

Honigman paves way for 'Big Brother' abortion bill

By Tim Richard
staff writer

A parliamentary ruling by Sen. David Honigman has set the stage for a state law requiring a one-day waiting period for an abortion. The bill also requires doctors to give patients photos of fetuses and a long list of possible side-effects of abortions.

Senators passed the bill, which one opponent denounced as "Big Brother" legislation.

HERE'S HOW Honigman, a freshman senator from West Bloomfield, played a key role:

"The Senate last May passed a one-

day waiting period bill 22-12 and sent it to the House. But pro-life committee chair Michael Bennane, D-Detroit, refused to take it up.

Meanwhile, the House passed HB 4280, amendments to the health care licensing code. In a Senate committee, Honigman, a life supporter, headed by Sen. Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, tacked on the abortion-delay language as an amendment.

Honigman was presiding officer in the Senate Committee-of-the-Whole session Thursday when Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, challenged the amendment as being "not germane."

Counseled Welborn: "It regulated

doctors when it came to the Senate, and it still regulates doctors."

Honigman, dipping into Mason's Rules of Order, ruled against Faxon, called the amendment germane, and was upheld by the full Senate, 23-11, in an unrecorded vote.

THE SENATE gave HB 4280 final approval and sent it back to the House for concurrence in the abortion-delay amendment. This week, the bill will go directly to the House floor instead of Bennane's committee.

Chances are strong the House will pass it, although neither chamber could muster the two-thirds majority to give the bill immediate effect.

Gov. John Engler is expected to sign it.

The Senate vote was 24-10. Voting yes: Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, Robert Geake, R-Northville, Honigman, and George Hart, D-Deerborn.

Voting no: Faxon. Excused absence: William Faust, D-Westland.

Senators rejected an amendment to strip out the requirement that the doctor show the patient photos of fetuses at various stages of development. "The photos try to traumatize the patient," Smith said.

SEN. JOHN Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, fired a heavy salvo against the bill.

"I'm as pro-life as any member of this body," said Schwarz, a physician and surgeon, "but the state is impinging on the doctor-patient relationship."

"There are three forms that must be filled out before this procedure — which is still legal, unfortunately — can be performed. No other procedure requires a 24-hour waiting period."

"It's the worst type of Big Brother legislation we can advocate. It's morally wrong. It's ethically wrong. It's opposed by every physician in this state."

Welborn read letters from several women, including a Karen from Canton, who said she was told "lies" at an abortion clinic and led to believe her baby was nothing but "fetal cells or a clump of tissue."

SEN. DOUG Carl, R-Utica, de-

fended the use of fetal photos: "What can be more objective than a photo?" he asked. "Abortion — let's face it, ladies and gentlemen — is a big business. They fear it (photos) will reduce their sales."

Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, denounced the bill as "political intrusion" based on the notion that women are too stupid to make decisions about their own bodies.

Pointing to Republican Reps. Lyn Bankes of Livonia, Barbara Dobb of West Bloomfield and Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills who had entered the Senate chamber, Pollack said "We don't need you to tell us and our physicians how to have intelligent discourse. I want only one politician in the room with me and my doctor — myself."

"This bill is not about smart or dumb," countered Sen. Joanne Elms, R-Big Rapids. "Women have been exploited by abortion. They were not given information. It's inconceivable that we would not want them to have information."

Catholic Central honors grad, a U.S. appeals judge

U.S. Appeals Judge James Ryan will be honored with the Father Conning F. Harrison Outstanding Alumnus Award at Detroit Catholic Central High School's annual dinner on Thursday, March 26 in the Embassy Suites Hotel on Seven Mile near I-75. In the Victor Corporate Park in Livonia.

For reservations, contact the CC Alumni Office at 334-0550.

Ryan, is a 1950 graduate of CC. His sons, James and Daniel also graduated from the school which is on Breakfast Drive in Redford Township.

A Redford resident, Ryan was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the federal appeals bench in 1985. Ryan's judicial career began in 1963 as a justice of the peace for Redford Township. Three years later

he became a circuit court judge. In 1975 he was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court.

While on the state supreme court, Ryan established the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Continuing Judicial Education arm of the Michigan judiciary and served as its supervising justice. He was the supervising justice for Wayne County Court Reorganization.

Prior to his judicial career, Ryan practiced law with Waldron, Brennan & Maher and with Ryan and Burrell. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy and presently holds the rank of captain in the naval reserve, serving as a military judge.

Ryan has been an adjunct professor at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and the University of Detroit Law School.

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