

Life News

Long Island's Pro-Life Newsletter

PO Box 223, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 ● PO Box 247, Old Bethpage, NY 11804 ● 631-243-1435 ● www.ProLifeLI.org

Volume 49 No. 10

2023 **December** Issue

Subscription \$18.00 Annually

NYS EQUAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT CHANGE - 2024 BALLOT

The NYS Constitution contains an Equal Protection Amendment. In the November 2024 elections, the NYS ballot will include a referendum on edits to that amendment (dubbed the 'Equal Rights Amendment').

To amend the NYS Constitution, the change must be approved by two consecutive legislative sessions and then passed by NYS voters by majority vote. **Elections have consequences!** The NYS legislature passed the amendment changes in July 2022 and again in January 2023. In November 2024, YOU have the opportunity to vote for or **against (pro-life position)** the revised amendment.

NYS Legislature bills A1283 and S108: Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to Section 11 of Article 1 of the constitution, in relation to equal protection. [Ed: New classes added are **bold**; bracketed text to be deleted]

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed [or], religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state, pursuant to law.

Ramifications if the revised amendment is approved.

This language has no minimum age (i.e., applies to all minors) and doesn't include exemptions (e.g., religious or conscience).

The pregnancy/reproductive terminology means access by all for surgical and chemical abortion for any reason throughout a pregnancy, as well as IVF and other reproductive procedures that threaten preborn lives. Once abortion-on-demand is embedded in the constitution, it becomes far more difficult to change than via the current pro-life strategy to pass pro-life laws. Moreover, inclusion of the new text under an anti-discrimination clause adds an alarming element against right to life efforts.

- √ Would conscience clause protections for pro-life healthcare workers be illegal?
- √ Would Catholic hospitals and pro-life doctors & nurses not have the right to refuse to commit abortion and dispense the abortion pill?
- Would your pro-life healthcare providers be <u>allowed</u> to practice medicine from their pro-life worldview or be restricted in what they can do or say, at risk of losing their license or job?
- √ Can pro-life churches, pro-life pregnancy centers and pro-life organizations operate without referring those who contact them to Planned Parenthood for abortion, abortifacient contraceptives, etc.

HELP PREBORN BABIES! Educate yourself and others about the 'Equality Amendment' ballot proposal. Ask your pro-life clergy & healthcare providers what they are doing to help stop passage of this anti-life referendum. *Please start now!*

SAVE THE DATE! Fri., 1/19/24 Annual March for Life, Washington DC

Additional info in Jan/Feb 2024 edition of *Life News* and *Marchforlife.org*.

There are many State-sponsored March for Life events. Please check with your State Pro-Life organization for more info. March for Life NY will take place in Albany on Monday, 6/24/24!

Dear Defenders of Life,

There are many ways you can support the pro-life cause - by prayer, by peaceful witnessing at abortion mills, by writing letters to the editors, by political action and by financial support. As Chair of the Long Island Coalition for Life, I am asking for your financial support at this time. The LICL is a completely voluntary organization. Its Board of Directors and committee members receive no financial compensation. All of your contributions go directly for pro-life work.

Education is the first and foremost purpose of the LICL. We have provided pro-life speakers at Long Island high schools and colleges. We have pro-life displays at street fairs. We have a presence at abortion mills where we distribute business-size cards that provide crisis pregnancy help phone numbers and websites. Our biggest expense is the publication of Life News, an essential educational tool.

This past summer, our Educational Trust sponsored pro-life fly over banners seen on Long Island beaches with the message "Have Courage, Carry Hope, Say No to Abortion." The LICL has also sponsored lobbybus trips to Albany to stop anti-life legislation such as abortion and assisted suicide bills. Sadly, the Abortion on Demand Bill was passed in January 2019, and now the pro-abortion forces want to enshrine the abortion on demand law into our New York State Constitution with the so called "Equality Act." This will make it almost impossible to change. We are still fighting doctor-prescribed suicide bills, with the false, harmless sounding title, "Medical Aid in Dying." Like abortion, which was only supposed to be for the so called "hard cases," but has been expanded to abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy, so will it be for doctor-prescribed suicide. First like the proposed NYS bill, it will be for patients with a terminal illness predicted to die within six months. However, like Belgium, the Netherlands, and Canada, it will be expanded to the mentally and physically disabled, who feel they have a "duty to die" in order to spare their family emotional and financial costs. The slippery slope is real.

