

Livingston County Life-Line

Spring 2009

Help Halt the Assault on Human Life

by Penny Sobonya

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Until the next mid-term elections in 2010, pro-abortion forces in Congress and a pro-abortion president will have the opportunity to remove many pro-life laws and create new ones assaulting the sanctity of human life. Pro-life people need to come together to halt the assault on human life.

Stop the Assault on the Hyde Amendment One of the most important pro-life policies is the Hyde Amendment which prohibits the use of federal Medicaid funds for abortions (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest). The Hyde Amendment has been incorporated into the annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services since 1976. President Obama opposes the Hyde Amendment and the Democratic Congressional leadership could seek to block renewal of the amendment in 2009.

Stop the Freedom of Choice Act The "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) is a proposed federal law that would nullify virtually every state and federal pro-life law and policy, including parental notification laws and partial-birth abortion bans. In addition, FOCA prohibits policies at any level of government that would "discriminate" against abortion, meaning abortion would have to be provided and funded in any government health program that provides services to pregnant women (e.g., Medicaid, SCHIP). Under FOCA, those in the health care field who object to performing or participating in an abortion, may no longer have the right to do so.

Stop the Rescinding of the Conscience Protection Regulation The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a

proposal earlier this month to rescind the Bush Administration conscience protection regulation.

Stop Research Using Human Embryos President Obama has used his executive authority to remove President Bush's restrictions on the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research. It is also likely that Congress will consider legislation to remove the Dickey Amendment. The Dickey Amendment prevents the federal funding of research where human embryos are killed and where human embryos are created for the purpose of research.

Stop Abortion Expanding International Policy President Obama nullified the pro-life "Mexico City Policy" on January 23. The effect of President Obama's action will be to re-direct a substantial amount of U.S. "population assistance" funds away from overseas groups that avoid involvement in abortion and into the hands of groups that are committed to the expansion of abortion.

Stop National Health Care Reform Which Includes Rationing, Abortion We are equally concerned with protecting the elderly and people with disabilities from euthanasia as with protecting the unborn from abortion. Health care reform does more than threaten to ration health care in order to curb costs. Denial of lifesaving medical treatment is a form of involuntary euthanasia.

Stop Judges from Legislating from the Bench On March 23, U.S. District Judge Edward Korman ruled against the rights of parents to prevent their 17-

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year old daughters from taking the "morning after pill" also known as "Plan B". He has ordered that the drug be made available to women, 17 and older. He has also asked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to consider allowing its use without the need of a doctor visit or prescription.

President Obama's first judicial appointment, David Hamilton, an Indiana trial judge first nominated by President Clinton, has blocked enforcement of an informed-consent law for years. Abortionists are not required to inform women of the risk and consequences of abortion in Indiana.

Despite a pro-abortion majority in Congress we can still halt this radical assault on the sanctity of human life. We must help to educate our fellow citizens and encourage them to make their voices heard. Contact our office to see how you can help to halt the assault on human life.

Understanding the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)

The "Freedom of Choice Act" would invalidate Michigan's commonsense laws which have been passed since the two U.S. Supreme Court decisions, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

The so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) S. 1173, sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer (D- Ca.), would invalidate any federal, state, or local government law, regulation, policy, or action that would "deny or interfere with" a woman's access to abortion prior to "viability," or which would "discriminate against the exercise of" this right in the regulation or provision of any "benefits, facilities, services, or information."

This ban would apply absolutely prior to fetal "viability," and also apply after "viability" to any abortion sought on grounds of "health," which is not defined in the bill and which therefore would include any physical or emotional factor whatsoever.

FOCA is sometimes referred to as a bill to "codify *Roe v. Wade*." This is misleading because the sponsors of the bill have acknowledged that it would invalidate many laws that have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court under *Roe v. Wade*, including laws restricting government funding of abortion, limits on abortion in public or military facilities, full-disclosure counseling requirements, and bans on partial-birth abortion.

