



Life Matters

Village Bible Church

Quarterly Newsletter Vol 1. Issue 3
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Visit the Life Matters Page at
<https://villagebible.church/lifematters/>

My husband, Scott, and I are beginning to navigate a new season of life with our parents as our responsibility for caring for them is increasing. I am reminded that God is in control of life and death, and he is worthy of our trust as we walk through both.

Life Matters is not just about the unborn, it is about all life. We are called to hold all life as sacred.

As we kick off this fall, our Life Matters Team is looking forward to the many opportunities we have to learn about and support local ministries including

Beautiful U, 40 Days for Life and Caring Network.

We hope you can join us as we strive to increase awareness and action in our church!

Deana Goodwin



Supplication

Please contact our team if you would like a more detailed 21 Day Prayer Guide.

Prayer Points:

Pray for abortion minded women and men: That the church would have compassion on those who are pregnant and confused about what to do. That they would be led to a pregnancy resource center. That they would begin to see their babies as a gift from God, and they would be surrounded by a support team.

Pray for post abortive women and men: who need to trust in the saving work of Christ as their only hope. Pray that they find Him. Pray for those who have courageously confessed their past sin of abortion, that they will know God's peace. Pray for those who have not yet confessed their past sin of abortion,

that God's grace will draw them to repentance.

Pray for courage: That we would be willing to engage in conversation with friends and family that are not pro-life. That we would have opportunities to speak truth in a thoughtful and loving way.

Pray for resources and staffing at pregnancy resource centers: That they would be abundantly provided for. That they will reach abortion minded women before they make decisions to abort.

That: our community, elected officials, leaders and neighbors would understand the truth about

abortion. Pray God opens eyes to moral truth about abortion.

Pray: for a permanent injunction of SB1909. *See the Legislative Update section for more information.*

Pray: that our legislators would not pursue an assisted suicide bill.

Life Matters Team at VBC: that we would increase awareness and action by the church to rally in unity to defend the weakest and most vulnerable among us. And that we would create opportunities to share Christ and to meet the practical needs of help.



Education

Sanctity of Life Month: January 2024: On Sundays in January during second service, from 9:40-10:40am, our team will be offering various trainings covering information on abortion and its effects, apologetics, and local ministries. Attend one or all of the sessions as you are able.



Preliminary Injunction of SB1909

July 27, 2023 From Thomas More Society

By Tom Ciesielka

(July 27, 2023 – Chicago) Today, Thomas More Society attorneys filed a federal lawsuit against Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, seeking to stop him from enforcing Illinois Senate Bill 1909, a measure drafted by Raoul's office that declares the pro-life speech of the state's life pregnancy help ministries to be a "deceptive business practice." Thomas More Society is representing NIFLA, a national pregnancy help center network, along with several Illinois pregnancy help centers and pro-life organizations.

"This law is a blatant attempt to chill and silence pro-life speech under the guise of 'consumer protection,'" explained Peter Breen, Thomas More Society Executive Vice President and Head of Litigation, and a former Illinois State Legislator. "Pregnancy help ministries provide real options and assistance to women and families in need, but instead of the praise they deserve, pro-abortion politicians are targeting these ministries with \$50,000 fines and injunctions solely because of their pro-life viewpoint."

The lawsuit, filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, seeks a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and permanent injunction against SB 1909. If temporary and preliminary injunctions are granted, they would prevent the law from being enforced while the case makes its way through the court system.

"The state government has completely overstepped the bounds of any logical

and relevant authority by inserting insane partisan politics into their governing bodies and attempting to trample the First Amendment rights of those with whom they disagree," said Thomas Glessner, President of NIFLA. "There is no basis for their blatant attacks on pregnancy centers, who provide all of their services for free for women and their families throughout Illinois. They do so out of their deeply held beliefs of caring for one another and exhibiting human decency and compassion for those in need, something the leaders of Illinois are completely clueless about. This attempt to deny mothers their constitutional right to choose life is disgraceful and should be an embarrassment to the people of Illinois."

Under this new revision to the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, the state seeks to curtail the speech of pro-life organizations by illegally targeting their efforts to "dissuade pregnant [women] from considering abortion care." It also faults pro-life organizations for "pay[ing] for advertising... that is intended to attract consumers to their organizations and away from medical providers that offer abortions," accusing the pro-life organizations of "providing misleading information overstating the risks associated with abortion." Yet, Breen asserts, and as the filing states, that all of the abortion-related information provided by these pro-life centers and organizations is backed by scientific research.

"In addition to being unconstitutional and extremely prejudicial," added Breen, "state officials have not had cause to take legal action against pregnancy help centers, using the tools of the law that were already available."

This lawsuit, Breen stated, has been filed to protect the right of pro-life pregnancy help centers and sidewalk counselors across Illinois to continue their meaningful and important work of providing compassionate and competent

advice, care, and support to thousands of women across Illinois facing unplanned pregnancies.

Breen observed that the instigation of the new law, backed by Raoul, is completely without rationale or provocation. The Illinois Attorney General's Office has not been able to provide any hard evidence that pregnancy help centers engage in so-called "deceptive practices." According to Freedom of Information Act documents obtained from Raoul's office, Breen shared that "the Attorney General has received zero complaints from members of the public against an Illinois Pregnancy Help Center for alleged violations of the Deceptive Business Practices Act."