The historian, Hannah Arendt, once described Nazism as "the banality of evil." By this, she meant that evil had been normalized in Nazi Germany. And of course, in our own country the evil of slavery had once been normalized. In the United States today, we average over 2,500 abortions a day, more than 60 million since the Supreme Court legalized abortion through all nine-months of pregnancy with its Roe v. Wade & Doe v. Bolton decisions in January 1973. Thank God, Roe was overturned by the Supreme Court, but nothing has changed in New York State. Its barbaric abortion on demand law is still in effect because the Supreme Court decision returned abortion law to the states.

We in the pro-life movement are fighting against this normalization of the killing of pre-born babies through abortion and the killing of the elderly, the depressed, and disabled through doctor-prescribed suicide which will turn doctors into killers.

Please help us to continue our educational efforts to end this killing by contributing whatever you can afford so that together we can win this fight for all those who cannot defend themselves.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

George & Frat

For His Innocents,

George E. Frost LICL Chairman

P.S. Please use the enclosed postage-paid envelope and the coupon on page 7 to volunteer and/or send your year-end donation. We want to keep Long Island moving in the pro-life direction. Gift subscriptions to Life News are another way you can spread the pro-life message. Just check off the gift subscription box in the page 7 coupon and return with your \$18.00 subscription donation. Photocopy the coupon if you are making several or go to our website ProLifeLI.org. Thank you!

You're Invited The Long Island Coalition for Life general meeting welcomes all interested in pro-life activity, education, legislation or volunteering. Our December General Meeting will take place on **Monday, December 18** at **8:00 PM** at Joseph Barry K of C, 45 Heitz Place, Hicksville. We will have refreshments to celebrate Christmas and all our faithful participants. **Please join us!** For further info, call LICL at 631-243-1435.



FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Prior to being elected to Congress, **new House Speaker** Mike Johnson served as a lawyer for Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). He has a solid pro-life voting record and has spoken against FBI targeting of pro-lifers.

As of Nov. 5, the *National Defense Authorization Act's* status is "Resolving Differences."

Both the House and Senate versions fund military abortion travel. Sen. Tuberville continues to 'hold' Pentagon promotions in protest.

Neither chamber has passed the **Agriculture/FDA bill**. The House version had stricter rules for mifepristone, but it failed to pass on Sept. 28.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission got over 63,000 comments regarding their plan to mandate employers "reasonably accommodate" employee abortions, as EEOC is tasked to enforce the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act*. (¾ of comments sent via USCCB or *CatholicVote*). EEOC also enforces Title VII's ban on workplace harassment regarding pregnancy. Comments were recently taken on proposals to broaden 'pregnancy' to include "reproductive decisions." It isn't clear when either set of proposals will be finalized.

House Resolution. 773, to expel LI Rep. George Santos failed. It was introduced by LI colleague Anthony D'Esposito. Yea: 179 (LaLota, D'Esposito); Nay: 213 (Santos); (Garbarino did not vote.) Speaker Johnson wanted the vote delayed until the Ethics Committee reported.

The Supreme Court will likely rule on the abortion drug mifepristone this session. In April of this year, 24 State Attorneys General, led by NY's Letitia James, asked the Court to allow the relaxed FDA rules for mifepristone. In October, Alliance Defending Freedom asked the Court to skip the case, thus letting stand the 5th Circuit ruling in favor of the prior rules, which banned the mailing or drugstore sale of mifepristone.

SCOTUS has been asked to review *Reilly v. City of Harrisburg*. The city says a law bans pro-lifers from one-on-one counseling near Planned Parenthood.

