



Kathy Edgeworth at the Republican convention

## U.S. election - Abortion a major issue

by Kathy Edgeworth, Republican Delegate from Baton Rouge, Louisiana

One of the big winners in Tuesday's election is the pro-life movement. Ms. Clinton is clearly in the pro-abortion camp. During the third presidential debate, she defended the gruesome practice of partial-birth abortions. You may remember the Supreme Court decision upholding the law banning the practice was a 5-4 decision. Since Justice Scalia has died, there are now three pro-life justices on the court (Roberts, Thomas and Alito), one swing vote (Kennedy), and four anti-life justices (Ginsburg, Breyer, Kagan and Sotomayor). Planned Parenthood contributed thirty million dollars to Ms. Clinton's campaign. They would appear to know who their friends are. When films of Planned Parenthood selling parts of unborn babies surfaced, her reaction was to blame the investigators. Had she been elected she would have had in all probability made two to three Supreme Court appointments in her first term. (Justice Scalia's seat, probably Justice Ginsburg, who is 83, and probably

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

These past weeks we have been battling, all out, trying to stop the euthanasia juggernaut in its tracks in South Australia. The new euthanasia bill, now replacing the Stephanie Key (Labor) bill, is sponsored by Liberal M.P. Duncan McFetridge who is a vet! Enough said!

McFetridge claims that he has "safeguards" in his bill. Let me assure you that the bill is, in principle, the same as the Key bill as it still allows patient killing. It is fundamentally and fatally flawed and we want to see it defeated.

McFetridge also claims that South Australia is famous for advancing human rights above other states, clearly seeing patient killing as a "human right."

Let's not forget though that it was South Australia who, in 1970, passed a blueprint copy of the U.K. Abortion Act 1968. The first place in Australia to legalise abortion!

These days, since the Emily's list women and other social engineers have taken over the Labor party it is now Labor who has done this in Victoria, Tasmania and the A.C.T. Which brings me to Victoria – The Andrews Labor government is the most anti-life government we have experienced in Australia! After Labor legalised all abortions up to birth in 2008 – Labor now seriously threatens to legalise patient killing.

If you live in Victoria do act on the legislative alert we have enclosed yet again! Especially send a letter to Premier Andrews saying NO to patient killing! Send it to Parliament House, Spring St. Melbourne 3000.

Meanwhile we keep on battling!

In life, Margaret Tighe

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## Euthanasia debate: State-sanctioned killing is always wrong

– 26/10/16 - It is always wrong for the state to kill its citizens even when they request it, argues Labor MP and former Cabinet minister Tom Kenyon.



**Tom Kenyon: “I do not agree that the state should be involved in the killing of its citizens – even at their own request.”**

*Photo: Nat Rogers/InDaily*

The essential question of euthanasia is this: how far should the rights of individual citizens to determine their own fate extend and should it be to such an extent that the state becomes involved in the killing of its citizens? I say no. In fact, I say that it is a very dangerous thing for us, as members of parliament and as a community, to cross the line that protects us all.

The only remaining area in which South Australia sanctions the taking of a life of its own citizens is in the case of police when their own lives or the lives of other citizens are under threat. Even then, the situation is investigated as a matter of course and police are under the threat of prosecution where they are found to have acted outside the laws and procedures under which they operate.

Long gone are the days when the “divine right of kings” allowed the state in the form of the monarch to take any action they deemed justified, including the killing of citizens for any reason they saw fit. The restrictions on the state’s ability to kill its own citizens have increased to the point where we no longer allow the state to kill even the most hardened criminals guilty of the worst crimes. These restrictions are an important protections for citizens and for that reason I also oppose the death penalty.

Euthanasia is different in many ways, of course. In the form envisaged by the proponents of the two bills before the parliament, euthanasia involves a request by an individual to be killed by a doctor or perhaps by another health professional rather than the state imposing its will, but in some ways it is similar.

