

## RLM Prepares to Launch Petition Drive Dismemberment Bill Passes Legislature, Faces Veto

In mid-May the Michigan House and Senate passed similar bills that would ban the second-trimester abortion method commonly referred to as D & E. In this barbaric and inhuman procedure the abortionist literally dismembers the unborn child. The two bills must be reconciled into one before it heads to the desk of pro-abortion governor Gretchen Whitmer. She has promised to veto the bill.

With that likely veto, Right to Life of Michigan will launch a petition drive in June or July to maneuver around the governor's veto pen. The state Constitution permits citizens to initiate legislation that is veto proof. If we can collect some 300,000 signatures in a petition drive in 180 days, the bill will be reintroduced in Lansing. If passed by simple majorities the bill becomes law and Governor Whitmer cannot stop it.

Right to Life of Michigan has conducted petition drives in the past to resounding success. The first came in 1987 when we gathered 460,000 signatures in a record-breaking 83 days to ban state-funded abortions. Since then the number of abortions has been cut in half! I might add that while many organizations pay people to become petition circulators, RLM has never needed to pay anyone to do their work. Thousands of pro-life volunteers from all over the state have been ready and willing to get the job done. I am 100 percent confident that we will not only enlist thousands of volunteers again, but that we will get the number of signatures needed to get this bill passed by our pro-life lawmakers.

We have all seen on the news the rapid fire pro-life legislation being passed in states across the country in just the past two months. The pro-life movement has become emboldened. With a five-four conservative majority on the Supreme Court, pro-lifers have high expectations that one or more of these bills will reach the high court. Will Roe v. Wade be reexamined? Is it on life support? After 46 years of legal abortion are we beginning to see the possibility of real change? What a thought!



*Antonietta Maria Grace Plotz  
Born April 26, 2019*

### Petition Drive Training--June 17

RLM and KRTL will be conducting a meeting at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 7211Oakland Dr. in Portage between 6:30-8:30 pm to train pro-lifers on how to become petition circulators. This is extremely important if we are to succeed in banning dismemberment abortions in Michigan. Every pro-life church in the Kalamazoo area needs to participate in this drive. Since KRTL's members hail from dozens of local churches, it's time to step up and get trained. Most likely many of you have already collected signatures when Right to Life of Michigan launched petition drives in the past. We know the drill! But there have been some changes made in how signatures are collected so we all need to be trained. Let's Do This!! RSVP the office at [info@kazoortl.org](mailto:info@kazoortl.org) or call the office at 269-372-8123, or contact Rob Karrer at [rckarrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rckarrer@sbcglobal.net) or call 269-599-4954.

## Why Dismemberment and Not a Heartbeat Bill?

With RLM preparing for a petition drive to enact a bill to ban dismemberment abortions, the questions arises...why is Michigan advancing this strategy and not joining the many states enacting heartbeat legislation that would ban abortion once a fetal heartbeat was detected (typically around the sixth week of pregnancy)?

Here are the facts:

\* Michigan's current anti-abortion law was first enacted in 1846. It banned abortion throughout the entire pregnancy except to save the life of the mother.

\* Michigan is one of only eight states that has a pre-Roe ban on abortion.

\* In 1973 the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in *People v. Bricker* that it was the policy of the State of Michigan to prohibit abortion (with the life exception) and held that the existing ban was constitutional but under the constraints of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*.

\* Michigan is the only state in the union with a state court ruling declaring there is no right to abortion under the Michigan Constitution. That was reaffirmed in *Mahaffey v. Attorney General* in 1997, a case argued before the Michigan Court of Appeals and upheld by the State Supreme Court.

\* The Dismemberment Ban would prohibit a method of abortion and would not repeal our existing 1846 law.

\* A Heartbeat bill would replace our 1846 law and establish a new standard that (if *Roe* was overturned) Michigan would permit legal abortions through the first six weeks of pregnancy.

\* A Heartbeat bill would weaken our existing law. We already have a bill that is more restrictive than a heartbeat bill. The current law prohibits abortion from the onset of pregnancy--at conception.

The main point to remember is this: **If *Roe* is overturned and the matter of abortion policy is returned to the states, our 1846 law takes effect immediately and abortion is banned. Period.**

If a Heartbeat bill is enacted, it replaces our old law. If *Roe* is overturned, the Heartbeat bill takes effect immediately and abortion is banned after the sixth week of pregnancy.

