



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

Protect Life Act Proposed to Restrict Abortion Funding in Health Care Law

Pro-life members of Congress have introduced a bill which would apply strict safeguards against federal funding of abortion to the new health care law.

Rep. Joe Pitts (R/PA) filed the bill, H.R. 5111, the *Protect Life Act*. Several Democrats have signed as co-sponsors of the bill, including Reps. Travis Childers (D/MO), Lincoln Davis (D/TN), Tim Holden (D/PA), Dan Lipinski (D/IL), Jim Marshall (D/GA), Mike McIntyre (D/NC), and Gene Taylor (D/MS). However, none of the Democrats who voted for the health care legislation have agreed to co-sponsor H.R. 5111.

The *Protect Life Act* amends the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* to insert permanent statutory language to prevent federal funding for abortion or abortion coverage through community health centers, plans administered by the Office of Public Management, or other programs authorized or appropriated by the new health care law.

The new bill also would protect conscience rights of health care workers by codifying the Hyde-Weldon provision, which currently must be reapproved each year. In addition, the bill ensures that private insurance companies are not required to cover abortion.

Rep. Tiahrt (R/KS), a co-sponsor of H.R. 5111, remarked about the health care reform law which Congress passed in March, "Obamacare is the most pro-abortion piece of legislation ever passed by Congress. This is in stark contrast to the belief held by a majority of Americans who oppose federally-funded abortions--and it should be amended immediately to reflect the will of the American people."

"Obama's fig-leaf executive order does nothing to change current law," Tiahrt pointed out. "So we must take swift action to reverse this reckless decision by Democrats to devalue human life."

Rep. Pitts expressed a desire for bipartisan support of the bill: "I'm proud to have strong support from both sides of the aisle. I never want protecting life to be a partisan issue."



Douglas Johnson

National Right to Life Comments on the Nomination of Elena Kagan to U.S. Supreme Court

Following are excerpts from the statement by Douglas Johnson, NRLC Legislative Director, which the National Right to Life Committee issued on May 10, 2010, regarding President Obama's nomination of Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"On April 21, 2010, President Obama used thinly veiled code language to communicate his clear intent to choose a nominee who would be hostile to legislative attempts to protect unborn humans. The President stated that he wanted someone 'who is going to be interpreting our Constitution in a way that takes into account . . . women's rights,' and that this was going to be 'very important' to him as he viewed our 'core Constitution' as protecting the 'bodily integrity' of women.

"In light of the President's stated intent, senators have an obligation to probe whether Elena Kagan will tolerate limits on abortion, enacted through normal democratic channels, or will seek to impose extreme pro-abortion views by judicial decree. Ms. Kagan herself argued forcefully in 1995, in a lengthy book review published in the University of Chicago Law Review, that such inquiries by senators are a legitimate and necessary part of the confirmation process."

According to the NRLC statement, it will be "appropriate and necessary," for senators to inquire whether Ms. Kagan supports the views expressed by the four justices who dissented from upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act with an argument that could invalidate "virtually any other law or government policy intended to discourage abortion...perhaps including the Hyde Amendment and parental notification laws," if this became the majority position of the Supreme Court.

"Regarding Ms. Kagan's specific views on the Court's past abortion-related rulings, there is little on the public record. But Ms. Kagan may have betrayed a possible personal animus towards the pro-life movement," Johnson pointed out, because "she referred disparagingly to 'victories of these anonymous but Moral Majority-backed [candidates] . . . these avengers of 'innocent life' . . .' Was Ms. Kagan so dismissive of the belief that unborn children are members of the human family that she felt it necessary to put the term "innocent life" in quote marks, or does she have another explanation? Would she be able to set aside any animus she has towards those who fight to protect innocent human life, when reviewing laws duly enacted for that purpose?"

In separate comments to LifeNews, Douglas Johnson clarifies Ms. Kagan's role in promoting a phony partial-birth abortion ban.

A memo that Elena Kagan wrote to President Bill Clinton advised him to support a measure that was offered by Sen. Tom Daschle (D/SD) as an alternative to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. But the Daschle proposal, contrary to some media reports, was designed to allow lawmakers to vote for a fraudulent ban as cover for their opposition to the real ban, according to Johnson.

