



Pro-Life Network Newsletter

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September 2010

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.

She Chose Life: One Woman's Experience with Birth Right

A young woman with a 2-year-old son at her side and a 3-month-old daughter in her arms walked into Birth Right. She brought clothing for our clothes closet. "You helped me so much when I needed it," she explained. "I want to give something back." The volunteers on duty that day hadn't met her, so Lisa sat down and recounted her experiences of the past several years. "I grew up in a home where there were no rules," Lisa said wistfully. I started having sex in junior high, and it damaged me a lot. I knew I needed to change my ways, but I couldn't seem to do it. I really did believe in getting a good education. Finally I thought if I went to a school where there were no boys, maybe I could get a fresh start." Her mother liked the idea, and located a prestigious boarding school in another state for her daughter. Lisa applied and was accepted.

Lisa had just turned 16 and was undergoing the routine health exam required for entrance. While waiting for her results, she was struck by a picture on the clinic wall of a kitten struggling with a ball of yarn. The caption read, "God never gives us more than we can bear." That was unusual for a medical facility, she thought. The doctor soon met with her and broke the news that she was three months pregnant. She was appalled. She thought, "I'm one month too late. I was going to change, but I'm one month too late." Then the doctor asked if he could pray with her. Dazed, she agreed and later recognized that the picture and the prayer, the very first associations she had with her pregnancy, were God's clear message of His care for her and her baby. Most clinics that serve schools refer girls for abortions. Lisa later marveled that this doctor set the tone for her whole pregnancy with his kindness and his expression of confidence that she could overcome the difficulties he knew she would encounter with God's strength.

Being pregnant, she had to leave the school. Her mother's heart sank. She insisted that Lisa have an abortion. Lisa wants us to know that her mother is a compassionate woman whom she loves and respects very much. She truly believed abortion was in her daughter's best interest. Reluctantly Lisa went with her mother to the abortion clinic. She donned the gown and watched as the abortionist showed her the tube with the knife-like edge he would use, and

turned on the suction machine for her to hear. The nurse showed her a 12-week-old fetus in a jar of formaldehyde. "See, it's nothing," she said. But Lisa was looking at a tiny, fully formed human being about 3 inches long! She was horrified that the dead child was being called "nothing" and was being treated so cavalierly, as a mere specimen. Lisa jumped off the table and cried, "I can't do this!" She ran out of the room, put on her own clothes and walked out of the building. "You aren't coming home with me!" her mother cried. But she did make some phone calls to find a home for unwed mothers where Lisa could live.

The maternity home was hundreds of miles away. When Lisa arrived, she found it was a juvenile detention facility for pregnant girls. Every other girl there was in trouble with the law. They taunted Lisa and threatened her. She lived in fear, but she did manage to benefit from the child care and high school classes she attended. After a month she called her father, telling him she was pregnant and living in a violent place. He sent her a plane ticket and said she could live with him. She fled the home with nothing but the clothes on her back.

It was a relief to be living safely with her dad, but he was very ill and could not help her with food and clothing. A neighbor suggested she visit the local Birth Right office. "You gave me clothes to wear, you helped me apply for WIC (the food supplement program), you helped me with my medical needs, and I watched videos about the baby growing inside me which all were so helpful," she told us. "I had nothing until I came to you."

Lisa carried the responsibility of taking care of her ailing father. An alcoholic most of his life, he suffered from cirrhosis of the liver. Eventually he had to be hospitalized. Not long afterward, he passed away. "I was so grateful to have that time to be with my father, Lisa said. "He was never around when I was growing up. I never really knew him. Those few months were so meaningful to me."

Now Lisa moved in with her mother who had softened and become more supportive. Education had always been important to Lisa, and she delved into her high school continuation studies. She decided to tell her boyfriend about her pregnancy. Though they had parted ways when she went away to the boarding school, he was ready to take responsibility for his child, and they resumed their relationship.

The day arrived when Lisa gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. His grandmother adores him. Three months later Lisa and her boyfriend were



One question: why is it when I wanted the baby -- it was a baby, and when I didn't -- it was something else?

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married. They are working hard to build a strong family. Mother and newborn son continued classes together. Lisa was so determined to do well in school that many of her assignments were done with her baby in her left arm while she wrote with her right. She is pleased that she not only graduated from high school, but also took several college classes before her second child, a little daughter was born. At 18 years of age Lisa says, "When I look at the carefree lives of my friends, I do see that my life is hard, but I am very thankful for my kids and my husband."

