

Michigan Nurses For Life

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

December 2008

"An educational group for prolife nurses"

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Rally For Life Stand Up! Speak Out! Be Counted on the Side of LIFE! January 18, 2009 from 2 - 3 PM Madonna University (Corner of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads in Livonia)

Don't miss the drawing of the winner of Lifespan's Raffle at the Rally for Life!!

It is time NOW, more than ever, to let YOUR voice be heard.

Bring your families, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Be INSPIRED to stand up, speak out and be an ACTIVE participant in the defense of Innocent human life.



This is an OUTDOOR event, so please dress warmly!
Refreshments served inside, following the Rally.



Michigan Nurses - Join with other area prolife groups. Show your support for life!



Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
Call 248.478.8879 or 734.422.6230



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

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President's Perspective

Dear Colleagues,

December is here again and that is renewal month for Michigan Nurses for Life.

The coming year may prove to be a very difficult one for those of us who are pro-life. It is clear from statements made both before and after the election that our new president is not a friend of life.

It makes me very sad to realize that the person who will be shaping the future of our country for generations to come does not realize that the future is --- clearly our children!

All human life deserves dignity, respect and protection, regardless of its age, stage of development, or condition of dependency and if our leaders cannot, or do not, acknowledge this, it is clearly up to us to speak up and speak out.

Should the Freedom of Choice Act be passed by our Congress and if the new president signs it into law, as he has promised to do, there will be ***no restrictions on abortion at all***. It is also expected that health care providers will be unable to object to taking part in abortion procedures. For the pro-life nurse, the news could not be much worse.

We must be informed as to what is happening and be prepared to take action where needed. Membership in Michigan Nurses for Life will assure that you have that information. We will continue to hold seminars for in depth information on topics that impact on us and we will continue to update our newsletter and web site with information that you can turn into action.

We need your voice, our profession needs nurses who know that destroying human life is never the answer to human problems. Please renew today.

Love Life!

Diane

Diane Trombley, RN, BSN
President, Michigan Nurses For Life

Take heart! Try not to be discouraged. No matter who occupies the White House, the Senate or the House of Representatives, no matter who our local representatives are, no matter what proposals succeed or fail, our message remains the same. Human life, wherever it is found, no matter its age, condition of dependency or stage of development, has an intrinsic right to respect, dignity and protection. As we have in past years when the political climate has been unfavorable, we will continue to spread this message. Some of us might develop a "Moses complex" and not live long enough to see the promised land of security for human life, but the message is bigger, stronger and more important than any one of us and we WILL succeed—there is simply no alternative.

Michigan Nurses For Life Fall Conference Summary



Dr. Valerie Lukasik and Dr. Vincent Rue



Conference attendee with Michelle Yax



Diane Fagelman, Dr. Vincent Rue, Phyllis Sulliavn

Attendees at Michigan Nurses for Life Fall Conference on October 24th heard excellent speakers share information on the "Impact of the Abortion Experience". Approximately 60 people attended including nurses, pregnancy center staff and volunteers and general public.

Vincent Rue, PhD, Director, Institute for Pregnancy Loss, Jacksonville, FL, has completed extensive research in the area of post-abortion syndrome (PAS). He acknowledged that PAS is denied or minimized by mental health professionals, the media and abortion rights proponents. Medical studies show that post-abortive women are at a significantly higher risk for bi-polar and depressive disorders, substance abuse, anxiety, parenting difficulties and death from violent and non-violent causes. Post-abortion syndrome (PAS) is a type of post-traumatic stress disorder. He also discussed how men are affected by abortion, but only 2 large studies have been done. Abortion inverts the male sex roles to protect, provide and be responsible. Men and women tend to react to the post-abortive experience differently.

Michelle Yax, Director of Mother and Unborn Baby Care in Lathrup Village, spoke of her own abortion experience over 25 years ago. She spoke eloquently of her personal pain and shared some of the possible physical consequences of abortion such as: infertility, breast cancer, ectopic pregnancy and pre-term birth with future pregnancies. Almost half of American women have experienced an abortion. Michelle speaks locally for Silent No More, a national group of post-abortive women and men, who want to encourage others not to choose abortion.

