

Heartbeat Bill Passes Ohio House, Helped by Local Sponsors, Testimony



The Heartbeat Bill passed the Ohio House, 55-40, on Wednesday, March 25. At left is co-sponsor Rep. Nino Vitale, who brought in very effective witnesses, with Faith2Action president Janet Porter right after vote. [Ed. Note: The Heartbeat Bill would prohibit abortions after the baby's heartbeat can be detected.]

Thank you to Speaker Cliff Rosenberger for granting a floor vote and to Rep. Jim Buchy for his help and advice. Bill sponsor Rep. Christina Hagan testified very effectively on the House floor about her own birth: "My heartbeat was lost four times during my delivery." The inexperienced medical staffer "urged my mother to wait... My mother knew that I had a better chance at life if she delivered me, and she did... she fought for me when the world said to wait." Rep. Hagan posed the question, "Which side were you on when the history was written?"

Heartbeat sponsor Rep. Ron Hood gave powerful testimony about his stillborn son, delivered at seven months' gestation. "There was no heartbeat, there was no life," Hood said as he described holding his tiny son. "I saw the expression on his face... I was gripped with the irony... my wife and I so desperately wanted our son to take a breath, to be alive, [and yet there are] people who actually do this on purpose."

Rep. Ron Young ably countered pro-abortion arguments, explaining that he and the other Reps swore an oath to uphold our Constitution. "I did not swear to uphold Roe vs. Wade," he said. "We hear references continually to the Supreme Court... There is another court supreme to that. And there's a Judge that's supreme to any judge on the Supreme Court. And if you read the oath carefully, He's the one that we swore an allegiance to. He's the one we swore we will be answerable to some day for the decisions we make in our votes right here in this House."

Excerpted from Faith2Action e-mail, March 27, 2015.

Garage Sale Sets Revenue Record!

It was a banner year for our biggest fundraiser, the Russia Garage Sale: We set a record by bringing in more than \$8,000 over the three-day sale! Thank you to all of those who helped, especially Maria Hoehne and Bonnie York who chaired the event. This income will sustain RTL's important educational and community outreach programs throughout the year.

Maria and Bonnie sent the following note:

Words cannot express how appreciative we are for all who worked at, supplied items to sell, or purchased items from the Shelby County Right to Life garage sale. A special thanks to all the local churches that provided a drop-off site and delivered items to the sale; to Karen Rosenbeck for organizing the workers; to St. Remy Church for allowing us to use their hall free of charge; and to Made in the Shade tent rental for providing the tent. A great big thanks to the volunteers that organized and managed the sale and who are too numerous to list!

Congratulations to Nelson Hoelscher of Houston, who won the 50/50 drawing.



Membership Matters

Thank you to more than 400 members who have renewed for 2015!

Membership committee volunteers will soon be contacting those who haven't done so yet with a friendly reminder.

Clothing center report

In February, 131 clients purchased items, 7 used gift certificates from classes, and 11 received free items. Additional boxes of clothing were donated to other area pro-life groups.

In March, 177 clients purchased items, 18 used certificates, and 18 received free items.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown Garners Planned Parenthood “Honor”

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Shameful politicians love to slobber all over abortion giant Planned Parenthood, which admittedly kills hundreds of thousands of babies annually and covers for child sexual predators—and has a grip on the politicians it “honors.”

Sacramento, California Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. has received Planned Parenthood’s Champions for Women’s Health Award. President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America Cecile Richards and President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California Kathy Kneer presented Bera with the award.

“We can always count on Dr. Bera to stand up for women’s access to health care in California, and around the world,” said Kneer. “As a member of the Congressional committee focused on global health, he has been a true advocate for women worldwide. His tireless efforts have made him a champion to Planned Parenthood and a champion to the women of Sacramento County.”

Longtime Planned Parenthood advocate, Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, was the Senate recipient of the award.

