



Muskegon County Right to Life News

April, 2005

RESPONSE TO SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Justice Foundation Statement Released Following Roe Case Ruling

DALLAS, February 22, 2005 – In response to the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case of Norma McCorvey, the former Jane Roe of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, McCorvey's attorney, Allan Parker, president of The Justice Foundation, has released the following statement.

"It is tragic and disappointing that the Court is not willing to consider the aftermath of 32 years of abortion and its devastating affect to women, their families, and our culture. We have a thousand more witnesses than did the original *Roe* case in 1973. We submitted over 5,000 pages of evidence, including expert testimony of which the Court had none in 1973. This year alone, 100,000 women will be in abortion recovery programs across the nation. We find it sad and tragic that their voices have been rejected. It is also disturbing that the highest court in the land is not willing to consider the compelling and significant scientific and medical evidence and at least formally re-evaluate its far-reaching decision.

The Supreme Court's denial does not reflect its views on the merits of the case. The denial order merely expresses the Court's discretionary refusal to give appellate review to a lower court decision. A denial is not a reaffirmation of *Roe v. Wade*. We believe this decision sends an important message that the High Court needs compassionate judges who care about the pain and suffering of women hurt by abortion.

No one with a heart can hear the evidence in this case and at least not be concerned about the devastation of abortion to women, families and the culture. We will continue to tell America and the courts that abortion hurts women. We will not give up. We will continue to seek justice."



Thank you, Lord,
For little babies –
Their boundless energy,
The lively eagerness they bring
To each activity,
Their vital curiosity
About life's hidden charms,
The fleeting opportunities
To hold them in our arms...
Thank you, Lord,
For little babies,
And help us understand
The promise and potential
Held in every baby's hand.

Pray to end Abortion

UPDATE ON PROLIFE LEGISLATION...

Michigan's Partial Birth Petition Law Challenged

A large group of abortion advocates has challenged Michigan's most recent ban on partial birth abortion. "The Legal Birth Definition Act" was scheduled to take effect on March 30, 2005. On March 1, Planned Parenthood, several abortion clinics and abortionists, with the American Civil Liberties Union and the New York based Center for Reproductive Rights as their lawyers, filed a lawsuit to block the law's enforcement.

A spokeswoman for the ACLU of Michigan said the law is unconstitutional because it would ban all abortions and does not allow exceptions for instances when a mother's life or health are in danger.

Attorney General Mike Cox is defending the constitutionality of the law in federal court. Cox said the new law would not outlaw all abortions because not all include partial removal of a living fetus from a womb.

The Legal Birth Definition Act is a law that defines legal birth and the commencement of legal rights at a time when any portion of the child has been delivered from the mother's body. This is a new conceptual approach to banning partial-birth abortion that has not been tested in the courts.

U. S. District Judge Denise Page Hood approved a temporary restraining order to put the new MI law on hold until the next court date, which is scheduled for June.

Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act Bill # H.R.356

The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act is authored by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and is strongly backed by National Right to Life.

This bill would require every abortionist to provide, whenever a woman seeks an abortion past 20 weeks after fertilization, specified information about the capacity of her unborn child to experience pain during the abortion. The woman must then either accept or refuse (by signing a form) the administration of pain-reducing drugs directly to the unborn child. The bill would apply to all abortions past 20 weeks, regardless of the method used.

The bill also contains a number of proposed congressional "findings" regarding the scientific evidence that unborn children experience great pain during abortions at 20 weeks (and perhaps earlier).

It also cites a number of existing federal laws that seek to diminish the suffering even of animals, such as restrictions on how livestock are slaughtered and restrictions on the use of animals in medical research. An unborn child has less legal protection from feeling pain than commercial livestock.



January 22 was a very cold and snowy Saturday, but despite the inclement weather, we had an excellent turn out at the "Rally for Life". Due to problems obtaining a permit, there was no organized march this year. "Hurrah" to The Catholic High School Youth Group who still Marched for Life!

"Thank You" to all you made the day possible...

- Reverend Jerry DePoy, Bible Baptist Temple, for providing our Invocation
- Mark Blocher, Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, for speaking to us on Stem Cell Research
- Father Jim Wyse, Urban Muskegon Catholic Cluster, for providing our Closing Prayer
- St. Mike's for the use of their facilities
- Cast for providing hot drinks and treats

A very special "Thank You" to all of you who were able to join us! We could not do anything without you!

MUSKEGON COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please use the form on the back of this newsletter to join, or renew your membership with Muskegon County Right to Life. As a member you will receive the Muskegon County and the State of Michigan Right to Life newsletters, as well as mailings with information on legislative issues and voting information. You are also invited to use educational materials available at our Muskegon office. Thank you for supporting life!

PRO-LIFE QUIZ

(Answers on Page 3)

1. When is abortion legal in the United States?

- A. Only in the first 3 months
- B. Throughout the entire span of pregnancy
- C. Only in the first 6 months

2. Approximately how many legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973?

- A. 25 million
- B. 37 million
- C. 44 million

3. How many infant adoptions occurred for every 1,000 abortions in 1996 (according to the National Council for Adoption and the Alan Guttmacher Institute)?

