

St. Agnes-St. William of York

Respect Life Newsletter - January and February 2020

Hello everyone.. As predicted, there was an explosion of life related issues, events and activities early in 2020. On the national level, hundreds of thousands of people marched in the Annual March for Life in DC, marking the 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. On the local level, the Maryland General Assembly is considering for the fifth time in six years assisted suicide legislation. As we entered the season of Lent last week, we also embarked on another 40 Days for Life campaign. Lent, a season of repentance and sacrifice, is also a season of hope, for we know that, as we accompany Christ on His journey to Jerusalem and Calgary, the journey ultimately ends in LIFE! Join us this spring in praying for life!

ST. AGNES-ST. WILLIAM OF YORK RESPECT LIFE NEWS & UP-COMING EVENTS:

- **St. Agnes/St. William of York News:**

- ✓ **47th Annual March for Life in DC:** This year parishioners from St. Mark's, St. Benedict's and Our Lady of Victory joined parishioners from St. Agnes and St. William of York on our annual pilgrimage to the Annual March for Life in DC. Many of the pilgrims attended the 9 am school mass prior to boarding buses bound for DC. Those unable to make the trip supported those marching in a number of ways. Some attended mass and prayed a rosary afterward. Others, participated in Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day.

This year's March was unique in that, for the first time ever, the President of the United States addressed marchers live from on stage during the pre-march rally. Naturally, security was heightened. Pilgrims wanting to attend the rally had to pass through magnetometers in order to get close to the stage. We got to where we were able to see the screening stations, but by the time we reached the screening stations, the field in front of the stage was already filled. Fortunately, we were still able to hear the speeches given by the President and other speakers.

This year's march was one of the largest I have ever attended. According to one estimate, 450,000-500,000 marchers, consisting largely of young people, marched down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. Check out this awesome time-lapse video released by Students for Life - <https://youtu.be/po6Yq-eUS-E>.



Pilgrims and St. Agnes School Students at Mass



Some of Our Marchers at the Mall in DC



Crowds Waiting to Get Through Security

✓ **February 26 - April 5, 2020 - 40 Days for Life - Catonsville Spring Campaign:** A commissioning mass said by Father Isaac and assisted by Deacon Jack kicked off the Spring, 2020 40 Days for Life - Catonsville campaign.

Started by four men as a local prayer campaign, 40 Days for Life now spans the globe with campaigns in 63 countries. This spring will see another record-breaking number of campaigns and participants praying for the end of abortion. This brief 40 Days for Life introductory video (<https://vimeo.com/374684801>), is narrated by Shawn Carney, one of the four men who started 40 Days for Life.

Although all prayer, fasting and other activities in support of the unborn and their mothers is beneficial, there is nothing like a visible and prayerful presence outside of an abortion facility. The most common reason women give for considering an abortion is the belief that they have no other option. Your physical and prayerful presence outside a facility one hour a week is an opportunity to show such women that someone cares and is praying for them.

Here are a few stories of how the presence of pray-ers outside of an abortion facility has changed the lives of women, men and, most importantly, their babies.

- "I Need a Hug", <https://www.40daysforlife.com/day-34-i-need-a-hug>
- "Twins!!", <https://www.40daysforlife.com/day-31-twins>
- "Because Someone Was Here", <https://www.40daysforlife.com/day-29-because-someone-was-here>
- "Best Stories of Lives Saved", <https://www.40daysforlife.com/dramatic-stories-of-lives-savedpodcast-season-4-episode-42> (This link includes a podcast.)

Traditionally St. Agnes and St. William of York pray-ers commit to praying on Thursdays. This past Thursday, the second day of the spring campaign, pray-ers braved the cold and high winds to pray for life. The winds were so strong that we couldn't put the signs out. On Saturday, pray-ers huddled together in defense of 16 mph winds and a windchill of 21 degrees.

If Thursday is not convenient, choose another day. Hillcrest is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Sign-up information is available at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/catonsville/>. On the homepage, follow the prompts and create an account if you are a new pray-er, or log in if you have an existing account. If you have any questions or problems, contact Kim Frazer at vigilbaltimore@gmail.com/410.456.9544, or Paula, at pnoeller@comcast.net/443.570.5048.