The volunteers who heard Lisa's story were deeply moved. One had recently had a 16-year-old client whose situation was almost identical to Lisa's. This girl wanted to give birth to her baby, but she simply could not resist her mother's pressure and threats and tragically aborted her baby. Abortion is seldom "a woman's choice." Most often it is other people who are pressuring, even forcing her, so that abortion is really an act of desperation and feeling alone, not choice.

Lisa never forgot the special way God spoke to her through the picture and the doctor's prayer when she first learned she was pregnant. These gave her strength to do what was right against great odds. Lisa remarks, "I had no idea how many people out there were willing to help me. I think many girls who abort don't know there are places like Birth Right, with people who will really support them."

Lisa is now working on a college degree part time and is raising her children. She is living out the words of the scripture, "Now choose life so that you and your children may live; that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him, for the Lord is your life." (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20)

Is Planned Parenthood Unbiased? The Official Numbers.

We've all seen the ads...*"Why do I go to a family planning clinic"...*and heard the young women explain that they go because the family planning clinic "is in their neighborhood, the staff respect them, understand them, it fits their schedule", etc. These family planning clinics most often fall under the direction of Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood's website says *"Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate."* They state that the services they provide include, *"free, confidential advice, and information about contraception and sexual health; unlimited supplies of free condoms, free emergency contraception, free pregnancy tests, and unplanned pregnancy advice."*

What we don't hear is that according to its own Annual Report, during its 2008-2009 fiscal

year, PPFA performed over 315,000 abortions. The typical early abortion costs \$413, which means that PPFA made about \$126 million dollars from providing abortions to women and teens. (This estimate could be higher if they perform later term abortions because those are more expensive.) In contrast, PPFA provided very little prenatal care (less than 11,000 women) and adoption referrals were offered to less than 0.15% of their total clientele (approximately 4,900 referrals). This means there were over 27 abortions done for every 1 delivery, and 62 abortions for every 1 adoption referral. These facts seem to indicate that PPFA may have a bias toward performing abortion over supporting a continued pregnancy.

So, why does PPFA want young women to go to a family planning clinic? Bottom line...it's in PPFA's best interest.

New Wisconsin Right to Life Video Exposes the Pro-Abortion Extremism of Tom Barrett

Wisconsin Right to Life has investigated the voting record of gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett. Not surprisingly, the voting records show that both current governor Jim Doyle and Tom

Barrett are deep in the tank of the pro-abortion lobby. Barrett is Planned Parenthood's endorsed candidate and they want him to continue Doyle's pro-abortion work as governor. Wisconsin Right to Life is 'pulling out all the stops to deflate Barrett's nice guy image and expose him for the pro-abortion extremist that he is.' Use this link to view the video and review the voting records:

<http://www.wrtl.org/deepinthetank>



Mother Teresa Stamp

"This is incredible." Those are the words of a Director with the United States Postal Service after being told that over 146,000 people signed a petition in support of the Mother Teresa stamp. This is truly inspiring. The Postal Service unveiled the Mother Teresa stamp at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., exactly 13 years after Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997. The efforts of the Catholic faithful have proved the power of CatholicVote's grassroots activism, which refused to stay silent while a small, but very vocal minority tried to stop the celebration of this amazing and holy nun. Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote Civic Action group said at the time the petition was launched, **"Not this time. Not with Mother Teresa."** So, let's show the Postal Service how much enthusiasm there is for Mother Teresa. **The stamp went on sale nationwide on Tuesday, September 7.** Don't forget to visit your local post office and buy lots of Mother Teresa stamps!

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Wisconsin Right to Life and Wisconsin Family Action Provide Vital Information for Voters

The Wisconsin Right to Life (WRTL) launched a website designed to help pro-life voters. "For right-to-life voters who want to be truly informed about where the candidates stand, our new election website, *My Election Central*, is the place to come!" said Susan Armacost, Director of the WRTL Political Action Committee. The site (<http://www.wrtl.org/MEC/index.html>) lists those candidates whom WRTL endorses and also provides "How They Voted," which explains key votes on right-to-life issues in both the State Assembly and State Senate during the 2009-2010 legislative session. Wisconsin Family Action (WFA) provides similar information on their site named *Your Wisconsin Vote* located at <http://yourwisconsinvote.org>.

