



LIFESPAN news

vol. 55 no. 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan since 1970 - 56 Years!

April 2026



RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN
INVITES YOU TO OUR

*Celebration of Life
Fundraising
Dinner*

TUESDAY

MAY 5 2026

5:30 AUCTION

6:45 DINNER

SAN MARINO CLUB

TROY, MICHIGAN





From the President

Dear Pro-life Friends,

Spring has finally arrived. Spring brings hope and the beginnings of new life. I am presently reading a book entitled “The Flowering of the Rose” by Robert N. Karrer. It is a history of the Pro-life movement from 1966 to 2024. I am still reading this book, what I have read is very authentic and interesting - an enjoyable read. Robert Karrer in his introduction writes,

Since its earliest days, the red rose has been a symbol of the pro-life movement, representing a short life and martyrdom, ostensibly that of the unborn child, the true victim of abortion. As with all living things, the rose has its own dichotomy - the ebb and flow of life, birth and death, youth and age, spring and autumn, morning and evening. The pro-life movement, too, has undergone its own unique flowering: victory and defeat, success and failure, great expectation and bitter disappointment. They all make for a richer picture of a social movement rooted in the American experience. Hopefully, we learn from our mistakes, grow from our imperfections, and mature from life’s failure, great expectation and bitter disappointment. They all make for a richer picture of a social movement rooted in the American experience. The pro-life movement has learned hard lessons in the face of multiple defeats yet remained resilient. In that sense, its flowering has endured many winters. Even now, as the movement has witnessed the end of “Roe v. Wade”, its message of life hope and healing still yearns to blossom among the darkest of places—the human heart.

The Flowering Rose is a reference to all who have been and who will be a part of the pro-life movement. As I ponder this, I think of the many wonderful people I have come to know through this movement. There is one common thread that is entwined within the pro-life community, and that is their steadfast belief in the Hope that the slaughter of the innocent will stop. Pro-life people are hopeful people. Hope, for a better future for our children. Hope that our children in the womb will be safe. Hope, that our nation will return to the Judeo- Christian ethics upon which the United States Constitution was written. Hope that no more children die and no more women cry because of abortion laws. As we look at our country today, we see headlines, full of murder, abuse of human person, and many angry people. I have written in the past that the soul of our country has darkened because of the Supreme Court abortion decision of 1973. The loss of sixty million plus little humans by abortion since 1973 has weakened the soul of America. It will take many years of dedication and prayer to overcome this. But, overcome we

will. The pro-life movement is full of human souls that are full of love and hope. Good people who will continue working in the vineyards of life no matter the difficult obstacles put before them. Hope, will move this movement forward! The people involved in the pro-life movement are solid, strong citizens who believe in God, Family, and Country. LIFESPAN was organized, in the hope of promoting the pro-life cause in Metro Detroit. Recently, I experienced firsthand how hope can bring success. Generation Truth, our LIFESPAN youth outreach, held a program with Protect Life Michigan. This was an educational program which encouraged young people, who attended, not be afraid to speak out for LIFE. It was a practical workshop for middle school, high school and college students. They were instructed in the art of presenting the pro-life message through understanding and persuasion. As I looked around the room, the sea of young people in the audience gave me more hope. These energetic students, with their hopeful faces and enthusiasm, answered my frequent concerns for the future of the pro-life movement: will we survive? The young people today are more pro-life than previous generations. This movement will prevail; their presence is our hope for the future.

I ask you again for your prayers and thank you for your continued support of LIFESPAN and our work. I am requesting anyone who feels called to be on our Board, or a LIFESPAN representative in your community to please call me. We need additional new voices and ideas. Consider yourselves a “The Flowering Rose” from Robert Karrer book; a beautiful flower always growing, ever blooming, forever fragrant. We need to get ourselves and our country out of the darkness of death and into the beauty of the flower LIFE.

I hope you had a Blessed Happy Easter and Passover. These great celebrations have always brought hope for those who believe.

Diane



Monday, April 13, 2026



THE REALITIES OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

Patient Safety & Assisted Suicide Town Hall



Lisa K. Gigliotti, Esq.
Health Policy Advocate



Jason Negri, Esq.
Patients' Rights Action Fund



Dr. Jeanne Lewandowski
Hospice and Palliative Care

Register Now!