"The Daschle phony ban, which the Reed-Kagan memo endorses, had only one purpose, which was to provide political cover for pro-abortion senators who might otherwise feel compelled to vote to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Act."

Since the override vote failed by two votes, and it took six years before another partial-birth abortion ban passed that President Bush could sign, "the memo shows that Elena Kagan can claim some credit for keeping partial-birth abortion legal for six extra years," Johnson points out.

States Are Taking Action to Limit Abortion and its Funding

Several state legislatures have passed bills to stop abortion funding with tax dollars in health care, or restrict at least some abortion funding.

Arizona was the first state to pass a law opting out of taxpayer-funded abortion provisions established by the federal health care reform law passed in March. It was signed into law by Arizona's Governor Jan Brewer. **Tennessee** also passed an opt out bill and the governor by not vetoing it allowed it to become law without his signature, as provided by Tennessee law. **Mississippi** passed a similar bill which the governor is expected to sign. In **Florida**, an opt out bill passed in the legislature, but it is uncertain whether Governor Charlie Crist will sign it or not. The **Oklahoma** and **Missouri** Legislatures have also sent to their respective Governors similar opt out bills.

Since the federal health care reform act did not include the Hyde Amendment language to restrict abortion funding except in the cases of rape, incest or threat to the life of the mother, **Virginia's** Governor Robert McDonnell sent to the Virginia General Assembly an amendment to the state's budget bill which would limit state funding of abortions. In a 20-19 vote the Virginia Senate agreed to the amendment.

Other state legislation includes outlawing coerced abortion (Tennessee, Oklahoma, Nebraska); conscience protection for health care workers (Idaho, Oklahoma); cord blood information (Ohio); and requirements for abortion clinics to report complications and reasons for abortions. (Oklahoma, Arizona).

Oklahoma Ultrasound Requirement Becomes Law But Stalled in Court

An ultrasound law was passed in Oklahoma providing that, prior to the performance of an abortion, the abortionist display the ultrasound screen so that the mother would have the opportunity to view her unborn child. The Oklahoma law also includes financial penalties to abortion clinics who transgress the law. Although Oklahoma's governor vetoed the bill, the Oklahoma legislature was able to override the veto.

Mary Spaulding Balch, NRLC's Director of State Legislation, commented about the new law: "This is a victory for the women of Oklahoma and their unborn children. Abortion is a business; the least time spent with a mother, the least information given to her, the more sales made.

"This law protects a mother's right to know something about her developing unborn child," Balch explained. "It gives her a window to her womb. It helps to prevent her from making a decision she may regret for the rest of her life and it empowers her with the most accurate information about her pregnancy so that she can make a truly informed 'choice.'"

Currently, however, an abortion business in Tulsa and an abortionist in Norman have filed a lawsuit against the law and the Center of Reproductive Rights has succeeded in getting a court order to stop enforcement of the law until the lawsuit is settled. Tony Lauinger, chairman of Oklahomans for Life, stated to *Associated Press*: "We're sorry to see implementation of the law delayed. This has been a long process and apparently it will be a little longer." He expressed belief that the law will eventually be upheld.

In Missouri, the legislature sent a pro-life bill to the Governor on May 14th. This bill would ensure that a mother is given the opportunity to view an ultrasound of her unborn child and receive information about her child's development twenty-four hours before an abortion is performed. West Virginia passed a similar ultrasound bill in March, and Governor Joe Manchin had a signing ceremony May 17.

Europe's First March for Life Draws Thousands

On March 28, in the heart of Brussels, Belgium, not far from the headquarters of the European Union, young people from various countries gathered to protest the legalized killing of unborn children.

The March began with a youth Mass at the Cathedral, followed by talks at the starting point in front of the Royal Palace. The program included presentations from youth of France, Germany, Poland, Austria, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, the U.S., the Congo and many other countries, standing up to represent their nation at the March. The Archbishop of Belgium sent a letter of encouragement and said the Pope was praying for them.



