



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

News Notes

Catholic Medical Association Finds Deadly Flaws in Health Care Bills

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA), in making an appeal to Congress to respect “fundamental human and constitutional rights” in health care legislation, stressing in particular the right to life, stated: “[T]here is no right more basic than the right to life, and no right more central to American constitutional order than the right to freedom of conscience and religion.”

“Moreover, the **rights to conscience** and religious liberty of health-care providers must be more comprehensively protected as the power of governmental regulation grows.”

CMA found “substantial flaws” in the legislation, agreeing with most analysts that it increases health care costs while doing “little or nothing” to improve quality.

The association of Catholic doctors expressed concern that the “excessive levels” of government regulation resulting from the law would harm the physician-patient relationship and effective medical practice.

WV Legislature Passes Ultrasound Bill--Sent for Governor's Signature

The Ultrasound Option Bill (SB 597) was passed by the West Virginia Senate on March 2 and by the House March 12. The legislation obligates abortionists to inform mothers they have **the right to view an ultrasound of their unborn child**, although they would not be forced to do so. It is an amendment to the existing Women's Right to Know Act which provides women with information about abortion risks and alternatives.

Karen Cross, president of West Virginians for Life which supports the bill, explained, “Ultrasound legislation protects the mother's right to see her unborn child in real-time ultrasound. Because the decision to have an abortion is such a major one, it is only right and proper that the state guarantee the mother access to information relevant to her decision....When she sees that [ultrasound] she's more likely to choose life because it shows a living human baby with fingers and toes, arms and legs”

House Passes Pro-Abortion Health Care Bill 219-212

The U.S. House of Representatives on March 21 late at night gave final approval to a massive health care restructuring bill strongly opposed by the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), H.R. 3590.

The House vote was 219 to 212 in favor of the bill. All 219 votes in favor were cast by Democrats. Of the opposing (pro-life) votes, 178 were cast by Republicans and 34 by Democrats.

Earlier on March 21, a small group of House Democrats, led by Rep. Bart Stupak (D/MI.), who had withheld support from the bill because it lacked pro-life protections, agreed to vote for it after the White House released the text of an executive order that President Obama will issue after the bill is enacted.

However, NRLC clarified that **the executive order promised by President Obama changes nothing. It was issued for political effect. It does not correct any of the serious pro-abortion problems in the bill. The president cannot amend a bill by issuing an order, and the federal courts will enforce what the law says.**”

The order does not truly correct any of the seven objectionable pro-abortion provisions described in NRLC's March 19 letter to the House of Representatives, which said regarding this bill: “The bill is riddled with provisions that predictably will result in federal subsidies for private insurance plans that cover abortion (some of which will be administered directly by the federal government), direct federal funding of abortion through Community Health Centers, and pro-abortion federal administrative mandates.” For complete information on the abortion-related problems in the Senate bill described in this letter, see: <http://www.nrlc.org/AHC/NRLCToHouseOnHealthBill.pdf>

Prof. Robert Destro, a professor of law and former dean of the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, and an expert on abortion-related litigation, has sent lawmakers a letter explaining why the bill opens the door to direct federal funding of abortion in Community Health Centers: www.nrlc.org/ahc/DestroLetterToStupakOnCommHealthCenters.pdf. Professor Destro clearly explains why it is the statutory language that will govern.

Regarding the new program to provide tax credits to purchase private insurance, the executive order merely tinkers with the formalities of a bookkeeping scheme under which federal subsidies will pay for plans that cover elective abortion -- a break from the long-standing principles of the Hyde Amendment.

