



Pro-life Healthcare Alliance

Aug. 25, 2016

PHA Monthly

*Newsletter for the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance
Thirty-third Edition*

Welcome to the thirty-third edition of PHA Monthly, the e-newsletter for the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance. This newsletter provides another opportunity for the PHA to share pro-life information about current healthcare issues, PHA events, contributions from members and other relevant information.

Please share your ideas and suggestions with us.

Visit our website at www.prolifehealthcare.org for more information.

PRO-LIFE HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting and developing concrete "pro-life healthcare"* alternatives and advocating for those facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

*"Pro-life healthcare" means medical care in which the life and safety of each person comes first, where each person receives medical care across their lifespan based on their need for care, regardless of their abilities or perceived "quality of life."

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

By Jim Hentges



Regardless of what you might think of the impending elections, our worst problems are not political, they are moral.

Deliberately ending patients' lives is simply wrong. Participating in the planned deaths of patients--by stopping treatment and care that sustains life with the intent to hasten death, secretly overdosing patients with morphine or sedatives, or assisting suicides--is not what many healthcare providers wish to do, but it is sometimes what they are forced to do, or suffer the consequences. The ultimatum they face is to be silent and go with the flow or to leave a career they love, abandoning patients to medical professionals and facilities willing to kill.

The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance believes there is another alternative. When healthcare providers' conscience rights are trampled on, resistance, not desertion, is the best option. Every one of us, whether we are healthcare professionals or not, will suffer the consequences of a medical profession that abandons its compassionate mission: to cure when possible, to care always, and to never kill.

In July, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorneys, representing healthcare professionals who contend it is unethical for them to participate in assisted suicides, filed a federal lawsuit against Vermont Board of Medical Practice officials and the Office of Professional Regulation. These agencies are interpreting Vermont law to mean that medical professionals are required to counsel patients about the option of physician-assisted suicide, regardless of their conscience.

The complaint filed in *Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare v. Hoser* states:

Plaintiffs, state and national associations of conscientious healthcare professionals whose personal and professional ethics oppose the practice of assisted suicide, bring this action on behalf of their members against the operation of Act 39 to force them to counsel and/or refer for the practice. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/07/20/doctor-sue-vermont-for-forcing-them-to-promote-killing-their-patients-in-assisted-suicides/>

The PHA is grateful to another organization, Life Legal Defense Foundation (LLDF). We rely on LLDF when family members call Human Life Alliance in need of immediate legal advice or help to protect the life of a loved one in a healthcare setting.

Non-profit organizations, such as ADF and LLDF, are essential in the struggle to "renew reverence for life within healthcare," the PHA's fundamental mission. Our efforts to promote "medical care in which the life and safety of each person comes first" would be much less effective without them.

Please encourage--with expressions of gratitude, prayer and financial support--non-profit organizations that give legal assistance to people--professionals and families--who desire to do what is right in the face of pressure to go along with what they know is morally wrong. The PHA thanks you.



The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance (PHA), a program of Human Life Alliance (HLA), and Texas Right to Life have joined forces to present an important conference in Texas regarding the crisis in healthcare and what people need to know to protect themselves and their loved ones. It will be held in Allen, TX (near Dallas) on Sept. 24 at Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church.

Comments from past attendees have been very positive:

"There was a great variety of topics that have broadened my knowledge on such an important life topic. Leaving the conference, I feel more prepared and knowledgeable about the issue."

"I'm glad I came! All the info was great. I'm going home to get "things" in place for my 83 year old parents who I know have a Living Will"

"This was all important information that I hadn't heard before."

The overwhelming response from 99% of the people who have attended PHA

conferences in the past has been that they had no idea what was really happening in health care--they didn't know what they didn't know--and that the information they received at the conference from interesting, informed speakers was enlightening and educational, well worth their time!

Please join us Sept 24, 2016 in Allen Texas

For more information go to: <https://www.prolifehealthcare.org/conference-allen-tx/>

Note from the Editor: This month, we call attention to the critical issue of conscience rights for healthcare providers. The following two articles were originally posted on the author's blog, nancyvalko.com, and have been slightly edited and reprinted here with her permission. Nancy Valko has been a registered nurse for 46 years and is a spokesperson for the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses (www.nursesforlife.org). She is also a speaker and writer on medical ethics and other health issues, and a legal nurse consultant (www.valkogroupinc.com).

