



ND RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION • P.O. BOX 551 • BISMARCK, ND 58502 • 701-258-3811 • 1-800-247-0343 • www.ndrl.org

*The North Dakota Right to Life Association dedicates this issue of the NDRL News in memory of Theresa Marie Schindler-Schiavo 1963-2005 and Pope John Paul II 1920-2005.*

## "We Have a Message"

The following message from the entire Schindler family was delivered before the press the same day Terri died. Be sure to share it with all who cared so deeply about Terri - - and all those who did not but should have.



*Terri smiling at her beloved mother.*

As you are aware, Terri is now with God and she has been released from all earthly burdens. After these recent years of neglect at the hands of those who were supposed to protect and care for her, she is finally at peace with God for eternity. We are speaking on behalf of our entire family this evening as we share some thoughts and messages to the world regarding our sister and the courageous battle that was

waged to save her life from starvation and dehydration.

**We have a message for the volunteers that have helped our family:** Thank you for all that you've done for our family. Thank you to the hundreds of doctors who volunteered to help Terri. Thank you to the fifty doctors who provided statements under oath to help Terri. Thank you to the lawyers who stood for Terri's life in the courtrooms of our nation. From running our family's website, to driving us around, to making meals, to serving in so many ways - - thank you to all of the volunteers who have been so kind to our family through all of this.

**We have a message for the supporters and people praying worldwide:** Please continue to pray that God gives grace to our family as we go through this very difficult time. We know that many of you never had the privilege to personally know our wonderful sister, Terri, but we assure you that you can be proud of this remarkable woman who has captured the attention of the world. Following the example of the Lord Jesus, our family abhors any violence or any threats of violence. Threatening words dishonor our faith, our family, and our sister, Terri. We would ask that all those who support our family be completely kind in their words and deeds toward others.

**We have a message to the media:** We appreciate your

*(continued on page 3)*

## Pope John Paul II Has Now Completed His Earthly Pro-Life Ministry

*By Ernest Ohlhoff and Kathleen Sweeney*

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, and the whole world joined in honoring and mourning the loss of this great religious leader and staunch pro-life champion. At his death, he was surrounded by the prayers and love of his household, who described him as serene and kindly until the moment when God took him home.

*Born Karol Wojtyla in 1920 in Poland, Pope John Paul II maintained an assertive spiritual leadership under Nazi and Communist regimes as priest, bishop, and cardinal in Krakow. He was elected Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 1978 at the age of 58.*

Pope John Paul II was quintessentially a father in an age when the culture of death has under mined the role and dignity of fatherhood. In contrast John Paul II's spiritual fatherhood seemed virtually to beget the culture of life.

His sensitive understanding of the pressure exerted on women in a pro-abortion culture led him to urge all sectors of society to provide welcome and support to new life and to parents in difficulty. Perhaps most moving were his words to women who had personally experienced the tragedy of abortion:

"The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope.... With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life." (Evangelium Vitae #99)



*Pope John Paul II's abundant love for children is obvious here as he holds and blesses a little child.*

*(continued on page 3)*

# Pro-Life Rally

January 16, 2005 was a typical winter day in North Dakota: freezing. But that didn't stop the approximately 100 North Dakota pro-lifers who came out -despite the weather- to stand up for LIFE.

January 22, 2005, marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* court decision.

Today, we know that the attacks on LIFE didn't stop with *Roe*. Today we find ourselves facing life issues that in 1973 were part of the 'unknown future', not reality: assisted suicide, euthanasia, stem cell research, and cloning.

It is hard for us to put into perspective the loss of the millions



*ND Teens for Life lead the March for Life at teh ND State Capitol Mall.*



*Pro-life message on the back of this semi-trailer demonstrates pro-lifers come from many backgrounds: truckers, social workers, teachers, business owners, doctors, etc.....*

of lives to abortion. The toll it has had on our society is nearly unimaginable. But for just a moment imagine the missing brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins, and contemplate the lost farmers, teachers, and health care professionals.

How many times have would-be mothers missed the sound of laughter as their toddler plays on the swings in the backyard or the sight of a 5-year old's handpicked bouquet of wild flowers (otherwise known as dandelions) or the refrigerator art consisting of 2-year-old crayon scribbles. What about the missing phrase: I love you mommy!

