

Right to Life of Michigan News

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The Rapid Growth of the Abortion Pill

By Danny Earl
Director of Education
Right to Life of Michigan

In recent years, the abortion pill has become the most common method of abortion.

Gone are the days when a woman would need to go to a clinic with health and safety regulations to have a licensed physician perform a surgical abortion. While this method is no less destructive than the abortion pill, it at least came with some safeguards for the woman. These protections, limited as they were, have been discarded in recent years. In Michigan, abortion clinics have been stripped of health and safety regulations. The person performing an abortion does not need to be a licensed physician. And the abortion pill is easily accessible to anyone, allowing women to receive the medication in the mail without ever receiving an in-person exam.

It should come as no surprise that, in this environment, serious complications from abortion are up 38% in one year alone, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' own data. (2023 File of Reported Induced Abortions Occurring in Michigan, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Published July 2024.)

Increasing Access and Use

The Guttmacher Institute reported that 63% of abortions in 2023 were done via medication/chemical abortion. That was a substantial increase from 53.3% in 2022. Much of this increase has come from widespread access granted by pro-abortion legislation and careless actions taken by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The first pill in a chemical abortion, mifepristone, was approved by the FDA in 2000 as a means to terminate a pregnancy up to seven weeks gestation. In 2016, it was extended to 10 weeks. Additionally, the FDA changed the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for mifepristone in 2021, allowing physicians to prescribe the drug over telehealth appointments without ever having to conduct an ultrasound.

While some states have issued their own laws preventing mifepristone from being prescribed, Michigan currently has no limitations in accordance with Proposal 3 granting extensive abortion access in our state. Sadly, women do not need to be told about common risks associated with taking the abortion pill either.

How Does it Work?

The abortion pill is a combination of two medications, mifepristone and misoprostol. They are taken separately, with mifepristone being first, followed by misoprostol 24-48 hours later.

The first drug, mifepristone, blocks the production of progesterone, a naturally occurring hormone in a woman's body that is essential to help support the growing baby. Mifepristone also initiates the detachment of the placenta and embryo from the endometrium, the inner lining of the uterus that the developing baby is attached to for nourishment. Cutting off this necessary nourishment causes the baby to die within 48 hours. At that point, the second drug misoprostol is taken.

Misoprostol causes uterine contractions, forcing the now deceased baby out and often causing uterine bleeding and cramps. Common side effects include heavy bleeding, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, fever, chills or dizziness. While these physical side effects are often listed on sites promoting the abortion pill, there have been women who experienced more severe ramifications.

Real Women Experiencing Real Problems

The FDA's website states that from 2000 when the abortion pill was approved to December 31, 2024, there were 36 deaths of women associated with mifepristone. Several of these cases came from sepsis, as there is a risk of uterine infection from the aborted baby not being expelled properly. While these are extreme cases, all uses of the abortion pill will result in a life being lost as the baby in the womb is deprived of vital nourishment and a healthy environment to develop, resulting in death.

In Michigan, a woman can get an abortion for any reason at any point of her pregnancy. In 2023, 55% of abortions carried out in Michigan were with the abortion pill. Its widespread and easy access can make it seem like a normal medication, enticing women with an

