

# Van Buren County Right to Life NEWSLETTER

## Michigan Primary: February 27, 2024

Michigan’s Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, February 27. Pro-lifers will have the opportunity to vote for several candidates, even those who have suspended their campaigns. The only two pro-life candidates remaining are former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley and former president Donald Trump. President Joe Biden is also on the ballot along with a few other pro-abortion Democrats. Early voting has already begun. Van Buren County registered voters can vote at one location: the County Human Services West Building, 57150 County Rd 681, between 9 am and 5 pm Thursday and Friday, and Monday, Feb. 26. The building is very close to the Van Buren County Youth Fair grounds.

## Van Buren County RTL Annual Business Meeting

We will be holding our annual business meeting on March 4 starting at 7 pm. The meeting will be held in the lower level of New Hope Family Church, 201 W. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079. All members are encouraged to attend. The officers for 2024-2025 are: Rob Karrer for president, Jack Bley for vice-president, Jamie Wallace for treasurer. The position for secretary is vacant. If any VBCRTL member is interested in joining the board and serve as secretary, please call Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954 or email your intentions to [rckarrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rckarrer@sbcglobal.net).

## Michigan lawmakers to consider legalizing physician-assisted suicide

In December, 2023, Democrats in Lansing introduced a package of bills that would legalize the dangerous practice of allowing doctors to prescribe lethal doses of drugs to their patients for the purpose of committing suicide. This may be debated in Lansing very soon and needs to be DEFEATED.

Pro-lifers may recall that Michigan’s voters defeated a ballot proposal that would have legalized physician-assisted suicide in November, 1998. The pro-life vote was 71 percent, an astounding victory. This referendum had been proposed in the aftermath of the Jack Kevorkian effort to make physician-assisted suicide a mainstream issue.

There are similar proposals to legalize these same bills.

There are six important reasons to oppose these bills.

1. Insurance companies will deny life-saving treatment. These companies may not cover life-saving treatment but instead offer assisted suicide drugs for a very inexpensive co-pay.
2. No medical screening for depression. In Oregon (where physician-assisted suicide is legal), only 3.3 percent of patients who have died by assisted suicide were referred for psychiatric evaluation.
3. Life expectancy after terminal diagnosis unreliable. Another case from Oregon: A woman was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2000 and asked for assisted suicide. Her doctor convinced her treatment could be beneficial, and she is alive today. A study of terminal prognosis accuracy found only 20 percent accurately predicted when death would occur.
4. Suicide contagion is real, targeting seniors and veterans. In places where physician-assisted suicide is legal, the number of cases increases disproportionately.
5. People with disabilities fear coercion and abuse. A comment from an expert: “Any doctor could prescribe a lethal dose and any person could administer that dose to kill a person, with medical confidentiality preventing any oversight. No independent witness is required during the death of an individual, so there’s no way to ensure that the individual administered the lethal dose himself or herself. In a world where abuse of people with abilities and seniors is rampant, this alone is cause for concern.”
6. Proponents of assisted suicide quickly move to eliminate safeguards. Proponents tout “safeguards” and “guidelines” in assisted suicide legislation, but quickly move to eliminate them after legalization. Areas of concern: loss of waiting periods, residency requirements, self-administration of lethal drugs, and the requirement that the person has a terminal illness.

(The material for this article is taken from an informational hand-out provided by Right to Life of Michigan and Advocates for Better care.