It would also invalidate all laws requiring parental or judicial notification or consent for abortions performed on minors, laws that permit health care providers to opt out of participation in abortion on conscience grounds, laws prohibiting non-physicians from performing abortions, and waiting periods.

The House companion bill, sponsored by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), is H.R. 1964.

If FOCA passed, the following laws in Michigan may be in jeopardy: Ultrasound Viewing Option; Abortion Prepayment Prohibition; Informed Consent for Abortion; Clinic Regulations; Abortion

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Fowlerville Family Fair-2009

Livingston County's 123rd Fowlerville Fair is just around the corner. If you read the local paper, then you know there have been some changes over the past few years at the fairgrounds. In order to better accommodate families and increase attendance, the fair is being held a week later-in order to miss the impact of 4th of July and summer vacations. The fair will start Saturday, July 18th and ends Saturday, July 25th.

For more information on particular fair events, visit www.fowlerville-fair.com.

The fair booth is a great way to volunteer, have fun and educate visitors. Booth workers are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Please contact the office (810-227-5788, or e-mail rtllc@sbcglobal.net), to request a specific time slot. Previous volunteers will be contacted by phone May-June.

Annual Meeting

Due to scheduling conflict for the March deadline, the annual member meeting will take place Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 1:30PM. The following people have been nominated to the Board of Directors of Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc.

Joy Applin
Nina Cedar
Cary Davis
Jay Drick
Kathy Ogorek
Jeannie Schiavone
Penny Sobonya
Kim Weeks

Email Addresses Needed

To strengthen our outreach for education, lobbying and action items be sure to get on our email lists: rtllc@sbcglobal.net

If you, or someone you know, are interested in serving on the board, please call the office for more information. We meet approximately 10 times a year in our offices at Grand River & Hope Street near St. Pat's in Brighton.

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Complications Reporting; Abortion Coverage for State Employees; Parental Consent for Abortion; Conscience Clause for Abortion; and our Ban on Medicaid Abortion Coverage.

FOCA History

An earlier version of the Freedom of Choice Act was pushed by pro-abortion forces beginning in the late 1980s. When President Bill Clinton, a FOCA supporter, took office in January 1993, Planned Parenthood predicted that the FOCA would be law within six months. But the bill died after an education and lobbying campaign.

Enthusiasm for the original FOCA faded after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in the 1994 election.

The most recent version of FOCA was introduced in April 2007 following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Gonzales v. Carhart*. *Gonzales v. Carhart* upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortion.

Prolife Action Items

The Freedom of Choice Act cannot be signed into law until it passes through both chambers of Congress, the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

Right to Life of Michigan will be working closely with National Right to Life to monitor this legislation and to lobby our lawmakers. Currently, Right to Life of Michigan is making an on-line petition available. This petition allows the people of Michigan to be on record regarding their opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act.

We also encourage you to tell a friend about the Freedom of Choice Act and the promise made by President-elect Obama. You may also print a petition for friends and family members to sign.

In Loving Memory & Honor

In Memory of
Marguerite Ciagne

Given by
Marian Rometty
Cheryll and John Ennest
Patricia and Art Ciagne
Andrea Sheridan
Dolores Hill
Sandra and Paul Stark
Penny and Paul Sobonya
Joy and Dick Applin
Kathy and Walter Ogorek
Cary and Barry Davis
Maria and Ken Foster
James Haas
Nancy and R Morris Adams
Penelope and George Dann
Veronica and Matthew Weisenberger
Verna Somerville