Social Time:
6:00p.m. - 6:30p.m.

Presentation:
7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Wayne State University - The
McGregor Conference Center,
Room J
495 Gilmour Mall Detroit, MI 48202.

 **RSVP & More Information**
miethicalcare@gmail.com



Help Wanted: Right to Life - LIFESPAN Wayne County Youth Director

The Wayne Chapter Youth Director leads LIFESPAN's Generation Truth youth program within the Chapter. The Youth Director reports to the Wayne Chapter Director and collaborates with the Oakland/Macomb Youth Director. It offers the opportunity to minister to young people, build relationships, and serve the pro-life cause.

Job Description:

- Continually works to increase youth involvement by contacting and forming relationships with schools, church leaders, youth directors, students, parents, and home school programs/families.
- Builds and maintains the Chapter Youth database.
- Reports at Chapter Board of Directors Meetings.
- Plans and implements programs to educate the Youth and those who work with the Youth on pro-life issues and principles through activities such as the Be the Change pro-life training event, Pro-Life Chalk Days, and Movement in Motion Bus Trip to the National March for Life in DC.



This is a Part-Time Position averaging 10 hours/week, starting at \$15/hour

To apply, please send your resume to: Wayne Chapter Director Tim Pruse at tpruse@milifespan.org or call 734-422-6230 with inquiries.

2026 Be the Change Training - Speakers



Right to Life · LIFESPAN's *Be the Change*

Speaker



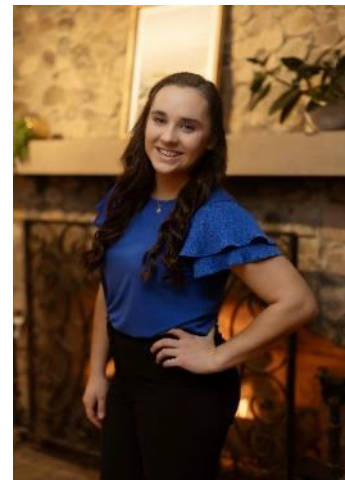
Dominic Hoving, President and Co-founder of his high school's pro-life club

Dominic is a passionate young leader whose commitment to the pro-life movement started early, growing up in a deeply pro-life family and joining them in prayer and activism outside abortion clinics from a young age. He began sidewalk counseling as a high school freshman, but the turning point came at Protect Life Michigan's Life Advocate Intensive, where witnessing the undeniable violence of abortion broke his heart and solidified his calling. Since then, Dominic has spent his summers as a full-time intern with Protect Life Michigan, reaching hundreds of thousands with the pro-life message on the streets. He now leads weekly training and outreach to equip and inspire his peers at school.

Speaker

Haili Gusa, Protect Life Michigan
Speaking and Training Coordinator

Haili has a bachelor's degree in communication from Central Michigan University, and she is using her unique skillset to equip the next generation of life defenders. Haili travels the state, conversing with thousands of Michigan students on the injustice of abortion and what young people can do to make a difference. As a seasoned activist who has personally changed pro-choice minds on the issue, she wants to equip others to use truth and compassion to do the same.



Look in our May/June Newsletter for "Be the Change" comments & photos from the day's event

LIFESPAN Chapter News

A Grain of Rice

In St Paul Minnesota this past month, legislation was introduced, ostensibly to protect uncultivated rice plants and give them the right to exist and be protected.

ST. PAUL — Lawmakers deliberated the merits of a bill that would add protections to wild rice during a Senate committee meeting Tuesday, March 10.

The bill's author, Sen. Mary Kunesh, DFL-New Brighton, said the amendment adds one sentence to the chapter recognizing wild rice as Minnesota's state grain: "It is the policy of this state to recognize the inherent right of uncultivated wild rice to exist and thrive in Minnesota."

