



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

Issue 5

October 2009

Prayer is our greatest weapon against the culture of death. We must work in all kinds of ways, but PRAYER can not only move mountains, it can change hearts.

National News –Respect Life

For the Catholic Church, October traditionally has been Respect Life Month. Each year we celebrate this month to remind ourselves and our society of how precious and valuable is every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death. For each of us, the gift of life is part of the eternal journey God has given us. Our life is blessed by a loving God who loves all of us, unconditionally. Jesus in the Gospel reminds us of his deep love for every human person, paying the ultimate sacrifice so that we all might have life with the Father.

Especially for Catholics, violation of life is sinful. Yet we each need to ask, what kind of witness do we give in our society to show that we oppose abortion and respect life? We must call one another to a conversion of heart and ask honestly: What are we doing to ourselves and one another? We must call one another to a deep and radical sense of respect for all people, at all stages of life.

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In a statement to mark Respect Life Sunday, October 4, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia called attention to those who are most vulnerable in recent debates on health care reform – the unborn, the poor, the elderly and the immigrant – and called upon Catholics to “examine how well we, as a nation and individually, are living up to our obligation to protect the rights of those who, due to age, dependency, poverty or other circumstances, are at risk of their very lives.”

Cardinal Rigali noted that the lives of the unborn are those most at risk in America and “despite the opposition of 67% of Americans to taxpayer-funded abortion, all current health care proposals being considered by Congress would allow or mandate abortion funding, either through premiums paid into

government programs or out of federal revenues.”

Noting that the unborn are not alone in being under attack in current proposals, Cardinal Rigali called for health care that recognizes the humanity of the immigrant. “How can a just society deny basic health care to those living and working among us who need medical attention? It cannot and must not,” he said.

Cardinal Rigali also addressed a dangerous and false cultural attitude that some persons are not worth protecting because of their perceived “low quality of life.” He stated that “death is not a solution to life’s problems. Only those who are blind to the transcendent reality and meaning of human life could support killing human beings to mitigate economic, social or environmental problems.”

“The antidote to such myopia is to recover an appreciation for the sanctity and dignity of each unique human being,” he said.

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life Program stresses the value and dignity of human life. It is observed in the 195 Catholic dioceses in the United States. This year’s theme is “Every Child Brings Us God’s Smile.” The full statement follows

and may be found online at

www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rfp/09rigali-stmt.pdf.

National Right to Life says new events in Congress further uncover pro-abortion agenda in health care bills

WASHINGTON— Recent events in Congress provided additional proof that top Democratic leaders in Congress are pushing plans to establish massive new programs that would pay for elective abortions and subsidize insurance coverage of abortions.

“Bills currently advancing in Congress would establish direct federal funding of elective abortion, and tax subsidies for private insurance that covers elective abortions -- both drastic breaks from longstanding federal policy,” commented Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of right-to-life organizations in all 50 states. “Ongoing events on Capitol Hill demonstrate the hollowness of President Obama’s public assurances that he does not seek government funding of abortion.”



This photo shows the feet of a 10-week old aborted baby. At 10 weeks the human body is completely formed. Although the baby is small enough to stand on his/her parents' little fingernail, he/she is so perfectly formed that fingerprints are already in place.



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

The health care restructuring bill proposed by Chairman Max Baucus has a number of major abortion-related problems, including a proposed new program that would use tax money to help purchase private health insurance for about 19 million Americans. The bill specifically authorizes the use of these federal funds to pay premiums on private plans that cover elective abortions..

Federal subsidies to cover elective abortions are not currently allowed under any federal health programs. Senator Hatch offered an amendment that would have prohibited federal funds from subsidizing plans that cover elective abortions, but would have allowed insurers to sell abortion coverage through separate supplemental policies not subsidized by federal funds. The Hatch Amendment failed, 10-13. Baucus and other Democrats on the committee opposed the Hatch Amendment. The committee also rejected another Hatch Amendment that would have codified the Hyde-Weldon Amendment, which is a temporary law prohibiting discrimination against health-care providers who object to providing abortions.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representative, 183 members on September 28 sent [a letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, pointing out that the health care bill (H.R. 3200), "radically departs from the current federal government policy of not paying for elective abortion or subsidizing plans that cover abortion." The letter notes that the HR 3200's language "explicitly authorizes the federal government to directly fund elective abortions, with federal (public) funds drawn on a federal Treasury account," through the proposed "public plan."

