



MARYLAND

LIFE Report

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Respect for life from fertilization to natural death

Congress goes home to face voters; Post-election “lame duck” session looms

After a month-long recess to allow full-time campaigning during the final weeks before the Nov. 2 general election, current lawmakers—including those who have been defeated—will again convene in a “lame duck session” that will run into December.

This means the pro-life movement still face some serious threats during the lame duck session, according to Doug Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee.

Health Law: Major Setback

The worst single legislative setback for the pro-life cause was the enactment of the Obama health care plan, which provides multiple avenues to expand federal support for abortion and puts mechanisms in place that will lead to a government-directed system for rationing lifesaving medical treatments. Six of eight Maryland congressional representatives voted for the bill.

Evidence that the new health care law allows abortion funding came to light when the Dept. of Health and Human Services approved proposals to cover abortions under a newly created federal program known as the “Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan.” After national media attention, the administration abruptly acted to exclude abortion from that program.

Damage Report

Pro-abortion leadership has succeeded in eroding a number of other pro-life policies. The “Mexico City Policy” – which prevents private organizations that promote abortion as a method of birth control overseas from receiving federal “family planning” funds – was reversed by executive order, and access to abortion has become a significant component of U.S. foreign policy.

In March 2009, President Obama signed an order allowing the National Institutes of Health to fund stem cell research that destroys human embryos. This summer, a federal judge issued a preliminary ruling that the policy violates a law that prohibits federal funding of research in which human embryos are harmed. It appeared that Congress might force a quick vote on legislation to authorize the embryo-destructive research, until a higher court allowed funding to continue pending further review. Seven of eight Maryland representatives support embryo-destructive research.

On the domestic front, subsidies to abortion-promoting organizations have increased and a ban on using federal funds for elective abortions in Washington, D.C., has been repealed.

“DISCLOSE Act”

One of the president’s top legislative priorities for 2010 was

enactment of the “DISCLOSE Act,” which would have imposed extensive new restrictions on political speech by corporations, including pro-life organizations. The bill passed the House in June but was narrowly blocked in the U.S. Senate. Five Maryland representatives voted for the DISCLOSE Act.

Lame Duck Session

Clashes over several impending pro-life issues could occur during the session.

One showdown may occur over the question of whether abortions should be performed at U.S. military medical facilities. Current law does not permit such abortions, except to save the mother’s life or in cases of rape or incest. In May the Senate Armed Services Committee approved an amendment to a defense authorization bill that would repeal this law, and the amendment may reach the Senate floor during the lame duck session.

There could also be challenges to pro-life provisions that come up for renewal annually. Another active threat is posed by an amendment put forward by pro-abortion Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) that would prevent any future president from denying foreign aid funds to organizations that promote abortion in foreign nations. ❖



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Maryland Abortionists Held Accountable

Severna Park Abortion Facility Closes; Abortionist Suspended

The Gynecare Center in Severna Park closed its doors in late September, shortly after its abortion practitioner had his medical license suspended.

Romeo A. Ferrer, who operated the facility, had been under investigation for an abortion in which an African-American woman died. The Maryland Board of Physicians suspended Ferrer's license earlier in the month, after finding that he had failed to meet standards of care in administering anesthesia and monitoring the patient's vital signs.

According to a report on *LifeNews.com*, Ferrer faces permanent license revocation for the death of the 21-year-old woman during a second trimester abortion in 2006. He could face criminal charges as well. The case is still under investigation.

Ghevont Wartanian, who was recruited to replace Ferrer, reportedly also had a history of malpractice and negligence. Near the end of September, Wartanian abruptly canceled all appointments and announced that we would not return. The facility is now closed and the property is listed for rent. ❖

Brigham Ordered to Cease and Desist Practicing without a License

A prominent abortion business owner came under fire earlier this month after it came to light that he had been performing abortions in Maryland without a medical license, and two abortionists had their medical licenses suspended for participating in "unethical" abortion practices.