In Memory of
Janet Barron

Given by
Marian Rometty

In Memory of
Kathryn Hessel

Given by
Louise and Arnold Wise

In Memory of
Those Missing

Given by
Nina Cedar

In Memory of
Kenneth Montroy

Given by
Rosalie Montroy

In Memory of
Grace Wolfe

Given by
Judy & Dave Wolfe

In Honor of Mother's Day

Paige Pualani Gabel
Teresa M Young
Angela R Gabel

Given by
Caroline and Dennis Gabel

In Honor of Mother's Day

Cary Davis
Given by
Maria Foster

In Celebration of Christmas

Matthew Weisenberger
Given by
Cary and Barry Davis

In Honor of our First Grandchild

Evelyn Gloria Bennett
Given by
Grandma and Grandpa Amenson

Happy Spring! It's been such a long and cold winter (for some of us anyway)! We are really excited about all of the good things that are happening. We moved into our new offices - please attend

From The Board

our Open House May 5-6-7. We have welcomed several new volunteers - Sara-who brings her son Isaac, Robin, Rosalee and Kim. Working at entering data, making phone calls and sending out mailings - they are truly a blessing. A wonderful couple has donated a laptop computer that was one of the items on our "wish list" - God bless you! Our annual membership drive is picking up steam and we sincerely hope that all of you receiving this newsletter will be as generous as possible when you send in your new membership or renewal. We have some of the best people in the world as members of RTL Livingston County.

With spring comes new births and blooms - in the farm yards and the back

yards. As always, our annual Flat and Flower Sale is in full swing and we encourage you to support this fundraiser. Look for the flyer in this newsletter. We truly appreciate the number of churches who have already submitted orders for Mother's Day Carnations and Father's Day Chocolates (dark chocolate mint is becoming a favorite flavor). But, there is still plenty of time to place your orders. If your church hasn't received this information, please call the office so that we can mail out the information to them. And last but not least, we will soon be looking for volunteers to work the 2009 Fowlerville Family Fair.

On a more serious note, the road ahead will not be easily traveled. It seems as though every day another attack is perpetrated on the prolife movement. We have even been referred to as terrorists by a well known cable personality. In Michigan, we are looking for ways to minimize the affect of the passage of

Proposal 2 this past November that allows for human embryonic stem cell research supported by taxpayers. RLM's Legislative Office is working tirelessly on behalf of these most tiny of human beings. Please read the articles in this newsletter to better understand the many state and national issues we must confront in our struggle to restore the sanctity of human life to our land. Thank you for all you do. Remember our work in your prayers.

God Bless You,
Penny Sobonya, Board Chair.

P.S. Visit our website www.righttolifelivingston.org and please send or call us with your email address. Today's technology makes it so much easier to communicate with each other. We have been building email lists so that we can quickly get important news out to the prolife community. Please join us in cyberspace!

Expanding the federal funding of embryonic stem cell research

On March 9, President Barack Obama announced and signed an order to overturn President Bush's limits on the funding of embryonic stem cell lines. President Bush had previously limited federal spending on embryonic stem cell research to embryonic stem cell lines created before August of 2001. In his orders, President Obama will give the National Institutes of Health time to develop guidelines to decide which kinds of research they will fund and what restrictions there will be. It is likely that, at bare minimum, the NIH will fund research on embryonic stem cell lines created from human embryos who were originally created for in-vitro fertilization. Some scientists desire that

embryonic stem cell lines created from human embryos who were created for research also receive funding.

During his announcement, President Obama took no position on the Dickey Amendment. This amendment has prevented federal funds from going toward research into the creation of human embryos and the killing of human embryos since 1996. Some members of Congress have talked openly about attempting to repeal this amendment by removing it from appropriations bills.

President Obama also said that "human cloning for reproduction" is "dangerous,

profoundly wrong and has no place in our society, or any society."

What President Obama didn't mention was that he signed on as a co-sponsor to S.B. 1520, the euphemistically entitled "Human Cloning Ban Act of 2005" which would have kept human cloning legal and only banned the implantation of human clones by deceptively defining "human cloning" as "implanting or attempting to implant the product of nuclear transplantation into a uterus or the functional equivalent of a uterus."

Products of nuclear transplantation is a scientific term for clones.

