

# MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS FOR LIFE

**VOTE YES TO STOP**  
**TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION**



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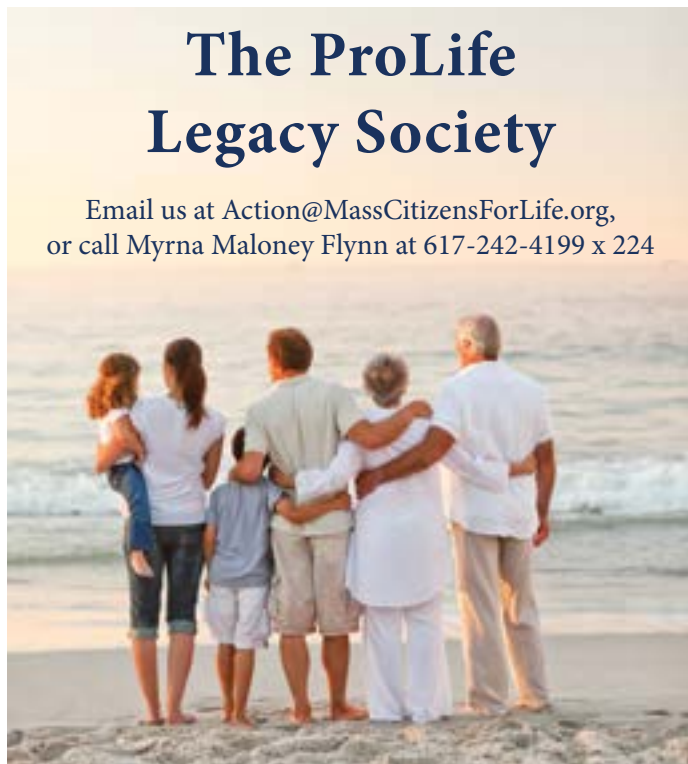
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# A Message From President Myrna Maloney Flynn

*Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.*

Andy Rooney

I had the opportunity to climb a mountain a few weeks ago. I'm not particularly fond of heights or three-digit temps under a blistering sun, but, in a former Communist country that's seen unspeakable tragedy and incomprehensible events among its locals, this particular mountain holds much significance. Climbing it is a sort of pilgrimage that honors the people and their stories while testing the climber's mettle.

A girl doesn't just make this kind of ascent alone. She needs to be smart about it and navigate with others, if for no other reason than to ensure words of encouragement and a few laughs when the path steepens. I joined the ideal crew of women with whom to climb: two other moms (for the sisterhood), an energetic single in her 20s (for the extra challenge) and a nun (for the direct line when trying to keep up with the 20-something).

With footwear secured, water in tow and rooted determination, we set out to face whatever lay before us on the path ahead. It wasn't long until we realized that there wasn't much of a path at all, just rocks of various sizes, loose boulders, slippery edges, uneven stones and craggy brush. Deftly choosing spots that promised the surest footing was as much of an exercise as the route's physical demands. Just when I'd seem to attain a decent pace, I'd roll my ankle on a teetering rock or find myself off balance following an overconfident leap. It was at these wobbly and frustrating points that I always seemed to encounter an elderly stranger coming up alongside me, barefoot. My self-

confidence returned, along with my humility.

Thirty minutes in, steady deep breaths had turned into shallow pants. We peered around approaching corners hoping to see the open sky at the mountain's top, only to be met with still more height ahead of us. The occasional water break provided opportunities to look back at where we'd climbed and take in an impressive view of what we'd already achieved. Only then, glancing at one another and nodding, were we carried by the motivation to continue upward, toward the open sky we knew to be the inevitable outcome.

Since returning home, my mind often returns to that ruggedly beautiful mountainside, the hard-won endorphins mixing with mid-day summer sunshine, the comforting presence of my companions and our satisfaction of not achieving the summit but of daring to embark on the formidable climb toward it. Indeed, as I scrolled through photos of our journey, those I chose to print and frame were not of us celebrating on the mountaintop; they were of the midway points, with sunbeams illuminating the rocky way. In that hot mountain air floated the simple peace of the doing.

We pro-lifers, I think, are at a kind of midway point on our ascent to finally realizing a culture of life. Without a doubt, we've achieved much in recent years. And while that open sky isn't quite within our sights yet, the day is coming when every human life will be welcomed in love and protected in law. We are blessed to have talented, experienced, energetic and, yes, holy, allies that all but assure our success. Is Massachusetts a tough place to find our footing? Yes. Yet we have more resources than we often realize, plenty, in fact, to get us to where we want to go.

Join me for a midpoint celebration – a water break, you might say, at our annual banquet coming up fast on Friday, September 26. It's a fantastic opportunity to look back at where we've climbed and take in an impressive view of what we've already achieved – what you enabled us to accomplish! At the Newton Marriott, glancing at one another and nodding, we'll be carried by the motivation to continue upward.

