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## **Two good news stories from Canada**

Alex Schadenberg from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition emailed supporters about a companion organisation called Compassionate Community Care (CCC) – which provides assistance concerning end-of-life medical conditions. CCC believes that all human life should be equally respected until natural death.

Recently, in May 2018 CCC received a phone call from a woman

*(Continued from Page 4)*

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*(Continued from Page 1)*

in California who wanted to die by assisted suicide. The woman stated that she did not have a terminal condition but she was living with chronic pain. Due to the change in the status of the California assisted suicide act she wanted to discuss ways to die by suicide. The woman shared that she volunteered for a service that helped people who have experienced abuse. After an in-depth conversation she agreed that living life helping others was meaningful, she changed her mind about suicide and decided to volunteer more of her time.

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director Euthanasia Prevention Coalition also spoke to the mother of a child who almost died by Sudden Infant Death Syndroms (SIDS) many months ago. This was described in the EPC May 2018 newsletter. Compassionate

Community Care helped the mother receive medical treatment and services. The child was originally considered “nearly brain dead” but her daughter reacts, plays, smiles and has developed a non-verbal form of communication. The good news is the child was brought home on 25 May 2018!



*Photo: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*

# Judge Overturns California Law Legalizing Assisted Suicide

STEVEN ERTELT MAY 15, 2018 SACRAMENTO, CA

A California judge has overturned the state's law legalizing assisted suicide, ruling it unconstitutional.

The judge indicated the legislature improperly passed the state law during a special session that was supposed to be specifically devoted to Medicare funding. The judge ruled that the state legislature should not have approved the assisted-suicide law during that special session because the subject of the law fell outside the grounds of the special session.

Euthanasia activists argued in court that assisted suicide is health care and that made it appropriate for the special session. More than 100 people have killed themselves under the law.

Attorneys with Life Legal Defense Foundation told LifeNews that the assisted suicide law sponsors introduced the bill in a special session of the legislature convened by Governor Jerry Brown to address Medicaid funding shortfalls, services for the disabled, and in-home health support services. Life Legal attorneys appeared in court this morning to argue that the End of Life Option Act, which decriminalizes physician-assisted suicide, is not related or even incidental to the stated purpose of the special session. Suicide is not health care, they argued.

Riverside Superior Court Judge Daniel Ottolia agreed, holding that "the End of Life Option Act does not fall within the scope of access to healthcare services," and that it "is not a matter of health care funding.".. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra opposed the motion stating that legislation passed during special sessions is presumed to be constitutional. The Attorney General also argued that the physicians who sued to overturn the law do not have standing to challenge the End of Life Option Act.

Judge Ottolia ruled that doctors do have standing to bring challenges on behalf of their patients, especially in this case, as terminally ill patients would face significant difficulties filing their own lawsuits against the assisted suicide statute.

"We are thrilled by today's ruling, which reinstates critical legal protections for vulnerable patients," said Life Legal Defense Foundation Executive Director Alexandra Snyder. "The court made it very clear that assisted suicide has nothing to do with increasing access to health care and that hijacking the special session to advance an unrelated agenda is impermissible."

Stephanie Packer, who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, was present at the hearing. After the End of Life Option Act was implemented, Stephanie's insurance company denied coverage of life-saving chemotherapy treatment, but said it would pay for "aid-in-dying" drugs, which would cost \$1.20.



## CANADA

### Alberta bans pro-life advocates outside abortion centers

**EDMONTON, Alberta, May 31, 2018 (LifeSiteNews)** – The Alberta legislature passed a bill on Wednesday forbidding pro-life protesters and sidewalk counselors from coming within 50 meters of an abortion facility, under penalty of fines or even prison time.

The so-called Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act passed by a 45-1 vote, CBC News reports. Members of the Official Opposition United Conservative Party did not participate in the vote.

The bill will cover both of Alberta's two standalone abortion facilities, Kensington Clinic in Calgary and Women's Health Options in Edmonton, which account for 75% of the province's abortions. It also prohibits taking video, photos, or audio recordings of anyone entering or exiting a facility, allows clinics to request that their bubble zone be expanded to 150 meters, and lets abortionists apply for 20-meter zones around their offices and 160-meter zones around their homes.

Violators may be fined \$5,000 or jailed for six months upon a first offence, with repeat offences carrying maximum penalties of a \$10,000 fine or year in jail. Corporations responsible for violations would have to pay \$25,000 for first offences and up to \$100,000 for further convictions.

Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Newfoundland and Labrador already have similar bubble zone laws.

UCP Leader Jason Kenney condemned the bill as a distraction, and said it was unnecessary because staffers with legitimate harassment claims already have injunctions and can simply petition the courts to expand them. Health Minister Sarah Hoffman called existing injunctions insufficient.

## UK

### Conservative MPs firmly reject imposition of abortion on Northern Ireland

**LONDON May 30, 2018 (LifeSiteNews)** – A survey released on 29 May 2018 shows that 72% of Conservative Members of Parliament reject Westminster undermining devolution in order to appease calls from fellow MPs to impose abortion on demand in Northern Ireland. Only 9% of Conservative MPs surveyed said they would support the undermining of Ulster's devolved Assembly.