In **Minnesota, abortion is legal at all stages of pregnancy** and is only restricted to standards of good medical practice. The Minnesota Supreme Court has recognized a constitutional right to abortion, and in 2023, the **Protect Reproductive Options Act** was signed into law, affirming the right to make independent decisions about reproductive health. This legislation prevents local governments from limiting access to abortion services and ensures that individuals can make choices regarding their reproductive health

without undue interference. Here is other legislation in Minnesota that is also of interest.

Perhaps it would be better to be a grain of rice in Minnesota than an unborn child. Never think for a single minute that there is not a need for pro-life efforts.

C.S. Lewis, A Wise Man

The following quote is attributed to the author C.S. Lewis. Few of us escaped having to read at least one of his works. *"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."*

Continued on Page 8



1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540
Phone: 248-816-1546 • Email: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-F: 9:30a - 2p; T-W-Th: 8a - 3p
Diane Trombley, Director
Lynn Gura, Office Staff/Youth Director

Oakland/Macomb Counties

Educational Opportunities for All

Does your church or organization currently include LIFESPAN's pro-life Church Notes in your bulletin/newsletter or website? If you generously participate in any LIFESPAN fundraisers, we hope you are also availing yourself of our educational outreach which comes at no cost. Keep in mind the end purpose of our fundraising is to provide pro-life education and outreach in your community!

Church Notes are a vital part of our educational outreach and cover our core issues of the threats to human life from abortion, assisted suicide, and human trafficking. Notes also invite and inform about upcoming events. Church Notes stick to our core mission, and we are non-partisan and non-denominational. The Chapter Director authors succinct, quality Church Notes based on vetted, trustworthy pro-life sources. You have permission to edit the notes to meet your specific needs. Church Notes are published monthly and can be delivered in electronic form through email and are posted to <https://milifespan.org>, can be printed and mailed, or both. If your community does not receive Oakland/Macomb notes, it is eligible to receive the Wayne Church Notes. All are welcome to request Church Notes and ask your community leadership if they are willing to use them (whether you

designated a Church Representative or not.) A sample is included below:

April 4-5: Right to Life – LIFESPAN Happy Easter! Help Protect Life
As we celebrate Life's conquest over Death in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, LIFESPAN participates as a member of the **Michigan Coalition for Ethical Care (MAEC)** to help protect citizens of Michigan, particularly the disabled, ill, and elderly, from the threat of assisted suicide.
On **Monday, April 13** from 6:00-8:00 pm, MAEC presents a **Patient Safety and Assisted Suicide Town Hall** at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University. The town hall features attorney and health policy advocate Lisa Gigliotti, attorney Jason Negri from the national Patients' Rights Action Fund, and hospice and palliative care physician Dr. Jeanne Lewandowski. Parking is free. Contact miethicalcare@gmail.com to RSVP (optional) or for more information.
You can also keep up with the threat of assisted suicide on a national level by visiting <https://patientsrightsactionfund.org>.
Have a joyous and blessed Easter!

Continued on Page 8



32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 210, Livonia, MI 48150
Phone: 734-422-6230 • Email: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-W-Th: 9a- 3p; T-F: Closed
Timothy Pruse, Director
Andrew Slonina, Office Manager

Wayne County



One day this week, I took the time to organize some baby supplies. The next day, I checked my voicemail messages—six social workers had called—FIFTY-FIVE moms needed help! Yes, 55!!

By next week, they will all have received their beautiful layettes filled with diapers, tiny sleepers, crib sheets, baby towels, warm blankets and so much more—thanks to you!

After 30 plus years, Wee Care is still making a difference in so many lives. Still providing much needed material goods—still letting moms know that you are praying for them and that you love them and their precious babies! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this possible!

Year after year, just when my shelves become sparse—you come through—whether a handmade afghan, a package of diapers, an adorable sleeper, a monetary donation, a gift card or donating a gift to a Giving Tree at Christmas or to a Baby Shower in the Spring! We couldn't exist without you!

One other thing we couldn't do without is the support we receive from LIFESPAN'S annual Celebration of Life Dinner and Auction. It is LIFESPAN'S largest fundraiser of



the year and will be an evening filled with wonderful friends, delicious food, an exciting auction and a very special guest speaker, EMILY COMPAGNO, who co-hosts a number of Fox News programs! Please join us on May 5th!

