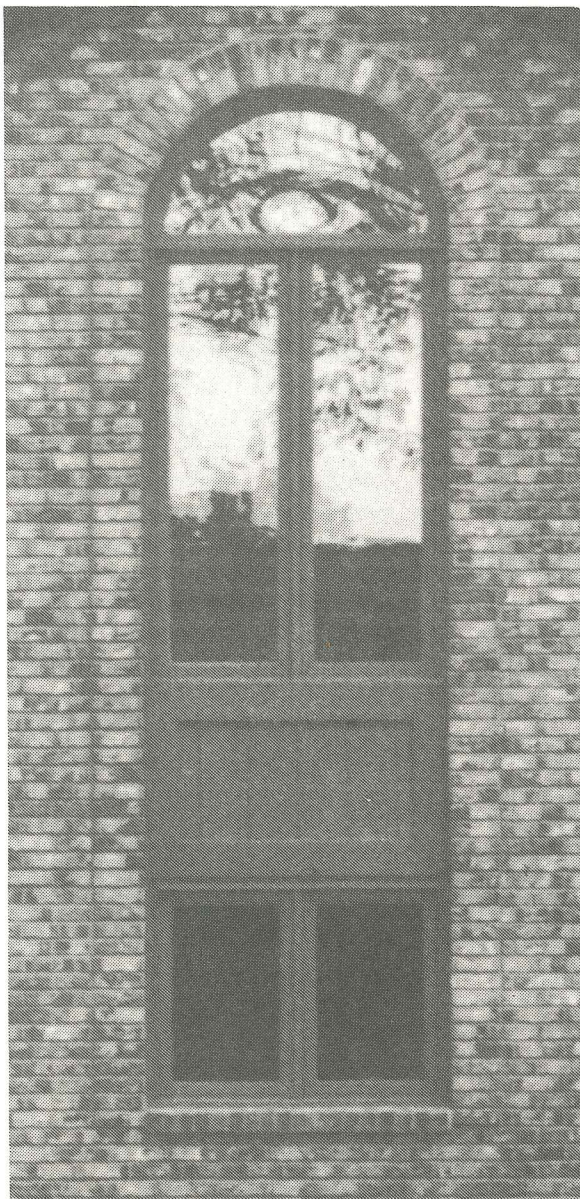


Lifespan *news*

Volume 11 Number 7

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

September-October, 1989



The Webster Decision:

Window of Opportunity for Pro-lifers

The Supreme Court's July ruling on the Missouri abortion law case left *Roe v. Wade* intact, but upheld the right of states to regulate abortions. States may require doctors to determine whether a fetus at least 20 weeks old can survive outside the womb. And they can ban public employees, public hospitals and public facilities from performing or assisting in abortions not necessary to save the mother's life.

"The decision by the Supreme Court in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* is more an opportunity than

(Please see "Window" on page 4)

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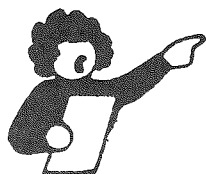
How a Bill Becomes Law



Bill is introduced in either house of the Legislature, and referred to proper standing committee.

Committee members debate bill, may hold public hearings on the bill. Committee may:

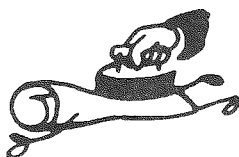
- Report the bill with favorable recommendation.
- Report the bill with amendments with favorable recommendation.
- Replace original bill with a substitute.
- Report the bill with adverse recommendation.
- Report the bill without recommendation.
- Report the bill with amendments but without recommendation.
- Report the bill with the recommendation that the bill be referred to another committee.
- Take no action on the bill.
- Refuse to report the bill out of committee.



If the bill is reported out favorably or a substitute is offered, the bill returns to the Senate or House. At this time, committee recommendations are considered and amendments may be adopted. The bill advances to Third Reading.

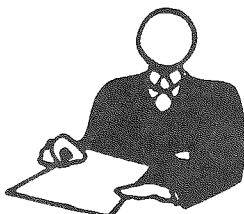
The bill is either passed or defeated by a roll call vote, or one of the following options may be taken:

- Bill goes back to committee for further consideration
- Postpone bill indefinitely.
- Make bill a special order of business on Third Reading for a specific date.
- Table the bill.



If bill passes, it goes to the other house where the same procedure is followed. If passed in the same form by both houses, it goes to the Governor for his signature.

