

MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE



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Photo by Helen Cross



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Massachusetts Citizens for Life

Published quarterly by Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc.

Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA and additional
mailing offices. USPS 25329 (ISSN 2377-2344)

Postmaster: Send address change to:

Massachusetts Citizens for Life, 529 Main St.,
Suite 1M9, Boston, MA 02129-1122

A Message From President Anne Fox

"Profanity and obscenity entitle people who don't want unpleasant information to close their ears and eyes to you." – Kurt Vonnegut

A year ago it looked as though one of the many Republican candidates for President would easily defeat Hillary Clinton. Six months ago it looked as though Clinton would beat Donald Trump, the Republican nominee. We knew that Clinton would expand and accelerate Obama's anti-life agenda; pack all the courts, especially the Supreme Court, with activist pro-abortion judges who would be there for a generation at least; and effectively destroy the pro-life movement.

Now we have President Trump and, the shoe is on the other foot. Now we have the chance to undo Obama's anti-life work and appoint quality judges to all federal courts.

Let's look at what has happened so far, what we can reasonably expect to happen, and what we can hope to accomplish. Please note that I am writing this on Lincoln's Birthday and a lot may happen before you receive your copy of the magazine.

The day of his inauguration, President Trump reinstated the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that receive U.S. funds – including International Planned Parenthood – from providing or promoting abortions overseas. The policy also bans these organizations from advocating for the passage of pro-abortion laws in other countries.

President Trump strengthened the policy by directing the secretary of state to implement a plan that expands the policy across all global health assistance funding. This means that U.S. taxpayer dollars will not be supporting organizations that promote or participate in the management of coercive abortion programs. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is one such organization, with its long history of supporting China's one-child population control program.

When President Trump heard from his Counselor Kellyanne Conway and Vice-President and Mrs. Pence about the March for Life and the fact that the media has not covered it well or at all, he sent Mr.

and Mrs. Pence (Kellyanne was already a speaker) to speak to the Marchers and call out the media. The coverage was much more extensive this year. Protest PP demonstrations, which took place yesterday, also got better coverage than usual. It isn't the coverage per se that is so important – it is the fact that the coverage makes people think about abortion, which is what the babies need.

President Trump has said he will "crush" the Johnson Amendment, put in place by Lyndon Johnson to keep churches and clergy from expressing their opinions. That has already started. The Johnson Amendment and its progeny have made it extremely difficult for us to inform people of candidates' positions on life.

Besides Kellyanne Conway, who has worked closely with the National Right to Life Board for years, Mr. Trump chose Mike Pence as his VP. Pence is a movie idol to pro-lifers. He and his wife, Karen, made sure people knew this was not their first March. As a matter of fact, Karen Pence is proud to have served on the National Right to Life Board of Directors. These are the people to whom the President is listening, but they are not all. He is known to be very loyal to his friends.

All important Cabinet and advisor positions are filled by people who are pro-life. Let's start at the top: attorney general. The new AG, Jeff Sessions has said: "I firmly believe that *Roe v. Wade* and its descendants represent one of the worse, colossally erroneous Supreme Court decisions of all time. It was an activist decision...it was a Court that decided to politically impose their will." "Good law should prevail," the Senator noted. "Our policies in this country as a nation should focus on life, should focus on decency, and focus on love for even the least of these."

The minute (literally) the new attorney general resigned his U. S. Senate seat, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley appointed State Attorney General Luther Strange to fill it. Strange is just as pro-life as Sessions and has excoriated *Roe vs. Wade* as one of the worst Supreme Court cases in history.

An attorney general is extremely important because he will have to argue in court

to uphold pro-life laws. Jeff Sessions is very gifted. He would have been a federal judge had he not been "Borked" by pro-abortion US senators.

Another cabinet position which is extremely important to us is secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) where we now have former U.S. Congressman Dr. Tom Price. In order to ram through Obamacare and "make it work," President Obama expanded the powers of the HHS Secretary tremendously. Now one of our guys has that power to restore quality health care in this country.

According to *The Cut*, "Trump's New Health Secretary Could Be Disastrous for Women." He's staunchly anti-choice. He doesn't believe birth control should be free. He wants to gut Planned Parenthood. Price introduced a 2015 budget reconciliation bill that would have repealed the ACA (Affordable Care Act) (O-care) and barred Planned Parenthood from receiving federal family-planning funding. In 2011, he supported a resolution that would have completely eliminated the federally funded Title X Family Planning Program, barring Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid."

Price will not just be at the helm of Republican efforts to repeal the ACA. He'll also oversee policies and budgets that affect nearly every facet of Americans' physical and mental health.

The President has found this caliber of people right across the board. No wonder pro-abortion senators, aided and abetted by the press, are telling out-and-out lies about these appointees.

Now we come to the biggie: the Supreme Court. The President worked closely with Leonard Leo of the Federalist Society in making his list of judges whom he was considering for the Supreme Court opening. I don't have to tell you how brilliant and thoughtful Neil Gorsuch is. He opposes doctor-prescribed suicide because, "it is an argument premised on the idea that all human beings are intrinsically valuable and the intentional taking of human life by private persons is always wrong."

Continued on Page 9

MCFL Staff Member Profiles

Maria Arias has a passion for people and improving community life

Tell us a bit about your background.

I was born in Bogotá, Colombia where I lived for seven years. Then my family and I moved to Silvania (a little town an hour away from Bogotá) where my father was a leader in our community, working with people in need. He tried to keep teenagers away from guerrillas and violence through a variety of activities, especially sports. My father was passionate about communities. He wanted to make life better for people. He formed a team and encouraged these vulnerable young people through soccer. My father passed away, but my mom still lives in Colombia. I have a younger brother who also lives there.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Political Science at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. I have my father's personality. Just like him, I am very passionate about helping people in their communities. It's the thing I value the most.

I've been in this country for seven years, most of the time teaching Spanish to children with different backgrounds. I'm very grateful, happy, safe and free in this country. I am so thankful for the opportunity to meet the amazing people here.

How did you become pro-life?

I was born pro-life. It's part of my Catholic faith. I am one of those millions of miracles of God's creation. I'm very happy to find organizations like MCFL with respect for life.

How did you start working with MCFL?

I was in the Schrafft Center with my mother who was visiting from Colombia, trying to get information for my brother who was going to come to the United States on a student visa. While we were in the building, I saw a sign for MCFL and wanted to know more about the organization. I walked into the office and met Patricia Stewart, MCFL's

executive director. Pat was amazing. She was very kind, talked about a job opportunity at MCFL for an administrative assistant, and explained MCFL's mission. I applied for the job, and here I am.