No, Your Conscience Cannot Be Your Guide

On March 6, President Obama's administration moved to completely rescind protections President George W. Bush put in place to make sure medical staff and centers are not forced to do abortions. This again reveals President Obama's strong pro-abortion positions.

Right to Life of Michigan supports the right of health care professionals and organizations who have conscientious objections to reject participation in or cooperation with the delivery and marketing of abortion.

Every person should be allowed to use their conscience as a guide. Curiously, President Obama has said repeatedly he hopes those on both sides of the issue will work to reduce the number of abortions by preventing unwanted

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Legislative Update

State Legislation

Hispanic Reporting Data: Michigan's law requires reporting on abortion to include the race of women obtaining abortions. The Census Bureau considers a Hispanic-Latino origin to be an "ethnic" category, so abortion reporting does not include information about abortions on Hispanic women. H.B. 4406 is in committee in the house. Our prolife senator Valde Garcia is expected to introduce an identical version in the coming days.

Coercive Abortion Prevention Act: H.B. 4525 and 4526 would create criminal penalties for a person attempting to coerce a woman to have an abortion. These bills have been introduced in previous sessions and there is no immediate

time frame for when they may be taken up.

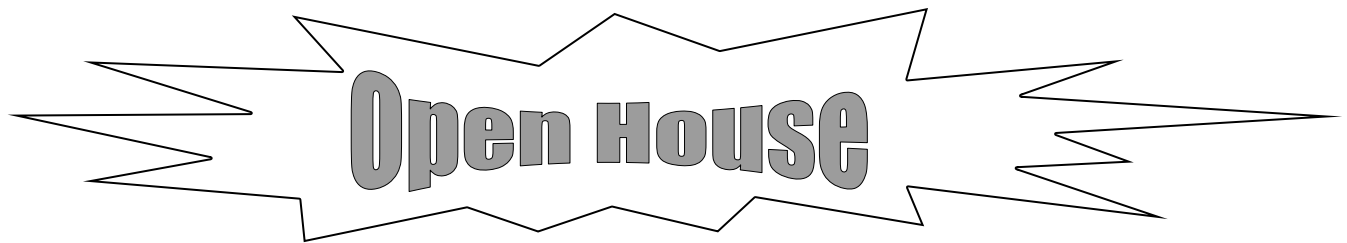
Adoption Equity Act: This bill would allow employees adopting an infant to receive the same family leave time from work that employees having a baby receive.

Federal Legislation

Embryonic Stem Cell Research: As he promised, President Obama reversed President Bush's policy to allow federal funding for embryonic stem cell research on 3-9-09. Concern now is defending the longstanding Dickey-Wicker amendment which has prevented the purposeful creation of embryos for re-

search, which could lead to embryo farms and cloning. When funding bills for federal research are taken up later this spring and summer, the battle over the Dickey-Wicker amendment will be fully engaged.

Conscience Clause Rules: President Obama has ordered a review of the rules President Bush put in place at the very end of his term to provide more clarification and teeth behind the law protecting the conscience rights of prolife health care workers. This "review" is the expected first step to ultimately reversing the Bush rules. Following a 30-day public comment period, the Obama administration is expected to proceed with the repealing of the rules in an abortion.



- **May 5-6-7**
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10-2**
 - **802 E Grand River, Brighton**
 - **Corner of Hope St and Grand River**
 - **Same parking lot as previous office**
- **Come see our new offices**
 - **Meet the board**
- **Check out volunteer opportunities**
 - **Light refreshments**
 - **Fellowship**

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pregnancies and by offering support to women who do get pregnant and want to continue their pregnancies. Forcing medical professionals to be entangled in the business of abortion does not work toward that end.

After the publication of the rule change, the Federal Register allows 30 days for citizens to comment on the proposal before making a formal decision. The proposal to rescind the rule is available online at <http://www.rtl.org/headlines/Conscience.htm>

Comments may be submitted either electronically or by regular mail: You may submit electronic comments via email to proposedrescission@hhs.gov or by visiting the link above.