As with execution, the state, in the case of euthanasia through its doctors and other health professionals, is involved in the decision-making process and gives final approval. The state provides the equipment and the lethal drugs, the environment in which it occurs and the health professional who eventually kills the person in question.

I do not agree that the state should be involved in the killing of its citizens – even at their own request.

I do not hold this position because I have no sympathy for those in the painful or distressing final stages of a terminal illness. No

one wants to see them suffering, least of all me. But the suffering of individuals is not the only issue that must be considered before we agree to involve the state in the killing of its citizens.

One of those issues that must be considered is the possible further expansion of the laws to allow more and more people to access euthanasia. The experience of those jurisdictions that have had voluntary euthanasia for some time is that the laws have been expanded. For example, when the laws were introduced in Belgium, they specifically excluded children; earlier this year, the first child was killed under recently amended laws.

In Holland it is now permissible to kill children who are born with disabilities with the agreement of their parents and doctors. They even have a decision-making matrix to help them decide which babies can be killed and which cannot. It didn’t start out that way. Again, when the laws were introduced, children were specifically excluded. Yet that has changed.

In a recent presentation to Members of Parliament by some disability advocates, many were concerned with a possible expansion of the laws at some later stage to include disability. They talked of ableism and the difficulties faced with just living. They explained the attitudes of able people to people with disabilities and asked for a system that supported them to live full lives rather than leave them in a situation where they might get so depressed at the difficulties facing them that they would seek to end their life. You can see the videos here.

The first of the two bills before parliament (Steph Key’s bill) shows that there are people in parliament who are prepared to contemplate the expansion of the reasons for access to euthanasia. Of course that is their right but if anyone thinks that just because the second bill (Duncan McFetridge’s bill) has been amended to exclude disability that there won’t be a push to expand the access, then they are sadly mistaken.

These bills take our society across a line from which we have been retreating for hundreds of years. Once we as a Parliament and a society agree that is okay for the state to be involved in the killing of its citizens, it becomes possible for us to end up in some very dark places. It will change society’s attitude to death, to the role of doctors and nurses in our healthcare system, to the treatment of pain and to the resolution of chronic and debilitating illnesses in our society.

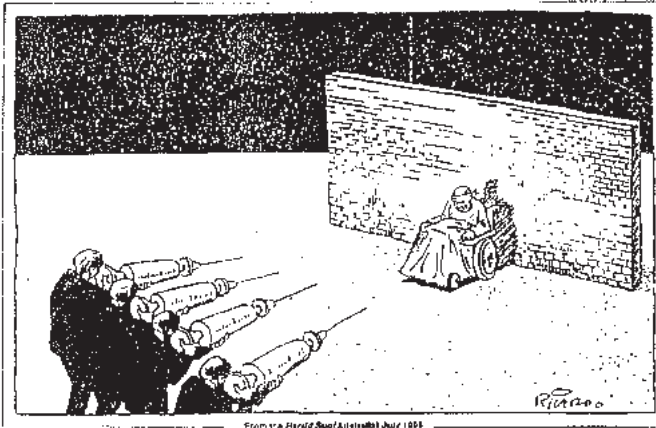
There are already legal safeguards for doctors in the treatment of suffering by individuals. If the intention of the doctor is to relieve pain then they may administer as much pain killer as needed, even if they know that the dose will be fatal. This may seem to be a semantic point, but intention is actually important here. It’s the current law and it came about as the result of the work of a parliamentary committee and two years’ work.

Recent advance care directive legislation allows people to contemplate what care they might like to receive in advance. They may choose, for instance, to instruct that they not be resuscitated in the event that their heart stops beating. Again, it’s current law and it allows members of the public far greater control over their treatment as they near the end of their lives.

Palliative care is already very good and very few people in our health care system actually suffer from untreatable pain or discomfort – but it can be improved, further reducing pain and suffering in the final stages of life.

*Tom Kenyon is a Labor MP who represents the seat of Newland.*

## How Times Change!



This advertisement must have appeared in the Herald Sun in July 1995. It must have been in response to the Northern Territory's euthanasia bill which passed in that year and was eventually overturned by the federal parliament in 1997.