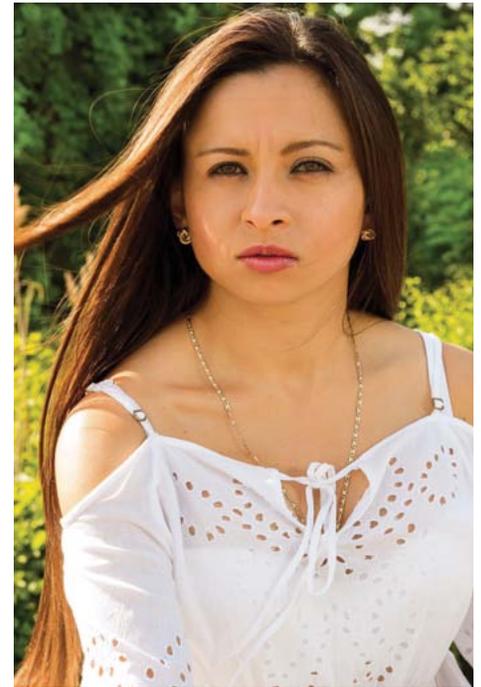
Do you have educational plans?

I am currently midway towards my Master's degree in Public Administration at Framingham State University. I've always wanted to have a career working in the public or non-profit sector. It is difficult to balance work and school work, but I believe you must work really hard for your dreams.

What does your job with MCFL involve?

I have a confident personality. I love contacting pro-life people, it's the most enjoyable part of my job. I love to work with numbers and track finances. When we have fundraising appeals, I see how the organization is growing. I'm amazed at the support we get from people all over the state. I see that people really want to work with us. Pro-life people have a special appreciation for life. Their respect for themselves and love of families is unbelievable.

As I have become more familiar with the organization, my job duties have expanded. In general, I am responsible for keeping the office running smoothly day to day. In addition, I help organize and put on MCFL's many special events throughout the year, such as the Mass. March for Life and the Annual Fundraising Banquet. MCFL has plans to reach out to the Spanish speaking pro-life community, and since my native



MCFL Executive Assistant Maria Arias was visiting the Schrafft Center at the exact time that Executive Director Pat Stewart was searching for qualified applicants for the job.

language is Spanish, I am looking forward to helping to make that happen.

What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

With work and school, I don't have much leisure time. I like the opportunity this country has for exploring foods and restaurants of so many different cultures.

“I'm amazed at the support we get from people all over the state. Pro-life people have a special appreciation for life. I am so thankful for the opportunity to meet the amazing people here.”

SAVE THE DATE!

Pioneer Valley MCFL Mother's Day Dinner May 11, Chez Josef in Agawam

The keynote address will be presented by Dr. Joel Brind, professor of human biology and endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, who will speak on the correlation between abortion and breast cancer.

Baruch College's faculty page lists Dr. Brind's accomplishments as a researcher, "Joel Brind, Ph.D., New York University (Biochemistry, Physiology, Immunology), studies blood levels of steroid compounds as indicators and predictors of human health. His work is published in journals such as *Steroids* and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. He is a consultant to the Orentreich Foundation for the Advancement of Science. His unusual versatility in subject areas, and his familiarity with both the academic and industrial worlds are a particular asset to this department. He has been studying and gathering the published evidence of a link between abortion and increased risk of breast cancer."

Peggy Bradford, MCFL's Director of Outreach -Western, MA, explained that the change in date from May 4 is due to a conflict with the National Day of Prayer. "Events are held nationwide, including in the Springfield area, and it's a conflict for many people wishing to attend our dinner," Bradford said.

"Please consider attending the dinner this year and joining us to hear Dr. Brind. For more information watch your mailbox or call the Ludlow office at 413-583-5034. Thank you for your support to restore the respect for Life."



2016 Pioneer Valley MCFL Mother's Day Dinner with keynote speaker JJ Hanson (second from left)

Pro-Life 2017 at a Glance

February- May: Student Lobby Days
Massachusetts State House, Boston

March 11: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

March 25: MCFL Table, Springfield Men's Conference

April 1: MCFL Table, Worcester Men's Conference

April 8: MCFL Convention, Boston College

April 22: MCFL Table, Springfield Women's Conference

May 11: Mothers' Day Dinner, Chez Josef, Agawam
Note: New Date

May 12: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

June 9: Annual Meeting and Election

June 29-July 1: National Right to Life Convention,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July - Aug: Summer Student programs, PULSE and
Summer Academy

Aug. 5: All day Board meeting and Retreat

Sept. 15- Oct. 1: MCFL Booth Big E, Springfield

Oct. 13: Board of Directors meeting, Boston

Oct. 26: Annual Fundraising Banquet, Norwood

Nov. 11: Board and Chapter officers meeting

Dec. 8: Board Christmas Party

TBA: Massachusetts March for Life, Boston

The MCFL Board of Directors meets at the Boston office, 529 Main Street. All MCFL members are welcome to attend.

Chapters meet monthly or on other schedules. Please check: www.masscitizensforlife.org for dates and times. Everyone living in the area of a chapter is welcome.

MCFL Speakers' Bureau reaches more than 10,000 people every year. To arrange a local presentation, call (617) 242-4199 or (413) 583-5034

PRO-LIFE EVENTS 2017

44th Assembly for Life

“We are not here fighting. We are proclaiming the gift of life. The joy of life.”



Mother Olga Yaqob endured four wars during her youth in Iraq. She left medical school to serve the poor, weak, and vulnerable of her country. In 2001, Mother Olga came to the US and in 2011, after becoming an American citizen, founded a new community of religious sisters in the Archdiocese of Boston, the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth.



The audience included former Boston mayor and Ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn (left)



Left to Right: Assembly Emcee Cindy Dorsey, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, MCFL President Anne Fox, Mother Olga Yaqob, MCFL Board Chairman Dr. David Franks, and Pastor Tim Bogartman of the First Congregational Church in Revere

“In recent times we have heard people talking about human rights and it's important to think of this. I come from a part of the world where people didn't have any rights, the right to freedom, the right to religion. I know what it means to live in times or a country where there is a dictatorship.

“It's important for people to have that attitude of understanding, believing, searching for their human rights. But my brothers and sisters, let's not be confused: the foundation of any human right begins first with the right to life. Let us speak honestly, if a person is not born first, where will the other rights come from? First is the right to life, then the right to religion, the right to equality.”

– Mother Olga



Paulette Martinville, member of the MCFL Board of Directors and the Greater Fall River Chapter



Cindy Dorsey, general manager of 1230 AM and 970 AM Emmanuel Radio emceed the Jan. 22, event at historic Faneuil Hall. MCFL president Anne Fox received enthusiastic cheers for her speech which enumerated the pro-life hopes made possible with a new administration in Washington. Isabelle Germino, winner of the 2016 Mildred F. Jefferson Oratory Contest, talked via recording on the slippery slope of doctor-prescribed suicide and euthanasia. Cardinal Seán O'Malley spoke on being people of mercy, bringing light and love to a world desperately in need of it.

