

RIGHT TO LIFE CENTRAL MACOMB

Newsletter

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Keep Abortion Out of Health Care Reform!

BY SUSAN VIVIANO

Congress is currently working to pass a comprehensive health care reform bill by July 31st. **We need to make sure abortion is explicitly excluded from any health care bill.**

"The pro-abortion movement sees federal 'health care reform' legislation as a golden opportunity to force-feed abortion into every nook and cranny of the health-care delivery system," said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. "Their goal, as they sometimes put it, is to 'mainstream' abortion. If Obama and his allies succeed, the result will be a very large increase in the number of abortions performed in America."

"Pro-life Americans should vigorously oppose any federal 'health care reform' legislation that does not explicitly exclude abortion from the scope of any government-defined or government-mandated package of health care services," Johnson explained. "A bill that delegates authority to some government board to require abortion coverage is simply a covert, two-step method for imposing sweeping pro-abortion mandates on employers and citizens."

How we know this administration wants to include abortion in health care:

President Obama said it himself in July 2007, when then Senator Obama stated at a Planned Parenthood Action Fund Annual Conference, "in my mind, reproductive care is essential care, basic care, so it is at the center, the heart of the plan that I propose." He went on to say, "insurers are going to have to abide by the same rules in terms of providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care . . . that's going to be absolutely vital." A Chicago Tribune article immediately following that speech confirmed that 'reproductive care' includes abortion.

Pro-abortion groups' remarks:

At a health care summit held at the White House on March 5, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) President Cecile Richards said, "Any meaningful health care reform needs to lower costs, as well as expand coverage and access. That means expanding coverage for comprehensive reproductive health care and ensuring that essential community providers like Planned Parenthood are included in health plan networks." Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the country.

Nancy Keenan, president of the pro-abortion advocacy group NARAL, stated in an interview released on July 7, 2009, "if, indeed, we can advance a panel or commission, then I am very optimistic about reproductive health care being part of this entire package." In currently drafted legislation, a Tri-Committee health care plan would have a health benefits advisory committee to decide which services insurers will be forced to cover. Abortion could be one of those benefits they would include in the government's health care plan, if it is not explicitly excluded from the bill.

Another pro-life concern—rationing of health care:

As found on National Right to Life's website: "Senate HELP Committee defeated, on a party-line vote, an anti-rationing amendment that would have prevented the use of "comparative effectiveness" research methodologies as a basis for denial of benefits to patients against their will based on their age, expected length of life, or of the patient's present or predicted disability or quality of life." We need to let our legislators know ASAP that any health care reform MUST protect all Americans from rationing or denial of treatment based on age, disability, or quality of life!

What can you do?

1. Go to www.rtl.org to add your name to a petition to Congress or to print petitions out to have friends and family sign. If you don't have email, call RLM at (616) 532-2300 or the RLM Macomb Resource Center at (586) 774-6050.
2. Also on the RTL website, are suggestions for letters to the editor, on-line posts and correspondence to federal lawmakers. These can be used to put in church bulletins too.
3. Call and write your legislators ASAP. When calling give your name, address and say you want to go on record as "opposed to Sen. Kennedy's health care bill because it contains pro-abortion mandates." If there are any town-hall meetings in your area, go to them, and voice your concerns about abortion and rationing in health care. See Legislative Lobbying (pg.2) for contact information.
4. Go to www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/ or www.nrlc.org which is the National Right to Life's website, to send pre-written messages to your legislators, that stress the need to explicitly exclude abortion from health care reform. Or call NRLC at (202) 626-8800. ☺



www.rtlcentralmacomb.org

Right to Life Central Macomb is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, all-volunteer organization that works within the law to help protect the unborn, the handicapped and the elderly through education, legislative action and community assistance.

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Adoption Assistance:

Bethany Christian Services
248-414-4080
30685 Barrington Ave., Ste. 140
Madison Hts., MI 48071

Catholic Services of Macomb
586-416-2300
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Abigayle Ministries (Sheltering Home)
586-323-1411
12313 Nineteen Mi. Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48313

Birthright of Macomb
586-254-5930
45464 Van Dyke
Utica, MI 48317

Compassion Pregnancy Center
586-783-2229
37540 Gratiot Ave.
Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Project Hope
586-416-2300
1-888-4-BABYDUE
15945 Canal Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Right to Life of Michigan
Crisis Hot-Line
1-800-57-WOMAN (1-800-579-6626)

Educational Assistance:

RLM Macomb County
Resource Center
586-774-6050
27417 Harper
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

Michigan Right to Life
616-532-2300
www.rtl.org
Field Representative, Chris Zielinski
czielinski@rtl.org

Post-Abortion Assistance:

Project Rachel
(Archdiocese of Detroit)
1-888-722-4355

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING

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senator@stabenow.senate.gov

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Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2106
cmiller@mail.house.gov

Congressman Sander Levin (Dist. 12)
2300 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
586-498-7122
slevin@mail.house.gov

State:

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O.Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
www.michigan.gov

For other elected state officials:

www.rtl.org

RLM Resource Center
586-774-6050



GET ON THE BUS TO WASHINGTON DC!

Right to Life of Michigan is sponsoring a red-eye bus trip to the 2010 March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 22, 2010. The round trip travel departs from St. Josaphat Parish, Warren, MI on Thursday January 21st at 5:00 pm, and returns Saturday, January 23rd at 7:00am. Optional events include: Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Youth "Rally and Mass" at MCI-Verizon

Center, visit your Michigan legislator, or tour before and after the Rally and March. Make your reservations now! Cost (does not include meals): Students and Seniors - \$90, Adults - \$95. Registration deadline is December 18th. If you cannot attend, consider sponsoring a student. To register, or for more information, call Karen Walacavage at (734) 930-7474.

