



April, 2006

Right to Life of Michigan Endorses Bills to Protect Women from Abortion Coercion

Right to Life of Michigan offered its enthusiastic endorsement of a package of bills introduced in the state legislature in March designed to address the pervasive problem of women being coerced into having abortions.

Evidence has been accumulating over the years showing that many women do not freely choose abortion. The ground-breaking legislation proposed would provide a wide range of protections to alleviate undue pressures on women in an already challenging situation.

“Over the years I’ve received anguished calls and letters from women who were pressured to have abortions. Now there is hard evidence supporting this coercion. Studies have shown that the number one cause of death among pregnant women is homicide,” RLM president Barbara Listing said.

“Most often the child’s father has failed in pressuring the mother to abort, so he turns to violence. But for every case of homicide, there are untold numbers of cases where domestic violence occurs, or other threats forcing women to choose abortion before the situation escalates to deadly results.”

Academic studies from the United States and Canada show many women seeking abortions have previously or are presently threatened by physical or sexual abuse. The pressure to abort comes in many forms, including parents threatening their minor daughters with grave consequences if they do not abort.

The five-bill package identifies very specific types of coercion from physical violence to financial blackmail. The bills will require abortion providers to expressly screen for these types of coercion and refer women who are under such threats to either a domestic violence shelter or local law enforcement.

“Everyone agrees that no woman should be pressured to have an abortion. If we are all committed to truly protecting women’s rights and reducing abortions, then this initiative should be broadly supported by people on both sides of the abortion issue,” Listing concluded.

Stem Cell Research

One of the most important issues in the debate over stem cell research is the ethics involved. Taking the life of a human being at any stage in development for research is ethically wrong.

Research using stem cells obtained from adults and umbilical cord blood has been used to help thousands of people with various ailments.

At least 65 diseases have been helped with the use of adult stem cells including Parkinson’s, spinal cord injuries, various forms of leukemia, heart damage, and forms of cancer.

FACT: Embryonic stem cell research has yet to cure a single patient of a single disease.



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

After a year in the legislative system, the Ultrasound Viewing Option has been signed into law! The law will take immediate effect and requires abortion providers to ask the mother if she would like to see the ultrasound of her baby, any time an ultrasound is performed, before the actual abortion procedure. She is also offered a printed copy of the ultrasound to take with her.

Those who work with women who are experiencing surprise pregnancies tell us that up to 84 percent of women who are abortion minded, and then see their unborn baby in an ultrasound, choose to bring their baby to term.



"PRESIDENT'S PLACE"

Have you read about "Roe vs. Wade for men"? The article caught my eye and I thought, "Finally! Men are speaking up to protect the baby. They've had enough of a law that allows only the woman to choose if the baby created by a man and a woman will live or be aborted."

Sadly, that's not the case. Instead it's a lawsuit filed in a Michigan court on behalf of a father who doesn't want to pay child support. The suit claims that while women have been given control of their "reproductive lives", nothing has changed for men. It states that men are routinely forced to give up control, forced to be financially responsible for choices only women are permitted to make.

But what can we expect in our crazy world where our children have grown up with legalized abortion as the norm?

You can make a difference. This is an election year. Make "life" an election issue. Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, please let your candidate know that you are Pro-life and will vote Pro-life. Politicians represent the majority. If we all send this life message, the politicians will support life if they want to be elected. Please spread the word and vote Pro-life!

Please mark your calendar for our Annual Dinner. It will be on Thursday, October 19, 2006. We'll be back at Above & Beyond, and our speaker will be Barbara Listing, President of Michigan Right to Life.

Pat Vendal
President, Muskegon County Right to Life



Take my hand, not my life.

Visit our web site at: www.muskegonrtl.org

What is a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care?

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is a legal mechanism which allows you to appoint a person (agent/patient advocate) to make health care decisions for you should you become unable to do so.

For the complete booklet of information, visit our web site at: www.muskegonrtl.org

Muskegon Oratory Contest



Jayna Larson receiving the 1st Place Award from Pat Vendal, President of Muskegon County Right to Life

Muskegon County Right to Life held an Oratory Contest on March 25th. The competition was open to area high school students to speak on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, cloning or embryonic stem cell research.

Jayna Larson, daughter of James and Nancy Larson, is the first place winner. Jayna, a Home School Senior, spoke on abortion and will be competing in the State competition in Lansing on Saturday, May 13, 2006.

The National Oratory Contest will be Saturday, June 24, 2006, in Nashville, TN.

Congratulations Jayna and good luck in the State competition!



In Loving Memory of Patrick Swain
given by Ike and Gloria Swain

In Loving Memory of Gerald Heethuis
given by Wes and Lillian Spyke

In Loving Memory of Dick Kuhn
given Jody Kuhn

In Loving Memory of Terry Halloran
given by Barbara Perri

**In Honor of the Birth of our Granddaughter,
Jazlynn Catherine**
given by Jim and Pat Vendal

- Donations:**
- *First Christian Reformed Church
 - *Johanna Kuhn
 - *Betty Pompstra
 - Parkside Alliance Church
 - Christian & Missionary Alliance
 - *Paul and Marilyn Voss

*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.

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**Right to Life of Michigan
LEGISLATIVE DAY**


On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, Right to Life of Michigan will hold its annual Legislative Day at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. The day offers a great opportunity for the prolife citizens of Michigan to learn about current prolife legislation, get lobbying tips, and meet their state legislators. For more information, go to: www.rtl.org



ARE YOU A MEMBER?

As a member of Muskegon County Right to Life, you will receive the Right to Life of Michigan and our newsletters. In addition, you are invited to use the educational materials at the Muskegon County Right to Life office.

Please use the form on the back of this newsletter to join Muskegon County Right to Life, or to renew your annual membership.



*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.

**Muskegon
Chronicle**

A "very special thanks" to Marian Doan who chaired our Chronicle Ad this year, and to all of you who participated.

We received the following feedback from the Berean Church, "The ad this year was exceptional. The pictures of the babies were precious and touching."

Thank you!!

**Our office is located at
423 W. Norton, Suite 111,
in the "Next I.T." building.
Please call us at 231 733-6300
for our weekly office hours.**



Muskegon County Right to Life
 423 W. Norton, Suite 111
 Muskegon, MI 49444
 231 733-6300

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Yes! I want to help save lives.
Please enroll me as a member of *Muskegon County Right to Life*
and *Right to Life of Michigan*.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
E-mail: _____

Membership Options:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Senior or Student | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Bronze | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Gold | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Platinum | |

As a member, you will receive the Muskegon County and the State *Right to Life* newsletters, and you are invited to use the educational materials at the Muskegon County Right to Life office. Please make your checks payable to:

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Muskegon, MI 49444

Your contributions to Muskegon County *Right to Life* are not tax deductible.