

# State lawmakers moving against assisted suicide

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

A state Senate panel is moving ahead with a bill to make assisting suicides a felony over a buzzsaw of objections from "Dr. Death" — Jack Kevorkian — and his admirers.

"We should move this quickly," sponsor Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, told the Senate Family Law and Criminal Justice Committee.

"I'm not intimidated. I know I'm right. Time will vindicate me," shouted Kevorkian, the media star witness at whom Senate Bill 32 is aimed.

The bill would punish assisted suicide with four years in prison or a \$2,000 fine. It would distinguish between assisting a suicide and removing medical treatment.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR** Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, scheduled a vote at 3 p.m. next Tuesday in 405 State Capitol Building, Lansing, to report out the bill. Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, is a member.

Kevorkian, a Royal Oak pathologist who gained international fame when he helped a fatally ill Oregon woman end her life with his suicide machine last June, testified the committee and the medical profession.

One court dismissed first-degree murder charges, saying Michigan law was inadequate to prosecute Kevorkian. But another slapped an injunction on him to prevent further use of his heart-stopping suicide machine.

Kevorkian, 64, compared himself to medical pioneers who introduced dissection, the smallpox vaccine, assistance to women in labor and birth control.

"Legislators, judges and medical politicians are keeping this nation in the Dark Ages," he said, accusing his legion of enemies of "unspeakable barbarity, cowering under church dogma, knuckling under."

**KEVORKIAN** and his attorney, Geoffrey Fieger, a West Bloom-

field resident with offices in Southfield, advocated a euthanasia law instead. Under it, a "blue ribbon panel" of medical professionals would whether a patient should be allowed to, and assisted in, taking his or her own life.

The panel would operate under state-set rules, Kevorkian said. Examples: "If they refuse treatment, the don't qualify. If it (disease) is not advanced, they don't qualify. Michigan has a chance to lead the civilized world. Netherlands doesn't even have that."

Dillingham saw more problems than solutions in such a law. "We insert ourselves (state government) into who should live and who should die."

"Suicide is a choice. Assisted suicide is a dual choice — and there is a survivor." Right to Life lobbyist Ed Riset agreed. "We either set forth a public policy which outlaws assisted suicide, or we begin determining who may be legally killed. If we choose the latter course, we will be headed toward a 'Brave New World,' where the value of human life will become relative and perhaps meaningless."

"The concept of a limited right to suicide would quickly become unmanageable."

**DILLINGHAM** and Welborn were accused of un-Republican conduct by Gerard Butler, a Madland man whose father died of cancer and whose mother is "brainedead" with Alzheimer's disease.

Citing Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, Butler said, "They bragged it's the Republican Party that's going to get government off your back." He accused the senators of trying to interfere in private decisions.

Butler and attorney Fieger said no one is at risk from Kevorkian's machine, and no one has asked for such protection.

Not true, replied Dillingham. Many paraplegics and elderly in nursing homes are so helpless that they fear someone will poison their orange juice to get them out of the way.

## around Oakland

### Support group for kids forms

Kids Company, a support group for children with loved ones involved in Operation Desert Storm, is holding weekly meetings on Saturdays in Auburn Hills and Waterford.

In Auburn Hills, the organization meets from 11 a.m. to noon at the

Boys and Girls Club, 229 Squirrel Road. In Waterford, the meetings are 1-2 p.m. in the Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Road.

Additional information is available at 335-5566.

### How to host a French student

An informational meeting for area families interested in hosting French students this summer will be held at 8 p.m. today in the Waterfall Plaza, 5719 Dixie Highway in Waterford.

Oakland County will host about 500 students from France in July and August as part of the Summer Homestay Foreign Exchange Pro-

gram, said coordinator Pam Hankins.

Host families are needed for the program designed to build friendship and understanding by sharing cultural experiences.

Additional information is available at 338-6983 or 623-7742.

### Bowl-a-thon aids troops

Friends of Freedom, a group supporting troops involved in Operation Desert Storm, will hold a bowl-a-thon to raise money beginning at noon Sunday at Zim's Bowling Center at I-75 and Baldwin Road, Orion Township.

To bowl, a person must either make a contribution or have signed up a list of sponsors pledging money, according to Laura Czarny, a spokeswoman from Berkeley.

Families with relatives in the military in the Persian Gulf will also get the chance to have pictures of

their loved ones put on coffee mugs, said Czarny.

"That way they can have coffee with their loved ones every morning," she said.

The group is involved in sending items from home to the troops. Should the troops be sent home soon, any unused funds will aid families of troops whose income has been diminished, Czarny said.

Additional information about the location of Friends of Freedom is available at 391-7600 or 547-4825.

**Timely Savings**

Save from 20% to 60% below factory list price on a large selection of fine timepieces from **CORONA, MOVADO, OMEGA, LINSOL, TAG-HEUER, HAMILTON** and more.



**GREENSTONE'S**  
WATCHES & JEWELRY

225 N. Wacker Drive, Birmingham, AL 35203, Tel. 584-1111  
Monday thru Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm

**Dittrich Quality\***  
**MINK COATS**

Only 15 Dittrich Quality\* Full Length Mink Coats Closeout in Sizes 6 to 18. Colors available: Ranch, Mahogany & Lunaraine. \$1,997

A limited number of Fine Quality\* Dittrich Full Length Mink Coats Including Dittrich Quality Female Mink Coats. Closeout in Sizes 6 to 16. Colors available: Ranch, Mahogany, Lunaraine, Blush, Autumn, Haze & White. \$2,797

\*Based on Men's Inventory. Fur's normal inventory. Dittrich Quality\* is the exceptionally high standard. It does not include Chinese fur. Far East labor normally. All prices are based on the current market. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Through Saturday Only  
Mon.-Sat. 10 to 6 pm  
Bloomfield Hills  
Thursday until 8:30 pm

*Dittrich*  
Fashion - Quality And Craftsmanship Since 1893

**DETROIT**  
753 Third Ave.  
West of Fisher Bldg.


**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
623 31600  
1515 N. Woodward Ave.  
South of Lake East.



The mark of distinction, our exclusive Graham & Gunn Ltd three-button wool suit, \$545.

**GRAHAM & GUNN**

Southwest Mall  
2545 West Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.



**\$75<sup>00</sup> back on our best portable phones.**

Invest now through March 31st in a state-of-the-art portable phone with a built-in antenna and a 100% rechargeable battery. Available only through Ameritech Mobile Service. And \$75<sup>00</sup> back!

**AMERITECH**

Southwest Mall, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210  
7540 Beverly Blvd.  
WALBROOK, CALIF.