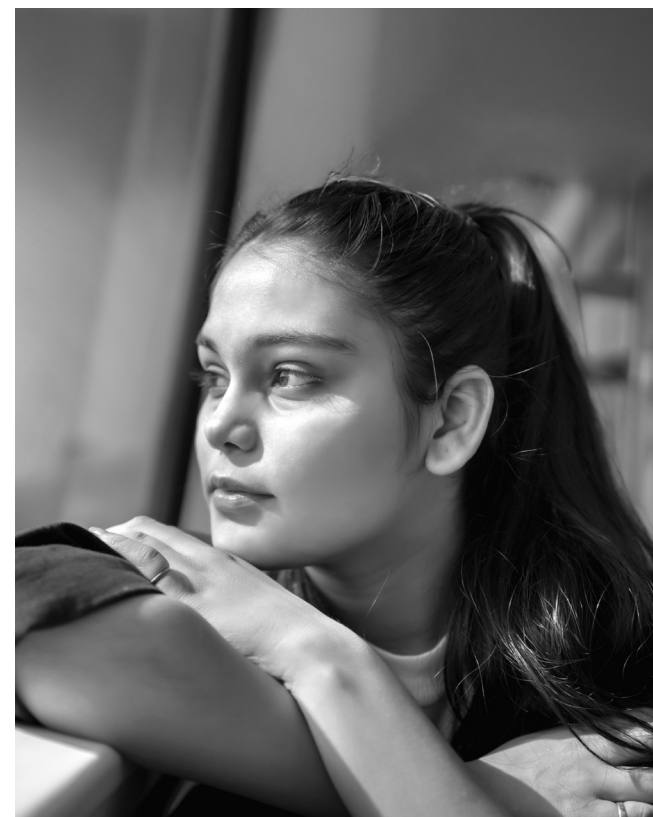
unexpected pregnancy as a "quick and easy" way to end it. Pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS have begun selling mifepristone in stores in other states and have plans to sell the drug in the future in all states where it is legal, including Michigan. Planned Parenthood will mail the abortion pill without ever having to meet with a physician in person. The abortion pill will arrive in the mail, and a young woman who is scared and alone can take the drugs in her own home, forced to deal with side effects by herself without medical supervision. Heavy bleeding and cramping with the possibility of further side effects go without the oversight of a proper medical professional. Doesn't really sound like healthcare, does it?

It is up to us to let women know that they are not alone in their pregnancies and that they have every opportunity to make a hopeful and courageous choice for life. We will continue to promote life as a beautiful choice that every pregnant woman has the chance to make for her child.

Abortion Pill Reversal

Many physicians suggest that a woman who has taken mifepristone but decides not to take the misoprostol and complete the abortion can undergo what's known as abortion pill reversal. After mifepristone cuts off naturally occurring progesterone from making the uterus a livable space for the unborn child, abortion pill reversal uses heavy progesterone treatment to resupply the important hormone. The influx of progesterone has been used to essentially "reverse" mifepristone's effects and reestablish a healthy environment for the baby to continue development. Several studies have been done to test the effectiveness of the abortion reversal protocol and have come back with excellent results showing a 64%-68% success rate in saving the unborn child.

While the FDA has not granted approval for the abortion pill reversal protocol, progesterone has been FDA approved and used successfully in the IVF industry for years. Although there have not been many large-scale studies conducted on abortion pill reversal, those that have been done have shown tremendous hope that the treatment can save the life of a baby if the mother regrets taking the first abortion medication.



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P.O. Box 901

Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0901

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President's Message: Where are We?



By Amber Roseboom

President

Right to Life of Michigan

This year marked the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. As we think about the impact of nearly 50 years of legalized abortion under Roe, the relatively recent overturn of the ruling via the Dobbs decision, and the passage of Proposal 3 in 2022, which legalized abortion up until birth in Michigan, the most fundamental question we face is, "Where are we?"

We must understand the moment we are in if we are to pave an effective path forward as a movement, to create lasting change and reshape the public conscience to recognize the value of and embrace life on so many fronts.

Under Governor Gretchen Whitmer's failed leadership, women are at risk. The most recent and final annual abortion report from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services showed a stunning spike in the rate of serious complications

from abortion, up 38% in just one year. Induced abortions reached a 28 year high at 31,241, and more than half of abortions are chemical abortions.

Abortion clinic health and safety regulations have been struck from law. Informed consent for abortion is no longer enforceable. Our abortion-obsessed governor and her allies in the state legislature are even paving the way to remove parental consent for abortion.

Our electoral successes of 2024, particularly winning a prolife majority in the State House, go a long way in protecting against further damage. Now is the time to build. We are needed more than ever!

There are three central elements of this moment (where we are) that guide our path forward.