Valerie Lukasik, PhD, spoke about counseling the post-abortive client; she has a private counseling practice in Dearborn; approximately 20% of her clients are post-abortive. She gave attendees some potential questions to ask if they suspect a client may be post-abortive. Suggested interventions to help someone deal with grief included: writing a letter to themselves or those who hurt them; forgiving themselves and others; naming their child. She shared references for local support groups and counseling agencies.

Chaunie Brusie, shown here with her daughter Ada, is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University. Her note of appreciation shows how this award can make a difference. The NAPN 2009 scholarship winner will be announced soon.

A thank you note from the National Association of ProLife Nurses 2008 Scholarship winner...

Hello Nurses For Life!

I was the grateful recipient of the NAPN Scholarship last year, and I wanted to take the time to thank you again for the honor. The scholarship could not have come at a better time; I had just discovered I was pregnant, my work hours were being cut because my boss didn't like me taking time off to get married and I was struggling, financially, physically and emotionally with my pregnancy and nursing school. I discovered I was the scholarship recipient after a particularly hard day of school, work and two flat tires, and I just cried with happiness.

Your scholarship enabled me to go on; not just financially, but it also provided the boost of confidence and encouragement I desperately needed at a hard time in my life. I am so grateful. Since receiving your scholarship, I went on to finish my Bachelor's in Nursing, graduating with honors. Exactly one week after I graduated, my husband and I welcomed our daughter, Ada Marie, into the world. She is so wonderful, and I absolutely love being a mom, with all its joys and challenges.

I passed my nursing boards in July, and accepted a part-time position in the Progressive Care Unit of my local hospital. I am so grateful to have a job that offers health insurance and the ability for me to support my family; my husband is still in school and will finish his student teaching this fall. I continue to work with the pro-life organization, Feminists for Life, hoping to help pregnant and parenting students just like me. I am also taking counselor training at my local pregnancy resource center; I hope to one day use my nursing education to work in a pregnancy resource center to help women, who like me, are faced with unplanned pregnancies.

Again, I am so grateful for your scholarship. I don't think I can express how much it enabled me --- it allowed me to finish school and embrace motherhood with the confidence that I could support my new family.

Sincerely,
Chaunie Brusie, R.N.

Reprinted with permission – National Association of ProLife Nurses Fall 2008 Edition of Pulse Line.

4 Michigan members of the National Association of ProLife Nurses have been doing their job distributing the scholarship applications. Of the 17 applications received, 15 were from Michigan!

A Brief Summary of the Freedom of Choice Act

Mr. Obama told a Planned Parenthood audience, before the election, that signing the FOCA would be, "the first thing I will do as President". He also promised to overturn the Mexico City Policy (denying US tax dollars to organizations promoting abortion in countries that have laws against it, or suggesting abortion as a means of family planning,) and allow federal dollars for embryonic stem cell research. While it has yet to be debated by the full US House and Senate, be aware that both Michigan Senators, Levin and Stabenow, support FOCA. Below is a brief summary of some of the effects of this proposal. (From a letter by Charmaine Yoset, President & CEO of AUL.)

- FOCA would establish the right to abortion as a fundamental right (likethe right to free speech) and wipe away every restriction on abortion nationwide.
- FOCA will eradicate state and federal abortion laws currently supported by the majority of Americans and would prevent states from enacting protective measures in the future.
- FOCA will do away with:
 - state laws on parental consent
 - state and federal laws on Partial Birth Abortions
 - all protective state and federal laws
- FOCA will compel taxpayer funding of abortions
- FOCA will force faith based hospitals that refuse to perform abortions to either be in violation of the law, or to close.



Please read the expert analysis by Americans United for Life (AUL) and sign the Fight FOCA petition at: <http://www.fightFOCA.com>

The "Freedom of Choice Act": The Aggressive Encroachment of the Culture of Death

by Deborah Sturm, RN, Secretary NAPN

Several pro-life healthcare organizations, including the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses, recently applauded the efforts of Michael Leavitt, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, who recently proposed regulations to protect the conscience rights of healthcare providers. His efforts, however, could be rendered futile with Barack Obama's presidency.