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION, CONSCIENCE RIGHTS, AND WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

By Nancy Valko



The tragic cases of Nancy Cruzan and Christine Busalacchi, young Missouri women who were alleged to be in a "persistent vegetative state," and starved and dehydrated to death, outraged those of us in Missouri Nurses for Life and we took action.

Besides educating people about severe brain damage, treatment, cases of recovery, and the radical change in medical ethics that could lead to the legalization of euthanasia, we also fought for healthcare providers' rights against workplace discrimination for refusing to participate in deliberate death decisions. We talked to nurses who were threatened with

termination.

Although Missouri had some protections against forced participation in abortion, there were no statutes we could find that protected healthcare providers from forced

participation in deliberate death decisions. We were also told by some legislators that our chance of success was almost nil.

Nevertheless, we persisted, and after years of work and enduring legislators watering down our original proposal (which included lethal overdoses and strong penalties), Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 404.872.1 was signed into law in 1992. It states,

No physician, nurse, or other individual who is a health care provider or an employee of a health care facility shall be discharged or otherwise discriminated against in his employment or employment application for refusing to honor a health care decision withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment if such refusal is based upon the individual's religious beliefs, or sincerely held moral convictions.

Fast Forward to Today

In 2016, we face groups like Compassion & Choices, which have pushed assisted suicide legislation through in some states and are hoping for an eventual sweeping Supreme Court decision making assisted suicide a constitutional right like abortion.

Some European countries, like Belgium and Holland, have virtual euthanasia on demand for even non-terminally ill people of any age. The Supreme Court of Canada has forced assisted suicide on that country and now the province of Quebec makes lethal injection kits available to any doctor.

Not surprisingly, conscience/workplace rights for healthcare providers are being vigorously fought both in those countries and here in the US.

For example, Compassion & Choices' Barbara Coombs Lee, one of the architects of Oregon's assisted suicide law, claims that strong conscience-right protections encourage "workers to exercise their idiosyncratic convictions at the expense of patient care" t the end of life.

Hope on the Horizon?

In May, a hospital in Poland stopped committing abortions after every single doctor signed a pledge refusing to do them.

Now, several hospitals in Santa Barbara and Palm Springs, as well as Providence medical centers, are opting out of California's new law that decriminalizes assisted suicide.

I believe that if people are given a choice when they are sick, they would naturally

prefer a hospital that is committed to care rather than assisted suicide.

Thus, conscientious objection, workplace discrimination/conscience rights laws, and the power of institutions dedicated to ethical healthcare can help turn the tide against decriminalized assisted suicide, or at least save some lives and mitigate some of the damage caused by decriminalized assisted suicide. It may take a long time before killing sick or disabled people is again seen as abhorrent and unethical, but the effort will be worth it.

As I have said before, "**NO!**" is a powerful and potentially lifesaving word.

<http://nancyvalko.com/2016/07/28/conscientious-objection-conscience-rights-and-workplace-discrimination/>

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS, CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS, AND MORE

By Nancy Valko

A new Illinois law just signed by Governor Bruce Rauner has dire implications for pro-life healthcare providers.

According to the National Catholic Register ("Illinois Law Threatens Conscience Rights, Crisis-Pregnancy Centers," August 9, 2016), this new law changes the former state Health Care Right of Conscience Act so that it now requires pro-life doctors, nurses, and even staff at crisis pregnancy centers to present abortion as a legal treatment option, and to refer, transfer, or give information about where to go for an abortion when a woman says she wants one.

While the terminology about other healthcare options is vague, the amended law specifically defines as healthcare "family planning, counselling [sic], referrals, or any other advice in connection with the use or procurement of contraceptives and sterilization or abortion procedures."

Kathy Bozyk, who operates the Southside Pregnancy Center in Chicago, notes that, ironically, while she is required by the law to discuss the alleged benefits of abortion and refer women to abortion providers, abortion businesses are not required to make referrals to crisis pregnancy centers.

Instead, abortion groups like NARAL Pro-Choice America (formerly the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) continue to actively fight crisis pregnancy centers, accusing them of providing false and misleading information, as

well as threatening women's safety. They are a strong force working to get laws like this passed.

