# Van Buren County Right to Life

Vol. 1 No. 4 April 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Focus on Life Benefit Dinner



Speaker: Ken Stults

Ken has been Associate Pastor at First Reformed Church of Zeeland, Lead Pastor at South Blendon Reformed Church in Hudsonville, and Associate Pastor at Grand Rapids First (Assembly of God) Church in Wyoming. Ken speaks about connecting with our faith communities to help them become fully engaged in the protection of all innocent life.

Save the Date: October 14, 2024
More details coming soon!!

Visit our website at:
Van Buren County RTL.com



Visit Right to Life of Michigan's

website at: www.RTL.org

Ways you can help....

Volunteers needed for the following upcoming events:

Information Table at the Strawberry Festival in Hartford, June 7 & 8

Father's Day Bake Sale at the Harding's in Bangor, June 15th. Donations of baked goods needed. Please drop them off at Harding's by 9 am.

Van Buren County Youth Fair, July 15th – 21st. Help needed to staff our booth.

Information Table at the Blueberry Festival, August 10th & 11th in South Haven.

Information Table at the Paw Paw Wine Festival September 6th & 7th.

Please contact Jamie at 269-547-4815 if you can help us with any of these activities.

Thank you!

## Van Buren County RTL Board News:

The position of Secretary is currently vacant.

If anyone is interested in serving in this capacity or in joining the VBCRTL board, please call Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954, or email him at <a href="mailto:rckarrer@sbcglobal.net">rckarrer@sbcglobal.net</a>

## Safe Haven Baby Boxes

The Safe Baby Drop Box Bills have been referred to the Committee on Families, Children and Seniors.

Concerned about the safety of surrendering a newborn the following Senators and Representative introduced 4 bills that would establish Safe Baby Drop Boxes in Fire Stations. The bills and their sponsors are:

S.B. 627 – Sen. John Bumstead S.B. 628 – Sen. John Damoose S.B. 629 – Sen. Rick Outman H.B. 5407 – Rep. Bruck

### What this package of bills would allow:

S.B. 627, 628, and 629 modify the existing Safe Delivery of Newborns Act by allowing specialized baby boxes for the purpose of safely surrendering a newborn. The bills also create rules for the installation and maintenance of the devices which will be allowed in hospitals and fire stations. The baby boxes will be climate controlled, will lock upon closing, and will trigger an alarm for a rescue worker to retrieve the newborn. H.B. 5407 stipulates the creation of the baby boxes in fire stations only, but is currently being amended to match the Senate bills.

### Here's the Background:

In 2021, Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney-Barrett pointed to safe haven laws as a rebuttal to the claim that women need abortion in order to continue with work or school. Safe Delivery Laws have been enacted in all 50 states and have worked to save babies who may otherwise be abandoned. Every year stories of dead infants found abandoned in garbage containers, in the woods, or in bathrooms shock the public. The Safe Delivery law was designed to allow a woman to anonymously surrender her newborn baby up to 72 hours old with a hospital, fire station, or police department. No criminal charges are brought, and the woman does not have to provide any information or answer any questions. The baby is then placed for adoption after a diligent search has been made for the non-surrendering parent and 28 days have passed. Either the mother or the father of the baby can change their minds and request that the infant be returned within 28 days of surrender. Recently, a court case in Michigan known as In Re Baby Boy Doe worked its way through the Michigan Supreme Court and referenced the need to update the Safe Delivery of Newborns law in regard to the notification of the non-surrendering parent. Right to Life of Michigan has been working to address this problem along with the need for a woman to be able to anonymously surrender her infant. Changing the notification time and adding the baby safe haven boxes would allow another option for anonymity for surrendering parents and further protections for parents and children.

Contact your Senator and Representative and urge them to support Safe Haven Baby Boxes:

Senator Aric Nesbitt 517-373-0793 Senator Sean McCann 517-373-5199

Representative Pauline Wendzel

517-373-1799

Representative Joey Andrews

517-373-0827



Van Buren County Right to Life P. O. Box 88 Lawrence MI 49064

life.

The Other Choice.