This year, I am particularly proud to welcome emcee Rai Rojas, a longtime colleague at National Right to Life who currently serves as its Director of Outreach. Rai will share how our work is paying off across the country and why Massachusetts is a leader to which other states look for collaboration. He's also quite witty, unpredictable and, like my 20-something climbing companion, high energy!

And speaking of high energy, we can't wait to hear from keynote speaker and new mom Kayleigh McEnany, who is wrapping up her maternity leave and will return soon to Fox News. Kayleigh will share her insights and tips as a Harvard Law grad and former White House Press Secretary, and as a staunch defender of our pro-life mission.

Finally, I promise that our event will include a few surprises that you'll look back on – fondly, I hope. Reservations must be made by Sunday, September 21, though I recommend booking sooner than later, as Kayleigh is proving to be quite a draw! And if you'd like to support our organization's most beloved tradition in a very special way, you might consider a sponsorship.

So, ladies, secure your festive footwear. Gents, don a dapper bow or pocket square. Then take a deep breath and step out in style with us. I can't wait to experience the joy of the climb together.

# What Does Passage of the Big Beautiful Bill Mean for Massachusetts?

## Medicare Funding for Abortion Clinics Removed for One Year

On July 3, Congress passed the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” and on July 4, President Trump signed it into law. The bill fulfills a long-desired goal of the pro-life movement: removing Medicaid funding from abortion clinics for any health-related service. Matthew Hennessey, writing for the *Wall Street Journal* called it, “The most significant pro-life law ever.”

The country’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, performed over 402,230 abortions nationwide in 2023. In Massachusetts, PP performed 9,462 abortions in 2024 up from 8,351 in 2023. The Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates PP’s 2023 market share of abortions in Massachusetts as 34.7%. Massachusetts uses taxpayer monies to fund Medicaid abortions.

Hennessey explained the effect of the bill. While federal law disallows the use of taxpayer money to pay for abortion, the money is fungible. Planned Parenthood uses the Medicaid funding it gets for cancer screenings and mental-health counseling, then uses that money to pay for abortions. One-third of Planned Parenthood’s funding comes from the federal government. Prior to passage of the bill, Planned Parenthood claimed that 200 of its 600 health centers will be forced to close.

Planned Parenthood’s reaction to the bill was the focus of a July 3 *Boston Globe* article, “They’re playing politics with people’s lives’: Trump’s big bill would slash Planned Parenthood’s Mass. budget in half.” Jonathan Saltzman reported, “The Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts says it would lose \$14 million, roughly half its operating budget, as a result

of deep Medicaid cuts in the bill. Dr. Luu Ireland, the league’s chief medical officer, said about 40 percent of the 30,000 patients who receive services from Planned Parenthood each year are insured by MassHealth, the Medicaid program for the poor and people with disabilities in Massachusetts. ‘They’re playing politics with people’s lives,’ Ireland said before the vote. ‘It saddens me that the Legislature does not see the real humans that are being affected by this decision-making.’”

According to its audited financial statements, PPLM had \$30.2MM in total revenue for the year ended June 30, 2023, of which net patient services revenue comprised \$11.5M and contract revenue comprised \$3.4MM. Noteworthy is the amount Planned Parenthood pays for salaries: \$13,423,575 in 2023 up from \$11,974,735 in 2022.

On July 7, *National Review* reported that “Planned Parenthood filed suit in federal court in Massachusetts claiming that defunding a corporation from federal contracts is a constitutionally forbidden bill of attainder. Judge Indira Talwani immediately issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) ordering the federal government to continue Medicaid disbursements for two weeks in the customary manner and framework to Planned Parenthood affiliates.”

It is hard to forecast if Judge Talwani’s order can continue to protect Planned Parenthood’s bottom line. *National Review* reported, “On June 26, The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that only the executive branch not the courts, is empowered to decide when states may remove Planned Parenthood from Medicaid program. The U.S. Supreme

Court ruled in favor of South Carolina in *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*, affirming the state’s right to exclude abortion providers from its state Medicaid program.”

On September 11 *Lifenews* reported “A federal appeals court has cleared the way for the Trump administration to cut Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood, overturning a lower court’s ruling and delivering a significant victory for pro-life advocates seeking to restrict federal taxpayer support for the nation’s largest abortion company.

“The decision, issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, reverses a July 2025 preliminary injunction by U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston. The appeals court ruled that the provision does not violate constitutional protections, allowing the federal government to withhold Medicaid funds from Planned Parenthood affiliates. As a result, more Planned Parenthood abortion centers are expected to close.”