Thank you again for everything you do for our babies!
Love, Karen

P.S. If you would like to donate an item for our auction, we would be so grateful! We are in need of gift cards, event tickets, themed baskets or even a monetary donation that we would use to create a basket in your name! Please call us with any questions—734-524-0165 or 734-524-0162! Hope to see you there!!!!



A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Ed Fund
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305
Phone: 734-524-0165 • Office Hours: By Appointment
Karen Patrosso, Director

All material & monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund

Wee Care



Dear fellow Pro-Life Advocates,
Meet the Speakers from our Be the Change training



Emcee

Max Petrosky, Protect Life Michigan
Volunteer Speaker

Max always grew up pro-life, but his pro-life activism began in college when he realized the importance of living out what he believes. This conviction led him to work at Protect Life Michigan, where he spent his college years passionately defending the unborn.

His experience includes knocking on hundreds of doors to fight Michigan's abortion amendment, counseling women outside of abortion clinics, and sharing the pro-life message in countless conversations with fellow college students. Max's love for biology and the beauty of creation motivates him to continue defending the wonderful gift of life given to each person at conception.

Continued on Page 4

Be the Change

Lynn A. Guria

Youth Director for
LIFESPAN Ed. Fund



X:
@RTLIFESPAN

Instagram:
@miLIFESPAN

Facebook:
@MichiganLIFESPAN



A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Ed Fund
Phone: 248-816-1546 • Email: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Generation Truth Youth Report

What Empowers Women?

Motherhood as an Obstacle

Celebrities have increasingly framed motherhood as an obstacle to career success, often while promoting abortion as the superior alternative.

Women like Michelle Williams, Stevie Nicks, Alyssa Milano, and Cecily Strong have all positively spoken about having abortions, and how they are glad they could kill their children, or they would not have had their successful careers. Actress Busy Philipps openly credited abortion for her "beautiful life."

Williams is one of the most notable examples. While noticeably pregnant, she accepted a Golden Globes award, and in her speech, she advocated for abortion. She also insinuated she had undergone an abortion procedure at some point in her past, and credited it for her successful acting career.

Yet it is not empowering to argue that women must kill their own children to be successful. Instead, it upholds a misogynistic status quo that causes women to fear that having a child will negatively impact her education, career, or future.

Actress Christina Applegate recently wrote about her past abortion, seemingly with regret and bitterness at feeling that she had to abort her baby so she could "entertain this f--king world."

Women & Their Careers

Women shouldn't have to choose between a family and a career. And far from what abortion activists claim, women are capable of raising children while forging successful careers.

Given the current tide in Canada, I predict that the court will rule against the hospital, forcing it to violate Catholic teaching, close, or turn the facility over to the government.

Lest we become too smug, the same anti-medical conscience litigation against Catholic hospitals for refusing gender change surgeries, contraception, abortions, and the like are happening here in the U.S — perhaps most notably in the case against Dominion Health in California for refusing to remove the healthy uterus of a woman who identifies subjectively as a man. Trial is pending in San Francisco, so I expect a large damage award that could destroy Catholic health care in California, which is of course what many abortion activists, right to die activists, Democrats, and bioethicists want.

- *LifeNews.com, March 15, 2026*

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

TRAVELING WHITE CROSSES DISPLAY

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN



TIME FRAME FOR SCHEDULING WHITE CROSSES DISPLAY

MAY-OCTOBER 2026



WHAT YOU CAN HELP US WITH

- THE DISPLAY MEMORIALIZES THE PRE-BORN BABIES WHO HAVE BEEN LOST TO ABORTION
- BE A TRAVELING CROSS-BEARER
- REQUEST THE DISPLAY FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR FAITH COMMUNITY
- SET UP THE DISPLAY ON THE LAWN OF YOUR SCHOOL, CHURCH, OR HELP SET UP AT A NEARBY CHURCH
- DISPLAY CAN BE SCHEDULED FOR A ONE WEEK OR TWO WEEK PERIOD OF TIME



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
248-816-1546
OAKMAC@RTL-LIFESPAN.ORG

(AVAILABLE FOR AGE 13 YEARS OLD AND UP)

www.milifespan.org



Needed:
Book Angel for the Religious Book Section at our Book Depot in Livonia.
Contact the Main Office (734-524-0162) for more information



There is no charge for this event, but please remember that this dinner is our largest fundraiser of the year.

