



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

Pro-Lifers Elated with Wins in New Jersey and Virginia

In what has been considered a bell-weather of the political climate, the off-year elections produced big wins for the pro-life movement.

Pro-life Chris Christie, endorsed by National Right to Life PAC and New Jersey Committee for Life State PAC, won the New Jersey governorship with a 49-45 victory margin in a race seen as too close to call. This will be the first time in a long time that New Jersey will have a pro-life governor. His opponent, former governor Jon Corzine, was known for his large private donations to Planned Parenthood as well as allocating New Jersey tax funds to this major abortion provider.

In Virginia, the three top offices went to leaders who have been actively pro-life in their state. Former attorney general Bob McDonnell, who defended the Virginia ban on partial-birth abortions and sponsored parental-notification laws, defeated his pro-abortion opponent, Creigh Deeds, to win the governor's seat by a landslide vote of 59%-41%. Pro-life Lt. Governor Bill Bolling, and pro-life state senator Ken Cuccinelli, both won by double digit margins. Cuccinelli, particularly well-known for his persistence in getting "Choose Life" license plates approved, won the post of attorney general, and Bolling, who had a 100% pro-life voting record when a state senator, maintained his seat as lieutenant governor. These candidates were endorsed by the Virginia Society for Human Life and NRLC PACs.

In Big Pro-Life Victory, Stupak-Pitts Amendment to Health Care Bill Passes!

The Stupak-Pitts Amendment prohibiting abortion funding in the U.S. House health care reform bill (H.R. 3962) passed in a late Saturday evening session with a bipartisan vote of 240-194, despite strong pro-abortion pressure to prevent it from coming to a vote.

The amendment, sponsored by Reps. Bart Stupak (D/MI) and Joe Pitts (R/PA), would permanently place Hyde Amendment type restrictions on both a new federal government insurance plan ("public option") and in a new program to subsidize purchase of private health plans.

Pro-life Americans, who have bombarded Congress with e-mails and phone calls telling their representatives that they don't want abortion funded as part of health care, can be proud of this victory. They have made it clear that the pro-life population is active and concerned with what is done by Congress



Rep. Bart Stupak



Douglas Johnson

"The Obama White House and top congressional Democratic leaders spent months concealing and misrepresenting provisions that would directly fund abortions on demand through a government plan, and subsidize premiums for private abortion plans," commented Douglas Johnson, National Right to Life Committee's legislative director. "This bipartisan House vote is a sharp blow to the White House's pro-abortion smuggling operation," he said. "But we know that the White House and pro-abortion congressional Democratic leaders will keep trying to enact government funding of abortion, and will keep trying to conceal their true intentions, so there is a long battle ahead."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, after sending four letters in recent weeks to Congress in support of the Stupak Amendment, sent staff to participate in the final negotiations to press for its inclusion in the bill. House leaders were aware that the bishops had contacted all 19,000 Catholic parishes across the country to ask parishioners to urge their Congressmen to support the pro-life amendment. (See p. 4)

However, the threat to pro-life concerns continues to exist since the Senate bills being considered contain abortion funding and the pro-life provision could be subverted when the bills are combined in conference committee.

A National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) press release of November 7 pointed out the problem of rationing of health care that still exists in the legislation: "In addition to working hard to remove abortion subsidies from the bill, NRLC has sought to educate lawmakers and the public about components of H.R. 3962 that could result in rationing or discriminatory denial of lifesaving medical care." A letter sent by NRLC to the House on Nov. 7, summarizing objectionable elements of the amended bill, stated: "We will continue to work to correct provisions that we find objectionable in this area, both in the health care legislation that will come before the Senate, and in any conference committee on health care legislation. We reserve the right to score the roll call vote on the conference report, or on any Senate-passed bill, if these concerns are not adequately resolved."



*"Whoever humbles himself like this little child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of God"
Mt. 18:4*

We wish you a holy and peaceful Christmas!

Bishop Tobin Asks Patrick Kennedy to Apologize for Ignorant Comments

Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D/RI) commented in an interview with the Catholic News Service that the Catholic Church is “fanning the flames of dissent and discord” because the Catholic bishops declared they will “vigorously oppose” the health care bills unless they prevent taxpayer funds from paying for abortion. (see bishops’ letter p. 4).

Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, RI, responded that “Congressman Patrick Kennedy’s statement about the Catholic Church’s position on health care reform is irresponsible and ignorant of the facts. But the Congressman is correct in stating that ‘he can’t understand.’ He got that part right.”

The bishop clarified that while the bishops support reform of health care, they “are adamantly opposed to health care legislation that threatens the life of unborn children, requires taxpayers to pay for abortion, rations health care, or compromises the conscience of individuals.”

“I believe the Congressman owes us an apology for his irresponsible comments,” Bishop Tobin asserted. Archbishop Dolan of NY said that it was appropriate that Bishop Tobin, tell the Congressman he owes an apology to the Catholic Church.