Student from St. Paul’s in Hingham pray outside a Planned Parenthood facility in Boston Photo by Ed Boylan



## MCFL Supports Tom Harvey's Ballot Initiative

Volunteers needed to collect petition signatures to eliminate taxpayer funding of abortion as a state constitutional right

**M**CFL is supporting Tom Harvey in his latest effort to address taxpayer funding of abortion in Massachusetts. This fall, he is once again going to recruit volunteers to collect the necessary 75K signatures from mid-Sept. to November 19. While Harvey's past efforts have been intended to get the issue onto the ballot as a yes or no vote, this effort differs. This time, Harvey is simply asking for voters to support eliminating taxpayer funding as a state constitutional right. If Massachusetts ever has a more pro-life legislature, this necessary step has already been done.

MCFL President Myrna Maloney Flynn explained the advantages of Harvey's current strategy. "We only need 25% of the legislature to support it and we don't need the governor's signature. The underlying benefit is that it keeps the abortion issue in front of people. Taxpayer funding is better understood by the general public due to the Big Beautiful Bill."

When contacted by MCFL last week, Harvey said that language on the petition had just been certified by the state Attorney General. Since then, the petition sheets have been released by the Secretary of State's office. Now the signature collection can begin. Harvey has statewide training sessions on the proper method for obtaining signatures.

"You have to be very careful in how each sheet is filled out," Harvey explained. "You must have a sheet for

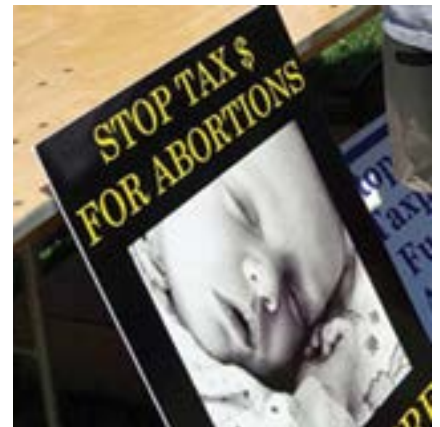
**"Would you like to sign the petition to take the initial step to stop tax funded abortion in Massachusetts?"**

each town. Ask the person signing which town they are from. Even a slight deviation such as an errant pen mark may disqualify the entire sheet. You can't copy the sheet. No staples. No coffee stains. No food stains. You can take an entire afternoon collecting signatures and then spoil it if you are careless."

How do you attract people to your signature table? "I have a sign that says 'Stop tax dollars for abortions'," Harvey said. What should you say? "I say, 'Would you like to sign the petition to take the initial step to stop tax funded abortion in Massachusetts?'"

The goal is to collect 100,000 raw signatures to obtain 74,574 certified ones. If those signatures are obtained, the petition can then be advanced to be voted upon by a joint session of the state legislature. If one-quarter of the legislature votes in favor of the petition, then it is advanced to the next elected legislature where it again must receive one-quarter of the vote. Assuming a favorable vote is received, the matter would then be placed on the ballot to be voted upon in the November 2028 statewide election.

To receive petition sheets or more information about the initiative:  
[www.stoptaxpayerabortion.org](http://www.stoptaxpayerabortion.org)  
[tom@stoptaxpayerabortion.org](mailto:tom@stoptaxpayerabortion.org)



Photos courtesy of Edward Boylan



MCFL South Shore Chapter members Priscilla Keough and Ed Boylan gather signatures for a 2020 petition initiative at St. Paul's in Hingham

## Virtual Speaker Series

# Jeff Joaquin: The Other Side of Choice Men and Abortion

In this webinar, Jeff shares his deeply personal experience of loss, regret, and eventual healing. His story has been featured in the internationally aired documentary “Saving a Miracle,” and he is currently producing a follow-up film, “How to Save a Life,” based on a real-life encounter that helped a young couple choose life in the face of uncertainty. Drawing from his background in business, philanthropy, and personal transformation, Jeff invites us to consider the long-term impact abortion can have on men—and why their voices matter in this conversation.

Jeff said his story is a story of God’s mercy in his life. God took his “mess of a life” and turned it into a pro-life message. The message became profoundly life-saving.

Jeff was born into a devout Catholic family. However, their upbringing was not enough to prevent the mistakes that followed. “My older brother got a girl pregnant in his junior year of high school,” Joaquin said. “My brother ended up having a ‘shotgun’ wedding and had the baby. It was tough.”

As an eighth-grader going into high school, Jeff had a conversation with his mother he couldn’t forget. “My mother said that if I got into the same situation as my brother, ‘I will castrate you.’ I didn’t even know what castrate meant. I had to look it up.”

“I expected to use my talent as a football player to have a career in the NFL. However, I started drinking and doing drugs in high school.” The drug and alcohol abuse followed Jeff into college. A Buffalo Bills scout came to one of his games, intending to see Jeff and one other player. The scout went to meet the other player first. Impatient and angry, Jeff left before they could meet, ending his career before it started.

How bad was Jeff’s alcohol and drug abuse? He described a party as a 24-year-old meeting up with old friends from around the country. “The

keg party started at 10am. By 1pm we started doing cocaine.”