1. The unchanging truth about life: Life is sacred. Defending life from conception to natural death is a mission we never shy away from.
2. The reality of our time: Abortion is legal in Michigan. A woman in Michigan can have an abortion at any point in her pregnancy for any reason.
3. Abortion and the concept of "choice" are part of our culture. A June 2024 GALLUP poll showed a record share of the U.S. population is now prochoice, identifying closely with the concept of choice, and they show record intensity on the issue.

Our messaging as we engage in the broader public square must shift to be sensitive to the current reality. We must take back the issue of "choice" and speak to women, the decision makers, in a way in which they will not tune us out. For choice to truly exist, women must have every opportunity to make a choice for life!

"Life. The Other Choice." is both the name of our new ad campaign and our new tagline as an organization, one that captures the spirit of our movement and the path forward.

A woman has the choice for abortion. There is, in fact, a choice for life or death, and the overwhelming message from the culture is for abortion. Our objective is to cut through the noise with a message that invites another choice. A choice for life!

Our new ads, two of which can be found at rtl.org/videos, invite a woman who is facing an unplanned pregnancy to consider a choice for life. Some of the ads end with a hotline (1-800-712-HELP) to call or text for confidential counseling and to be connected to a local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) for practical support.

In the first few weeks of airing our ads, calls to the hotline went up 14% from Michigan – that's 34 more women exploring a choice for life in the moment it matters most. This is just a start.

A strong Right to Life of Michigan helps ensure strong PRCs. Through our state office, our 80 affiliates and our hundreds of thousands of volunteers and supporters,

we are redoubling our efforts, building and expanding in the modern era. This year, our plans are comprehensive. We are:

- Expanding our reach deep in communities and in the digital space. We doubled our reach on Facebook and Instagram last year and are looking to reach more people with the truth about abortion and a message of hope!
- Hosting our second Michigan March for Life on November 6th. Learn more at rtl.org/events.
- Expanding MiGen Leads and creating new educational materials to reach young people.
- Relaunching our "Life. The Other Choice." ad campaign.
- Safeguarding critical protections for Michiganders, like parental consent.
- Continuing to lead the fight against the growing threat of physician-assisted suicide.
- And much more!

St. Thomas Aquinas famously said, "To love is to will the good of the other." As you join us in our life-affirming work, the most important thing you can do is equip yourself to engage in the debate in this new era, to compassionately share the message of "Life. The Other Choice." with your friends, family and social circles and offer open arms and hearts to post-abortive women seeking healing and a new path forward.

Thank you for all you do to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with women and invite a choice for life!

Save the Date for the Second Michigan March for Life!

November 6, 2025!

The second Michigan March for Life is just months away! Join us to take a stand for women and children, including the unborn! Let's show the country and our state leadership how strong the prolife movement is. Let's show women that we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them to help them make a hopeful, courageous choice for life. This event takes place on the third anniversary of the passage of Proposal 3, which legalized abortion up until birth for any reason. But we know women can still make a choice for life! We hope that you will join us at the State Capitol in Lansing on November 6! Check back for more information on speakers and entertainment for the day at rtl.org/events.

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Right to Life of Michigan is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization of prolife groups in the state of Michigan, committed to articulating and protecting the right to life of defenseless human beings, born and unborn.

This commitment is derived from a belief that each human being, from the time of fertilization to natural death, has an immeasurable dignity and inalienable right to life. The RLM News is a publication distributed to members and supporters of Right to Life of Michigan and its affiliate groups.

State Office

2340 Porter SW • PO BOX 901 • Grand Rapids, MI • 49509-0901
(616) 532-2300
info@rtl.org • rtl.org

Save the Date!

Right to Life of Michigan's 52nd Annual Conference

September 25, 2025

Join us to learn about timely issues in our state and participate in hands-on workshops.

Check back soon at rtl.org/events for more information!

Political Recap and Look Ahead

By Emily Kroll
PAC Director
Right to Life of Michigan

According to the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, *evidence* is "that which elucidates and enables our minds to see the truth." Evidence isn't just what we see but what we innately know. Both are the very fabric on which our republic is built; truths so real, so obvious, that they are indeed self-evident. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

For decades, the prolife movement has been pointing to the immutable evidence of human life present in the womb as the core of its argument against abortion. The evidence, helped by modern medical technology, proved to be undeniable and today, for the most part, it is difficult to find abortion proponents that deny the presence of humanity before birth.