On Nov. 7, Ohio voted for Issue 1, to "engrave" abortion into the state Constitution. Pro-abortionists outspent pro-lifers 3 to 1 promoting their position on the issue. In the run-up to the vote, Ohio's Attorney General warned that partial-birth, dismemberment, and abortions for disability would be allowed, but parental consent would not. A win for Issue 1 means unrestricted abortion will be nearly impossible to get rid of in Ohio. A Constitutional Amendment will be on NYS's ballot in 2024. (See page 1)

A Federal Court issued an injunction against Colorado's SB 23-190, a ban on Abortion Pill Reversal. The judge said it violates the religious liberty of Bella Health + Wellness. The state must appeal within 30 days. *WealthyLiving.com* reported "the whole story" of the case, including ACOG's claim that APR was 'unproven', but never stated whether APR had ever worked. Comments included: "We Shouldn't Make Policy Around Religious Fantasy". (Note: Several thousand babies have been saved using APR.)

Federal legislation continued....

The American Medical Association meeting in November is considering two resolutions concerning Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia. Currently the AMA is against Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia. Res. 4 opposes outlawing the practices, and Res. 5 takes a 'neutral' stance. In both items the old terms are replaced with "Medical Aid in Dying."



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

Gov. Hochul signed *Ava's Law* [S.6082a/A.5734a] Oct. 18. The NYS Dept. of Health must now provide

information to the public on "the potential mental and physical impact" caused by "pregnancy loss or infant loss" as well as "resources for support and follow-up care." *Ava's Law* covers "pregnancy or infant loss" due to stillbirths, miscarriages, and abortions performed for "medical reasons."

The 2024 NYS Legislative Session begins in January. New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms lists the following as **bills to advocate for**:

- *Respect the Unborn Act (RUA), which would make third-trimester abortions unlawful.
- *The Liv Act which would criminalize the act of knowingly causing injury to a pregnant woman.
- *The creation of an enforceable requirement that medical care be provided to infants born alive following an abortion.
- *A law protecting unborn children who are harmed due to violent crimes against their mothers.
- *Parental notification before an abortion is performed on a minor.
- *A prohibition on taxpayer funding of abortions.
- *A ban on the performance of abortions by non-physicians *The establishment of a new Office of Hospice and Palliative Care Access and Quality within the NYS Department of Health.

Bills to oppose:

- *The legalization of assisted suicide/death with dignity/medical aid in dying/euthanasia.
- *The Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program (Taxpayer Funding for Out-of-Staters' Abortions Act), and all other measures to provide state funding for abortion providers or organizations to facilitate 'abortion access'.
 *Legislation promoting or protecting telemedicine for
- *Legislation promoting or protecting telemedicine for providing abortion-related services (for residents of other states).
- *Any legislation that would impose compelled speech upon pregnancy centers.
- *An increase in the Medicaid funding reimbursement rate for abortion providers.

ACTION ITEM: Contact your NYS Senator and Assemblyperson and let them know your position on these issues. For contact info on legislators at all levels go to: prolifeli.org/index.php/legislative **OR** usa.gov/elected-officials

To discuss Federal Legislation, e-mail Charles Feldman at cdefeldman@optonline.net. To discuss State Legislation, e-mail Jim Miller at jimmiller9@aol.com.

HEALTH & SCIENCE Artificial Wombs



Steven Mosher reported in the 9/22/23 edition of Population Research Institute's *Insider* that in April, "researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia" (CHOP) in Pennsylvania published their success in gestating lambs in an artificial womb. Now they are ready to begin the first human clinical trials, if allowed. This device, the Extra-uterine Environment for Newborn Development, or EXTEND, was designed to increase survival, and improve outcomes for extremely premature babies. The researchers have made it clear that this technology is not designed to support life from conception to full-term, dispelling rumors worthy of science fiction. However, they have been careful not to comment on whether this technology will affect fetal viability. For abortion legislation around the world that relies on viability as a marker, this technology may have a major impact."