The signers -- 25 Democrats and 158 Republicans -- urged Pelosi to allow a vote to prohibit coverage of elective abortions by the public plan and subsidies for private plans that cover elective abortions. Seven other House Democrats have sent Pelosi similar letters in recent days, for a total of 32 Democrats.

In response, on September 29 Pelosi argued that the proposed public plan really would not be paying for abortions because "money is transmitted to a private contractor who then reimburses physicians." A representative called that argument "truly laughable -- it is like arguing that it is not the government paying for the abortions if the government sends the payment via the Internet." In reality, "The proposed public plan will be entirely a branch of the federal government, [all of its funds will be federal funds](#), and when it pays for abortions, that will be direct government funding of abortion."

The NRTL concludes that the continued resistance by the House Democratic leadership, "supports our theory that President Obama is misleading the public when he says he does not want federal dollars used for abortion. In an attempt to keep [his 2007 promises to Planned Parenthood](#), the President is trying to smuggle sweeping pro-abortion policies into law behind [smokescreens](#) of contrived language, verbal misdirection, and outright misrepresentation."

We need to keep making our voices heard. You can keep abreast of the truth through this action website: www.stoptheabortionmandate.com.



What is the Hyde Amendment and Why is it Important?

Henry Hyde was a champion for unborn children for his entire life. On September 30, 1976, he sponsored the Hyde Amendment. This is a provision of the Annual Appropriations Bill that funds the Department of Health and Human Services. This Amendment prevents the use of federal funds to pay for elective abortions or plans that cover elective abortions through the Medicaid program. It expires every 30th of September.

In order remain as law, the Hyde Amendment must be renewed every year as part of the budget for the Department of Health and Human Services in the Annual Appropriation Bill passed by Congress and signed by the President. The Hyde Amendment has been renewed every year since 1976. However, renewal of it could be blocked in any year in which both houses of Congress cannot agree that it should be renewed, or in any year in which the President vetoes the bill to prevent its renewal.

The Hyde Amendment specifically states:

SEC. 507. (a) None of the [funds appropriated in this Act](#), and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion.



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The term 'health benefits coverage' means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.

The important phrase is '*funds appropriated under this Act.*' The only funds appropriated under this Act which are applicable are those funded under the Appropriations Bill for the Department of Health and Human Services. The health care bill may create major new programs, a government-run insurance plan (the "public option") and a premium subsidy program, that will not be funded by the Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, and therefore would not be covered by the Hyde Amendment.

How the Hyde doesn't apply to the House Health Care Bill

The legislation involved in HR3200 creates new revenues to which the Hyde Amendment does not apply. In fact, it would explicitly authorize the public plan to pay for elective abortion and stipulates that every person who is on the public option has to contribute a monthly surcharge that will go into an account which will pay for elective abortions.

The bottom line is this: in order to reimburse abortion providers who offer abortions for public plan enrollees, checks will be written from the U.S. Treasury directly to abortion clinics. In addition, HR3200 creates a program that would help millions of Americans purchase health insurance. This allows subsidies to help purchase private plans that cover elective abortions, which would be a departure from the longstanding federal policy found in the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life laws that govern existing federal health programs.

So, How they are "Hyding" behind Hyde

Some Members of Congress and pro-abortion groups are claiming that the health care bill will follow current law on government funding of abortions.

"It is black letter law that not one dime of federal tax money can be used to fund any abortion... I'm just telling you factually right now that the Hyde

amendment is the law of the land." - Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO)

"There are no federal tax dollars that will fund abortion under the bill. The Hyde Amendmentalready bars federal funding for abortion. It still exists. It will not change. There is nothing in the bill that will change that." - Rep. Ron Klein (D-FL)

"I do not believe there will be a change in the Hyde amendment." - Sen. Arlin Specter (D-PA)

"the bill clearly spells out that no federal funds can be used to pay for abortions... "the bill preserves the status quo in abortion policy." Nancy Pelosi.

