret not thinking about how heartless abortion is until after I had made the decision to have one.

Often the value of a life is overlooked. Usually not until something is taken away do people realize how precious it is. The choice to take a life is a wrong one, because it's not for a human being to decide. Lives are not created only to be carelessly ended. Because only God has the power to give all life, it is only He who may take it away. Webster's dictionary defines murder as "killing that is morally reprehensible and brutal." Abortion falls into this definition. It shows immorality because it takes away the most precious thing in the world. Abortion is also brutal because it is a painful and inhumane way for a human to die. Not only is abortion cruel and unfair to the infant, its effects are harmful to everyone. Many times teenage unwed girls get pregnant, and turn to abortion as an answer to their problem. The abortion then disposes of the child, but what is left? A society of people who, instead of eliminating promiscuous sex, rely on extermination of the unwanted consequence of

---

*Andrea Holowecky, 14,  
is a freshman at  
Ladywood High School  
in Livonia*

---



I sat down in the waiting room and picked up a magazine. On the cover a subtitle read "25 ways for better sex." I quickly dropped it back onto the table where I had gotten it. Number one, I thought, wait for marriage. That was why I was here. I hadn't waited. The one-night stand I had then was definitely not worth feeling so alone and afraid right now.

Hours later, after the procedure, I came home and got ready for bed. I just wanted to forget the day, and thought that I could escape by sleeping. Sleep came, but it was not peaceful. I dreamt of the child I had aborted. I knew my baby was a boy, but I

again. I realized what my son could have become and could have done. When I walked into that clinic I took away his chance to live. He never got the chance to do the things that I had taken for granted. He never looked forward to the future like I did, or planned like I did. He missed out on all the wonderful things in life. I had gotten an abortion without even thinking about the child whose life was ended. All I saw was a problem that needed to be solved, and abortion was the answer. My baby could have grown up to do good things, even if he just improved his little corner of the world. It dawned upon me

*continued on page 9*





# Chapter

## Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed  
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

## Thanks, church reps

To all those who worked so hard to sell our Christmas cards and gave so generously of their time and to all of you who bought our cards, we extend our most heartfelt thanks.

Special thanks to our eastside card distributor, Betty Queen. Betty has lovingly been in charge of this important fundraiser for the past umpteen years. We couldn't have done it without you! May the New Year bring all of you the best of health and happiness. God bless.

## Detroit Rally for Life

Lifespan needs you, your family, your friends, your church and your organizations to come to Lifespan's Rally for Life. We must send a powerful message to the people of metro Detroit that...No, after 26 years, we are NOT discouraged, we will NOT give up on our pro-life struggle until all of our citizens are guaranteed the Right to Life which is stated in our U.S. Constitution.

The Rally will only take an hour of your time, and you may just help save a life. See pages 1 and 3 for details.

## Membership renewal

Make it a New Year's resolution to renew your membership to Detroit Lifespan and also to ask a friend to become a new member. The news media is

known for its biased reporting on most pro-life issues. Through membership in Lifespan, you will be updated on all life issues. Renew today.

## entertainment '99

**Hurry! Sale Ends Jan. 9**

**Save 50%** on dining, theatre, sports events, hotels, travel, car washes and more! Help us in this fundraiser, and sell these books to your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers. Call: Detroit (313) 874-0432; Oakland/Macomb (248) 816-1546; Wayne West/Downriver (734) 422-6230.

## Detroit Office

5930 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202-3516  
(313) 874-0432  
Fax (same as phone)

## Office hours

M-F 9-2:45  
Diane Fagelman, Director  
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.  
Mary Small, Adm. Assistant

## New Year yearnings

With the dawning of the new year, the last before the turn of the century, it is almost impossible to avoid thinking of what we would like this new and last year to bring. Of course, we all wish for health and happiness for ourselves and those we love. We hope for peace in the world, a recognition of the dignity and worth of each man, woman and child, an end to abortion, assisted suicide and other things that cheapen the value of human life.

