

On the Beat

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National March for Life 2023

The 50th Annual March for Life took place January 20, 2023, the first march since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. As we know, abortion remains legal in many states across the country.

Maryland is especially hostile to the unborn with legislative measures enacted to increase abortion access. There is no question as to why the March for Life should continue.

At the Rally preceding the March, president of March for Life Jeanne Mancini spoke on the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*:

“So many giants paved

the way for this momentous victory, including our own Nellie Gray, the founder of the March for Life, whose birthday was on June 24th, I can't think of a better birthday gift... We're not yet done... While this year marks our most significant victory, the human rights abuse of abortion is far from over. Sadly, this year alone in the United States, there will be well over 700,00 abortions, and we know that in every abortion, one life is taken, and at least one life is wounded... We will march until abortion is unthinkable.”

On January 22, 1974, thousands participated in the first march.

An inspiring rally was held, as members of Congress announced pro-life legislation. The program concluded with a “Circle of Life” march around the Capitol, followed by lobbying of Congress. It soon became apparent congressional protection was not on the horizon. Nellie decided that the March for Life would be held every year until *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

The March has undoubtedly been the most powerful, visible expression of America's outrage over the *Roe v. Wade* decision. The March has provided the encouragement needed by weary pro-lifers to stand united as a voice for the most vulnerable and precious citizens of this nation.



Assisted Suicide Legislation 2023

Despite being defeated numerous times since 2015, SB845/HB933 Maryland End-of-Life Option Act has been filed again in the 2023 Maryland Legislative Session.

SB845 has been scheduled for a hearing on March 7, 2023. On March 10 the House Bill HB933 will be heard in committee.

The bill would allow a physician to prescribe a deadly dose of medicine for a patient with a terminal illness. The patient fills the prescription and takes the lethal drug on his own when he desires. Supporters of assisted suicide like to call it “death with dignity “ or “medical aid-in-dying.” Compassion and Choices, formerly the Hemlock Society, is promoting this legislation throughout the country. They have succeeded in eleven states and DC.

A person with a terminal prognosis should be offered appropriate care, providing pain and symptom management, NOT 100 barbiturates to end life abruptly.

Other significant reasons assisted suicide should be opposed:

- * Legalizing assisted suicide enables health insurance and medical providers to deny life sustaining care to patients and evade liability for the death of patients.

- * There are no standard requirements that each patient receives mental health screening and counseling. A screening from a doctor untrained in mental health is not sufficient to assess a patient’s true needs.

- * No family notification is required.

- * One in three patients who fill the lethal prescription-typically 100 pills, decide against taking it. There are no safeguards to ensure the unused drug stay out of the hands of children or prescription drug dealers. This is particularly irresponsible, as we experience an opioid crisis nationwide.

- * No doctor or nurse is required to be present when the patient ingests the lethal dose. If something goes wrong, any physical or emotional complications must be handled by the patient and those witnessing the death.

- * Assisted suicide laws make suicide socially acceptable. States which have legalized assisted suicide have experienced increased suicide rates.

- * Taxpayers pay the bill for lethal drugs and doctor visits.

- * The poor as well as those with disabilities would be faced with choosing suicide as an option so not to become a burden on their loved ones. To the most vulnerable, a right to die may become a responsibility to die.

The dangers by legalized assisted suicide far outweigh any perceived benefits sold by out-of-state, well-funded proponents. The opponents of legalized assisted suicide include countless Maryland residents, respected physicians, the faith community, and many leading advocacy groups.

Please help protect all Marylanders from this extreme legislation. Oppose SB845/HB933 by contacting your legislators. Find your state legislators at www.mdelect.org.

Visit Maryland RTL website MDRTL.org to follow pro-life legislation, sign up for Maryland RTL “Take Action” alerts, and send messages to your legislators.

The Dignity Mandate Fights Assisted Suicide

On February 6, The Dignity Mandate, a Maryland grassroots advocacy group opposing assisted suicide, sponsored an information night and an opportunity to lobby against the assisted suicide bill. Over 50 people from all parts of Maryland gathered and were given information to pass on to state legislators. Some were able to meet with their district legislators.

The Dignity Mandate produced a film, Shining the Light on Physician Assisted Suicide, which is available on their website(thedignitymandate.org). RTL encourages all to view the film to gain understanding on the dangers of this legislation. Please ask your legislators to view this film to balance the misinformation they have received from Compassion and Choices.

Literature Opposing Assisted Suicide

Right to Life of Montgomery County has produced three pieces of literature to educate individuals on assisted suicide.

One is in the form of a comic and presents the issue from a secular point of view. The other two come from a Christian perspective, one having specifically a more Catholic tone.

RTL sent a sampling to 36 local churches, offering to provide the material. The three will be available to download and print from the RTL website (rtlmcmd.com). Contact us if you are interested in printed material.



Abortion Amendment HB705/SB798

-Declaration of Rights-Right to Reproductive Freedom

Pro-abortion lawmakers and Governor Wes Moore have pledged to pass the Abortion Amendment that would put the right to abortion on demand through birth into our state constitution. The bill is scheduled to be heard by Health and Government Operations Committee on February 21, 2023.

