



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

News Notes

Ultrasound Bill Introduced to Nebraska Legislature

A bill (LB 675) requiring doctors to show an ultrasound picture of her unborn child to a woman who is considering abortion was introduced by Nebraska State Senator Tony Fulton in early February. According to Nebraska Right to Life executive director, Julie Schmidt Albin, who is lobbying in favor of the bill, it "will be one of the strongest ultrasound laws in the country."

Sixteen other states have laws which require an abortion provider to offer a view of an ultrasound to the mother before undergoing an abortion, and eleven other states are considering such legislation.

"Providing a 'window on the womb,' this type of legislation is instrumental in ensuring that mothers in crisis pregnancies make truly informed decisions," pointed out NRLC's State Legislation director, Mary Spaulding Balch.

Arkansas Legislature Passes PBA Ban and Governor Will Sign It

The Arkansas Senate approved a ban on partial-birth abortions by a 30-3 vote, and the House passed it 84-6. Governor Beebe said he would sign it into law.

State Senator Dawn Creekmore, who sponsored the bill, said it is similar to the national law except that it authorizes the state medical board to take action against [abortionists] who violate it and that violations result in a six-year prison term instead of two years on the national level. She felt the state should ban partial-birth abortions because there is concern that a pro-abortion Congress may overturn the federal ban.

The bill has a life of the mother exception but, following the national law, includes no exception for the health of the mother since the gruesome abortion procedure is never necessary to protect a mother's health. In fact, a partial-birth abortion, like any other abortion, could have serious medical and mental health ramifications for women.

Pro-Life Organizations Call for Review of Justice Department Nominees

Concern about a radical change to national policy regarding the culture of life has prompted several pro-life organizations, including National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), to jointly send a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee asking for a "meaningful review" of several of Obama's nominees for top positions in the Department of Justice.

Three nominees in particular have caused concern: Dawn Johnsen, formerly legal director to NARAL and staff counsel for the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, nominated to head the Office of Legal Counsel; David Ogden, who supported the American Psychological Association's contention that there is negligible psychological risk to women having an abortion, nominated for deputy attorney general; and Thomas Perelli, who defended Terri Schiavo's husband in his drive to remove life-sustaining treatment from his wife, nominated to the position of associate attorney general.

"If confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve in high office within the Department of Justice," the letter states, "Dawn Johnsen, David Ogden and Thomas J. Perelli could have a dramatic impact on the state of this nation's legal order. **Each of these nominees has made public comments or has taken positions indicating strong support for a shift in national policy regarding the culture of life.**

"Millions of Americans reasonably expect their elected representatives in the Senate to provide meaningful review of the President's nominees, particularly when they could dramatically change national policy," the letter continues. "We urge the Committee to provide ample time for meaningful review to take place and we urge members to ask probative questions of these nominees and demand serious answers so that the American people can continue to play a part in defining the cultural fabric of our nation."

The Alliance Defense Fund, a pro-life law firm, contends that the nominees have maintained a far-left ideology throughout their careers, which would jeopardize the proper interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution. Focus on the Family Action pointed out that David Ogden opposes restrictions of abortion, and also found problems with Dawn Johnsen and Thomas Perelli.

Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of Outreach at NRLC commented, "Obama's appointments are tragic but not surprising and amount to a veritable who's who of the abortion industry."

University of Wisconsin Health Clinic Opens 2nd Trimester Abortion Business Amid Protest

The Madison Surgery Center, an outpatient health clinic of the University of Wisconsin, is opening a late-term abortion business despite the outrage of the pro-life community and the opposition of many employees of the center.

According to Barbara Lyons, executive director of Wisconsin Right to Life, financial and political rationales are motivating the University of Wisconsin Health system to accept the proposal of the Madison Abortion Clinic to do the late-term abortions. Since the former abortionist that did them retired, the clinic, under Planned Parenthood Federation, aborts babies only up to 18 weeks in utero.