I can't imagine any Australian newspaper publishing such a cartoon today. Most promote legalised patient killing.  
– Margaret Tighe

## Victorians - Do not Sign an Advanced Care Directive! Instead - complete your Power of Attorney.

*The Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Bill 2016* makes Advanced Care Directives (ACD) legally binding. The bill allows for refusal of treatment for future conditions – previously refusal of treatment was for current conditions. It makes instructional directives binding on “health practitioners” which includes ambulance officers and drivers.

Even a child can give an ACD.

A Court decision found that providing fluid and nutrition by tube or PEG is “medical treatment.”

Vulnerable people could be pressured to fill out an ACD from within the health system or even from family.

When you are taken to hospital it may be presented to you and you would not know what you were signing. You would be signing your life away, because the standard forms contain many “Do not resuscitate” provisions. For example, you could go to hospital with pneumonia and then have a heart attack. If you had signed an ACD, you would not be resuscitated.

It is better to have a Power of Attorney, which gives a person you trust the decision making power if you become unable to make decisions about your medical treatment.

You can order a Power of Attorney form from Victoria Legal Aid 03 269 0223 or download one from [www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au). Go to “Medical Enduring Power of Attorney”, then “Factsheets and Forms” then “download. When you make or update your Will, you can complete a Power of Attorney with your lawyer.

– Dr Katrina Haller LLB

## Amazing Photos of Scarlett Miscarried at 20 Weeks Show Unborn Baby's Humanity

LifeSite News – Micaiah Bilger Nov 3, 2016 | 5:26PM  
Washington, DC



The grief is still raw for Justin and Alyssa Young who lost their baby daughter at the beginning of October to a miscarriage.

... The couple recently shared their experience and photos of their daughter, Scarlett, with the blog Little Things to encourage families who are grieving the loss of a child to miscarriage or stillbirth.

Because Alyssa has cerebral palsy and type 2 diabetes, her pregnancy was treated as high-risk from the start. Doctors closely monitored her and her unborn baby, and both seemed to be doing well. In late September, however, Alyssa said she began experiencing a concerning amount of pain. She went to the emergency room, but the doctors did not find anything wrong with her or baby Scarlett; so they sent Alyssa home.

Still, Alyssa said she sensed that something was wrong, and the next day, she went back to the hospital. There, a doctor determined that she was suffering from an incompetent cervix.

At just 20 weeks and 5 days along, baby Scarlett was just a bit too young to survive; the youngest documented premature baby to ever survive was James Elgin Gill, born at 21 weeks and 5 days.

Scarlett was born on Oct. 4 weighing 15 ounces. The Youngs called their family to the hospital where they all greeted baby Scarlett and held her for two hours until she died. Scarlett's grandmother also took photos to help them remember the moment.

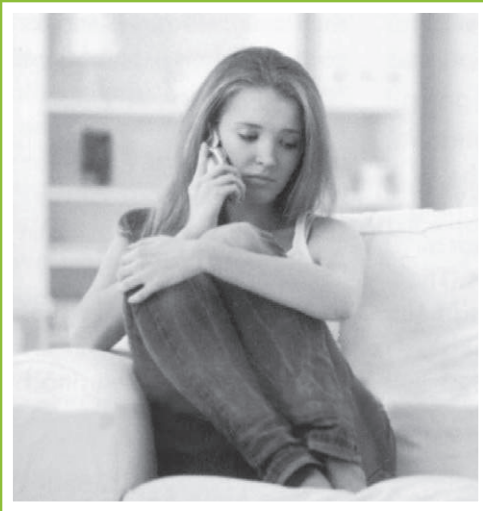
## Life Walk 2017 –

Save the date - 19, 20, 21 May 2017 -  
the weekend after Mother's Day

# Pregnant?

## Worried?

## Need to talk?



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## Pregnancy Counselling Australia

continues to receive calls from women and men from all over Australia who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. Our counsellors share a passion not only for unborn babies but also for women and men who are caught in the dilemma of "What to do?"