If bill is passed in a different form by the second house, bill returns to its house of origin. If this house accepts the changes, the bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor. If changes are rejected, a conference committee tries to resolve differences.



Governor has 14 days to consider bill. He may:

- Sign bill.
- Veto bill (which requires a 2/3 vote to override)



Senators Jack Welborn (R, Kalamazoo) and Fred Dillingham (R, Fowlerville) introduced the following

legislation dealing with abortion regulation:

➤ SB 513 - This bill requires parental or guardian consent before abortion can be performed; also provides judicial alternative to consent.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: SUPPORT

➤ SB 514 - This bill implements three points of Missouri Law that were ruled on by the Supreme Court in July:

1. Public employees prohibited from performing abortions.
2. Public employees prohibited from assisting in abortions.
3. Prohibition on use of public facilities for abortions.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: SUPPORT

➤ SB 515 - This bill implements the final point of the Supreme Court ruling by amending Public Act 59 of 1987 to prohibit use of state funds for counseling women to have an abortion.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: SUPPORT

➤ SJR H - This joint resolution would prohibit state employees from using their state health benefits for an abortion.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: SUPPORT

OTHER LEGISLATION:

➤ HB 4174 - The Michigan Medical Self Determination Act. This is a Living Will bill which does not provide protection for an unborn child with respect to non-treatment decisions by the mother. There is also no provision for the continuation of food and fluids to patients. This bill will be voted on when Congress reconvenes September 20.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: OPPOSE

Legislative Update



The Supreme Court will hear three more abortion cases this fall:

➤ *Turnock v. Ragsdale*: This Illinois law requires that abortion clinics meet standards similar to those in hospital operating rooms. Dr. Richard Ragsdale says regulating clinics inflates abortion costs. This case may affect the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision most directly.

➤ *Hodgson v. Minnesota*: Dr. Jane Hodgson is challenging a Minnesota law which requires that unmarried girls under 18 and still living with a parent must notify their parent(s) when seeking an abortion. It also requires a 48 hour waiting period after notification before the abortion may be performed.

➤ *Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*: The Ohio abortion law requires any doctor asked to perform an abortion on an unmarried girl under 18 to contact one of her parents at least 24 hours before the procedure.

The high court will also hear one euthanasia case:

➤ *Cruzan v. Director of Missouri Department of Health*: The court will determine whether the parents of Nancy Beth Cruzan, a Missouri woman in a 'persistent vegetative state', can disconnect the feeding tube keeping her alive.



National news:

➤ S.110 - Sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D, Mass), this bill would greatly increase Title 10 funding levels, with a major portion of the increase going to Planned Parenthood affiliates. (Title 10 refers to a portion of the Public Health Service Act - the major federal "family planning" program.) In addition, this bill would revise the statute to facilitate future use of Title 10 funds for school-based clinics, and for research on abortifacients such as the RU 486 abortion pill. H.R. 930, sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D, Cal), is the house companion to this bill.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: OPPOSE unless amended to prohibit Title 10 funds from being used for (1) abortion referrals, (2) research on abortion-causing drugs, and (3) school-based clinics.

➤ HR 2700 - This is a reintroduction of last year's Uniform Product Liability bill, and it has again been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Tauke amendment to this bill is needed to exclude abortion-causing drugs and devices from this bill.

PRO-LIFE POSITION: URGE support of the Tauke amendment.

Forms of Address

President (first and last name)
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. or Madam President:

Vice President (first and last name)
The White House
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. or Madam Vice President:

Senators

The Honorable (first and last name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman (last name):

Judiciary

The Honorable (full name)
Associate Justice (or Chief Justice)
United States Supreme Court
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Mr. or Madam Justice (last name):

State Senate

The Honorable (full name)
State Senator
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Senator (last name):

State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
State Representative
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Representative (last name):

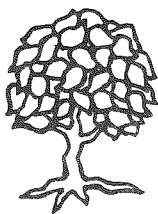
What You Can Do



Write your Congressman or Congresswoman urging them to take the actions described above.



Call your Lifespan office for your Congressman or woman's telephone number. Detroit 874-0432, Downriver 374-5111, Oakland 545-8088, Wayne West 422-6230



Educational Center for Life

909 Woodward Ave., Suite 19
Pontiac, MI 48053
(313) 338-1910

Educational Center for Life (ECL) was established as a non-profit, non-denominational resource and research center that compiles and disseminates information and materials which promote the dignity and welfare of all members of the human family.