By regular mail. You may mail written comments (one original and two copies) to the following address only: Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: Rescission Proposal Comments, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 716G, Washington, DC 20201

It is also easy to send a short message to the White House expressing your disagreement with President Obama's position. Go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>. In addition, letters to the editor of Michigan newspapers are a great way to inform the public, many of whom wrongly believe President Obama is actually prolife.

Pregnancy Helpline

Pregnancy Helpline's
Celebration of Life
Annual Fundraising Event

Thursday, April 23, 2009
Brighton Church of the Nazarene
7669 Brighton Rd
Brighton, MI

Tickets are \$20 each or 10 for \$180

Mail or call to register:

Pregnancy Helpline
7743 W Grand River Ste 101
Brighton, MI 48114
810-494-5433



Focus on Life Dinner-2009

Mark your calendars for our 19th Annual Focus on Life Dinner on **Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at Crystal Gardens in Howell**. We are excited to have Ed Rivet as our guest speaker. Tickets are on sale now, call and reserve your table today!

Ed Rivet is the Legislative Director for Right to Life of Michigan, serving as the liaison between Right to Life and the Michigan Legislature. Ed is a native of Bay City, Michigan. He has a bachelor's and master's degree from Michigan State University. Ed and his wife, Michelle, live in Mason and have six children.

Prior to joining Right to Life in February 1988, Ed had three years experience in the Michigan House of Representatives as a Legislative Aide. He has worked to assist the passage of laws requiring parental consent and informed consent for abortion, protecting patient's rights, banning assisted suicide and human cloning, and is the principal author of the Legal Birth Definition Act, banning partial-birth abortion.

Ed also represented Right to Life of Michigan as a member of the Michigan Commission on Death and Dying. He is the author of *In Defense of Life*, the first speakers training manual on euthanasia issues in the nation. Ed has shared his expertise on life issues through the many articles he has published, presentations made at national level conferences, and numerous media appearances, including CNN and Good Morning America.

Membership Drive 2009 & Donation Form

The abortion rate in our state and for teens has decreased, saving lives. Education about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide works to change the minds and hearts of many about life issues. In addition to education, the election of prolife candidates has enabled our legislature to pass laws protecting the innocent unborn and elderly frail. This is possible because of your efforts, prayers and financial support. We need you! Membership Drive 2009 started in January, but it is never too late to join!

Platinum-\$200 Gold-\$100 Silver-\$50 Bronze-\$25 \$15 Regular \$8 Seniors/Students Other\$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ email address _____ Phone _____

For your convenience, we also accept charge cards, above address information is required for charges

Please bill my MasterCard/Visa/Discover (circle one) _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____ Security code (last 3 digits on sign pad) _____

Make checks out to: **Right to Life**
Livingston County Inc
P. O. Box 934
Brighton, MI 48116-0934

_____ Dollar amount



Right to Life
 Livingston County, Inc.
 P.O. Box 934
 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Brighton, MI
 48116
 Permit No. 069

**Spring Flower
 Flat Sale
 Order Today!**



In Loving Memory and Honor

You may honor a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to Right to Life-Livingston County. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of
 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$10 ___ Other

Made in memory of: _____

Made in honor of: _____

Occasion _____

Please notify:

 Name

 Address-City-State-Zip

My (our) name is _____

I would like a notice of this gift in the next newsletter- ___yes ___no

Any donation entitles you to a one-year membership.

"When the time comes,
 as it surely will,
 when we face that awesome
 moment, the final judgment...
 I think there'll be a
 chorus of voices that have
 never been heard in this world
 but are heard beautifully
 and clearly in the next world
 -- and they will plead
 for everyone who has
 been in this movement.
 They will say to God,
 'Spare him, because he loved us!'"

Congressman Henry Hyde