Those are rather broad and general wishes. Perhaps we can narrow the breadth of these wishes and dreams and settle for the firm intention of making the lives of everyone we meet, speak to, or interact with just a little bit better than it was be-

fore they encountered us. It doesn't have to be a big thing, we don't have to pay their bills, solve all their problems or eliminate some great cosmic threat. If each person we met left that meeting knowing that he/she had really been listened to, felt the warmth of a genuine smile, were comforted by a hug, or experienced a moment of peace because we were there, imagine how much happier our little corner of the world would be when we turn the calendar to the year 2000. Maybe we could start with a genuine smile for all we meet, and see where it goes from there.

## Counting crosses

Our 2000 crosses are safely back in our store room for the winter. They were constantly out of our office from early April until the weekend before Thanksgiving. They were placed on the grounds of fourteen area churches this year. Not too bad for a first-time effort.

These crosses are available to all chapters of Lifespan. We have a wonderful lady, Isabel Johnson, (248) 375-9516, who does the scheduling. We can provide a picture of the display to anyone interested in approaching their church pastors to ask

that the crosses be displayed in your area. All the tools, instructions and suggestions are sent, either before you pick up the crosses or with the display itself.

Please consider scheduling this powerful display for your church. They will be going back out again, as soon as the ground is soft enough. Call Isabel or the Oakland/Macomb office for more information (248) 816-1546.

## Auction activities

Due to its wonderful popularity and success, we will once again include a silent auction as part of our wonderful annual Mother's Day Dinner. However, in order for it to be popular and successful, we must have items to offer for bids. If you or your friends, neighbors and relatives have items that you think would make attractive auction offerings, call Judy Ward (248) 623-9314 or MaryBeth Ritter (248) 674-8947.

## Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G  
Troy, MI 48064-3540  
(248) 816-1546  
Fax (248) 816-9066

detroit

oakland/macomb

# News

wayne west/downriver

## Office hours

M-Th 10-4; F Closed  
Patricia Holscher, Chairman  
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

## My cup runneth over

As director, how blessed I am to have the WW/DR faithful board of directors and all of you, our loyal members who believe in the Life issues. I am able to accomplish the numerous tasks in the office because I can always rely on you. Your prayers, enthusiasm to help and financial support all strengthen my determination to win the battle to protect innocent life, born and unborn.

We, you and Lifespan, were successful in helping to defeat Proposal B. You were informed on the ballot proposal and said NO to the "culture of death" which hangs like a black cloud over Michigan and our country.

With this sweet victory, WE KNOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Let us recommit ourselves in 1999 to be more active in the right to life movement. *Lifespan News* is an excellent tool to become more knowledgeable about the local, state and national pro-life and pro-death pursuits across our nation. To become a member and receive *Lifespan News*, see application on p. 11.

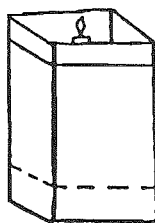
## We give thanks

The 1998 Christmas card season was a great success mainly due to the cooperation of many pastors, church representatives, distributors and helpers who spent many hours making Lifespan cards available. And lastly, to those who

purchased cards, we thank you for your loyalty to Lifespan by supporting necessary fundraising.

## Light a candle— dispel the darkness

Join other pro-lifers by placing a luminary outside your home or church on the eve of January 22nd. This practice ac-



← 1" fold

← sand level

knowledges that 36 million babies have been killed legally by abortionists. Kits include a candle, bag and instructions. All you need for the bottom of the bag for weight is sand, kitty litter, baking soda, rock salt or potting soil. Don't put your light under a basket; be a living witness for Life. Call now to reserve your kit.

## Entertainment books

Thanks to those who bought and sold Entertainment Books. If you still need one for yourself, or for birthday or anniversary gifts, we still have a few in the office. Act now, as they must be returned to Entertainment by January 9.

## Rally for Life

Let's all gather on Sunday, January 17, at 2:00 p.m., at the University of Detroit Mercy, Ward Conference Center, Superior Room (West Outer Drive and the Southfield Expressway), to publicly denounce the killing of 36 million babies since *Roe v. Wade*. See front cover and page 3 for more details. Call to form car pools/bus information.