Here are a few examples of actual calls that we have received (*all identifying details changed to maintain confidentiality*)

*Greg's girlfriend is 6 weeks pregnant. She wants to keep the baby but he wants to know more about abortion. I explained that we are not a medical line but I suggested he google abortion grief. He explained that he would like children one day but felt that it was too early in their relationship for a child. He was struggling to understand why his girlfriend would not consider abortion – "Was she trying to trap him in the relationship?" We explored reasons that his girlfriend may already feel an attachment to her child. I suggested he communicate with his girlfriend with open questions, to understand how she is feeling. Greg was happy to do this and he was prepared to take more time to get his head around their situation.*

*Rebecca has just found out that she is pregnant and she is considering a termination. She already has 2 boys aged 2 ½ and 9 months. She is exhausted mentally and physically – the younger child is a very poor sleeper. This pregnancy is unplanned, although she would like a 3rd child at some stage. Her partner says he'll support her decision either way but she knows he wants the child. She would like him to be honest and tell her exactly what he thinks as she is concerned that if she has the abortion, he will resent her. She wants to have an abortion but she knows that this is her baby and she is sure she will regret it if she goes ahead. She just wants her life back and not be so tired. Her partner leaves most of the work to her and is off playing sport when not at work.*

*We discussed hormones, long term prospective, the effect on her relationship, the possibility of getting some help with the younger child's sleep patterns, the finality of abortion including living with lifelong regret, the need for her partner to help. She also said she could hire someone to help her if she went ahead with the baby.*

*Lisa was crying, 12 weeks pregnant. Needs money to finance her abortion, could we help? She is a single Mum, 8 year old son, and has just moved interstate to escape an abusive partner. She is not working, is constantly sick with morning sickness, struggling to pay her rent, can't afford a baby. She hasn't told her family as she expects them to be angry that she is pregnant. I explained that we do not refer for abortion due to risks to the mother and always to the baby and are unable to finance her abortion. I asked how she felt about abortion. She said she was ok and had already researched it for herself. I said that I didn't want to frighten her but we do hear from many women who are not coping after an abortion. As you are upset, and have taken 12 weeks to decide, I'm concerned for you. I asked whether she'd told her son and she said no. Also as she already has a son,*

she knows about the baby's development and would soon feel movements. Her son would love a baby sibling. The more we spoke, the softer she became and agreed that her son would be happy. I asked if she could get some positive support would she consider keeping her baby? She said that had hit rock bottom and would appreciate any help. I referred her to a local Pregnancy Support Service. She happily took their phone number and will contact them. She was so grateful for our help as she didn't expect us "to bother listening to her". I thanked her for calling us and said that we are a 24/7 service and she is most welcome to call again should she need to. (Marie Stopes had quoted her \$400 for an abortion.) I then quickly rang the Pregnancy Support service and filled them in on Rebecca's situation. They were grateful for the referral and the information.

The unhappy voice of a young woman on the other end was quite confused. She stated she was lonely and lost as she recently had an abortion. She had a relationship with an older man and as much as he wanted the child but she felt she was not ready for the responsibilities of motherhood. Now she feels that something is missing in her life and quite depressed. She has an obsession now where she goes into shops looking for baby clothes and wants to buy them. Her future feels quite meaningless. Again I stated that those feelings were quite normal for someone who has had a termination. I stated about the fact that she needed to grieve for her child. I also spoke of the dangers of breast cancer so she should have regular visits with her Doctor in the future. I asked if she had any counselling before the termination and she said it was almost no Counselling, just an hour before the procedure. It was more like a preparation for the termination. I referred her to a Counselling service near her and I also spoke to her about Rachel's Vineyard and gave her the 1800 number. She was very thankful and said she would follow up on those numbers and would call back if she needed more help.

Although all our counsellors including myself are voluntary, this amazing service costs money to run – the phone line, our training, advertising, admin charges etc.

