
Assisted Suicide Becomes Legal in California

California's new assisted suicide law takes effect on Thursday (June 9), opening the doors to potential abuses of the vulnerable, elderly, and disabled.

The West Coast state became the fourth in the U.S. to legalize deadly doctor-prescribed suicides in October, following Oregon, Washington and Vermont. Euthanasia advocates pushed for the legislation by using the tragic story of Brittany Maynard, a young woman who had terminal brain cancer. A California native, Maynard moved to Oregon where she committed doctor-prescribed suicide in November 2014.

The California bill is modeled after Oregon, which, in 1994, became the first state in the nation to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide. The deadly procedure involves a doctor prescribing a lethal dose of medication to an adult patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Disability rights groups, many in the medical community, pro-lifers, and others are upset by the new law because of the potential for horrendous abuses of human life. One of their concerns is that doctors are not required to be present when the patient takes the deadly medicine; therefore, there is no way of knowing whether the person is taking the medicine of their own free will.

Carol Tobias of National Right to Life previously pointed out that the law "shows a blatant disregard for the lives of California's medically vulnerable citizens and sends a message to these citizens that their lives are less worthy to be lived. It is a well-established fact that nearly every terminally ill patient who desires death is suffering from treatable depression," Tobias said. "In Oregon, fewer than 6% of patients have been referred for psychiatric evaluation before obtaining life-ending drugs."

The California law requires that patients be mentally competent to be approved for doctor-prescribed suicide; however, psychiatric evaluations are not required.

Profit-driven motives of families, doctors, insurance companies and the state also are concerns. Assisted suicide is cheaper than many medical treatments for the terminally ill and disabled. In Oregon, there have been several cases of cancer patients being pushed toward assisted suicide because it was cheaper than the medical treatment they needed. *Continued on page 4*

Supreme Court Overturns TX Abortion Law

The Supreme Court today (June 27) issued its biggest ruling on abortion since upholding the federal ban on partial-birth abortions in the Gonzalez decision. Today, the Supreme Court reversed part of a pro-life Texas law that protects women's health and has also saved the lives of thousands of unborn children and closed abortion clinics that can't ensure adequate protection for women. *Continued on page 2*

Thrift Shop Report

April

243 Customers
2 Free units (diapers)

May

197 Customers
15 Work-to-Earn certificates
7 Free units (formula, diapers)

“Every Child Deserves a Birthday” Seen at Local Parades

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Thank you to Anne Schmiesing for designing this year’s RTL float. The birthday-themed display sent a positive pro-life message at Jackson Center Community Days, Versailles Poultry Days, the Botkins Carousel, and the Anna Homecoming. The float won awards at Versailles and Botkins.

We are grateful also to Jen Bohman, Clete Bulcher, and Carol Dirksen for transporting the float to and from the parades.



Supreme Court Strikes Down Texas Law *continued from page 1*

The high court ruled 5-3 against the Texas pro-life law with Justice Stephen Breyer writing the decision. Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined Breyer. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented. Breyer’s majority opinion for the court held that the regulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman’s right to an abortion.

The 5-3 decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* shows the paramount importance of judge’s in this year’s presidential election. In approving the appeal from abortion companies, the Supreme Court did not allow Texas’ pro-life law to stand.

At issue in the ruling were two provisions—that abortion clinics meet the same building standards as ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) and that abortionists have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital for situations of medical emergencies.

Texas’ law is arguably responsible for saving the lives of tens of thousands of unborn babies by closing abortion clinics that are unable to protect women’s health. The laws protects women’s health and welfare by requiring abortion clinics to meet the kinds of medical and safety standards that legitimate medical centers meet. Breyer wrote that “the surgical-center requirement, like the admitting privileges requirement, provides few, if any, health benefits for women, poses a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions and constitutes an ‘undue burden’ on their constitutional right to do so.”

Justice Clarence Thomas, who authored the dissenting opinion, wrote, “Today the Court strikes down two state statutory provisions in all of their applications, at the behest of abortion clinics and doctors. That decision exemplifies the Court’s troubling tendency ‘to bend the rules when any effort to limit abortion, or even to speak in opposition to abortion, is at issue.’”

John Seago, the legislative director for Texas Right to Life, said the Supreme Court ruling will have a terrible effect on similar pro-life laws in other states that seek to protect women and unborn children. “This dangerous SCOTUS ruling allows the abortion industry to challenge any safety laws by threatening to close rather than follow law,” Seago said.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, June 27, 2016. Edited for space.

June/July Prayer Intentions

That God may use Right to Life's witness at parades and fairs during this summer to move hearts and minds to greater respect for life.



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Thank you to Our Golf Outing Sponsors

The weather was chilly and wet, but seventeen teams braved the elements to complete the course at the 6th annual Scramble-4-Life. We are grateful to all of the participants, and to Tim Dietz and Julia Monnin and all the volunteers who make the outing possible. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the event was a great success in spite of the weather. Please show your support for our sponsors. (And mark your calendars for next year's outing: Saturday, May 13, 2017.)

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There are many ways to support us financially—without contributing a dime! Right to Life is enrolled in several charitable giving programs. All you need to do is select Right to Life of Shelby County as your charity and we receive a portion of your bill or purchase automatically. Opportunities include:

GoodSearch – Every time you do a search online you can contribute to RTL. Simply go to GoodSearch.com, select Right to Life as your charity, and use GoodSearch as your starting page for web searches. When you make online purchases through GoodSearch, RTL receives even more.

AmazonSmile – Purchases you make at Amazon.com can also support RTL. Go to Smile.Amazon.com and select Right to Life of Shelby County.

Charity Mobile – Formerly Sienna Communications, this company has competitively priced cellphone plans. When you sign up, select RTL and a portion of your monthly bill will be donated to us.

We are grateful for the members who are already using these services. Won't you join them? Thank you!

Assisted Suicide in California *continued from page 1*

At least one California doctor is planning to make a business of helping people commit suicide. The Mercury News reports Dr. Lonny Shavelson is ready to welcome assisted suicide patients to his Bay Area office on Thursday. His new office is focused solely on “helping” patients kill themselves through the new law, according to the report.

Euthanasia advocates already are dropping hints about forcing Catholic hospitals to comply with the deadly new law in the name of “access” to “end of life options.” According to the Religion News Service: “The next step, said Matt Whitaker, Compassion & Choices state director for Oregon and California, is to ensure access in a state where the two largest faith-based health care systems, Catholic hospitals and Adventist Care hospitals, have announced they will not participate.”

The law currently has conscience and religious exceptions for medical professionals who are morally opposed to assisted suicide. However, future measures forcing hospitals to offer or refer patients for assisted suicide are plausible. California recently began forcing pro-life pregnancy centers to advertise abortions.

Ironically, the bill was passed during a special session of the California State Legislature, which was originally called to address cost savings for the state’s MediCal program. Writing about the bill’s passage in The New York Times, Ian Lovett included an observation by Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, director of the medical ethics program at the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine:

...[Kheriaty] said that low-income and underinsured patients would inevitably feel pressure to end their own lives in some cases, when the cost of continued treatment would be astronomical compared with the cost of a few lethal pills.

By Micaiah Bilger, LifeNews.com, 6/8/2016. Edited for space.