Pushback

The Register article also reports on a surprising and unfortunate assessment of the amended law by Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois. He said that, although the conference was disappointed that the governor signed the bill, the conference was able to negotiate a revision to the original bill that the state's 43 Catholic hospitals can accommodate. Regarding the requirement to refer to, transfer to, or provide written information on where to find an abortion facility, Gilligan "said co-sponsors of the bill said even simply ripping out the pages of a phone book with names of all the local OB-GYNs in a certain area would be enough to comply."

Even if the co-sponsors' claim is accurate, is this a helpful or even realistic response?

Fortunately, we have courageous, frontline healthcare providers who refuse to comply, like Kathy Bozyk; Illinois Right to Life's continuing opposition; and pro-life legal groups like the Alliance Defending Freedom, which filed a lawsuit in state court against Governor Rauner on behalf of the Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, and the Chicago-based Thomas More Society, which plans to file a lawsuit.

It's important to note that this Illinois law comes on the heels of a new California law that took effect in December 2015. It forces pro-life pregnancy centers and state-licensed medical clinics to distribute information on where and how to obtain a state-funded abortion or face fines of \$1,000 a day.

So it is imperative that all of us throughout our nation work to ensure that strong conscience rights are upheld, strengthened, correctly defined, and even expanded to include all healthcare ethics issues, especially in the face of possible or actual assisted suicide laws.

Conscience rights are essential to help us protect our patients from a healthcare system that is increasingly succumbing to a "culture of death" mentality.

<https://nancyvalko.com/2016/08/14/conscience-rights-crisis-pregnancy-centers-and-more/>

CONSCIENTIOUS INVESTING: AN IMPORTANT PRO-LIFE RESPONSIBILITY

One of our members related the following:

I received a prospectus in the mail from a fund that promotes itself as engaging in Biblically Based Investing. Upon perusing the list of companies included, I came upon Stericycle. Aware that Stericycle is involved in transporting the bodies of babies killed through abortion, I emailed my financial advisor who had recommended the fund.

My financial advisor assigned a staff member to contact the fund directly to advise them of the conflict in owning stock in Stericycle. This resulted in an email to me from my advisor's office which included a poorly stated analogy that led to their conclusion:

Though they by no means support the specific actions of Stericycle, they are just the middle man in the situation, and have no control over the stock. They just invest in its affiliates... In conclusion, they do not see a reason to stop supporting an investment that is only associated with a poor cause, though they so appreciate your concern.

Since I found their response to my concerns less than satisfying, it was agreed that we would speak directly in a conference call scheduled for the following week. Although I am far from a wealthy person, my financial advisor opted to join the call, and he represents a company they would not want to lose.

When we met by phone, I sensed the individual with whom I was speaking was both nervous and had little or no authority. Nevertheless, I used the opportunity to provide an analogy of my own, educate him (in very graphic terms) about the methods used in the abortuaries, and the innocence of the victims being transported. I further informed him that, now that they're aware, it's on their consciences. After the call, I told my advisor to "get rid of them" (the investing firm that owns stock in Stericycle)

I urge everyone with investments to take the time to look over each and every prospectus received and be aware that a fund's ideal of "Biblically Based Investing" may be different from your own.

The PHA commends this member for following her conscience when investing her money and for taking this opportunity to prick some consciences with needles of truth. Babies who have suffered the injustice and indignity of abortion should at least receive a decent burial, not be hauled away as medical waste for the profit of a

company and its investors.

"Before I formed you in your mother's womb I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart." - Jeremiah 1:5a

CASE IN POINT:BELGIAN WHEELCHAIR RACER CONSIDERING EUTHANASIA AFTER TAKING HOME THE GOLD

Paralympic athlete Marieke Vervoort won gold in the 100 meter wheelchair race and silver in the 200 meter at the Rio Olympics. She was already a celebrity in Belgium, having taken home the gold in the 100 meter race and silver in the 200 meter and 400 meter in London's Olympic Stadium in 2012. That same year, she received the prestigious Belgian Paralympic Athlete of the Year Award, which is based on the vote of the Belgian sports press.[i]

This superb athlete is considering euthanasia when she returns home from Rio.

