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# Lifespan *news*

Volume 26 Number 5

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

July/August 1997

## Medicare Rationing Looms

The House of Representatives has passed a Clinton-style Medicare Rationing Plan that, if enacted, would mean denial of life-saving medical treatment against the will of millions of older Americans.

Under the House bill, it is *illegal even to use your own money* on top of government payments in order to obtain unrationed, unmanaged insurance.

It effectively forces older Americans into managed care plans in which cost-squeezed bureaucrats frequently deny treatments.

In contrast, the Senate approved a plan that *does* allow seniors the ability to get unrationed, unmanaged private fee-for-service Medicare insurance, and allowed adding your own money to make such unrationed insurance financially possible.

A conference committee will now decide whether the House rationing provisions or the protective Senate provisions will prevail.

### IMMEDIATELY TELL YOUR U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO:

1. Urge the committee to accept the Senate Medicare provisions that allow private fee-for-service insurance and allow older Americans the option of adding their own money to obtain it.
2. Vote AGAINST the conference report if it does not contain such provisions.

See page 9 for addresses and phone numbers of legislators and for more legislative news.

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# News Notes

## Newborn discarded at prom

A New Jersey teen attending her high school prom gave birth in a restroom, left the baby in a trash can and returned to the dance floor with her boyfriend, authorities said.

Chaperons and medics tried to resuscitate the full-term baby boy, but he was pronounced dead at a hospital.

—*Infonet*, June 10, 1997

## Columbia OKs euthanasia

Colombia's highest court has legalized euthanasia for terminally ill people who clearly have given their consent.

The Constitutional Court decided 6-3 on May 20, that a person acting under strict guidelines cannot be held criminally responsible for taking another's life.

However, the court president said judges would have to come up with the guidelines and consider on a case-by-case basis whether a person is terminally ill.

—*Infonet*, May 21, 1997

## Dutch data troubling

In the June 4 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, U.S. psychiatrist Dr. Herbert Hendin and two Dutch experts conclude that the Dutch slope is slippery indeed. "Virtually every guideline set up by the Dutch," they write, "has failed to protect patients or has been modified or violated."

Among their findings: 60% of Dutch physicians ignore the requirement that they report cases of euthanasia and assisted suicide; over half report that they feel free to suggest euthanasia to patients who have not asked for it; about 25% have ended patients' lives without their consent.

—*Life at Risk*, May 1997

## Islamic law

Saudi Arabia's leading theologian has ruled that Islamic law forbids euthanasia.

Sheik Abdul-Aziz bin Baz said it is not permitted by Islamic law "to take the life of a person before death takes its natural course."

—*Infonet*, May 11, 1997

## Unethical organ harvesting

On Sunday, April 13, *60 Minutes* included a feature on the apparently growing practice in some U.S. hospitals of harvesting organs from dying patients under unethical circumstances. Reportedly, some physicians are ignoring the most stringent, patient-protective definitions of death, involving total and irreversible cessation of brain function including the brain stem, and basing determinations of death on loss of heart function. Physicians are then using medications that may actually hasten death but help to preserve organs desirable for transplant.

—*Infonet*, May 22, 1997

## Physician-only law upheld

Montana's "physicians-only" abortion bill was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court's ruling upholds the Montana law that prevents physicians' assistants from performing abortions.

—*National Right to Life Committee*  
June 16, 1997

## Measure returns to ballot

On June 9, the Oregon State Senate voted overwhelmingly to return Measure 16 back to the Oregon voters with recommendation for its repeal.

Oregon voters passed Measure 16 in 1994, making it the first jurisdiction in the world to legalize physician-assisted suicide. The initiative, which passed 51%-49%, has since been declared unconstitutional by Federal District Court Judge Michael Hogan. His decision was overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The measure will be on the November 1997 ballot.

—*Oregon Right to Life*, June 9, 1997

## Calendar of Events

July 27 .....Bowling for Life, p. 5  
Aug. 19-Sept. 1 .....State Fair, pp. 4, 5  
Oct. 5 .....LIFE CHAIN, p. 10  
Nov. 8 .....Legislative Breakfast

## RU 486 in Dispute

A lawsuit, filed May 9 in New York Supreme Court by Danco Laboratories Ltd., the would-be distributor of the controversial abortion pill, accuses the Hungarian firm, Gedeon Richter, of breach of contract by pulling out of the project.

Danco is seeking a court ruling requiring the pharmaceutical firm, which already has received \$500,000 in payments, to continue the project. The suit is the first time that the pill's manufacturer has been publicly identified.

Gedeon Richter, a publicly held company, is one of Hungary's largest pharmaceutical firms. In 1995, it signed a manufacturing contract with Danco, which had been licensed to market mifepristone.

But in February, Gedeon Richter informed Danco that it was terminating its contract and halting the manufacture of mifepristone, according to the lawsuit. The foreign company also failed to give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration information needed for final approval of the drug, the suit alleged.