The Right to Kill is a 58 minute color videotape which argues the question "Can illness, age or wanting to die

justify killing?" It features interviews with the founder of the Hemlock Society, physicians performing euthanasia in Holland, the founder of England's hospice movement and many other specialists. It was produced by American Portrait Films, and is available at ECL for you to borrow.



Grand Illusions - The Legacy of Planned Parenthood by George Grant is a startling expose of Planned Parenthood's

efforts in promoting abortion on demand, opposing parental consent laws, and reaching teenagers with amoral advice on sexuality.

Window

(Continued from page 1)

victory for the pro-life movement," said Charles E. Rice, law professor at the University of Notre Dame. Gary Bauer, former domestic policy adviser to President Reagan, agreed. "This is the first step. This means we finally have a chance to pass laws that make a difference at the state level."

This opportunity was not lost on Michigan legislators. Within hours of the *Webster* ruling pro-life senators began drawing up legislation to restrict abortion in Michigan. On July 12, Senators Jack Welborn (R, Kalamazoo) and Fred Dillingham (R, Fowlerville) introduced bills which would implement those portions of the Missouri law which were upheld. In addition, they introduced a bill which would require parental consent for minors seeking an abortion. They also introduced a joint resolution which would prohibit state employees from using their state health benefits for an abortion.

Pro-abortion supporters were jarred into action. Governor James Blanchard vowed to veto any legislation which would restrict abortion on demand. This came despite an earlier announcement by his spokesman that Blanchard would consider a parental consent law. Westland Mall cancelled a Right to Life - Lifespan used book sale after

receiving phone calls from people who threatened to disrupt mall activities if the event went on as scheduled. Former Michigan first lady Helen Milliken and former UAW president Doug Fraser announced formation of Citizens for Personal Freedom, a coalition to protect women's abortion rights. "We've been the silent majority up to now. We've been unorganized and under-financed. We plan to correct that," Milliken said.

As Bauer predicted, "...The other side is going to throw everything including the kitchen sink into this battle." But pro-life forces are also mobilizing at the grassroots level. Many participants at a recent speaker's workshop sponsored by Right to Life - Lifespan cited the Supreme Court's decision as the reason for their involvement. Randy Marcial, executive director of Operation Rescue of Metro Detroit, said, "Committed people are willing and ready to become involved in the political process."

This issue of Lifespan News is dedicated to helping you become more knowledgeable about life issues, and to showing some ways you can make your voice heard more effectively. May the window of opportunity in Michigan remain open until pro-lifers have climbed through it. □



Lifespan News

September-October 1989

Volume 11 Number 7

Published by
President
Editor

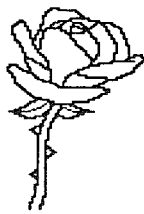
Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit
Alice Radwick
Jill Slater

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is a voluntary organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

Main Office

27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

(313) 261-2757



Women's magazines conspire to promote abortion

Editors from 18 women's magazines such as Family Circle, Redbook and Good Housekeeping met last spring to discuss "what we can do to protect Roe v. Wade," according to Helen Gurley Brown, editor of Cosmopolitan magazine and organizer of the meeting.

The executive director of NARAL, Kate Michelman, attended the unpublicized meeting and furnished editors with a pro-abortion letter for readers to send to legislators. Glamour and Mademoiselle published the letter in subsequent issues, and other magazines are expected to run it in the future, according to NARAL.

"Gone, apparently, are all pretenses to objectivity, balance and truth," wrote Cal Thomas of the LA Times Syndicate. "Perhaps pro-life women might wish to send (these editors) a message by refusing to pick up their magazines in the market and canceling their subscriptions."

Other magazines represented at this meeting were Woman's Day, Ladies Home Journal, Harper's Bazaar, Savvy, Lear's, Ms., Mirabella, Mademoiselle, and the Columbia Journalism Review.

Fetal rights case

Parents may sue for damages to their unborn child, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in July. Ann Jarvis contracted hepatitis while pregnant and working in the lab at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Her daughter was stillborn.

The hospital argued that the fetus was not a person under the state constitution because of the Roe v. Wade case. But the Appeals Court

concluded that "protection has been afforded in Michigan under the common law. . . and that such protection is not inconsistent with the mother's right to privacy preserved by Roe."

Westland Mall cancels RTL - Lifespan book sale

In early August Westland Mall abruptly cancelled RTL - Lifespan's used book sale, due to take place August 12.