Michael Cook, in BioEdge, tells the story:

Ms. Vervoort has a degenerative disease which causes her great pain, but she can still compete at a high level in a range of sports, including basketball, swimming and triathlons.

"When I sit in my racing chair, everything disappears," she told Le Parisien. "I expel all the dark thoughts; I fight off fear, sadness, suffering, frustration. That's how I won the gold medals."

But after Rio she says that she will have nothing to live for. "Everybody sees me laugh with my gold medal, but no one sees the dark side," she says. "Sport is my only reason for living." [ii]

Belgium has the most liberal euthanasia law in the world. It is very likely that she will find a doctor willing to administer the lethal injection. However, as Michael Cook writes, "It's absurd that Marieke Vervoort's only options are Olympic gold medals or death." [iii]

[i] "Marieke Vervoort wins Belgian Paralympic Athlete of Year Award," *IPC Athletics*,

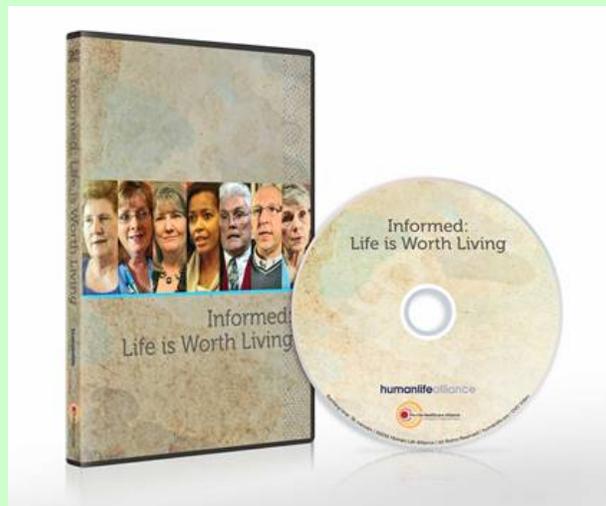
12/18/2012, _

<https://www.paralympic.org/news/marieke-vervoort-wins-belgian-paralympic-athlete-year-award>

[ii] Michael Cook, "Gold medallist Paralympian from Belgium seeks euthanasia," *BioEdge*, 08/13/2016, <http://www.bioedge.org/bioethics/gold-medallist-paralympian-from-belgian-seeks-euthanasia/11956> .

[iii] Ibid.

NEW VIDEO ADDRESSING END-OF-LIFE QUESTIONS RELEASED



Human Life Alliance (HLA) and the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance (PHA) announce the release of a new video magazine *Informed: Life is Worth Living*.

"This comprehensive video series on end-of-life decisions is the primer people need to navigate today's healthcare systems," remarked HLA Executive Director Jo Tolck.

From understanding living wills and living with a terminal diagnosis to knowing about physician-assisted suicide and disabilities, *Informed: Life is Worth Living* helps people comprehend the complexities of end-of-life topics.

"The vision behind this new series is much like HLA's groundbreaking magazines and advertising supplements," commented Tolck. "People need to understand the broad implications of healthcare decisions in the 'Obamacare' world."

The title, *Informed*, echoes one of HLA's most popular printed pieces. Tolck explained, "It's a guide to making critical medical decisions and every family should keep a copy on hand."

Informed: Life is Worth Living is an essential resource to communicate pro-life healthcare information. Viewers will learn about the dangers inherent in today's end-of-life decisions. They'll be equipped with information from individuals who have first-hand experience in navigating these crucial choices. Chapter titles include:

- Understanding Critical Medical Decisions
- Peter's Story: When a Child Dies
- Brain Death: Jennifer Hamann's Story
- The Hidden Story about Organ Donation
- Living With a Deadly Diagnosis
- Facing the Disability Challenge
- Understanding Depression and Dying
- Hospice: Making an Informed Decision
- What about Food and Water
- The Myth of Physician Assisted Suicide Safeguards

Available in DVD format or online, "*Informed*" includes interviews with leading pro-life advocates such as Julie Grimstad (*Life is Worth Living*), Mary Kellett (*Prenatal Partners for Life*), Jennifer Hamann (*CA Nurses for Ethical Standards*), Dana Palmer (cancer survivor), Mark Davis Pickup (disability rights advocate), Dr. Karl Benzio (*Lighthouse Network*), and Jo Tolck (*Human Life Alliance*).

