

Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084

May 2020

“An educational group for pro-life nurses”

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Never has our nation been so determined to protect human lives. Social distancing, self-isolation, wearing masks, hand washing, churches closed, shortened school year and home schooling, limited number of shoppers allowed into those stores that are still open. Marriages postponed, birthdays recognized by “drive by” parades of vehicles with signs. Babies being born and grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins seeing them only on iphones or ipads; people facing death surrounded by strangers instead of their loved ones; grieving loved ones standing alone at the gravesite. All these things in an effort to protect our loved ones and all of society.

And let’s not forget to praise the first responders, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, house-keeping staffs, makers of ventilators, masks, gloves, gowns and other needed items to keep our health care providers “below the curve.” They place their own well-being on-line every single day.

It seems that suddenly we have discovered that human life is indeed precious, to be cared for, fought for and protected. We are willing to put aside our own wants and desires to protect those around us. We are discovering that there are ways around these difficult circumstances. That it is possible to protect others. It takes sacrifice, yes, but it can be done! The result is clearly worth our efforts—people’s lives are being saved, supported and protected.

Our wish and prayer is that when this Coronavirus trial is over, we will not lose that newfound realization that we can protect human life—young, old, convenient or problematic. We are a people of courage, a people of faith, a people of compassion and we will prevail.



UPDATES

End Dismemberment Petition Drive

The Michigan Bureau of Elections resumed the vetting process for the petition drive to end dismemberment abortions. The bureau set June 1 as the deadline for challenges to the signatures. It’s been nearly a year since we began collecting signatures to end the violent late-term dismemberment abortion procedure. The petition drive has overcome an exhaustive list of challenges, now including a global pandemic. If enough valid signatures remain following the challenge period, the petition will be certified by the Board of State Canvassers and the dismemberment ban will be sent to the legislature for consideration with a 40-day time limit. Majority votes in the House and Senate will pass the dismemberment ban into law without Governor Whitmer’s signature. Initiated legislation that isn’t passed into law is placed on the general election ballot for a public vote.

Announcing the NAPN Scholarship Winner

The National Association of Pro-Life Nurses has named Marille Rebello of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas as the recipient of this year’s award. Congratulations to Marille as she continues her studies and promotes her pro-life philosophy.



Michigan Nurses for Life 2020 Fall Conference Cancelled

Due to the uncertainty surrounding when our city, state and nation will resume normal activities, the Board of Directors of MNFL have determined that we will forgo our annual fall conference for the year 2020. We are saddened by this turn of events but feel this is the safest course at this time.

✓ Check Out a New Page on Michigan Nurses for Life’s Website

We are currently adding a new page on our website. It is a listing of the Free Pregnancy Help Centers in Southeastern Michigan which provide help in meeting the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy through emotional support, material goods and resources for medical, legal, educational, financial and social assistance. This list will be kept updated and available to print online in a brochure format.

Michigan Nurses For Life



Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

Office: 248-816-8489
Email: info@mnfl.org
Web Site: www.mnfl.org

Officers:

Diane Trombley, RN, BSN, President
Mary Anne Barrett, RN, Secretary
Alice Maher, RN, MSN, Treasurer

Board Members:

Marianne Boukamp, RN, BSN
Martha Jacobs, RN
Phyl Sallee, RN, MS, CPNP
Linda Seng, RN
Susan Stumbo, BSN, MS
Phyllis Sullivan, BSN
Mary Lou Temple, RN, MS, Nursing

Administrative Assistant:

Marilyn Schepansky

Editor and Layout:

Marge Bradley

Who is Really Killing Grandma?

Right to Life of Michigan isn't killing grandma; Governor Whitmer might be, though. Since the early days of the pandemic, Right to Life of Michigan has criticized Governor Whitmer for the separate and unfair treatment she is giving to abortion facilities. The Governor is privileging elective abortions over truly necessary medical procedures deemed "not essential." Other than that, we haven't weighed in on other pandemic response policies.



Despite staying in our lane, we have received some ongoing criticism from abortion supporters. The comments all go something like this: "You aren't speaking out against reopening businesses as the sacrifice of the aged, sick, homeless, etc." It is not just limited to e-mails and mean tweets. During a debate on the floor of the Michigan Senate over Governor Whitmer's legal authority, Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr., had some harsh words for pro-lifers.

Sen. Hertel said, "I don't want to hear another damn thing about the sanctity of life from the other side of the aisle again. Apparently, life is sacred unless it stops the almighty dollar or your golf game."