Legislative News

BY SUSAN VIVIANO



STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

S.B. 647-652, H.B.5129-5134- Embryo Research & Fertility Clinic Transparency Act -in respective Senate and House committees. Sen. Tom George is the lead sponsor, and one of the many bi-partisan sponsors is Sen. Dennis Olshove from Macomb County. The citizens of Michigan voted to amend the state constitution to allow “leftover” embryos in fertility clinics to be donated for destructive research, with their parent's consent. The amendment comes with no definitions, no accountability, and no penalties for violating the provisions set forth. This package of bills draws clear parameters around this research as promised by the proponents and voted on by the people. Your help is needed to get the word out! Sample on-line posts, letters to the editor, and a list of addresses and fax numbers of Michigan newspapers are available at www.rtl.org

S.B. 147-148 - Partial Birth Abortion Act - H.B. 4212-4213 is sponsored by Rep. Kim Meltzer from our area – presently in committee.

H.B. 4470 - Adoption Equity - Rep. Jon Switalski from Macomb County is one of the sponsors. Passed in the House; awaiting senate passage. Requires employers who provide leave with pay for an employee after the birth of a child, to also provide the same benefit for adoption of a child at birth up to 12 months of age.

H.B. 4406, S.B. 372 - Abortion Reporting – Hispanic Ethnicity – in committee.

H.B. 4850, S.B. 499 - Employee Accommodation - sponsored by Rep. Pete Lund (former affiliate board member). At this point, the only medical procedure for which a health care worker or health institution may refuse to participate in is abortion. This bill would protect health care providers and institutions with regard to any medical procedure or research that violates their deeply held religious or moral beliefs, including situations involving embryo research, cloning or genetic manipulation, withdrawing medical treatment or nutrition, dispensing abortion pills or morning after pills, etc.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Embryonic Stem Cell Research - On 7/6/09 the new NIH guidelines were released . This completes the process of overturning Pres. Bush’s policy limiting research funds to only those stem cell lines created prior to August 2001.

Office for Global Women’s Issues – The establishment of this office via the Foreign Relations Authorization act was approved in the U.S. House on 6/10/09. Prior action on the bill included rejection of the Smith Amendment to prohibit abortion promotion as part of the Office’s duties. The bill is now in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

For further pro-life state legislation, go to www.rtl.org or for federal legislation <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/>

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION (Right To Life Central Macomb and Right to Life of Michigan)

Your contribution brings you the Right to Life Central Macomb membership newsletter, Right to Life of Michigan News and other educational materials. Gifts and payments to Right to Life Central Macomb are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

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Volunteer: Mailings Education Fundraising Telephone Legislation

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

• 2009-10 •

- Aug 18-23 RTL booth at Armada Fair
- Sept 11-13 RTL booth at Richmond "Good Old Days" Festival
- Sept 23- Nov 1 40 Days for Life Campaign
- October 4 Respect Life Sunday, Life Chain
- October 27 Focus on Life Annual Benefit Dinner
- Jan 22, 2010 37th Annual March for Life Washington, D.C.

Focus on Life Annual Benefit Dinner

The annual benefit dinner is Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights, MI. The guest speaker will be Kaye Lani Rae Rafko-Wilson. In 1988, Kaye Lani was the very first registered nurse to become Miss America. Since being crowned, she has focused attention on the nursing profession, hospice programs, and critical health care issues like AIDS, cancer and the intrinsic value of human life. Come hear this dynamic pro-life speaker! For info and tickets call Macomb County Resource Center at (586) 774-6050.

Sharing The Truth

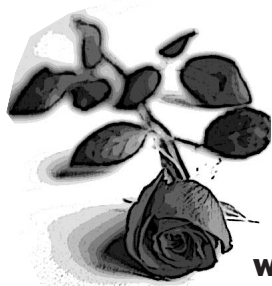
BY MARY RUPINSKI

Those of us who have been part of the pro-life movement for many years, can be lulled into thinking that everyone knows what an abortion is and what exactly happens during this procedure. But we are WRONG! Due to the media "blackout" of the truth and the euphemistic words used to describe "choice" as a "woman's right", there are many who do not know the truth. This becomes evident during the 40 Days for Life campaigns. While quietly praying and walking with signs that say "Abortion Kills" or "Abortion Hurts Women" in front of an abortion clinic, many passers-by will stop and ask questions: "This 'Womancare' clinic does abortions?" "Up to 24 weeks?!" (That's a 6-month pre-born baby!) The reality of the medical waste company truck pulling up to pick up the receptacles that hold (what?) – the remains of dead babies. A woman from the nearby nail salon was upset because her children could read our signs! Should we not tell them the TRUTH? If puppies or kittens were being killed in that clinic the parents would be telling their children, and protesting, and T.V. cameras and news reporters would all be there! We must be the light to dispel the darkness of death. **Please join the next 40 Days for Life campaign, being held, nationwide September 23 – November 1, 2009!** Our local peaceful, prayerful vigil will be in front of the Womancare clinic on 15 Mile Rd. at Dodge Park, Sterling Heights. During the past spring campaign, babies were saved, hearts opened and minds enlightened! Many thank us for being there – let's invite them to join us! Many are afraid, but will come pray with a friend – please be that friend! Let us challenge each other and pray always for courage and strength that TRUTH and LIFE will prevail! Go to www.40daysforlife.com/sterlingheights for more information on the kick-off ceremony and to sign up to participate. ♡



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