

# Life LINK

**Right to life of Central California**

Fresno/Madera Chapter Vol. 19 No. 2 Summer 2005

(559) 229-BABY • [rtlcc.org](http://rtlcc.org) • [CALife.net](http://CALife.net) • [Latinos4Life.org](http://Latinos4Life.org) • [PRKCa.org](http://PRKCa.org) • [ProlifePolitics.org](http://ProlifePolitics.org)



## Terry Schiavo's Brother Bobby Schindler

An RLCC Education Forum

hosted by

New Covenant Community Church

1744 E. Nees, Fresno, CA

Admission 6:45 p.m. Tickets \$15.00

### September 29<sup>th</sup>

*Also enjoy co-speaker*

**Wesley J. Smith**

Bobby Schindler has become a national icon as a pro-life advocate specializing in opposing euthanasia. He continues to honor Terri's memory by sharing his hard won insights into the pro-death movement, exposing euthanasia activists in the legal, legislative and medical professions.

Wesley J. Smith's an attorney and consultant for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. His columns have appeared in *Newsweek*, *the New York Times*, *National Review*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Forbes Magazine* and more. His tv appearances include *CNN Crossfire*, *Good Morning America*, *Nightline* and *Larry King Live*.

For Ticket Information contact Victor Fierro at (559) 473-7520



**Special Update: YES on PROP. 73**

**Together we can Protect Our Daughters!**

**Free Bumper Stickers, Yard Signs, CD's, DVD's and more. . .**

*See article page 3*

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Compassionate Choices Act, assisted-suicide bill AB 651 was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee, before being defeated earlier this year. Rather than let the bill die a natural death its authors chose to “gut and amend” senate measure AB 651, which had dealt with improving health care for persons facing chronic health issues living on low incomes. Facing strong opposition, this bill also failed although proponents plan to reintroduce similar legislation this coming January.

Modeled on a similar measure in Oregon, such bills would permit terminally ill California residents deemed to have less than six months to live to obtain a physician assisted suicide. A close examination of the quality of care being received by patients facing end of life issues in Oregon is vital before following in Oregon’s footsteps. Californians would do well to examine their failing marks in providing palliative (compassionate yet not curing) care for their citizens.



Oregon does pay for assisted suicide yet has been criticized for denying payment on over 150 important medical services to the poor. Hospice care is one concern. This com-

passionate service of assuring quality of life for those facing the end of their lives is universally applauded. In Oregon, however, only 39% of hospitals offer hospice programs and 20% palliative services. For those able to access a hospice, Oregon’s medical care program limits its funding with a maximum \$1,000 spending cap.

Assisted-suicide advocates claim legalization will improve the care and comfort of patients facing end of life issues.

According to several sources, including the Journal of Palliative Medicine, just the opposite may be true. An Oregon study cited a 17% increase in pain and discomfort among the dying since their legalizing assisted suicide.

Also of concern are the difficulties being faced by Medicaid users. As many as 60% of Oregon’s primary care physicians either limit or refuse Medicaid patients, usually for economic reasons.

“Last Acts,” a coalition of thousands of end of life care organizations nationally, gave Oregon the lowest possi-

ble marks for hospitals providing palliative care. Little wonder a study found that those dying in Oregon are “approximately twice as likely [as before the law was passed] to be reported to be in moderate or severe pain or distress during the last week of their lives.”

The Netherlands provide an even longer track record. Euthanasia has been practiced there for two decades, first as authorities looked away and now with full legal support. Originally overseen under several “strict” guidelines, every one was eventually ignored until voluntary euthanasia degenerated into thousands of patients being killed without their consent. A Dutch government study revealed that of 130,000 deaths a year, 25,306 (20%) involved euthanasia. More shocking still were the 14,691 (58%) involving involuntary euthanasia. In other words, more than half of those being euthanized in the Netherlands are being put to death without their consent!

Today it’s not uncommon for the elderly entering Dutch hospitals or nursing homes to carry cards pleading “don’t euthanize me”. Should physician assisted suicide be legalized one wonders what’s in store for Californians tomorrow.

Such misuse of the power over life and death may be shocking. Even more alarming to many are policies allowing children as young as twelve to be euthanized. Lethal injections and morphine overdoses are no longer reserved for adults nor are they the purview of the terminally ill alone.

Contrary to popular opinion, the pain of a physical illness is not the leading reason for euthanasia requests. Psychological pain is far and away the number one cause of all suicides and is also the leading motivation of those seeking physician assisted suicide. When 9 out of 10 such cases can be successfully treated, killing the patient in these situations hardly seems ethical.

Assisted suicide also poses a real threat to minorities and the poor. In 1997 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously found in two separate cases that there is no constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide. Among the leading reasons for their ruling were concerns for the wellbeing of “vulnerable groups...from abuse, neglect and mistakes.” The High court’s concern is well founded.