Kim, Campaign Coordinator, Tricia, and Maria at Kick-off



Mark and Lee at West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices Reception after Mass



Global Distribution of 40 Days for Life Campaigns



Thursday Pray-ers Outside of Hillcrest

Why sign up to pray? First, it lets pray-ers know what hours are covered. Someone signing up for the first time might want to sign up for a time during which others are praying. Other pray-ers might prefer to sign up for times so that coverage is continuous. Second, signing up lets campaign leaders know how many people are participating in the campaign.



Pray-ers Huddled in the Cold Outside Hillcrest

Additional Resources and Suggestions:

- Attend Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration at St. Agnes. Adoration begins at the end of the 7:00 am mass. Evening Prayer will be said at 6:30 pm. On the first Tuesday of every month the Respect Life Holy Hour is held from 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm (during Lent).
- Pray using the daily 40 Days for Life devotionals, downloadable at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/resources-devotionals.aspx>. (A sample devotional can be found on page 8.). Subscribe at 40 Days for Life and receive the devotionals and updates via email - <https://www.40daysforlife.com>.
- Pray the Respect Life rosary alone or with your family - <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/pro-life-rosary-prayer-intentions.cfm#joyful>.
- Fast for Life

• **St. Agnes/St. William of York Upcoming Events:**

- ✓ **Tuesday, March 3, 2020/April 7, 2020 - Respect Life Holy Hour and Evening Prayer:** Our monthly Respect Life Holy Hour is held on the first Tuesday of every month at St. Agnes. The monthly Holy Hour begins at 5:45 pm. Because we will be in the Lenten season, the Holy Hour will lead into Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm. The Respect Life Holy Hour includes worship music, the Angelus, time to pray for private, special intentions and the Respect Life rosary. All are welcome.

What: Respect Life Holy Hour and Lenten Evening Prayer.

Where: St. Agnes

When: Tues, March 3 and April 7, 2020
5:45 - 6:30 pm (Respect Life Holy Hour);
6:30 - 7:00 pm (Evening Prayer)

- ✓ **Saturday, March 14, 2020, 40 Days for Life - Catonsville Mid-point Event - Eucharistic Adoration For A Culture of Life:** First-time pray-ers are invited to join seasoned pray-ers in Eucharistic Adoration at West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices. Eucharistic Adoration will be from 9 am to 2 pm. Benediction will be at 1:45pm. Sign up to pray at www.tinyurl.com/40days-adoration. Check out the flyer on page 9 for details.

What: Eucharistic Adoration for A Culture of Life

Where: West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices located in the Chin Baptist Mission Church 5602 Johnnycake Road Catonsville, MD 21228.

When: Sat, March 14, 2020
Adoration from 9am - 2 pm
Benediction at 1:45 pm

Follow the pink signs to WBPC, located inside the church.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWS:

Legislation Before the 2020 Maryland General Assembly:

- ✓ **Assisted Suicide Legislation - End-of-Life Option Act (HB 643 and SB 701):** As predicted, assisted suicide legislation is again before the Maryland House and Senate. This year, the bill is before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. This past Friday, Diane Miller of St. Agnes, Tim McCarthy of St. Joseph Monastery and I drove to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. For \$1 (there are advantages to being a senior, otherwise the cost would have been \$2 :-)) we took a shuttle to the Senate building and attended the committee hearing.



Tim McCarthy (left) at the PAS Hearing at Annapolis

Some of the people there had registered to testify before the committee. Others were hoping to observe and to “testify” by their presence. Those opposing SB701 wore green. They were an eclectic group. Never have I seen so many shades of green. Most of us wore green No Assisted Suicide stickers handed out by members of Maryland Right to Life. Those supporting the legislation wore yellow shirts provided by Compassion and Choices (formerly the Hemlock Society). The three of us concluded that green attire was more prevalent than yellow.



Senate Hearing Room

The large number of people and the small size of the hearing room required that observers move to separate room where we could watch the proceedings via a live feed. We were told that committee members would vote on the legislation early the week of March 2nd.