The sale had been planned for many months. Thousands of books were collected and extensive publicity provided. Due to threats of boycott and disruption of mall operations, Operations Manager Marilyn Zeigler refused to allow the group access to mall space as previously agreed.

Lifespan members contacted mall representatives to protest the move, and eventually Lifespan filed suit against the mall. Before the case could be brought to court, it was settled between the two parties.

Rally for Life '90 April 28, 1990

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Rally for Life '90. Marchers will meet between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Organizers say, "This is the most important gathering in the history of our movement. If you are pro-life, it is crucial that you come and be counted." Alice Radwick of Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit will be coordinating the buses and accommodations for those from this area desiring to attend. Watch upcoming issues for further information.

National Wildlife Federation continues to attack Mexico City Policy

In 1984 the Mexico City Policy cut off U.S. funds to organizations which campaign to promote abortion in less-developed countries. A number of major environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society, have campaigned to overturn this policy.

Especially troubling are the recent expressions of opposition to the Mexico City Policy by the Washington staff of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The NWF's policies are supposedly set by their state affiliates at annual meetings; however these affiliates have never approved a position on abortion. The June issue of the Lifespan News urged readers to write the Michigan NWF affiliate protesting the pro-abortion activities of the NWF national office.

Since then the NWF's Washington office has sent its affiliates highly misleading letters, claiming that "abortion is not the issue" of the Mexico City Policy, and that the NWF merely seeks a modification of the policy to make it "consistent with ...fundamental rights to privacy and Federal law." Both sides of the debate in Congress understand that the legal effect of this language would be to nullify the Mexico City Policy.

The National Right to Life Committee urges pro-life citizens to again write to their NWF state affiliate and protest the NWF's attacks on this policy.

National Wildlife Federation
Affiliates

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
2101 Wood St., Box 30235
Lansing, MI 48909

Wayne County, West

27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

General meeting

Wayne West will host an important discussion on "Treating Victims of Rape and Incest - A Religious View - A Medical View". Panel members include Daniel Dunnigan, Rev. Joseph Plawecki and Carol Schlissman, RN. The meeting will be held Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 150 Fair Street, Plymouth (off Lilley Road near Ann Arbor Trail). Everyone is invited to attend. Bring a friend!

Extended office hours

Monday	9-4
Tuesday	9-4
Wednesday	9-7
Thursday	9-4
Friday	9-4

Speakers available

Wayne West has a pool of speakers available to speak at no charge to your organization on pro-life issues, including abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Contact the office at 422-6230 for further information.

Bowling for Life

This year's Bowling for Life fundraiser was a big success, according to Pat Holscher and Amy Mackenzie, organizers of the annual event. 86 bowlers participated, including 15 men and women from area group homes, raising over \$6000 to help protect the unborn. Special recognition goes to Mary Thomas, 11 yrs old, for her work in calling the membership to act as sponsors. Winners of the US Savings Bonds were:

Most pledges collected (by 8-28-89)		
1st prize	Ben Bradley	\$ 567.56
2nd prize	Matt Bradley	529.77
3rd prize	Elizabeth Johns	460.19

High Games with Handicap

Child	Frank Gonzales	269
Mens	Doug Bradley	256
Womens	Betty Andrae	254

High Series with Handicap

Frank Gonzales	768
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Downriver

21649 Goddard #125B
Taylor, MI 48180-4247
(313) 374-5111

New office location

The new Downriver office has opened! Rita McCann is the office manager. Office hours are:

Monday	9-2
Tuesday	9-2
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9-2

Office equipment needed

The Downriver office is in need of donated office equipment, including file cabinets, desks, chairs, folding tables, etc. Please contact the office if you have any such items.

Volunteers wanted

The Downriver office needs people who love life to help mail the newsletter, stamp literature, answer phones, etc. If you are willing to help out, please contact the office.

Detroit

5930 Woodward
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

Fall office hours

Monday	10-2
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10-2
Friday	Closed

Oakland County

203 Washington Square Plaza
Royal Oak, MI 48067-3845
(313) 545-8088

Speaker's Workshop

The Educational Center for Life will be conducting a speaker's workshop this fall. The first will be held on a Saturday, followed by one weekday evening.

This workshop will accomplish two very important tasks for those who are or who wish to become Lifespan speakers. First, the "myths of public speaking" which have kept many at home and silent will be displaced with knowledge about speech making. Secondly, the sources for current information on all LIFE ISSUES will be identified along with outlines of successful speeches.

