

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Pro-Life Victories: Several Attempts at Legalizing Assisted Suicide Defeated

It may have seemed like the legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) was an unstoppable freight train gaining momentum at every turn. Last year Colorado and the District of Columbia legalized PAS, and recall the special session of the California legislature to control Medi-Cal costs; the only legislation passed was the bill legalizing Physician Assisted Suicide. These states have now joined Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and Montana where Physician Assisted Suicide is also now legal.

However, there has recently been some positive news in our fight against PAS. It seems at the moment that reports of the demise of a culture of life have been, to borrow a phrase, greatly exaggerated. Our side can claim victory on a few fronts. This doesn't mean we can relax, but it's really good news—and frankly, we could use some.

Bills to legalize euthanasia “have done very poorly” in 2017, Rita Marker, executive director of the Patients Rights Council, told Baptist Press. “That has been a shock to those who are in favor of it because they thought that all of [a] sudden the dam had burst and everything would happen for them.”

Not so fast! Legislation advancing the idea that some lives are not worth living have gone down to defeat in Indiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Tennessee. In New Mexico the state senate voted 22-20 with seven Democrats joining fifteen Republicans defeating a bill to legalize assisted suicide for people expected to die within six months.

Similar bills stalled in Hawaii, Maryland, Utah, and Wyoming, Marker said, although it is always possible they could be brought back. In Hawaii, a House of Representatives committee unanimously decided not to advance a proposal allowing physicians to prescribe lethal drugs on the same day a patient is diagnosed as terminally ill.

Eva Andrade of the Hawaii Family Forum said that Hawaiians should “say a prayer of thanksgiving” while remaining vigilant—because when it comes to assisted suicide bills, death is never final. “Although this may seem like the battle is over, please be advised that the battle is not over until the last day of session,” Andrade said. “And even then, the bill is still alive for the next session. Even now, proponents are most likely regrouping.”

Dauneen Dolce, executive director of the Right to Life Committee of New Mexico, told the American Family Association that assisted suicide legislation likely will be re-introduced next year. Therefore, she said, **those opposing the culture of death must remain “actively involved in some way,” by “educating yourself, or giving support to the organizations that are educating others, or [being] involved in the political arena.** If you don't do that,” she added, “you are handing over our state [and] our laws, and the culture of death will come to us—and that'll be from apathy.”

The job is immense. According to a **2016 survey by LifeWay Research, 67 percent of Americans say it is morally acceptable for terminally ill patients to ask their physicians to help them end their lives.** We must not only work to change or block laws in the political and legislative realms; we must also work and pray to change hearts and minds in our neighborhoods, in our social and work circles, and across society.

Apparently most Americans see pain and suffering as the ultimate evil and personal autonomy as the highest good.

When it comes to assisted suicide, in fact any of the life issues, apathy is deadly. We must continue to educate our fellow Americans about the beauty and dignity of life, from the moment of conception (fertilization) to the moment of natural death.

What is Natural Family Planning?

Rejecting artificial birth control is the most pro-woman option.

Beyond the philosophical and moral reasons why contraception is bad for women, including the abortifacient effect, scientific and medical reasoning also points away from the use of artificial birth control. From the perspectives of women's health and empowerment, contraceptive drugs and devices fall short of what is advertised. And there is a better way, a natural way... Natural Family Planning.

A woman's body is naturally designed with a rhythm; from the onset of puberty, she has a window of time when she is fertile, and the rest of the time a woman is infertile. Just as we recognize changing seasons in our natural environment through the changing colors of leaves for example, we can observe women's changing fertility status. By contrast, once a man reaches puberty, his body is constantly fertile.

Artificial birth control enslaves women to drugs and devices, sending the message to women that their normal monthly window of fertility is a disease for which a prescription remedy is needed.

When "women's issues" get brought up in debates, it's very rare that anyone mentions the side effects and potentially adverse outcomes of ingesting chemical birth control, but the reality is that there is a laundry list of possible problems in each package. Birth control advocates try to dismiss these adverse effects by calling them rare and by propagating the notion that the lower-dose hormone formulations of the last few decades are now "safe and effective."

Hormonal birth control remains on the WHO list of Group 1 [carcinogens](#). Also on the list of Group 1 carcinogens are tobacco, asbestos, and the active ingredient of sulfur mustard, which is used in chemical warfare.

Natural Family Planning has none of the side effects associated with artificial birth control; in fact, NFP methods have several advantages, including [a sense of empowerment](#), [better understanding of fertility](#), [cost-effectiveness](#), [eco-friendliness](#), and [enhanced communication between couples](#).