The first instance of God’s mercy occurred when Jeff experienced a cocaine-induced heart attack. “I called my brother. He encouraged me to call 911. I told him, ‘No. Either Jesus will save me, or I’ll go to hell.’

“Jesus came to me and saved me. The next morning, I started to put the pieces back together. But, I still had a warped conscience, masked by drugs and alcohol.”

He recounted a harrowing story from his youth. Jeff was 17-years-old when he found out his girlfriend was pregnant. “Fear kicked in. I told her to schedule an abortion and tell me how much it cost. I never asked if she wanted it. I dropped her off at the clinic not daring to support her.” Afterwards they didn’t speak and broke up the next day. “I walked away from her at her time of need,” Jeff remembered.

Jeff still hadn’t turned his life over to God. He became a workaholic and buried his secret until he met his wife. The couple struggled with infertility. “By God’s grace, we had a child in 2002. But, I still hadn’t confessed or shown remorse for the abortion,” Jeff said.

In his late 30s, Jeff started to take his faith seriously. “I realized I wasn’t the father and husband my family needed.”



Jeff Joaquin joined MCFL’s Virtual Speaker Series on June 26

I met with a spiritual director and made a general confession. After an hour and a half, I told the priest, ‘I took the life of my unborn son.’ I was crying. The priest was crying. At the end of confession, the priest put his arm around me and said, ‘Welcome home, son.’

“I knew that God had forgiven me, but I had not forgiven myself. I shared that burden with my wife. She helped me carry my cross because the pain doesn’t go away overnight.”

Jeff’s spiritual director advised him to call his former girlfriend and apologize to her. “I called her. It was the hardest phone call I’ve ever had to face. I asked her to forgive me for not standing up for her.” When she told him she forgave him, “The 500 pound gorilla was finally off my back.”

Jeff advises men to ask for forgiveness. “If you can, call and apologize to her. Set yourself free. It is a great blessing.”

“It didn’t end there. The pain was too much. One day, in the chapel, I looked at the cross, taking in all the wounds. ‘What are the scars for?’ I asked Jesus. ‘They are for your healing,’ He responded. ‘Share your wounds with others.’ Since then, there have been many graces that have helped thousands of people to find healing.”

### Resources for Men

[Support After Abortion for men](#)  
[Abortion Recovery and Care for men](#)

# MCFL ACTION TEAM DEBUTS INAUGURAL PROJECT



Christine Farrell delivers signs to Commissioner Bernard Calvi and Deputy Chief Miguel Rivera of the Springfield Fire Department. “They were very happy to receive eight signs,” Farrell reported.



MCFL President Myrna Maloney Flynn holds sign outside of the Medway Fire Department

MCFL's first Pro-Life Action Team project, increasing community Safe Haven signage, has come to fruition. Action Team members contacted their local hospitals, fire stations and police departments, offering cost-free signage and arranging delivery and installation. We are excited to witness lives saved as a result of our Action Teams' outreach!

The next step is in partnership with legislators like Rep. John Gaskey (R-2nd Plymouth), to work with the Department of Transportation to add a smaller variation of the Safe Haven signs to blue hospital signs along our roads.

We will also work with legislators to introduce Safe Haven Baby Boxes, which allow birth parents complete anonymity when surrendering their

babies. Since they were first introduced in Indiana back in 2016, more than 150 infants have been saved after being placed in Baby Boxes across the country.

**Safe Havens Project:** Equipping volunteers with education and signs that may mean the difference between life and loss. If you'd like to help, [Sign up for an Action Team today.](#)

# MCFL Testifies Against “Deceptive Trade Practices” Bill at July Hearing

**Bill H.4122** (An Act relative to deceptive trade practices) poses a serious threat to the free speech rights of pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) and to the ability of women to access life-affirming care.

**Paul DeBeasi, Research Analyst and Director of APRScience** said, “Vote no on the bill because it would make it illegal for a physician to prescribe progesterone to reverse mifepristone. It threatens clinicians with licensing board discipline and hurts women in the state such as Sarah, a single mother of three children, who became pregnant with her fourth child. The father of that child pressured her into a medication abortion, which she did. On the way home from the clinic, she change her mind and called the abortion pill reversal hotline. They put her in touch with a physician and began the progesterone treatment and has a healthy child, Isaiah.

“Abortion pill reversal is just progesterone. The hormone is normally released during pregnancy, it helps the uterus prepare for implantation, it helps the development of the placenta, it helps the cervix closed. Mifepristone is a synthetic drug and acts as an anti-progesterone. It separates the connection between mother and baby, it blocks the blood supply, nutrition and hydration causing fetal demise.

“Abortion pill reversal is simply supplementing the mother's own progesterone with biologically identical progesterone to restore normal pregnancy. It has been used in reproductive health since the 1970s.



Paul DeBeasi holds chart showing the efficacy of abortion pill reversal.