**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**  
27592 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150-2203  
(734) 422-6230  
Fax (734) 422-8116

## Guest Column

### A dignified, loving death

My father-in-law, Robert Tilley, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer less than a year ago. Just last month after courageously undergoing intensive chemo and radiation, he was informed that the cancer had spread to his liver and lungs. Bob was given only a few short months to live and he was placed in hospice care. Hospice lovingly set up all the equipment and pain medications Bob and the family needed so that Bob could spend his last days in the bosom of his loving family.

The last two weeks of his life were difficult for both Bob and his wife and daughters who took turns sleeping over and caring for him. Hospice supplied the loving hands of a nurse's aide who came on a daily basis to bath and take care of Bob's physical body while the Sister and Pastor from St. Anne's Church came and took care of Bob's spiritual needs. This time of need allowed all of the family to show Bob how much we loved him and how we needed to help Bob through this valley of tears.

Our prayers were answered when, in a wheelchair, Bob was baptized and confirmed on All Saints Day, November 1st. With loving family and friends and the St. Anne Choir (Bob sang with them for the past 20 years), we witnessed his New Birth. Our hopes were realized that we would be with him for Eternity.

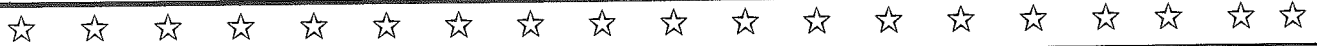
Within eight short days of his rebirth on earth, Bob was reborn in heaven. I was privileged to be with Bob at the moment of his final breath. It is at that very moment when you are the closest to heaven that one on earth can be. When the angels came down to transport Bob's soul to heaven, I was the last one he looked down upon before he went into his glory. I will never look at death the same way again.

What a contrast between this loving, natural, peaceful death and assisted suicide.

—Mary Cascos

Proud daughter-in-law

*Note: Mary has worked in the Detroit Lifespan office for five years and has been an active member since 1986.*



# Legislative Update



## Addresses

### **President**

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

Dear Mr. President:

### **U.S. Senators**

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

Dear Senator (last name):

### **U.S. Representatives**

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

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman  
(last name):

### **Governor**

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

Dear Governor Engler:

### **Michigan State Senator**

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

Dear Senator (last name):

### **Michigan State Representative**

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

Dear Representative (last name):

## **1998 Pro-Life Legislation**

The Second Session of the 105th Congress adjourned October 21. The First Session of the 106th Congress is set to begin on January 6, 1999.

**Partial-Birth Abortion.** On July 23, the House voted 296 yes, 132 no, to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (HR 1122). On September 18, the Senate considered a motion to override and was not successful. Voting 64 yes, 36 no, the Senate fell three votes short of the 67 votes needed.

**The Smith Amendment.** The State Department Authorization Bill (HR 1757) that contains the Smith Amendment with the modified Mexico City Policy cleared Congress April 28. On October 21, Congress sent HR 1757 to the President who vetoed the bill, again restating his continuing intention to "veto such [pro-life] provisions." By vetoing, however, the President also rejected the vehicle for authorizing U.S. back payments to the United Nations, and again demonstrated that promotion of abortion in other countries overrides all other foreign policy considerations.

The modified Mexico City Policy would prevent U.S. funding of foreign, non-governmental organizations that (1) perform abortions, except to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest; (2) violate the abortion laws of any foreign country; or (3) lobby to change those abortion laws. Under the compromise in HR 1757, the President could waive the first exclusion, but if he did so, the amount of funds for population control activities would be reduced from the current level of \$385 million to \$356 million. A proviso was added to ensure that this funding cap could not be circumvented by using funds from other programs (such as Child Survival) for family planning.

The Smith Amendment also contains a provision that ends U.S. funding for the

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as long as UNFPA supports China's coercive population control policy. Earlier this year, the UNFPA signed a new four-year \$20 million contract with China.

**The Child Custody Protection Act.** This bill, introduced in both House and Senate (HR 3682, S 1645), makes it a federal offense to transport a minor girl across state lines for an abortion if this action evades the parental involvement laws of the minor's home state. The prohibition does not apply if the abortion is necessary to save the life of the minor.