Rejecting artificial methods of birth control is actually the most *pro-woman*. While the birth control industry offers chemical and physical inhibitors to turn off normal functions of otherwise healthy reproductive organs, those who embrace the

historic teaching on contraception free women to live in full harmony with their natural bodies.

We should approach fertility by advocating what is morally and physically good for men and women. As it turns out, in addition to being morally good, natural methods of family planning are also healthy for the body, and they require no additives or inhibitors.

Allowing one's body to function in its natural state of reproductive health is healthy and normal. NFP teaches couples (yes guys, you are part of this too) to understand how their bodies work and to appreciate the capacities of their reproductive systems in the holistic context of their overall state of health. There may be times when, for various reasons, couples should avoid pregnancy. The beauty is that women's bodies are naturally designed with spacing capacities, so it is quite possible to avoid pregnancy without subjecting either partner to any sort of drug or device.

Most of the major NFP methods are extremely effective, with some offering 99-percent effectiveness in preventing pregnancy with correct use. A 99-percent NFP effectiveness rate is comparable to the most effective contraceptive options, including implants and intrauterine devices. But what about typical use? Users of the [SymptoThermal Method](#), one example of a very effective modern NFP, on average experienced a less-than-one-percent pregnancy rate [with correct use](#), and between one- and just-over-two-percent pregnancy rate [with typical use](#). By comparison, **the birth control pill has a typical-use pregnancy rate of about nine percent**. We can thus conclude that, with typical use, some modern NFP methods have unintended pregnancy rates that are comparable to those of [commonly used contraceptives](#).

Aside from efficacy and safety, another clear advantage NFP has over any kind of birth control method is that NFP charting can help physicians trained in these methods to identify and diagnose underlying reproductive health issues. By learning to appreciate natural biomarkers and indicators of fertility, women (and their physicians) can use charted information [to identify a range](#) of medical problems including polycystic ovarian disease, ovarian cysts, abnormal bleeding, and hormonal

abnormalities. No contraceptives can provide this information.

In addition NFP is a true method of family planning because couples use the same NFP methods to either avoid or *achieve* pregnancy. There is no drug washout phase, and the transition from avoiding to achieving pregnancy can be made as soon as the couple discerns a change in pregnancy intentions.

Philosophical and moral objections to providing contraception formed the crux of the Little Sisters of the Poor's opposition to the HHS Mandate. The Little Sisters challenged the mandate because it would have forced them to choose between the laws of their country and their beliefs.

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling, the HHS accepted public comments about how best to accommodate employers and health care insurance providers who have religious objections to contraceptives. Offering alternative insurance coverage for instruction in NFP would be an excellent way to promote evidence-based family planning methods that are pro-woman, pro-family, and in accordance with teachings of every major religious group.

NFP is a natural method of family planning that demystifies our bodies without destroying their natural beauty. These methods are safe and effective. In addition, once someone learns how to use them, most methods are essentially [free of cost](#). NFP empowers women and couples and helps them understand and work with their fertility, which is central to what it means to be male or female.

As Fulton Sheen pointed out, “the history of civilization could actually be written in terms of the level of its women.” So let us invest in our women, empower them, and raise them up to true freedom.

For further information on Natural Family Planning, see <https://www.canfp.org/> and/or contact our office for further information and resources/material.

40-Days for Life – Spring Campaign Recap

During the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign, **over 340 locations in every corner of our world** was represented: from Canada, the United States and Mexico, to South America, Australia and New Zealand, encompassing the European continent, all the way to Hong Kong and on to Africa, (nothing in Antarctica though) the message of “Pray for an End to Abortion” was proclaimed.

As of this writing over **485 babies** have been spared from abortion -- that we know of – during this Spring 2017 campaign! And the campaigns continue to report “saves” even as we go to print with this newsletter.

At least one abortion worker has quit during the Spring 2017 Campaign. This now makes **144 abortion employees** who have experienced conversions and **quit their jobs** during 40 days for Life campaigns.

As of this writing **84 abortion centers** where 40 Days for Life vigils have been held have **gone out of business**.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see www.calendarforlife.org

20th Anniversary of Memorial to the Unborn -Saturday May 27th 10 AM Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Lafayette, CA - In 1997 the memorial to the Unborn was dedicated at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. Every Saturday at 10AM there is a gathering and recitation of the Rosary for the Unborn. Special celebration and rosary on May 27th to commemorate twenty years.

Survivors 20th Annual Pro-Life Training Camp June 19-29 Southern California - Join The Resistance at the 20th annual Survivors Pro-Life Training Camp - 11 days of intense training and activism that will prepare you to stand against the worst evil of our day: abortion. More info: <http://www.survivors.la/survivors-prolife-training-camps/>