Katie Yoder reported in *Our Sunday Visitor* (10/20/23) that John F. Brehany, executive vice president and director of institutional relations at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, said we must approach the issue of artificial wombs "with courage and caution. Courage because this endeavor is highly complex technologically and may positively impact human lives and health at very early stages. Caution because – when it is deployed – such technology will be powerful and subject to abuse."

Yoder reported the FDA's Pediatric Advisory Committee met in September to "discuss and provide recommendations on the future of artificial womb technology for extremely premature infants, or babies born before 28 weeks of pregnancy. The independent committee considered plans to establish the safety and effectiveness of the technology, including regulatory and ethical considerations for use with humans. The advisers examined artificial womb technology as an alternative to current standard-of-care management of extremely premature babies in the neonatal intensive care unit."

The FDA briefing document defined the technology as "a proposed therapeutic strategy that aims to bridge the period between extreme preterm birth and later gestation to allow for organ maturation in a system that mimics the womb environment and provides artificial placental (AP) support for nutrition and gas exchange." The rationale for using this technology is "to attempt to save the lives of more babies born prematurely."

A National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) report from the CDC in January showed a 4% rise in the preterm birth rate from 2020 to 2021; about one in ten babies born in the US were premature (before 37 weeks of pregnancy). The preterm birth rate was about 50% higher for African American women than for Hispanic or white women. There were 3.6 million births in 2021. Less than 1% were born before 28

weeks of pregnancy. But that was more than 23,000 babies born extremely premature.

A September NVSS report stated that "babies born before 28 weeks held the highest mortality rate, with a rate 170 times as high as that for babies born at 37-41 weeks. The report found that 65% of infant deaths occurred in babies born before 37 weeks."

Brehany noted that we "should use reason and science to protect human life and health," but we need to be careful too. He used the example of sonograms to illustrate his point. "Sonograms can be used for clinical diagnoses, to help refugees from Planned Parenthood visualize the reality of their babies – and, unfortunately, to identify unwanted female babies. The same will be true for artificial wombs." Moral and ethical guidelines must be followed with this technology. Brehany quoted C.S. Lewis: "Every power that humans develop over nature also increases the power that some people have over others." Brehany stated, "Prudential guidelines should ensure that artificial wombs are used only when no less radical means are available, and not simply as a replacement for normal gestation." He is concerned that it could be misused in the future, citing how C-sections have been performed for convenience. "There eventually will be analogous temptations to use the more powerful technology of artificial wombs." He concluded, "The benefits likely will be that many lives will be saved. The risks are that people will have even more power over human beings during pregnancy and more discretion in choosing whether to continue pregnancies or not."

Sam Nichols of ABC News Sydney reported on 5/11/23 that "reproductive rights" activists worry that the technology might threaten "bodily autonomy and reproductive choices." Luara Ferracioli, associate professor of political philosophy at the University of Sydney stated, "If gestation could take place outside of the body, then perhaps a [person] only has a moral right to end the natural gestation, not to end the life of the fetus." Catherine Mills, professor of bioethics at Monash University is concerned about the impact on access to "terminations of pregnancy...there would be a stronger pressure to use a technology, like an artificial womb, to extend a pregnancy...[regarding informed consent] Our clinical trial framework is really set up for participants who are persons... and it's not yet clear that beings at 22 weeks' gestation are full persons, in the way that we typically attribute moral status."

Dr. Evelyn Huang reported on the new technology at ABC News (9/21/23). Regarding viability, neonatologist Shaliz Pourkaviani noted: "Acceptable gestational age for viability used to historically be accepted as 23 weeks and [weighing] above 500 grams...over the past few years, there has been a push to extend this as low as 22 weeks." Pourkaviani mentioned some concerns, such as "if this will be painful and do the benefits outweigh the potential risks." In addition, there may be long-term consequences "that are not easily studied, such as the potential long-term complications if a womb is made out of materials such as plastics." Pourkaviani stated, "This will be groundbreaking in our field of neonatology. Premature babies who otherwise would have not had an opportunity to grow and develop in extrauterine conditions have a chance at survival."