“Every study for abortion pill reversal shows that it is effective. The chart shows embryo survival rate if a woman receives mifepristone and progesterone. The FDA website says, ‘The abortifacient activity of RU486 (mifepristone) is antagonized by progesterone allowing for normal pregnancy and delivery.’ - FDA Mifepristone approval package, Sept. 2000. It states right there in the approval package that the abortifacient activity of RU486 (Mifepristone) is antagonized or reversed. If it's helpful why make it illegal?”

**Myrna Maloney Flynn, MCFL President** said that Bill 4122, Section 1 is a discriminatory gag order. “My testimony relates to Section 2 of an Act Relative to Deceptive Trade Practices. First, the proposed meaning of ‘medication’ abortion is deceptive. Merriam Webster defines medication as something that is ‘medicinal’ something used to cure disease or relieve pain. Pregnancy is not a disease, not something to be cured by medication. Mifepristone in a medical abortion is not medication. This is an inaccuracy in this bill.

“Section 2 says that doctor who is involved in abortion pill reversal will

be disciplined. Anyone who supports a woman's right to choose would be in support of abortion pill reversal. There have been no conversations with women who have chosen abortion pill reversal and their children are alive today because they chose that option. More than 7,000 women around the world consumed mifepristone, the first of the two abortion pills, and then changed their mind about having an abortion.

“They found abortion pill reversal and acted quickly enough to save their pregnancies. Abortion pill reversal is safe. There is no drug involved. It is simply a high dose of progesterone, the hormone that helps maintain the early stages of a pregnancy. The abortion pill blocks progesterone. APR restores the normal levels of a woman's pregnancy. There have been no complaints against physicians who prescribe abortion pill reversal. The Department of Public Health could not provide any rationale for issuing the warning. “I urge this committee to meet with women who have taken advantage of abortion pill reversal.”

[You can still submit written testimony to oppose B.4122](#)

# Pro-Life Objections to S. 340, the Healthy Youth Act

H.656 in the House and S.340 in the Senate, also called “An Act relative to healthy youth,” is a serious threat to parental rights, local control, and the moral formation of children in Massachusetts schools. The bill will be heard on Sept. 16, but [you can still submit written testimony](#). ([Send any questions to MCFL](#)).

**1. S. 340 makes the Massachusetts Health and Physical Education Framework the sole standard for all sex ed in Massachusetts regardless of the wishes of the parents and local communities.<sup>1</sup>**

**2. The Framework validates abortion as a “pregnancy option” to kids as young as 11–middle school.**

[How to] [Access credible sources of information about human sexual and reproductive health \(including pregnancy and \*\*pregnancy options\*\*](#). (p. 39, Framework)

**3. The Framework omits a subjective objective for instruction in prenatal development (including the use of ultrasounds).**

Why shouldn't young people see for themselves?<sup>2</sup>

**4. Describing laws (such as the Roe Acts, parental notification, judicial bypass) will potentially teach vulnerable young people how to keep secrets about sexual activity and abortion from their parents.**

Describe laws (e.g., age of consent laws, child abuse, including sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation laws, **parental notification laws**) that relate to young people's sexual health and the rights of adolescents to maintain their own health, and how these might impact decisions related to sexual health. (p.31, Framework)

**5. Communication with parents regarding sex ed and its content (abortion, birth control, teen sex and gender issues) is kept extremely minimum at best. Burying notification to parents in a student handbook which may never make it home is unconscionable in an age of e-mail and robocalls.<sup>3</sup>**

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## Notes

**1. S 340. 56-59, 77-79** “A city, town, regional school district, vocational school district or charter school that offers sexual health curriculum shall provide a medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual health education consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Framework.”

“Any city, town, regional school district, vocational school district or charter school that utilizes curricula consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Framework shall be in compliance with this section.”

**2. S 340. 59-77 [Omission of a specific objective regarding instruction o prenatal development]** “Sexual health education shall be appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability status, sexual orientation or gender identity and shall include, but not be limited to, age-appropriate teaching of: (i) physical, social and emotional changes of human development; (ii) human anatomy, reproduction and sexual development; (iii) the benefits of abstinence and delaying sexual activity, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including, but not limited to, human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the prevention of unintended pregnancy, including, but not limited to, the effective use of contraceptives and barrier methods; (iv) ways to effectively discuss safe sexual activity; (v) relationship and communication skills to form healthy, respectful relationships free of violence, coercion and intimidation and to make healthy decisions about relationships and sexuality, including, but not limited to, affirmative, conscious and voluntary consent to engage in physical or sexual activity; (vi) skills to recognize and prevent dating violence; and (vii) age-appropriate information about: (A) gender identity and sexual orientation for all students, including affirmative education that people have different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions; and (B) resources and support services for all students, including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, agender, queer and questioning students. Sexual health education shall incorporate opportunities for students to analyze societal and media messages.”