The truth: the proposed language explicitly permits the two things forbidden in the Hyde Amendment -- federal government funding for abortion and funding for plans that cover abortion. So if someone tries to tell you that the Hyde Amendment applies to health care, tell them to "Stop Hyding!"

Use this link to a video explaining the truth:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyPgXWTAtjs>

Most Americans Want Health Care Reform, Oppose Abortion Coverage, Support Conscience Protection Laws

A nationwide survey commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has found widespread public opposition to including abortion in health care reform and majority support for conscience rights protection.

Conducted by International Communications Research (ICR) from September 16-20, 2009, the phone survey of 1,043 U.S. adults found that 60 percent favor – and only thirty percent oppose – “efforts to pass health care reform to provide affordable health insurance for all.”

Focusing on that sixty percent, the survey found that:

- Sixty percent of those favoring reform oppose – and only 25 percent support – “measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their federal taxes.”
- By a 49-39 percent plurality, those who favor reform oppose “measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their health insurance premiums”; and
- Among those favoring reform, those who favor maintaining “current federal laws that protect doctors and nurses from being forced to perform or refer for abortions against their will” outnumber those who oppose keeping such laws in place by a margin of two to one (60-30).

Opposition to abortion coverage was somewhat stronger in the total sample of U.S. adults – for example, 67 percent of the total sample opposed



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

requiring people to pay for abortion coverage through their taxes and 56 percent opposed making them do so through their insurance premiums.

The survey also asked: "If the choice were up to you, would you want your own insurance policy to include abortion?" Sixty-eight percent of U.S. adults said 'No' and only 24 percent said 'Yes.'

"With each passing week it gets clearer: The American public generally does not want to pay for abortion coverage and does not want health care reform used to promote abortion."

"Abortion is not health care. The bishops of the United States are working hard to ensure that health care reform serves the most vulnerable among us – especially the poor, immigrants, and the unborn."

For more information on the U.S. bishops' position on health care reform, visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Wisconsin News

The WI Department of Health Services recently released the [2008 abortion statistics](#) for the state, and while the overall number of abortions went down, some of the other numbers are pretty grim.

The total number of abortions reported for Wisconsin residents in 2008 was 8,008, compared to 8,099 reported in 2007. The total number of abortions performed in the state last year was 8,229, compared to 8,267 in 2007. (Lowest recorded number of abortions in WI since 1974!) Of the 8,008 reported abortions among WI residents in 2008, 80% were surgical, 19% were chemical and **.4% were surgical procedures following a failed or incomplete chemical abortion.** That's 32 failed/incomplete chemical abortions in one year, compared to 16 last year, at a rate of .2%.

76% of abortions among Wisconsin residents were performed on women who had never been married; 12% to currently married women; 8% to divorced women; 4% to women who were separated and less than 1% to widowed women. Girls younger than 15 accounted for 39 (or less than 1%) of abortions; 15-17 for 6%; 18-19 for 11%; 20-24 for 34%; 35+ for 12%.

In 2008, in the state of Wisconsin, abortionists performed 198 abortions on pre-born babies over 20 weeks old. If the Madison Surgery Center starts killing babies, we can add 125 to that number.

The single largest group of WI women getting abortions is unmarried 20-24-year-olds; at 2,487 abortions last year alone.

Although it's always good to see that abortion numbers are going down, and Wisconsin is on the low end of the spectrum when it comes to abortion rates nationally, 8,229 murdered babies is 8,229 murdered babies too many. The Democratic majority in our state legislature appears to erroneously believe they have a mandate to increase abortions in the state, and they're already pushing through legislation to that effect.

Democrat Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan Strips Away Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer's Chairmanship.

"The Democratic Assembly leadership doesn't like it one bit when a member of their own party votes for what he believes when the issue is abortion," said Susan Armacost, Legislative Director of Wisconsin Right to Life. "Bob Ziegelbauer found that out last week when Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan 'fired' him for voting to prevent late-term abortions from being performed at the Madison Surgery Center."

Tens of thousands of people signed a petition in opposition to the plan perform late-term abortions and many left the UW system for their health care because of the late-term abortion plan. Many MSC staff are furious that their facility will be used to destroy fully-formed babies in a brutal and barbaric manner. Many in the state legislature were equally sickened over the late-term abortion plan and wanted to stop it. In June, an amendment was offered by Rep. Dan LeMahieu to the state budget that would have prevented UW entities from performing late-term abortions.