So why has the prolife cause been losing both socially and politically since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*? Well, because while we were arguing over the presence of life, the abortion lobby switched to an argument of value. They have made the case that the value of human life is not based on its nature, but on its ability and contribution to society. Bill Maher, host of *Real Time with Bill Maher*, accurately summed up where the culture has shifted

when he said, "They think it's murder, and it kind of is. I'm just okay with that."

Most abortion supporters will not say the quiet part out loud like Maher did, but the belief is the same. The 2022 and 2023 elections are evidence of this cultural shift where abortion swept the nation, not just in blue and purple states like Michigan, but in red states like Ohio. Voters made it clear that they want abortion to be an option, and it would be malpractice for the prolife movement to deny reality and fail to meet the culture where it is at. If we want to see the protection of life in our nation, we must have a new message that invites people to once again find value in unborn life. In an era in which abortion is legal up until birth, we must remind our neighbors that life is a choice worth protecting.

The cultural shift had a profound impact in the political arena after the overturn of *Roe*. Nationally, throughout 2022 and 2023, abortion amendments were systematically approved in state after state while the Oval Office was firmly in the hands of radical abortion proponents. The political situation going into 2024 was so bleak, many were questioning the viability of the prolife cause.

Additionally, proabortion activists, consultants, candidates and the media determined that abortion would be their number one issue in 2024 and firmly believed that it would be their key to electoral success. They were wrong. Not only did Kamala Harris, the most radical,

abortion-obsessed candidate to ever run for president, lose the electoral college; she lost in every swing state, and she lost the popular vote. A stunning repudiation!

"Here in Michigan candidates who boldly stood for the choice for life saw sweeping victories..."

Here in Michigan, candidates who boldly stood for the choice for life saw sweeping victories with every Right to Life of Michigan PAC endorsed federal candidate winning their race. Not only that, but prolife candidates flipped the State House of Representatives and reclaimed the majority for life. Overall, 88% of RLM-PAC endorsed candidates won their races and are now protecting the choice for life across Michigan.

If the 2024 election was a test, then the prolife people of Michigan passed with flying colors. In response to the unique challenge posed by the cultural and political climate, Right to Life of Michigan launched the most comprehensive, targeted campaign in our history. Reaching nearly three quarters of a million Michigan voters with the invitation to join us in supporting women, children and parents by casting their ballot for life. RLM affiliates and volunteers around the state led the charge by taking back the issue of choice and debunking the lies of abortion

obsessed candidates up and down the ticket. A truly herculean effort.

These victories are concrete evidence that the prolife cause is alive and well in Michigan. Most importantly, they are evidence that a majority of Michigan voters, even some of those that believe that abortion should be available, agree that women must be afforded every opportunity to make the courageous, hope-filled choice for life. We offered voters the invitation to find value in life. That invitation is being accepted!

Now as we look forward to the 2026 election, we must follow the evidence and stay the course. Next year, our state will be electing a new Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State. Not only that but the entirety of the State Senate and State House are up for re-election, and we will be voting on Michigan Supreme Court justices as well. At the federal level we will be electing a new U.S. Senator and all 13 of our U.S. Representatives will be on the ballot. A truly monumental challenge. We proved in November that winning is possible and stopped the forward progress of abortion in its tracks. Next year, we must reclaim the majority in each Michigan chamber so that we can protect women, children, parents and the choice for life in state law.

In the end, if there is one self-evident truth expressed in the last election it is this: Michigan is not giving up on life.

Coming Soon!



The Other Choice

podcast with host
Tiffany Van Bronkhorst

(Formerly the
LifeBeat podcast)

Stay Tuned at rtl.org



MOTOR CITY

B A B Y S H O W E R

You're Invited!

Free maternity, baby and parenting gifts and resources (box lunch included) for pregnant women, moms, and families. Scan the QR code for more information and to register to attend for free!