**3. S 340. 27-33** “Annually, not later than the first day of a school year, the policy shall be distributed to the parents and guardians of students in a grade that includes a comprehensive sexual health education curriculum for said school year. The policy shall be distributed in the same manner as any student handbook that is distributed to students; provided, however, that if student handbooks are not distributed in a certain grade, the policy shall be distributed in the same manner as other notices provided to parents and guardians of students in that grade at the start of the school year.”



# Kayleigh McEnany to Keynote MCFL Fundraising Banquet September 26

Kayleigh McEnany is the former White House press secretary and current co-host of Outnumbered on the Fox News Channel. Prior to serving in the White House, Kayleigh worked as the national press secretary for the Trump Campaign and formerly the national spokesperson for the Republican National Committee. Before joining the RNC, Kayleigh worked as a political commentator at CNN.

Kayleigh graduated from Harvard Law School with a Juris Doctor and Georgetown University School of Foreign Services with a degree in international politics. Kayleigh is a recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Public Service Award.



Kayleigh is the author of the New York Times bestselling books, "For Such a Time as This" and "Serenity in the Storm: Living through Chaos by Leaning on Christ."

Buy Your Tickets Now!



## Sponsorship Opportunities

### Platinum Rose \$10,000

20 Dinner tickets (2 tables), 20 VIP tickets, 2 VIP seats at head table with Kayleigh McEnany, recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Full-page ad, first placement on sponsor list, logo included.

**Website recognition:** First placement on sponsor list, logo included with link to website.

**Event signage:** Stand alone.

### Gold Rose \$5,000

10 Dinner tickets (1 table), 10 VIP tickets, and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Half-page ad, Prominent list placement, logo included.

**Website recognition:** Secondary placement on sponsor list, logo included with link to website.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Silver Rose \$2,500

10 Dinner tickets (1 table) and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Quarter-page ad, Prominent list placement.

**Website recognition:** Secondary placement on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Bronze Rose \$1,000

4 Dinner tickets and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Prominent list placement

**Website recognition:** Inclusion on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

### Red Rose \$500

2 Dinner tickets and recognition at the Dinner.

**Program recognition:** Included on sponsor list.

**Website recognition:** Inclusion on sponsor list.

**Event Signage:** Shared.

[MaProLife.org/banquet](https://MaProLife.org/banquet)



# A Holy Fire: Finding Hope After A Life-Limiting Prenatal Diagnosis

MCFL Hosts Sept.16 Webinar  
with “Mama Bear”  
Beverly Jacobson



**Beverly Jacobson**  
Founder & CEO



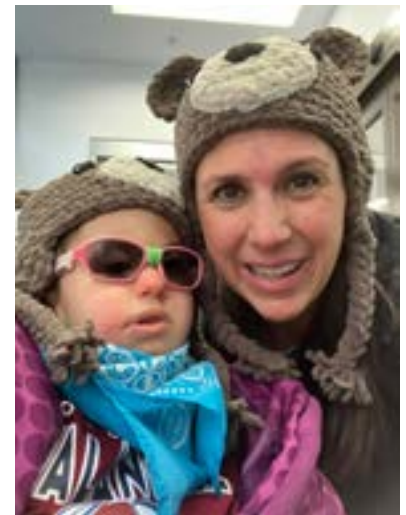
Although my husband and I had assumed during our dating years that we'd get married and have a couple of kids, God led us on a journey of UN-planning our parenthood. Two kids turned into three, three turned into four, and before we knew it we had a whole homeschool circus going on, complete with a big white van. I think God kept sending me more kids because I clearly wasn't learning the lessons the first few were supposed to teach me. Patience, gentleness, self-control—you know, all the fruits of the Spirit I thought I had...until I became a mom! Honestly, it was through marriage and motherhood that God refined and humbled me. What I didn't realize at

the time was that God was using those years of parenting to prepare me for a journey I never could have imagined.

In the fall of 2016, I was pregnant with our 9th child. When the phone rang that morning, I answered it, assuming we'd be scheduling our 20-week ultrasound. Instead, the voice from my clinic was speaking about things I couldn't understand: phrases like *elevated risk*, *Edwards syndrome*, *genetic anomalies*. My stomach dropped. This all had to be a bad dream. But it wasn't. Soon, it was confirmed that this was my new reality: I was carrying a baby who wasn't expected to make it to her due date alive. And according to the first doctor to consult with us, our baby

was a problem to be solved, not a life to be cherished.

Join us for our September 16 webinar to learn how Mama Bear woke up, ready to fight for her Baby Bear with fierce love and tender care. Hear how God turned this story upside down, using a precious baby to ignite a holy fire that would burn brightly not only for the Jacobson family, but also for families all over the world who are told that abortion is the next logical step after receiving a life-limiting diagnosis. Find out how you can join the Mama Bear Movement and make a real difference in the lives of the [Mama Bears](#) we are serving.