Photos by Edward Boylan



Eric and Patricia Anthony performed an interlude of spirited music by Spanish composer Isaac Albéniz. Eric is a relative of pro-life suffragette Susan B. Anthony.



MCFL Board of Directors member Fr. David Mullen, pastor of St. Brendan Parish in Bellingham

Reflections on the March for Life

BY ROB HALE

Each time I make the pilgrimage to our nation's capital to participate in the March for Life, I go mainly for the purpose of making an impression on our nation's leaders, but I come home carrying the impressions formed by what I have seen and experienced.

I've made this pilgrimage on at least three previous occasions, during the administrations of three previous presidents. Each participation has renewed my hope that the sanctity of human life will once again be reflected in our laws, but this year's March for Life gave me a renewed sense of optimism.

This forty-fourth March for Life seemed especially hopeful because, just one week prior to the March, we inaugurated a new president who campaigned on the promise to appoint pro-life judges and justices and pledged to remove federal funding from Planned Parenthood. The prospect of overturning the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which enshrined the killing of unborn children in the womb as a mother's constitutional right, now seems closer to becoming a reality. And de-funding Planned Parenthood, which is the largest perpetrator of abortions in the U.S., could

save as many as 327,000 lives per year, according to their latest (2013-2014) annual report! This year, for the first time, we had a sitting Vice President of the United States who personally stood among us to address the crowd on the National Mall, beneath the Washington Monument. This was very exciting, if one could get around the increased security precautions. Perhaps most encouraging was the strong presence of our young people -- high school, college age, and people in their twenties and thirties -- whose voices seemed to be growing stronger, if not in sheer numbers, then definitely in their enthusiasm!

As we marched up Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court building, the young people in the crowd were chanting, "We-Are-the Pro-Life Generation!" and "Hey-hey, Ho-ho, *Roe v. Wade* has got to go!" It was a serious message, but delivered with humor, and an attitude of celebration. High school marching bands and drum corps provided intermittent musical accompaniment.

Besides the high school and college age youth, I saw many young moms and dads walking along with their babies bundled up in their strollers. I also greeted people

in wheelchairs, and spoke with a group of middle-aged folks from New Hampshire, who were wearing matching pink and grey knit caps. Many people had come from great distances, including Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Ohio and California.

A large percentage of my fellow marchers were Latinos and Latinas, including almost an entire bus load from the parishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Holyoke and Saint Mary's Church in Westfield, with whom I had the privilege of sharing the trip from Massachusetts. I was disappointed that I didn't see many of my African-American brothers and sisters in our midst, although at least three of the speakers who addressed the crowd on the Mall were African-American, including Bishop Vincent Matthews, Jr., president of the Church of God in Christ World Missions, Baltimore Ravens tight-end Benjamin Watson, and Utah Congresswoman Mia Love, who spoke powerfully on the theme of "What might have been," referring to the lives that have been lost to abortion. (According to Bishop Matthews, Representative Love, and UMass Dartmouth Law Professor Dwight Duncan, who spoke at the MCFL Caucus, too many African-Americans do not know that their communities have been disproportionately affected by abortion. Instead of understanding that black lives are being snuffed out by the abortion industry, they have, in the words of Representative Love, "been made to feel that they can only be empowered with a life by ending a life.")

The speakers at the MCFL Caucus, were informative and scholarly, and the speakers on the Mall, were encouraging and uplifting. Vice President Pence spoke with great humility as he exhorted us to "Let your gentleness be known to all." March for Life Chairwoman Jeannie Mancini spoke eloquently about the theme of this year's March, which was "The Power of One," and many speakers testified to how one person's life can make such a positive difference in this world.

My fellow marchers were polite and



Pre-March rally on the Mall near the Smithsonian.

Photos by Rob Hale

(Continued from Page 3)

President's Message

Besides his law degree, Judge Gorsuch has a doctorate in legal philosophy from Oxford where he studied with John Finnis, who is credited with bringing back the study of natural law.

It looks as though President Trump will have at least one more SCOTUS appointment, and there are many more marvelous picks on that list.

What can we reasonably expect to happen? Obamacare must be repealed and replaced. Many Republicans have good plans, including Secretary Price. These plans include applying the Hyde Amendment reasoning across the board which would defund PP and other abortion providers. We can expect judges at all levels to be ones of whom we approve. (Please see my column in the MCFL Winter 2017 Magazine which discusses Justice Scalia's description of the different styles of judicial reasoning). It looks as though the President may be going to wrest some power from the courts which would be a plus for us.

What can we hope for? We'll be discussing overturning *Roe v Wade* in great depth at the MCFL Convention on April 8th (p.13). Both the Congress and the Supreme Court have the ability to overturn this murderous decision.

What we really need is a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In order to amend the Constitution, two-thirds of the members of Congress must vote for the amendment, which then must be ratified by three-quarters of the states. The vote would be along party lines. Right now Republicans have 293 of the 361 votes needed. Trump won 30 of the 50 states. They might vote for ratification. Then eight more states would be needed.

Video of the National Mall speeches can be found at the National Right to Life website, www.nrlc.org.



Rebecca Kiessling (holding the “Conceived From Rape” sign) at the March for Life. Kiessling is familiar to many in Massachusetts. She speaks about the life-changing perspectives that occurred when she learned the circumstances of her conception and birth.

peaceful, and their messages expressed respectful criticism of our nation's policies. The only counter-protests that I saw or heard were two misguided young men with signs and portable public address systems who harangued us saying that the Church of Rome was the “Anti-Christ.” This was disturbing to me, because the Catholic Church has historically been the strongest force behind the pro-life movement. Catholic high schools, colleges, and parishes could be identified by their signs, banners, jackets and hats, while young priests in roman collars, nuns in their habits, and friars in sandals also marched with us. I wondered whether the anti-Catholic sentiment expressed by these two counter-protesters could be the reason that people of other religious denominations have not traditionally been more of a visible presence at the March for Life.

There were many groups and individual marchers along the way whose messages were thought provoking, but there was one group that I will always remember. About halfway up Constitution Avenue, in front of the Federal Trade Commission building, there was a group of young women

and girls holding pink signs and a man standing with them holding a light blue sign with the words, “Conceived in Rape,” and “I Love My Life.” I walked up to them and thanked them for their witness, and for their courage, and the courage of their mothers who bore them.

What did I learn from my participation in this year's March for Life, and how did it affect me? I learned that we have a strong, positive message that is being heard at the top levels of government. I learned that, after 44 years, we are still a young movement, with lots of energy, and we seem to be growing younger. I learned that we in the Pro-Life movement are a diverse group, but that we need continue to reach out to people from other ethnic groups and religious denominations. As I reclined in the bus on the way home to New England, I was encouraged to reflect on the progress that the Pro-Life movement is making, but I was also challenged to think seriously about what I, as one person, can do to help change our nation's laws, and what part I can play in creating a culture of life in my community.