We are very grateful for the input of Zoe Broomhead, a beautiful godly woman and accredited Christian counsellor with Living Life Counselling Service. Zoe has undertaken the final assessment of all our new volunteers as well as providing valuable ongoing training for us all. Teresa Ma has also been assisting us with training and face to face counselling. The professional services of these ladies also cost money.

## Pregnant & Worried?

Do you want to talk to an understanding female counsellor?

Do you need any help?

Have you any doubts about your pregnancy?

**Our counsellors are here to help with:**

- Confidential phone counselling
- Information on pregnancy and abortion
- Alternatives to abortion
- Post-abortion support

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Lois Dean

I would like to thank all our dedicated volunteer counsellors and especially my committee who have given me so much support this year. And our service would simply not function without our roster coordinator, Graham Neal.

Thank you. – Lois Dean

*- If we had more finances, we'd love to advertise this service on trams and billboards - Ed*

## The Perils of Protesting

– Graham Preston

*Firstly, it appears that the appeal of my conviction relating to the abortion clinic "bubble zone" breach will be held before the full bench of the Tasmanian Supreme Court on March 6-7. If it is heard then, it will be almost exactly three years since I was first arrested in Hobart back on 8 March 2014! I never imagined then that it would take so long to get an outcome. And that is likely not to be the end of it either as depending on what happens it could then go on to the High Court. Amazing.*

...Yesterday when Tony and I were outside the Bowen Hills clinic we thought at one point that it might have been nice to have had the police there! A young woman came up behind me and grabbed a sign ("All of us once were unborn babies") from me, folded it over and threw it over a fence. She then continued shouting very aggressively in my face before punching me hard in the stomach. Tony stepped in to try and calm things down only to have her punch him too, snatch the baby picture from him and throw it over a fence as well. Eventually after more shouting she left.

Then yesterday afternoon I was on a roadside vigil on busy Kelvin Grove Road. A woman drove by and saw me and stopped and came back to speak to me. She was calm but very adamant that I shouldn't be there – I had the baby photo and "Human rights for all human beings". She said that nine years ago she had been pregnant with a much wanted son but he had no kidneys and so it was decided she would have an abortion by an early induced delivery (her terminology). As she was explaining this, suddenly another, older, woman appeared beside us and she immediately set about very loudly and very crudely haranguing me. After a couple of minutes of this a young fellow stopped for a minute to throw in his five cents of abuse!

After he left the foul-mouthed older woman photographed me and said that my picture would be all over the web that night and there would be serious repercussions for me. The other woman stayed on for a while longer and kept taking the line that because of difficult situations such as hers I shouldn't speak out against any abortion. She wouldn't let me get a word in edgeways and eventually left. Please pray for all these people.

**Rescue those being led away to death. Proverbs 24:11**



Joanne and Jeremy at Parliament House, Melbourne

## Little Sister of the Poor reflects on D.C.'s tragic legalization of assisted suicide



Sister Constance Veit, LSP

November 3, 2016 (LifeSiteNews) – Two days ago, I witnessed firsthand a tragically historic day in our Nation's Capital. By a lopsided vote of 11-2, the D.C. Council voted to legalize assisted suicide. Because of Washington's unique status as a Federal City, it appears that no public vote will be required to ratify this frightening legislation. This action will likely give impetus to the assisted suicide/ euthanasia movement in various states.

### RIGHT TO LIFE COFFEE MUG FUNDRAISER

Want to get some good coffee mugs and help Right to Life Australia at the same time? Have a look at the Right to Life collection at The Great Australian Mug shop on ebay (address below). For each one you buy we will donate \$10.00 to Right to Life Australia, even if you choose from another of our collections.