In the survey, MPs were also asked whether the UK's House of Commons should hold a free vote on the issue. Again 72% of Conservative MPs rejected such a call for a free vote with only 9% of Conservative MPs supporting it.

The survey reveals that any interference with devolution in Northern Ireland is deeply unpopular with Conservative MPs. This is especially important coming, as it does, at a key time for the Prime Minister Theresa May's minority Conservative Government which depends on Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party in order to retain power. The survey of Conservative MPs was carried out by ComRes, an opinion research agency with a particular

interest in religious belief in the workplace. A total of 150 MPs were interviewed for the survey between 1st and 28th March 2018. ...

Referring to the recent abortion referendum result south of the Irish border, DUP Assembly Member Jim Wells said: "We can't have a knee jerk reaction in Northern Ireland simply because the Irish Republic has taken this decision." He has suggested that the DUP could use a "petition of concern" to block any change to abortion laws in Northern Ireland...

## PORTUGAL

### EUTHANASIA AND DOCTOR ASSISTED SUICIDE NARROWLY REJECTED IN PORTUGAL

*nbcnews.com and Associated Press / May 30, 2018*

**LISBON, Portugal** – A proposal to make Portugal one of only a handful of countries allowing euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide was narrowly rejected by lawmakers Tuesday.

After a landmark debate, lawmakers voted to reject four broadly similar bills introduced by left-leaning parties. The bill that came closest to succeeding was the work of the governing Socialist Party, which failed on a 115-110 vote with four abstentions.

Euthanasia – when a doctor kills patients at their request – is legal in Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. In Switzerland, and some U.S. states, assisted suicide – where patients administer the lethal drug themselves, under medical supervision – is permitted.

The country's two main parties, the Socialists and the main opposition Social Democratic Party, allowed their lawmakers to vote according to their conscience.

Euthanasia was forced onto the political agenda by a public petition urging its introduction in 2016.

The deeply divisive issue is the latest point of friction between faith and politics in this predominantly Catholic country.

Prodded by a series of left-leaning governments determined to bring about what they called a "modernization" of the country, the Portuguese parliament has in recent years voted to permit abortion on demand and same-sex marriage.

## USA

### Abortion activists panic over recent U.S. pro-life gains, fear end of Roe v. Wade

**May 24, 2018 (LifeSiteNews)** – It is important, in the cut and thrust of the culture wars, to occasionally remind ourselves of the victories that we do accomplish, especially considering that those victories are in defiance of social trends and illustrate the importance of pushing back, getting engaged, and brawling for every inch of territory. Each day, activists who have dedicated their careers to the preservation of the family and the protection of the sanctity of human life labor tirelessly to secure protections for life and family, and these efforts deserve notice.

The first thing to notice is the ongoing partnership

between the pro-life movement and President Donald Trump, a relationship that most pro-lifers could not have predicted during the primaries. Trump, however, has consistently defied skepticism by delivering on many pro-life campaign promises, with no sign of slowing down. The *National Review* published a fascinating essay some time ago detailing how Trump went from the man pro-lifers desperately wanted to keep out of the Oval Office to their key partner. Trump also became the first sitting president to speak at the Susan B. Anthony List Gala dinner, where he laid out the pro-life priorities of his administration—specifically highlighting the number of pro-life justices he has been appointing...

As many of you will have already seen, Trump also used his speech at the SBA List gala to announce new policy that will deprive Planned Parenthood of between fifty and sixty million dollars, with the Health and Human Services.... Planned Parenthood, which has consistently claimed that abortion is only 3% of what they do, has responded furiously—indicating both the effectiveness of this move and the deceitfulness of their claims. Their fury means one thing: This move will obviously hurt abortion services....

Abortion activists are beginning to get panicky—one prominent pro-choice writer even wrote on Twitter this week that she is concerned *Roe v. Wade* might actually be overturned, and that religious liberty protections would continue to be strengthened...

## USA

### Bishop calls for '#metoo movement' for unborn children targeted for abortion

**PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, April 5, 2018 (LifeSiteNews)**



Bishop Thomas Tobin

– Providence Bishop Thomas Tobin has called for a "#metoo movement for unborn children" with the aim of ending abortion. The Catholic bishop used

Twitter on Tuesday to send out

the call. The bishop said in his tweet that abortion equated to "Capital punishment for babies." He also called abortion the "exploitation of vulnerable women."

The "#MeToo" movement is a widespread social media campaign to help demonstrate the existence of sexual violence and harassment. The hashtag phrase is often posted along with stories of victims sharing their stories.

The bishop also dressed down the abortion lobby's appropriation of civil rights for its promotion of abortion in the tweet. "We hear about "reproductive rights" or "right to choose," Bishop Tobin said. "There is no "right" to end the life of an unborn child."

Thomas.J.Tobin@bishoptjt We hear about "reproductive rights" or "right to choose." There is no "right" to end the life of an unborn child. We need a #metoo movement for unborn children. Abortion: Capital punishment for babies, and exploitation of vulnerable women. Wrong just wrong!