Beverly and Verity. “We’re on a mission to walk with Mamas carrying to term despite a prenatal diagnosis. With fierce love and tender care, we change stories from heartache to hope.” Listen to [Beverly’s speech](#) at the 2025 March for Life

# Patients Rights Action Fund Hosts Webinar on Lawsuit Challenging Assisted-Suicide Law in Colorado

The Colorado lawsuit challenging the state's assisted-suicide law was the subject of a July webinar hosted by Matt Valiere of the Patients Rights Action Fund. [The plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit](#) in Colorado are a coalition of national and Colorado-based disability and patient advocacy organizations - Atlantis ADAPT, United Spinal Association, Not Dead Yet, the Institute for Patients' Rights, and Mary Gossman, a woman with anorexia. The plaintiffs argue the Colorado assisted suicide law violates core protections under the U.S. Constitution and federal civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

"The healthcare system puts profits before people," said Valiere. "The lives of people with disabilities are viewed as less worthy than the able bodied persons. They are seen as better off dead."

Michael Bien lead lawyer for the Colorado case outlined the basic legal argument. "The plaintiffs assert that the end-of-life act violates federal equal protection and due process," said Bien. "The act sets up an unequal and discriminatory system where the disabled are steered to physician assisted suicide (PAS) while the able bodied receive suicide prevention. Doctors perceive you as less valuable, having a shorter time to live."

Colorado offers assisted-suicide to young people with disabilities. "A doctor thought it was appropriate to provide assisted-suicide to a young woman with anorexia. When her parents found out, they became her medical guardians and got the PAS order removed.

"The law provides no medical review. You cannot sue for malpractice. The legal landscape is completely unregulated. The victims of the state don't have any value. No one else would be treated this way.

"This is an extreme version of an already extreme law," Bien continued. "There is no due process for someone contemplating PAS. Colorado allows non-MDs to be providers, there is no requirement for an opinion from a second doctor, no written request needed.

"PAS is also being challenged in California," Bien said. "The overall strategy is to demonstrate multiple cases of discrimination. California law is based on Oregon law, there is immunity for the provider and no review. They have complete discretion to do whatever they want. It's so far outside of the medical system. PAS is not medical treatment, it's a hidden system that endangers the lives of human beings. It's a fast track, cheap method for not helping people who need it. Why should we facilitate and encourage suicide?"

Dawn Russell is part of Atlantis Adapt, US based disability rights org. Russell shared the story of a young woman with multiple disabilities. Through lack of access to home care and family help, she ended up forced to live in a nursing home. Her depression increased and at one point she qualified for hospice care with her condition deteriorating, but then got better and "graduated" from hospice. Ultimately, things got bad with her quality of care and she decided to kill herself with assisted suicide. Her friends at ADAPT could not get to her and get her help



quickly enough nor were they able to dissuade her. She died by assisted suicide due to her disabilities."

Stephen Lieberman of the [United Spinal Association](#), serves wheelchair users. He said that depression is part of having a spinal cord injury. "People with new disabilities are ripe to be preyed on," Lieberman said. "The medical community is ableist and doesn't want to pay for people with expensive care. It's hard to access basic medical care. When a system is set up to prey on despair, something is very wrong. One group gets treatment, others get suicide. That's why US Spinal is opposed to PAS.

Ian McIntosh represents [Not Dead Yet](#), a national, disability rights group that opposes legalization of assisted suicide. "Compassion and Choices published an article saying that Canada is considered a good model. Canada's law allowing assisted suicide and euthanasia are a model to be accepted worldwide.

"We need to amplify how incongruent PAS is with the Americans with Disabilities Act so that people can make informed decisions. The real life urgency of this lawsuit cannot be understated. It's easy to get assisted suicide drugs. It's hard to get supported services for the burdens and pressures that people with disabilities face. That's not autonomy."

For more information see: [Endassistedsuicide.org](http://Endassistedsuicide.org)

Be ready to defend the dignity and value of every human life with clear, compassionate responses to common pro-euthanasia claims, helping you speak truth with confidence.



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# When They Say - You Say

**Assisted suicide respects individual autonomy, allowing people to decide their own fate.**

**True autonomy requires freedom from external pressures and access to life-affirming options. Studies show that many individuals requesting assisted suicide cite fear of being a burden or lack of support, indicating coercion rather than free choice.**

**Assisted suicide relieves unbearable pain for those in agony.**

**Advances in palliative care effectively manage pain for nearly all patients, even in severe cases. Comprehensive pain management and psychological support address suffering without ending life.**

**Assisted suicide offers a dignified end for the terminally ill.**

**Dignity is inherent in every human life, not contingent on control over death. Compassionate care, including hospice services, preserves dignity by valuing the person, not their condition.**

**Assisted suicide empowers patients to control their end-of-life experience.**

**Empowerment comes from providing resources—mental health support, accessible care, and community inclusion—not from offering death as a solution. Empowerment through care addresses underlying fears driving euthanasia requests.**