A recent Life News article speculated that the "Freedom of Choice Act" --- which Barack Obama promised to enact if he became president --- could cause the closing of Catholic hospitals. (<http://www.lifenews.com/nat4527.html>) Another Life News article addressed the possibility that pregnancy help centers could also face a national attack if Obama won. (<http://www.lifenews.com/nat4420.html>) How can this possibly be, one might ask?

Briefly, the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) is a bill in the U.S. Congress (HR. 3719/S.2020) that, if enacted, abolishes all restrictions on abortion at both

the federal and state levels. All of the work of the pro-life movement could be nullified. FOCA essentially enshrines abortion as an absolute right. Thus, no healthcare provider will be able to object to providing abortion on demand.

Life News pointed out that Cardinal Justin Rigali of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia recently warned that FOCA "forbids government at all levels to 'discriminate' against the exercise of this [abortion] right 'in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information.'" (qtd. in Ertelt, #4527) This illustrates the threat to Catholic hospitals.

The danger of the enactment of FOCA has been on the radar screen of the pro-life movement for quite some time, as this bill had been a priority of abortion advocates since the Clinton administration. As Life News points out, pro-life advocates were successful in fending it off in previous years. However, with Barack Obama winning the White

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Pro-Abortion Groups Issue 55-Page Marching Orders for Barack Obama Administration

by Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com Editor, December 10, 2008

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- A coalition of dozens of pro-abortion groups have issued a 55-page memorandum and the web site for the Barack Obama transition team posted it online. The new memo from groups like Planned Parenthood and NARAL gives Obama his marching orders for the next four years.

The memo sets forth the kind of decisions Obama should make when it comes to topics like abortion, abortion funding and abstinence education.

The pro-abortion directive calls on President Obama to take the lead in calling for Congress to pass the radical Freedom of Choice Act and to sign it into law once it arrives at his desk.

"We urge the President to signal public support for FOCA and call on Congress to pass this important legislation," the memo says.

The legislation would make unlimited abortions throughout pregnancy the national law and overturn hundreds of pro-life laws from partial-birth abortion bans to parental involvement laws in all 50 states.

Douglas Johnson, the legislative director for National Right to Life, said the abortion lobby laid out its Christmas wish list in the memo.

"This document is a road map to what we call 'the Obama abortion agenda,'" he told LifeNews.com.

"The pro-abortion lobby has presented its radical abortion agenda to the Obama Administration in a single tidy 55-page package -- even including the exact language of presidential orders that these lobbying groups want Obama to sign," he explained.

"The groups instruct the Obama Administration that it should propose repeal of the Hyde Amendment, and include an abortion mandate in a 'health care reform' bill, within the first 100 days. Longer-term goals include the so-called 'Freedom of Choice Act' and packing the federal courts with judges who are pre-committed to vote with the pro-abortion side," Johnson added.

The memo calls for Obama to strike all limits on taxpayer funded abortion in various circumstances.

"The President's budget should strike language restricting abortion funding for (i) Medicaid-eligible women and Medicare beneficiaries (Hyde amendment); (ii) federal employees and their dependents (FEHB program); (iii) residents of the District of Columbia; (iv) Peace Corps volunteers; (v) Native-American women; and (vi) women in federal prisons," it says.

Instead, the pro-abortion groups want more funding directed to family planning programs--meaning more money in the pockets of Planned Parenthood, which already posted \$1 billion in income in its last annual report.

The abortion advocates also want Obama to restore funding to the UNFPA despite the fact that the UN organization has been found to be involved in and supportive of the one-child policy in China that includes forced abortions and sterilizations.

"Over the last seven years, the Bush Administration has distorted the application of the Kemp-Kasten law to justify its political decision to withhold the funds that Congress has consistently appropriated for this critical partner agency. The President should make available to UNFPA as soon as possible all funds appropriated by Congress for FY 2009," they say.

In conjunction with the UNFPA money, the abortion advocates want taxpayer funding restored to groups that promote or perform abortions in other countries.

The Mexico City Policy, which bans the federal funding of such international pro-abortion groups "has stifled the public debate in developing countries" that make abortions illegal. The groups want to be able to lobby those nations to scrap their pro-life laws and to do so with public funding.

The memo urges Obama to take other actions like putting together a federal health care plan that covers abortion, reduce abstinence education funding, and pull down information from federal web sites that talks about the medical and mental health problems women suffer after abortions.