Sat., May 17, 2025

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Riverside Park

Detroit, MI

Sign Up for Weekly Updates & Stay Informed!

Right to Life of Michigan has a weekly Prolife Update e-mail alert to keep you up-to-date on important prolife issues and breaking news. **Scan the QR code to sign up today and be informed for life—the other choice!**



Capitol Report: Promoting Pro-life Legislation

By Genevieve Marnon
Legislative Director
 Right to Life of Michigan

2025 starts a new legislative term, and with it, new possibilities as we move forward with a pro-life majority in the State House. With divided government, bipartisan legislation will be explored to protect vulnerable patients, expand care for pregnant women, and help women make a choice for life. In addition, putting forward bills to restore some commonsense guidelines to the abortion industry in order to protect women from the reckless policies of the last legislative term will be imperative.

The recent actions in the previous term have led to nearly nonexistent health and safety regulations on abortion. The previous abortion-obsessed legislature repealed a number of pro-life laws which led directly to harms for women. Those harms will need to be addressed, and sensible policies will need to be reimplemented.

Following the repeal of the abortion clinic licensing and inspection laws, for example, there was a 38% spike in serious abortion complications! Abortion clinics are no longer inspected by the state nor are they

required to follow any established set of guidelines such as having hallway sizes large enough to get stretchers through. Hygiene standards, clinic guidelines and inspections are imposed on tattoo parlors, yet abortion facilities have no such requirements. It is imperative that Michigan law provide for basic healthy and safety protections at abortion clinics. Over 90% of Michigan citizens support clinic health and safety regulations. (Polling Indicates Wide Voter Support for Restrictions on Abortion, Michigan Catholic Conference, Published May 2023.)

The informed consent law which included a 24-hour waiting period and a provision that only allows physicians to perform abortions was blocked by the courts. This means that today, a woman can have a walk-in abortion performed by a non-doctor. The fallout from this law has yet to be seen since, in addition to repealing the clinic licensing law, the Democrat controlled legislature also repealed the abortion complication reporting law. Women have a right to be given accurate information about abortion and have time to digest that information prior to having an abortion. Women also have a right to know the number and type of complications that have occurred from

both chemical and surgical abortions. Abortion reporting and complication reporting are good public policy and should be reinstated in state law.

Fortunately, the parental consent for abortion law was left intact and is still protecting parents' rights and young girls. Make no mistake, the parental consent law was on the chopping block in two sequential legislative terms, but enough people raised their voices to protect parental rights and our children that the legislature did not repeal the law. Efforts to chip away at it will likely persist, and it will be imperative that everyone continue to advocate for the protection of young girls and parental rights.

As the 2025-2026 legislative term progresses, pro-life legislators will be tasked with putting forward bills to protect women and children, expand care for pregnant women, thwart bills such as efforts to legalize assisted suicide that endanger our elderly and vulnerable populations, and help pave the way for women in our state to make a courageous, hopeful choice for life. Please join us for our annual Legislative Day on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Lansing Center where you can come and learn more

about our legislative efforts, hear from our keynote speaker, Dr. Catherine Stark and have lunch with your legislator. For more information, go to rtl.org or call the RLM Legislative Office at (517) 487-3376. (See ad at bottom left of page.)



All are invited to join us on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Vintage House in Fraser, MI for a benefit dinner in support of the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, a 50/50 raffle, and basket raffle with guest auctioneer George Blaha (schedule permitting).

Reservations:

\$55 per individual
 \$400 per table of 8

Scan the QR code for more information and to register today!



 **Legislative Day**
 Right to Life of Michigan
 LIFE. THE OTHER CHOICE.

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
 Registration at 8:45 a.m.

Lansing Center
 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

special guest speaker
Catherine M. Stark, M.D.
 Board Certified OB/GYN

Registration

\$55 per individual or \$30 per student
 Scan the QR code to register, get directions to the event, find your legislator, and print Legislative Day flyers to share with others.



Please Join Us!