MCFL Caucus Celebrates Pro-life Momentum

Planned Parenthood's Misuse of Tax Funds

UMass Professor of Law Dwight Duncan discussed the misuse of public funds by Planned Parenthood (PP), the nation's largest abortion provider who receives half a billion dollars yearly in federal and state funding. The Hyde Amendment prohibits the use of federal funds for elective abortion, and Title X funds for family planning services prohibit abortion coverage. PP is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization whose CEO and President Cecile Richards receives \$1 million a year in salary and compensation. "She seems to be profiting nicely from all those abortions and government funding," said Duncan.

A storm of outrage erupted in 2016 after undercover videos exposed numerous PP officials negotiating for fetal body parts. Pro-lifers demanded cuts to federal funding for PP. "While PP does other things such as testing for sexually transmitted diseases, the funds they receive are fungible and could be used to subsidize abortion," Duncan noted. "It's an indirect way around the Hyde Amendment's prohibition on the direct use of federal funds for abortion."

A recent audit in Nebraska found a PP affiliate spending public funds on abortion expenses including an abortion physician's fees and employee travel and on call work time involving abortion procedures. House Speaker Paul Ryan said women would be better served by the existing numerous community health centers who provide a much broader range of services than PP without being involved in the controversy surrounding abortion.

Historically Low Abortion Rates Show Pro-Life Progress

"I wanted to share some statistics with you that show we are winning," said Michael New, assistant professor of political science at Ave Maria University and associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute in Washington, D.C. "Recently, Planned Parenthood's research arm, the Guttmacher Institute, released updated figures on the

incidence of abortion in the United States finding that the abortion rate fell by 14 percent between 2011 and 2014. That's not surprising. Abortion numbers have been falling consistently since the early 1980s. However, some things were surprising. The abortion rate in 2014 is half of what it was in 1980. We've cut the abortion rate in half. A woman of childbearing age today is about half as likely to have an abortion as her counterpart was 35 years ago. That's real progress.

"The second surprising thing is that the abortion rate in 2014 is actually lower than it was in 1973," New continued. "This is remarkable because in 1973 there was still cultural resistance to abortion. In 1973, abortion was legal in only five states and was only easy to get in New York State.

Why have abortion rates dropped so drastically? "It is not, as the media reports, because of contraception," New explained. "Unintended pregnancy rates are pretty stable. While it is true that contraceptive use has risen, the unintended pregnancy rate has only gone down a slight bit. The reason why abortion numbers are down is because a higher percentage of women who have unintended pregnancies are choosing life."

New attributed the success to the work of pro-lifers. "Legislatively, states pass more pro-life laws every year. My study on the 40th anniversary of the Hyde Amendment shows it has saved over 2 million children. Getting the federal government out of the business of funding abortion saves more lives every year.

"Public opinion is shifting. In the 1990s, 35% identified as pro-life. Some polls now show a majority, as pro-life gains among young people. The current generation of young people are the most pro-life generation of youth. The generation gap that we saw in the 1990s is disappearing."

"A woman of childbearing age today is about half as likely to have an abortion as her counterpart was 35 years ago." – Michael New



Professor Michael New always asks who came to Washington overnight, as he did his first time, on a red eye bus. People travel to the March and return home ready for work or school the next day. He calls them: "Buses for life for people *with* a life."

Fighting Doctor-Prescribed Suicide in Washington, D.C.

Gloria Purvis, co-host of EWTN Radio's program *Morning Glory*, spoke about the dangers inherent in the passage of doctor-prescribed suicide (DPS) in the District of Columbia. Congress must vote to either approve or disapprove the legislation.

"This bill is one of the most dangerous in the nation," Purvis said. "Unlike other states who have legalized DPS, the bill does not reference or define the term 'self-administer' in regard to lethal drugs. The bill only says 'ingest,' meaning the drug can be swallowed or absorbed. The bill would legally allow a third party to administer a lethal dose to an incapacitated patient, making their action amount to involuntary euthanasia.

"Homicide law won't apply. The bill appends DC's statutory definition of homi-

cide by exempting the actions that would otherwise apply," Purvis noted. Sick patients can be coerced or tricked into taking the lethal dose because they do not have to self-administer. There is no complaint process or way to track people who may have been manipulated.

Purvis continued, "The bill violates federal statutes such as the Assisted-Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1996. Currently the bill is in the Appropriations Committee for funding. However, the required funding for implementation by the D.C. Department of Health, which receives federal funding from Congress, is actually prohibited by federal law."

Additional problems include: no requirement for psychological screening, no requirement to notify the patient's family, no requirement for a doctor or nurse to be present when the drugs are taken. There is no requirement that a patient have a relationship with the physician who prescribes the drugs, which promotes doctor shopping. "What if child or teen gets a hold of these drugs?" Purvis asked. "This bill suggests to young people that suicide is acceptable under certain circumstances."

Where the States Will Take Pro-Life Legislation in 2017-2018

Ingrid Duran, National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) Director of State Legislation agreed with Professor New that pro-life laws are helping to drop abortion numbers to historic lows and increase public opinion to a pro-life majority. "Pro-life legislation does change the hearts and minds," she said. Duran discussed the types of legislation enacted by NRLC state affiliates that save lives, ensure safety, and educate the public.

Thirty states have some type of parental consent law for minor girls considering abortion. Twenty-seven states have informed consent laws, also known as Woman's Right to Know laws. These laws require women be told the risks of an abortion procedure, alternatives to abortion, and where help is available if the women chooses to keep her baby.

Twenty-five states have legislation providing the mother the chance to see her ultrasound before an abortion. "Ultrasound

has a positive effect on women, which has been seen in pregnancy resource centers," Duran said. "Knowing that 98% of abortion facilities use ultrasound to date pregnancy can be used to our advantage. Ultrasound laws give women the opportunity to learn all the facts before making a life or death decision."

Pro-life momentum is carrying into the new year. At end of 2016 Ohio enacted the Pain-Capable Child Protection Act, and beginning in 2017, Kentucky became the 16th state to enact pain-capable legislation and an ultrasound law. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act bans abortion at 20 weeks post fertilization, the stage of development where babies have all the structures necessary to feel pain. Pain-capable legislation has been introduced in Florida, Missouri, and Virginia.

NRLC also drafted the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act. This legislation protects unborn babies from an abortion procedure where they are torn apart limb from limb. Recently, Arkansas became the 7th state to pass the Dismemberment Abortion Act.

Other NRLC legislation currently involves requiring notification that chemical abortion may be reversible, creating funding alternatives to abortion for mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy, and perinatal hospice for parents who face a fatal diagnosis.