- Take Action:

*** Get Informed:**

- ❖ Read the Senate bill (mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/bills/sb/sb0701F.pdf). You can track the bill [here](#).
- ❖ Check out the flyers on pages 10 through 12.
- ❖ Watch the presentation, “Defeating Assisted Suicide in Maryland”, given by Alex Schadenberg at Our Lady’s Center - [Link to talk](#).

Alex, a Canadian, is an expert on the effects PAS legislation has had on Canada. In a recent [update to a blog he maintains](#), he cites a WBALTV report that the outcome of the Maryland Senate vote depends on three senators. One of the three senators represents Baltimore County’s 44th district. He provides contact information for the three. If you are unsure in what district you live and who your senators, delegates and representatives are, [click on this link](#) and enter your address in the field in the upper left hand corner of the screen.



Alex Schadenberg’s Talk at Our Lady’s Center

❖ Read a summary of the AMA's 2018 decision to oppose PAS legislation [here](#).

- * **Contact Legislators:** Maryland Right to Life has an action page with links to action items related to pending legislation. One of the current action items includes a pre-written electronic message addressed to the committee members. Access the action item here - <https://www.mdrtl.org/takeaction.html> .

If the bill is passed by the committee, the full Senate will act on it. The Maryland Catholic Conference has a link to an action item directed to all Maryland Senators here - <https://www.mdcatholic.org/2020passenatehearing>.

- * **Sign up to Receive Notifications and Action Items for Future Pro-life Legislation:** You can sign up for Maryland Right to Life notifications and action items here - <https://www.mdrtl.org>. You can join the Catholic Advocacy Network here - <https://www.mdcatholic.org/joincan>. You can sign up to receive national action items issued for the USCCB here - <https://www.voterveice.net/USCCB/home>.

- ✓ **Maryland Senate Bill 664 (SB 664):** This bill proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution. It guarantees citizens of Maryland the inherent "right to privacy", protecting them from State intrusion caused by the unauthorized collection of data (with the exception of the sale or purchase of firearms). If passed, it will be put before Maryland voters as a referendum in the upcoming 2020 election. If passed in November and signed by the governor, it will become an amendment to the state's constitution.

To understand the opposition to this bill, you have to go back to 1973 and the Supreme Court's Roe vs Wade decision. "Right to privacy" was the argument used by the Supreme Court to legalize abortion in the US. Some people argue that "privacy" legislation such as that being promoted in states like Maryland stems from the fear that the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision will some day be overturned. According to "Maryland Right to Life", if this bill is passed in the General Assembly and then in a November referendum, it will "enshrine the "right" to an abortion up until birth in Maryland's constitution. It would also prevent enforcement of pro-life laws currently on the books and block any attempt to pass future pro-life legislation such as the Pain Capable Bill and the Dismemberment Ban.

Take Action:

- * **Get Informed:** Read the bill (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/bills/sb/sb0664F.pdf>). Read commentaries on the bill from a variety of sources. You might start with the synopsis on page 13.
- * **Attend Hearings:** A hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee is scheduled in Annapolis on Wednesday March 11, 2020. The hearing will be at 12:00pm in the East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD. Check for changes in time and place prior to attending since changes in the date, time and location are common.
- * **Contact Legislators:** Maryland Right to Life has an action page with links to action items related to pending legislation. The action item often includes a pre-written electronic message to identified addressees. You typically have the option to amend the message. An action item for this amendment is available at <https://www.mdrtl.org/takeaction.html>.
- * **Sign up to Receive Notifications and Action Items for Future Pro-life Legislation:** You can sign up for Maryland Right to Life notifications and action items here - <https://www.mdrtl.org>. You can join the Catholic Advocacy Network here - <https://www.mdcatholic.org/joincan>. You can sign up to receive national action items issued for the USCCB here - <https://www.voterveice.net/USCCB/home>.

REFLECTION - The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

The Sunday Gospels leading up to Ash Wednesday were challenging to say the least. In the Gospel for Sunday, February 16th, Christ told his followers, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill....Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven...." The law to which Jesus was referring was the Mosaic law, the law which the Israelites time and again found difficult, and often impossible, to follow.