The National Right to Life Committee remains strongly opposed to the Senate-passed health bill (H.R. 3590). **A lawmaker who voted for this bill voted to require federal agencies to subsidize and administer health plans that will pay for elective abortion, and voted to undermine long-standing pro-life policies in other ways as well.**

Pro-life citizens nationwide know that this is a pro-abortion bill. Pro-life citizens know, and they will be reminded again and again, which lawmakers deserve their gratitude for voting against this pro-abortion legislation. **To view the NRLC scorecard showing how your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives has voted on key pro-life issues during the current Congress, go to <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/>**

Rep. Joe Pitts (R/PA) after making an eloquent appeal for a pro-life amendment to the bill, which failed to pass, concluded: **“Tonight was a very disappointing loss for the American people. America needs health care reform, but this adds to our problems instead of solving them....This bill will use taxpayer funds to pay for abortion for the first time in decades,”** Pitts affirmed.

Abortion Clinic Abuses Draw Investigations

Several abortion clinics are being investigated for violations of state laws, providing substandard/unsafe care, or being implicated in the deaths of women following their abortion procedure, according to recent reports.

The *Associated Press* has reported on problems in clinics in Birmingham, Alabama and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Alabama State health inspectors who reviewed clinic records at a Birmingham clinic “found that nine minors, ages 13-15 had received abortions without proper verification of parental consent since November 2008,” according to *AP*. The clinic in February was placed on probation for a year and will be subject to increased inspections during this time.

The pro-life organization “Life Action” investigated the Birmingham clinic by sending its president, Lila Rose, a college student, to pose as a minor seeking an abortion. In the audiotape Rose made of her discussion with the clinic staff, the staffer told her, “the clinic sometimes bends the rules and suggested that someone other than a parent or legal guardian could give consent for a minor to have an abortion,” according to the *AP* story. The Code of Alabama requires that minors present clinics with a consent form and verify that the signature is that of their parent or legal guardian.

“Concerns about reporting child abuse,” was also mentioned by *AP*. “One of the 13 year olds who received an abortion reported starting having sex at age 12 and having three partners in the previous year. She was back at the clinic for another abortion four months later and said she had now had four sexual partners in her life,” the *AP* story related.

In February, *AP* reported that a Philadelphia abortion clinic, the Women’s Medical Society, was raided by federal agents who found “deplorable and unsanitary” conditions which included blood on the floor and parts of aborted children stored in jars.

The federal investigators found out that the clinic director, Dr. Kermit Gosnell, usually only came to the clinic between 6 PM and 9 PM to sanction gynecological exams, administration

of controlled substances and prescription medication by non-licensed staff at the clinic, according to the *AP* report.

The Pennsylvania Department of State’s Medical Board, reported that a woman died on November 20, 2009 after an abortion at the Women’s Medical Society. Her system was found to be full of massive amounts of drugs which led authorities to believe unlicensed personnel were illegally prescribing pain-killers.

The Pennsylvania Department of State’s Board of Medicine suspended Gosnell’s medical license after the investigation, calling his continued practice “an immediate and clear danger to the public health and safety.” Subsequently, the Delaware Board of Medical Practice said it has temporarily suspended his medical license there as well. “Based upon the severity of the violations alleged in the complaint, and based upon the suspension of Dr. Gosnell’s license in the state of Pennsylvania, we have concluded that the suspension of Dr. Gosnell’s license to practice medicine in Delaware is necessary to protect the public until we can fully hear the matter,” said Raymond L. Moore Sr., the president of the Board of Medical Practice, according to the *Philadelphia Daily News*.



Photo Courtesy of LifeNews.com

In California, the *Orange County Register* reported the death of 30 year old Ying Chen who had a second-trimester abortion in a San Gabriel clinic. Abortionist Andrew Rutland had injected her with lidocaine before the abortion, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Chen reacted to the drug and quickly went into “profound respiratory distress, which was followed by complete respiratory and cardiac arrest,” the *Register* stated. Although Rutland performed CPR, he did not give her oxygen and “after a significant delay” Chen was eventually taken to a hospital and died six days later, the *Register* reported. The California Medical Board asked that Rutland, who was already on probation, have his licence suspended, but the administrative law judge, James Ahler, on January 7 decided instead to prohibit him from doing abortions or deliveries until a hearing before the full medical board, according to the *Register*.