"The second trimester abortion program was discussed for months, shrouded in secrecy," Lyons said. She reported that those involved in the decision want to make abortions "mainstream" by forcing them into a surgery center where people go for outpatient procedures. At the top of the list of "benefits" of the new abortion center was "increased departmental revenue," according to Associated Press information. The AP reported that Dr. Nancy Fredericks told the UW health board that three out of four of her fellow anesthesiologists say they will not participate in abortions and commented, "Morale is now at an all-time low because many of the staff have been tormented by the thought of these abortions being done at their facility."

Some pro-life advocates think that the UW precedent may provide a blueprint for expanding the abortion business as abortion clinics close and pro-abortion operatives file suit to make abortion available.

Pro-Life Education Needed Because Many Still Don't Know the Facts!

Recently Maria Vitale of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation shared that a woman called her to find out what exactly happens in an abortion--that despite being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother she still didn't know what an abortion really is. Vitale reflected that news articles on abortion contain no definitions of terms. Pro-abortion organizations do not talk about the specifics and give the impression that pregnancy is some abstract medical condition that can

be made magically to disappear. The result is that many people still do not realize that it is the taking of an innocent human life and that babies already well developed are torn limb from limb inside their mother's body and their body parts sucked out.

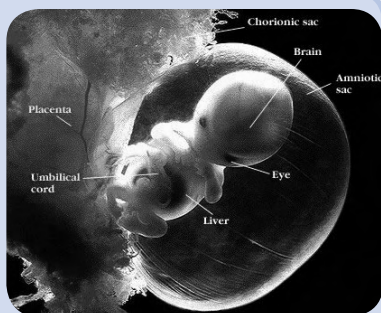
So study the information below and be ready to tell others who say they are "pro-choice" what happens to an unborn child in an abortion. We cannot continue to be silent about these horrors occurring in our country.

First Trimester

Development*

Week 10

The most critical part of the development is complete. Now a period of rapid growth is beginning. The head is now about half its length - Soon the rest of the body's growth will catch up. Eyelids fuse shut and irises begin to develop. Eye color is also determined by this point.



Week Eleven

These little human feet are perfectly shaped. At this point, the baby has eyelids, fingernails, and fingerprints, and can even grasp an object placed in the hand. The kidneys begin to form urine and the baby begins to mimic the movements of breathing.

From this point on, there is only growth in the size and maturation of the organs already present. All body systems are in place and active. The baby has a skeletal structure, nerves and circulation



Abortion Procedures*

Suction Aspiration

Suction aspiration, or "vacuum curettage," is the abortion technique used in most first trimester abortions. A powerful suction tube with a sharp cutting edge is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix. The suction dismembers the body of the developing baby and tears the placenta from the wall of the uterus, sucking blood, amniotic fluid, placental tissue, and fetal parts into a collection bottle.

Great care must be taken to prevent the uterus from being punctured during this procedure, which may cause hemorrhage and necessitate further surgery. Also, infection can easily develop if any fetal or placental tissue is left behind in the uterus. This is the most frequent post-abortion complication.

Dilatation (Dilation) and Curettage (D&C)

In this technique, the cervix is dilated or stretched to permit the insertion of a loop shaped steel knife. The body of the baby is cut into pieces and removed and the placenta is scraped off the uterine wall. Blood loss from D & C, or "mechanical" curettage is greater than for suction aspiration, as is the likelihood of uterine perforation and infection.

This method should not be confused with routine D&C's done for reasons other than undesired pregnancy (to treat abnormal uterine bleeding, dysmenorrhea, etc.).

Second Trimester

Week Sixteen

Around the 16th week, the baby becomes large enough and active enough for the mother to feel the child's movement. What first feels like a flutter eventually manifests itself in turns, kicks, somersaults and other movements that at some point even become visible to the outside.

Other more delicate movements, missed by the mother, have been recorded during this time frame. In the fourth month, researchers looking at the child have seen the child making fine finger movements, wiggling his or her toes, and even making a fist.



Dilatation (Dilation) and Evacuation (D&E)

Used to abort unborn children as old as 24 weeks, this method is similar to the D&C. The difference is that forceps with sharp metal jaws are used to grasp parts of the developing baby, which are then twisted and torn away. This continues until the child's entire body is removed from the womb. Because the baby's skull has often hardened to bone by this time, the skull must sometimes be compressed or crushed to facilitate removal. If not carefully removed, sharp edges of the bones may cause cervical laceration. Bleeding from the procedure may be profuse.