Inquiries to Michael or Jackie Long at (03) 9789 5291  
Web address for our ebay shop is <http://stores.ebay.com.au/thegreataustralianmug>

### AGM Results

President: Margaret Tighe  
Vice-President: Lydia Koniuszko  
Treasurer: John Dynan  
Secretary: Katrina Haller  
Committee members: Mary Collier, Paul Johnson, Joel van der Horst, Ewan McDonald, David Cutler

## U.S. election - Abortion a major issue

(Continued from page 1)

at least one other). In addition, she favors government funding of abortions. Some of you may be saying that Mr. Trump has shown little interest and less understanding of the issue. The list of people Mr. Trump would consider appointing to the Supreme Court includes many pro-lifers. His Vice President Elect is a pro-life former Governor of Indiana, Mike Pence. Americans who believe the Life issue is the most important issue of the election had a choice between a person who would do all she could to advance a pro-abortion agenda and a person who MAY turn out to be a friend of the pro-life movement. To paraphrase the 1992 Clinton slogan, it's the Supreme Court, stupid. (Their slogan actually was "It's the economy, stupid").

Much has been said about Mr. Trump's personal morals. He is flawed, clearly. However let's look at Ms. Clinton for a moment. In 1992 she appeared on Sixty Minutes and denied her husband's affair with Gennifer Flowers. (Ms. Clinton is many things, but naïve is not one of them, I feel strongly that she knew about that affair). In 1998 she blamed a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Mr. Clinton lied under oath about these affairs, and was impeached and lost his law license because of this. She previously stated that women who claim they have been raped should be believed. All except Juanita Broderick (who passed a lie detector test).

On another front, she did a poor job as Secretary of State. How can anybody seriously believe that a person who is careless with classified information should be promoted? Classified information may very well be on the laptop of the compulsive exhibitionist, Anthony Weiner, husband of one of her top aides. The U.S. Ambassador to Libya contacted the State Department multiple times seeking assistance, because he feared for his safety. Ms. Clinton says she did not receive such requests. Others believe she did. Either way an Ambassador in a war-torn country was ignored by a State Department she ran. To quote Harry Truman, "The buck stops here". There is much evidence that the Clinton Foundation was engaged in a "pay to play" scheme. Let's be honest, who thinks Hillary Clinton's speeches are worth \$250,000 each? It appears those who gave the Clintons large speaking fees had access to Ms. Clinton while she was Secretary of State, and contracts for things like rebuilding Haiti after the earthquake.

Why did Ms. Clinton lose? A number of reasons. I think many people felt left behind and despised by the elites. Real wages have not increased for the middle class since 1973. In addition, many people are just plain tired of political correctness. The idea that a baker can be forced to make a wedding cake for a gay couple, etc., just angers some people and seems to be an attack of freedom of religion. Republicans came home to their party, deciding that Mr. Trump was the lesser of two evils, after all. After eight years of one party, there is a tendency to switch course. Health Insurance premiums have sky rocketed under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Those notices arrived the week before the election. In addition Ms. Clinton was unable to get minorities to turn out

for her, in the numbers she needed. Even when Hispanics did, roughly 30% of them voted for Mr. Trump. She only outpolled Mr. Trump by twelve points among women. In addition I think the unfair treatment Mr. Trump received from the media backfired. The day after day obvious bias in favor of Ms. Clinton drove some folks away from her. There was definitely an anti-elite feeling in the country. Michael Moore (a rather vulgar leftist filmmaker) from a working class background in Michigan saw it. When Ford Motor announced plans to relocate some factory jobs to Mexico, Mr. Trump threatened to slap a 35% tariff on the cars, ensuring none would be sold in the U.S. This resonated with the people of Michigan. He made a film shortly before the election called Trumpland and warned he thought people might elect Trump to give the elites a comeuppance. (As close to his actual words as one wishes to get). Her campaign spent a lot of effort on turning out their base (with insufficient success) and not enough effort expanding their base. Finally, the daily revelations from WikiLeaks hardly helped.

What can we expect of Mr. Trump? Definitely a clampdown on illegal immigration. Those with a criminal background will probably face deportation. More careful vetting of refugees is probable. Conservative Justices on the Supreme Court will, at minimum, safeguard what limited pro-life legislation has been passed, and maybe allow for more gains. Making the Hyde amendment permanent is possible. Defunding of Planned Parenthood is a possibility. Clearly the advancement of a pro-abortion agenda has been stopped. A lot depends on what advisors he selects. If we get two Supreme Court appointees we may see real gains. Let's hope. Clearly, the left has lost a major battle in the culture wars!

