



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

NRLC Sounds Alarm on Pro-Abortion Provisions in Health Care Bill

The Obama White House and Democratic congressional leaders have made it clear that they would like to pass a final health care bill that includes abortion-related provisions along the general lines of those contained in the Senate-passed bill. These provisions, however, have been denounced by National Right to Life Committee as well as by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other pro-life groups.

“NRLC believes that enactment of the abortion provisions in the Senate-passed health bill would result in great expansions of abortion, driven by federal administrative decrees and federal subsidies,” explained NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. “In contrast, the abortion-related provisions of the House bill, as it was amended by the NRLC-backed Stupak-Pitts Amendment, would preserve long-established federal policies--preventing federal subsidies for abortion, preventing pro-abortion federal mandates, and protecting the conscience rights of pro-life health care providers.”

The final bill that congressional Democratic leaders and President Obama agree upon will be presented as a single, unamendable package--first to the House of Representatives,

where majority approval will be required to send it to the Senate. Because House Republicans are united against the legislation, the bill will fail if as few as 39 Democrats vote against it. (The Democrats currently control the House by a margin of 256-178.)

NRLC’s alarm at the Senate bill’s abortion provisions is widely shared among pro-life organizations. Roman Catholics in around 19,000 parishes in the country are receiving copies of a nationwide alert distributed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, headed, “Urgent...Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!” (See p. 4 for more on the bishops’ Jan. 7 alert)

Knights of Columbus sent an alert to all its local leaders throughout the organization of 1.7 million members, urging members to contact their federal representatives in opposition to health care legislation that lacks the House-approved pro-life language. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson stressed that, “Time is of the essence. We must prevent this health care legislation from becoming the largest expansion of abortion in our country since *Roe v. Wade*.”

For the current status of the health care legislation, go to www.nrlactioncenter.com

See p. 4 for ways to take action now.

Rationing Health Care Is Part of Current Health Care Reform Bill

Currently, there are several sections of the health care reform bill which will have the effect of rationing health care.

Both the Senate and House versions of the bill allow an insurance exchange to exclude “unjustified” premium increases. With premium price controls, health insurance companies will ration lifesaving medical treatment more tightly each year according to the declining value of the premiums they take in. Such rationing decisions by insurance companies will have the most direct impact on the lives of people with a “poor quality of life.”

The Senate bill funds “patient decision aids” to help “patients, caregivers or authorized representatives...to decide with their health care provider what treatment options are best.” Since this is likely to follow the pattern of the Veterans Administration program, “Your life, Your Choices,” which

was withdrawn by the Bush administration but reinstated by the Obama administration, its purpose appears to be to encourage patients to reject lifesaving treatment that will cost the government too much money.

Both the Senate and the House versions of the bill would, in effect, allow the federal bureaucrats at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to bar senior citizens from adding their own money, if they choose, to the government contribution in order to get private fee-for-service Medicare Advantage plans less likely to ration lifesaving treatment.

To get updated information about the status of the health care reform legislation and its impact on rationing of health care, you can go to the Powell Center for Medical Ethics web site found at <http://powellcenterformedicalethics.blogspot.com> or to www.nrlc.org/HealthCareRationing.

2010 March for Life One of Largest Ever

Although rain, sleet and snow immediately preceded the 2010 March for Life, at noon the sky cleared in time for the arrival of a massive outpouring of support for the pro-life cause. Most assessed the attendance as larger than usual with even more young people involved. Even a Washington Post reporter was forced to acknowledge the “large number of young people” and that the pro-life movement “feels it’s gaining strength.”

The youth rally at the Verizon center, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, was reportedly sold out the first day tickets were offered, and was attended by some 26,000

young people. To handle the overflow, many local parishes offered special pro-life liturgies & rallies for groups attending the March.

Some 10,000 people attended the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which included evening Mass celebrated by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo all-night prayer, confessions, Rosary for Life and morning Mass celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Broglio.

The National Pro-Life Religious Council co-hosted the 16th Annual Conference for the Pre-Born and Their Mothers and Fathers at the U.S. Capitol Visitor’s Center for a wall-to-wall crowd.

Will National Cancer Institute Admit Abortion Link to Breast Cancer?

National Cancer Institute researcher, Louise A. Brinton coauthored a 2009 study which acknowledged that abortion is a “known risk factor” for breast cancer and reported a 40% breast cancer risk increase for women who have had abortions. This is noteworthy since Brinton in 2003 was chief organizer of a panel that reported that it had established that there was no link between abortion and breast cancer (ABC link). The National Cancer Institute seemed to be doing everything possible to deny the extensive research indicating the ABC link.