Direction of the Pro-Life Movement Post Election

Former MCFL Director of Outreach Matt Hanafin, now working with Washington's Heritage Foundation, talked about the remarkable position the pro-life movement is in after unexpectedly winning the house, senate and presidency in November.

"This is an opportunity we haven't had for decades," Hanafin said. "The president nominated pro-lifers for prominent cabinet positions including Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, Jeff Sessions for Attorney General and Tom Price for Health and Human Services. Nikki Haley's appointment as Secretary to the United Nations is vital as the UN has been trying to get pro-life countries to recognize abortion as a right.



MCFL President Anne Fox and EWTN Radio's Gloria Purvis

"Before his passing, Justice Scalia warned pro-lifers that we were putting too much trust in courts and enacting pro-life laws that would be challenged in the Supreme Court and would not stand. It's important that pro-life Republicans did not cave into pressure to nominate a justice for Scalia's vacant seat until after the election, for polling found that the court was an important issue in the election. If Merrick Garland was on the court, would people have been motivated to vote?" Hanafin asked.

"In his first week in office president Trump signed an executive order to start the rollback of Obamacare and signed an executive order to reinstate the Mexico City policy that prevents tax funding of abortion promotion overseas. The Guttmacher Institute noted that this is a \$600 million blow to pro-abortion finances. The House has introduced HR 7 to permanently end federal funding of abortion.

"In 2018, 33 senators will be up for re-election. Eight will be pro-life Republicans and 23 will be pro-abortion Democrats. Of these, ten will be very competitive races. Only one is Republican. The other nine are Democrats.

"Post-election, the pro-abortion movement is resurgent. We have awakened the pro-abortion behemoth. They will do everything in their power to ensure that everything we have worked for over 40 plus years is stopped."

Reversing *Roe*

Professor Michael Pakaluk of The Catholic University of America said overturning Roe v. Wade is a matter of three things: public opinion - or public sentiment as referred to by Abraham Lincoln, legislative action, and the consciences of Supreme Court justices.

Public Sentiment

“Lincoln pointed out the importance of public sentiment in his debates with Stephen Douglas,” Pakaluk began. “Lincoln said, ‘With it nothing can fail. Without it nothing can succeed. He who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes and decision impossible to be executed. When he invites any people willing to have slavery to establish it, he is blowing up the moral lights surrounding us.’”

Lincoln considered Douglas’s belief that slavery was a sacred right of self-government which should be available to states as an eradication of reason and the love of liberty. Once Douglas had molded public sentiment to his position, then all that remained was for a second Dred Scott decision to make slavery the law of the land.

“*Roe v. Wade* is that second Dred Scott decision,” said Pakaluk. “Yet despite the force of a president, who for eight years has promoted abortion with far more means of communication than Lincoln could ever imagine for Douglas, we stand at a place where public sentiment has not gone over to the pro-abortion point of view. It’s unstable and moving in our direction. Happy pictures of ultrasounds of unborn children shared via social media overwhelm the few attempts to paint abortion in a positive way.

“The Trump victory shows that pro-life public sentiment is stable. An aggressive view based on a notion of personal autonomy no longer seems to be inevitable. Pro-abortion web sites say that abortion is being protected by one, perhaps two, votes on the Supreme Court. Yet, the idea that anything depends on one person on the Supreme Court voting a certain way is a highly weak and fragile notion. It’s a confession that will feed public sentiment in our direction.”

Pakaluk said the goal in attempting to turn public sentiment must have a Lincolnian view.

Lincoln thought the eventual removal of slavery was a vindication of the ideals of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and endowed with the right to life. Pakaluk continued in Lincolnian tradition, stating, “the only stable position in our society, the only view which represents vindication of those ideals of the American revolution is the eventual establishment of the pro-life view throughout the whole country with something like a human life amendment. That is our goal. That is the true good for our country.

“And yet we must candidly acknowledge that a culture of life is not possible without the rejection of the sexual revolution. The main consideration which undergirds *Roe* today is not ideology but the sense that it can’t really be the case that a one-night hook-up can commit someone to 20 plus years of childbearing and child-raising. We trivialize life because we first trivialize sex. It’s absolutely necessary that we in the pro-life movement work for the establishment of a pro-family culture of life.”

Legislative Action

“In the last big abortion decision after the death of Justice Scalia, the justices voted 5-3 against life. President Trump needs two appointments to make *Roe* reversal possible. It’s a question of timing: Should state legislatures and Congress bring forth cases now which threaten *Roe* before a majority is secured?”

Pakaluk cited Hadley Arkes’s argument that some legislation can help in battles over Supreme Court nominees. His Born-Alive Infants Protection Act that barred the killing of a baby who survived an abortion, would give senate confirmation battles some teeth by asking Democrats who oppose a pro-life justice: “Does your holding of *Roe* support the notion that the right to abortion means the right to a dead baby?”

Other legislation that can serve as debating points are bans on sex-selection abortion or pain-capable limitations. Congress should try to pass laws which would require the Supreme Court to apply the undue burden test of [*Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*] as a way of showing

PRO-LIFE EVENTS 2017

how arbitrary the definition is.”

Consciences of Justices

“It is a fundamental instinct of a judge to be and ‘appear to be independent,’” Pakaluk said. “The *Casey* decision was all about the court trying to find which position would preserve its independence. Both the Rawlsian concept of political society which liberal justices favor, and the theory of originalism which conservative justices favor, are clung to because they provide a way for justices to view their work as independent. That independence is more basic than the philosophies that divide the court.

“In the 1993 *Casey* decision, Justice Scalia said in effect, *Roe* is not settled law. ‘In *Roe* we removed the rule of law. There has been nothing constant in jurisprudence since then, and the new undue burden standard is incoherent. It provides no basis for the rule of law.’”

“In his dissent in *Whole Women’s Health [v. Hellerstadt]* Justice Clarence Thomas goes back to this claim and says it has been proven true. Thomas cites Scalia’s 1989 address to Harvard Law School: ‘The rule of law as a law of rules. The work of judges is to extract rules from cases, otherwise we are making merely particular decisions which might be a job better left to juries.’ Scalia says these rules must be such as suggested by the letter of the law or by the established traditions of the people, contrasting between the rule of law and particular judgment (rule of a man rather than the rule of law).

“Thomas looks back at the Supreme Court’s jurisprudence since *Roe* and says, ‘There has been no rule of law here.’ Judges should not be doing the work of legislatures. They don’t want to become someone’s henchmen. Doing someone else’s work for them is the ultimate no-no for a judge.”

“The court has been usurping legislative authority in favoring the sexual revolution and its logical consequences which have been perfectly captured in the dissents of both Scalia and Thomas. Justices of the Supreme Court in their consciences recognize this truth and in conscience should act to restore their independence by overturning *Roe v. Wade*.”