On July 15, the House approved the measure 276 yes, 150 no. On September 11, the Senate agreed 97 yes, 0 no to invoke cloture and proceed with consideration of the bill. Following that vote, discussions took place about the amendments to be offered to the bill. Opponents sought to add nongermane amendments. As a result, a second cloture petition was filed and came to a vote on September 22. The motion failed 54 yes, 45 no. A cloture motion requires a 60 vote margin to succeed. The motion having failed, the measure was effectively stopped in this session of Congress.

**Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act.** On June 5, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno ruled that the federal Controlled Substances Act allows physicians to prescribe federally regulated drugs for assisted suicide in any circumstance where assisted suicide is allowed by state law. On August 3, the Justice Department reiterated the Administration's position. The Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act (S 2151, HR 4006) reinstates a uniform federal policy against the use of federally regulated drugs to cause patients' deaths.

On August 4, the full House Judiciary Committee marked up the measure; five hostile amendments were rejected and the bill was approved by voice vote.

*continued on page 11*



## First Place Essay Right to Life

*continued from page 5*

their negligence. No one would ever learn to stop the behavior that creates unwanted children, they would just get rid of their mistakes. The only way to be rid of this way of life is to band together as a society and say we will not tolerate the killing of innocent children. The beginning of this movement must start with the education of people about sexual permissiveness and abortion. Then people may realize how abortion does not solve problems, but has a negative impact on the world.

As you digest my words, think why you are here on this earth. What motivates you to live? Each person brought into the world has something to accomplish, a mission. Each person also has an opportunity, which is their right. An opportunity to live to the fullest and find joy in the simple things in life. Children who are aborted are not given that opportunity, they are deprived of that right. It does not matter if they are illegitimate or unwanted, they still have the right to live. Anyone who exists, even as a "fetus," has a right to live. It is a violation of that right when someone chooses abortion. ■

## Second-Place Essay Death...Who Should Decide?

In my opinion, euthanasia is not a compassionate option, but rather an inhumane choice which kills people, or allows them to legally kill themselves, in an unnatural and senseless manner. Euthanasia should not be looked at as an escape from a distressing circumstance without accounting for the immeasurable value of life. After all, "Has society not learned from past experience about the horror it causes?" From my firsthand experience, euthanasia is an unfortunate alternative in which innocent people, who long for compassion and support, could be forced to make a decision which would result in an unnecessary and un-Godly death.

Euthanasia may appear like the easy way out of a complex and troublesome circumstance, but it is by no means an

appropriate or suitable thing to do. From a very young age until I was eleven years old, my ill grandparents lived with our family. We tried not to let them think they were a burden during these difficult years of their life, but if euthanasia were a condonable option, both of my grandparents would have been good candidates. My grandmother had several mini strokes (multi-infarct dementia) which left her with the inability to know where she was, what she should do or even how she should do it. Initially, she didn't know how to dress herself, or know that it was necessary to wear clothes at all. She was unable to walk without almost being carried, which made it difficult transporting her in or out of a wheelchair, rocking chair, toilet and bed. In addition to this, she had heart problems, diabetes and poor circulation. As for my grandpa, he had diabetes, arthritis, prostate problems and, as time went on, a foot amputated and Parkinson's disease.

and rejection that the patient may have. It is not simply getting rid of the person doing the suffering, it means to help them to conquer the fear of pain and, of course, the pain itself.

"Our task is to make the patient's passage as comfortable, as meaningful, and as fulfilling and peaceful as it can be made".<sup>2</sup> At the hardest time of their lives, it is unthinkable to hand them over to the cold hands of death when they long to know that they have people that care and will go to any lengths to support them. Some people think that life is no longer valuable once a person's mental or physical capacity becomes diminished. However, that is not what the Giver of Life tells us. God has a reason, a purpose and plan for our lives, even when storm clouds and difficulties seem to surround us. He can bring good out of even the most trying of circumstances. In my grandparent's case, I'm not sure why they had to endure what they did. However, I feel that God al-

---

### *Heidi Lesner, 17, is a senior at Southfield Christian High School*

---



If euthanasia was even an alternative in our minds, then at the point my grandfather had his foot removed, thus causing him an inability to walk or care for himself, he could have simply ended it all and reduced his pain and loneliness. Also, after my grandmother had her strokes, and the doctors advised us to just put her into a mental institution, euthanasia could have saved years of stress and money. If they had not had a family that valued and supported them, I'm sure they could have felt a significant pressure to "take their own lives," and lessen the burden on us all.