What about all the dads who struggle with an empty place in their hearts? They will never watch their child take his or her first step. They will never teach their son how to fish or walk their daughter down the isle.

As we gathered here in North Dakota, other pro-lifers gathered around the country. The words of Roman Catholic Arch-

bishop Wilton Gregory at the rally in Atlanta expressed the feelings of all pro-lifers who stood up for life in January. **"We shall not go away,"** Gregory said. **"We shall only grow stronger and more determined to make certain a human life in the womb will no longer be considered a choice to be made, but a life to be loved."**

## A Duty to Protect the Weak

The following statement was issued by President Bush upon learning of the death of Terri Schindler-Schiavo.  
**THE PRESIDENT:** Today millions of Americans are saddened by the death of Terri Schiavo. Laura and I extend our condolences to Terri Schiavo's families. I appreciate the example of grace and dignity they have displayed at a difficult time. I urge all those who honor Terri Schiavo to continue to work to build a culture of life, where all Americans are welcomed and valued and protected, especially those who live at the mercy of others. The essence of civilization is that the strong have a duty to protect the weak.

In cases where there are serious doubts and questions, the presumption should be in the favor of life.



Official publication of the North Dakota Right To Life Association. NDRL is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian, grass roots volunteer organization dedicated to the protection of all innocent human life from conception to natural death.

Purpose of this publication is to educate about pro-life issues. NDRL maintains a state office at 1102 S. Washington St., Suite 110 in Bismarck. Phone 701-258-3811 or 1-800-247-0343. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Write NDRL at PO Box 551, Bismarck, ND 58502-0551 or fax us at 701-224-1963, email: ndr1@btinet.net.

## Terri. . . .

*(continued from front page)*

taking Terri's case to the nation. Please afford our family privacy to grieve at this time. The patience and graciousness of the on-site media here at hospice has been deeply appreciated by our family.

**We have a message to the many government officials who tried to help Terri:** Thank you for all that you've done. Our family will be forever grateful to all of the outstanding public servants who have tried to save Terri.

**We have a message to all of the religious leaders who tried to help Terri:** Thank you to all people of faith who demonstrated love for Terri and strength of conviction to defend the sacredness of all human life as a precious gift from God.

Our family is highly honored that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, would speak out so boldly on behalf of our sister, Terri.

**We have a message of forgiveness:** Throughout this ordeal, we are reminded of the words of Jesus on the cross: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Our family seeks forgiveness for anything that we have done in standing for Terri's life that has not demonstrated the love and compassion required of us by our faith.

**We have a message to parents worldwide:** Our family would encourage parents to spend time with their children and to cherish each and every moment of each and every day with them as a precious gift from God.

**We have a message to Terri from her family:** As a member of our family unable to speak for yourself, you spoke loudly.

As a member of our family unable to stand under your own power, you stood with a grace and a dignity that made your family proud. Terri, we love you dearly, but we know that God loves you more than we do. We must accept your untimely death as God's will.

Terri, your life and legacy will continue to live on, as the nation is now awakened to the plight of thousands of voiceless people with disabilities that were previously unnoticed. Your family intends to stand up for the other "Terri's" around this nation and we will do all that we can to change the law so others won't face the same fate that has befallen you.

**We have a final thought to share:** Our family had hoped this day would never come, but as it has now arrived, we ask ourselves a question in these incredibly sad circumstances: What would the Lord Jesus ask us to do in a moment like this?

In John's Gospel, Jesus responded to the questions of the rabbis, who asked why a man had been born blind. He said: "it is so that the works of God might be made manifest through him."

God's plan for Terri is unfolding before our eyes. Our prayer at this time is that our Nation will remember the plight of persons with disabilities and commit within our hearts to defend their lives and their dignity for many generations to come.

Terri died on March 31, 2005, at 9:05 AM ET.

## Pope. . . .

*(continued from front page)*

He brought pro-life issues into the center of debate on an international stage, urging that the sanctity of life is a universal norm and not a moral option for contemporary society. He sent Vatican representatives to oppose pro-abortion pressure groups at UN development conferences, which helped to steer international statements away from including "right to abortion" language.