Well, since they keep asking for our opinion, how about this? Consider Michigan's nursing homes. Sadly, Michigan citizens have not been given death figures from our nursing homes yet. The median age of deaths due to the coronavirus in Michigan is 76, so we can only guess the toll in our nursing facilities has been catastrophic.

It has been the policy of Governor Whitmer's Administration to place seniors stricken with the coronavirus into "regional hubs," which include nursing homes. They are paying these nursing homes \$5,000 a bed to purposefully bring the virus into their buildings.

Since some other states are transparent and publish their nursing home death figures, we are learning what a foolish policy this is. It was blind hope that separation procedures inside the nursing homes would protect our most vulnerable citizens. Notably, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ended this practice in his state a few days ago.

However, Whitmer's Administration still seems committed to it. In a story from *WDIV* on May 11, Michigan's Chief Medical Executive Joneigh Khaldun defended putting the coronavirus into nursing homes: "It's a good move, a good step to make these regional hubs, and I think as we move forward, we have to look at making sure we're really implementing best practices, looking to other best practices across the state."

A good move?

Right to Life of Michigan has dealt with many end of life issues over the years, which disproportionately affect our seniors. Usually seniors are at risk of euthanasia or rationing of medical care because of a callous attitude toward the value of their lives. Sometimes it's motivated by greed from family members, or a twisted sense of doing patients and their families a favor from medical providers. Those are value problems.

Putting coronavirus patients into nursing homes? Perhaps that is a value problem, but it's really best explained as a competence problem. We are sure many in Governor Whitmer's Administration thought her nursing home policy sounded good on paper, when we thought our entire hospital system was at risk of collapse. However, the numbers are in. Our hospitals are not overwhelmed. The dedicated coronavirus field hospital set up in the building formerly known as Cobo Hall is shuttered. Our elderly family members are overwhelmingly the highest risk category for this virus, making up more than half the dead.

So, since some of you keep asking, we're weighing in, mostly from a standpoint of basic common sense: Right to Life of Michigan believes

continued on back page

Spero Center



Hello all! My name is Leann Clink, I am the nurse manager for Spero Center in Port Huron. Our office is the only pregnancy center in St. Clair County, but there are 16 more like us in Southeast Michigan. It is our great pleasure to inform you that the Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center changed our business name to Spero Center on March 15, 2019. Spero (pronounced sparrow) means HOPE in Latin. For 33 years, we have offered HOPE to our young moms and dads, and our phone number spells HOPE (**985-HOPE**). This was our inspiration for the new name and the image of a bird inspires rising above circumstances, freedom and HOPE. We continue to specialize

in pregnancy diagnosis and options with compassion and practical help. All our services are free: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, options counseling, pre-natal and parenting classes, baby items, community referrals and much more. We help nearly 800 men and women every year until their baby is 24 months old.

I wanted to talk about remaining open and being essential during this time of COVID infection. Our pregnancy center has been able to remain open due to our board and medical director wanting to serve women during shelter-in-place, especially since abortion clinics in Michigan remain open and performing abortions. This has been a tremendous blessing for our clients. We have seen a slight increase in pregnancy tests; however, we have had to limit our ultrasound services per medical director request to follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible.

One of the things, however, that has been exciting is our classes. Last year, we started doing limited virtual classes through BrightCourse, part of Heritage House. These prenatal and parenting classes are sent to our clients with their permission either by text message or email. They watch a short video and answer questions. The information is evidence-based and Christ-centered, a win-win.

We have been able to connect with our clients during this time of fear and uncertainty and forge relationships, sometimes stronger than before. This is a blessing that was not foreseen when all of the changes started. We have recently added a Zoom Bible class to our list of virtual client classes too. Our virtual classes have tripled in size compared to face-to-face, in-person classes. It is a blessing to be an essential service reaching out and "touching" our clients in a time when reaching out is not easy or encouraged.

Moving forward, we will be continuing on with virtual classes and be looking for new ways to engage our culture so that the next time we come up against some infectious disease or other obstacle we again will conquer it and find new ways to care for clients. After all, that is what nursing does...we care and look for ways to assist clients.

Planned Parenthood Abortion Business Lays Off One-Third of Its Staff, Cutting 285 Employees

By Micaiah Bilger

Even the abortion chain Planned Parenthood is struggling during the coronavirus crisis. Its Greater New York affiliate recently admitted that it had to lay off nearly one-third of its staff this spring as patient visits dropped by more than half, *Crain's New York Business* reports.

This is good news for life. Planned Parenthood's "core mission" is abortions, and abortions are not essential or necessary. They are life-destroying procedures that kill unborn babies and often harm mothers.