Salt Poisoning

Otherwise known as "saline amniocentesis," "salting out," or a "hypertonic saline" abortion, this technique is used after 16 weeks of pregnancy, when enough fluid has accumulated in the amniotic fluid sac surrounding the baby. A needle is inserted through the mother's abdomen and 50-250 ml (as much as a cup) of amniotic fluid is withdrawn and replaced with a solution of concentrated salt. The baby breathes in, swallowing the salt, and is poisoned. The chemical solution also causes painful burning and deterioration of the baby's skin. Usually, after about an hour, the child dies. The mother goes into labor about 33 to 35 hours after instillation and delivers a dead, burned, and shriveled baby. About 97% of mothers deliver their dead babies within 72 hours.

*This information is from www.nrlc.org/abortion

*Text from *A baby's first months*, National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund (available for .45 at 202-626-8829; photos from, *Embryonic/Fetal Development*, Dr. David Prentice, CUA, 2008

Bulletin Inserts

May 3 -- “Assisted suicide sends a message to the terminally ill that caring for them is a waste of time, that their lives are no longer worth living and that they are better off dead.” (Anthony Ozimic, political secretary of England’s Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, *NRL News*, 1/09)

May 10 – Motherhood never comes without sacrifice, as Pam’s story illustrates. She became pregnant while she and her husband were missionaries in the Philippines, and then she contracted amoebic dysentery there. Gravely ill, she was treated with strong antibiotics before anyone knew she was pregnant. Doctors predicted devastating disabilities and urged her to abort her unborn child. She refused, endured numerous difficulties before giving birth to a healthy child whom she promised God would become a preacher. Not only did her son, Tim Tebow, fulfill that promise but went on to become the youngest college football player ever to win the Heisman Trophy.

May 17 – “Our president ought to look at what abortion has done to poor and minority women in this country.... ‘The abortion rate (number of abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age) for black women is almost five times that of white women,’ according to Susan Cohen of the Alan Guttmacher Institute. Cohen also notes that ‘the abortion rate among Hispanic women is double the rate among whites.’” (Wanda Franz, Ph.D., *NRL News*, 2/09)

May 24 – “The question is no longer whether we are on a slippery slope, careening downward toward a world of machine-tooled and stunted humanity—a world in which love is displaced by technique and longing by social planning. We’re on the slope all right, and the question is whether the brakes can be applied soon enough.” (George Weigel, *The Southern Cross*, 1/09)

May 31 – The Feast of Pentecost reminds us that we in the pro-life movement are called to be channels of God’s Word: “Counteracting the culture of death demands a prophetic spirituality... We speak the prophetic word that challenges society to recognize the unborn as brothers and sisters, and to therefore repent of practices and policies that destroy them or put them at risk.” (Jim Pinto, Jr. Coordinator of Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, *Priests for Life Newsletter*, July-August, 2006)

June 7 – “Stem cell research opens new prospects for regenerative medicine and is morally permissible when it uses stem cells taken from adult organisms, but not when it takes cells from human embryos because that invariably causes their death.” (*The Dignity of a Person*, Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, 12-08)

June 14 – “For many years I have been an outspoken advocate for the unborn child, because in a culture of abortion, the child is like a slave. The new civil rights movement of our time is the pro-life movement.” Dr. Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King (*Priests for Life Newsletter*, July-August, 2006)

June 21 - The impact of an abortion is like a stone thrown into the water, sending out ripples of pain and hurt and devastation in all directions. Fathers of aborted children are the neglected victims of abortion who, once they recognize the moral and spiritual gravity of their action or inaction, may experience deep rage and “a gut-wrenching sorrow” so overwhelming, it can, if not healed, emotionally paralyze a man forever. (Dave Andrusko, *NRL News*, 10/07)

June 28 - A recent TV ad features an ultrasound image of an unborn child in the womb accompanied by this message: “The child’s future is a broken home. He will be abandoned by his father. His single mother will struggle to raise him. Despite the hardships, he will endure...this child will become the first African-American president.” The powerful ad concludes: “Life: Imagine the Potential.”