Bishop Thomas Tobin

Health Care Professionals Are Pressured to Compromise Conscience

The Christian Medical Association reports that over 41% of health care professionals surveyed had been “pressured to compromise Biblical or ethical convictions.”

“The discrimination faced by pro-life, faith-based and conscience-driven individuals,” CMA explained is “often subtle, sometimes flagrant and increasingly pervasive.”

The CMA survey collected anecdotal evidence provided by doctors, medical students, nurses and institutions. It found that often the pressure or discrimination resulted in the person resigning their position or changing their field. Unfortunately, few of these persecuted health care professionals are aware of their conscience rights.

“Unless pro-life professionals are equipped to know and apply their conscience rights, they actually stand at risk of being weeded out from the profession altogether,” CMA concluded.

The CMA report stated that it is urgent to: 1) strengthen statutory and regulatory protections for conscience rights in health care; 2) quantify the depth of discrimination and awareness of conscience protections through a nationwide survey of health care professionals; and 3) conduct an awareness campaign to educate health care professionals of their conscience rights.

There is a need for a national campaign to counter the attitude that “abortion and other controversial procedures are sovereign patient rights that trump all other considerations,” which could lead health care professionals to feel they were bound to “oblige such demands regardless of the professional’s oaths, ethics and faith-based convictions.”

The Bush administration had ordered a strengthening of enforcement of conscience rights for health care workers, but the Obama administration has been unclear about whether it would continue enforcing the protection of conscience rights.

To see the full report by the Christian Medical Association, go to www.cmawashington.org

The Culture of Death: Its Leaders & Followers

“We are trying to overturn 2000 years of Christian tradition.” Derek Humphry, San Francisco Chronicle, ‘92.

In respect for the dignity of every human life, created by God for an eternal destiny, being eroded by prominent promoters of eugenics and euthanasia?

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently told the *New York Times Magazine* that she thought the *Roe v Wade* decision was a reflection of concern about **“growth in populations that we don’t want to have too much of.”**

Peter Singer, Chair of the Bioethics department of Princeton University, in a *New York Times* article in July, argued for rationing health care, saying that “a treatment that extends the lives of people without disabilities will be seen as providing twice the value of one that extends, for a similar period, the lives of quadriplegics.”

Dr. Ezekiel Emmanuel, health policy advisor for the current administration and member of the Federal Council on Comparative Effectiveness Research, was quoted in 1996 as saying that medical benefits of government provided health care should not be give to “individuals who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens....An obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia.” In January of 2009, Emmanuel commented that, “Unlike allocation by sex or race, allocation by age is not invidious discrimination.”

Jack Kevorkian, the famous “Dr. Death,” who invented a suicide machine, thinks the way to address suffering is by killing the sufferer. Imprisoned for a conviction of murder, he was released after 8 years and is now hoping to persuade states to decriminalize assisted suicide. In January, 2008, he drew 4,867 people to a lecture at the University of Florida, and a crowd of 2,500 at another Florida university where he unveiled an American flag with a swastika instead of a field of stars.

Derek Humphry, founder of the Hemlock Society, pioneered the Oregon law permitting assisted suicide. He is now an advisor to the World Federation of the Right to Die Society and to the Final Exit Network. His book, *Final Exit*, a how-to guide to suicide, sold more than a million copies in 12 languages and was honored by *USA Today* as one of 25 most memorable books.

It is very disturbing that the media and the judicial system have frequently been very lenient in their attitudes toward these dealers in death. As Donald De Marco remarks in *Architects of the Culture of Death*, **“Once death is taken to be a good in itself, then it becomes a morally acceptable option for anyone, not just the terminally ill...Already we observe that what was formerly known as premeditated murder is now euphemistically called ‘aid in dying.’”**

The original Hemlock Society has now spawned the groups Compassion & Choices, and Compassion in Dying. The latter is active in promoting assisted suicide in Oregon and Washington states, and the former is pushing “end of life” consultations in the health care reform legislation.

Bulletin Inserts

January 3 – A new year brings thoughts of new life. What better place to start than at the beginning—with the human embryo? “Embryonic human beings, no less than human beings at other developmental stages, should be treated as subjects of moral respect and human rights, not as objects that may be damaged or destroyed for the benefit of others.” Presidential Council on Bioethics, 2002

January 10 – 1973’s *Roe v. Wade* decision was billed as a way to guarantee women’s rights—but what about the right to be free from the coercion to abort their offspring? Scientific surveys have confirmed that most women are having abortions they don’t want. Is that a mark of women’s freedom?”

Maria Vitale, public relations director for Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

January 17 – It is 37 years since the legalization of abortion by the Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*. This decision damaged our constitutional and social order, because, as Wanda Franz, president of National Right to Life states, “the ‘unalienable Right’ to life is no longer ‘endowed by the Creator’ but dependent on someone else’s moods and feelings. Under this peculiar principle, one and the same unborn child could be a ‘baby’ in the eyes of one parent and a ‘fetus’ to be aborted in the eyes of the other.”

