

Right to Life opens regional office in Hills

Continued from Page 1

"We have never had this excitement. Citizens come to me that have never been involved in Right to Life before."

RIGHT TO LIFE has pledged to deliver the required 191,727 signatures needed to put the initiative drive before the state Legislature for a vote later this year. The southeastern Michigan effort is expected to provide 181,000 of the total required signatures within the 180-day petitioning effort.

The initiative drive is the newest twist in the organization's continuing struggle to halt the state's spending tax dollars on poor women's abortions. In the past, anti-abortion activists have tried to ban Medicaid abortion funding from the state budget.

But each of the 16 past attempts to ban Medicaid abortion funding has been stymied by votes from Gov. James Blanchard and his predecessor, Gov. William Milliken. The 16 votes involved Medicaid money. Tax money finances abortions through government workers' medical benefits, which the initiative does not address.

"The petition initiative legislation takes the governor out," Listing said. "We felt this approach could end the tax-funding of abortions quicker — in 1987 — than waiting for the ballot in 1988."

IF RIGHT TO LIFE gathers the required 191,727 valid signatures within 180 days, the petition effort could cut the governor out of the decision-making process because initiatives automatically become law with a simple majority vote of the Legislature. If lawmakers fail to approve the initiative within 60 days, it would go on the November

1988 ballot.

"We have never run a statewide campaign. This is an opportunity to help those who voted for this legislation (to stop Medicaid abortions) and then got stymied by whoever is in the governor's office."

RIGHT TO LIFE is targeting Medicaid abortions because the practice can be stopped by changing the law, Listing said. Michigan is one of 14 states that provide Medicaid-funded abortions, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled is not a requirement, she added.

Listing said she is confident the **Right to Life** initiative will be met with open arms in the Legislature. Of 35 state senators, 30-31 are pro-life as are about 66-67 of the 110 state representatives.

"We don't have the two-thirds majority but we have a comfortable margin," Listing said.

Yet Listing is realistic and expects **Right to Life's** pro-choice opponents to launch an offensive in the coming weeks.

THE NATIONAL Organization for Women is expected to unveil its plans for such an offensive in mid-March. Press conferences are being scheduled in Detroit and Lansing, said Farmington Hills' Marian McCracken, Michigan NOW president.

"Of course, we are pro-choice. We are going to work to see that poor women have the same choice," McCracken said, adding the organization also will work to ensure the governor's voice in preserving Medicaid funding for abortions.

Listing Thursday answered charges from pro-choice organizations that the **Right to Life** initiative is unfair because it targets poor women.

The initiative does not include abortion coverage in state employee insurance because "it is not locally possible," Listing said.

"The only way we could address this is with a constitutional amendment (requiring 239,657 valid signatures and voter approval). We don't have any sound judicial ground for launching this for state employees. I think we have to get through this petition drive and see what we can do. This is one step toward the goal of a human life amendment."

Right to Life, meanwhile, is gathering and training volunteers and has budgeted \$200,000 for the petition drive's first two months.

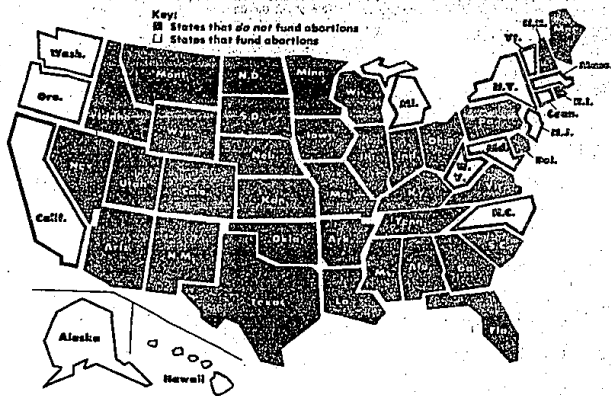
"We have been holding training sessions and talked with 600 leaders. They have fanned out and are training other people," Listing said.

HOW SIGNATURES will be gathered is up to **Right to Life** members and volunteers and the type of community they are in. Some will attempt to go door-to-door, enlist the help of church and business. Others will try to enlist mall owners to allow **Right to Life** members to gather signatures from shoppers, Listing said.

"It really depends on the locale," she said, adding each volunteer needs only 10 valid signatures to make the drive successful. **Right to Life** also enlisted help from Knights of Columbus, Christian Action Council, Baptists for Life, Methodists for Life, ProLife Action League and Women Exploited by Abortion, Listing added.

Announcement of the petition drive in part prompted the dissolution of a legislative panel, chaired by pro-life state Sen. Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo. The panel was

Michigan is one of only 14 states that pay for abortions



Source: Family Planning Perspectives, January-February, 1985 (updated).

comprised of five pro-choice and five anti-abortion legislators and since its start in December was charged with resolving the abortion-funding dispute.

In dissolving the panel, Welborn reportedly made an informal agreement with House speaker Gary Owen, D-Ypsilanti, that no more panel meetings would be

scheduled in return for no legislative attempt to block the **Right to Life** petition from reaching the ballot. But the **Right to Life's** initiative — if successful — would make this pointless.

"THE DEGREE of hypocrisy is disappointing," said state Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, a panel member, who said she wasn't

surprised by Welborn's decision to disband the panel.

"Why does **Right to Life** believe it's OK for state dollars to be spent funding some women's abortions and not OK for state dollars to be spent on other women's abortions?" Pollack said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Support mounts for school financing change

Continued from Page 1

"It's a relatively simple way; it will certainly cushion the blow, if not handle it all the way," he said. "We do have an excellent educational program, and I want to do everything... not to impact that."