Suggested Prayers

May 3 – That Christ, the Good Shepherd, may lead this nation back to respect for the dignity of each life, we pray

May 10 – For mothers who devote their lives to their handicapped children, we pray

May 17 – That the God of love may forgive us for rejecting so many of his unborn children, given as gifts of His love, we pray

May 24 – That God who knows all hearts may touch the hearts of those in the abortion industry, we pray

May 31 – That God’s people may use the gifts He has given them to defend the right to life of the aged and infirm, we pray

June 7 – That God’s commandment, “Thou shall not kill,” may once again extend to unborn children, we pray

June 14 – For families facing an untimely pregnancy, that they may turn to God for the strength to give birth to a new life, we pray

June 21 – For all fathers, that they may provide strength and support to the mothers of their unborn children, we pray

June 28 – That America may reject the Culture of Death and work toward establishing a Culture of Life in which each person is respected and protected, we pray

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Choose Life...

March/April 2009

More News



Nancy Pelosi

Pope Benedict Tells House Speaker Nancy Pelosi About Duty of Catholic Officials to Oppose Abortion

Pope Benedict XVI, in a 15 minute meeting with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, told the legislator that all Catholics have an obligation to oppose abortion and that Catholic elected officials have a duty to protect human life.

At the February 18 meeting, the pope reminded her of the Catholic teaching “on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death,” and of the responsibility of those making public policy to promote “a just system of laws capable of protecting human life at all stages of its development.”

The meeting was not open to reporters, but the Vatican released some of his statements subsequently. The Vatican statement reiterated that the Church’s consistent teaching on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death “enjoins

all Catholics, and especially legislators, jurists and those responsible for the common good of society, to work in cooperation with all men of goodwill in creating a just system of laws capable of protecting human life at all stages of its development.”

House Speaker Pelosi did not mention any of these comments in her own press release after the meeting.

Pro-Life Catholics have been concerned about Pelosi’s misrepresentation of Catholic teaching on abortion because she claimed last summer that the Church only recently came to the conclusion that human life begins at conception. This comment ignored the fact that the Church since the earliest days of its beginning has consistently stated that abortion is immoral and sinful. The biological fact that a human life begins at conception was established by medical science in the 19th century.



Pope Benedict XVI

Vatican Says Englaro Death Makes Right to Food and Water Critical

After the Italian disabled woman, Eluana Englaro, was starved to death, the president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Rino Fisichella, said the Church, Catholics and legislators need to establish the right of patients to receive food and water, not as a medical treatment but as a basic human right.

“Thousands of doctors and scientists share our belief that food and water are not medical treatment but an essential requirement for life which can never be eliminated,” Fisichella said.

Since Englaro’s death, the Italian government has decided to introduce legislation to promote living wills for patients to state instructions for their medical care ahead of time.

The Catholic Church would like to have a law making it illegal to remove a feeding tube or food and water from a patient unable to make their own treatment decision.

Eluana Englaro, who had been disabled and in a minimally conscious state since an automobile accident in 1992, was starved and dehydrated to death over four days after her father won a court order to remove her food and water.

Pro-life Archbishop Dolan Appointed to Head New York Archdiocese

Since Cardinal Edward Egan, 76, is retiring, Pope Benedict has appointed Archbishop Timothy Dolan of Milwaukee to be Archbishop of the New York City Diocese, considered to be the most important diocese in the country.

Archbishop Dolan, who has been an outspoken supporter of the pro-life cause, has been entrusted with a metropolis where more abortions are done than anywhere else in the country.

“It bothers me if any politician, Catholic or not, is for abortion,” Dolan said. “Because in my mind, we’re talking about a civil right, we’re not talking about a matter of Catholic Church discipline. We can’t allow the noble pro-life cause to be reduced to a denominational issue... Does the baby alive in the womb (a biological, not a doctrinal fact) deserve the full protection of the law or not?... We cannot be mute on this premier civil rights issue of our day.”

Archbishop Dolan is a native of St. Louis where he served as auxiliary bishop before being appointed archbishop of Milwaukee. He has a doctorate in church history from the Catholic University of America and has been rector of the North American College in Rome.