In the same passage, however, Christ set an even higher bar for His followers when He said, "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.'" (Matthew 5:17-37) Yikes!!! If the Israelites found it difficult to impossible to follow the Mosaic law, how could Jesus expect His followers to meet His even higher standards? After reflecting on the radicality of Christ's teachings, however; it dawned on me that, while the Israelites had the Prophets and their writings, we have both God's Word, and His real presence in the Eucharist!

In the Gospel for the following Sunday, Jesus continued the theme of the previous Sunday's Gospel, saying, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...'" In his homily, Deacon Jack reiterated my "yikes moment" of the previous week, pointing out the impossibility of meeting Christ's demands on our own. However, he was quick to point out that, with the help of the Sacraments, it IS possible. He described how through Baptism we enter into a new life with Christ. When we mess up, we are cleansed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And there is always Christ in the Eucharist to nourish us.

The following Monday, while reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, I pondered the Gospel readings and how perfectly Mary and Joseph lived out Christ's demands. Think of it! Mary, betrothed to Joseph, was told that she would conceive a child; and Joseph would not be the father!! Joseph had to decide whether or not to divorce Mary. While Mary risked being stoned to death, Joseph risked public humiliation and scandal. Later on, Joseph and a very pregnant Mary were forced to leave their hometown and make their way to Bethlehem, Joseph on foot and Mary on a donkey. In Bethlehem they learned that there was no place for them to stay but in a cave where Mary gave birth. And the trials continued. To protect the life of their child, they fled to Egypt where Joseph had to find work to support his family. Ultimately, Mary not only buried Joseph, but also watched her son be rejected, reviled, tortured and put to death on a cross.

It occurred to me that the trials Mary and Joseph faced were not unlike the trials that face all of us to some degree or another. Daily, young girls receive news of an unexpected pregnancy, and young men learn that they are going to be fathers before they had planned. Daily, the financial stability of families is put in jeopardy by the news of an unplanned pregnancy, the loss of a job, an unforeseen illness or the death of a loved one. Increasingly, lives throughout the world are threatened by religious persecution. The question is not whether trials and suffering will arise; the question is how we will respond to them. We can use Mary and Joseph as models and walk with Christ with the help of His Word, His Sacraments and His Church, or we can live lives trusting in the vacillating mores and precepts of a given culture at a given time.

These two options were far more articulately expressed by Moses in one of the daily mass readings last week. In his parting words to the Israelites, Moses said, "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him." (Deuteronomy 30:19). As we approached the 21st century, Saint John Paul II reiterated Moses' warning to humanity in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). After quoting Deuteronomy 30:19, St. John Paul II went on to warn, ". . . we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the "culture of death" and the "culture of life"...". It seems that the more things change, the more things stay the same. Since time immemorial there have been two choices open to mankind. We can choose Life or we can choose Death. Have a blessed and holy Lent.

Prayer for Our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

If you have a print copy of the newsletter, you can access links to slideshows, websites and other linked resources by going to <https://www.stagnescatholicchurch.org/respectlife>. There you will find archived newsletters from which you can access the links.

To subscribe to the monthly St. Agnes-St. William of York Respect Life Newsletter, email Paula Noeller at pnoeller@comcast.net. In the subject field enter 'Newsletter'.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

Devotional for Day 7, Tuesday, March 3

Fr. Terry Gensemer, National Director, Charismatic Episcopal Church for Life

Intention:

May we have a heart and a zeal to save the poor and release the oppressed.

Scripture:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

—*Luke 4:18-19*

Reflection:

This passage is a very familiar one. It has been preached on many occasions, even made popular in books and songs.

Though the quote is about Jesus, all Christians take this commission seriously as a directive on how to reach the world with the gospel.

We, like our Savior, are to bring the good news to the poor, the broken hearted, those in captivity, those who cannot see, and the oppressed.

The commission given to us in this passage is clearly a charge to care for those for whom God cares the most. I wonder though, whom do we look for to be touched by the Holy Spirit as we go out into the world?

Who are the poor, if not those unborn children who have been abandoned by

their parents before they ever leave the womb? Who are the broken hearted, if not those unborn children whose only example of love is having their mother take them to an abortion clinic to be destroyed, or the mother of a child who has been deceived by everyone around her into believing that what she is doing is best for her and her child?

Who are the captives, if not those unborn children who are bound over to death by the “choice” of abortion?