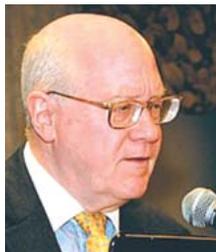
MCFL Convention 2017

Boston College, April 8

Featured Speakers



Dr. Martin J. McCaffrey,
Director, Perinatal
Collaborative of North
Carolina, star of *Hush*



Henry Luthin, Esq.,
Former chairman,
MCFL



Craig Collins, Esq.
Author: *Yesterday's
Law, Abortion in
Modern America*



Linda Thayer, MCFL
Vice President of
Education



Dr. William Lawton,
Emeritus, University
of Iowa Carver
College of Medicine

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

Registration/Coffee 8:30 am, Convention 9:00 am-4:00 pm

MCFL's 2017 Convention will present the latest on the life issues from Massachusetts and national experts:

- A panel of doctors who deal with people at the end of their life - a kidney specialist, an oncologist, and a pain specialist - will discuss how we can give their patients the best of care.
- Rev. Thomas Bouton will talk about the joy of living with a family member with Down Syndrome and how people with Down's are doubly at risk.
- A Constitutional Law professor will explain exactly how to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the consequences for the states, especially Massachusetts, what else might happen instead of reversal, and the possible advantages and chances for a Human Life Amendment.
- Craig Collins, Esq., author of *Yesterday's Law, Abortion in Modern America* will speak about his book and participate in a panel discussion.
- Learn the latest in the public schools, an update on abuses at Planned Parenthood, the report on just-filed MCFL legislation.
- A perinatal and pediatric hospice is a wonderful gift. We'll hear from representatives of Worcester's Notre Dame Perinatal and Pediatric Palliative Care Hospice for babies and children.
- And, Dr. Marty McCaffrey, star of *Hush*, will talk about his work with premature babies. The numbers have increased greatly because of "reproductive technology" and former abortions.

When Dana spoke and sang at the Banquet last fall, she left gifts for us. You may win one of her CDs or other items!

Convention Registration Form

Name: _____

Address : _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration Price (Includes lunch, coffee, snacks and drink)

General Public \$40 * Voting Member \$30

Student \$15

I would like to make a special donation to:

Help the Convention succeed Other

Register online at: masscitizensforlife.org/2017convention

Make your check out to **MCFL Charitable Trust**, and mail to
MCFL, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M9, Boston, MA 02129-1122
Questions call: 617-242-4199 ext. 230

** MCFL Members are those who have donated \$30 within the last year.*

MARCHING FOR LIFE 2017



Weymouth's McCurran family (left) with Mike, Deirdre, and Michael Murray from W. Roxbury (right)



Warm bundles marched with their parents



Burlington's Nicole, Grace, Hope, and Rose Hanafin, and student at MCFL Caucus



Teachers from Lowell Catholic ended the March at the Capitol



A huge group of young people helped carry the Student for Life banners against the stiff winds blowing down Constitution Ave.

PRO-LIFE EVENTS 2017

It didn't snow this year, but blustery winds and lower than expected temperatures made the 2017 March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 27, an expedition for the hardy. Pro-lifers endured lengthy security lines to attend the pre-march rally. The crowds endured brisk winds that intensified up the hill of Constitution Ave. where the March ended at the Senate and Supreme Court buildings.

Top Right: The first marchers reach the top of the hill on Constitution Ave.
Middle Row: Ladies on Constitution Ave.; Alumna from a large contingent of Notre Dame University students; Karen Moreau
Bottom Row: Lisa Ganser; Renee Pillor from Alexandria, VA on right, with a friend and vendor of March for Life memorabilia; young men sporting homemade T-shirts



NIH Proposes Ethical Changes

Would allow for human-animal chimeric research

On Aug. 4, 2016, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposed changing regulations to support expanded research into the development of chimeras, experimental genetic combinations of human beings and animals. The new regulations would allow funding for research that inserts human cells into very early animal embryos. Researchers hope to overcome the lack of organs available for life-saving transplant surgery by growing human organs and body parts in animals. Ethicists are troubled by certain aspects of chimeric research: the possibility of creating animals with human consciousness and the intentional creation and destruction of human embryos.

A fact sheet from Kansas Right to Life defines chimeras. “In medical terminology a chimera is an organism or tissue that contains at least two genetically distinct types of DNA,” it says. “An animal or human chimera is formed from the fusion of two or more zygotes, or when two individuals exchange cells during embryonic development, and the resulting individual carries at least two different types of DNA.” Human-animal chimeras can be created in several ways: by transplanting human stem cells into animal fetuses or by inserting human genes into the genome of animal fetuses. For example, a human-mouse chimera may contain a human liver in a mouse or may have a liver composed of both human and mouse cells.

The fact sheet describes different types of chimeras. “Dispermic chimeras are formed when two eggs that have been fertilized by two sperm fuse together, producing an individual originating from four gametes, or sex cells. Blood chimeras occur when blood connections form between the placentas of fraternal twins, enabling the transfer of stem cells between embryos. Microchimeras are formed when a few fetal stem cells or maternal cells cross the placenta. It is a common occurrence that after a baby is born, the mother still has some fetal cells in her body, and these cells can remain for decades.”

Dr. David Prentice, vice president and research director for the Charlotte Lozier Institute CLI says, “Some forms of chimerism occur naturally, as when two zygotes fuse or when two individuals exchange cells during embryonic development. This can happen with twins developing in the womb, for example.”

NIH regulations currently prohibit chimeric experiments involving pluripotent stem cells (cells which are capable of developing into any organ or tissue in the body.) Guidelines prohibit introducing human pluripotent cells into nonhuman primate blastocysts (an early embryo possessing an inner cell mass and an outer layer) and the breeding of animals into which human pluripotent cells may have contributed to the germ line (egg or sperm cells.) A moratorium on research includes funding for any experiments involving the introduction of stem cells from human to animal before the stage of gastrulation (the formation of the three germ layers in the early embryo.)

On Sept. 6, the Charlotte Lozier Institute submitted comments to NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, recommending that NIH not change research funding guidelines. Dr. Prentice specified the ethical objections to taxpayer funding of chimeric research. “The proposed changes would allow, and approve taxpayer funding, for creation of human-animal chimeras that would produce human gametes within the chimera’s body and the proposed changes would also allow for creation of human-animal chimeras that would have substantially or completely human cell-derived brains,” Prentice wrote. “The primary demarcations of species identity, especially in the case

of humans, revolve around reproductive genetics and conscious thought. The types of chimeras proposed for creation in these proposals thus cross significant ethical lines directly related to questions of species boundaries, the most important of which is the question of what it means to be human.”