Nebraska Proposes Ban on Abortions of Preborn Who Feel Pain

Nebraska, the state whose ban on partial-birth abortions was tested by the Supreme Court and ultimately passed into law by Congress and President George W. Bush, is now considering a ban on abortions of babies capable of feeling pain: **The Abortion Pain Prevention Act, LB 1103**.

Unborn babies can feel pain at 20 weeks gestation, as testified by the leading expert on the subject, Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand of the University of Arkansas Medical Center, and confirmed by other specialists. Anand explained that this conclusion “is based on multiple lines of evidence, not just the lack of descending inhibitory fibers, but also the number of receptors in the skin, the level of expression of various chemicals, neurotransmitters, receptors...”

Dr. Jean Wright, an anesthesiologist who specializes in

pediatric critical care medicine, gave testimony in Congress to the existence of fetal pain. “An unborn fetus after 20 weeks of gestation, has all the prerequisite anatomy, physiology, hormones, neurotransmitters, and electrical current to close the loop and create the conditions needed to perceive pain,” she testified.

Dr. Richard T.F. Schmidt, past president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, also confirmed this reality.

Nebraska Right to Life director, Julie Schmit-Albin, stated that the bill “will provide medical documentation that unborn babies can feel pain at 20 weeks gestation.”

A Zogby poll (Apr.04) showed that 77% of Americans back “laws requiring women who are 20 weeks or more along in their pregnancy be given information about fetal pain before having an abortion.”

Bulletin Inserts

May 2 - Pam Tebow, mother of the celebrated college football star, Tim Tebow, shared the story of her decision against abortion at the *Save A Life Ministries* annual banquet. She told how she first reported the story in an interview at the 2007 Heisman Trophy award for Tim. "God was so gracious," she said. "I didn't have to give up my life, and he didn't take the life of my son." *LifeNews*, 3/3/10.

May 9 - "The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body." Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

May 16 - "Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creating a human being. The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. Only a human mother is." Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

May 23 - As this nation continues to tolerate the dehumanizing evil of abortion, what will history think of this era? Many history experts agree that abortion clinics will be noted in history with the same significance as Nazi concentration camps. A prediction worthy of reflection.

May 30 - Two days in American history that will live in infamy are December 7, 1941 and September 11, 2001. Another infamous date in which a war was launched, a war against the unborn is January 22, 1973. As we remember the countless men and women who have given their lives to defend us, let us pledge again to defend the right to life of the unborn and remember the more than 50 million nameless children who have died since 1973.

June 6 - A veteran researcher into post-abortion trauma, David Reardon, writes that some abortionists readily admit feelings of guilt. "I do feel you're an abnormal person if you could really honestly say that abortion didn't bother you at all," said one abortionist he interviewed. "It goes against all things which are natural. It's a termination of life, however you look at it." *LifeDate*, Lutherans for Life newsletter, Spring, 1998

June 13 - On December 2, 2009, the Obama Administration approved the first use of human embryonic stem cells for experiments by federally funded researchers, using our tax dollars for an unethical destruction of human life at its early stage. Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told the *New York Times*, (12/3/09) that, "the tragedy of this is multiplied by the fact that no one can think what the problem is that can only be solved by these cells, in light of the amazing progress that has been made with adult stem cell research."

June 20 - Using brain scans an international team of scientists has taken a look inside the brains of patients diagnosed as being in a "vegetative state." These patients, the images clearly showed, were living silently—their minds apparently active, the scans showing brain activity like that in any healthy conscious person. (*New York Times*, 2/4/10) This counteracts the arguments that such patients are "in a vegetative state," and can be starved to death as Terry Schiavo was in 2005.

June 27 - Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter in an interview on the topic of cloning was asked when life begins. He replied, "I have not found it helpful to get into the details." Remarked pro-life veteran Jean Garton, "How's that for a clever-sounding, slippery version of the old line, 'Don't confuse me with the facts?'"

