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The purpose of this newsletter is to help educate, update, and inspire those interested in pro-life issues.

Do You Have Questions Or Comments On Anything In This Newsletter?

Would You Like To Recommend A Topic On The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?

Do You Feel Moved To Share A Personal Story About The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?

Do You Feel Moved To Submit A Personal Story About Healing And Hope?

Submit feedback to defendlife@stpaulkensington.org.

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STILL LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO ATTEND THE MARCH 22 SEMINAR

The Connecticut legislature is again trying to legalize assisted suicide with House Bill 5326. The bill entitled "AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS," is one more move to disrespect human life. The Archdiocese of Hartford Pro-life Ministry is sponsoring a seminar on Saturday, March 22 at the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden, CT to discuss a campaign to oppose the legislation. Father Robert Rousseau, Director of Pro-Life Activities at the Archdiocese of Hartford, is asking all parishes in the Archdiocese to send a representative to the seminar. This is a very important issue that needs our attention and we currently don't have a volunteer to attend this seminar. We're looking for someone to listen and take notes on what is being asked of each parish.

If you can attend the seminar, please contact the Respect Life Ministry at
defendlife@stpaulkensington.org.

IS PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION REALLY A GRASSROOTS EFFORT LIKE WE'RE MADE TO BELIEVE?

<http://www.lifenews.com/2013/04/11/george-soros-bankrolling-efforts-to-legalize-assisted-suicide/>

"As Connecticut lawmakers begin public hearings on assisted suicide this month, national advocacy groups like Compassion & Choices will mobilize to help create the illusion that the proposed bill is a grassroots initiative. It isn't. Contrary to the claims of those legislators who are promoting the bill, there is no grassroots cry for assisted suicide. Rather, there is an effort by well-funded advocacy groups to make Connecticut the leader in assisted suicide in the Northeast. If the General Assembly votes to legalize the practice, it will be the first state

legislature to do so. Lawmakers have already promised to push it forward. They know there is a payoff for promoting this bill, much of it coming from George Soros through Compassion & Choices." ... "Receiving \$1 million from the Soros Foundation in 2010, Compassion & Choices has been able to convince Connecticut lawmakers that it would be in their best interest to promote "death with dignity" in the state. Selling suicide to lawmakers involves convincing them that it is in their best interest."

STATEMENT OF AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/medical-ethics/code-medical-ethics/opinion2211.page>

"It is understandable, though tragic, that some patients in extreme duress--such as those suffering from a terminal, painful, debilitating illness--may come to decide that death is preferable to life. However, allowing physicians to participate in assisted suicide would cause more harm than good. Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks. Instead of participating in assisted suicide, physicians must aggressively respond to the needs of patients at the end of life. Patients should not be abandoned once it is determined that cure is impossible. Multidisciplinary interventions should be sought including specialty consultation, hospice care, pastoral support, family counseling, and other modalities. Patients near the end of life must continue to receive emotional support, comfort care, adequate pain control, respect for patient autonomy, and good communication."

STATEMENT FROM CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

<http://www.ctcatholic.org/Assisted-Suicide.php>

"The Bishops of Connecticut, along with members of the health care community and those representing the elderly and disabled, strongly oppose this legislation. Most people facing a devastating illness are usually seeking true compassion, loving care, family support and quality pain control. Instead of enacting a law that opens the door to potential abuse of the elderly, disabled and seriously ill, we as a society should work on refining and improving the existing

system of palliative and hospice care for those facing a serious and life threatening illness. Physician-assisted suicide does not promote compassion because its focus is not on eliminating suffering, but on eliminating the patient. True compassion dedicates itself to meeting patients' needs, both physically and emotionally, while respecting their value as a human being. Compassion that is not rooted in respect for the value of human life will eventually find more and more people whose suffering is considered serious enough for assisted death, such as those with chronic illness and disabilities."

VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION TO ANY BILL THAT LEGALIZES ASSISTED SUICIDE

<http://www.ctfamily.org/>

The Family Institute of Connecticut along with the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut is leading the charge opposing assisted suicide because "it is bad public policy that puts vulnerable populations at risk. We can find alternatives for easing pain without passing a law that could put pressure on the elderly and people with disabilities to feel that they are a burden and should end their lives. The societal implications of legalizing assisted suicide are staggering. Government and doctors would be endorsing suicide. One Connecticut legislator at the "Compassion and Choices" press conference last year admitted under questioning that once this first bill is passed, they could come back for a second bill to allow the mentally incompetent to take their own lives. In Belgium, a law to euthanize children is moving forward. In Oregon, patients desiring treatment under the Oregon Health Plan have been offered assisted suicide instead. We cannot let this happen in Connecticut." "We can find alternatives for easing pain without passing a law that could put pressure on the elderly and people with disabilities to feel that they are a burden and should end their lives."

Make your voice heard in the fight to protect our most vulnerable citizens from assisted suicide.

Click on this link to send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/FICT/Campaigns/30344/Respond#/?page=respond>

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE AND THE ILLUSION OF FREEDOM

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/to-live-each-day/upload/bishops-statement-physician-assisted-suicide-to-live-each-day.pdf>

"Does the drive to legalize physician-assisted suicide really enhance choices or freedom for people with serious health conditions? No, it does not, for several reasons.

First, medical professionals recognize that people who take their own lives commonly suffer from a mental illness, such as clinical depression. Suicidal desires may be triggered by very real setbacks and serious disappointments in life. However, suicidal persons become increasingly incapable of appreciating options for dealing with these problems, suffering from a kind of tunnel vision that sees relief only in death. They need help to be freed from their suicidal thoughts through counseling and support and, when necessary and helpful, medication. ...

Second, even apparently free choices may be unduly influenced by the biases and wishes of others. Legalization proposals generally leave in place the laws against assisting most people to commit suicide, but they define a class of people whose suicides may be facilitated rather than prevented. That class typically includes people expected to live less than six months. Such predictions of a short life are notoriously unreliable. They also carry a built-in ambiguity, as some legal definitions of terminal illness include individuals who have a short time to live only if they do not receive life-supporting treatment. Thus many people with chronic illnesses or disabilities—who could live a long time if they receive basic care—may be swept up in such a definition. ...

Third, there is a more profound reason why the campaign for assisted suicide is a threat, not an aid, to authentic human freedom. The founders of our country declared that each human being has certain inalienable rights that government must protect. It is no accident that they named life before liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life itself is a basic human good, the condition for enjoying all other goods on this earth. Therefore the right to life is the most basic human right. Other valued rights—the right to vote, to freedom of speech, or to equal protection under law—lose their foundation if life itself can be destroyed with impunity."

CATHOLICS SHOULD BE LEADERS IN THE EFFORT TO STAND FOR THE DIGNITY OF PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS ILLNESSES AND DISABILITIES

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/to-live-each-day/upload/bishops-statement-physician-assisted-suicide-to-live-each-day.pdf>

“Catholics should be leaders in the effort to defend and uphold the principle that each of us has a right to live with dignity through every day of our lives. ... We should join with other concerned Americans, including disability rights advocates, charitable organizations, and members of the healing professions, to stand for the dignity of people with serious illnesses and disabilities and promote life-affirming solutions for their problems and hardships. We should ensure that the families of people with chronic or terminal illness will advocate for the rights of their loved ones, and will never feel they have been left alone in caring for their needs. The claim that the “quick fix” of an overdose of drugs can substitute for these efforts is an affront to patients, caregivers and the ideals of medicine. When we grow old or sick and we are tempted to lose heart, we should be surrounded by people who ask “How can we help?” We deserve to grow old in a society that views our cares and needs with a compassion grounded in respect, offering genuine support in our final days. The choices we make together now will decide whether this is the kind of caring society we will leave to future generations. We can help build a world in which love is stronger than death.”