The court action is the latest evidence of problems in the star-crossed project launched three years ago by the New York-based Population Council to market the abortion pill, known popularly as RU-486 and technically as mifepristone. Earlier this year, the council settled a lawsuit with a former business associate who was to have handled U.S. distribution of the drug.

The lawsuit states that Danco and the council are having great difficulty finding another manufacturer and even if they did, the project is likely to be delayed three to five years.

—*Infonet*, June 11, 1997

## Lifespan News

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# Could You Please Die Now?

## Disabled people like me have good reason to fear the push for assisted suicide

By Evan J. Kemp, Jr.

**O**n January 8, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Washington v. Glucksberg* and *Vacco v. Quill*. At issue was the question of whether or not "terminally ill" individuals have an inherent "right to die." And, if so, should a licensed physician be granted the legal right to assist in the "suicide" of a patient?

As the case was argued inside the court, thousands kept vigil outside the court. I was among them.

You might ask, "Why would a conservative Republican who served as the chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Bush administration join Clinton Democrats, representatives of the Catholic Church, Orthodox Jews, civil rights advocates and a large congregation of disabled and elderly people in a noisy street demonstration?"

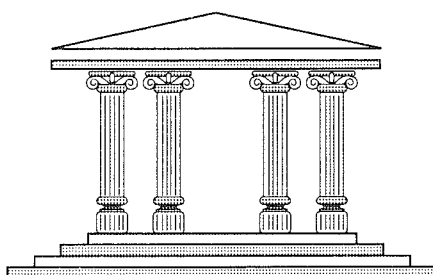
The answer is simple: I do not believe that doctors should kill their patients.

At the outset, I must acknowledge that the right to die proponents have a certain undeniable logic to their argument. I agree with the proposition that every individual has a right to control his or her life. Unfortunately, this logic does not take into account the institutional ramifications of physician-assisted suicide and thus misses a much more basic point. In this age of soaring health care costs, I believe the right-to-die option inevitably will be transformed into a means of rationing health care.

As a matter of fact, we've already taken our first few steps down this exceedingly steep and slippery slope. At present, a patient checking into a hospital is routinely given the option of signing a "do not resuscitate" order (DNR), requesting that "heroic measures," such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, not be taken should such

measures be required to keep the person alive.

DNR consent is supposed to be voluntary. In practice, however, that has not always been the case. Some disabled people report instances in which hospitals have pressured patients—most notably, people with disabilities, the uninsured and the severely ill—to sign DNR orders.



In some cases, the DNR is not explained clearly. The patient, or the patient's family or other representative, is not adequately informed of the nature of the order—especially the fact that it is supposed to be voluntary. The DNR is often included with other routine administrative papers to be signed. This cannot be construed as "informed consent."

Joe Ehman, a news reporter in Rochester, N.Y., who uses a wheelchair, told me he was "literally hounded by social workers" to sign a DNR when he was hospitalized in 1995 for back surgery. A few hours after surgery, still delirious from the anesthesia and from postsurgical morphine and demerol, I had to hear from yet another social worker who wanted to force-feed me a DNR. I mustered my strength and screamed, "I'm 30 years old. I don't want to die!"

Maria Matzik, a woman in her thirties who lives and works in Dayton,

Ohio, says she had a frightening battle with nurses during a 1993 hospital stay. "They kept asking me to sign a DNR order," she told me. "When I wouldn't sign it, they told me nothing would be done if I had a cardiac arrest." Matzik escaped that fate, but others have not.

Marjorie Nighbert, a 76-year-old Florida woman, was hospitalized in 1996 after a stroke. Before her hospital admission, she signed an advance directive that no "heroic measures" should be employed to save her life. On the basis of that directive and at the request of her family, the hospital denied Nighbert's requests for food and water, according to reports in the *Northwest Florida Daily News*. A hurriedly convened hospital ethics committee ruled that she was "not medically competent to ask for such a treatment." Until her death more than 10 days later, Nighbert was restrained in her bed to prevent her from raiding other patients' food trays.

The larger point is that, in evaluating the right-to-die movement, one should not overlook the fundamental importance of money. In the *Washington v. Glucksberg* decision, federal Judge Stephen Reinhardt tried to put the best possible face on the economic pressures involved in life and death decisions: "...in a society in which the costs of protracted health care can be so exorbitant, we are reluctant to say that it is improper for competent, terminally ill adults to take the economic welfare of their families and loved ones into consideration."

When it comes to spending money on health care, however, "families and loved ones" often are not in a position to call the shots. Insurance companies, hospitals, nursing homes and HMOs are—and they would prefer that the dirty little secret of money be kept out of the public debate about assisted suicide. After all, it's much easier for

*continued on page 8*



# Chapter

## Office hours

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

## State Fair volunteers needed

The Detroit Chapter will be working at the Lifespan booth at the Michigan State Fair from August 29-September 1. Please consider volunteering a few hours at our booth. Your admission to the Fair is FREE, and if you are a new volunteer, you will be placed with a seasoned veteran. We will need

two people per each four-hour shift. The shifts begin at 10:00 a.m. with the last shift ending at 10:00 p.m.