Making Moral Choices

"I know this is right because it's what I want to do." That's what a young woman who was trying to make a major decision said about how she knew her decision was right. **What? As long as I want to do it, it's right?** Statements such as this show how truly confused people's way of thinking is today. In today's secular world it seems that we don't need truth; we don't even need objective reason. We just need our feelings and our desires to guide us in our decisions. (Like the old ad slogan, "*If it feels good, do it.*") That is such dangerous reasoning. This distorted thinking comes from a distorted view of the world. How we view the world, how we process and make sense of what we see, hear, and experience makes a profound difference in our decision-making and our actions...in other words, in forming our conscience.

The U.S. bishops emphasize the role of conscience in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*,¹ a guide for Catholics. Catholics have an obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason and the teaching of the Church. The common misunderstanding is that conscience is "what I think" on an issue. Conscience is not just "what I think," but it is me "thinking about what is morally just and right." Conscience is not something that allows me to justify doing whatever I want; it is not just a "feeling" about what I should or should not do. Conscience is the voice of God in my heart, revealing to me the truth about what is good and what is evil. Conscience always requires sound moral judgments based on the truths of faith. As stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*,

"Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right" (CCC no. 1778).

Conscience doesn't allow me to forget that I am first of all a person, and that whatever I am doing needs to be seen in light of how it fits in the moral realm of *being human*, not just how it fits into the political viewpoint. Conscience tells me the difference between right and wrong and good and evil, based not on what *I think*, but on the truth of **God**.

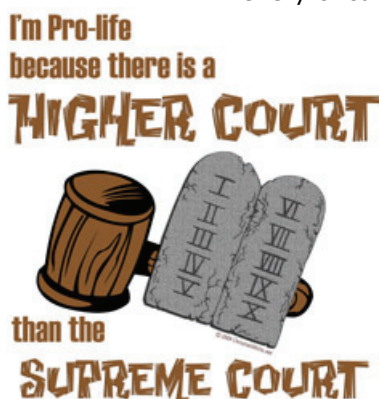
The Church helps us develop well-formed consciences by teaching moral truth and also by helping us develop the virtue of prudence.

"Prudence enables us to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (CCC, no. 1806).

The Church is clear in its teaching that a good end does not justify an immoral means. We have a responsibility to carefully discern which laws and policies are morally sound. For example, a well-formed conscience will not accept a candidate who claims he can fix health care, but supports the taking of innocent human life through abortion and euthanasia. A well-formed conscience will not accept embryonic stem cell research

designed to cure disease, because it always includes the killing of a human person. It is our moral obligation as Catholics to help build a more just world through morally acceptable means that protect the human rights and dignity of the weak and vulnerable. "A legal system that violates the basic right to life on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed. Anyone who knowingly and willingly supports legislation that undermines the fundamental moral principle of life ultimately is cooperating with evil."¹

As Blessed Pope John XXIII taught, "[Each of us] has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and, finally, the necessary social services" (*Pacem in Terris*, no. 11).



¹ Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship. Copyright © 2007 USCCB Publication No. 7-026. Available at www.faithfulcitizenship.org

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Pervasive Threats to Human Life ²

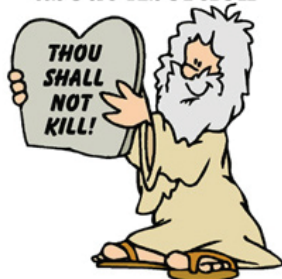
Where does one begin? Today, when human rights are proudly proclaimed and the value of life itself given public affirmation, the most basic of all human rights, "the very right to life," "is being denied or trampled upon, especially at the more significant moments of existence: the moment of birth and the moment of death" (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 18). Sometimes very difficult or even tragic situations can be the basis for decisions made against life, circumstances that can diminish the personal culpability of those who make choices that in themselves are evil. But as Pope John Paul II points out, today the problem goes further: "It is a problem which exists at the cultural, social, and political level, where it reveals its more sinister and disturbing aspect in the tendency, ever more widely shared, to interpret ... crimes against life as legitimate expressions of individual freedom, to be acknowledged and protected as actual rights" (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 18).

The question "Where does one begin?" is easy to answer: "We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 21).

Thus some behaviors are always wrong, always incompatible with our love of God and the dignity of the human person. Abortion, the direct taking of innocent human life prior to birth, is always morally wrong, as is the deliberate destruction of human embryos for any reason. Assisted suicide and euthanasia are not acts of mercy but acts that are never morally acceptable. Direct attacks on innocent civilians during war and terrorist acts targeting noncombatants must always be condemned.