If you have been looking for a more active role in furthering the Sanctity of Life, perhaps you should consider attending one or both of these workshops.

Your attendance does not commit you to a speaking schedule, rather it will introduce you to the possibility of speaking and increase your knowledge about all of the life issues. Those interested in attending should call 545-8088.

General Membership Meeting

Oakland County will be holding general membership meetings in various areas around the county. The first will be held at 7 PM, September 26, 1989 at the Baldwin Public Library (Rotary Room), 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham. Russell Tuttle, Legislative Liaison for RTL - Lifespan, Inc., will be discussing current state legislation.

Mark your calendar NOW and contact friends to attend with you.

Petition Drive for Rally for Life '90

"Our goal is to have the Petition To Congress be the largest number of signatures ever collected on the abortion issue," said Bradley Mattes, Petition Coordinator for the Rally For Life. Congressman Hyde will personally present these petitions to Congress on behalf of pro-lifers, in an effort to convey the message that the majority of Americans support the right to life.

The enclosed petition is for you to use to collect signatures from your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers. Do your best to collect as many signatures as possible, and don't worry if the petition isn't completely filled. Please return the petition to Right to Life - Lifespan Main Office, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.



From the President's desk

Our newsletter has put on a new face! After months of careful thought and planning, the Lifespan Board of Directors decided to hire an editor and produce a more professional publication. For 17 years now our newsletter has been edited by volunteers who did an excellent job securing the stories and meeting monthly deadlines. It was felt, however, that after so many years of growth and the importance of informing a wider audience about pro-life issues and pending legislation which will meet recent Supreme Court guidelines, a new format was needed.

Our new editor, Jill Slater, is committed to meeting Lifespan's goals in this area. She will be interviewing, editing, photographing and compiling data for each monthly edition. Lifespan expects to print additional issues in order to make this publication available to churches, schools, libraries and professionals. Jill has some exciting ideas for future issues which we hope will aid our readers in becoming truly knowledgeable pro-lifers.

I encourage readers to write to Jill or me at the main office address and let us know what you think about our new publication. Also, contact one of Lifespan's four chapter offices for additional copies to share with friends, put in churches, medical offices, etc.

I hope you like our "new face" and will find it useful in promoting support for defending the preborn child, the handicapped and the aged.

Alice Radwick

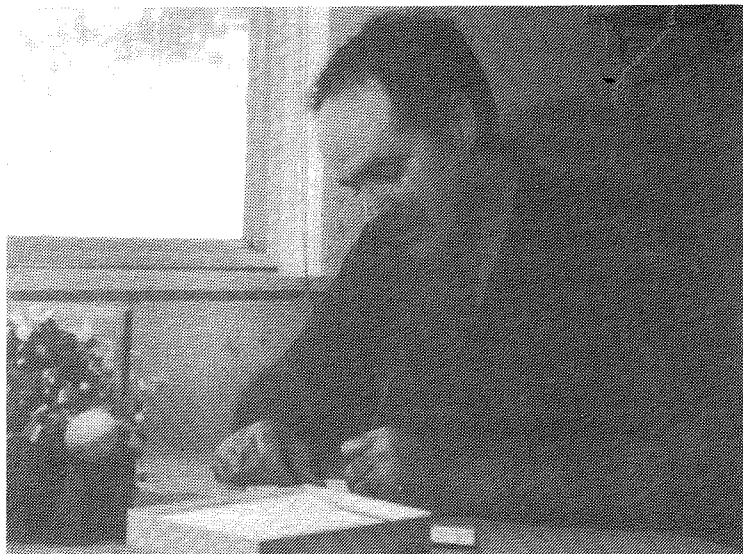
Calendar

September

- 21 "Treating Victims of Rape and Incest "
7:30 PM K of C Hall, 150 Fair St., Plymouth
- 22 Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Unborn
- 26 "Current State Legislation"
7:00 PM Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham
- 29 American Life League Fundraising Dinner -
Domino Farms

October

- 1 "Respect Life" Sunday - Call your Lifespan
office to line up a speaker for your church
- 22 Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Unborn



How to lobby from your kitchen table

Writing a courteous, well-informed personal letter can sway opinion-makers and legislators.

by Jane Chastain

What impact can writing a letter make on legislators, judges, even the President?

More than you might expect.