Besides having a great time exploring the Fair before or after your shift, you will also feel good about helping us spread the pro-life message to the thousands who walk by our booth. Call Mary at (313) 874-0432.

## Membership renewal

Please help us cut costs for a second notice by renewing your membership early. We send a second notice about two months after the first.

Please, also, if you know anyone who would like to become a member and receive our beautiful, informative *Lifespan*

*News*, please give us a call at the office at (313) 874-0432.

## Entertainment books

There will not be a pre-sale of Entertainment Books this year. The new 1998 book will be available after Labor Day. There will be only one edition of the book this year, for \$40.

Our Chapter will receive \$8.00 for each book sold, to help us in our ongoing educational fight for LIFE. Call the office at (313) 874-0432 to reserve a book today.

## Detroit Chapter

5930 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202-3516  
(313) 874-0432

## Office hours

MTTh 9-5; WF 9-2:45  
Diane Fagelman, Director  
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.  
Mary Small, Adm. Asst.  
Clare Schneider, Nwsltr. Coord.

## Fair fun

Fair and festival time is definitely here, and we need some folks to help staff our educational booths. Oakland/Macomb Lifespan will be at the 4H Fair in Davisburg, July 28-August 3, the State Fair, August 24-28; and Troy Daze, September 12-14.

The Davisburg Fair is smaller than the State Fair or Troy Daze and a good place to begin if you have never done a fair before. Fairs are fun!! We will always place a "rookie" with a "veteran." The people who visit our booths are usually quite supportive and even those who don't support us are usually quite polite.

Come on!! Give it a try!! Call the office (248) 816-1546, and volunteer for some fair fun.

## Commemorative crosses

Thanks to Tom O'Neil, the crosses are complete (we could still use a little help fitting the hardware in place) and ready for scheduling.

The crosses are not limited to the Oakland/Macomb area, but are open to all the Lifespan chapters.

If you think your faith community would like to display the crosses, please call the Oakland/Macomb office for scheduling. Don't wait too long though, the weekends are filling up fast.

## Computer countdown

Our new office computer is here and being programmed (thanks, Norv Trombley!) with software that should improve our record keeping and office reports, etc.

A big thank you goes out to all who have been so faithful with membership renewals, Christmas cards, carnations, donations, candy bars and encouragement which have made it possible to purchase this system.

With all that lies in front of us in the area of doctor-assisted suicide, campaign reform and partial-birth abortion, this new computer will help us keep you as up to date as possible.

## Convention contents

Several of us attended the National Right to Life Convention in Chicago, and did we get an earful. There is so much to be done in the area of campaign reform and doctor-assisted suicide that if we did not know that all you folks were out there, ready to help where needed, we might be a little worried.

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving all kinds of information from us on these issues, but for now keep in mind that the 9-0 decision by the Supreme Court on doctor-assisted suicide sends the issue directly to each state, and we will be working very hard to be sure that Michigan does not become a doctor-assisted suicide state.

The issue of campaign reform is really kind of confusing, but for now, keep in mind that it does not just mean the end of deception and lies, but, as currently proposed, really means the end of our ability to speak out on pro-life issues.

## Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G  
Troy, MI 48084-3540  
(248) 816-1546

# News

wayne west/downriver

## Office hours

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



## In loving memory

In 1992, Lifespan's neighbor, who operates adult group homes, asked if we had any volunteer work! After that, Jan Canter came many times a week until she was diagnosed with brain tumors last December.

Jan couldn't understand why people would want to kill unborn babies who weren't "perfect." She understood that if abortion were legal when she was born, she may not have made it into this world.

There wasn't anything she couldn't or wouldn't do. She kept busy collating, folding and stapling surplus newsletters, labeled and stuffed envelopes, stamped literature, wrapped candles and tagged roses. No job got past her that wasn't perfect.

She worked alongside many of you, and she treasured all of your friendships. Jan shared with us her hopes and dreams. She gave us laughter and love.

Now she's with the Lord, healthy and happy. Surely she was greeted by the unborn children she tried to save. We miss her. Our loss is heaven's gain.

—Linda Kournoian

## State Fair

Volunteers will be needed to work our pro-life information booth at the State Fair. Our Chapter's shift is from Tuesday, August 19 through Saturday, August 23.

Usually, we talk to people who don't have any true knowledge of the LIFE issues. It's great watching parents use our life-size fetal models to explain to their children the development of the preborn baby in the womb. Many don't even realize that they're giving their kids their first biology lesson.

Don't be hesitant to volunteer because you will be placed with an experienced prolifer. I love fairs and so will YOU! Only qualifications are a friendly smile and love for the unborn.