2026 Fundraising Dinner Reservations: Reservations due by **Friday, April 17, 2026.**

Yes, I (we) plan to attend this Fundraising Event. Number of seats: _____ Seat with: _____

Yes, I (we) plan to reserve a table of 10. Please list names of all those for whom table reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Table seating will be determined by date of receipt of reservation.

I (We) are not able to attend. Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ to support your pro-life efforts.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Mail or Email this form to: Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 1637 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite G, Troy, MI 48084

Call 248-816-1546 for more information.

**When we receive your reservation, we will notify you. Where possible, full tables will be assigned in the order that they are received.*

***People with dietary restrictions must contact us by the deadline above - restrictions will NOT be accepted after this date. My restrictions include: _____*

****Photos/videos may be taken at this event and may be used on the web, in publications and/or other media. If you would prefer that your image not be included, please send email to mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org.*

Oak/Mac Article from Page 6

Membership

Why do we mention LIFESPAN membership so often? Because there are babies and moms who will not survive if LIFESPAN does not survive. As leaders of this wonderful organization, we have a duty to encourage those younger than ourselves to become members, to be active, to take over leadership roles when those opportunities present themselves. Please think about what you can do to be sure that babies conceived are born and moms needing help get our support.

Wayne Article from Page 6

For the next opportunity, would an organization in your church or community benefit from learning more about the reality of Assisted Suicide and the most effective reasons to counter the building political push to promote Assisted Suicide? A **LIFESPAN Assisted Suicide presentation** can be tailored to meet the specific time availability, size, and make-up of your organization. This presentation may fulfill one pro-life requirement for K of C Star Council status. Such a presentation would benefit any charitable group that serves the physically or intellectually disabled, ill, or elderly. A presentation would be relevant to any church Health Ministry. You do not need to meet any geographic or other criteria to request an Assisted Suicide presentation.

I am a wheelchair user. My life is worth living.

By Matthew Cavedon

I cannot count the number of times I've been told by people that I must have overcome so much in order to drive a minivan. I have been told that my presence in a public swimming pool is impressive, even though I swim at half the speed of everyone else. A school-trip organizer once wondered in hushed tones whether it would be okay to give me a trophy for attending. After all, it certainly couldn't have been easy for me.

When people see a wheelchair user like me, they evidently assume my disability must be so hard to survive, so painful, and so isolating that even just venturing beyond my front door is an achievement worthy of recognition.

No wonder they think it is compassionate to give us the option to end our lives. Surely, they would like to have this option too in the nightmarish event they ever become disabled. But what is really worth recognizing is that able-bodied fears, rather than disabled realities, are distorting public thinking about "assisted dying."

Take the example of the advocacy of Dr. Jeremy Boal, former Chief Clinical Officer of the Mount Sinai Health System. When he was diagnosed with ALS, what filled him with dread was not death itself but the prospect of life with a disability. He worked with New York's recent campaign that led to the legalization of medical aid in dying (MAiD).

Boal did not write from a position of unbearable physical pain. He continues to live in his home with his wife, participate in community life, exercise, and meditate. Nor are decline and death foreign concepts for him: He described his experience caring for many patients with terminal illnesses.

Nonetheless, his present suffering is palpable. He wrote in a recent column that his diagnosis transported him from "the intellectual awareness of death" to "the emotional reality of facing it." He couldn't help but think of unbearable suffering as what lay ahead. He thought of people who were "mentally intact but imprisoned in their own bodies, unable to move, swallow, speak, or breathe." He recalled "the look of desperation in their eyes when they could no longer communicate." He had "a vision of my own death: I would be choking on my own saliva, gasping for air, unable to communicate my needs, my eyes filling with panic, as my family and friends looked on helplessly."

