

# Life News



August  
2014

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



## Life Newsbytes

New data reveals 13 U.S. states in the first half of 2014 enacted 21 provisions related to “reproductive health” issues. The analysis released by The Guttmacher Institute—the former statistical arm of Planned Parenthood—noted, “These restrictions range from requirements that abortion providers have admitting privileges at local hospitals to bans on insurance coverage to limitations on medication abortion.” In comparison, during the first half of the current year, only 3 pro-abortion laws have been enacted. Although the number of laws passed to date in 2014 represents about half the number (41) from the previous point last year, a total of 226 pro-life laws have become law since 2011. According to Guttmacher, more state abortion restrictions were enacted between 2011-2013 than in the entire previous decade (when 189 laws became law). The focus among state lawmakers continues with the passage of laws involving abortion clinic compliance of basic health and safety standards. To date, 26 states have enacted such laws regulating facility requirements and abortionists’ hospital admitting privileges. (*Guttmacher Institute Report Accessed Online, CLR Life News, 7/9/14*)

## Speaking Up For Life

“Children are never too young to learn that life is precious. And teaching our children the value of life will lead them not only to reject abortion. It will also lead them to reject suicide and other unnecessary violence. If life is precious, no one has the right to destroy it to make his or her own life easier.” *Kristi Burton Brown, stay-at-home mom and pro-life attorney (volunteering for Life Legal Defense Foundation and also as an allied attorney for Alliance Defending Freedom)*

“When boys and girls see themselves the way God does, the way they view each other will improve. Relationships will take on new meaning. Think about it. If boys see themselves in light of their baptism as sons of God and girls see themselves as daughters of God, then all baptized people become brothers and sisters in Christ.” *Linda D. Bartlett, www.titus2-4life.org*

“Yes, fathers today need godly models, but more than that, we need forgiveness. Thankfully, God has provided us with both.” *Ryan C. MacPherson, associate professor of history at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota*



Lutherans For Life National Conference  
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, Michigan  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

Dr. John Patrick • Rev. Robert Fleischman  
Laura Davis • Rev. Jonathan Fisk • Rev. Max Phillips  
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When bias toward people with disabilities makes the headlines, it jolts us out from behind our safety shield of indifference. The *Toronto Star* reported in its online edition of August 21, 2013, “Hateful letter stirs local support for autistic boy.” The boy, Maxwell, 13, lives with his mother in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.

The writer calls Maxwell a “hindrance to everyone.” “Do the right thing and move or euthanize him!!!! Either way, we are ALL better off!!!” Not only does the writer suggest euthanasia, but suggests that whatever “non-retarded body parts he possesses” be donated to science.

**“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap”** (Galatians 6:7). Both in Canada and the United States we have been sowing the seeds that base life’s value on abilities or usefulness. For forty years we have aborted those who do not measure up. If the technology existed to detect autism prior to birth as it does for Down syndrome, I wonder if “local support” would have been stirred if Maxwell had been aborted. Abortion does not merely devalue the life of the unborn, it devalues life.

But sowing such seeds not only produces hateful, bigoted neighbors but subtly affects our thinking too. Perhaps we have wondered about the value of a particular life like grandma lying there unresponsive or our spouse denying who we are and cursing us as a result of Alzheimer’s. Maybe we sometimes doubt the value and purpose of our own lives.

It is good for me, and maybe you too, to be reminded that we are all the work of God’s hands (Job 34:19) and we have no place issuing commands about His handiwork (Isaiah 45:11). He knits us together (Psalm 139:13-14), He redeems us by His grace (Ephesians 2:8), and calls us to be His children in Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). God gives life value and neither blatant headline-making bigotry nor our own subtle doubts can ever detract from that!

I suppose we could make a big deal out of the *Toronto Star* story and issue an indignant response. But much more will be accomplished if we continue to help fellow Christians see this divinely-bestowed value and equip them with the means to share it with others in word and deed.

With your help and God’s might, we will continue to sow the seeds of the value of life that comes from God. God will give that seed growth and we will rejoice as it reaps a renewed respect for life, as it reaps renewed compassion for others, and as it reaps the saving of souls.

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