## Bowling for LIFE reminder

Don't get left out of the fun! Join other proliferers on Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Rd., Livonia and bowl 3 GAMES FREE.

Get your families or church members to make up a team or come alone—no one is a stranger in a pro-life group. All bowlers receive a gift certificate.

GRAND PRIZES for the most pledged money collected:

- 1st prize...\$200 bond
- 2nd prize...\$100 bond
- 3rd prize...\$75 bond
- 4th prize...\$50 bond
- 5th prize...\$50 bond

ADDITIONAL PRIZES: High game scores (with handicaps) for Men, Women and Children...\$100 bond in each category. High series score including Men, Women and Children (with handicaps)...\$100 bond.

For further details regarding eligibility or sponsor forms, please call (313) 422-6230 or (313) 728-5856.

**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**  
27578 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150-2203  
(313) 422-6230

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

While preparing for the upcoming State Fair, I found a success story in the file that I would like to share with you. The following are excerpts from a young mother's letter.

"I recently attended the Michigan State Fair where I saw the booth that you set up...I was 15 when I found out I was pregnant. The father of my child (who I thought I was going to spend the rest of my life with) denied that the baby was his. His solution was to abort the baby...my friends, my principal and doctor said I would ruin my life if I had this baby. They all told me how easy abortion would be.

"I knew I had the final decision, to me that was no decision at all. I wanted my baby.

"Things did not get easier at first. I had medical complications, my boyfriend left me, I had to drop out of school and then my dad died. But I gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy.

"Later, I took my G.E.D. and went to school to be a nurse's assistant. I'm currently working and going to college, but still living with my mom.

"In general, it's tough...I think I strive to achieve higher goals because I want a good life for my son."

I hope you will join me in congratulating this courageous young woman and all those like her who have chosen LIFE for their babies and succeeded against all odds.

We may be in the trenches, but they are the real heroes.

*Aun*



# PLEASE DO NOT

A petition drive by a group called "Merian's Friends" plans to collect 350,000 signatures in an attempt to legalize assisted suicide. The issue would then be placed on the November 1998 ballot. The new law, if approved by voters, would be known as the Terminally Ill Patient's Right to End Unbearable Pain and Suffering Act. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, ruled that the Constitution does not include the right to assisted

A PETITION to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled "Public health code," by amending sections 2844, 5658, 5660, 7401, 16221, 16226, 170333.20165), sections 5658 and 5660 as added and sections 16221 and 16226 as amended by 1996 PA 594, section 7401 as amended by 1996 PA 179, and by adding part 56b entitled "Terminally Ill Patient's Right To End Unbearable Pain or Suffering Act"; to amend 1953 PA 181 (MCL 50.181) entitled "Open meetings act," by amending section 3 (MCL 15.263), as amended by 1988 PA 278, and to repeal acts and parts of acts. The proposed

The Act proposed by this Petition would do all the following: (A) Give a terminally ill adult who is competent, fully informed and a resident the right to hasten death; (B) Assure the patient's right to revoke his or her request for medication at any time and numerous other patient safeguards; (C) Mandate that physicians who prescribe medication pursuant to this Act; and (F) Punish a physician or other individual who violates this Act.

The full text of the proposed legislation appears on the reverse side of this petition and its attached pages. Words added are in capital letters.

We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_,

**WARNING -- A person who knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a petition with a date other than the actual date of signing, or sets opposite his or her signature on a petition, a date other than the actual date of signing,**

MARK WHETHER REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CITY OR TOWNSHIP AND WRITE ITS NAME.	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME
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CITY OF <input type="checkbox"/>		
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INITIATION OF LEGISLATION

ASSISTED SUICIDE

## CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

I, the circulator of this petition, assert that I am qualified to circulate this petition, that each signature on the petition was signed in my presence to my best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition at the time of signing a qualified registered elector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to

**WARNING -- A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.**

# SIGN THIS PETITION!

**suicide. Both the American Medical Association and the Michigan State Medical Society strongly oppose physician-assisted suicide. Petition signatures and donations will be solicited at churches, stores and door-to-door. Do not be deceived by their rhetoric. DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION. Warn your pastors, neighbors, family and friends. For more information, call your local Lifespan chapter or the Main Office at (313) 533-9090.**

17533, 17766, and 20165 (MCL 333.2844, 333.5658, 333.5660, 333.7401, 333.16221, 333.16226, 333.17033, 333.17533, 333.17766, and 333.17766, and sections 17033 and 17533 as amended by 1994 PA 234, section 17766 as amended by 1990 PA 30, and section 20165 as amended by 1990 PA 201-216), commonly referred to as the "Medical examiners act," by amending sections 2 and 3 (MCL 52.202 and 52.203), to amend 1976 PA 267, is to be voted on at the General Election, November 3, 1998.

of this state, or a close relative of a resident of this state, the right to end unbearable pain or suffering through the self-administration of medication to maintain confidentiality of patient records at all times; (D) Protect other legal rights of a patient who complies with this Act; (E) Provide oversight of

letters and words deleted are crossed out.

of Michigan, respectively petition for initiation of legislation.

name other than his or her own, signs when not a qualified and registered elector, or the signature was affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

[illegible]

**CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.**

petition was at  
in the petition.