Our concern is only intensified by the realization that a policy and practice that result in well over a million deaths from abortions each year cannot but diminish respect for life in other areas. In this pastoral plan, then, "we are guided by a key insight regarding the linkage between abortion and these other important issues: Precisely because all issues involving human life are interdependent, a society which destroys human life by abortion under the mantle of law unavoidably undermines respect for life in all other contexts. Likewise, protection in law and

What God told Moses about Abortion



practice of unborn human life will benefit all life, not only the lives of the unborn" (*Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Reaffirmation* [1985], 5). This is why we focus here on the pervasive threat to human life arising from the widespread recourse to abortion, from public policies that allow, encourage, and even fund abortion, and from a growing effort to promote the taking of human life through euthanasia.

The Truth About Stem Cell Research

In 2001, at the age of 16, Laura Dominguez, while on the way home from summer school, was involved in a car accident that left her paralyzed from the neck down. She suffered a C6 vertebrae burst fracture and her spinal cord was severely damaged. Doctors gave her absolutely no chance of ever walking again; but she refused their prognosis and began to search for options. Fortunately, thanks to a groundbreaking surgical procedure using her own nasal adult stem cells

pioneered by Dr. Carlos Lima of Portugal, Laura has regained both movement and sensation in her lower body and is determined that she will one-day walk again. Laura's surgery involved the removal of tissue from the olfactory sinus area— at the back of the nose--and transplanting it into the spinal cord at the injury site. Her story is only one of thousands of such stories—stories of people who have been successfully treated and even cured of debilitating, life-threatening illnesses and injuries by **adult** stem-cell treatments.

The question of using stem cells is currently the dominant subject in the debate over biotechnology and human genetics: Should we use *embryonic* stem cells or *adult* stem cells for future medical therapies? Embryonic stem cells are taken from a developing embryo at the blastocyst stage, destroying the embryo, a developing human life. Adult stem cells, on the other hand, are found in all tissues of the growing human being and, according to latest reports, also have the potential to transform themselves into practically all other cell types or revert to being stem cells with greater reproductive capacity. But while thousands have been helped by adult stem cell research and the resultant cures and therapies (including for cardiac infarction), embryonic stem cells have not yet been successfully used for **even one** therapy; no one, **not one single person** has received help from human embryonic stem-cell treatment. Nevertheless, the push for using taxpayer money for this life-destroying, non-productive research continues. However, last week, a federal judge finally realized that using federal taxpayer money for such research violates federal law.

² Excerpted from Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life; Copyright © 2001, USCCB Washington, D.C.

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U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth filed an injunction that blocks the guidelines that the Obama administration set in order to fund and expand human embryonic stem cell research. According to the judge's ruling, federal funding for embryonic stem cell research violates a current law that has been in place since the Clinton Administration, a law that prohibits government funding for research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

This ruling put a stop to about \$70 million per year for embryonic stem cell projects both in the renewal and approval process, including a number here in Wisconsin. The Obama Administration is already working to reverse the ruling. Instead of looking for ways to beat back this judge's decision, the Obama administration and other elected officials should be channeling more of their time and our money into the successful, life-saving adult stem-cell research.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomed the federal court injunction against the Obama administration's funding of human embryonic stem cell research, calling the ruling a "victory for common sense and sound medical ethics." He said this ruling also vindicates the bishops' reading of the Dickey amendment, the amendment approved by Congress since 1996, which prevents federal funding of research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed.

"I hope this court decision will encourage our government to renew and expand its commitment to ethically sound avenues of stem cell research," Cardinal DiNardo added. "These avenues are showing far more promise than destructive human embryo research in serving the needs of suffering patients."

Millions of our federal, state, public, and private funds are being used to conduct embryonic stem cell research, a procedure that right now requires the destruction of human life in order to harvest the stem cells. Proponents of embryonic stem cell research claim that it will eventually cure diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. But to date, not one successful treatment or cure is on the record—and we are now over 10 years into this venture.

On the other hand, adult stem cell research has treated around 50,000 patients worldwide, using stem cells from their own blood or some other part of an adult patient. Success stories include liver repair, windpipe reconstruction, and even heart valve reconstruction and heart damage repair.

Currently, Wisconsin is sadly known as the leader in human embryonic stem cell research. In 1998, UW-Madison Professor Jamie Tompson

became the first scientist to derive embryonic stem cells from a human embryo.