But in April of 2009, the prestigious Janet Daling group of the Fred Hutchinson Research Center in Seattle published in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention* a study conducted by Jessica Dolle affirming the abortion-breast cancer link, and also indicating an association between oral contraception and a particularly aggressive and treatment-resistant form of cancer known as TNBC, finding a 320% risk increase for breast cancer over those who never used contraception. The fact that Louise Brinton coauthored this study seems to indicate that the NCI official is reevaluating the refusal to acknowledge the link.

This study does not reveal anything new regarding the ABC link since Daling studies of 1994 and 1996 showed that there is an increased risk of between 20%-50% for breast cancer in women having abortions in comparison with women who gave birth to their babies.

Dr. Joel Brind, noted breast cancer researcher who is a professor of endocrinology at Baruch College, NY, and co-

founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, pointed out that “what was striking was the way in which the finding of a significant ABC link was characterized.”

“Specifically, abortion appears in the data table which lists the associations found for ‘known and suspected risk factors,’” Brind said. “In the text, the effect of the significant risk factors, including induced abortion, were described as ‘consistent with the effects observed in previous studies on younger women. Hence, this paper provides clear support for the existence of the abortion-breast cancer link.’”

Karen Malec, president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer, said the study and NCI’s involvement have implications for health care reform.

“Obviously, more women will die of breast cancer if the NCI fails in its duty to warn about the risks of oral contraceptives and abortion, and if government funds are used to pay for both as a part of any health care bill,” Malec asserted.

A study done in Turkey in 2009 showed a 66% increased risk of breast cancer with women who had abortions. It also reinforced other studies that demonstrate that miscarriage (spontaneous abortion) was associated with a decrease in breast cancer risk, in contrast to the sharp increase in risk from induced abortion. The study was conducted by Dr. Vahit Ozmen and colleagues at the Istanbul Medical Faculty, Istanbul University, and was sponsored by Magee-Women’s hospital in Pittsburgh.

Further information about the abortion-breast cancer link is available at the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute web site: www.bcpinstitute.org/

RU486 Abortions Not as Safe as Claimed

(Excerpts from article by Randall K. O’Bannon, Ph.D, *NRL News Nov-Dec 09*)

Planned Parenthood says, “Our monitoring shows that mifepristone medication abortion [RU486] continues to be a safe abortion option.”

...But a new study from Finland says that 20% of the women using the abortion pill suffer at least one significant complication. Nearly 4% reported two or more complications or “adverse events.”

The study, “Immediate Complications after Medical Compared with Surgical Termination of Pregnancy,” appeared in the October 2009 issue of the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. A team of Finnish researchers headed by Maarit Niinimäki of the Oulu University Hospital looked at all abortions, surgical and chemical, performed up to 63 days after gestation in Finland between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2006.

...Researchers looked at all abortion patient and outpatient visits occurring within 42 days after the abortion... and found that 15.6% of those undergoing “medical” (i.e. chemical) abortions hemorrhaged, 1.7% encountered infection, and 6.7% had incomplete abortions.

...But it should be noted that any latent psychological or physical consequences (such as impaired fertility) might not be manifest at 42 days post-abortion.

...In the U.S., the FDA tried to limit abortions using RU486 to 49 days gestation. But the industry has been openly

performing them up to 63 days gestation and sometimes even later.

...In comparison to surgical abortion, the risk of hemorrhage with RU486 was nearly 8 times higher, while the likelihood of an incomplete abortion was 5 times higher.

It was not that surgical abortion was safe, however. About 5.5% of Finnish women having surgical abortions reported at least one adverse event....As might be expected, physical injury rates from surgical abortion were about 20 times higher than those found with chemical abortions, though not as high as an overall percentage of adverse events (0.6%). Surprising from these figures is that there was a substantial number of surgical abortions that were somehow “incomplete,” with a number of women returning for “surgical re evacuations.”

This is a much different picture of abortion than one encounters in the United States, where the safety of abortion, chemical or surgical is regularly touted by the abortion industry and its defenders. Risks are mentioned, sometimes at the bottom of the page in small print...or are said to be “rare,” ...but the overall message of safety and convenience shines through.

Though the authors of the Finnish study label both the chemical and surgical methods of abortion “generally safe,” it is clear that complications are more common than many might have been led to believe, and that contrary to expectations that the chemical method was safer and easier, the data clearly show that “medical abortion results in an increased incidence of adverse events.”