Breen also testified before the Illinois House Health Care Availability & Accessibility Committee, which voted to advance SB 1909, despite receiving more than 17,000 witness slips from voters opposing the bill and only a little over 3,000 supporting it.

Read the Complaint, seeking Temporary Restraining Order and Permanent Injunction from the State of Illinois' just enacted Senate Bill 1909, filed on July 27, 2023, in the United States District Court – Northern District of Illinois Western Division, by Thomas More Society attorneys on behalf of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, Women's Pregnancy Services, Rockford Family Initiative, Relevant Pregnancy Options Center, and Pro-Life Action League, in NIFLA, et al. v. Kwame Raoul [here](#).

Read about the testimony of Peter Breen in opposition to Illinois Senate Bill 1909 given before the Illinois House Health Care Availability & Accessibility Committee on April 25, 2023, [here](#).) <https://www.thomasmoresociety.org/news/pro-life-pregnancy-help-ministries-sue-illinois-attorney-general-over-sb-1909>



Be on the look out for an Assisted Suicide Bill

By Ralph Rivera, Illinois Right to Life

Each Fall, the Illinois General Assembly comes back into session for a two-week Veto Session to deal with legislation the governor vetoed over the Summer. In addition to this, the Legislature may consider other matters of legislation. This Veto Session, which is October 24-26 and November 7-9, the Right to Life lobbyists with Illinois Right to Life Action have heard that the matter of assisted suicide may be discussed and voted on. There is no bill number yet, but those who have seen the draft bill say it is very similar to other states that have assisted suicide laws.

Assisted Suicide is suicide in the practice of individuals obtaining prescriptions (prescribed by doctors or other medical practitioners) of lethal doses of medication to cause their deaths. In the 10 states that allow this, a patient must be determined to have a terminal illness defined as incurable and irreversible and will cause death within six months.

Key concerns are as follows:

- Studies have shown that doctors have not always gotten it right about “terminal illness” and six months to live. There are numerous cases of patients told they have six months to live, but living years longer.

- The assisted suicide laws in other states say two doctors must make the determination of “terminal illness” when a patient comes to them to ask for the lethal prescription. If approved, the patient must wait 15 days then come back to the doctors for the prescriptions. Generally, doctors who have taken care of their patients for years will refuse to approve giving these prescriptions. These doctors know the patients and want to work with them to help them in their condition and mental concerns. It is then that many patients will call up the proponent organizations of assisted suicide, such as the so-called “Compassion in Dying” to find doctors who will write out the prescriptions. When that happens, the doctors will only know the patients for 15 days (and really just about two visits). This is called “doctor shopping.”

- The assisted suicide laws in other states do not require doctors to have expertise in the area of the “terminal illnesses” so may not know how to look at treating the patients. Also, these laws give strong immunity and criminal protections for the doctors who make the “medical decisions” to approve and write the lethal doses prescriptions.

- Studies from Oregon (which has had assisted suicide for over 25 years) for why patients with serious illnesses choose to think about suicide have shown that the fear of “pain” is low on the list of concerns:

- Loss of autonomy (91%)
- Decreased ability to engage in enjoyable activities (90%)
- Loss of dignity (73%)
- Becoming a burden on others (48%)
- Losing control of bodily functions (44%)
- Inadequate pain control or concern about it (27%)

- The disabled community is concerned about using this against them due to a “quality of life” viewpoint against the disabled. All national disability rights organizations that take a stand on assisted suicide **oppose** it.

Contact your state senator and state representative and urge them to **vote NO on any assisted suicide legislation in the Fall Veto Session or anytime.**

To find your elected officials:

1. Go to WWW.ELECTIONS.IL.GOV
2. Then Click “FIND MY ELECTED OFFICIALS” (UNDER VOTER SERVICES)
3. Click the Illinois Map. Then wait for white box to appear and CLICK OK
4. Follow the instructions by typing in your full address or 9-digit zip code on the upper right.



Mobilization

40 Days for Life October 17:

Oct.
17

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40 day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful, all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

Our team hosts a day at the Planned Parenthood in Aurora. Volunteers will pray across from Planned Parenthood in 30 minute time slots from 8am - 4pm on October 17.

We will also hold a short service midday from 12-12:30pm onsite.



Ministry Highlight:



We are excited to introduce Caring Network's **brand new website** www.caringnetwork.com/. The address remains the same but the look is completely redesigned! After many months of development, the new site provides an updated and clear picture of the critical work they do, how they serve the Lord by serving the women who need them and why it matters! With more photos, client testimonials, stories, and brief but complete descriptions of the many ways to get involved with the ministry and their work, we hope you will enjoy it.

May I suggest you do the following:

- Sign up for our newsletter to be updated quarterly on activities, email us [here](#) with your full name & email address.
- Read a story about a client who chose life, click [here](#).
- [Share the new site](#) with a life-minded friend who may enjoy joining you to get involved.
- If you have not had a chance to support us recently, but would like to, click [here](#).

Our next
Life Matters
Team meeting is
Monday, October 16
from 7-8 pm.

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<https://villagebible.church/lifematters/>

RESOURCES FOR HELP IN AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY.

www.optionline.org 800-395-4357 www.abortionpillreversal.com 877-558-0333