Steven Brigham, who owns abortion facilities in Baltimore, Cheverly, College Park, Elkton, and Frederick, was ordered by the Maryland Board of Physicians to cease practicing medicine without a license after an investigation revealed he had been performing abortions in Maryland since January.

The investigation was triggered by a case in which an injured 18-year old woman was treated in Baltimore for a life-threatening injury following a botched abortion. It was subsequently learned that Brigham was initiating abortion procedures in New Jersey, and then completing them in Elkton.

The woman, who was 21 weeks pregnant, may have been directed to Maryland to avoid New Jersey

protective regulations relating to abortions after 14 weeks.

The Board suspended Maryland abortionist Nicola Riley, who participated in the abortion and conspired with Brigham to transport the woman to a hospital in a private vehicle rather than an ambulance.

Also suspended was George Shepard Jr., for helping transport women across state lines to complete an abortion and for acting under the direction of an

unlicensed medical supervisor.

Police investigating the Elkton facility found the bodies of 35 late-term children stored in a freezer.

Brigham had lost his license to practice medicine in Pennsylvania several years ago and was recently ordered to close his Pennsylvania abortion businesses for reportedly employing unlicensed medical staff. His license has been suspended or revoked in five states.

Brigham denies that he has broken any state law and says his actions are in keeping with standards of care. ❖

Police investigating the Elkton facility found the bodies of 35 late-term children stored in a freezer.

Support Pro-life Education Through Your Employee Giving Campaign

You can help educate the next generation about the value of all human life by supporting the Maryland Right to Life Foundation (MRLF) through your employee giving campaign.

MRLF participates in many of the Combined Federal Campaigns (CFCs) throughout the area, as well as the

Maryland Charity Campaign and several others. You should find MRLF listed in the campaign materials; if not, you still may be able to designate your contribution.

Funds donated through these campaigns are used to support efforts as our youth essay and oratorical contests and exhibits at summer fairs.

Education is a vital part of the Maryland Right to Life mission, and these programs are funded largely through employee giving.

Please remember the babies and designate MRLF for your workplace charitable contribution. Donations to MRLF are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Eric Wargotz

United States Congress

- District 1Andrew Harris
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- District 8Michael Philips

Paid for by the Maryland Right to Life Federal PAC, 700 Melvin Ave., Suite 1, Annapolis, MD 21401. Not authorized or approved by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Late breaking ...

MDRTL has endorsed a number of local candidates. This information and any additional endorsements will be published on the MDRTL web site:

www.mdrtl.org

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Maryland General Assembly Endorsements

State Senate

- District 1George Edwards
- District 2Christopher Shank
- District 3Alex Mooney
- District 4David Brinkley
- District 6Norman Stone
- District 7J.B. Jennings
- District 8Dee Hodges
- District 9Alan Kittleman
- District 12Rick Martel
- District 13Kyle Lorton
- District 19Donald Irvine
- District 23Douglas J.J. Peters
- District 26Anthony Muse
- District 29Roy Dyson
- District 30Ron Elfenbein
- District 31Bryan Simonaire
- District 32Ed DeGrange
- District 33Ed Reilly
- District 34Nancy Jacobs
- District 35Barry Glassman
- District 37Richard Colburn
- District 38Michael James
- District 39Robert J. Smith
- District 42Kevin Carney
- District 44Bernard Joseph Reiter

State House of Delegates

- District 1AWendell Beitzel
- District 1CLeRoy Myers
- District 2AAndrew Serafini
- District 2BNeil Parrott
- District 2CJohn Donoghue
- District 3APatrick Hogan
- District 3BMichael Hough
- District 4AKathy Afzali & Kelly Schulz
- District 4BDonald Elliott
- District 5ANancy Stocksdale
 & Justin Ready
- District 5BWade Kach
- District 6Joseph "Sonny" Minnick
 & Rick Metzgar
- District 7Patrick McDonough
Rick Impallaria & Kathy Szeliga
- District 8Joe Boteler
John Cluster & Norma Secoura