Key: (M) = MONTHLY(W) = WEEKLY

PRO-LIFE PRAYERFUL PRESENCE. Scheduled times at local abortion provider/referral sites are listed below. To volunteer, speak with the contact person before going to a site. Never witness alone. Your presence, if even for 30 min. a month, is important. Note: Vigils & Witnesses are NOT sponsored by the LICL and are provided for

informational purposes.

Nassau County - Location	Day/Time	Contact Phone
540 Fulton Ave (Rt 24), Hempstead	(W) Sa 8 AM-Noon	917-544-0121
" "	(W) Th 10:30-Noon	516-270-3845
	(W) Sa 10AM-Noon	516-270-3845
" "	(W) Fr 11 AM - Noon	516-359-1298
Suffolk County - Location	Day/Time	Contact Phone(631)
70 Maple Ave, Smithtown	(W) Mo. 10 AM prayers w/Fr. Joe	,
	We, Fr. & Sa 7:30-10:30 AM	813-3412
42 First Ave, Brentwood	(W) Sa 9:40-10:15 AM	665-3630
877 E. Main St, Riverhead	(W) We 2-4 PM	323-8001
450 Waverly Ave, Patchogue	(M) 2nd & 4th We & Sa 10 AM-n	oon
•	& 2nd & 4th We 3-5 PM	615-1735
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IMPORTANT:

Peaceful assembly on public property near an abortion site is a lawful First Amendment right.



Pro-Life Counseling Centers nearest to abortion sites:

Women First Pregnancy Options: (Four locations): Massapequa 516-798-9100, 35 East Willow St, at E end of Sunrise Mall behind White Castle, (bilingual) open Mo-Fr, 10 AM-4 PM, Sa 9 AM-

Noon (by appt. only); Hempstead 516-408-6300, 474 Fulton Av (Rt 24) (bilingual) open Mo-Fr 10 AM-4:30 PM & Sa 9AM-1PM; Deer Park 631-243-0066, 1767 Deer Park Ave, (bilingual) open Mo 10 AM-8 PM, Tu-Fr 10 AM-4 PM. (Closed Sa), Smithtown 631-656-0441, 91 Maple Ave.

Local Pro-Life Viewing/Listening:

Check EWTN Opt. Ch 135, Verizon Ch 285 for pro-life program-

Live Stream: 7 PM Mondays marchforlifeny.org/events/marchfor-life-ny-livestream

Pro-Life and Pro-Family blog: rickhinshaw.com

WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

In Memoriam: Howard (Howie) Shannon

- Rosary for Life every Fri. at 3 PM on Zoom, sponsored by DRVC OHLFB. Meeting ID: 811 9648 1100 Passcode: 20EWp7: Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923.
- Holy Hour for Life St. Joseph RCC, 59 Church St., Kings Park every Mon. at 7 PM. This is also live-streamed. For more info call 631-269-6635.
- Right to Life Rosary Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, 495 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue every Thurs. at 7 PM. For info call 631-475-4739.

High School 2024 Scholarship Award

The LI Coalition for Life Educational Trust invites all high school seniors (including home schooled) in Nassau & Suffolk counties to take part in its 2024 High School Scholarship Award. Applicants are to participate in and engage their peers in respect for human life activities. Students will be evaluated on their level of involvement, creative advocacy and dedication in supporting respect for human life. For more info and an application, please visit ProlifeED.org/Events. Also, stay tuned for more info in Life News.

Annual Pro-Life Oratory Contest

The Long Island Coalition for Life Educational Trust will sponsor a Pro-Life Oratory Contest for High School Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors on Sat. 3/2/24. Participants have the opportunity to express in a logical and organized way, their respect for the life of every individual, no matter how small or incapacitated. For more info and application please visit ProlifeED.org/ Events. Also, stay tuned for more info in *Life News*.