- A. 432
- B. 17
- C. 77

4. True or False: Embryonic stem cell research has never been used to cure any human patient.

5. In animal studies, embryonic stem cells have been shown to:

- A. Cause tumors
- B. Be rejected by the recipient's body
- C. Both of the above

6. Research using stem cells from adults and/or umbilical cords has helped people with which of the following diseases?

- A. Parkinson's
- B. Leukemia
- C. Spinal-cord injuries
- D. All of the above

President's Place

So much is said about a woman's "right to choose". The political slogan of pro-choice advocates is to protect the woman's "right of sexual self determination".

But it isn't right of choice, or political stance that faces a woman or girl when her pregnancy test turns out to be positive. It's fear.

- Fearing that her unwed pregnancy will ruin her hopes and dreams and disappoint her parents, a college coed plans an abortion.
- Fearing what others might think, a teenager's parents plan to pay for the death of their first grandchild.
- Fearing the reaction of her abusive partner, a battered young woman sacrifices her child.
- Fearing responsibility for someone's life when at age 15 she has a hard time being responsible for her own, a pregnant child plans to take the life of her unborn baby.
- Fearing the challenges that are sure to come, a father and mother plan to abort their pre-born daughter who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

Imagine the shock, the denial, the despair when any of these women/girls are faced with their unplanned pregnancy. Maybe you know it personally. It isn't hard to understand why an escape is sought. But there are no easy answers, no panacea to make it all go away as though it never happened.

These examples are real, these stories may be that of your neighbor, co-worker, friend, or perhaps even you. But hope overcomes fear. Answers to the demanding questions, understanding support, material resources and education can dispel fear. If you or someone you know is facing the fear, you have a place to go to make your choice clear.

We are blessed to have Muskegon Pregnancy Services. They can be reached at 231 726-2677 for free and confidential services. They exist to address your fear. Muskegon Pregnancy Services provides free and confidential services including:

- Pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy options information
- Education on birth and parenting
- Counseling and emotional support
- Life Plan Program
- Free maternity clothes and baby layettes
- Compassionate help for those who have had an abortion
- Referrals to community help agencies and medical care
- Referrals for emergency housing

There are choices other than abortion! There has to be.

Pat Vendal
President, Muskegon County Right to Life



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In Loving Memory and in Honor of...

In Loving Memory of **Frank Lekutis,**
given by Jean Lekutis.

In loving Memory of **John H. Millard,**
given by Mary Kay Millard.

Donations

4 R's Property Management
Mr. Paul Goode
Charles and Lois Knapp
John C. Moore
Christine J. Osterman
*Paul and Marilyn Voss

Dawn Y. Andrew
Charles and Juanita Huber
*Johanna Kuhn
*Betty Pomstra
Phillip and Diane Tardani

*Denotes monthly contributions

Donations made to Michigan Right to Life Education Fund are tax deductible. This fund is used to produce and run the pro-life commercials that you see on TV.

Donations made to our local affiliate are not tax deductible, but are needed to keep our office running. Perhaps you'd like to remember a loved one's birthday, or the birth of a child or a grandchild.

"BELIEVER'S VOICE"

We would like to thank Reverend Jerry Depoy and Reverend Terry Fulk for having Muskegon County Right to Life Board Member, Nancy Harriman on their Program, "Believer's Voice". Nancy talked about stem cell research. If you would like information about this topic, please go to the Michigan Right to Life web site at: www.rtl.org



Terri Schiavo
1963 - 2005

The prayer of many is that Terri Schiavo rests in peace.

Terri was a 41-year-old disabled woman from Florida. Terri was not brain dead. She was not in a coma. She was not on life support. Her brain had been damaged and she needed to be fed to stay alive.

Terri had been without food and water for more than 300 hours since the tube that provided her nutrition and hydration was removed in the afternoon of March 18. Terri Schindler-Schiavo lost her nearly 14- day struggle against starvation and dehydration and died on March 31st.

The numerous appeals filed by Terri's parents, Robert and Mary Schindler, were denied before their daughter passed away.

Please remember Terri's family in your prayers.



Muskegon County Right to Life
In Loving Memory or Honor of...

Enclosed in my gift of:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Donation Made in Memory of:

Donation Made in Honor of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> New Arrival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speedy Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please notify: _____

Address: _____

Our name is: _____

Address: _____

Please make your checks payable to:

Muskegon County Right to Life
423 West Norton, Suite 111
Muskegon, MI 49444

This contribution is not tax deductible.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE 2005 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Pat Vendal
(Welcome Pat, we are excited to have you with us.)
Vice President: Vern Mogck
Secretary: Shelley Mogck
Treasurer: Nancy Harriman
(Nancy has been a Board Member, and is now our Treasurer.)

Board Members: Dale Balavitch
Doretta Juergens
Edna Mogck

COME JOIN US!

MEETINGS are held the 4th Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. at our Muskegon Office located at 423 W. Norton, Suite 111.

You are invited to come to our meetings. We are always looking for new ideas and energy. Our goals are to provide education on life issues from conception to natural death, and on fundraising to support this education.

PRO-LIFE QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. B; 2. C; 3. B; 4. True; 5. C; 6. D