My grandparents not only needed physical help, but they needed sincere compassion and true love. Euthanasia is a far cry from being a compassionate thing to do. "True compassion means to seek the cause and relieve a person's suffering, it means that we feel with, we work with, we suffer with, and we sit with the sufferer".<sup>1</sup> Genuine compassion should aim to help correct and relieve any feelings of abandonment

lowed me to grow from their experience. I gained additional insight and wisdom, and it helped me to become a person with more compassion and patience towards the elderly. My grandparents were not a burden, they were a blessing! I've found, firsthand, that God can and should be trusted. He will provide the endurance and stability to weather the storm.

God has each of our days numbered according to his perfect plan. Although, man can intervene to prevent death in a number of ways—such as using hospitals, medication and machines—when we take a proactive approach to cause death, we dangerously set ourselves up as "gods." God alone is in a position to have the ultimate control of every human life. As humans, with limited insight, and a tendency for self-centeredness, we are headed for catastrophe when we unwisely take life into our own hands.

From my perspective, euthanasia is nothing more than an unnatural and un-

*continued on page 10*

## Second Place Essay

# Death...Who Should Decide?

*continued from page 9*

Godly manner of trying to find the easy way out. It cannot be viewed as an option to cure anyone's pain; instead, sincere and undying compassion should be the key alternative. God should be the one who decides when a person's life should end, and it should be His decision alone. When we actively take that decision into our own hands, we attempt to make ourselves equal with God, and that will only lead to destruction. ■

### Bibliography

<sup>1</sup>Willke, John. *Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*. Ohio: Hayes Publishing Co. 1998, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 131.

## Third-Place Essay

# The Silent Voice

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

—Thomas Jefferson

*Declaration of Independence*

God's most precious gift to people is life. No matter what science may suggest, life is not a randomly-occurring event. Each person on earth was created and born with a plan and a purpose. Tragically, this wonderful gift

even consider allowing abortion to take place. And yet abortion is supported by a huge number of people, all of whom consider themselves to be compassionate, kind, and, worst of all, correct. "Pro-choice" supporters argue that legal abortion is safer than illegal abortion. If abortion were not legal, it would be a crime to have an abortion, so women would not have them, for fear of going to jail; therefore, it does not matter how safe legalized abortion is. "Pro-choice" proponents also claim that legal abortion relieves the "psychological and social problems associated with bearing an unwanted child." Have these women never heard of adoption? There are thousands upon thousands of families who cannot have a child themselves and would absolutely love to have one. Obviously, "pro-choice" supporters have not thought their position completely through.

Abortion trivializes life. It is chilling to think that a parent can just eliminate an unwanted child. These children are already alive. Their brains think, their hearts beat, and they grow and develop, exactly like children who have already been born. "Pro-choice" advocates insist that if something looks like a person, thinks like a person, and is alive like a person, it is in fact a nonliving mass of tissue that coincidentally resembles a person. Not only is this argument absolutely ludicrous, it is scary. I fear for humanity when I hear of the brutal massacre of these innocent victims. The victims are not even old enough to speak for themselves. And yet, their silent voice must be heard. It is this silent voice that we must convey to those who

we do not stop the chaos, America and the world at large will be destroyed by their lack of morals.

America today seems to be obsessed with rights of every kind. Millions of lawsuits occur because someone feels that at least one of his rights has been violated. In one highly publicized court case, a prison inmate sued his prison because he was deprived of his "right" to watch his favorite shows on the prison television; the younger, stronger inmates controlled the remote control. This man won in his lawsuit! If a "right" this ridiculous can be recognized by the court system, why is the right to live not recognized? What happened to the rights of a very large and important group—the unborn?