Brian Gunderson, a legislative assistant in the office of Congressman Dick Arney of Texas, told me the thing that surprised him the most when he first went to work on Capitol Hill was "just how much the mail means. If we get as few as five letters from individuals on one piece of legislation, it gets our attention. We don't just answer the mail and say, 'thank you for your letter'; we draft a position paper."

To draft a position paper, the staff really has to research the issue in order to present the facts to its senator or representative so that he or she can make an informed decision on the issue. If you have included a newspaper clipping or mentioned a study

or two, the staff has something to follow up on. This can be extremely helpful to your cause.

Gunderson, who is in charge of correspondence for Arney, had a few suggestions for making sure your letter has impact.

"The most important thing to remember is make them legible. You'd be surprised how often we receive letters we just can't read," Gunderson said.

He also pointed out that it is extremely important to mention the bill number so the staff can be sure it knows exactly which issue you are discussing.

Good suggestions! Here are some others from key people in charge of correspondence in the various legislative offices on Capitol Hill:

➤ *Be specific.* Write about only one issue per letter. Each legislative assistant is assigned different issues. Since your letter most likely will be routed to the assistant who handles the

first issue you mention, the second issue may be lost entirely.

➤ *Be selective.* Concentrate on your own delegation. If you send a letter to a representative of another state or district, his or her office staff most likely will forward it to your own representative.

➤ *Be brief.* No one wants to wade through a lengthy letter. A letter longer than a page is often skimmed and your main points may be lost.

➤ *Be courteous.* Use the correct form of address for your elected representative.

➤ *Be personal.* Write in your own words. Avoid copying form letters or using stilted language. Explain how the issue will affect you, your children, your family, school, business, community and so on.

➤ *Be informed.* Don't rely on rumors or hearsay. Get your facts straight and, whenever possible, enclose clippings from newspapers, magazines or your organization's newsletter.

➤ *Be timely.* Follow the issue in the newsletters you receive and keep up with the day-to-day developments in the paper. The best time to write is when you first hear the issue is going to be considered. You may encourage your representative to take the right position before the opposition gets to him or her.

➤ *Be supportive.* After the vote is taken, write and say thanks if you feel your representative voted correctly.

➤ *Be tenacious.* Ask specific questions that must be answered by a person, not a computer. Keep copies of your correspondence and be prepared to send a follow-up letter if necessary. When an elected official has adopted a position in conflict with yours, you often will get a letter of explanation. This may be your best opportunity. Politely refute the arguments presented in the reply you receive with as many facts as you can muster.

Important "Don'ts" to Remember

➤ Don't use threatening language or be hostile, abusive or disrespectful in any way.

➤ Don't try to convert your representative to your religion. You want to influence his voting patterns.

➤ Don't use form letters.

➤ Don't be afraid to point out your expertise. So few letters come from someone who has real experience with an issue. These letters are extremely valuable to a congressman and the staff.

➤ Don't be a pen pal. You're after quality, not quantity. By all means, write on the issues you feel are important, but don't weigh down the mail every few days with volumes on every conceivable subject.

➤ Don't fail to write because you're afraid of doing it wrong. The most important thing to remember is, as long as you're sincere and polite, there is no wrong way to write a letter to one of your representatives.

Elements in a Good Letter

What is an effective letter? One that gets the attention and action of your elected representative. That's not an easy thing to do. Consider the sheer volume of mail that is delivered daily to the House and Senate office buildings.

Here are the elements of a letter that will be read, and that can have an impact:

Identify one topic with bill number.

Dear Senator Smith:

I am writing to express my opposition to S.J. Res. 1, known as The Equal Rights Amendment.

Use "because" paragraph.

I am appalled that the Senate is using its valuable time to debate this worn-out piece of bad legislation once again.

Give your qualifications, if applicable.

I was a successful commercial artist for five years before taking time out to raise a family. During those five years I had no trouble competing with men with similar training and ability.

State how it will affect you personally.

The ERA, as it is written, poses too many uncertainties. Will my daughters be drafted into the military one day on an equal basis with men? Will

girls' athletic teams still exist when my children enter college? Will my tax money be used for federally-funded abortions? I would much rather these and other related issues be dealt with responsibly by you and other elected members of Congress rather than the High Court, which is answerable to no one.

The best way to get the attention of any public official is to mention his name in a letter to the editor.

Use expert opinion and literature with facts and figures.