Long before Terri Schindler Schiavo's tragic death focused our nation on the problem of euthanizing disabled persons, the Holy Father wrote in *The Gospel of Life* (#58): "A person, who because of illness, handicap, or more simply just by existing, compromises the well-being or lifestyle of those who are more favoured tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated. In this way a kind of conspiracy against life is unleashed."

While John Paul II was himself struggling with debilitating and painful illness and difficulty in speaking, he authorized statements from the Vatican in defense of Terri Schindler Schiavo's right to life, and the duty to always provide nutrition and hydration to the ill and disabled. The Holy Father had recently spoken to the Pontifical Academy for Life (which he founded), "confirming that the quality of life is not interpreted as economic success, beauty and physical pleasure, but consists in the supreme dignity of the creature made in the image and likeness of God. ... No one can be the arbiter of life except God himself."

The Holy Father had a special love for young people. He knew that these youth are the future of the Church, of the world, and of the pro-life movement. Moreover, he simply cherished each one as the unique human person he or she is.

And to the amazement of sceptics, young people flocked to him. They saw in him a loving father and a courageous hero who was not afraid to speak strong words to an opposing culture of death. He held up to them truth and hope in life, calling them to defend the life of the unborn and the vulnerable threatened by euthanasia.

The National Right to Life Committee owes a special debt of gratitude to Pope John Paul II for the constant support and education he provided on life issues. On April 24, 1996, His Holiness was honored for his outstanding pro-life leadership at NRLC's third annual Proudly Pro-Life Awards Dinner by a unanimous proclamation of the Board of Directors.

"Be not afraid!" was the constant message of both Pope John Paul II and of Jesus. As we pro-life people face a mountain of grave problems amid serious opposition, we can be inspired by the indefatigable spirit of John Paul II who gave us a model of hope, persistence, energetic outreach, and courage as well as his legacy of teaching on life issues.

We must now carry on this pro-life work that was so dear to his heart. He is counting on us.

# 59<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Report

## Supported Bills that passed:

**HCR 3017**, introduced by Representatives Kerzman, L. Meier, Thoreson and Senators Erbele and Robinson, was a concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The resolution was passed out of the Constitutional Revisions Committee with 5 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 absent. It then passed the full House on March 4 with 71 yeas, 13 nays, and 10 absent members.

The resolution then moved to the Senate Human Services Committee where it was amended at the recommendation of NDRL and narrowly passed the committee with a vote of 3 yeas and 2 nays. On March 25 the resolution was before the full Senate for final passage when a floor amendment was offered by Senator Constance Triplett (D), Grand Forks. Senator Triplett's amendment asked that the resolution read: A concurrent resolution urging Congress not to pass a human life amendment, but instead to pass legislation to increase access to family planning programs, to fund programs to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy, and to expand insurance coverage for prescription birth control. This floor amendment failed on a verification vote. Finally on March 25, HCR 3017, as amended, was declared adopted on a voice vote.

The amended resolution then moved back to the House where Rep. Kim Koppelman (R), West Fargo, Chairman of the House Constitutional Revisions Committee, moved that the House do concur to the Senate amendments-the motion prevailed on a voice vote. Finally, Engrossed HCR 3017 passed the full House on April 4 with 84 yeas, 7 nays, and 3 absent members.

**SB 2409**, introduced by Representative Kim Koppelman and Senator Aaron Krauter, was a bill to create and enact a new section to Chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of an alternatives-to-abortion services program; to provide for reports to the legislative council; to provide an appropriation, and to provide an expiration date.

In February, SB 2409 received unanimous support in the Senate by passing out of the Senate Human Services Committee by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays; then passing out of the Senate Appropriations Committee -amended with a grammatical correction- by a vote of 15 yeas, 0 nays; and finally passing the full Senate on February 17 with 45 yeas, 0 nays and 2 absent.

*(continued on next page)*

## **2005 Senate Votes -** X=Supported NDRL position. O=Opposed NDRL position. A=Absent and not voting.

Vote #1: February 17, 2005, final passage of SB 2409.