May 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bay Pointe Golf Club
 4001 Haggerty Rd.
 West Bloomfield Township, MI 48323

keynote speaker
Lisa Gigliotti
Author and former Administrative Law Judge

Reservations

\$150 Individual | \$1,000 Table (seats 8)
 For more information and to register scan the QR code, visit rtl.org, or call (734) 674-8650.



This event is in support of Right to Life of Michigan's educational partnership within the Chaldean community.

Affiliate and Volunteer Spotlight

Many Right to Life of Michigan affiliates hosted a local March or Walk for Life in January to mark the 52nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. Prolifers across the state joined both in celebrating the overturn of Roe in 2022 and in commemorating and mourning the more than 63 million lives lost to abortion under nearly 50 years of Roe.



Berrien County Right to Life's Walk for Life (January 25, 2025)



Gaylord Right to Life's March for Life (January 24, 2025)



Dickinson County Right to Life's Walk for Life (January 22, 2025)



Sanilac County Right to Life's March for Life (January 19, 2025)



Tuscola County Right to Life's Sanctity of Human Life memorial service at the County Courthouse (January 19, 2025)



Grand Rapids Right to Life hosted a screening of the prolife documentary Ms.Led (August 1, 2024)

Miscarriage, Ectopic Pregnancy, and Abortion – Just the Facts

By **Genevieve Marnon**
Legislative Director
Right to Life of Michigan

There's been a lot of news lately about abortion restrictions in certain states supposedly causing women to die from lack of treatment for miscarriages. Most of those stories are factually inaccurate. Additionally, stories about high-risk pregnancies and doctors confused about what constitutes as life of the mother exception seem to be popping up all over the place. What's true and what's propaganda?

First off, let's start with what is, and what isn't, an abortion. The word abortion has been twisted and intentionally misused by abortion supporters in order to confuse the public. The newest twist is conflating abortion and miscarriage. Abortion is the intentional killing of an unborn human being in the womb using drugs and chemicals or dismemberment and suction, but the goal in each abortion is the same – to terminate the pregnancy by ending the life of the unborn child.

By contrast, miscarriage is the natural death of an unborn child sometimes due to medical or genetic issues, sometimes for no known reason, but a miscarriage is never the intentional destruction of the unborn child.

Miscarriage treatment is not abortion, and there are no abortion laws which prevent the treatment of a miscarriage. In some cases, a deceased baby fails to naturally expel from the womb, necessitating medical or surgical intervention. Despite using the same medical instruments, procedures or medications that are used in an abortion, this is not an abortion. There's a huge difference between a procedure which causes the death of an unborn child and one which removes an unborn baby who has already died.

In rare cases, a woman may be in the process of miscarrying and the baby's heart has not stopped beating. In those cases, if the woman's life is in jeopardy, doctors are

"If both the mom and baby can't be saved, an abortion may be medically justified, and every state's abortion law contains an exception for the life of the mother."

obligated to intervene to save the lives of their pregnant patients. If both the mom and baby can't be saved, an abortion may be medically justified, and every state's abortion law contains an exception for

the life of the mother. Fortunately, doctors rarely need to perform an abortion to avert a woman's death, but it does happen in extraordinary circumstances. In these cases, doctors are given a high level of deference when it comes to medical judgments, including when an abortion is medically indicated to save the life of a woman. Similarly, treatment for an ectopic pregnancy, which is often life-threatening and can never lead to a live birth, would fall under the life of the mother exception. In some states, including Michigan, ectopic pregnancy treatment isn't included in the definition of abortion at all.

Doctors have been diagnosing and treating life-threatening conditions for pregnant women long before Roe v. Wade and continued to do so while abortion was legal throughout the country. Ever since the Hyde Amendment was passed in 1980, the federal Medicaid program has only paid for abortions to save the life of the mother or due to rape or incest. In order for Medicaid to cover an abortion, the doctor must make a determination about whether the pregnancy condition necessitates a lifesaving abortion. Interestingly, the penalty for Medicaid fraud is higher than the penalty for violating most abortion statutes, thus proving that doctors are capable of diagnosing life-threatening pregnancy complications.

