

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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*Established 1981*

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## **Physician Assisted Suicide Comes to California**

Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> was a dark day for California. Governor Brown signed AB15-2x the "End of Life Option Act," which might more correctly be labeled Physician Assisted Suicide, the legislation that we have been fighting so diligently to stop. It was a bill that no one should feel good about celebrating.

Governor Brown was clear in his statement upon signing this legislation that this was based on his personal background. "In the end," Governor Brown argued, "I was left to reflect on what I would want in the face of my own death. I do not know what I would do if I were dying in prolonged and excruciating pain. I am certain, however, that it would be a comfort to be able to consider the options afforded by this bill. And I wouldn't deny that right to others."

As someone of wealth and access to the world's best medical care and doctors the Governor's background is very different than that of millions of Californians living in healthcare poverty without that same access - these are the people and families potentially hurt by giving doctors the power to prescribe lethal overdoses to patients.

California now joins Washington State, Montana, Vermont, and Oregon that already have the "right" to take your own life with medical help. Instead of making it easier for people to die, shouldn't we concentrate on making it easier for them to live?

That's what several Californians, including the Catholic Church, argued. All this legislation does is further the far-Left philosophy (like we witnessed in ObamaCare) that ending people's lives is easier (and less expensive) than caring for them. And for some, Californians Against Assisted Suicide pointed out, "Adding this so-called 'choice' into our dysfunctional health care system will push people into cheaper lethal

options." There's no freedom in taking a life -- at any stage.

Unfortunately, this is the lie of the culture of death that's expanding right along with abortion. Both movements are fueled by a selfish belief that people are burdens, not blessings. But as far too many people find out -- too late -- ending a life will always cause more suffering than it cures.

### ***Possible Next Move***

***An analysis by Brian Johnson Board Member  
National Right to Life Committee***

Seniors Against Suicide, a member of the Californians Against Suicide Coalition, has filed to avail of the VETO referendum process immediately upon the Governor's signature of the 'assisted suicide' measure.

**MOMENTUM** - We have been a part of the single, largest and most diverse coalition I have seen in California - largest ever assembled on ANY issue. The efforts of this army were just coming to a crescendo in focusing on the governor's veto in a very narrow 10 day period. It is very important, and in fact culture changing, to instead of stopping at a single man's refusal, that we in fact build on that momentum for Californians to understand what is at stake.

**STATE LAW** -California Law provides that when there is any substantive change in the law, normal citizens are given an opportunity to themselves VETO the measure (as the laws belong to them). If filed, this process allows for what is called a VETO REFERENDUM. For 90 days after a Governor's signature, citizens may gather signatures. If successful, the voters themselves can decide if a bill should be law: "Yes" or "No." This question would be put on the general election ballot (Nov. 2016).

It is important to note that this is NOT an INITIATIVE. That is where someone drafts an idea for a new law and then if they get enough signatures, they get to put it on the ballot and fight for a YES vote (in

electoral politics it is easier to get No votes on controversial issues.) So unlike this situation, an initiative is 'picking a fight' that you come up with on your own.

This is also not a LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM. That's when the legislature doesn't have the courage to vote on a measure, but instead votes to 'send it to the people' to see what they think.

A VETO REFERENDUM is when the legislature and governor are the ones who 'pick the fight'. They are the ones that have dramatically changed California's laws that, until now, protected the emotionally vulnerable who are seriously ill.

Put another way: We were in the Ninth inning. We played hard. The Death folks knocked it out of the park and with Brown's signature it was a grand slam, apparently 'swamping us.' And they strode to their dugout grinning.

But the laws of California are clear. That was OUR law that was so dramatically changed. That was in our stadium. And the laws say that we, as California's citizens get, by default, the second half of the inning. We are the decision-makers, we hired those legislators and we don't have to agree with them. We can even fire them next year.

If we don't want to send anyone to bat in the bottom of the ninth, that is our decision, the law still says that there is a bottom of the inning. And we get to bat.

It is a tight time frame. It is three outs... (three months) not a full or even half a game. But we are not of those that shrink back from challenges. Join our team.

Whatever we do or don't do, the 'clock' has declared that the daily pitches have begun. California law has declared 'batter up' and the daily pitches are coming whether we like it or not. It is the bottom of the ninth. We can do nothing or we can send a batter. Seniors Against Suicide has stepped up to the plate. And we are on their team. Let's do this. Let's fight assisted suicide from spreading like a cancer in the hearts of Californians.

It takes nothing to speak... it costs everything to be silent...Let's go to the plate. Make sure we have your current e-mail address, for e-updates and "Action Alerts" on this matter.

## **Doctor in Netherlands Sued for Not Approving Euthanasia Of 19 Year Old Woman**

Physician Assisted Suicide is about to become legal and several "voices crying in the wilderness" are prophesying that the next step will be medical martyrdom, that is forcing doctors to choose between killing and continuing to practice medicine, both from the perspective of statutory law and professional discipline.

Looking to other regions, where Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia have been legal for a time, we see chilling stories. Recently in the Netherlands, a doctor was reported to the medical board—essentially for malpractice—for recommending against a euthanasia killing.

Milou de Moor, a nineteen year old woman who suffered from lupus and depression requested euthanasia, with the support of her family. All the necessary people had agreed, in accordance with the Dutch law on euthanasia. A date was set for her death. However, at the last minute, the general practitioner reneged and said that she did not believe that euthanasia was appropriate. Then the hospital declined to go ahead, as well.