Dean Pund of the Harvard Law School has stated, "If anything about this proposed amendment is clear, it is that it would transform every provision of law concerning women into a constitutional issue to be ultimately resolved by the Supreme Court of the United States." I'm sure you are familiar with the analysis of this amendment written by Senator Orrin Hatch who chaired the Subcommittee on the Constitution when the amendment was re-introduced in Congress in 1982. I am enclosing a copy for your review in case you do not have it in your personal library.

State how you would like him/her to vote and request response.

After carefully studying this issue, I feel that passing the ERA would be like asking the women of America to take an experimental drug, and then saying, "It might help you, but we're not sure, and there are unknown side effects." I urge you to speak out against S.J. Res. 1 and vote against the ERA if it is reported out of committee. Please let me know how you intend to vote.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration on this issue.

*Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Anne Jones*

Letters to the Editor

The best way to get the attention of any public official is to mention his or her name in a letter to the editor of a magazine or newspaper. This is especially true of your elected representatives. They are extremely sensitive to what is said about them in the local papers. You can be sure if you mention their names and the letters get printed, those letters will be clipped and sent directly to the representatives' desks.

Getting your letter printed is not as easy as you might imagine. It is a numbers game, so it's a good idea to get several of your friends to write letters at the same time. The folks that put that section together usually tabulate the letters they receive on each subject and then select a representative number from the most popular issues.

Before you begin, be sure to check the publication's printed guidelines for letter writing and follow them. They are usually printed right on the page with the letters. Always type your letter. Newspapers and magazines receive so many they are not likely to wade through one that is handwritten. Here are some other suggestions:

➤ The address and salutation should always be *Letter to the Editor*.

➤ If you are responding to a previous editorial, article or letter, state the title, name of the author and date at the beginning of your letter.

➤ Strike while the issue is hot. Respond to the issue within a day or two to have the best chance of getting your letter in print.

➤ Cover only one topic in a letter.

➤ Be as brief as you can and still make your point.

➤ Whenever possible, include factual evidence to support your claim. Short quotations are good, but longer ones may be deleted.

➤ Whenever possible, use humor. Anger is all right, but avoid hysteria or you will lose your credibility.

(Please see "Lobby" on page 10)

How to lobby

(continued from page 9)

Give a Letter-writing Party

This is a good way to respond to a new bill that has just been introduced or stir up some action on one that is coming up for a vote. Invite your friends and make it fun. Have a good supply of newspaper and magazine articles to hand out. You can do this in a hurry by running down to your library and using the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. Just look under your subject and you will find a list of all the articles written on the relevant issue over the last few years. You can go to the magazine files and make copies. Also there should be a guide to one or two newspapers available.

Have a good supply of different kinds of stationery available, or ask your friends to bring their own. Have one or two typewriters on hand for writing letters to the editor.

As your friends leave, pass out stamps, but have every person mail his or her own letter. It's best if letters are mailed from several different postal zones and on several different days. You may want to include a regular time for letter writing once a month at the end of a meeting of your local club or prayer group. Think of what could be accomplished if you could change people with good intentions to people who take action! □

Excerpted from I'd Speak Out On The Issues If I Only Knew What To Say by Jane Chastain. Copyright 1987 by Jane Chastain, published by Regal Books. Used with permission.

Did you know...

- there were over 45,000 abortions last year in Michigan?
- there are 5 abortion clinics in Southfield?



Bill Knapp's Community Support

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Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Thank you so very much!

Myths

(continued from page 12)

factors account for only approximately 47% of the causes of child abuse.

Some authors have argued convincingly that culture probably contributes to family abuse. Family abuse is more likely when culture promotes violence as an acceptable outlet for stress. For example, the impact of violence on television is a possible factor in the increase of family abuse over the last 10 years.

Other factors which have been implicated include our tendency as a society to focus on violent means of solving problems. Such violent means include abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

Support for this idea comes from a Canadian psychiatrist, who presents evidence that in Canada there is a relationship between child-abuse rates and abortion rates. He points out that in the United States the incidence of child abuse and abortion have risen together in all statistical tables. In New York, for example, during the time that abortion was legal and before national legalization, child abuse increased by 47%.

Thus, the very action recommended as a solution to child abuse- abortion- may, in fact, be one of the causes of child abuse. The Canadian study points out that there are several psychological links between the action of aborting an unborn child

and abusing a born child, which may be at work in our culture: (1) both are acts of violence precipitated by personal needs; (2) both diminish the value of children and lead to a breakdown in attachment between parent and child; (3) both lead to guilt in the parent, which leads to a lack of self-esteem and feelings of failure. Such feelings have been

Women who would consider aborting a child are at higher risk for abusing them

identified as a major causative factor in parents who abuse their children.

