

## Michigan Lawmakers to Consider Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide

We all remember Jack Kevorkian—the Detroit-area pathologist who helped to kill over 100 people during the 1990s in his one-man crusade to promote physician-assisted suicide (PAS). You may also recall that for years Kevorkian seemed to slip past the reach of the law. Even when the state Legislature enacted a law that criminalized physician-assisted suicide, the courts stepped in and ruled the law unconstitutional. In the summer of 1997, Merian’s Friends, a pro-PAS advocacy group, launched a petition drive to put the issue before the voters. It submitted the needed signatures the following year and the referendum (Proposal B) was placed on the November, 1998 ballot. Right to Life of Michigan and other anti-euthanasia groups formed the coalition, Citizens for Compassionate Care, to defeat Proposal B. Physician-assisted suicide was overwhelmingly defeated 71 to 29 percent, an astounding victory. Michigan voters had made their decision: NO! NOT HERE IN MICHIGAN!

Fast-forward 25 years.

The political landscape has changed. Where pro-life Republicans once occupied the governor’s seat and held majorities in the legislature, pro-abortion Democrats now control the state. We saw how Democrats rammed the Reproductive Health Act through the legislature, regardless of how citizens may have felt regarding things like abortion clinic inspections and safety standards, or partial-birth abortion. Coming soon is another pro-death law that will (if passed) thwart the will of the voters.

In December, 2023, Democrats in Lansing introduced a package of bills that would legalize the dangerous practice of allowing doctors to prescribe lethal doses of drugs to their patients for the purpose of committing suicide. This may be debated in Lansing very soon and needs to be DEFEATED.

**There are six important reasons to oppose these bills.**

1. Insurance companies will deny life-saving treatment. These companies may not cover life-saving treatment but instead offer assisted suicide drugs for a very inexpensive co-pay.

2. No medical screening for depression. In Oregon (where physician-assisted suicide is legal), only 3 percent of patients who have died by assisted suicide were referred for psychiatric evaluation.

3. Life expectancy after terminal diagnosis unreliable. Another case from Oregon: A woman was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2000 and asked for assisted suicide. Her doctor convinced her treatment could be beneficial, and she is alive today. A study of terminal prognosis accuracy found only 20 percent accurately predicted when death would occur.

4. Suicide contagion is real, targeting seniors and veterans. In places where physician-assisted suicide is legal, the number of cases increases disproportionately.

5. People with disabilities fear coercion and abuse. A comment from an expert: “Any doctor could prescribe a lethal dose and any person could administer that dose to kill a person, with medical confidentially preventing any oversight. No independent witness is required during the death of an individual, so there’s no way to ensure that the individual administered the lethal dose himself or herself. In a world where abuse of people with abilities and seniors is rampant, this alone is cause for concern.”

6. Proponents of assisted suicide quickly move to eliminate safeguards. Proponents tout “safeguards” and “guidelines” in assisted suicide legislation, but quickly move to eliminate them after legalization. Areas of concern: loss of waiting periods, residency requirements, self-administration of lethal drugs, and the requirement that the person has a terminal illness.

## Area Pastors Encouraged to Speak About Social Issues

On March 6, CenterPoint Church hosted Kalamazoo Right to Life’s first “Pastors Life Connect Luncheon & Roundtable.” Pastors from several area churches attended to hear Indiana pastor and author Lucas Miles speak about the need for pastors to use their platform as spiritual leaders to speak about many of the social issues that have caused great divisions in the United States. He listed abortion, gender and transgender, and same-sex marriage as key concerns for Christians. When congregates want to know more about these issues from a biblical perspective, it makes more sense to get the truth from their pastor RATHER than from mainstream news or social media platforms, said Miles. The church needs to speak with one voice on what God says about these issues. Miles reminded pastors that though this is an election year, churches will not lose their tax-exempt status if they address these social issues.

Pastor Miles is the founder of The American Pastor Project. He travels the nation encouraging pastors to boldly speak about the life issues. Also speaking to pastors was Right to Life of Michigan’s Faith Outreach Coordinator, Ken Stults. He informed the attendees of current legislative news from Lansing. Ken travels the state, visiting with pastors and other church leaders. He reports on issues from the State

Sean McCann, our Kalamazoo County State Senator is a sponsor of this bill. He needs to hear from voters that advancing a pro-euthanasia bill runs counter to the will of Michigan voters (as reflected by the 1998 referendum vote). Our elected officials should listen and respect the people in this area. If writing to Sean McCann, be respectful, but let him know that physician-assisted suicide is unacceptable in Michigan. His Lansing address is: Senator Sean McCann, PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. His phone # is 517-373-5100 and his district office phone is 855-347-8019.

(The material for this article is taken from an informational hand-out provided by Right to Life of Michigan and Advocates for Better Care. )

Capital as well as inform pastors of the many resources RLM offers in these areas. The photos here and the next page give a glimpse of the event.

Special thanks to Jean Talanda, Candy Courtney, Geneva Crawford, Mona Ruse, and Liz Schmitt for planning this successful event, to Rykse & Co, Market & Eatery for providing an excellent lunch, and to CenterPoint Church for hosting the event.



*Pastor Lucas Miles*



*RLM Faith Outreach  
Coordinator Ken Stults*

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

#### **March 23: High School Oratory Contest**

Christian Assembly of God  
7835 Lovers Lane  
Portage, MI 49002  
Event begins at 9 am

#### **April 4: RLM Regional PAC Training**

Kalamazoo First Assembly  
5550 Oakland Dr.  
Portage, MI 49024  
Event begins at 5:30 pm  
If interested in being part of a PAC interview committee call Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954, or [rckarrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rckarrer@sbcglobal.net)

#### **May 1: RLM Legislative Day**

DoubleTree Hotel  
111 N. Grand Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Event begins at 9 am  
Cost: \$55 (includes lunch)  
If interested in attending, call Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954, or [rckarrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rckarrer@sbcglobal.net)

#### **May 2: KRTL Focus on Life Dinner**

Kalamazoo First Assembly  
5550 Oakland Dr  
Portage, MI 49024  
Event begins at 6 pm



*Pastors listen to Lucas Miles*



*Lucas Miles with KRTL president Jean Talanda*

## Youth group participates in 40 Days for Life



*Steve Goffeney and Saint Monica youth group in front of Planned Parenthood.*

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### **Veep Corner Rob Karrer**

Thankfully, the Republican Party continues to be the party of life. And regrettably, the Democratic Party continues to be the party of death. At the national level, President Biden promotes a comprehensive pro-abortion agenda: codify Roe v. Wade, expand the Supreme Court to add pro-abortion justices, abolish the Senate filibuster to advance pro-abortion bills, defend late-term abortion, prosecute pro-life advocates by using the FACE Act to criminalize pro-life actions, place restrictions on pregnancy care centers (or possibly outlaw them entirely), pursue pro-abortion referendums to protect abortion rights in state constitutions.

Even though Republicans have been inconsistent and somewhat weak-kneed on the issue, they continue to uphold pro-life principles. All the GOP candidates running for the nomination were pro-life. That's good news in a post-Trump era—looking ahead to 2028 and 2032. Pro-life

candidates need to become better adept at handling questions from hostile reporters or from their pro-abortion challengers. Most of all we need to have a positive message:

**PRO-LIFE IS THE OTHER CHOICE. FOR CHOICE TO TRULY EXIST, WOMEN MUST HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE LIFE!**