## March for the Babies 2016

As always, we had a beautiful sunny day for about 2000 people who marched from Treasury Gardens to Parliament House on 8th October. Speakers were Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins, Kay Paynter and Roland von Marburg. After speeches and music, we marched to the edge of the 150 metre zone around the Fertility Control Clinic. Bernie Finn, M.L. C. made the point that everyone in Australia has freedom of speech, except Victorian proliferers.

### When you Die, Help Someone to Live

When you write or update your Will, please include a bequest to The Right to Life Australia. "I bequeath to The Right to Life Australia, 10% of my estate, or the sum of \$xxxx, for the general purposes of The Right to Life Australia, 161A Donald St. East Brunswick VIC 3057, ABN number 12 774 010 375."

On behalf of the most vulnerable members of our community, thank you.



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## HOLLAND

**We will help you die of boredom: Dutch govt 'Completed life' euthanasia will soon be legalised in the Netherlands**

– By Michael Cook, Mercatornet, 17/10/16



*Jan Cate is healthy but lonely*

In the 19th Century a statue of Tanonius Marcellinus, consul of Campania (now the region around Naples) was unearthed in the town of Benevento. It bore a remarkable inscription, one which must be unique in the history of Western Civilization. It described him as a “most worthy patron, on account of the good deeds which rescued the population from endless boredom.”

Boredom – taedium in Latin – will soon be a reason to be euthanised in the Netherlands. Of course it won't be a spur of the moment decision. There will be a bit of boring paperwork to fill out first and some boring interviews to be endured, but in the end you will get your needle.

The Dutch government is planning to create a new end-of-life law for elderly people who are tired of living. Health Minister Edith Schippers told Parliament that a new kind of assisted suicide is needed for people who are not terminally ill or suffering, but who want to die.

She said that the proposed law would come into effect next year. It would cater to “older people who do not have the possibility to continue life in a meaningful way, who are struggling with the loss of independence and reduced mobility, and who have a sense of loneliness, partly because of the loss of loved ones, and who are burdened by general fatigue, deterioration and loss of personal dignity.”

They are, in other words, terminally bored. The guiding principle of the legislation will be autonomy.

“Autonomy threatens to be an empty concept if an individual with a ‘completed life’ cannot end his life without help and if at the same time others cannot help him,” says the letter. “Respecting the autonomy of people means creating conditions that enable people to shape their own life, including one's own death.”

The process will be thoroughly documented and carefully organized, Ms. Schippers told a TV program. “It should not involve lonely or depressed people. Not for people with problems you can solve in a different way.” She said that life must be protected, but some people wake up every morning disappointed that they did not die in their sleep.

The government's decision ignores an independent committee of experts who said earlier this year that a “completed life” should not make people eligible for euthanasia.

The committee, headed by a well-known sociologist, Paul

Schnabel, was established after a man who had helped his 99-year-old mother to die because she thought that her life was at an end, was acquitted of murder. New legislation will break new ground for end-of-life laws. Technically it will not be “euthanasia,” for this term has a very specific meaning in the Dutch penal code. Because the person will not be terminally ill, as the euthanasia law requires, a whole new set of regulations must be established.

This will no doubt create problems for the statisticians, as the new deaths will not be described as “euthanasia.” Between reported euthanasia, unreported euthanasia, terminal sedation, and this new type of death, it will become very difficult to track the number of people who are killed by their doctors in the Netherlands.

A new set of checks and balances [we are told] will be created to ensure that all deaths will be voluntary. Specially trained death advisors will ensure that there is no medical solution to the patient's existential issues.

The Dutch right-to-die association, the NWE, is delighted with the government's intentions. It immediately launched a website with profiles of six people who feel that their lives are “complete” and who would take advantage of this new form of euthanasia if becomes available.