It also calls on Obama to only appoint pro-abortion judges to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts. Continued on page 7.

The "Freedom of Choice Act": The Aggressive Encroachment of the Culture of Death
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House, and the Democrats maintaining control of Congress and perhaps acquiring enough votes for a filibuster-proof majority, the enactment of FOCA becomes an almost certain reality.

If there is any speculation among pro-lifers about abortion advocates' desire to resurrect FOCA, a recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article (dated 10/30/08), entitled "Moving Forward on Reproductive Health," makes the intentions of pro-aborts very clear. This article, co-authored by Alta Charo, J.D., a defender of Planned Parenthood, and who prosecuted pharmacists who refused to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception states: [An increasing number of health care professionals are claiming the right to abandon their patients---particularly those who have to make reproductive choices---in the name of "conscience." (<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/359/18/1869>)

The authors have chosen their words very carefully and should be considered a threat to all pro-life healthcare providers. After all, "patient abandonment" can be grounds for termination of employment as well as revocation of professional licensure. It seems that pro-aborts think all healthcare providers have a duty to provide abortion.

Pregnancy help centers, too, could be affected by FOCA. They have already been specifically targeted by the "Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act," recently re-introduced by pro-abortion Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey. These centers have been accused of "misleading" women by giving them information on the risks of abortion and abortion alternatives. (Ertelt, Article #4420) Coupled with FOCA, they could face draconian regulations or perhaps be forced to shut down.

What lies beyond FOCA if it establishes an absolute "right" to abortion? (I can't help but wonder why Charo and the co-authors of the aforementioned NEJM article insist that "the typical American woman wants to have two children.") Many pro-life writers, such as attorney Wesley Smith, have noted that a "right to die" is insidiously evolving into a duty to die. For example, ethics committees in healthcare facilities across the country are frequently denying treatment to persons based on how they perceive a person's "quality of life".

If abortion becomes enshrined as a right, how long will it take before it evolves into a "duty to abort?" For those of you who think, "Oh, that will never happen," many pro-lifers, shortly after the Roe v. Wade decision, thought we would never see euthanasia in this country. It was as unthinkable as abortion was in the 1950's.

Keep in mind that the advocates of "population control", abortion, and a "right to die," never rest. And this means the pro-life movement must be tireless in its defense of human life. But unlike pro-aborts, we can draw from God's endless supply of grace. Like a Christian song says, "you will run and not grow weary." Our Lord reminds us His yoke is easy and His burden light. And no matter how dismal the American legal landscape seems to be, in the end, the victory belongs to Christ.

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**YOU CAN'T
REDUCE
ABORTIONS BY
PROMOTING
ABORTIONS.**

**PLEDGE NOW
TO OPPOSE
FOCA!**

Call the US Capital switchboard to contact the offices of your Representative and two Senators: 202.224.3121.

Tell them: "Please pledge now, to oppose FOCA!"

Pro-Abortion Groups Issue 55-Page Marching Orders for Barack Obama Administration
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The memo includes the actual text Obama should use for Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums, legislative language changes, new regulatory initiatives, and a list of judicial vacancies.

Johnson says pro-life advocates have a clear list of what they will need to oppose immediately after Obama takes office and he urges all pro-life advocates to get involved immediately to stop these proposals.

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Pro-Life Summit

"Taking the Pro-life Movement into the Future"

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 9 AM - 6 PM

Location: Christ the King Parish
4000 Ave Maria Drive, Ann Arbor, MI

Pre-register by January 7, 2009:
Call, Judy Parran at 517.546.3092
or send check payable to:
Citizens for a Pro-life Society
4074 Falmouth Lane, Howell, MI 48843

Cost: (Lunch included)
\$30 per person
\$20 High School and College students
\$35 At the door on the day of the event
No cost for Clergy

Registration: 8 AM / 8 AM Mass in the church

Sponsored by:
Citizens for a Prolife Society, Ann Arbor, MI

Presenters:

Bishop Earl Boyea
Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing
Deal Hudson, *Director of insidercatholic.com*
President, Morley Institute for Church and Culture
Al Kresta
Executive Director of Ave Maria Radio
Host of "Kresta in the Afternoon"
Fr. Frank Pavone
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