(Signature of Circulator)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Circulator)

(Name of City or Township Where Registered to Vote)

Complete Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)

(Post Office)



# Assisted Suicide

continued from page 3

them to justify their actions on the basis of humanitarian principle than financial self-interest. Once physician-assisted suicide is given the sanction of law, our health care institutions are likely to devise contractual mechanisms that make sure members of targeted groups die as efficiently as possible.

All of this will be justified by the holy grail of the right-to-die movement: "choice." But the laws of economics virtually guarantee that, in practice, those who "choose" assisted suicide will disproportionately come from the lower end of the socioeconomic ladder; people without health insurance, as well as from people who are said to possess a low "quality of life"—i.e., people with disabilities.

As former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop declared at a Washington, D.C., press conference in November, "Toleration of doctor-assisted suicide can lead to acceptance of involuntary euthanasia."

As a disabled person, I am especially sensitive to the "quality of life" rationale that is frequently introduced in the debate. For the past 47 years, I have lived with a progressive neuromuscular disease that first began to manifest itself when I was 12. My disease, Kugelburg Weylander Syndrome, has no known cure, and I have no hope for "recovery."

Upon diagnosis, my parents were informed by the physicians treating me that I would die within two years. Later, another group of physicians was certain that I would live only to the age of 18. Yet here I am at age 59, continuing to have an extraordinarily high quality of life.

And my case is by no means unique. The majority of families I have encountered in my lifetime, and who have been close enough to share details of their

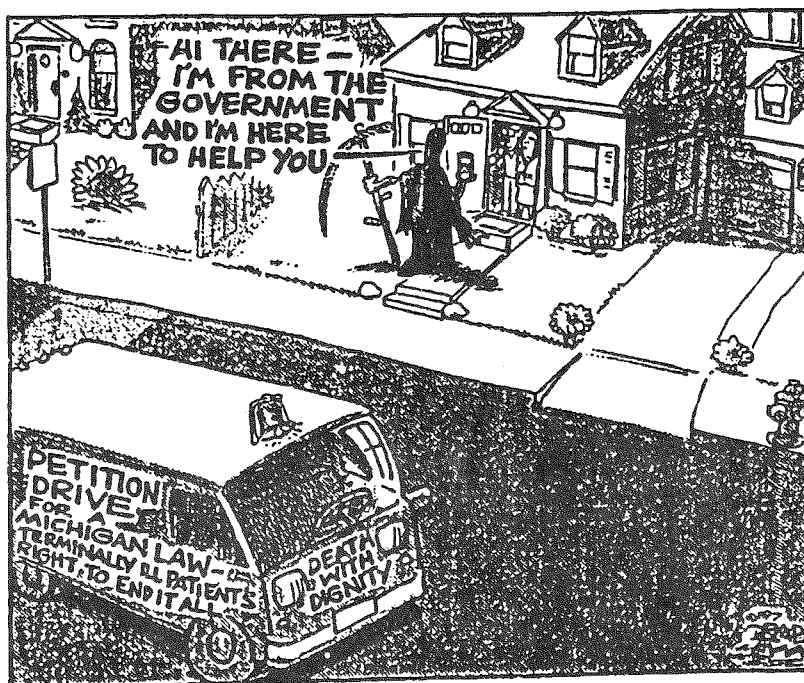
extended family life, have had at least one member who defied the medical establishment by living a far longer and more productive life than expected. Should we permit the medical establishment to assist these individuals with disabilities to die before their time at the hands of their physicians? I don't think so.

If physician-assisted suicide is decriminalized, the next question to arise will be how to pay for the service. If the suicide services, dubbed "obituary" by Dr. Jack Kevorkian, become billable, those services could

filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court. The AMA wishes for physicians to maintain their role as healers, and not to become potential killers, even for reasons of mercy.

The experience of Nazi Germany is relevant here not because the advocates of assisted suicide are incipient fascists (they're not) but because of the historical fact that the Holocaust had its beginnings in the systematic elimination of Germans with disabilities. As Hugh Gregory Gallagher noted in his 1990 book, "By Trust Betrayed: Physicians, Patients and the License to

Kill in the Third Reich." Adolf Hitler's order of September 1939 called for physicians to assist in the killings of citizens with illnesses and disabilities. Nazi propagandists, led by a small number of physicians, said that such citizens were "useless eaters" and "life unworthy of life." Today American health planners, while driven by a very different ideology, also speak a dehumanizing language about "health care



dovetail all too well with our nation's current drive to cut health care costs. Health maintenance organizations may view the cost of obituary as especially cost-effective in that the practice will require neither referrals to specialists nor repeat visits to physicians' offices.