In conclusion, it makes no sense to argue for the need for abortion in order to prevent child abuse. First, there is no way for us at this time to predict accurately which families will abuse their children.

Second, the data show that about 95% of abusing families want their children; so that if every unwanted pregnancy had been aborted, that would only affect approximately 5% of the current cases of child abuse.

Third, whether or not a family has planned a pregnancy has no relationship at all on how that family responds to the child, once it is born.

Fourth, it is very likely that the way in which our society deals with

unwanted and defenseless fellow human beings, namely by killing them through abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, sets a violent tone for handling difficult situations and breaks down the controls that would normally prevent the parents from attacking their children.

One of the more important factors in child abuse is a mother with a life history of stress, resulting in feelings of inadequacy and incompetence. If a woman has had an abortion as a shortcut out of a difficult situation, she is much more likely to feel that she is a failure and has been unable to cope with life's problems. It is very possible that a previous abortion may be found as one of the factors for child abuse. There is already some indication that women who would seriously consider aborting their children are at higher risk for abusing them.

There is no excuse for the continuing claim that abortion is needed in order to handle unwanted pregnancies due to the potential for child abuse. It is a myth, disproved by research. As such, it hinders our understanding of the true nature of child abuse and is a disservice to families and to women, because it leads to inadequate and erroneous social policy decisions. □

Dr. Franz is an associate professor at West Virginia University. This article reprinted with permission from "Our Sunday Visitor".

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Debunking the myths . . .

. . . about unplanned pregnancies and child abuse

by Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

There is a widely believed notion that unplanned pregnancies lead to child abuse. The assumptions supporting this notion are that (1) an unplanned pregnancy automatically means that the child will be unwanted; (2) parents who abuse their children did not want them, but were forced to have them anyway; (3) abusing families can be identified in advance.

The solution most often suggested for the problem is to make it possible for parents to abort the child so that he will not be born into a home where he is unwanted.

Yet, all three of the assumptions can be demonstrated to be false and the solution most often suggested will, in fact, do nothing to prevent child abuse. Indeed, one can argue that the violent act of abortion will only lead to greater family violence.

That unplanned pregnancies lead to unwanted children is a myth. In every study done to obtain support for this myth, the opposite conclusion has been drawn. For example, in a study done in 1967, a real desire existed on the part of the researcher to support the myth:

"There is a contention that unwanted conceptions tend to have undesirable effects...the direct evidence for such a relationship is almost completely lacking...It was the hope of this article to find more convincing systematic research evidence and to give some ideas of the amount of relationship and undesired

effect on children. This hope has been disappointed."

The second myth, namely that parents who abuse children did not want them, is equally false. In every major child-abuse center, the data collected on families who have been identified as abusers indicate that the vast majority "wanted" their children before they were born. The

The very action recommended as a solution to child abuse - abortion - may be one of the causes of child abuse.

percentage of "wantedness" ranges from 91% to 96% depending on the study. Indeed, an eagerness for the pregnancy among abusing parents has been reported, and such behavior as early use of maternity clothes are more common than in non-abusing families.

It is quite likely that abusing parents wanted their children for the wrong reasons; and that they had no idea how difficult it would be for them to act as good parents.

In a recent analysis of the factors which could cause child abuse, "wantedness" did not contribute at all to the causes of child abuse. Indeed, it is being widely argued

that we need to approach child abuse as a matter of great complexity in which a wide variety of factors probably play a role. However, "wantedness" has not been one of the factors which offer any help at all in explaining abuse. A logical explanation is that people simply feel differently about a child after the birth than before they could hold the child in their arms.

The third myth is probably the most dangerous in that it assumes that we have the capacity to predict abuse and thus can act to correct the problem before the child is born. In fact, our ability to predict any kind of future violent act is practically zero. We simply do not have the tests and theories that allow for such prediction. In addition, all analyses of our ability to predict child abuse estimate that our error rate will be very high. It is estimated that we could be right from one in four to only one in 30, depending on the statistics used. This means that even with the best possible data on the population and the largest possible population group to work from, we would still only be right approximately 25% of the time.

We simply do not have enough information about abusing in families. The factors identified in recent studies as being most likely to produce abuse, based on current knowledge, include: history of maternal stress, family stress, maternal mental illness, and child behavior, such as illness, temperament, etc. Yet even these

(Please see "Myths" on page 11)

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