More than just a sound bite, at a runtime of 56:49, this video offers an introduction to end-of-life decisions with depth. "It provides densely packed information. Viewers will want to watch this series more than once to get the full message," Tolck pointed out. "*Informed: Life is Worth Living* will save lives. This informative series is perfect for churches, small groups, and all of us who need to make critical medical decision."

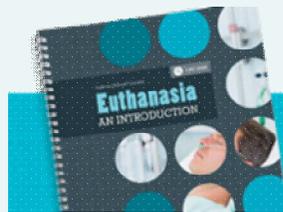
Available in DVD format or online at humanlife.org.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network (lifeandhope.com), an organization dedicated to defending the vulnerable and disabled from euthanasia, has set up a 24/7 Crisis Lifeline to assist patients who are being denied lifesaving care and families. Phone: 855-300-HOPE (4673).



RESOURCES

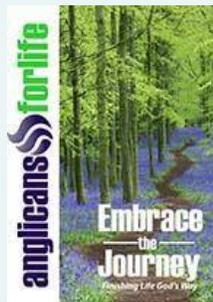


Get Your Copy Today!

First high school unit study just released
Euthanasia: An Introduction

[CLICK HERE](#)

Euthanasia: An Introduction is part of American Life League's CULTURE OF LIFE STUDIES PROGRAM. For more information: <http://cultureoflifestudies.com/fighteuthanasia/>



Embrace the Journey: Finishing Life God's Way, an eight-week series addressing aging and dying which is user-friendly and easy for your church to implement, developed and published by Anglicans for Life, www.AnglicansforLife.org. To order: email Info@AnglicansforLife.org or call 412-749-0455.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Belgium's Advice to Canada is a new online video series on assisted death. As Canadians debate the controversial Bill C-14 in light of the June 6 Supreme Court imposed legislation deadline, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) is releasing four short videos entitled: "Belgium's Advice to Canada" from selected clips from our upcoming documentary film, Vulnerable - The Euthanasia Deception. In January 2016, a film crew went to Belgium, where euthanasia has been legal since 2002. Victims and advocates offer a stern warning to Canada and any country considering enacting laws that allow assisted death. Contact EPC for more information on the online video series and the upcoming documentary film, Vulnerable - The Euthanasia Deception at atinfo@epcc.ca or call: 1-877-439-3348 or 519-851-1434.

TAKE ACTION

In spite of heroic and persistent efforts made by pro-life organizations and individuals, the stark reality is that the healthcare system itself has become an ever-increasing threat to the well-being and lives of the unborn, the young, the old and the disabled and ailing of any age. The PHA is dedicated to renewing reverence for life within healthcare. For some excellent information about current and historical issues regarding abortion, contraception, euthanasia, stealth euthanasia, hospice, advance directives and other pertinent topics, please check out these resources.

[Join the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance](http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/pha-membership-request-fillable-form.pdf)

<http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/pha-membership-request-fillable-form.pdf>

[Pro-life Healthcare Alliance](http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/) <http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/>

[Hospice Patient's Alliance](http://www.hospicepatients.org/) <http://www.hospicepatients.org/>

[Euthanasia Prevention Coalition](http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/) <http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/>

[Patient's Rights Council](http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/) <http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/>

[Prenatal Partners for Life](http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/) <http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/>

[Pro Life Wisconsin](https://www.prolifewi.org/) <https://www.prolifewi.org/>

[American Life League](http://www.all.org/) <http://www.all.org/>

[Read Stealth Euthanasia: Health Care Tyranny in America by Ron Panzer](http://www.hospicepatients.org/this-thing-called-hospice.html)

<http://www.hospicepatients.org/this-thing-called-hospice.html>

The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance needs your support. The suggested PHA membership donation is \$25 per year. Please renew your membership or join today. Be a part of this vitally important work and help the PHA continue and grow.

Pray for renewal of reverence for life. In particular we have designated Thursday as a special day of prayer for the mission of the PHA.

STAY CONNECTED



Pro-life Healthcare Alliance

a program of [Human Life Alliance](#)
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