Yet in the wake of the overturn of Roe and the passage of abortion restrictions in various states, abortion supporters and the media are attempting to scare the public into believing that doctors have suddenly lost their ability to make life and death medical determinations – something that emergency department doctors do on a daily basis. Unfortunately, there is so much misinformation circulating that some doctors may genuinely be confused about their ability to treat certain pregnancy conditions. It's easy to blame the media and the abortion industry for this, but it appears some medical associations and hospitals have been suspiciously remiss in educating doctors on the legality of providing abortions in life-threatening emergencies. This lack of clarity is unacceptable.

Sadly, the abortion industry has captured many medical societies and schools, the media, and the culture at large with the message that abortion is a public good, and they are willing to perpetuate false narratives to confuse people into supporting abortion. Knowing the facts may save you or a loved one from making the mistake of supporting expansive abortion laws for fear of not having miscarriage management or of dying from a pregnancy complication.

Community Outreach: Growing Local Relationships

By **Tina Teifer**
Director of Multicultural Outreach
Right to Life of Michigan

On September 5, 2024, RLM staff delivered grants totaling over \$10,000 to seven pregnancy resource centers in and around Detroit. Each year we offer up to 10 centers grants to help support moms and families in making a choice for life. Working with these centers offers Right to Life of Michigan the opportunity to participate in a more tangible way with their amazing life affirming work. Besides the funding itself, the centers benefit from access to RLM's updates, resources, and support throughout the year. (Pictured below)



On September 29, 2024, Maria Teresa Garcia, RLM's Community Outreach Coordinator, addressed almost 1,000 women at the Archdiocese of Detroit's Hispanic Women's Conference. She talked about the sad reality that the Hispanic community is very vulnerable to abortion. Then, she challenged the attendees to join RLM in the mission to be a support for women and the community and, above all, to share a message of hope and love for life. (Pictured left)



RLM's Community Outreach Coordinator, LaTonya Lewis, added RLM gift bags to over 300 boxes of toys assembled by the Toys for Tots team on December 7 and December 8, 2024. LaTonya created stickers, and coloring books which she combined with crayons, trinkets and candy. The boxes, packed with love, were distributed to children in Wayne and Oakland counties in time for Christmas. (Pictured left)



On December 16, 2024, the Blue Knights and the Little Flowers of Mary at St. Thomas Chaldean Catholic Church decorated bibs and onesies. They did a beautiful job creating thoughtful gifts for mothers and babies. The items and encouraging messages were distributed to area pregnancy centers. (Pictured left)

MiGen Leads Competitions

MiGen Leads is a broad group of students from all backgrounds and walks of life committed to advocating for a choice for life and supporting women in need. As the student and young adult outreach arm of Right to Life of Michigan (RLM), we adhere to the RLM Mission Statement and Goals and seek to build a culture in which all life is welcomed, valued and supported. We have a number of exciting opportunities for students to get involved this year!

High School Oratory Contest

Right to Life of Michigan's annual high school oratory contest is open to all prolife high school students in Michigan. Contestants will give a 5 to 7 minute speech on one of several prolife topics. Local contests are sponsored by Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state in the spring, followed by a state contest for local winners on April 26, 2025.

Senior Prolife Essay Contest

The Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund awards a \$500 scholarship in the spring to one prolife high school senior. Selection criteria includes a 400-500 word essay on a given prompt. Candidates are nominated by their local RLM affiliates. Affiliates must send the chosen application and essay to the Right to Life of Michigan State Office, and it must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2025.

High School Volunteers of the Year

MiGen Leads invites all high school students to participate in the annual Volunteer of the Year awards. Students are nominated by their local Right to Life of Michigan affiliates after turning in an application and list of prolife volunteer work and activism. Three students from across Michigan will win the title of Volunteer of the Year by Right to Life of Michigan.

Young Adult Prolife Design Contest

Young adults ages 18-25 from all over Michigan can take part in a prolife t-shirt design contest through Right to Life of Michigan. Among other prizes, your digitally created design could be featured in our online shop for purchase. Applications, designs, and creative statements are due May 30, 2025.