By making abortion a “fundamental right” Maryland taxpayers will be forced to pay for ALL ABORTIONS, when in fact a majority of Marylanders believe there should be at least some reasonable restrictions on abortion. This amendment also would compel physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers to participate in abortion, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion. Finally, by passing this bill, the Maryland legislature will be infringing on the Freedom of Speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, by barring all future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial birth abortion or dismemberment bans.

Maryland law already is extreme on abortion. The Maryland Freedom of Choice Act (1991) allows abortion-on-demand, for any reason and up until birth. Maryland is one of only four states that forces taxpayers to pay for other people’s abortions. Maryland is one of only three states that shield abortionists from liability by refusing to report abortion data to the CDC. As a result, Maryland is failing to address women’s reproductive health and the incidents of abortion-related maternal injury and death or risks of future miscarriage, pre-term birth or loss of fertility.

HB705/SB798, if enacted by ballot, would threaten to close pro-life pregnancy centers and deny medical providers their rights of conscience.

Under Supreme Court precedent, Maryland lawmakers still have the right to pass laws to protect women’s health throughout pregnancy, to restrict abortion after viability, and to ban ALL public funding for abortion. But this proposed Abortion Amendment would take the power to regulate abortion away from our elected representatives and force Maryland taxpayers to fully fund all abortions.

If the amendment passes both the House of Delegates and the State Senate, it will be presented to the Maryland voters on the 2024 General Election ballot.

Thank you for your donations and supporting our fundraisers. We are committed to being a voice for the unborn.

Contact us 301-770-LIFE
RTLMOCOMD@gmail.com



FDA loosens Abortion Pill Restrictions

In January it was announced that the FDA has given approval for retail pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens to dispense the abortion pill.

The chemical abortion can be dispensed at pharmacies; over the phone or online; and sent through the mail all without the mother being examined by a physician who would screen for her health; the baby’s gestational age; ectopic pregnancy; signs of sexual abuse; coercion into abortion or other complications.

Multiple studies have found that at least 6% of women using the abortion pill have complications requiring emergency care. FDA data reveals 28 women have died after taking mifepristone since approved in 2000.

Pro-life activists are taking action in protest of major pharmacy chains participating in dispensing the abortion pill.



Spring 2023 | Feb 22 – Apr 2

Bethesda Campaign

LeRoy Carhart’s abortion clinic
Wildwood Medical Center
10401 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland
Contact: 40DaysBethesda@gmail.com

Rockville Campaign

Potomac Family Planning
966 Hungerford Drive #24
Rockville, Maryland
Contact: prayforliferockville@protonmail.com

National Pro-Life Summit 2023



The day following the March for Life, more than 2,000 students and pro-life activists gathered at the National Pro-life Summit in Washington, DC. The Right to Life of Montgomery County sponsored 21 college students to attend the summit. This year the students came from The University of Maryland, The Catholic University of America, and The University of Scranton.

The Summit is primarily hosted by Students for Life of America, and provides a one day training event for grassroots pro-life activists of all ages.

The speakers presenting this year included: Seth Dillon, CEO of The Babylon Bee; Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America; Trent Horn, Catholic Answers; Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood director; and many more.

The break-out sessions were informative and instructive. There was a range of topics that included: Pro-life Apologetics; Navigating Social Media; Pregnancy Assistance; Dating with Dignity; Political Action; Men and the Pro-life Movement; Chemical Abortion; Winning Public Opinion.

RTL received enthusiastic responses from the students they sponsored:

“The National Pro-life Summit was an amazing experience! It had a great variety of speakers, each of whom had their own particular stories and knowledge regarding the pro-life movement. There was so much to take in and learn from. Beginning with the Quitters Panel in the morning to the very entertaining talk by Seth Dillon in the evening, the summit offered something distinct for everyone to enjoy. The Quitters Panel was a group of women sharing their stories on leaving the abortion industry. Seth Dillon shared his witness regarding the attacks on truth and reality seen today. These speakers inspired me to go deeper in my pro-life convictions. Thank you to all who organized this event. I look forward to future summits!”



Adriana-Isabela, UMD

“Attending the summit was an incredibly rewarding experience. When I walked into the auditorium to listen to the speakers, I was amazed at how many young people there were that shared my pro-life convictions. Many pro-life organizations attended the summit and had stations to tell us about what they do. They offered everything from volunteer opportunities to internships and full-time jobs. The Sisters of Life, a Catholic group of religious sisters, also were there. I was thrilled to have a chance to talk with them. They were some of the most loving people I’ve ever met. If you ever get the chance to go, don’t pass this summit up!” - Christopher, University of Scranton

“I am a senior at the University of Scranton and the president of the Students for Life club...I heard many speeches at the summit that inspired me to want to dive deeper into many of the pro-life topics. I met many different Christian and pro-life organizations at the summit, including the Sisters of Life. They are filled with so much joy and love for everyone. Talking to the sisters was the highlight of my summit! It was a beautiful weekend, filled with a lot of joy, laughter and hope! I highly recommend attending the National Pro-life Summit in 2024!” - Julie, University of Scranton

“The summit was a very enjoyable experience. They had many interesting speakers and offered different break-out rooms for various topics. My favorite was the one on political action. It was an interesting session because it showed how these people struggled to stop abortion in their states. Now it’s time to legislate and this provided practical training.” - Steven, University of Scranton

The summit assuredly inspired the students to stay firm in their pro-life convictions, and to work hard in promoting a culture of life.