Who is more blind than an unborn child in the darkness of a womb that has become a waiting room for their death?

And who is more oppressed than those unborn children whose oppression has been legitimized by their government, their church and even their family and loved ones.

Prayer:

Lord, You empower us with Your Spirit to do your will in the earth.

Send us to the poorest, the most broken, the most captive, the most blind and the most oppressed in the world, the innocent pre-born children in their mother’s wombs that are scheduled for destruction.

Help us to bring them healing, liberty, sight and justice through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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www.40daysforlife.com



40 Days for Life
DAY OF ADORATION AND PRAYER
for a Culture of Life

Saturday March 14
9 am - 2 pm
Benediction at 1:45pm

Join us in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.
Your children and grandchildren are welcome.

West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices
Inside Chin Baptist Church, Johnnycake Rd.,
Catonsville, across street from Hillcrest abortion facility
(follow pink signs)

Sign-up: www.tinyurl.com/40days-adoration
Info: Kim Frazer 410-456-9544, vigilbaltimore@gmail.com



“Physician Assisted Suicide” *Fatally Flawed, Dangerous for Maryland Patients*

The so-called “End of Life Option Bill” (SB0701/HB0643) has been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly. Reintroduced in 2020 for the fifth time this bill attempts to decriminalize Assisted Suicide and create a legal right for a physician to prescribe lethal drugs to an individual to self-administer for the purpose of bringing about the individual’s unnatural death.

Important Reasons to Oppose the “End of Life” Option Bill

- Proponents of the bill want you to believe suicide is a personal choice, which is not true. This bill will change the way we all face death. **This bill protects doctors and allows insurance companies to ration healthcare, diminishing the medical standard of care for all of us.**
- **This bill puts Maryland’s most vulnerable populations at risk**-including individuals with disabilities, minorities, those experiencing poverty, those with mental illness, our veterans and those suffering from prescription or other drug addictions.
- **Lawmakers nationwide reject PAS.** The Maryland General Assembly has rejected some form of this bill at least five times. The Assembly reaffirmed its intent to classify Assisted Suicide as a criminal act by rejecting this bill in three previous legislative years.
- **This bill creates a financial incentive for insurance companies and state health plans who can save denying life saving care.** In Oregon and California – states which allow assisted suicide – patients have been denied payment for treatments to save their lives, but have been told that less-costly lethal drugs would be covered.
- **No trained medical personnel are required to be present at the time the lethal drugs are taken or at the time of death,** creating the opportunity for an heir or abusive caregiver to coerce the patient to take the deadly drugs. The physician is not required to respond to any complications.
- **People with terminal diagnoses often outlive a doctor’s prediction and some diagnoses are just wrong.** The definition of “terminal illness” is arbitrary and could include patients who are not dying, as has happened in Oregon.
- **Modern medical science has the ability to control patient pain.** Inadequate pain control is NOT the primary reason why patients request lethal drugs.
- **Depression leads some to seek suicide, but depression is treatable.** Mental Health assessments and referrals in this bill are inadequate. There is no requirement for mental health screening or treatment.
- **People may feel they are a “burden” and be coerced into suicide.** An option to die can easily become a responsibility to die for the most vulnerable.
- **PAS laws make suicide socially acceptable.** States which have legalized PAS have experienced increased suicide rate.

To protect Maryland patients from the dangers of assisted suicide, visit www.mdrtl.org and select “TAKE ACTION” to contact your state legislators and urge him/her to Vote NO on the “End of Life Option Bill”.



THE TRUTH ABOUT PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE: IT'S **NOT** AS DIGNIFIED AS IT SEEMS

Physician-assisted suicide (PAS) — currently legal in only 9 states plus the District of Columbia — has been branded as a compassionate way for terminally ill patients to choose when and how they die.¹ The reality is, the effects of PAS on patients and families are not compassionate or dignified at all.