PHL, Scranton Chapter Newsletter

Suggested Prayers

May 2 - For those whose lives have been hurt by abortion that they may turn to God for consolation and guidance, we pray

May 9 - For all mothers that they may realize the preciousness of their children, born and unborn, we pray

May 16 - For all who have been called to preach the Gospel of Life, that they may rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance and inspiration, we pray

May 23 - That the power of Pentecost may renew our determination to defend the right to life of each human being, we pray

May 30 - May we defend the truth that all have been endowed by their Creator with a right to life with the same courage as our veterans have defended our freedom, we pray

June 6 - That all who are nourished by the Bread of Life realize their responsibility to promote a Culture of Life, we pray

June 13 - For all those involved in the abortion industry that they will find the courage to admit their offense against God and seek Christ's forgiveness, we pray

June 20 - That all those who mourn the death of a child by abortion may turn to God for comfort, we pray

June 27 - For all in government that they may realize that the first duty of government is to protect human life, we pray

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More News

Catholic Bishops Agree Health Care Legislation Is Pro-Abortion

The USCCB's Pro-Life Secretariat confirmed the U.S. Catholic Bishops' opposition to the Health Care Reform Bill (H.R. 3590) passed by the House of Representatives late Sunday night, March 21.

The last minute strategy to assert that an Executive Order by Obama would remove pro-abortion problems with the bill was exposed as legally useless by the legal experts which the bishops' consulted.

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB's Pro-Life Secretariat, confirmed the bishops' concerns in a memo sent March 21 to key Congressional members, stating:

"We've consulted with legal experts on the specific idea of resolving the abortion funding problems in the Senate Bill [H.R.3590] through executive order.... Unfortunately, this proposal does not begin to address the problem, which arises from decades of federal appellate rulings that apply the principles of *Roe v. Wade* to federal health legislation.

"According to these rulings, such health legislation creates a statutory requirement for abortion funding, unless Congress clearly forbids such funding. That is why the Hyde amendment was needed in 1976 to stop Medicaid from funding 300,000 abortions a year," Doerflinger explained.

"The statutory mandate construed by the courts would override any executive order or regulation. This is the unanimous view of our legal advisors and of the experts we have consulted on abortion jurisprudence. Only a change in the law enacted by Congress, not an executive order, can begin to address this very serious problem in the legislation," Doerflinger pointed out.

On Saturday, March 20, the Catholic bishops sent a letter to House members, urging opposition to the legislation.

"We as bishops continue to insist that health care reform which truly protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all is a moral imperative and urgent national priority. We are convinced that the Senate legislation now presented to the House of Representatives on a 'take it or leave it' basis sadly fails this test and ought to be opposed," the letter stated.



Sarah's Choice Movie Provides Pro-Life View

The television debut February 27 of a movie with a pro-life theme, *Sarah's Choice*, starring Christian singer/actress Rebecca St. James, brought to viewers an understanding of the pain of abortion and God's forgiveness

and redemption for post-abortive women.

Rebecca St. James, who promoted the film on Fox News, will be speaking and performing at events benefitting pregnancy centers.

"Messages have come back to me that through viewings of the film, a number of young women have opted for the choice of life for their babies," St. James said in an interview. "This is the ultimate success we had hoped the movie would achieve."

"The truth is that 43% of child-bearing age women today have abortions--a figure much higher than what most people are aware of. People need to know that there is forgiveness and grace for them in the midst of all," the singer/actress declared. "I have two very dear friends who have had abortions and have told their stories to me through regretful tears. Their stories impacted my life...I want to be a part of helping other women avoid this pain in their own lives. Life is a beautiful gift from God."

The movie's DVD is available from EMI-CMG Distribution.

"The Senate bill [H.R. 3590] extends abortion coverage, allows federal funds to pay for elective abortions (for example through a new appropriation for services at Community Health Centers that bypasses the Hyde amendment) and denies adequate conscience protection to individuals and institutions," the bishops further specified.

Other pro-abortion problems include federal funding via affordability credits; the temporary nature of certain limits to abortion; payment for abortions under the Indian Health Service program; and the Mikulski amendment allowing the administration to define abortion as preventive care which insurance plans would be forced to pay for.