I call on all Americans of all religions, backgrounds, and moral values to rise up and tell the government that we will no longer stand for the legalized murder of our future—America's children. If we do not do this, America and everything it represents means nothing. If the most recognizable sentence of the defining document of America is a lie, what does that say about us, Americans? We must speak for the silent voice of the innocent; if we do not speak for the voice, nobody will. The voice is fading quickly as its source disappears, and we have to listen extremely hard to hear it. That is, if we can hear it at all above the silent screams. ■

## Tenth Annual Baby Shower

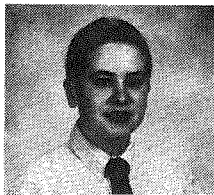


On Sunday, March 14, Lifespan will host approximately 30 baby showers throughout the metro area for pregnancy

help centers. 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 are interested in co-hosting a baby shower, please call our Main Office at (248) 777-9090.

**William Higgins, 14,**  
**is a freshman at**  
**Notre Dame Preparatory School**  
**in Pontiac**



is being mercilessly destroyed every day. With all of the commotion over the "right to die," I wonder what ever happened to a much more basic right, one that all people are conceived with: the right to live.

When one thinks about what the abortion of unborn children stands for, one cannot help but wonder how people who consider themselves to be human could

are not educated enough or intelligent enough to hear it.

In the 1980s about 40 to 60 million induced abortions occurred each year [worldwide]. That is 40 to 60 million people murdered each year. 27 out of every 1,000 U.S. women of childbearing age had induced abortions each year. It is a terrible thought, but, sadly, it is true. It

## Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 6 or 7. Bethany Christian Services has a 24-hour hotline number **1-800-BETHANY**. For people with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice (734) 464-7810 or Cranbrook Hospice (248) 334-6700.

## Donations have been made In loving memory of:

**Robert Tilley**

Given by: George & Mary Cascos  
Pat & Bob Holscher  
Linda & Art Kournoian  
Wayne West/Downriver Board

**Welcome (Bud) Dull**

Given by: Detroit Lifespan Office

**Monsignor Francis Canfield**

Given by: Julia Sporka  
Pat & Bob Holscher

**Nicholas Mansfield**

Given by: Gertrude Wise

**Daniel B. Murphy**

Given by: Barney & Eileen Moran

## In honor of the Baptism of:

**Brandon Kournoian**

Given by: Art & Linda Kournoian

## In thanksgiving for health of:

**Baby Michael Ryan Dannelback**

Given by: Jan & Carol Jarman  
Elizabeth Varkoly

## In celebration of the birth of:

**Mia Isley Ellis**

Given by: Diane & Norv Trombley

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 of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

## Legislative Update

*continued from page 8*

On July 31, the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on physician-assisted suicide. On September 24, the Judiciary Committee approved S 2151, with an amendment, voting 11 yes, 6 no. Neither House nor Senate took up the measure before adjournment. Sen. Don Nickles attempted to have language added to the end-of-session Omnibus Appropriations bill, but this effort was not successful.

**Human Cloning Ban.** The Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S 1601) was brought directly to the Senate floor. On February 11, the U.S. Senate voted 42 yes, 54 no, not to proceed with S 1601. A number of Senators wanted more time to study the issue. This measure bans the use of the cloning procedure itself ("somatic cell nuclear transfer") to produce human embryos. S 1599 is the companion bill referred to committee. The opposition bills, introduced by Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Edward Kennedy—S 1602 and S 1611—would permit cloning but ban the transfer of the cloned embryos to a woman's uterus, allowing the embryo to be subjected to experimentation and destroyed instead. On February 12, the House held hearings on this matter. No further action was taken.

**Abortion in Military Hospitals.** Current law prohibits the use of Department of Defense health facilities for abortions except to save the mother's life and in cases of rape or incest. On May 20, during consideration of the FY 1999 Defense Authorization Bill (HR 3616), the House rejected an amendment to strike this policy from law, voting 190 yes, 232 no. On June 25, during consideration of the FY 1999 Defense Authorization Act (S 2057), the Senate rejected an amendment also to strike the policy from law, voting 44 yes, 49 no. The pro-life policy remains in law.



Holiday wishes from  
all the moms and babies  
whose lives

you've touched throughout the year!

For all you've done—from the pacifier you purchased to the generous check you sent—may God bless you with a New Year filled with good health and much happiness!

—Karen Patrosso, Director  
Wee Care (248) 777-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

## Educational Center for Life

What an exciting time to be part of the pro-life community. With the defeat of Proposal B, we have every reason to rejoice. It was through your spiritual and financial support that the Educational Center for Life was the busiest it has ever been. We were actively involved and will remain committed to defeating any attempt to legalize euthanasia.