LAWMAKERS WIDELY REJECT IT

In 2019, a total of 19 states considered PAS legislation. Only **TWO** passed the bill into law.²

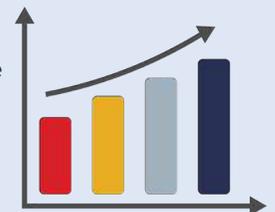
LETHAL ADDICTIVE DRUGS GO UNUSED

If a patient fills the lethal prescription — **typically 100 pills** — but decides against taking it, there are no safeguards to ensure the drugs stay out of the hands of children and prescription drug dealers. In Oregon, **758** people have filled their prescriptions and decided not to end their lives, leaving tens of thousands of highly addictive barbiturates unaccounted for since the legislation passed.³



IT AFFECTS OVERALL SUICIDE RATES

Since 2000, in Oregon — the first state to legalize PAS — the overall suicide rate has increased every year. Currently, Oregon's suicide rate exceeds the national rate for every age group, with suicides among older Oregonians being **more than 40% higher**.⁵ Just reading about PAS can serve as a trigger for those contemplating suicide.⁶



TAXPAYERS FOOT THE BILL

Taxpayers in Oregon and California pay for the lethal drugs and doctor visits. California's Medi-CAL program budgeted **\$2.3 million taxpayer dollars** for the first fiscal year PAS was legal. President Bill Clinton prohibited using federal funds to subsidize PAS, but some states still use their taxpayer dollars to cover the doctor visits and lethal drugs.⁴



MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE IGNORED

Only 4% of patients who died in Washington state from PAS were referred for a mental health evaluation. Suicidal patients aren't given resources they deserve like being screened for depression by a mental health care provider.⁷



IT'S IMPERSONAL

These lethal drugs are often administered by physicians who barely know their patients. More than half of patients who died from lethal PAS drugs in Oregon only knew their doctor for **3 months or less**.⁸



MARYLAND

AGAINST PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

www.stopassistedsuicidemd.org



MarylandagainstPAS

StopPASmaryland

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS OF MARYLAND'S PAS LEGISLATION

Legislation being considered by the Maryland General Assembly to legalize physician-assisted suicide (PAS) is fatally flawed. The bill's dangerous provisions make it bad policy for Maryland and wrong for Maryland citizens.

NO MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION REQUIRED

There is no requirement that a patient receive a psychological evaluation before the life-ending prescription is written. A screening from a doctor who is untrained in mental health is not sufficient.

NO EDUCATION ON PROPER USE OR DISPOSAL OF MEDICATION

Pharmacists aren't required to counsel patients on proper ingestion methods or disposal of the lethal drugs. If patients don't use the drugs, they may dispose them improperly, potentially sending large amounts of barbiturates into Maryland's drinking water supply.⁹

NO DRUG TAKE-BACK PLAN

The same drugs being used in PAS now were once widely distributed on the black market and abused by prescription drug addicts in the 1970s. Barbiturates are highly addictive and can cause life-threatening withdrawal, coma or death. As Maryland continues to fight prescription drug addiction, reintroducing large amounts of these drugs — with no controls in place to collect unused pills — will strain already depleted law enforcement and addiction treatment resources.^{10, 11}

NO FAMILY NOTIFICATION REQUIRED

The prescribing physician must "recommend" that the patient inform family members of his or her intention, but nothing in the bill requires it.

NO WITNESS REQUIRED AT DEATH

The bill requires two witnesses to be present at the patient's request for the suicide, but none at the time of death. Patient's may be coerced into ingesting the drug, or another person may administer it, leaving serious potential for abuse.

NO WAY TO ENSURE ACCURATE PROGNOSIS

Patients can request PAS if diagnosed with a terminal illness and given 6 months or less to live. But, medical prognoses are based on oft-incorrect averages, which patients frequently outlive.

NO SAFEGUARDS FOR THE DISABLED

Maryland's leading disability rights groups recognize the many dangers the bill poses to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as falling prey to undue influence from doctors or family members, resulting in a lack of true informed consent.

NO WAY TO PREVENT INSURANCE FRAUD

The bill doesn't recognize a long-held "contestability period" policy of life insurers that protects against fraudulent policy purchase practices. This overrides any industry safeguards that exist. The bill also allows for insurance fraud, mandating that the patient's cause of death not be listed as suicide.

NO ID NECESSARY FOR PICKUP

Patients pick up their lethal drugs at a local pharmacy. Maryland law doesn't require people to show ID at the time of pick-up, so virtually anyone can acquire lethal doses of secobarbital and pentobarbital, the same drugs commonly used to administer the death penalty.

