

“An educational group for pro-life nurses”

Let Non-Doctors Participate in Assisted Suicide?

By Wesley J. Smith

When selling the legalization of assisted suicide, activists always promise that strict guidelines will protect against abuse. After legalization, these protections are rebranded as “obstacles” or “barriers” that prevent patients from getting what they want. As soon as activists think they can get away with it, the law is loosened.

That process is unfolding in Washington State, where a new bill would let non-doctors be part of the assisted suicide bureaucratic process. From HB 1141:

*“Attending (physician) qualified medical provider” means the **physician, physician assistant... or advanced registered nurse practitioner** who has primary responsibility for the care of the patient and treatment of the patient’s terminal disease...[Emphasis added.]*

If the attending medical provider is an MD, nurse practitioners and physician assistants can also be the second opinion “consulting” medical professional, who can even be employed by the attending physician. If the attending provider is not an MD, the second opinion would have to be an MD.

Understand What This Means

Neither the attending nor consulting provider would actually have to be the patient’s long-term doctor. For example, if a patient’s own doctor refuses to lethally prescribe, a patient can ask an assisted-suicide-advocacy group to refer to an ideologically predisposed provider to become “attending,” who can, in turn, refer to a consulting provider known to support assisted suicide.

Add in this fact. Sometimes, these consultations are done virtually over Zoom or Skype! In other words, a patient who receives a lethal prescription might have only known the prescriber and the consulting provider for a very short time, both of whom only saw the patient—either in person or consulting by Zoom—for the purpose of ending life.

Neither a Psychiatrist or a Psychologist

The regulations for mental-health providers, who would be allowed to clear patients thought to have a mental issue for death, would also be loosened so that he or she need not be a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist:

*“Counseling” means one or more consultations as necessary between a state licensed psychiatrist (or), psychologist, **independent clinical social worker, advanced social worker, mental health counselor, or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner** and a patient for the purpose of determining that the patient is competent and not suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment.*

The Potential Consequences

Richard Doerflinger—who recently retired from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and has been one of the world’s foremost experts on assisted-suicide laws and proposals for more than 40 years—explains the potential consequences in testimony opposing the bill:

Under state law, a psychological evaluation can be done by a person with no qualifications. State law defines a “mental health counselor” to include any individual who counsels members of the public, for money. The waiting period has also been reduced in some cases from six months to three days or waived entirely if one doctor and one non-doctor say the patient may die sooner!

Doerflinger explains: They will never be proved wrong if their prognosis immediately qualifies the patient for lethal drugs, and the law requires them to list the underlying condition as cause of death. Instant infallibility! Oral and written requests can be simultaneous, turning the health facility almost into a drive-through suicide clinic.



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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Each month, I try to remark on some topic related to our organization and our efforts to protect moms and their babies.

With our never-ending social restrictions, there is little we can do together to educate and exchange ideas. No seminars, no small meetings. We are generating a society that looks with suspicion at its members, wondering "have you had YOUR shot" and being pleased or angered by the response.

Decisions regarding one's personal health are just that—personal. Our behaviors should contribute to the common good, but that can occur in the context of personal health decisions. An understanding that, no matter how pro-active we are, the coronavirus is in our environment and is not going to "go away" because we do or do not wear a mask or take an injectable therapy; the virus will do what viruses do—mutate and remain in our environment.

After much thought, consideration, and prayer I have decided to do the best I can and encourage everyone else to do the same.

It is difficult to see many of the protections put in place for the unborn child and his mother over the past 4-5 years being recently removed. At this point in time, I believe that our best actions may be to open the lines of communication with our elected officials and let them know how we feel about the recent changes.

Wear your little feet pin—you would be surprised how often people ask about them. They provide a great opportunity to do a little low-key education. Encourage your faith community to offer an evening of questions and answers about pro-life issues. "Ask the Nurse" evening always seems to draw a crowd!

My fervent wish is that our society returns to the "old normal" and we can hold our seminars, and meetings, share our information person-to-person. Until that time, we will do our best to keep the website current and provide information through our newsletter.



Love Life, Diane

Upcoming Events

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Lifespan Billboard Campaign – May 2021

Billboards & Posters will be visible in Detroit and Ferndale
Questions? Call: 248-816-1546 or 734-422-6230

Lifespan Legislative Luncheon

Date: Saturday, June 19
Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, Redford
Keynote Speaker: Bob Dutko
Reservations and information: 734-422-6230

LIFESPAN 50TH Anniversary Dinner Featuring Diamond & Silk

NEW DATE: Tuesday, October 12 – San Marino Club
Reservations and information: 248-816-1546

13 STATES HAVE PASSED 61 BILLS THIS YEAR TO SAVE BABIES FROM ABORTION

—LifeNews.com, May 3, 2021

Pregnancy help available: 248-816-1546 or 734-422-6230

Here's What Joe Biden Has Done to Become the Most Radical Pro-Abortion President Ever

By Laura Echevarria

As President Biden approaches his first 100 days in office, National Right to Life (NRLC) deplors his extreme commitment to abortion on demand.

"Joe Biden's first one hundred days has been a horrendous assault on unborn human life," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. "Joe Biden's evolution into a virulent supporter of abortion on demand has been solidified by his record number of pro-abortion executive orders and reversal of pro-life policies."

The Biden/Harris Administration's extreme pro-abortion actions include:

An Executive Order issued January 28th **repealing the pro-life Mexico City Policy** that had been reestablished and expanded by the Administration of President Trump.