This vision of the future, and not his current physical symptoms, terrified Boal. He attributes the return of his peace to a realization: In contrast with the horror of



descent into the depths of disability, "I will have the privilege of creating the exact conditions I want for my own death," maintaining "the freedom to determine my own fate."

As someone who has always lived with a disability, it strikes me that the anticipation of disability can inspire more dread than the prospect of death. One reason these fears are so powerful is that people consistently underestimate the human capacity for adaptation. What seems unimaginable before it happens often becomes manageable once it does.

I have no idea what it is like to imagine losing the ability to walk because I've never stood up. For me, using a wheelchair is simply ordinary life. I need to find ways to stay physically healthy that cannot include a treadmill or even a walk in the park, and every night for eighteen years, my legs and one hand were strapped into hard plastic splints to maintain my range of mobility. Through my disability communities, I know people who rely on ventilators to breathe, robotic arms to eat, and picture boards to communicate.

People look at these lives and imagine what it would feel like to lose mobility, speech, or independence, and assume that the life that follows must be unbearable. But disabled people frequently report lives that are meaningful and fulfilling, even as they encounter difficulties to which others are not accustomed. Still, policy debates often treat the able-bodied imagination of disability as more authoritative than the experiences of those who have adapted to it.

Continued on Page 11

2026 Silent Auction & Gift Card Tree: Items Needed

Every year at our Celebration of Life Dinner, we have a wonderful variety of items for the Silent Auction & Gift Card tree. We are looking for items that will bring in large auction bids.

DONATION IDEAS

- Accommodations at tourist destination
- Golf Packages
- Restaurant Gift Cards
- Family-Friendly places to visit
- Sporting Event Tickets
- Store/Online Gift Cards

Monetary donations will be put to good use; donate any amount and an auction item will be created in your name.

Have gift cards from Christmas? You can donate them to us for our auction!

Donations have been made -

In Memory of:

Earl Vogel

Given by: Daniel & Sue Boss

Mark & Deanna Bryan • The Frazho Family
Stanley & Ann Pasch • Donald & Patricia Stocker

In Honor of:

George Cascos on his 80th Birthday

Given by: Chris & Tony Hansen

UPCOMING PRO-LIFE EVENTS

- 5/5 DINNER & AUCTION**
- 7/31 LINKS FOR LIFE**
- 9/12 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**
- 10/4 LIFE CHAIN**
- 10/17 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

LIFESPAN News

April 2026; Vol. 55, No. 4

President & Publisher: Diane Fagelman

Co-Editors: Christina Hansen & Diane Trombley

Right to Life - LIFESPAN is a non-profit organization and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers.



MAIN OFFICE

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-524-0162 • Email: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

Main Office Hours: M-W-F; 9am - 2pm; T-Th Closed

Website: miLIFESPAN.org

Christina Cascos Hansen, MA, M.Ed, Office Manager

Right to Life -LIFESPAN Membership Form

Apr 2026 News

Right to Life - LIFESPAN believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves - the preborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the LIFESPAN News as well as educational materials and special mailings.

___ Annual Membership	\$35	___ Platinum	\$500 or more
___ Student/Senior Mem.	\$25	___ Gold	\$250
___ Monthly Pledge	\$ ___	___ Silver	\$100
___ Other	\$ ___	___ Bronze	\$50

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: *Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 32540 Schoolcraft, Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150.*
For more information, call 734-524-0162.

Wheelchair: Continued from Page 9

Though acquiring a progressive disability is undoubtedly a different experience from being born with a non-degenerative one, such as mine, there is a real distance between anticipated terrors and lived realities. It is certainly hard for me to think of what losing the abilities I am accustomed to having would be like. But these possibilities are not so overwhelming as to cause the “overwhelming sense of dread and near-total panic” described by Boal, nor to make me think I would prefer a lethal injection delivered at needlepoint. Nevertheless, it might take time for me to adapt to a new reality, and it’s during this period that people with and without disabilities are most at risk from the cultural assumption that death is preferable to disability.

Boal is not the only one who conceives of extreme disability as “being imprisoned in a body that had died around me.” A large majority of expectant parents obtain an abortion following a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis, surely in part out of a misguided sense of compassion—even though peer-reviewed research has found that an astronomical 99 percent of people with Down syndrome “indicated that they were happy with their lives.” Medical administrators and even some laws use “quality adjusted life years” (QALYs) to devalue the lives of disabled people in making health care decisions.