NO DOCTOR OR NURSE REQUIRED PRESENT

Typically, no doctor, nurse or licensed aid worker is present when the patient ingests the lethal dose. If something goes wrong, any physical or emotional complications must be handled solely by the patient and those witnessing death.



WARNING: THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE FLAWS IN MARYLAND'S PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

A broad coalition of stakeholders, including disability advocates, elder abuse lawyers, members of the medical community, patient advocates, and faith-based organizations, known as Maryland Against Physician Assisted Suicide, have joined forces to fight this predatory policy, protect our state's most vulnerable citizens, and ensure every Marylander has a compassionate end-of-life experience.

1,2. Compassion and Choices 2018-2019 Annual Report. 3. State of Oregon (2019). Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2018 Data Summary. 4. files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubscoco/publications/masters-mtp>part2/eloa_m01o03a07p00.doc. 5. CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, Multiple Cause of Death files. 6. European Commission, Press Release 12/20/2011. 7. Hutchinson, K., Smithingell, Z., and Wiesman, J. (July 2019). 2018 Death with Dignity Act Report. Publication no. DOH 422-109. 8. State of Oregon (2019). Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2018 Data Summary. 9. EPA.gov, 04/27/2012, "Safe Disposal of Medicine." 10. WebMD, "Barbiturate Abuse."



Maryland Abortion Amendment

Defeating a State "Constitutional Right" to Abortion

Planned Parenthood is on the defensive following recent investigations and litigation that revealed that they engage in unethical and illegal practices that put profits before the health of women and children. In an attempt to defend their actions and protect their public funding, NARAL and Planned Parenthood have lobbied the Maryland General Assembly to amend the Constitution of Maryland to create a "constitutional right to *privacy*" – enshrining abortion-on-demand, through birth and with guaranteed public funding. An abortion amendment would invalidate all existing health and safety statutes and regulations regarding abortion and bar any future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial birth abortion or dismemberment bans. *Here are some important reasons to oppose Senate Bill 664.*

- **The Constitution of the United States is silent on abortion but clear on the right to Life.** The Constitution affirms that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" and deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the unalienable right to Life. The Constitution of Maryland does not secure or protect a right to "privacy" or abortion nor does it require the funding of abortion, but instead defers to the Constitution of the United States as controlling law.
- ***Roe v. Wade* is not settled law, but one of the most highly contested cases of judicial activism.** Before *Roe*, 46 states had enacted laws prohibiting abortion. On the request of the abortion industry, seven of the nine *Roe* Supreme Court Justices fabricated a "right to privacy", to allow abortion to be funded as a means of eugenics and population control. Since *Roe*, states have enacted 1,142 abortion restrictions. If *Roe* is overturned, abortion will remain legal under the Maryland Freedom of Choice Act.
- **The abortion amendment would silence the voices of everyday Marylanders who want to engage in a meaningful public discussion and debate over the availability, safety, and even desirability of abortion.** The vast majority (76%) of Americans support reasonable restrictions on abortion, especially in the third trimester (6-9 months). 78% would prefer policies to protect both the mother and the child. 60 to 70 percent of voters, whether pro-life or pro-choice, oppose use of our tax dollars to fund abortion.
- **The abortion amendment would invalidate state abortion-related laws that are supported by the majority of the public,** including the following common sense, protective laws: partial-birth abortion bans; infanticide bans; human cloning bans; sex trafficking reporting requirements; bans on selective abortion based on race, gender or disability; parental notification; informed consent; wrongful death laws that protect unborn children; religious freedom and rights of conscience laws that protect healthcare workers and employers; clinic safety regulations; and public funding restrictions.
- **Maryland's abortion laws already are the 5th most extreme in the nation,** permitting abortion on demand at any time during a woman's nine-months of pregnancy. Maryland was one of the first states to enact a Freedom of Choice Act (1991), expanding abortion beyond the scope of what was permissible under *Roe*.
- While Maryland is one of three states that does not require abortion facilities to report the number and causes of abortions that they commit each year, **it is estimated that nearly 30,000 human beings die from abortion annually in Maryland. 1/3 of those abortions are publicly funded.**