Also included in this list of shameful politicians is a staffer to the only woman in U.S. history to be elected both a governor and a United States senator. Jeanne Shaheen, who served as Governor of New Hampshire from 1997 to 2003 and is now a US Senator, congratulated staffer Alison MacDonald for her recent Planned Parenthood award. MacDonald works out of Shaheen’s Washington office and was named Planned Parenthood’s Stand Up Staffer of the Year on March 18.

By Carole Novielli, LifeNews.com, April 6, 2015 (condensed). Carole Novielli is the author of the blog Saynsumthn, where this article originally appeared.

Baby Given 1% Chance of Surviving Turns 12 After Mom Rejected Abortion

Aaliyah Hart weighed just 12 ounces when she was born three months premature in 2003. She was the smallest baby ever to be born in Britain – so tiny that she fit in her mother’s hand.

However, Aaliyah’s fight to survive began while she was still in her mother’s womb. At roughly 20 weeks gestation, Aaliyah had stopped growing, and doctors doubted she would survive. Then at 28 weeks, her mother, Lorraine Hart, went into labor. Hart and her husband, Ricardo, had been trying for 10 years to conceive, and Aaliyah was their miracle baby.

Jeff Bissenden, regional director for Birmingham City Hospital, told The Telegraph after Aaliyah was born, “I’m amazed the baby did not die in the womb. I think this baby’s survival is down to the intrinsic toughness of the child, not down to anything we have done.”

In 2013, The Daily Mail updated the world on Aaliyah’s progress. At 10 years old, she became captain of her school’s football team. Her mother told The Daily Mail that her daughter loves sports, and excels at running and gymnastics. Though her confidence was low due to her small stature, Aaliyah has since caught up to many of her classmates, and her self-esteem has grown. She has been awarded tasks at school, such as being the “milk monitor,” which allows her some responsibility.

“I really like playing football. It’s a lot of fun playing with my friends,” Hart told The Daily Mail. “Being the captain makes me feel very proud. I like school, but I really love sports. I know I’m a bit smaller, but I try not to let it make a difference.”

During her pregnancy, Aaliyah’s mother was told that she should consider abortion. Lorraine Hart told The Telegraph that she refused to end the life of her child, and would not give up hope while Aaliyah’s heart was still beating. After only a few weeks in the hospital, Aaliyah was able to go home.

“She’s a miracle, so beautiful,” Hart told The Telegraph. “She was so tiny, but she was so active. Her hands were going; she was her own little person and I cried for a long time. She was surviving – that was my main concern.” Now, nearly a teenager, Aaliyah’s mother can be proud that her daughter not only defied the odds to survive, but is thriving, as well.

By Nancy Flanders, LifeNews.com, April 13, 2015; originally published at LiveActionNews, February 6, 2015.

In memory of Steve Whited, in whose name a memorial donation was made.

+May he rest in peace.+



In thanksgiving for a safe and successful garage sale. For good weather and for good health for all those involved in the golf outing. We pray especially for greater respect for the lives of the elderly, terminally ill, and disabled.

Anderson: Physician-Assisted Suicide is a Social Contagion

In 2012, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's widow, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, campaigned against physician-assisted suicide in Massachusetts. She pointed out that most people wish for a good death "surrounded by loved ones, perhaps with a doctor and/or clergyman at our bedside." But with physician-assisted suicide, you get "a prescription for up to 100 capsules, dispensed by a pharmacist, taken without medical supervision, followed by death, perhaps alone. That seems harsh and extreme to me."

Indeed it is. Yet today, at least 18 states are considering allowing physician-assisted suicide. The media frame the debate as one about individual autonomy, especially in the face of devastating illnesses that rightly capture our empathy. But the merciful thing would be to expect doctors to do no harm and ease the pain of those who suffer and to support families and ministries in providing that care.