Students
&
Young
Adults



For more information, please email migenleads@rtl.org.

Preserving Your Family's Future

By Barbara Rotary
Director of Planned Giving
Right to Life of Michigan

Have you thought about what would happen in an emergency? Does your family know your wishes? Would they be able to access crucial documents? Let me share a recent personal experience.

Sadly, my niece lost her mother to an unexpected death. Thankfully she knew her mother's wishes for end-of-life care, but then she was left scrambling. She had no idea where to find her mother's critical documents or if she had a will.

Planning ahead can save your family time and lower stress during an already overwhelming situation. Think about putting together a binder, a legacy box or a folder.

Here are just a few suggestions of what to include:

- **Medical Records** (prescriptions, allergies)
- **Financial Documents** (insurance policies, bank statements)
- **Legal Documents** (Will, Trust, Power of Attorney)
- **Important Contacts** (Lawyer, Accountant, Financial Advisor)
- **Funeral wishes** (service, scripture, songs, burial, in lieu of flowers donation)

Remember to periodically update your information! Having this information together in an easy to find location will ensure your desires are honored. You can provide clarity and direction to your family and help avoid misunderstandings, allowing those you love to focus on healing.

I hope you will take this information to heart and act on it while you still have the opportunity. If you would like more information about including Right to Life of Michigan in your legacy giving, simply fill out the form below and send it in. We can help!

Information in this article is for the purpose of providing general answers to commonly asked questions. None of the information contained herein is intended as legal advice or legal opinion relative to specific matters, facts, situations, or issues. Please contact an attorney for specific legal advice.

Please check all that apply • Clip & Send

03/24

- Send me an estate planning brochure.
- Send me a kit that includes information about leaving a charitable gift to Right to Life of Michigan, Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund, or the Right to Life of Michigan Endowment Fund in my will or living trust.

Name	
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In Honor Of: Given By:

Judah Barber (birth).....Brian & Pam Cusack Family
 Tracy & Shelly Beyer.....Live Local Realty
 Tom Bobrowski.....Steven & Janie Kolenda
 Mrs. Phyl Brown.....Glenn Smith
 Suzanne Calvano (Merry Christmas).....Camalia Mann
 Susan Colligan (Celebration of her years of service at RTL)
 Brian Cusack (Retirement).....Ronald & Judith Lachniet
 Christopher Dykstra (with love & admiration).....Janel Dykstra
 Mrs. Helen Emerson (Birthday).....Paul & Laurel Emerson
 Evelyn Kayser (Celebration of life).....Melek Kayser
 Mrs. Maria Garcia
 (for her work protecting the unborn).....Mary Kay Polo
 Nicole Geilow.....Gary & Margaret Tackett
 Ezra Daniel Hahn (Baptism).....David & Betty Auverhamer
 Heather Hayes (Birthday).....Gabriel Hayes
 Joshua Hayes (Birthday).....Gabriel Hayes
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 Ms. Emily-Rose Machia.....William Mauzy
 Carol McHolme
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 Mrs. Marlene Manuszak (Christmas).....Kimberley Salerno
 Carolyn Meyers.....David Tersigni
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 John & Marcia Stevens (Merry Christmas).....Tracy Pettit
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 Dr. Michele Tulak-Gorecki (60th Birthday).....Lora Rometsch
 Dennis Perliski
 Bob & Kathy Davis
 Victoria Unknown
 (birth mom of our adopted son).....Carlys Shaarda
 Bert Vanden Top.....Jeff Asma
 Mrs. Mary Voiland (Thanks for being prolife!).....Andrea Finkel
 Mrs. Kirsten Waitkevich (Mother's Day).....Diana Bartos
 Jeremy, Nick, Hannah, Elijah,
 Nicholas, Olivia, & Jax.....Angelo & Melissa Poli
 Nancy Laier.....Charles Laier
 John & Marcia Stevens (Merry Christmas).....Tracy Pettit
 Lucinda Boven (Merry Christmas).....Dawn Barnes