In managed-care parlance, the portion of the premium dollar spent on medical care is called the "medical-loss ratio." Insurance companies and health maintenance organizations could cut that ratio by providing assisted suicide rather than bypass surgeries and the like. After all, many people are cheaper dead than alive.

The American Medical Association has twice affirmed its opposition to physician-assisted suicide and recently

consumers" and the dubious "quality of life" of our citizens with illnesses and disabilities.

From where I sit, it is undeniably clear that giving physician-assisted suicide the sanction of law will have unintended consequences which vastly outweigh any benefits that might accrue. As Koop puts it, "Society must not allow doctors to be killers as well as healers."

*Evan J. Kemp, Jr., former chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is senior partner of Evan Kemp Associates, Inc., a health and mobility company owned and operated by disabled people.*

—The Washington Post  
National Weekly Edition, January 13, 1997  
Reprinted with permission





# 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  
1 (800) 962-3524

Dear Senator (last name):

### U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-3121  
1 (800) 962-3524

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman  
(last name):

### Governor

The Honorable John Engler  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 373-3400  
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Engler:

### Michigan State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name)  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48913  
(517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name): or  
Dear Representative (last name):

## Campaign Reform

President Clinton, some prominent politicians in both parties, and much of the institutional media are crusading for enactment of sweeping and unprecedented changes in federal election laws. They are pushing several so-called "campaign reform" bills that would flagrantly violate constitutional rights by placing severe restrictions on our ability to speak to the public regarding the positions of those who hold and seek public office on critical right-to-life issues.

If these so-called "reforms" are passed in their current form, Right to Life - Lifespan will no longer be able to print a "Legislative Update" in our newsletter or the Voter's Guide editions before elections. Our voice and those of all pro-life groups will be silenced.

■ Write a letter to your U.S. House member. Urge him or her to oppose the Shays-Meehan bill (HR 493), the Farr-Gephardt bill (HR 600), or any other bill that would require government monitoring of, or restrictions on, "issue advocacy." "Issue advocacy" refers to communications regarding issues, including the positions of those who hold or seek office on those issues, voting records and policy positions.

■ Write similar letters to your two U.S. Senators, expressing opposition specifically to the McCain-Feingold bill (S25), and to any other bills that would place restrictions on the free speech of organizations regarding issues and the positions of candidates on issues.

■ For more information, call Lifespan's Main Office at (313) 533-9090 or your local chapter office.

## Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

Because the Senate made minor changes in the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (HR 1122), it must first receive final approval from the House before it can be sent to President Clinton for his expected

veto. The author of the ban, Congressman Charles Canady, has not announced a firm timetable for final House action, and there is no schedule for the subsequent veto override votes, which will occur first in the House, then in the Senate.

## Military Abortions

On June 19, the House voted 224-196 to maintain the ban on abortions at U.S. military hospitals overseas, rejecting for the second straight year an attempt to repeal the ban.

The amendment to a defense spending bill would have allowed abortions at taxpayer-funded military hospitals and either force military doctors to perform them or force taxpayers to hire civilian doctors to perform them.

KEY: X = Pro-Life Vote  
O = Pro-Abortion Vote

### U.S. House/Michigan

8 Stabenow	O
9 Kildee	X
10 Bonior	O
11 Knollenberg	X
12 Levin	O
13 Rivers	O
14 Conyers	O
15 Kilpatrick	O
16 Dingell	O

## The Armchair Lobbyist

A new addition has been added to the wealth of pro-life resources. Located at <http://www.prolife.org/tal>, The Armchair Lobbyist offers a compendium of information for the pro-life person interested in involvement in public policy and legislative affairs.

The Armchair Lobbyist features congressional contact information and also national and state legislative information.

# Thanks, We Did It!

## ABORTION... the ultimate child abuse

Right to Life - Lifespan 313-533-9090



Our billboard will be at its fifth location, from approximately July 22-September 21, on the Lodge Freeway at Lesure, west side, south facing, for two months. Our message is then scheduled to move the last weekend in September to Woodward and Nine Mile, east side, north facing, for three months.