Prentice said that expanded chimera creation would also involve the destruction of human embryos. “Expanding federal funds to this chimera research using ‘pluripotent cells’ or ‘pluripotent stem cells’ could lead to additional efforts to create and destroy human embryos to obtain those cells for this chimera research. Construction of some chimeras under these proposals may actually lead to creation of human embryos, which would be a violation of federal statute. Further, there is no scientific or ethical necessity that validates NIH approval or taxpayer funding of experiments creating the proposed human-animal chimeras.”

Not all research involving animal-human cells is problematic. “To clarify, chimeric research does not refer to therapies like a mitral valve replacement using a pig’s heart valve or other mammalian tissue,” says cell biologist Fr. Tad Pacholczyk. “This procedure does not involve the admixture of DNA or the potential for the creation of a genetically new or altered animal-human combination. For decades, scientists have engaged in noncontroversial practices involving intermixing animal and human cells such as growing human cancer tumors in mice to study disease processes and evaluate treatment strategies.”

“To play God is to put power before knowledge. For this reason alone, the NIH funding moratorium on this type of research should continue while ethical alternatives are explored and fully funded.”

– Dr. David Prentice

He notes the concerns (which also govern debate about the safety of genetically modified organisms) that undesirable genes may grow along with the desirable ones. Says Pacholczyk, “The science of growing entire human organs in pigs or other animals is still in its infancy, and researchers have yet to figure out how to make human cells co-exist in a stable fashion with animal tissues. There are abundant concerns about the possibility of transmitting animal viruses to humans especially considering how readily other viruses like avian flu have been able to jump from birds to humans.”

In May 2016, NPR’s Rob Stein reported on the work of Pablo Ross, a reproductive biologist at the University of California. Ross hopes to create a pancreas that could be transplanted into a patient with diabetes. He uses the gene editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 to delete the gene needed to make a pancreas and then injects human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) into the pig embryos. Stein said, “The researcher’s hope is that the human stem cells will take advantage of the void in the embryo to start forming a human pancreas. Because iPS cells can be made from any adult’s skin cells, any organs they form would match the patient who needs the transplant, vastly reducing the risk that the body would reject the new organ.”

The embryos are injected into a sow’s uterus and are allowed to develop to the time when organs start to form. The chimeric embryos are dissected and examined to see whether the human stem cells have started to form a pancreas and other types of tissues. Stein notes, “The uncertainty is part of what makes the work so controversial. Ross and other scientists conducting these experiments can’t know exactly where the human stem cells will go. Ross hopes they’ll only grow a human pancreas. But they could go elsewhere, such as to the brain.”

Stein’s article exposes the antagonism towards those who hold that chimeric research may undermine what it means to be human. He quotes Jason Robert, a bioethicist at Arizona State University who says, “One of the concerns that a lot of people have is that there’s something sacrosanct about what it means to be human expressed in our DNA. And that by inserting that into other animals and giving those other animals potentially some of the capacities of humans

that this could be a kind of violation — a kind of, maybe, even a playing God.”

In a Sept. 2 letter to NIH Deputy Director Lawrence A. Tabak, Dr. Marie Hilliard, representing a consortium of health care providers, ethicists, and advocates for persons with disabilities, wrote, “We have significant concerns for an increasing eugenic societal mentality that in the long run puts, not just individuals at risk, but all of humanity at risk. The chimeric research under consideration laudably aims to better understand and push forward therapeutic frontiers for a number of devastating diseases. Such research could potentially lead to an immunologically tolerated and readily available source of human organs and body parts for transplantation. Even with these good intentions and solid scientific potential, research involving human-animal chimeras must be carefully designed to protect human dignity and to avoid serious ethical pitfalls, many of which were recognized as the basis for the recent NIH moratorium on human-animal chimera research.”

Dr. Prentice further noted, “In one of H.G. Wells’ dystopian novels, a man is rescued at sea and brought to an island where he encounters a mad scientist, played by Marlon Brando in a movie adaptation, who has spent 17 years creating “animals fused with human genes.” “The Island of Dr. Moreau” ends tragically with death abounding.

“The NIH proposal, in turn, begins with death abounding amidst the hubris that scientists can foresee, and forestall, every harm their manipulations of the human-animal boundary will cause. To play God is to put power before knowledge. For this reason alone, the NIH funding moratorium on this type of research should continue while ethical alternatives are explored and fully funded.”

The National Institutes of Health, a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the nation’s medical research agency charged with making important discoveries that improve health and save lives. With the confirmation of pro-life Congressman Tom Price as secretary for Health and Human Services it is hoped that NIH will reconsider changing policies on human-animal chimeras.

What is the difference between a hybrid, a chimera, and a genetically modified organism (GMO)?

A hybrid is created when an ovum from one species is fertilized by the sperm of another species. All the cells in a hybrid organism contain the same genetic information that is derived from the two different species. Examples of hybrids include the mule, a cross between a male donkey and a female horse.



Chimeric mouse

Photo: Staff at NIMH’s Transgenic Core Facility

A cell from a chimera, as in the chimeric mouse above, contains the genetic material from either one parent species or the other.

A genetically modified organism (GMO) is any organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. A more specifically defined type of GMO is a ‘transgenic organism.’ This is an organism whose genetic makeup has been altered by the addition of genetic material from an unrelated organism.

For example, corn can be genetically engineered to incorporate the bacterium Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) that increases resistance to insects and lowers the need for pesticides.

From: *Stemcell Bioethics*, Columbia University

MCFL Files 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda

Bills Proposed by MCFL

HD 533 An Act to advance the safety of women seeking to terminate a pregnancy

Also known as the "Woman's Safety Act," this bill seeks to have some 16 unlicensed, non-hospital facilities in MA that perform 10 or more abortions annually to be classified as a "clinic" and, thus, required to obtain a license and periodic safety inspection. *Primary Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, R-North Attleboro*

- This Act aims to reduce potential health risks to women who feel compelled to use these facilities.
- Are unlicensed abortion facilities safe? No one knows. We do know that in 2007, a Cape Cod woman underwent an abortion in one such facility and died in the recovery room.
- Amending the definition of "clinic" in §52 of Chapter 111 to include these facilities will not impose an undue burden on facility operators. It will merely require them to follow the same licensing and inspection requirements as other medical facilities in the Commonwealth.
- In 2015, 1275 women in Massachusetts obtained abortions in facilities that were neither licensed nor inspected. Surely people on both sides of the issue can agree that women seeking to terminate a pregnancy deserve to be safe.