But what's really driving this push right here in Wisconsin? Money—taxpayer money. Scientists in Wisconsin working on human embryonic stem cell research are concerned because dozens of their projects and millions of dollars in federal money are at stake. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is fearful that they may lose hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties that they were hoping to get from three patents related to human embryonic stem cell research. The University of Wisconsin Madison currently has 21 projects and around \$5 million a year that depend upon embryonic stem cells. And all of this money is on the backs of unborn human life—utilizing our tax dollars.

The stem cell issue is also political, showing up in our current governor's race. Tom Barrett, running on the Democratic ticket, has pledged that if elected, he will "make sure scientists and researchers—not politicians—drive our research and technology agenda." Both Scott Walker and Mark Neumann, who are running on the Republican ticket, have given their word to support research with adult stem cells but not with human embryonic stem cells.

Recommended Book

A Will to Live: Clear Answers on End of Life Issues (from *The Shepherd's Voice Series*)

By Archbishop Jose Gomez, Archbishop of San Antonio
Archbishop Jose Gomez explains what every Catholic needs to know in order to effectively and morally prepare for the inevitable death of our loved ones and ourselves. With changing values and modern medical technologies to deal with, this booklet explains how to approach end-of-life issues and prepare for death in a way consistent with our Catholic faith. For more information and to order this book visit

www.priestsforlife.org/books.

Veritas Society of Wisconsin Right to Life Reception

*You are invited to an inspirational cocktail & hors d'oeuvres reception to benefit The Veritas Society Of Wisconsin Right to Life, a statewide media campaign designed to reduce abortion and renew commitment to the value of life. The event will take place on **Tuesday, October 12, 2010 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the** Wausau Country Club, 208 Country Club Rd., Schofield, Wisconsin.*

Keynote speaker will be Brenda Pratt Shafer. Brenda is one of the nation's leading spokespersons today on the gruesome procedure called Partial Birth Abortion. She has been a registered nurse for over twenty-one years.

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During this time, she has been exposed to every gruesome or traumatic human life event that a health care professional could witness. Yet Brenda is quick to point out that she had never witnessed anything like she did on September 30, 1993. She was very "pro-choice" when she accepted an assignment to work at the Women's Medical Center, in Dayton, Ohio. That assignment would change her mind about abortion forever.

Brenda has appeared several times before the U.S. Congress as well as numerous State judiciaries to present her eyewitness testimony of what she saw as a partial-birth abortion. Her testimony has often been presented on television and radio, and the story of "What the Nurse Saw", has been widely dispersed through videos and pamphlets. She travels extensively throughout the U. S. speaking to groups of all sizes. Her life mission is telling the public what really goes on behind those closed doors, and exactly, "What the Nurse Saw".

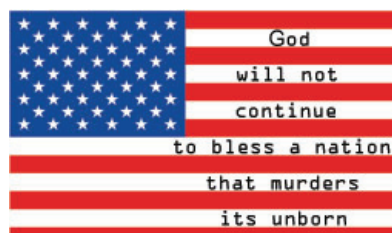
Please RSVP by Friday, October 8, 2010 to 414.778.5787.

Archbishop Chaput: "Systematic Discrimination Against Church Now Seems Inevitable"

This is a 'must read' from Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput's address to the 15th symposium for the Canon Law Association of Slovakia. While it deals with a broad theme, it touches very specifically on life issues. You can see a summary at

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/aug/10082503.html>, and you can read the whole talk at <http://www.archden.org/index.cfm/ID/4396>.

You can read a commentary on the address by Deacon Keith Fournier of CatholicOnline.com at http://catholiconline.com/national/national_story.php?id=38044.



NCHLA Action Alerts

[Support "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" \(updated on 8/20/2010\)](#)

For many years Congress has supported the policy that federal tax dollars should not be used for elective abortions. Many provisions must be renewed in law each year as part of the various annual appropriations bills to maintain this policy. The time is overdue to establish this policy in permanent law in a consistent way. To this end, on July 29, Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 5939). As of the date of this alert, the bill already has 167 total sponsors, enjoying strong bipartisan support.

[Sponsor Measure to Correct Profound Flaws in Health Care Reform Law \(updated on 8/19/2010\)](#)

The health care reform bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (H.R. 3590), was signed into law on March 23, 2010 (Public Law 111-148). While long supporting health care reform, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has criticized the final law as profoundly flawed in its treatment of abortion, conscience rights, and fairness to immigrants. On April 22, 2010, Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-PA) introduced legislation (H.R. 5111) to remedy PPACA's serious problems on abortion. In this Action Alert special emphasis is placed on the 240 Representatives who in 2009 voted "yes" on the Stupak-Pitts Amendment to prevent federal funding of abortion and of health plans covering abortion. Over 100 of these Representatives have already cosponsored H.R. 5111. The remaining Representatives from the list of 240 should be urged to sign on as cosponsors.