Recipients of the Maureen Nolan / St. Thomas Knights

of Columbus scholarship held a shower for the Unborn Child on 10/15/23. Over 50 people were in attendance. As shown here, the high school students gathered gifts from family and friends and the donations will be given to Mommas House.

Student-Sponsored Baby Shower



34th Annual National Night of **Prayer for Life**

Fri., Dec. 8 - 9 PM to Sat., Dec. 9 - 1 AM To register your Church or find nearest location contact Miriam 631-252-8258 or Mary

717-533-4846; e-mail: evecampfield@hotmail.com. Website: Nationalnightofprayerforlife.org

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(aka Life Center of LI):

HELP NUMBERS NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES L.I. COALITION FOR LIFE: Info on pro-life activity, speakers, legislation 631-243-1435; ProLifeLI.org

Pregnancy Care Center locations:

Women First Pregnancy Options

Deer Park631-243-2373 Hempstead516-408-6300

Massapequa.....516-798-9100

Smithtown...........631-656-0441

Hot Line631-243-0066 Baby Safe Haven-Don't abandon -

no questions877-796-4673

Wantagh516-785-4070

Islip......631-277-3888

Rocky Point631-821-9727

Hampton Bays631-728-8900

...... 800-550-4900

Boro Preg Ctr......718-281-HELP

Bridge for Life718-463-1810

Catholic Char. Regina Maternity

Serv.....516-733-7071

CGS.....800-592-4357 MOMMAS House: Jericho, Glen

Hempstead516-781-8637

Mother of Good Counsel Home:

Roosevelt516-223-1013

Nat'l Hotline800-712-4357

Riverhead888-709-3227

Perinatal Hospice Prog. (Gabriel's

Helpline......877-558-0333

Adoption, Foster, Maternity Sys.

Courage)631-465-6300

.....631-738-8829

Birthright Int'l Hot Line:

Breath of Life Preg. Ctr.

Cove, Levittown &

Soundview Preg. Svs.:

Centereach, East Meadow &

Birthright:

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MUST BE RECEIVEĎ BY
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PO Box 327, Copiague, NY Our **75th** year TEL 631-841-1177 FAX 631-842-3388

Printers of this newsletter In Loving Memory of John Gustaffsen





Thomas J. Farrell

Life News

of Long Island

To protect innocent human life from fertilization to natural death through education, legislative action, prayer and peaceful presence.

MISSION STATEMENT

Long Island Coalition for Life Post Office Box 223 Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0223

Our First Right THE RIGHT TO LIFE!

NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID HICKSVILLE, NY 11801 PERMIT NO. 263

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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December 2023 Christmas Blessings!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Creating Dialogue on Abortion to Reach Hearts and **Minds** - **Interactive workshop** presented by: Steve Wagner, Exec. Dir. Of Justice for All For more than 20 years, Steve has been training pro-life advocates and engaging with abortion-choice advocates

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024 Sons of Italy Hall - 2075 Deer Park Ave., Deer Park

Part I: 9:00*AM* - *Noon (Check in 8:45AM)* Part II: 1:00PM - 3:00PM (Check in 12:45PM) Each part includes different content. Attend either part or attend both for the best experience. Lunch (pizza): Noon - 12:45PM; No charge for participants.

Learn to create a productive abortion conversation Sponsored by Long Island Coalition for Life: 631-243-1435; info@prolifeLI.org

No entrance fee; you may make a donation of \$10 (or any amount) at the door to support the LICL RSVP: Not required but requested to plan for food and handout materials

Face the Truth - Jan. 21, 2024

While we celebrate the overturning of Roe v Wade, tiny children in the womb are still being aborted throughout

L.I., as abortion on demand through all 9 months is legal in NYS. Please join the Long Island Coalition for Life for the Roe v. Wade Memorial Face the Truth event on **Sun.**, Jan. 21, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the side-



walk in front of Nassau University Medical Center (2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow). This peaceful event is held as a public witness against the tragedy of abortion. Be a positive sign for LIFE! Signs available onsite. Sponsored by LICL: (631) 243-1435, info@prolifeLI.org.

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