HD 1752 An Act relative to a woman's right to know

Also known as "Laura's Law," this informed consent bill honors Laura Hope Smith, a young woman who died during an abortion at a substandard facility on Cape Cod in 2007. It seeks to require abortion facilities to inform clients fully about the abortion procedure, the possible immediate and long-term risks to the mother, and to offer the mother the completely optional opportunity to see her baby on ultrasound. A 24-hour waiting period would be imposed to ensure considered, informed decisions were made. *Primary Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, R-North Attleboro*

- Currently, there is no requirement for abortion providers to inform a woman seeking to terminate a pregnancy of information material to her decision which includes:
- Complete and accurate facts of fetal development and the developmental stage of her unborn child,
- Full and accurate information about abortion risks, including the well-documented risk of an adverse psychological impact,
- Full and accurate information about abortion alternatives and how to pursue them, and
- An opportunity for mature consideration of all relevant information to arrive at a truly informed decision.

HD 529 An Act relative to unborn victims of violence

This bill recognizes that when a criminal attacks a pregnant woman and injures and/or kills both the pregnant woman and her unborn child, the perpetrator has seriously harmed and/or ended two human lives. *Primary Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, R-North Attleboro*

- Mass. is one of only 12 states that have not yet enacted some version of this law.

HD 1750 An Act relative to instruction in pregnancy and prenatal care

This bill will require 7th, 8th, or 9th grade students to be taught the correct scientific facts about human prenatal development. The goal of this instruction is to help students understand the growth of the unborn child and prepare them for the responsibilities of future parenthood. *Primary Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, R-North Attleboro*

- Students' knowledge of human biology is not comprehensive without studying prenatal development.
- Lack of knowledge of prenatal development contributes to insufficient prenatal care, poor nutrition, and failure to avoid drugs and alcohol during pregnancy. The consequences of these abuses include: low birth weight, fetal alcohol syndrome, risk of premature birth, and birth defects.

HD 3658 An Act relative to coerced abortion

This bill requires facilities performing abortions to inform a pregnant woman seeking an abortion that no one can force her to have an abortion against her will. It requires both verbal notification and the posting of a sign in the abortion facility notifying patients of these rights. Failure to post the required sign carries a fine. An individual injured by the failure to post the sign or to provide verbal notification to the pregnant woman may bring a civil action for damages.

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, R-North Attleboro

- As many as 62% of post abortive women report that they felt forced into making the abortion decision.

Bills Opposed by MCFL

SD No. 912 An Act relative to healthy youth

This is the first sex education bill to date that **would explicitly teach young people the acceptability of abortion** among the "options for pregnancy". It makes the MA Health Curriculum Frameworks the legal standard for compliance for sexuality education programs in public school districts. The Frameworks as currently written explain to young people how to obtain an abortion or contraceptives without parental knowledge. Future revisions of the Frameworks would rest solely in the hands of the commissioner of education, meaning loss of control by parents in local districts to determine the content of sexuality education programs. The bill provides:

- "Sexual health education ... shall include, but not be limited to, teaching the following topics... the options for pregnancy, including parenting, adoption, and **abortion.**"
- "Any city, town, regional school district, vocational school district or charter school that utilizes curricula consistent with the Massachusetts curriculum framework for comprehensive health shall be in compliance

with this section.”

• “... the board of elementary and secondary education shall direct the commissioner to update the health curriculum framework, including provisions relative to sexual health education consistent with this section, upon the effective date of this act and no less than once every 10 years thereafter.”

SD 744/HD 950 Massachusetts End of Life Options Act

Primary House Sponsor: Rep. Louis Kafka, D-Stoughton

Primary Senate Sponsor: Sen. Barbara L'Italien, D-Andover

Summary of the Senate version of the Bill
This law would overturn the will of the voters as expressed in 2012 when they voted against Question 2, the doctor-prescribed suicide referendum. Kafka has introduced a version of this bill each year since 2009. It would allow doctors to prescribe suicide pills to terminally ill patients with “six months to live”, but doesn’t address all the same concerns about coercion of patients, the imprecision of terminal diagnoses and time to live, and the rest. MCFL will be asking members to vigorously oppose these bills just as they have previous attempts to force this legislation on Massachusetts.

Are you pro-life, but not sure what you can do to advance this most important cause?

The answer is simple—Join Massachusetts Citizens for Life today. MCFL members receive a subscription to the *MCFL News*, the right to vote in board elections, and discounts at MCFL events.

**Join or renew your membership at:
www.masscitizensforlife.org**

Memorials

Dorothy Bradley

Daniel and Dragica O’Malley
Peter and Joanne Cherubini
Kevin and Ann Callanan
Cheryl and Thomas Dedian

Eleanor Cadigan

Needham Pro-lifers

Janet Callahan

Gerald Bates

Eddie Doyle

Needham Pro-lifers

Mark Lepore

Rosemary Lepore
Michael Lepore

Barry McDonough

Needham Pro-lifers

John McQuillan

Needham Pro-lifers

Sean Padell

Susan and Jeffrey Padell
Michael Casadine
Kathleen Loper

Virginia Nasuti

Edward and Janice Yadisernia
Wayne and Francine Dabson
Juanita and William Heaphy
John and Marie Daddario
Mary and Donna Cusson
Raymond and Jane D’Amelio
Jeanne Pisani
Ronald and Jean Taddeo
Elizabeth Wiernasz
James and Rosanne Lyons
Peter and Marilyn Cataldo and Family
Leonard and Terry Storto
Charles and Donna Oteri
Dorothy and Harvard Nasuti
Emma J. Catalano
David and Dorothy Nasuti
Gloria Elaine and Alfred Hoffmeister
David Lang
Wilma Pascucci
Happy Hour Group of Hawk Nest Lane

Joe Reilly

Daniel and Maureen Flatley

Marian Sullivan

The Fox Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Ben and Michel Wetmore** on the birth of their fifth child, **Veronica Antoinette**, "Vera"



A donation made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one's birthday, wedding, anniversary, or new baby, will help us continue our life-saving work.
Mail to: MCFL, 529 Main St., Suite 1M9, Boston, MA 02129-1122

Left: Jacolyn Bastasch, mom of a three-month-old son, at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Coming Events

MCFL Convention 2017

April 8

Boston College

Mother's Day Dinner

May 11

Chez Josef, Agawam, Keynote Speaker Joel Brind

MCFL Annual Fundraising Banquet

October 26

Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, Keynote Speaker Peter J. Kreeft

Mission

In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, the mission of Massachusetts Citizens for Life is to restore respect for human life and to defend the right to life of all human beings, born and preborn. We will influence public policy at the local, state, and national levels through comprehensive educational, legislative, political, and charitable activities.



Michael Murray at MCFL's 2016 Convention

MCFL Convention 2017

Keep the Momentum Going

Featuring:

Dr. Martin J. McCaffrey, Professor of Pediatrics in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and star of the documentary film *Hush*.

Dr. William Lawton, Emeritus, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

A top notch panel of doctors with expertise in dealing with people at the end of their life. The panel includes: a kidney specialist, an oncologist, and a pain specialist, who will discuss how to give patients the best of care.