Vote #2: April 15, 2005, Senate concurred with House Amendments, final passage of SB 2409.

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>#1</u>	<u>#2</u>	<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>#1</u>	<u>#2</u>
2	Andrist	R	X	X	13	Lee, J.	R	X	X
9	Bercier	D	A	X	20	Lindaas	D	X	X
39	Bowman	R	X	X	1	Lyson	R	X	X
27	Brown	R	X	X	11	Mathern	D	X	X
33	Christmann	R	X	X	19	Mutch	R	X	X
34	Cook	R	X	X	21	Nelson	D	X	X
32	Dever	R	X	X	12	Nething	R	X	X
28	Erbele	R	X	X	6	O'Connell	D	X	X
43	Espgaard	R	X	X	24	Robinson	D	X	X
23	Every	D	X	X	3	Schobinger	R	X	X
29	Fairfield	D	X	X	5	Seymour	D	X	X
46	Fischer	R	X	X	30	Stenehjem	R	X	X
44	Flakoll	R	X	X	45	Syverson	R	X	X
8	Freborg	R	X	X	16	Tallackson	D	X	X
41	Grindberg	R	X	X	7	Taylor	D	X	X
42	Hacker	R	X	X	25	Thane	R	X	X
26	Heitkamp	D	X	X	38	Tollefson	R	X	X
17	Holmberg	R	X	X	15	Traynor	R	A	A
47	Kilzer	R	X	X	10	Trenbeath	R	X	X
14	Klein	R	X	X	18	Triplett	D	X	X
31	Krauter	D	X	X	36	Urlacher	R	X	X
40	Krebsbach	R	X	X	37	Wardner	R	X	X
35	Kringstad	R	X	X	4	Warner	D	X	X
22	Lee, G.	R	X	X					

In March, SB 2409 received a DO PASS recommendation from the House Human Services Committee with 10 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 absent; an unanimous DO PASS from the House Appropriations Committee; and on March 30 the full House passed the bill with 89 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 absent. There was an amendment in the House Human Services Committee, offered by bill sponsor Representative Kim Koppelman, that clarified the Department of Human Services would implement a procedure to facilitate funding to nongovernmental entities that provide alternatives to abortion services.

On April 25, SB 2409 was signed into law by Governor John Hoeven.

**Opposed bills that failed:**

**HB 1227**, introduced by Representatives Ruby, Bellew, and Carlson, Senators Fischer and Thane, related to the protection of a preborn child and the duty of physicians; and to provide a penalty. HB 1227 is essentially the same bill introduced during the 2003 legislative session, which NDRL also opposed. HB 1227 stated that a person is guilty of a class AA felony if the person intentionally destroys or terminates the life of a preborn child. What the bill did not do is define who that person is? NDRL concluded that this bill rightfully targeted the abortionist but at the same time targets the mother of the unborn child.. NDRL opposes legislation that criminalizes a woman who has an abortion. We believe that the **woman is the second victim** of the abortion holocaust, not a suspect. HB 1227 failed to pass the House with 19 yeas, 69 nays, and 6 absent.

**Bills NDRL did not take a position, but closely monitored:**

**SB 2166** was a bill relating to treatment and care for pain. This bill was closely watched to make sure no language was added to promote euthanasia or assisted suicide. This bill unanimously passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor and filed.

**SB 2308** was a bill relating to treatment for minors. This bill’s intent was to allow pregnant minors the ability to make their own independent health care decisions, but specifically excluded abortions thus keeping North Dakota’s two parent consent statute in place. This bill was introduced as a result of a pregnant 16 year old, while in labor requested pain medicine, but the mother of the 16 year old refused to allow her the medication. The debate on this bill centered around two main points: First, parental rights -in this case the parents of the 16 year old. Second, parental rights -in this case the 16 year old mother accessing health care services for her unborn child. This bill passed the Senate with a vote of 42 yeas and 1 nay, but failed to pass the House with a vote of 34 yeas and 59 nays.