Continued from our last newsletter is the list of names of donors to this billboard campaign whom we would like to thank for their support: O'Hara, O'Neill, Oakland/Macomb Chapter, Orlowski, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Our Lady of Refuge Church, Pallas, Paraventi, Parr, Pawlak, Pechette, Pellerito, Persha, Petlewski, Petrimoulx, Phillips, Pichan, Piercecchi, Pietrzyk, Pizzo, Plante, Poepppe, Polera, Prince of Peace Women's Society, Prong, Purcell, Quinlan, Quinn, Raczkowski, Radzialowski, Radzialowski, Raftery, Rastenis, Reaume, Rengers, Retzlaff, Reuter, Riley, Rill, Ring, Robbins, Robertson, Rohrig, Rost, Roth, Rozman, RTL Northwest Macomb, RTL Warren/Center Line, Inc., Ryan, Rys, Saad, Sabatowich, Sacred Heart Parish, Salapatek, Sands, Sarnacki, Scanland, Scannell, Schipper, Schmid, Schmidt, Schneider, Schroeder, Sechrist, Seguin, Semeniuk, Seng, Shafer, Sheridan, Shervish, Sherwood, Shirk, Shive, Sind, Singel, Smentowski, Smith, Sobieck, Soltis, Soyster, Spala, Speer, Sporka, Spurbeck, St. John Bosco Church, St. Maurice Church, St. Philomena Parish, St. Thomas a' Becket Church, Starrett, Stecker, Steffes, Sterbenz, Stockhausen, Stokes, Stouffer, Striber, Sturm, Szafranski, Tabaczynski, Tardiff, Teeft, Tefft, Tharp, Thewes, Thomson, Tomilo, Tomlan, Travis, Traylor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Truchan, Trunk, Valasek, Vecchioni, Vella, Vermette, Vincent, Virag, Virant, Wachtel, Wade, Wade, Wagar, Wagner, Walden, Wall, Walsh, Walsh, Walters, Ward, Wasner, Wayne West/Downriver Chapter, Weber, White, Wieser, Willerer, Williams, Williams, Williamson, Winiarski, Wiser, Wolf, Wolf, Wood, Wroblewski, Zack, Zack, Zaleski, Zammit, Zapytowski, Zenz, Zick, Ziemann, Zimmerman.



You didn't read it in the papers—  
you didn't see it on

the news—luckily, this story had a happy ending.

A young, terrified mother of two was about to abandon her new day-old baby, but at the last minute, she frantically called a relative who convinced her to give her son to a family that would love and cherish him. The relative then called a friend whom she knew would welcome this child into her heart.

Five days later, a private adoption had begun, and we received a call from the "new" mom asking for a few things for her little guy as this was all so sudden.

When she arrived at Wee Care, still in shock, but bursting with joy, she carried her precious, six-pound little miracle in her arms. With a mass of dark curls and long fingers, she had already determined that someday he would be a heartbreaker as well as a concert pianist, but as for now, she called him her little gift from God.

This story had a happy ending—or better yet—a happy "new beginning"—and thanks to your generosity throughout the year, hundreds of babies are given help as they begin their precious lives.

—Karen Patrosso, Director  
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan



## LIFE CHAIN of Metro Detroit

National LIFE CHAIN Sunday • October 5 • 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

Woodward Avenue • Seven Mile to Twelve Mile Rds.

Thousands of participants will stand in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs will deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children, Adoption is the Loving Option, Abortion Hurts Women and Jesus Heals and Forgives.** Will you invest one afternoon to help save a lifetime? Call (313) 533-9090.



## Donations have been made In loving memory of:

### Sylvia Fary

Given by: H. W. & Marjorie Hammond  
Richard & Maryanne Dixon  
Robert & Joan Newlin

### Mary Duwel

Given by: Richard & Patricia Duwel

### Richard Donagrandi

Given by: Rosaline J. Coyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mularoni  
Sue & Jeff Fairbanks

### Rita Marie McMullen

Given by: Mary Woodhouse  
Thomas & Patricia Link  
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Sue & Dave Subject  
Jo Ann Ryan  
Mary & Rick Martuscelli  
Carole Danielson  
Cristina Smith  
Ruth Delfoss  
Jo Ann Cottone  
Marjorie Ouellette  
Shrine Grade School Mother's Club  
Edward & Anne Lash  
Carol Lentz  
Irene Cowall  
Frank & Monica Nelson  
Joe & Aileen Fritsch

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.

Donations may be sent to your local Lifespan office. Sorry, they are not tax-deductible.

## Entertainment Books

There will be no pre-sale of Entertainment '98 Books this year. Also, only ONE edition for all areas is being offered, for \$40, and will be available after Labor Day. More details will be forthcoming.

## Bill Knapp's coupons

Our participation in the Bill Knapp Community Support coupon project continues. We are now saving for an outdoor exhibit tent to be used by all chapters.