But the Assembly Democratic leadership had other plans and forced the Assembly to vote on a procedural maneuver that all Assembly members knew would result in killing the LeMahieu amendment. The leadership's maneuver to kill the LeMahieu amendment passed by only one vote. All Republicans voted against the maneuver because they wanted to have the opportunity to vote on the LeMahieu amendment. They were joined by Independent Jeff Wood and Democrats Peggy Krusick and Bob Ziegelbauer.

"For having the audacity to care about the lives of late-term babies who face a horrible death by dismemberment, Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer was removed as the Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee," said Armacost. "It appears that the Assembly leadership will do anything in their power to appease the radical pro-abortion lobby."



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

Resources

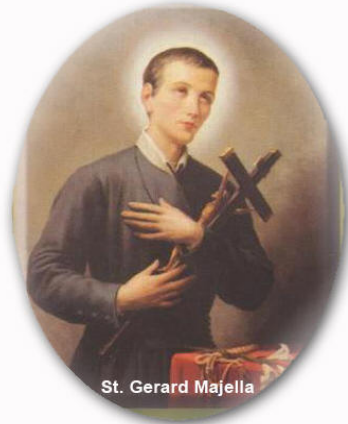
Available on the Priests for Life website.

Killed in Darkness, Remembered in Light

On the afternoon of July 27, 2008, close to 500 of the faithful filled Mother Angelica's Shrine in Alabama for the funeral of three aborted children who had been retrieved from a dumpster. This DVD takes you through the ceremony conducted by Fr. Frank Pavone.

The Procedure – The Horror of Abortion Exposed ** REVISED**

This DVD is only for the brave. It unmaskes the violence of the abortion procedure through the words of abortionists, the testimony of former abortionist Tony Levatino, the use of fetal models and abortion instruments, video of aborted babies, and the post-mortem exam of two aborted babies by Dr. Byron Calhoun. This DVD also includes our famous one-minute video, "Raise your Hand." Use The Procedure to challenge "pro-choice" people and to re-ignite your own pro-life fervor.



St. Gerard Majella

Events

Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity - October 20, 2009

Priests for Life will partner with Stand True Ministries to call on students across America to participate in the "Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity". On October 20, people from all over this nation will give up their voices for a day in solidarity with the 4,000 children killed and 4,000 women wounded by abortion every day. Red arm bands and duct tape will identify them as taking part in the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. They will carry fliers explaining why they are silent and educate others about the plight of the innocent children we are losing every day.

For more information, see the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity website at: www.silentday.org.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you;"

Jeremiah 1:5

Prayer intentions

That our President, members of Congress, and all political leaders may recognize the sacredness of life and defend the fundamental right of every human being to live, from the moment of conception to natural death.

That all children with disabilities will be loved and cared for in healthy and nurturing environments.

That all who have been involved in abortion may come to true repentance and seek God's merciful, healing love.

Novena to St. Gerard Majella, Patron Saint of Pregnant Mothers and of Childbirth October 8-16

Say the following prayer during these days, and offer prayer intentions for couples who are seeking to conceive a child, or for women having difficult pregnancies, for those who have lost children, or who have special prayer intentions for their living children.

St. Gerard,

You worshiped Jesus as the Lord of Life.

I ask you today to pray

For my special intention.

(Mention your intention here.)

Lift up to Jesus

All those who seek to conceive a child,

All those having difficult pregnancies,

All who have suffered the loss of a child,

And all who lovingly lift up their children to God.

Pray that all of us,

By caring for mothers, fathers, and children

born and unborn

May build a Culture of Life,

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pro-life Cruise! Save the dates: January 9 - 16, 2010

Join Fr. Frank Pavone and Priests for Life for the first annual Pro-Life Catholic Radio Cruise on Norwegian Cruise Line's - Norwegian Pearl. The Cruise embarks from Miami and sails to ports of call in the eastern Caribbean. Please come and bring a friend! For more information and to register see www.priestsforlife.org/activities/cruise.pdf.