**SB 2343** was a bill relating to health care directives; relating to health care decisions and directives; relating to treatment declarations. Again, this bill was closely watched to make sure no language was added to promote euthanasia or assisted suicide. In testimony it was discussed that the bill’s intent was to combine North Dakota’s two existing statutory forms on living wills and durable power of attorney for healthcare into one statutory form. This bill passed the Senate with 45 yeas and 0 nays and the House with 61 yeas and 32 nays. It was stated during the process that any existing living wills and durable power of attorney for healthcare documents will still be in effect as long as the state law requirements have been met regarding the signing of such documents.

**HB 1029** was a bill for an act to provide an appropriation for a public education and awareness campaign regarding vulnerable adult abuse and neglect. This bill failed to pass the House by a vote of 41 yeas, 48 nays, and 5 absent.

There were a number of other bills monitored dealing with everything from legislative vacancies and composition of the legislative assembly, to lobbyist requirements, to judicial elections, to business related legislation, and to providing for an office of faith-based and community initiatives.

**2005 House Votes** - X=Supported NDRL position. O=Opposed NDRL position. A=Absent and not voting.

Vote #1: March 4, 2005, final passage of House Concurrent Resolution 3017.

Vote #2: April 4, 2005, House concurred with Senate Amendments, final passage of House Concurrent Resolution 3017.

Vote #3: March 30, 2005, final passage of SB 2409.

Dist.	Name	Party	#1	#2	#3	Dist.	Name	Party	#1	#2	#3
20	Aarsvold	D	X	X	X	3	Conrad	D	O	O	O
26	Aerman	D	X	X	X	10	Damschen	R	X	X	X
38	Bellew	R	X	X	X	14	DeKrey	R	X	X	X
22	Belter	R	A	X	X	43	Delmore	D	A	O	X
45	Berg	R	X	X	X	8	Delzer	R	X	X	X
45	Bernstein	R	X	X	X	23	Devlin	R	X	X	X
9	Boe	D	A	X	X	42	Dietrich	R	X	X	X
27	Boehning	R	X	X	X	32	Dosch	R	A	X	X
9	Boucher	D	X	X	X	39	Drovdal	R	A	X	X
28	Brandenberg	R	X	X	X	11	Ekstrom	D	O	O	X
19	Brusegaard	R	X	X	X	31	Froelich	D	X	X	X
30	Carlisle	R	X	X	X	6	Froseth	R	X	X	X
41	Carlson	R	X	X	X	33	Galvin	R	X	X	X
4	Charging	R	X	X	X	18	Glassheim	D	O	O	X
44	Clark	R	X	X	X	41	Grande	R	X	X	X

(continued on page 6)

# House Votes. . . .

(continued from page 5)

X=Supported NDRL position. O=Opposed NDRL position.  
A=Absent and not voting.

Dist.	Name	Party	#1	#2	#3
26	Gulleson	D	X	A	X
36	Haas	R	O	X	X
12	Hanson	D	X	X	X
46	Hawken	R	O	O	X
29	Headland	R	X	X	X
16	Herbel	R	X	X	X
42	Horter	R	X	X	X
6	Hunskor	D	A	X	X
27	Iverson	R	X	X	X
15	Johnson, D.	R	X	X	X
37	Johnson, N.	R	O	X	X
20	Kaldor	D	O	X	X
46	Kasper	R	X	X	X
47	Keiser	R	A	X	X
34	Kelsch, R.	R	X	X	X
11	Kelsh, S.	D	X	X	X
39	Kempenich	R	X	X	X
31	Kerzman	D	X	X	X
16	Kingsbury	R	X	X	X
40	Klein	R	X	X	X
47	Klemin	R	X	X	X
13	Koppelman	R	X	X	X
33	Kreidt	R	X	X	X
28	Kretschmar	R	X	X	X
12	Kroeber	D	X	X	X
3	Maragos	R	O	X	X
35	Martinson	R	X	X	X
32	Meier, L	R	X	X	X
24	Metcalfe	D	X	X	X
36	Meyer, S	D	A	A	X
10	Monson	R	X	X	X
24	Mueller	D	X	X	X
7	Nelson	R	X	X	X
15	Nicholas	R	X	X	X
1	Norland	R	X	X	X
43	Nottestad	R	O	X	X
4	Onstad	D	X	X	X
18	Owens	R	O	X	X
22	Pietsch	R	X	X	X
29	Pollert	R	X	X	X
34	Porter	R	X	X	O
17	Potter	D	O	O	X
40	Price	R	X	X	X
1	Rennerfeldt	R	X	X	X
38	Ruby	R	X	X	X
21	Sandvig	D	X	X	O
7	Schmidt	D	X	X	X
35	Sitte	R	X	X	X
2	Skarphol	R	X	X	X
2	Solberg	D	X	X	A
17	Svedjan	R	X	X	X
44	Thoreson	R	X	X	X
5	Thorpe	D	O	O	O
5	Timm	R	X	X	X
19	Uglem	R	X	X	X
23	Vigesaa	R	X	X	X
37	Wald	R	A	X	X
25	Wall	R	X	X	X
30	Weiler	R	A	X	X
14	Weisz	R	X	A	X
13	Wieland	R	X	X	X
25	Williams	D	X	X	X
8	Wrantham	R	X	X	X
21	Zaiser	D	O	X	X