A second concern of the Justices’ was the “slippery slope” such a law might engender. Wisely citing the abuse in the Netherlands, grown worse since their warning, this concern is even more poignant today. This in addition to Oregon’s poor record of palliative care for the poor, and that with only one-tenth our population, is strong evidence that physician assisted suicide poses a real, though currently lingering, threat to Californians.

Robert Pennington  
Executive Director, RLCC F/M

## Vote YES on PROP. 73-PRK Protect Our Daughters!

### Our families mean everything to us.

When it comes to protecting our daughters, parents', and families rights, Proposition 73 "the Parents' Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative" ranks among the most important issues ever to come before California voters.

Today a minor needs parental consent to take an aspirin from a school nurse or attend a class field trip yet a child as young as 12 can be taken for a secret *surgical abortion* without even parental notification! The majority of Californians who find this unacceptable now have the power to make parental notification mandatory by law.

### PROP. 73...

will require abortion centers to notify one parent in writing 48 hours before performing an abortion on a girl under 18.

### PROP. 73...

will help protect our minor daughters from a terrible cycle of sexual abuse. In most cases, school age teen pregnancies are fathered by men many years older. Too often these men coerce young girls into unwanted abortions to hide the evidence of their crime. Today California parents are left to heal their child's shattered life without even knowing what has happened to their family. We can help stop sexual predators from continuing their abuse and protect the innocence of our young daughters.

### PROP. 73...

may save more than 10,000 babies from abortion in California annually. Additionally PROP. 73 will save an equal number of young girls from the often traumatic physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aftermath of abortion.

### PROP. 73...

provides an excellent opportunity for pro-family and pro-life individuals and groups to work together for a common goal. Considering the challenges on the horizon to traditional values,

this initiative provides a good platform for building community consensus and experience in working together for the betterment of California families.

**PROP. 73 is about Good Medical Care for Teenage Girls**

**Good Medical Care Treats the Whole Person.**

Her Medical History shows which medicines and procedures are safest for her to use...and which ones to avoid. Her Relationships offer her emotional support for dealing with surgery



and its aftermath. Her Follow Up Care depends on those around her being aware of the recovery process and possible complications.

### PROP. 73...

will Help Teenage Girls Get Good Medical Care When They Seek an Abortion. It requires at least one parent be notified 48 hours before a minor daughter undergoes the surgical or chemical procedure of abortion. Because parents often know their daughter's medical history better than she does. Because parents are still often their daughter's closest relationships. Because parents offer their daughter the best chance of good follow up care.

### PROP. 73 Is About Protecting Good Families

**Laws Can't Fix Unhealthy Families.** That's why PROP 73 allows a pregnant minor girl to "by-pass" parental notification before the abortion. If she fears violence from her parents, for example - or is even pregnant by her father -- she can seek confidential approval for the abortion from the juvenile court. That's why PROP 73 makes it illegal to force a girl into having an abortion. The decision remains hers.

## We Need Your Help to Protect Our Daughters

### Tell A Friend about PROP. 73!

#### You Can Help By:

- Distributing Bumper Stickers
- Distributing Yard Signs
- Placing Church Bulletin announcements
- Booking speakers for your organization
- Volunteer phone calls
- Fundraising for promotional materials, radio and video spots

### Get out the Vote for PROP. 73!

#### Voter Registration & Education

Did you know as many as 40% of Christians aren't registered to vote? Sadly, those who are often fail to take the time to educate themselves on the critical issues. We need your help to promote voter registration and education.

Talk to your Church or organization's leadership about having a voter registration table and educational materials about PROP. 73! Need help setting up a table or arranging a free speaker! **Contact Victor Fierro at (559) 473-7520.**

**Visit [ProtectOurDaughters.org](http://ProtectOurDaughters.org)**

## “Extraordinarily Meaningful”

Millions mourned over the public and controversial death of Terri Schiavo. Rarely has one unable to even speak for herself so engaged the conscience of an entire nation. The plight of Terri and her parents captured hearts and minds everywhere and has sparked debates over several important issues.

The Schiavo’s case highlights the universal ordeal over end of life issues. The importance of having a signed “Will to Live” durable power of attorney for health care is clear.



Life and death decisions based on hearsay evidence are problematic, particularly when remembered years after the fact. There are several documents to choose from. Be careful to read the fine print in

choosing the best advance directive for you and your family.

**We will be providing free “Will to Live” documents at our upcoming Educational Forum on September 29th with Teri Schiavo’s brother Bobby Schindler.**

You can also download the Will to Live endorsed by National Right to Life from their site at [nrlc.org](http://nrlc.org) or our website at [rtlcc.org](http://rtlcc.org). Completing an advance directive:

- Clearly names someone you trust as your health care agent if you cannot speak for yourself.
- Describes treatments you do or do not want.
- Protects your family and health care agent from being pressured by health care providers.
- Removes all questions and the unnecessary turmoil they engender from loved ones who must make life and death decisions.