They are an interesting mix – four men and two women. All of them are in their 70s, 80s or 90s. None of them are migrants; none of them are religious; all of them are comfortable financially; all of them are lonely. They may keep busy and fit, but life has no meaning and they fear becoming dependent or demented. Here is what 78-year-old Jan Cate has to say:

**“ ... my life is complete. I'm at a tipping point. I'm not really happy. Loneliness plays a major role. I have lost the ability to talk to people. Grandchildren have their own lives. I see them less and my children are too busy.”**

The move was strongly criticised by Dutch Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacob. “In the course of my work, I have seen not one, not two, but many elderly people who genuinely wished to die following the death of their spouses but then, within several years, were able to enjoy life for many years longer,” said Jacobs, who is the chairman of the ethics committee of Amsterdam's Sinai Center, Europe's only Jewish psychiatric hospital.

The website Katholiek Gezin accused the government of trying to benefit financially from the despair of the elderly: “After many years in which the health system endured cutbacks that generated increasingly tragic situations of lacking assistance for our elderly, the Cabinet now comes up with a solution: Professional assistance to suicide for people who have ‘completed their lives.’ The legislation has the support of a majority in the current Parliament, but elections next year could change that, so Euthanasia 2.0 is not set in stone. Some parties are firmly opposed to the idea. “The myth is that it is purely individual choice, while it always also affects family, the community, health care providers and ultimately society,” Gert-Jan Segers, the leader of a Christian parliamentary party, told De Volkskrant newspaper.

It's hard to understand why Dutch politicians are so proud of “completed life” euthanasia. The worthy consul Tanonius Marcellinus was memorialized for rescuing his

people from boredom with good deeds, not with lethal injections. Isn't that the proper role of governments: to foster a society in which people feel glad to be alive?

## USA - Colorado

**Colorado Approves Ballot Measure Making It 5th State to Legalize Assisted Suicide**

– Steven Ertelt Nov 8, 2016 Denver, CO



Colorado voters approved a measure on the November ballot today that will make Colorado the next state to legalize assisted suicide targeting the disabled and elderly. The ballot proposal comes after the state legislature defeated bills to legalize assisted suicide.

Leading pro-life, disability rights, religious and medical groups publicly opposed the ballot measure. California, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont are the only four states to have legalized assisted suicide.

The euthanasia group Compassion and Choices financed the yes campaign and its state group Yes on Colorado End-of-Life Options spent \$2.9 million to reserve TV ad time, campaign finance records show. It also paid a national company another \$344,000 to help gather signatures.

“It's a sad day for Colorado,” said Carrie Ann Lucas of Windsor. She suffers from a progressive neuromuscular disease and uses a ventilator to breathe.

She said the proposal does not require doctors to oversee patients as they take the lethal drugs – a concern, if the dose is taken incorrectly. And the measure does not make psychological evaluations mandatory for everyone seeking the lethal drugs, she said. “It's incredibly broad, and there's inadequate safeguards to protect Coloradans from abuse and mistakes and coercion,” Lucas said.

When the Colorado legislature considered the measure, many medical doctors and religious organizations, however, opposed each proposed bill and questioned the lack of safeguards.

Probate attorney Skip Morgan opposed the bill, drawing from his experience in estate law. “I am gravely concerned about this proposed act,” Morgan told the committee. “My years of experience tell me that the safeguards ... are unenforceable. One of the witnesses to a patient's assisted suicide would be allowed to be an heir under the House bill, Morgan said, which could involve “somebody with a claim, someone who may benefit from their death.” “There is no requirement to witness the administrations of medication. There's no requirement that this actually be documented.” Morgan said that insurance companies could abuse the bill, as “the least expensive treatment is to put that patient to death.”

Rep. Paul Lundeen, a Republican, asked if the bill could promote elder abuse.

“Yes, I have seen that ... in a number of the proceedings,” Morgan said. “I have seen a very subtle pressure put on these people. They see themselves as a burden. ‘Mom, I love you to death, but how much longer do you want to go on?’”