According to the report, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York laid off 135 employees and furloughed or reduced the hours for 150 more. Laura McQuade, CEO of the New York affiliate, said their in-person visits are down by approximately 70 percent, and donations are down, too.

The organization has continued to work with public health officials in the city and at the state level. It's been taking referrals for abortion care from hospitals that have been unable to provide it during the crisis. Still, the report and others suggest the abortion chain is struggling. They offer a glimmer of hope that America's largest abortion chain may be beginning to crumble.

Across the world, more than 5,000 clinics affiliated with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) also closed in connection to the coronavirus pandemic. In April, IPPF reported 5,633 clinics in 64 countries closed, and of its 132 member associations, 23 reported "reduced availability" of abortions. The pro-abortion organization, founded by Margaret Sanger, does abortions all across the world. It reported 5.3 million "abortion-related services" in 2018 alone. These closures mean more unborn babies and mothers may be spared from the pain and death of abortion. The good news for women and their unborn children is they can now receive legitimate pregnancy care and support. Anyone needing assistance can go to OptionLine.

—Excerpt from *LifeNews.com*, May 7, 2020

Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, Michigan 48084

Address Service Requested



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 497
Southfield, MI 48037

Federal Appeals Court Again Upholds Trump's Pro-Life Rule Defunding Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz



By Dave Andrusko

When an 11-member panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a three-judge panel's decision upholding the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule," the state of California asked the Court to rehear its *en banc* decision. The decision had vacated court decisions entered in California, Oregon, and Washington which blocked enforcement of the rule. [On May 8, 2020], the 9th Circuit refused to reconsider its 7-4 decision to uphold, according to the *Court House News Service*. The judges simply announced that the Court "has voted to deny the Petition of Plaintiffs-Appellees."

Derided as a "gag rule," the Trump Administration's Protect Life Rule did nothing more than require recipients of Title X family planning money not to refer clients for abortion as a method of family planning or co-locate with abortion clinics. Planned Parenthood opted out of the Title X program rather than accept the limitations which were clearly intended by Congress when it created the program in 1970.

At the time of the February 24 *en banc* decision, Mollie Timmons, a Department of Justice spokesperson, said, "Congress has long prohibited the use of Title X funds in programs where abortion is a method of family planning and HHS's recent rule makes that longstanding prohibition a reality."

Ed Whelan, in a very helpful post, nicely summarized the 9th Circuit's holding in *California v. Azar*:

In her majority opinion, Judge Ikuta explains that the Title X regulations are similar to those upheld by the Supreme Court in Rust v. Sullivan in 1991, and that they are in fact "less restrictive in at least one important respect: a counselor providing nondirective pregnancy counseling 'may discuss abortion' so long as 'the counselor neither refers for, nor encourages, abortion.'" There therefore "is no 'gag' on abortion counseling" (even if one were to adopt the dubious position that a refusal to provide funding amounts to a "gag"). Ikuta rejects arguments that two intervening congressional enactments render *Rust*'s holding no longer valid (pp. 32-48) and that the regulations are inconsistent with a provision in the so-called Affordable Care Act (pp. 49-58). She also rejects administrative-law claims that the Title X regulations are in various respects arbitrary and capricious (pp. 59-81).

Dave Andrusko is the editor of National Right to Life News and an author and editor of several books on abortion topics.

—*LifeNews.com, May 11, 2020*

Upcoming Events

Lifespan's 50th Anniversary

Auction and Dinner (New Date)

Tuesday, October 13 – San Marino Club, Troy

Featuring: Diamond & Silk

Reservations and information,

call: 248-816-1546

Mother & Unborn Baby Care Fall Banquet

Thursday, November 5 – San Marino Club, Troy

Guest Speaker: Dr. Anthony Levatino

Reservations and information,

call: 248-559-7576

Who's Really Killing Grandma?

continued from front page

purposefully placing the coronavirus into nursing homes is not a "good move." Who could possibly think this is smart? This policy could prove to be the worst possible move in this pandemic. At the very least they should release the figures on deaths in our nursing homes so we can see how bad it is. Now, here's our response to the abortion supporters angry at us for not weighing in on the Governor's stay-at-home-order: you are talking to the wrong people about "killing grandma." You should instead be asking Governor Gretchen Whitmer and her Administration if they are done with sacrificing grandma yet. Is the lockdown a wise decision? You decide, but anyone ought to be able to see that putting the virus into nursing homes was as far from a "good move" as you can get!

—<https://rtl.org/killing-grandma>