Allowing physicians to help patients kill themselves changes the practice of medicine and our entire culture. The question is: Will our law and public policy shape our culture to view the elderly and the disabled as burdens to be disposed of, or as people to be loved and cared for? Human life doesn't need to be extended by every medical means possible, but a person should never be intentionally killed. Doctors may help their patients to die a dignified death from natural causes, but they should not kill their patients or help them to kill themselves.

Physician-assisted suicide is bad policy for four reasons:

1. Physician-assisted suicide (PAS) endangers the weak and the marginalized. Safeguards purporting to minimize this risk have proved to be inadequate. Over time, they are often watered down or eliminated. In the Netherlands, several government-sponsored surveys have disclosed that doctors have intentionally administered lethal injections to thousands of patients without a request. They have also failed to report thousands of cases to the authorities.
2. PAS changes the culture in which medicine is practiced. It corrupts the profession of medicine by permitting the tools of healing to be used as techniques for killing. PAS fundamentally distorts the doctor-patient relationship because it reduces patients' trust of doctors and doctors' undivided commitment to the life and health of their patients. PAS offers a cheap, quick fix in a world of increasingly scarce health care resources, thus creating perverse incentives for insurance providers and health care financing.
3. PAS would harm our entire culture, especially our family and intergenerational obligations. The temptation to view elderly or disabled family members as burdens will increase, as will the temptation for those family members to internalize this attitude and view themselves as burdens. PAS undermines social solidarity and true compassion.
4. PAS violates human dignity and denies equality before the law. A just legal system respects human dignity in everyone. It takes all reasonable steps to prevent the innocent, of any age or condition, from being devalued and killed. Classifying a subgroup of people as legally eligible to be killed violates our nation's commitment to equality—by allowing lives to be judged as no longer "worth living."

Instead of embracing physician-assisted suicide, we should respond to suffering with true compassion and solidarity. People seeking physician-assisted suicide typically suffer from depression or other mental illnesses, as well as simply from loneliness. We must respond with appropriate care and human presence. For those in physical pain, pain management and other palliative medicine can manage their symptoms effectively. For those facing imminent death, hospice care and fellowship can accompany them in their last days. Anything less falls short of what human dignity requires.

Doctors should help their patients to die a dignified death of natural causes, not assist in killing. Physicians are always to care, never to kill. Citizens and policymakers need to resist the push by pressure groups, academic elites, and the media to sanction physician-assisted suicide.

By Ryan T. Anderson, William E. Simon Fellow, Heritage Foundation. From Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (AlexSchadenberg.blogspot.ca), April 7, 2015. Originally published in the Washington Times. Edited for space.



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California Churches Continue Battling State Mandate to Fund Abortions

The California State Assembly's Committee on Health is considering Assembly Bill 1254, which would reverse the California Department of Managed Health Care's (DMHC) mandate that all employers, even churches, include elective abortion in their health insurance plans.

"Churches and other religious employers should not be coerced by the government into violating their fundamental beliefs by being party to elective abortion," says Casey Mattox, Senior Counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom. "When Congress enacted the Weldon Amendment [to the Affordable Care Act], it sought to ensure that the government could never strong-arm pro-life employers into paying for abortion coverage. California is blatantly ignoring federal law and pushing its abortion ideology on citizens while still receiving taxpayer money."

In October 2014, ADF and Life Legal Defense Foundation filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over the California mandate. ADF and LLDF represent seven California churches that object to providing their pastoral staff and other employees insurance plans covering elective abortions and allege that DMHC's coercion of abortion coverage violates federal law.

"The DMHC order is without legal basis, violates federal law, and threatens to jeopardize a significant part of California's federal funding," Mattox explains.

"Assembly Bill 1254 would simply restore the status quo ante and ensure California's continued compliance with its obligations under the Weldon Amendment. It would not prohibit insurers from covering any legal health service, but religious employers would remain free, as before, to contract for insurance plans that did not require them to pay for abortions."

By Alliance Defending Freedom, LifeNews.com, April 27, 2015. Edited for space.