Many thanks to the following coupon donors of the past four months: Gibbons, Basner, Kacher, Pernak, Lucas, Prais, Bettega, Hall, Poepe, Wilhelm, Radzialowski, Phillips, Murphy, Garrison, Ervin, Longtin, Werner, Delleva, Wilhelm, Altena, St. Raphael Church, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, St. Roch Church, Mannor, Trombley, Sporka, Vance, Babik, St. Theodore Church, Lesiak, St. Linus Church, McLaughlin, Astalos, Roy, Kleinbrook, Jagodozinski, Barylski, O'Connell, Wood, Roberts, Fessler, Benninghouse, Yarnevich, Moots, Huter, Garden City Christian Center, Schultz, St. Perpetua Church, Pierson, Dow, Ring, Grougan, Gletzen, Hoffman, Van Houten, Martinuzzi, McDermott, Modes, Hoefer, Martin, MacDonald, Schweiger, Slomka, St. Hedwig Church, Bleecker, Sterbenz, Council of Catholic Women, Donohoe, Fabian, Rochon, Purcell, Gnaster, Our Lady of Victory Church, Navarre, Truchan, Salesky, Freda, Bowker, Bosco, Lohrengel, Miller, Holscher, St. Maurice Church, Sr. Lucille, Carbott, Bradley, Dreslinski, Lovend.

Please continue to save these coupons for our next project. When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's Restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. Send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Thanks!



## Educational Center for Life

The Educational Center for Life had several of our board members return recently from the National Right to Life Convention in Chicago.

It was during this convention that the decision was made by the Supreme Court on assisted suicide. As happy as we were, we realized that this was also the beginning of a more intense educational process based on surveys of people's opinion on assisted suicide.

One of our newest books in the office is *Dying Well*, by Dr. Ira Byock, President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Madeline Satwicz, R.N., reviewed the book for us and her comments are as follows: "Each chapter is a story of love, faith and courage. Dr. Byock's explanation of the role of food and water carefully considered the alternatives, the ethics and the futility of keeping alive a dying child and the pain and discomfort that feeding inflicts at the end of life. The author insists that physical distress among the dying can always be alleviated. Medical care for the dying stops working only when we give up. Sometimes the pain is so severe and so resistant to customary medicine and therapies that a patient is forced to accept sedation as the cost of comfort, but comfort is always possible. He sees the fine line between sedation and euthanasia as more of a chasm. This is an excellent, compassionate series of stories from real life experiences." —Thank you, Madeline.

ECL has many excellent resources on euthanasia and assisted suicide. Call us.

**Educational Center for Life**  
**Coventry Place**  
**1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G**  
**Troy, MI 48084-3540**  
**(248) 816-8489**

### 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	\$ 15.00	_____ 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.

# Abortions decrease another three percent

**G**overnor John Engler has announced that for the third consecutive year reported abortions have declined in Michigan. There were 30,208 abortions performed in Michigan during 1996 and 31,091 abortions performed in 1995, a decrease of 2.8 percent. Abortions have decreased by 15.5 percent since 1993 and 35.4 percent from 1988.

"This is wonderful news for the State of Michigan. Reducing the number of abortions is a goal that is shared by every Michigan citizen, regardless of party or politics," said Governor Engler. "We are very proud that Michigan is a national leader in protecting the unborn."

The report also shows a decline in the number of abortions for women under the age of 25. Abortions on resident women under the age of 20 declined by 3.8 percent and for women between the ages of 20 through 24 abortions declined by 5.9 percent. There was a decrease of 2.6 percent in abortions performed on women

between the ages of 30 and 39.

"It is encouraging to see these numbers decrease. Individuals at the state and local levels have been involved in the efforts to decrease the number of abortions in our state. Through counseling and increased communication, we are seeing positive results," said Department of Community Health Director James K. Haveman, Jr.

Data from Michigan's 28 largest cities show an overall decline of 3.9 percent in the number of abortions performed.

Of the women receiving abortions, 82.9 percent of them were not married, down from 83.7 percent in 1995 and from the 84.6 percent reported in 1994 which was the highest this percentage has ever been since reporting began in 1980.

The report is a result of physician reporting to the Office of the State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics in the Michigan Department of Community Health.

For a complete report, call (517) 335-8705.

**Table A**  
**Characteristics of Reported Abortions in Michigan**  
**1980 - 1996**

Characteristics	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996
All Reported Occurrences	45,455	42,678	36,183	33,061	31,091	30,208
Gestation: 12 Weeks or Less	37,961	35,631	31,729	28,134	26,177	25,473
Age of Woman:						
Under 18	NA	NA	3,820	2,837	2,798	2,648
Under 20 Years	13,822	12,666	8,754	6,852	6,393	6,150
20 - 24 Years	15,779	14,070	11,421	11,132	9,901	9,313
25 - 29 Years	8,354	8,049	7,234	6,644	6,429	6,601
30 Years or Older	5,859	6,511	7,190	7,088	6,967	6,821
Had Previous Term Pregnancy (***)	20,040	19,804	17,842	17,709	16,523	16,437
Previous Induced Abortion:						
None	29,104	24,650	19,180	16,717	15,392	14,960
Two or More	4,194	6,033	5,765	6,470	6,062	6,100

(\*\*\*) Term pregnancies are those which lasted 37 weeks or longer, regardless of the outcome.

Source: Office of the State Registrar and Division of Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Community Health

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit**  
**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**  
**27578 Schoolcraft Road**  
**Livonia, MI 48150-2203**



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