**Assisted suicide prevents prolonged suffering for those with no hope of recovery.**

**Prognostic uncertainty and diagnostic errors, occurring in 10-15% of cases, risks premature death based on flawed assumptions. Jeanette Hall's 20-year survival post-diagnosis underscores the need for second opinions and hope.**

**Assisted suicide reduces emotional trauma for families watching loved ones suffer.**

**Families often face moral distress when pressured to support assisted suicide. Comprehensive support for patients and families fosters shared resilience and meaningful end-of-life moments.**

**Strict safeguards ensure informed, voluntary decisions regarding assisted suicide**

**Safeguards often fail, as seen in Belgium, where 57 non-terminally ill psychiatric patients were euthanized between 2014 and 2017. Oversight gaps risk abuse and coercion.**

**Assisted suicide respects diverse cultural and personal beliefs about death.**

**Many ethical and religious traditions uphold the sanctity of life, advocating care over killing. Assisted suicide undermines universal human dignity by prioritizing subjective beliefs over objective value.**



# Hingham Hosts Pro-Life Plant Sale



Left: High winds blew over our plant tables. We found the solution by using the tables as windbreaks instead.



Right: Chapter secretary Ken Evans prepares the herb table.

The MCFL South Shore Chapter held its annual plant sale fundraiser in May. The “sale” (suggested donation) features our homegrown from seed organic vegetable, flower, herb, and perennial seedlings. The chapter thanks the Hingham Collaborative, St. Paul’s and Resurrection parishes, for allowing us the use of their beautiful grounds.

Photos: Ed Boylan, Helen Cross

*Man was lost and saved in a garden.* – Pascal



# MCFL Remembers Jack Rowe

**M**CFL mourns the passing of long-time Board of Director's member John F. "Jack" Rowe. Jack's [obituary](#) in *The Daily Item* illustrates the attributes that he brought to the pro-life cause. "Jack graduated Cum Laude from Boston College with a major in science and philosophy. Jack proudly served in the United States Navy from 1957-1959. He served aboard the air craft carrier, U.S.S. Intrepid CVA-11 as an electronics petty officer.

"Jack was employed for 48 years at New England Telephone. He began his career at New England Telephone as a telephone pole lineman, and quickly advanced to the role of engineer. One project involved the design and installation of the underground fiberoptic cable network for Salem, Beverly, and Marblehead.

"Jack was actively involved in Massachusetts Citizens for Life (MCFL). He served continuously on the Board of Directors from 1976-2022. He also served on the Executive, Media, Legislative, and Board Development Committees, as well as the State and Federal Political Action Committees. Jack was Chairman of the Federal Political Action Committee for ten years. As Chairman, he was instrumental in the 2010 Special Election victory of Senator Scott Brown.

"Jack also was a founding member of the Father Donald Sullivan Chapter in Danvers, and he was selected as its Regional Coordinator. Jack was the recipient of the Peggy McCormack Award in 2017 for his lifetime dedication to MCFL and the pro-life movement. He also was a member of the Massachusetts Alliance Against Doctor Prescribed Suicide."



Jack preparing for fiber optic submarine cable installation across the Danvers River. From Jack's "MCFL Board Member Profile" for the Fall 2020 *MCFL Magazine*.



Jack leads a workshop at the MCFL 2012 Convention

Long-time MCFL Board of Directors member and Clerk of the Corporation Michael Wiseman remembered Jack's service. "Jack was a wonderful fellow. He was head of the Federal PAC for more than a decade," Wiseman said. "He was passionate about the right-to-life of the unborn and many other things. He was as dedicated a pro-lifer as you would ever meet. For years he drove from Salem to Charlestown for the monthly meeting on Friday nights. RIP, Jack."

## Memorials

**Mary Elizabeth DeWinter**  
Eva Murphy

**Anne and John Katilus**  
Lisa Katilus

**Jack Rowe**  
MCFL Board of Directors

**Claire (Babin) Sullivan**  
Sara Milillo

Donations help us to continue our life-saving work. Mail to: Massachusetts Citizens for Life P.O. Box 920149 Needham, MA 02492-9998



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## Mission

In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, the mission of Massachusetts Citizens for Life is to restore respect for human life and to defend the right to life of all human beings, born and preborn. We will influence public policy at the local, state, and national levels through comprehensive educational, legislative, political, and charitable activities.

## Coming Events

### PRO-LIFE BOOTH AT THE BIG E

September 12 - 28

1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield

### WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

September 27

St. Joseph School, 47 Whitcomb St., Webster  
(Richard A. Novak Gymnasium)

### **ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

**September 26**

Newton Marriott

Keynote Speaker:

**Kayleigh McEnany**

Former White House

Press Secretary

[masscitizensforlife.org/banquet](http://masscitizensforlife.org/banquet)