On the same day, President Biden issued an Executive Order that began the process of **overturning the Trump Administration's "Protect Life Rule" on Title X**. That rule ensured that Title X family planning money did not flow to abortion providers and that everyone receiving Title X funds would not refer for abortion. In March, HHS announced it will repeal the Protect Life Rule by the end of the year.

President Biden signed the **\$1.9 Trillion Reconciliation Package which includes billions of dollars available for taxpayer-funded abortions**.

President Biden's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **suspended protections established for women undergoing chemical abortions**, such as seeing the abortionist in person. The in-person requirement is vital because it ensures that complications, such as an ectopic pregnancy, are ruled out in advance of a woman undergoing a chemical abortion. Mifepristone, the "abortion pill," has no impact on an ectopic pregnancy which is a life-threatening medical condition.

President Biden **nominated California Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, who was confirmed by the Senate, to head HHS. **Becerra's support of abortion on demand for any reason and at any time during pregnancy, as well as his campaign against pregnancy help centers, is extensive and well documented.**

President Biden's National Institutes of Health (NIH) **reversed Trump-era fetal tissue requirements. In its internal research, NIH will again fund research using tissue from aborted babies.** It will also no longer convene the Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board, established under President Trump that was designed to review extramural research grant applications.

Though he long supported the Hyde Amendment in the past, as a presidential candidate, President Biden flip-flopped in 2019. President Biden is now on record **in support of eliminating the Hyde Amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.** Named after its original sponsor, pro-life Congressman Henry Hyde, the original amendment was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. It was estimated that before the Hyde Amendment took effect, approximately 300,000 abortions were paid for by Medicaid programs each year.

"Biden's first 100 days in office leave no doubt that his administration will do all it can to expand abortion on demand, reverse protective, pro-life legislation and policies, and take every opportunity to entrench pro-abortion policies," Tobias said.

Tobias continued, "No one should be surprised at Biden's actions. In past statements, he has made clear his support for taxpayer funding of abortion and his support for late-term abortions, and abortions performed on unborn children who are capable of feeling pain."

In addition to the damage his administration has already inflicted, Biden's prior pro-abortion actions and statements include:

Choosing Kamala Harris as his running mate. While serving as California's Attorney General, she earned the vocal approval of pro-abortion groups. As a U.S. Senator, she amassed a 100% pro-abortion voting record from NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court for upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2007.

When asked about his stance on abortion during the campaign, Joe Biden replied that, "It's a decision between them [women] and their doctor, in my view." And during a presidential debate, when asked about his position, Joe Biden said, "Reproductive rights are a constitutional right. And, in fact, every woman should have that right."

According to the Biden campaign website, **"As president, Biden will work to codify Roe v. Wade, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop [pro-life state laws]."**

—LifeNews.com, May 1, 2021



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Targeted Abortion Ban Introduced in Michigan House

A ban on targeted abortions was introduced on April 29 in the Michigan House. House Bills 4737 & 4738 would ban abortions targeted at babies not just diagnosed with Down syndrome, but any disability, as well as babies targeted for reasons of sex or racial discrimination.

The bills, sponsored by Rep. Julie Calley and Rep. Andrew Fink, would make it a felony punishable by up to two years in prison for the person who knowingly performs a targeted abortion. The bills define disability as any physical or mental disability, and specifically lists several common disabilities for inclusion.

On April 12, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Ohio's ban on targeted abortions of children with Down syndrome to be enforced while court challenges continue. Michigan is also under the jurisdiction of the Sixth Circuit.



The following statement can be attributed to Right to Life of Michigan President Barbara Listing:

"With the legal situation in the Sixth Circuit, this is our highest priority, since a targeted abortion ban would be enforceable now. Because the neighboring Fifth Circuit struck down a similar Indiana law, this is an opportunity for the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in.

Abortion is used as a tool of discrimination on a horrifying scale. We have heard of situations where parents of women in interracial relationships have attempted to convince or coerce their daughters into getting race-selection abortions. More than 160 million women around the globe are missing because of sex-selection abortions. Abortion is wrong, period, but even people who consider themselves pro-choice should have a problem with taking the life of a child because they are a girl or aren't of a desired race.

Some countries boast of all but eliminating certain disabilities by targeting disabled children in the womb. Most people would be horrified at taking the life of a disabled child a day after birth, and they should be equally horrified by the idea of taking that child's life a day before birth.

Gallup asked a polling question on this in 2018. Only 29% of Americans thought it should be legal to take the life of a child with Down syndrome in the third trimester, and only a minority, 49%, thought it should be legal in the first trimester. Majorities thought abortion should be illegal in the third trimester for mental disabilities or conditions that threaten the life of the child. It's clear *Roe v. Wade* and the current state of abortion law is nowhere close to lining up with the views of the American public.

With continuing advances in care for the disabled and new programs like perinatal hospice, there are better options for society to invest in than causing the death of these little ones. A modern society that prides itself on creating equity can't be a society that allows violently taking the life of a child deemed unworthy of human care because of a physical or mental characteristic."

—Right to Life of Michigan Press Release, April 30, 2021

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That's the point with assisted suicide/euthanasia: Make death as easy to obtain as possible for as many people that the cultural circumstances of a given society will allow. Bottom line: Once assisted suicide is legalized, whatever "protective guidelines" are put in the law to protect against abuse will erode over time. It isn't a matter of if, but when.

—Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism, January 24, 2021

Congress is trying to force Americans to pay for abortion. The Hyde Amendment has protected taxpayers from funding abortion for 45 years. Take action and sign the petition!

www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com