# Immediate Action Needed. . .

...to End Filibusters of President Bush's Judicial Nominees!

**Urge Senator Dorgan and Conrad to support majority rule on confirmations!!!**

WASHINGTON (Updated April 24, 2005) – Senate Republican leaders may take bold action within weeks to put an end to Democratic filibusters of President Bush's nominees to federal courts — but a coalition of liberal and pro-abortion pressure groups has launched a multimillion-dollar ad campaign in an attempt to block the reform. The outcome is in doubt.

The issue boils down to whether a judicial nominee should be able to achieve confirmation if he or she enjoys the support of a simple majority of the Senate — which is the position supported by pro-life Senator Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tn.) and most Republican senators — or whether a nominee should be forced to surmount a 60-vote hurdle, which is the position currently backed by Democratic senators.

“The outcome of this fight will depend on whether at least 49 other Republican senators support Senator Frist on declaring filibusters of judicial nominees out of order,” said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. “This may very well determine the fate of President Bush's nominations to future vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as the future makeup of the powerful federal appeals courts.”

Under Senate rules, such a “precedent” is ratified if a simple majority votes to support it. Because it is unlikely that any Democratic senator will back the reform, it can only succeed if it is supported by at least 50 of the 55 Republican senators (with Vice President Cheney voting to break any tie).

“The issue will be decided by the handful of Republican senators who currently are leaning against the majority rule reform, or who are undecided,” Johnson explained.

The proposed reform is referred to by terms such as the “majority rule reform” or “the constitutional option” by those who support it, and as the “nuclear option” by its detractors. The news media, for the most part, have adopted the “nuclear” terminology.

The reform advocated by Frist would apply only to filibusters of judicial nominees, not filibusters on bills or amendments to bills.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED:

It is vital that Senators Dorgan and Conrad here from YOU! The general message to convey is: “I urge you to support putting an end to filibusters of nominees to federal judgeships. Filibusters of judicial nominees should be declared out of order. Each of the President's nominee's deserve a fair, up-or-down vote on confirmation. A judge should be confirmed if he or she has the support of a majority of senators.”

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# Why Not Sign Another Living Will Instead of the Pro-life Will to Live?

*taken from the NRL News, April 2005*

Many people who simply do not want what they see as a lot of medical technology prolonging the last few hours or days of their lives when they are terminally ill sign living wills. If you do, in many states you may not know what you're really signing.

Webster's Dictionary defines "terminal" as "of or in the final stages of a fatal disease." And this is what the ordinary person thinks: that somebody who is "terminally ill" is someone who will inevitably die, whose death cannot be prevented by medical treatment.

But in many states, that is not what it means. Instead, for the purposes of the living will you are legally in a "terminal condition" even if your life could be saved - - so as to live indefinitely - - by medical treatment, as long as you would still have a permanent disability of some kind.

If you sign a legal document you ought to be able to expect that the words in it mean what they are generally understood to mean. If you sign a contract selling your "car" you should not later discover that a legislative act has defined "car" to include "house" and that you're now homeless. But that is exactly what the laws in many states have done with the wording of their living wills.