Bulletin Inserts

March 7- As the Obama administration approved the first human embryonic stem cells for experiments by federally-funded scientists, pro-lifers argued that aside from the research being unethical, it is also unnecessary because of the availability of adult stem cells and other more recently identified alternatives. *San Diego Union Tribune*, 12/3/09

March 14 – During Lent, it is good to think about Jesus’ words, “Amen I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.” If we do nothing to work for the protection of these least ones, we do nothing for Jesus. *COLFS Newsletter*, San Diego, 11/07

March 21 – “I just want the truth to be told: that abortion does hurt women. They tell you that it doesn’t, [that] it’s a simple procedure and that you can get on with your life. Well, you do momentarily, but you spend your whole life trying to forget it.” Leslie Brunolli, abortion survivor/ participant in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign: *The Southern Cross*, November, 2009

March 28- “Every child with Down syndrome, every adult with special needs, in fact every unwanted, unborn child, every person who is poor, weak, abandoned or homeless—each one of these persons is an icon of God’s face and a vessel of His love.” Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, October 16 speech to Phoenix Catholic Physicians’ Guild

April 4 – Commenting on a Belgian man who awoke from a coma after 23 years having been misdiagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state, a member of Belgium’s Coma Study Group observed, “Despite the importance of diagnostic accuracy, the rate of misdiagnosis of vegetative state has not substantially changed in the past 15 years with up to 43% of patients with consciousness disorders misdiagnosed as being in a vegetative state.” *San Diego Union Tribune*, 11/24/09

April 11 – Adult stem cells are showing promise in growing bones to replace those damaged from birth defects, arthritis, or injury. Cheekbones and a jaw bone have been grown from stem cells in the patient’s own bone marrow and subsequently implanted. “The availability of personalized bone grafts engineered from the patient’s own stem cells would revolutionize the way we currently treat these defects,” commented a researcher at Columbia University which, along with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, has achieved success in this area. *NRL News*, 10/09

April 18 -Mississippi participants in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure requested and received a refund after learning that the breast cancer research group has made donations to the Planned Parenthood abortion business and denies the abortion-breast cancer link. The Komen Foundation donated to Planned Parenthood \$711,485 in 2005-6 and at least \$726,445 in 2006-7 with the number of affiliates making donations rising from 19 to 25. Steven Ertelt in online publication, *Life News*, November, 2009

April 25 – “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but [rather] to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Suggested Prayers

March 7 – For women struggling with an untimely pregnancy that they may realize that God is always at their side to help them, we pray

March 14 – That all those who have been involved in abortion may realize that God longs to provide forgiveness and healing, we pray

March 21 – That we as a society may provide ways of helping the terminally ill so they will not be tempted by assisted suicide, we pray

March 28 – That the people of God may realize their responsibility to reach out to struggling pregnant women and those who care for the disabled and the elderly, we pray

April 4- That our celebration of Easter may lead us to a renewed commitment to respect for all human life

April 11 – That church leaders may turn to the early disciples for inspiration in leading their people to build a culture of life, we pray

April 18- For those who shepherd families, parishes, communities or nations that they will teach the truth of the sanctity of each human life, we pray

April 25 – For those tempted by abortion that they may remember that God will always be with them to strengthen them, we pray

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More News

U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference Again Urges Catholic Parishioners: "Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!"

The January 7 letter sent by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to all 19,000 Catholic parishes reiterates and updates its earlier alerts, with an unprecedented urgency and deep concern about the pro-abortion and anti-conscience dangers in health care reform.

"As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

□ On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that affirms the essential, long-standing and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.

□ On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.

□ Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.

□ These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed."

The bishops' alert (www.usccb.org/action) asked parishioners to contact their Senators and Representatives with these messages:

HOUSE: "I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the long-standing policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

SENATE: "I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the long-standing policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

Polls Reveal Most Americans Oppose Health Care Funding of Abortion

This fall several different polls reported consistently that a majority oppose abortion being funded by public funds or by their own insurance plan.

Both the CNN Opinion Research Corporation poll (11/13-15) and the Washington Post-ABC poll (11/12-15) indicated **61%** oppose the use of public funds for abortion. International Communications Research found that **68%** do not want their own insurance policy to include abortion, and **67%** did not want federal taxes to pay for abortion. Quinnipiac University Poll reported that **72%** oppose public funds being used for abortion. For a full list of poll results, see www.nrlc.org/AHC/AHCPollsSummary.pdf

Tell Congress: Reject Obama's pro-abortion health care bill!

Please take a few minutes to send a message to your two U.S. Senators and Representative by going to www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home where you can use the form provided to quickly tell Congress not to vote for any bill that does not contain the Stupak-Pitts pro-life amendment.

In addition, you can telephone a member of Congress through **202-224-3121**. Give your name and address, and tell the staff person that you wish to be recorded as "opposed to the health care legislation, because the abortion language adopted by the Senate is unacceptable."

Also, please send short "letters to the editor" to your local newspapers, to alert your pro-life citizens to the pro-abortion policies that Obama and the pro-abortion lobby are trying to smuggle into law through "health care reform." See above web site for contact information for your local news media.

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