Setting the Record Straight: Votes Have Consequences

From the Susan B. Anthony List <http://www.sba-list.org>

Catholics United, a group **funded by George Soros**, a self-avowed atheist and longtime financier of Planned Parenthood, NOW, and NARAL, sent disruptive protesters to our *Votes Have Consequences* stop in Erie, Pennsylvania where local pro-life activists called out Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper for selling out

Pennsylvania values by providing a key vote for the passage of Obama's health care bill.

The protestors – led by James Salt, Director of Organizing for Catholics United and close associate of Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius (an avid pro-abortion activist and cheerleader of late-term abortionist George Tiller) – followed the bus as it made additional stops in Meadville, Grove City, and Butler.

It is important to note that during the health care debate, **Catholics United actively opposed efforts to add Hyde amendment language to the bill** to ensure taxpayer dollars wouldn't be used to pay for abortions in health care legislation. From the start to the end of the debate, Catholics United worked to undermine the efforts of honest lawmakers working to protect the unborn, their mothers, and the conscience of American taxpayers.

So it comes as no surprise that Catholics United is now doing everything they can to undermine our efforts to educate pro-life voters as the mid-term elections draw near. Catholics United protestors claimed the Susan B Anthony List is lying about funding for abortion in health

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care because of an executive order issued by President Obama. The problem with their argument is that the executive order doesn't hold any legal weight, isn't worth the paper it's written on, and does not even attempt to address all the funding problems in the bill.

The executive order reiterates the accounting gimmick under which federal subsidies will be used to pay for insurance plans that cover elective abortion that Rep. Bart Stupak – the leader of the Democrats who sold out – objected to in a December [press release](#): "... the segregation of funds to pay for abortion is another departure from current policy prohibiting federal subsidy of abortion coverage."

For proof that the executive order did not ban federal funding of abortion in the health care bill, look no further than Pennsylvania, site of our rallies and Catholic United's protests. Just over a month ago, on July 13th, HHS approved \$160 million in federal taxpayer funding for Pennsylvania to establish a new high-risk insurance pool program that would cover any legal abortion in the state. Only after the [National Right to Life Committee and other pro-life groups and lawmakers very publicly protested](#) the funds did HHS decide to ensure the taxpayer subsidized plan wouldn't include elective abortion.

Thus, decisions made on whether abortions will be covered in taxpayer-subsidized health care will be decided on a case-by-case basis by President Obama's appointees to HHS, not his executive order. And even if the executive order had any weight, it could easily be reversed by future presidents.

Instead of an executive order, Dahlkemper and other once pro-life Democrats could have held their ground and demand the insertion of statutory Hyde language permanently banning the health care bill from funding abortion. Of course, Catholics United opposed Hyde language, saying it went "too far."

Stupak and Dahlkemper folded their cards, caved to party bosses, and now they are learning the consequences of their actions. Stupak has already retired, and our *Votes Have Consequences* project – with your continued support – is ensuring that every voter that cares about the protection of the unborn in Kathy Dahlkemper's district knows she sold them out. And they'll remember in November.

Prayer intentions

That through the prayers of Mary, the mother of Jesus, we may promote a new appreciation for the dignity of women, of marriage, and of motherhood.

That by seeing God's presence more clearly in every human life, we may repent of the ways that we have failed to honor, protect, and welcome that life.

That we may learn to deny ourselves and make room for those who may come into our lives by surprise, such as the poor, the immigrant, and the unborn child.

That children may witness to their peers about the sanctity of life.

Prayer for Life

Heavenly Father, source of all life, who desires not the death of your children, but wishes that they may grow into the fulfillment of the personhood that you placed in them from the moment of conception, shower Your blessings upon the unborn, protect them from all evil and bring them forth into the world to walk in Your ways.

Bestow Your particular love upon those privileged by motherhood that they may be supported at this most special time in their lives.

Turn the hearts of the fathers toward You that they, too, may be filled with abundant grace.

I offer You my special prayer for all your children, for my life itself, for all the blessings You have bestowed on me, and ask finally to be brought into Your presence when You see fit to end my earthly sojourn. Amen.