- District 9AGail Bates
& Warren Miller
- District 9BSusan Krebs
- District 10Emmett Burns
& Jeanne L. Turnock
- District 11Carol Byrd
- District 13Jeff Robinson
& Loretta Gaffney
- District 14Pat Fenati
& Maria Pena-Faustino
- District 17Craig Frick
- District 21Jason Papanikolas
- District 23AMargaret Moodie
& Geraldine Valentino-Smith
- District 26Holly Henderson
- District 27BMark Fisher
- District 28Mike Phillips & Kirk Bowie
- District 29AJohn Wood
- District 29BErik Anderson
- District 29CAnthony O'Donnell
- District 30Ron George
Herb McMillan & Seth Howard
- District 31Don Dwyer
Steven Schuh & Nicolaus Kipke
- District 32Theodore Sophocleus
 Stephanie Hodges & Wayne Smith
- District 33ATony McConkey
& Cathy Vitale
- District 33BBob Costa
- District 34AGlen Glass
& Patrick McGrady
- District 35AWayne Norman
& Donna Stifler
- District 35BSusan McComas
- District 36 (Cecil)Michael Smigiel
 (Q.A.)Stephen Hershey
- District 37ADustin Mills
- District 37BJeannie Haddaway
- District 38ACharles James Otto
- District 38BMike McDermott
- District 39Bill Witham & Al Phillips
- District 42Susan Aumann
John C. Fiastro Jr. & Bill Frank
- District 46Roger Bedingfield
- District 47Rachel Audi

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Message from the President



Darla St. Martin

This election, life is on the line!

Every election year, the election stakes get higher for the pro-life movement on both the state and national levels. Every year there is more reason to go to the polls, vote pro-life ourselves, and join the efforts to remind other pro-lifers how important it is to vote pro-life.

This year on the national level, the most pro-abortion Congress in history is being challenged by a valiant group of committed pro-life candidates. On the state level also, many pro-abortion legislators are opposed by dedicated pro-life candidates.

Our votes can make the difference between real unborn babies dying a cruel death or being allowed to

live. The pro-abortionists in Maryland on both the local and state level have now become so anti-life that they are even persecuting the life centers that help distressed women who have chosen to save their own babies. They must be stopped.

Nationally we have never seen such radical pro-abortion proposals so carefully disguised in convoluted language to slip vast expansions of abortion funding into even our health care. But the wonderful thing about America is that every election we have the opportunity to vote in free elections and choose the men and women who will make our laws and carry them out. It is an awesome power and one which we must use—and use wisely.

Executive Director's Report

Dear Santa, For Christmas will you please bring ...

Yes, I know Christmas season is still months away, but MDRTL has needs that can't wait.

As you know, MDRTL relies entirely on donors to help us fight for the rights of helpless unborn babies. We just don't have the budget for extras, and our needs are mounting. Can you help with a practical gift?

- **A new PC** with a reliable processor and plenty of RAM and storage space to replace the aging Pentium that houses our data base. A keyboard and wireless mouse would be nice too.
- A licensed copy of **Microsoft Office Home** and

Business® to replace our 2003 version.

- **An active chapter in every county.** It just takes one or two people to get started — call me!
- **Volunteers with special skills.** Would you be able to hold a fund-raising event for MDRTL? Provide professional services at low- or no-cost? Clean our office once a week? Help with mailings or data entry? We need you!
- **More members!** We must increase our annual income in order to meet future staffing needs and continue to fight the powerful, well-funded abortion lobby.

Will you be Santa for us? Unlike our enemies, we don't have any deep-pocket donors we can turn to. Most of our support comes from \$10 and \$25 donations.

We love our donors and appreciate every gift. But rent keeps going up, and our equipment is outdated.

We must identify more pro-life people willing to join us in this fight. Please consider holding a membership drive for MDRTL in your church or civic group. And don't forget to pass this newsletter on to someone else — and share your enthusiasm for the good that we do with every pro-life person you know.

We are winning this battle, but **we need your help.** Please help us continue the fight!



Angela Martin