When Ms de Moor heard the news, she rushed off in a panic and hanged herself in her family's apple orchard.

The family has now filed a complaint with the Dutch Medical Regulatory Board to sue the doctor for refusing permission.

One news report commented, "The good news was that the euthanasia of Milou was approved by the Ethics Committee." (*Note the culture of death's insidious mutation of society and culture, the killing of a 19 year-old called "good news."*)

This could become a very significant case in the Netherlands – and ultimately elsewhere. When it comes to lawsuits, doctors are extremely gun-shy. They are easily intimidated by threats of legal action, whether it is a lawsuit for malpractice or as a complaint to a medical board

If this doctor is rebuked by the authorities, this could effectively lead to euthanasia on demand. Thereafter,

any patient could claim to be in the grip of “unbearable suffering” – which is all that the Dutch law requires for the euthanasia process to commence. However a person with severe emotional problems in addition to an intractable disease is not a good judge of her own future. Perhaps Milou’s doctor thought that better medication, better doctors, and a more upbeat atmosphere in her family would change her outlook completely

The participation of doctors—and their considered opinion whether euthanasia should be performed—has always been touted by euthanasia as an essential protective guideline. But now, even physician reticence as a protective safeguard is under attack, both in an ethics opinion by the Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) and now, this complaint.

Even if the physician is cleared of all charges, every doctor is now on notice in the Netherlands, refuse to kill or impede a euthanasia, and risk the anxiety, turmoil, and expense of possible legal action against you.

This kind of thinking also opens the door to possible civil suits for damages for refusing to kill, as doctors can be now for failing to provide proper pain control.

The goal of the culture of death is a “positive right” to be made dead, which requires a positive “duty to kill” on the part of doctors to implement.

The only other option is the establishment of a new profession of “lay executioners” as Jack Kevorkian once advocated.

Once you open the door to assisted suicide/euthanasia, you are on the road to death on demand. The only question is how long it takes to reach the destination.

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!  
A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-712-HELP (4357)**

**Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>**

## **Library Corner**

### **Do No Harm**

**By Fiorella De Maria**

*What does a doctor do when a person tries to kill herself and has a living will?*

Dr. Matthew Kemble is working the night shift in the hospital emergency room when he is asked to “consult” on a patient – an attempted suicide. The twist in the case is her friend has a copy of her living will. There isn’t time to seek legal counsel regarding the validity of a Living Will in the situation of attempted suicide. In a world which has lost its moral compass, Dr. Kemble elects to save the life of the woman. He is subsequently arrested and charged with assault and battery. His entire life and career hangs in the balance.

We journey with the Dr. Kemble as he deals with the new legal situation created by legally enforceable living wills, exploring the various facets/problems which can occur when medical ethics based on Hippocrates conflicts with what appears to be the legal requirements of the state.

This book, an excellent Christmas gift, has a particular appeal for those who love a good story dealing with real issues in the complex area of how medicine should be practiced by a conscientious physician.

## **Around the Office**

Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

The Youth are at it again! Taking over from the adults... “Succession Planning” at its finest! Joni Durling, with the assistance of several other adults, coordinated the first two “National Protests of Planned Parenthood.” However as is our goal, the youth have learned our methods, and on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> they held their first youth-coordinated and facilitated rally at Planned Parenthood in Concord. The transition from adult to youth leadership was seamless. Congratulations to all the youth who have such a passion for the cause and are working within the system to eliminate abortion in our lifetime.

The youth have the passion for the cause; however, they need funding to pay for banners, “drop cards” and literature, including bumper stickers. To date we have expended over \$600 for two banners, thousands of drop cards as well as pamphlets and bumper stickers relating to “Defund Planned Parenthood.” If you would

like some of the “Defund Planned Parenthood” materials and/or drop cards, note in your donation and we will send you whatever you request.

As well as coordinating the rally on October 10<sup>th</sup>, our youth volunteers continue to be “on the move” unfurling the banners on a freeway overpass to publicize the sickening undercover videos of Planned Parenthood abortionists and medical staff. Your donations provide the materials distributed.

**Combined Federal Campaign, United Way and other “Give at Work” Payroll Charity Drives** are now in progress. Please remember California Right to Life Educational Fund when the payroll pledge card comes around this fall. If you need any assistance in designating us as your charity of choice, contact our office 925-944-5351 e-mail at [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org) (**Federal employees our CFC number is 49743**)

***Calendar of Events***  
*For the latest updates of events see*  
**[www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org)**

**MARCH FOR LIFE** – Washington D.C. Friday  
January 22, 2016 12 Noon Rally, 1:00PM March  
**<http://marchforlife.org/>**

**WALK FOR LIFE – WEST COAST**  
San Francisco – Saturday January 23rd 2016  
See: **<http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>**

**STUDENTS FOR LIFE NATIONAL  
CONFERENCES – *Born to Win:  
Abolishing Abortion in Our Lifetime***

**East Coast** – Saturday January 23, 2016 - First Baptist  
Church of Glenarden, Upper Marlboro, MD

**West Coast** – Sunday January 24, 2015 – St. Mary  
Cathedral Event Center, San Francisco  
For Further Information see:  
**<http://studentsforlife.org/rsvp-for-the-2016-national-conference-now/>**