Another example: Many people who would not want what they consider the extremes of medical technology would be horrified at the idea of being starved to death. But the laws of most states define the medical treatment that is refused by their living wills to include food and water. While a few states at least have a "check-off" so you can choose whether or not to be starved, in the majority you have no indication in the living will you sign that you are agreeing to starvation.

One widely used "Living Will Declaration," states, "If I should be in an incurable or irreversible mental or physical condition with no reasonable expectation of recovery, I direct my attending physician to withhold or withdraw treatment that merely prolongs my dying." This is broad indeed.

If you walk with a limp that can't be corrected, you have an "irreversible ... physical condition." If you have grown forgetful, with some irretrievable memory loss, you may well have an "incurable ... mental condition."

If either of these happens to you, and - - having signed the "Living Will Declaration" - - you become unable to speak for yourself, that means you will be deprived of all medical treatment and food and water (possibly including what you could be spoon fed) except pain medication and treatment to keep you "comfortable." Any irreversible disability qualifies as a basis for death.

The term "merely prolongs my dying" may sound as though it limits this, but it really doesn't. No time frame is given, and the truth is that we are all "dying." Literally every lifesaving medical treatment "prolongs dying," in the legal sense.

**The bottom line is this: if you are someone who doesn't want medical technology to prolong your last hours, but who also doesn't want to be starved or allowed to die just because you have a disability, your wishes will be far more likely to be respected if you sign a properly prepared Will to Live than if you sign another living will.**

## Lending a Helping Hand to the Defenseless through Workplace Giving

For two decades the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund and North Dakota Right to Life Educational Trust have worked together as part of a huge nationwide outreach to educate Americans about the grave threat posed to vulnerable people by abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. When you designate the Agency 2844, your contribution enables us to be a voice for millions of innocent human beings who cannot speak for themselves.

Federal employees can contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Many state and local governments also offer employee campaigns. In addition, private sector and United Way employees can participate in workplace giving by pledging to:

### **Agency #2844**

If you do not find Agency #2844 listed in your employee campaign brochure, just write in the name. For more details, call (202) 626-8800, ext. 112.

## PRO-LIFE TO DO LIST:

Contact state legislators concerning their vote(s) on pro-life issues. For contact information go to: <http://www.state.nd.us/lr/assembly/59-2005/dist-legis.html>

Contact U.S. Senators letting them know that ending the filibusters on judicial nominees is the right thing to do. For more information go to: [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

Contact Nancy at the NDRL State office to volunteer at the NDRL booth during the ND State Fair.

Mark your calendar to attend the National Right to Life Convention, June 16-18, 2005 in Minneapolis, MN area. For more information go to: <http://www.nrlc.org/convention/index.html>

Mark your calendar to attend NDRL's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference, October 8, 2005 in Bismarck. Featured speaker is Mr. Brian Johnston, author of the book *Death As a Salesman: What's Wrong with Assisted Suicide*. Both the book, and a subsequent documentary film based on the book, have been used as educational tools throughout the world. If you are interested in checking out the book or video, contact the NDRL state office.

## *thank you,* **THANK YOU**

.....to Crescent Printing for allowing NDRL staff and volunteers to prepare the roses for the state legislators in their climate controlled garage and transporting the roses in their delivery van. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

.....to the volunteers who helped prepare the roses and serve the legislators lunch.

.....to each and every one of you who took the time to contact both state legislators and North Dakota's congressional delegation concerning LIFE issues. We need to stay diligent in contacting those who represent the people of North Dakota.

## Action Needed....

*(continued from page 6)*

This message should be conveyed by telephone, fax, and e-mail.

Senator Conrad: 1-800-223-4457; fax 202-224-7776;  
<http://conrad.senate.gov/webform.html>

Senator Dorgan: 1-800-666-4482; fax 202-224-1193;  
[senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov)

*NOTE: Please help NRLC's lobbying efforts by sending a copy of any response received from a senator's office to the NRLC Federal Legislation Department at fax number 202-347-3668, e-mail [Legfederal@aol.com](mailto:Legfederal@aol.com), or NRLC Federal Legislation, 512-10th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20004.*

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