Terri’s dilemma also argues for an examination of the phrase “persistent vegetative state”. With the increasing precision of health care technology a diagnosis, once mainly opinion, is now verifiable to exacting standards. In Terri’s case one wonders why there was *such resistance* to running a current standard battery of tests to identify her medical condition more precisely. The need for an MRI and additional procedures seemed particularly compelling given the video of Terri’s eyes tracking movement and those who have testified to her infrequent though genuine attempts to communicate.

A better definition for the term, “extraordinary means” also seems necessary. When did food and water, however

administered, become *extraordinary*? On the contrary, could one imagine any care more ordinary? Removing food and water from anyone at any stage of life is always a *guaranteed death sentence*. Surely a nation as prosperous as our own can afford to administer the tiny nutrition and hydration requirements of those like Terri. If necessary, we can be confident her parents were ready and willing to shoulder any burden the state may have felt encumbered by. Instead they were *searched for contraband food or water* and forced to stand by helplessly, permitted to do nothing but watch their precious daughter die of thirst.

**Are caregivers now to be forbidden to even moisten the lips of their patients while seeing that their houseplants are nicely watered?**

The balance of executive and legislative power seem at odds with many serving in our current judicial branch. When an appointed state judge can stymie the duly elected governor and legislature of his state, as well as the President and Congress of the United States, there’s something amiss. More and more often the judicial branch seems to be thwarting traditional American values to set precedents. Making laws is the purview of the elected officials. Judges are appointed to enforce laws not to circumvent those that have made the United States great.

Finally, Terri Schiavo’s death seems to be yet another tragic step in the devaluing of human life in America. First there was the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision resulting in the abortion of a fourth of America’s posterity, now more than 45 million and counting. Last year Californians saw their fiscally beleaguered state enact Proposition 71 funding the cloning and killing of human embryos to a tune of \$3 to \$6 billion dollars. Currently physician assisted suicide is creeping its way through our California legislature.

Thankfully, pro-life and pro-family Californians will be given a chance to make a real difference for life in the upcoming special election by supporting the “Parents’ Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative”. Visit our website [ProtectOurDaughters.org](http://ProtectOurDaughters.org) for more information. With over one million signatures gathered to qualify this ballot, its passage could save 5,000 to 10,000 or more babies annually from abortion and as many girls and women from a lifetime of sorrow and regret.

As you can see, the battle over the sacredness of life is heating up. Now is the time to redouble our efforts, expand our base and implement strategies for success. Someone has said, “Success is simple. Do what is right, the right way at the right time”. Sounds like sound advice.

Robert Pennington  
Director, RLCC F/M

## WALK FOR LIFE THANKS



### THANKS TO OUR LIAISONS, SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS

Our 2005 Walk and Golf for Life were fantastic again this year.

RLCC spoke to over 20,000 adults to promote these wonderful fundraising events. Over 400 walkers enjoyed a free barbecue, face painting, balloon folding by a clown, games for the kids and more.

Thanks again for your support. See you next year!



## GOLF FOR LIFE THANKS



### 2005 Golf for Life "Life Sponsor!"

**Spencer Enterprises**

### 2005 Golf for Life Corporate Sponsors!

Mazzoni Catering • JEM Enterprises • Abrasives Unlimited  
 Appleby & Co. • Ashwood Construction • DeMera DeMera Cameron  
 Dibuduo & DeFendis • Diocese of Fresno • Donaghy Sales  
 Ed & Juanita Hurlbutt • Electric Motor Shop • Frank Dalena &  
 Family • First Horizon Homeloans • Gerawan Farms • Ginder  
 Development Corp. • J.I.T. Steel • Jerry Logoluso, C.P.A., • Maas  
 Hansen • Me N' Ed's • Neil & Marianne Angelillo • New Age Metal  
 Finishing • Prime Labor • Producers • RJO Produce • Spano  
 Enterprises • Valley Chrome Plating • Van Beurden Insurance

