

# MEMO

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To: medical professionals  
From: a concerned citizen

## *A must read about the care of Trisomy 18 babies*

I'd like to bring to your attention to the enclosed book, *Bella's Gift: How One Little Girl Transformed Our Family and Inspired a Nation*. This book was written by Rick and Karen Santorum and tells the amazing story of their youngest daughter who was diagnosed with Trisomy 18 four days after birth.

Despite being told by their doctors that Bella was "incompatible with life," Rick and Karen Santorum fought for their daughter to give her the best chance at life. And now almost 7, Bella has not just survived, she is thriving and has exceeded every expectation doctors had placed on her.

As you know, Trisomy 18, the condition of having three number 18 chromosomes, is often viewed as a death sentence. The Santorums know that Trisomy 18 is a serious diagnosis, but they also know that more needs to be done to change the language that medical professionals use when discussing it.

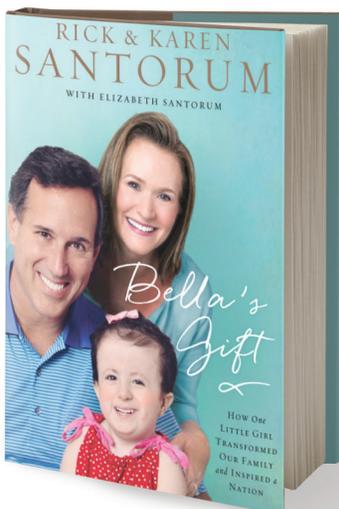
That was one of their goals for writing *Bella's Gift*.

Some doctors they encountered knew very little about Trisomy 18 other than the few sentences they read in medical textbooks. They didn't know that children with Bella's condition could live, let alone thrive.

Through *Bella's Gift*, the Santorums tell her story, to offer hope and to help to counter the negative prognoses that often lead to abortions. Karen Santorum has said, "lethal language results in lethal outcomes." This books aims to change that.

You are on the front lines of the medical profession, treating lives at their most vulnerable phases, which is why I wanted you to have a copy of *Bella's Gift*.

I hope you'll read it and share it with your colleagues about these precious children who have value and are making a difference in their families.



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