EXPRESSING INTEREST in the issue recently, the Michigan Board of Education early this month appointed a 40-member special committee to study school financing. It will report recommendations in four to six months.

Flanagan serves on the board of directors for a group that is represented on the broad-based committee — giving Flanagan a say. The

committee is composed not only of educators, but business and community leaders as well, Flanagan added.

In any proposed change, his group will push to have it phased in, so the effect is not felt all at once.

Other interest was shown in January, when the legislative Senate Citizens Property Tax Commission recommended lowering property taxes and making up the difference to schools by increasing the state's sales tax.

And lawmakers, including state Rep. John Bennett, D-Redford, have introduced proposals to alter school financing. Bennett is suggesting the state send 60 percent of its annual

increase in revenues to the state's school districts, which would pass on the savings in the form of lower millages.

PROPERTY TAXES account for about 60 percent of funding on average for the state's 537 public school districts, but the percentage varies widely from district to district. The state picks up the rest.

Of the Farmington district's annual budget, \$42.6 million of the \$51.8 million budget comes from property taxes, according to the district's financial reports. Only \$2.1 million comes from state sources.

Although Gov. James Blanchard supports reductions in the property

tax system, he isn't optimistic about changing the way schools get money. "It's very difficult to get school finance reform without offering the incentive of major dollar investment," the governor said.

THE DEBATE continues between state and local officials and lawmakers with varying views.

"The present (property tax) system isn't working," said Kent Reynolds, a member of the Senate Citizens Property Tax Commission's school financing subcommittee. "There is tax payment inequity, and there is student inequity."

The commission report suggested no specific amount for a statewide

property tax, but said 17 or 18 mills was reasonable.

Farmington falls close to the 32 average local operating tax with its 32.5 mills. The commission report said communities, which could add to the basic statewide assessment, should aim at spending about \$3,000 per student per year.

"The basic concept is to create a floor for each community," said Robert Pobuda, chairman of the education subcommittee.

The commission also suggested that other taxes — possibly sales taxes — should be raised to offset the lower property tax.

State Rep. James Kosteva, D-Canton Township, advocates a plan to

cut school operating property taxes by about half and increase the 4 percent sales tax by 1.5 or 2 cents.

"The opportunity and quality of Michigan child's education should not be dependent on where they are born," he said.

A 2 percent rise in the sales tax from the current 4 percent to 6 percent would create an additional \$1.2 billion, the legislative panel said.

Some members were unsure of that move, because the new federal tax code eliminates deductions for state sales taxes, while the same law retains the property tax deduction.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



The Inn Salon
Male & Female Hair Styling

Our #60 **HELENE CURTIS PERM**
NOW \$40.00 includes: Perm, Cut, Style (long hair extra)

MANICURE \$8.00 Prices Expire 3-15-87

In The Holiday Inn
26555 Telegraph Rd.
Southfield

Open Mon.-Sat.
356-0920

BRITISH MADE LACE CURTAINS
• With Rod Pocket • Machine Wash & Dry
• Ready to Hang • No Sewing • By the Yard
Only Shop of its Kind in the U.S.A.

Visit The Lace Curtain Shop...it's like those found abroad. We have patterns to suit all decor. All are sensibly priced and cost half the price of others. Yet all are top quality and British made. Most are purchased by the yard and come in assorted lengths. We also carry Jedditehs, tablecloths, napkins, bedspreads, doilies, placemats, and wall hangings. You may have desired textures for any width of window made and an option of one piece. No seams.

The Lace Curtain Shop
BRITISH MADE LACE CURTAINS
33216 Grand River (1 blk. East of Farmington Rd.)
Farmington • Mon.-Sat. 10-6 **471-2058**

Malibu Beach
Tanning Salon

ESCAPE TO THE SUN!

ONE MONTH UNLIMITED TANNING \$49.95
10-20% OFF TANNING PACKAGES
FREE 10 MINUTE TANNING SESSION
all others good thru 3/18/87
6445 Orchard Lk. Rd. • West Bloomfield
inside Vellette Salon • Appointments suggested
737-0026

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, COME INTO PARK PLACE TANNING & MANICURES
V.I.P. TREATMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS...

Special in Men's Nails \$6.50
Sole Nails \$19.99
Fiberglass Wraps \$19.99
Other Nail Services...50% OFF

Grand Opening Specials on Tanning & Clothing

4 TANS \$15.00 for thru 2/22
MON.-FRI. 9 am-9 pm; SAT. 9 am-6 pm; SUN. 10 am-5 pm

ALL PANAMA JACK WINTER CLOTHING
50% OFF

Kitchen Creations
CAKE DECORATING • CANDY MAKING SUPPLIES

CAKE DECORATING CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS
Wed. MARCH 4 1-2:30 p.m.
Thurs. MARCH 5 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **6 WEEKS \$17.00**
Wed. MARCH 18 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. **5 WEEKS PLUS SUPPLIES**

HELLUM BALLROOMS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
BALLOON BANQUETS
PICK-UP OR DELIVERED

LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE MALL
13616 FARMINGTON RD. AT GRAND RIVER
478-0720
CLOSED SUN.-MON.

DEMONSTRATION • Thank Party • Free Party • March 11, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL
NO NEEDLES & PAINFUL!
You are not alone! 85-95% of all women have unwanted hair.
WAXING ALSO AVAILABLE

LOCATED IN VELLETT SALON
6445 Orchard Lake Rd.
ORCHARD MALL WEST BLOOMFIELD

CALL FOR APPT. TODAY!
ONE LESS HAIR

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
FREE 15 Minute Session of Hair Removal
851-6520