### 2005 Golf for Life Tee Sponsors!

A. Thomas Ferdinandi, Sr. • Abco • Accurate Painting • American  
 Press • Angelillo Partners • Big Valley Windows • Bruce  
 Blau & Associates • Chemithon • Chris & Sue Peters  
 Colliers Tingey International • Commercial Electro Plating  
 Couple to Couple • Crown Cleaners • DeBenedetto Fruit Co.  
 DiCicco's Italian Restaurant • Donald & Susan Hornor • Don &  
 Cathy Babb • Doug & Therese Swinehart • Driver Alliant Ins.  
 Fresno Catholic Cemeteries • Gary Ganci • Genesis • Griffith  
 Financial & Ins. Services • Hinds Hospice • Holy Spirit Catholic  
 Church • Home Pro Inspection • Jack & Rainey Lewis  
 Jay Chapel • Joe Castanos • Johnco • Kathi O'Rourke Design, LTD.  
 Kitahara • M.J. Patrick Embroidery • Mastro & Associates  
 Michael Madrigal • Minuteman Press • Msgr. John Esquivel  
 Msgr. Myron J. Cotta • Nathan Magsig • Nickel Family, LLC  
 PR Farms • Rabobank • Apache Motel Moab, Utah • Ray Brothers  
 Transportation, Inc. • Resource Lenders • Retail California  
 Rich DeMera • Roy Guzman • Royal T Management •  
 Sagaser, Jones & Haesy • Saint Agnes Medical Center • Saladino's  
 San Joaquin Religious Goods • San Joaquin Valley Insurance •  
 Spherion • Steve & Michele Rontell • The Michael Family  
 Tony's Water Truck Rental • Trust All Roofing • Tru-Turf  
 Tuff Industries • V & N Field Services • Val Dornay  
 Wholesale Equipment of Fresno



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FRESNO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 456

## Right to Life of Central California

Fresno/Madera Chapter  
1742 E. Griffith Way  
Fresno, CA 93726  
**(559) 229-BABY (2229)**

Email: [rob@rtlcc.com](mailto:rob@rtlcc.com)  
[www.rtlcc.org](http://www.rtlcc.org)

Return Service Requested

**Parent's Right to Know California**  
Get Petitions | PRK Talking Points | Churches & Petitions | PRK Stories

**WELCOME!**

Thanks for your interest in California's *Parents Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative (PRK)*. In California today a minor girl as young as 12 can obtain a *surgical abortion without parental notification* yet she must have a parent's permission to take an aspirin at school or have her ears pierced. The majority of Californians who find this inequitable and unacceptable now have the power to make parental notification mandatory by law.

Currently the PRK initiative has 635,000 of the 900,000 unqualified signatures we hope to gather by **March 31st, 2005 to place PRK on the ballot** for the next special or general election. If we act together, with two pen strokes (one to qualify and one to pass this vital initiative) we can protect our young daughters, strengthen families and parents' rights while saving as many as 10,000 babies in California annually!

You can help by taking a few minutes to get informed, fill out our support form and by passing this information along to family and friends.

**PRK Links**

- Why PRK?
- PRK Packet
- Get Involved

## Visit RLCC'S Interactive Web Sites!

Would you like to know more about RLCC Fresno/Madera?  
Want more info on how you can get involved?

- Doing research for a paper or speaking engagement?
- Like to browse past RLCC newspaper articles?
- 150 pro-life scriptures with questions for discussion.
- Looking for reliable links to other pro-life groups?
- Schedule a CA Life presentation or view their history.
- CA Life video clips from their 4 different presentations.
- Watch a Pro-Life Music Video. View CA Life's "Alive"!  
[rtlcc.org](http://rtlcc.org) • [CALife.net](http://CALife.net) • [y-Life.org](http://y-Life.org) • [PRKCa.org](http://PRKCa.org)

## RLCC's 2005 "Life 200" Club

Your \$200 annual membership donation to Life 200 will directly underwrite our: staff salaries, printing, utilities, etc. Your gift will be doubly blessed. First because of your generosity, but second and especially because it will not be "seen" in any specific project but hidden in the very heart of our efforts and thus fruitful in ways often known to God alone. He will thus assure its abundant fruit.

***And remember: \$200 a year is just \$17 per month, or only \$4 per week.***

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| James & Meredith Bingham        | Dan & Marie McDonough     |
| David & Jean-Marie Bonnar       | Reginald Mohun            |
| George & Darlene Brazil         | Craig & Angela Mundy      |
| Andrew & Patricia Cameron       | Charles & Rose Olono      |
| Brian & Fran Cameron            | Evan & Judy Orme          |
| Antonio & Juliet Campos         | Robert & Monica O'Rourke  |
| Jim & Mary Easton               | Michael & Susan Patterson |
| Patrick L. Furlong              | John & Donna Rainaldi     |
| Marsha Hammon Guyette           | Ann Marie A. Ramirez      |
| Bartley & Connie Harrell        | Frank & Patricia Robin    |
| Lawrence & Ranae Holody         | Steve & Michelle Rontell  |
| Matthew & Lisa Houts            | Richard & Ann Sexton      |
| Pat Johnson                     | Stuart & Anita Sorenson   |
| Keith & Mary Jura               | Thomas & Michelle Spencer |
| John & Deborah Kinder           | Delbert & Marylyn Spomer  |
| Paul & Eleanor Laity            | John & Doreen Wathen      |
| Tim & Sandra Marsh              | Christin Zengierski       |
| Michael & Bonnie Jean McCleerey |                           |