January 24 – “Since the right to health care is based on the right to live, it is also clear that what attacks life is not health care at all, and not a legitimate goal of health care reform. Richard Doerflinger, associate director of USCCB’s Pro-Life Directorate

January 31 – “Science can tell us what is, but it can’t tell us good from bad, right from wrong. Therefore it is not anti-science to oppose embryonic stem cell research and human cloning. It is pro-science to care enough to keep this powerful enterprise within proper ethical parameters.” Wesley Smith, NRL News, June 2008

February 7 – “What allows the injustice and pain of abortion to continue unabated? What shields the horror of the abortion practice from scrutiny and exposure? Lies. Whole webs of deceit. Mountains of evasions and a cultural elite who know, but don’t want to know, the truth.” Father Thomas King, S.J., former Georgetown University professor

February 14 - One long ago day at a Washington, D.C. Prayer Breakfast, a tiny nun proclaimed these words to those in high positions of power: “if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?” On that day, Mother Teresa of Calcutta captured the essence of love—respect for all human life.

February 21 – Writer Frederica Mathewes-Green has pointed out that: “No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg.”

February 28 -A federal judge has upheld a South Dakota law requiring doctors to inform patients that abortion kills a human being. The law mandates that a woman be told that abortion “will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being.” Planned Parenthood had sought to overturn the law.

Suggested Prayers

January 10 – That this nation may reject the godless ways of abortion, we pray

January 17 – That all people, young and old, may stand up and speak out in defense of the sanctity of life

January 24 – That the Holy Spirit may call people of all talents to defend the right to life, we pray

January 31 – That God, who knew us before He formed us in the womb, may lead us to appreciate the beauty of unborn human life, we pray

February 7 – For those in the pro-life movement, that they may not weary in their struggle, we pray

February 14 – For all those who have been led astray by the false promises of abortion, that they may turn to the Lord for comfort

February 21 – For those struggling with mental and physical challenges and the problems of old age, we pray

February 28 – That those who have followed the false god of earthly possessions to work in the abortion industry may see the error of their choice and repent, we pray

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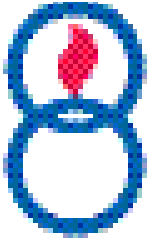
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November/December 2009

More News

U.S. Bishops Aid in Pro-Life Amendment to House Health Care Bill Warn of Vigorous Opposition if Congress Fails to Exclude Abortion from Final Bill

The U.S. Catholic bishops sent **four letters to Congress** to urge Congressional leaders to exclude abortion from health care reform legislation.

Shortly before members of the House Rules Committee started their meeting to determine whether they would allow a vote on the pro-life Stupak amendment, they received the USCCB's latest letter.

"We urge members of the House to support an amendment to keep in place current federal law on abortion funding and conscience protections and to oppose a closed rule that would prevent the House from voting on this crucial matter," the letter stated. It was signed by Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, chairman of the bishops' Domestic Justice Committee; Cardinal Justin Rigali, chair of the Committee on pro-life activities; and Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City.

Following this timely letter, and input from staff of USCCB, the House leadership allowed the pro-life Stupak amendment to be voted on and it then passed. (See p. 1 article.)

The USCCB had also sent a bulletin insert and a pulpit announcement to almost 19,000 parishes to ask parishioners to contact their Congressman and urge them to support the Stupak-Pitts amendment to H.R. 3962 which excludes coverage of abortion in government health care plans or subsidies.

On October 8, the bishops had sent an open letter to Congress, stating that they would "vigorously oppose" the health

care bills unless they prevented taxpayer funds from paying for abortion and provided for the protection of conscience rights of health care providers.

The letter noted that, "the Senate Finance Committee rejected a conscience rights amendment accepted earlier by the House Energy and Commerce Committee."

The bishops warned Congress that if the final legislation "does not meet our principles, we will have no choice but to oppose the bill..."

The Catholic bishops urged lawmakers to incorporate long-standing policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights."

"No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion," they insisted.

Despite insistence by some legislators that the reform bills do exclude abortion and protect consciences, the high-ranking bishops said that, "No current bill meets this test..."

Saying that they "sincerely hope that the legislation will not fall short of our criteria," the U.S. bishops said that they "remain apprehensive when amendments protecting freedom of conscience and ensuring no taxpayer money for abortion are defeated in committee votes."

"If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found," they warned, "we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously."

Be Sure to Order Bulk Copies of NRL News Jan. 22 Commemorative Issue

This must-read edition lays out the entirety of President Obama's pro-abortion initiatives, how pro-lifers have responded, and what you can do in the future to help stave off the most pro-abortion President in history. At the core of the pro-life resistance is building a significant "presence" in your community and utilizing social networking to its maximum potential. The issue will include:

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