In this new year, we will work especially with our youth. Molly Kelly will be speaking at a number of schools. She will also be training youth leaders and crisis pregnancy counselors on the techniques of chastity education.

Another major goal is to distribute materials to schools and libraries. To realize this goal we need both volunteers and funding. Please call (248) 816-8489. Continue your generous support as we take on new endeavors. With wishes for a happy and hopeful pro-life year—*Phyllis Sullivan*

A memorial donation was made to ECL in memory of:

**Josephine Vandervort**

Given by: Margaret & John Joyce  
Linda & Bill Seng

### Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit Membership Form

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

_____ Annual Membership	\$ 20.00	_____ Monthly pledge	\$ _____
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	_____ Other	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.

Donations are not tax-deductible.

# What About Abstinence?

I was holding a notice from my 13-year-old son's school announcing a meeting to preview the new course in sexuality. Parents could examine the curriculum and take part in an actual lesson presented exactly as it would be given to the students.

When I arrived at the school, I was surprised to discover only about a dozen parents there. As we waited for the presentation, I thumbed through page after page of instructions in the prevention of pregnancy or disease. I found abstinence mentioned only in passing. When the teacher arrived with the school nurse, she asked if there were any questions.

I asked why abstinence did not play a noticeable part in the material. What happened next was shocking. There was a great deal of laughter, and someone suggested that if I thought abstinence had merit, I should be back to burying my head in the sand. The teacher and the nurse said nothing as I drowned in a sea of embarrassment. My mind had gone blank, and I could think of nothing to say. The teacher explained to me that the job of the school was to teach "facts," and the home was responsible for moral training.

I sat in silence for the next 20 minutes as the course was explained. The other parents seemed to give their unqualified support to the materials. "Donuts, at the back," announced the teacher during the break. "I'd like you to put on the name tags we have

prepared—they're right by the donuts—and mingle with the other parents." Everyone moved to the back of the room. As I watched them affixing their name tags and shaking hands, I sat deep in thought. I was ashamed that I had not been able to convince them to include a serious discussion of abstinence in the materials. I uttered a silent prayer for guidance.

---

***The teacher explained to me that the job of the school was to teach "facts," and the home was responsible for moral training.***

---

My thoughts were interrupted by the teacher's hand on my shoulder. "Won't you join the others, Mr. Layton?" the nurse smiled sweetly at me. "The donuts are good." "Thank you, no," I replied. "Well, then, how about a name tag? I'm sure the others would like to meet you." "Somehow I doubt that," I replied.

"Won't you please join them?" she coaxed. Then I heard a still, small voice whisper, "Don't go." The instruction was unmistakable. "Don't go!" "I'll just wait here," I said.

When the class was called back to order, the teacher looked around the

long table and thanked everyone for putting on name tags. She ignored me. Then she said, "Now we're going to give you the same lesson we'll be giving your children. Everyone please peel off your name tags." I watched in silence as the tags came off. "Now, then, on the back of one of the tags, I drew a tiny flower. Who has it, please?"

The gentleman across from me held it up. "Here it is!" "All right," she said, "the flower represents disease. Do you recall with whom you shook hands?" He pointed to a couple of people.

"Very good," she replied. "The handshake in this case represents intimacy. So the two people you had contact with now have the disease." There was laughter and joking among the parents. The teacher continued, "And whom did the two of you shake hands with?" The point was well taken, and she explained how this lesson would show students how quickly disease spread. "Since we all shook hands, we all have the disease."

It was then that I heard the still, small voice again. "Speak now," it said, "but be humble." I noted wryly the latter admonition, then rose from my chair. I apologized for any upset I might have caused earlier, congratulated the teacher on an excellent lesson that would impress the youth, and concluded by saying, "I have only one small point I wish to make. Not all of us were infected," I said. "One of us...abstained."

—National Abstinence Clearinghouse July/August 1998—Reprinted with permission

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit**  
Wayne West/Downriver Chapter  
27592 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150-2203



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Westland, MI 48185  
Permit No. 294