I can’t help but think that QALYs, and some views on disability abortions and MAiD, are interconnected. At every stage, disabled life can be seen as a fate literally worse than death, especially by doctors and medical authorities. After all, they are primed to prevent and eliminate disability, a logic that sometimes extends even to eliminating disabled lives altogether. Indeed, Harvard researcher Lisa Iezzoni, a wheelchair user and physician, has documented that “82 percent of doctors said that people with disabilities have a worse quality of life than those without.”

Iezzoni speaks from her own experience to push back. “It’s possible for somebody with a disability to hold two truths that might seem inconsistent but are able to coexist. One truth is that they can’t walk, but the other truth is that they have a good life.” A truth about my own experience is that, yes, it can be frustrating (and sometimes, quite limiting) to have access to only a select few motor vehicles, houses, and at times even bathrooms; rely on others to shower and do laundry; and know that my infant daughter will be able to escape me once she can bounce up just one or two stairs. But the other truth is that I have had an extremely happy life so far—spiritually fulfilled, rich in love, and intellectually engaged. In fact, I owe

many of my best experiences and insights specifically to having a disability and adapting to it throughout my life.

Adaptation can be possible even for more debilitating disabilities. I recall when a professor friend of mine was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. He told me he feared “drowning alive.” I visited him over the years that followed, first at his home, then in assisted living and, finally, at his bedside. Though he could no longer quote Jean-Paul Sartre, his music therapist said he could still hum songs and smile. This was not the autonomous life he had once lived, but neither was it the bottomless chasm he had feared. His anticipatory fear was greater than the actual pain he ended up experiencing.

Disability is not death, but the assumption that it brings unbearable suffering is becoming a justification for assisted dying. While Boal’s fears deserve sympathy, seen from the inside, disabled lives are not the prison sentences many imagine. If assisted dying laws are built on able-bodied people’s projections rather than disabled people’s realities, we risk giving those misperceptions the last word over life and death.

- *Compact Magazine, March 17, 2026*



Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Wayne County Chapter
32540 Schoolcraft Road, Suite 210
Livonia, MI 48150-4305

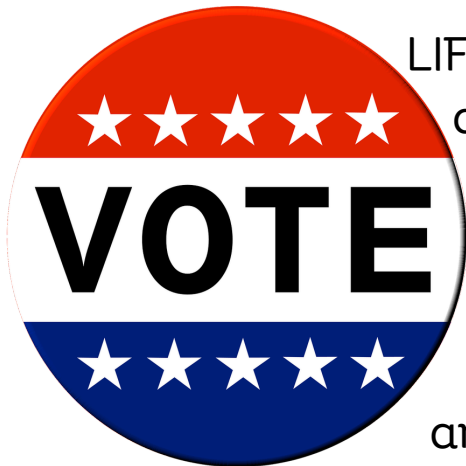
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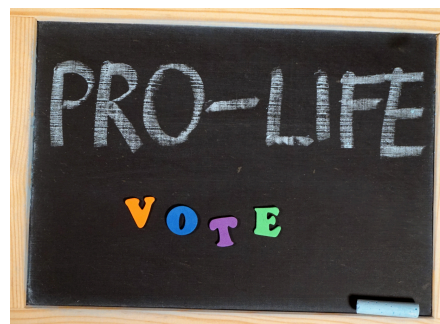
LIFESPAN's 2026 Candidate Survey



LIFESPAN sends a ten-question survey to candidates in Wayne, Oakland, & Macomb Counties. The results from these surveys are published in the July News (Primary Election) and in the October News (General Election).

LIFESPAN does not endorse candidates for election, but we publish the answers to the survey as a service to our members.

Coming in July!



Coming Up:



A recap about our **Dinner** May 5th Troy - with Emily Compagno - is coming!

Watch for **Be The Change** Photos and Comments in the next newsletter.

Our **Candidate Survey** is coming! Look for the survey in upcoming newsletters.