Which law is more restrictive? Which law has the potential of saving more unborn lives? The 1846 law or a Heartbeat law? We all have to decide for ourselves, but I think the answer is clear.

Rob Karrer

### IN MEMORIAM

In the last two months Kalamazoo Right to Life lost two great and wonderful friends. On March 24, Dr. Edmund Talanda passed away at the age of 94. Dr. Ed and his wife Dorothy had been associated with KRTL since its founding in 1969. While Dorothy was up front and visible as president for several years, it was Ed behind the scenes. According to the family, it was the good doctor who actually persuaded Dorothy get involved in the infant pro-life movement in the late 1960s. Thanks you Dr. Talanda or your years of service to the cause.

On May 17, Kalamazoo dentist Dr. Thomas Fillar passed away. He was 78. Like Ed Talanda, Tom Fillar was a life-long pro-life advocate. He always made financial donations to both Kalamazoo Right to Life and Alternatives of Kalamazoo. As my (Rob Karrer) personal dentist, I can attest to his pro-life convictions. The defense of the innocent unborn was a cause dear to his heart. Every visit we discussed the issue. He always had kind words for our organization and our pro-life message.

## Focus on Life Dinner, Huge Crowd, Great Success

Kalamazoo First Assembly's Ministry Center was nearly filled to the rafters on May 9 for Kalamazoo Right to Life's annual Focus on Life dinner. Some 320 people attended, about 80 more than last year. Three students (Hackett Prep, JMJ Homeschool, and Protect Life MI WMU) shared their experiences at the March for Life, held annually in Washington, DC. The main speaker was Jay Watts, the president and founder of Merely Human Ministries.



*Sarah Aiello of JMJ Homeschool*

When he began his talk with James 4:17 ("If anyone knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them") I knew I was in trouble. Human lives hang in the balance. Sixty million babies lost to abortion since 1973. Am I doing enough to help? Jay continued, "There is a good that we ought to be doing." Rather than accuse his audience that they had not been as active as they should, Jay graciously guided us through a series of



*Jay Watts*

scientific and moral arguments to prove unborn life was truly human. "Where they (the unborn) are (in the womb) does not determine value but what they are. What we are makes us valuable." While the term "personhood" has its benefits, it is a philosophic and legal argument, not scientific. Jay stressed the scientific evidence that at conception the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. His convictions and spiritual insights were inspiring.



*A small section of the dinner audience*

As always, Mike Leeuw and his EMA Enterprises Catering did another amazing job with the meal. And of course, the Boonzaaijer's dessert was mouth-watering.



*Jay Watts (L) with our MC Tim Brown*

With a presidential election coming next year, and with the expectation that the Supreme Court might reexamine Roe, what better opportunity of joining other pro-life friends than coming to our dinner next Spring?

## President's Corner

*by: Rob Karrer*

For the most part, the movie *Unplanned* has come and gone from area theaters. Although it can no longer be seen on the large screen is no excuse for not seeing it when it is released on DVD. As most of you know, *Unplanned* is the story of Abby Johnson, a Planned Parenthood volunteer who rose through the ranks to become clinic director of a clinic in Texas. After years of faithful service, Abby experienced her own crisis. Asked to participate in a second-trimester abortion, she witnessed the destruction of a living baby. Abby Johnson left the abortion industry and became a pro-life activist. She ministers to abortion clinic personnel, trying to convince them to get out. My own personal takeaway: Planned Parenthood is corrupt and complicit in its participation. Their's is a double-pronged deception. First they convince teens to engage in pre-marital sex by giving them the Pill. When pregnancy results PP is right there again, this time convincing them that killing the baby is the best option. Talk about exploitation! The pregnancy would have never occurred had the girl (and boyfriend) not engaged in risky behavior. Innocence is lost. Lives are shattered. A baby is killed. Planned Parenthood gets rich. That's the bottom line in all this: Planned Parenthood enjoys the limelight and adulation from a fawning public as it rakes in millions of dollars in the business of killing little unborn infants. Thank you Abby for casting a spotlight on PP's bloody enterprise.

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