Photo by Bryan Kemper

that there were grandparents there who were ecstatic to see so many young people and to witness the birth of a pro-life revolution in Belgium. The organizers felt they were part of something truly historical in the birth of a new European youth pro-life movement.



Photo by Bryan Kemper

The crowd marching grew from hundreds to thousands as it progressed. The police were apparently unprepared for the size of the crowd, hardly blocking off enough area for the people pouring in and with traffic following the back of the March. Although Belgium has legalized abortion for 20 years, it has never had such an event. No one knew how many people would participate. A handful of counter-protesters calling themselves "anti-fascists" were apparently quite old compared with the youth of the March for Life crowd.

Although the March began in clouds and rain, the sun shone down on it as it arrived at its destination, the Palace of Justice. Marchers laid down roses at the Palace of Justice and listened to some closing talks. One of the organizers, Bryan Kemper of Stand True Ministries, said the talks brought tears to the eyes of many and several thanked Kemper for his testimony. He commented

Bulletin Inserts

July 4 - "As we tinker with the beginning, the end, and even the intimate cell structure of life, we tinker with our own identity as a free nation dedicated to the dignity of the human person. When American political life becomes an experiment on people rather than for and by them, it will no longer be worth conducting." U.S. Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 1998

July 11 - "In plain words: God is our origin, God is our destiny, God is our companion on the journey. Human life has a dignity and sanctity that cannot be denied, nor can the right to life and invitation to life in its fullness. It's God's plan. Human and holy have become inseparable." San Diego Bishop Robert H. Brom, *The Southern Cross*, February, 2010

July 18 - "I'm against abortion, but I don't want to impose my morality on someone else." What? How can you be against the killing of the unborn in one breath and then justify this by not wanting to tell others what to do? "The problem is we are allowing abortion to fall into a different category than every other act of homicide. But abortion is not a different act; it is a different method of the act of homicide in which one person kills another." Bryan Kemper of Stand True Ministries, *The Southern Cross*, February, 2010

July 25 - "In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court looked at the slave, Dred Scott, and came up with the wrong decision, declaring the slave as "property" and not a "citizen"... The slave's life was still protected. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong again and handed down decisions on abortion which declared "open season" on unborn children throughout the full nine months of pregnancy.... Most people have not noticed that the population descended from U.S. African slaves, comprising around 12% of the population, make up about 35% of the abortion population. [Since 1973, more than 14 million unborn black children have died from abortion.] Dr. Mildred Jefferson, M.D.

August 1 - Yet another example of the ongoing flood of success stories with non-embryonic stem cells is that of three year old Alyssa Dupuis who suffered brain damage at birth that caused cerebral palsy. Her parents decided to bank her umbilical cord blood which was recently given to Alyssa via stem cell transfusion. Immediate positive results were seen and at last report this little girl, according to her mother, is "about 85% cured from cerebral palsy." *NRL News*, Feb-March, 2010

August 8 - "Abortion is the most lucrative part of Planned Parenthood's operations. They really want to increase the number of abortions so they can increase their income." Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood clinic director. *NRL News*, January, 2010

August 15 - Researchers in Britain and Belgium have found that patients "thought to be in a persistent vegetative state showed brain activity indicating awareness, intent and, in at least one case, a wish to communicate." This is a significant breakthrough in efforts to provide life-sustaining care for comatose patients. *NRL News*, Feb-Mar, 2010

August 22 - One of the chief researchers in a landmark study on patients with severe brain injuries noted that these patients are diagnosed falsely "on a disturbingly regular basis." With false diagnoses, fatal mistakes can be made as in the famous case of Terri Schiavo who was fatally deprived of food and water. Says bio-ethicist Wesley J. Smith, "What we did to Terri was a blight on the legal system and bioethics. Pretending otherwise won't make that stain go away." *NRL News*, Feb-Mar, 2010

August 29 - "Nothing could be more foreign to the American experience than legalized abortion. It is inconsistent with our national character, with our national purpose, with all that we've done, and with everything we hope to be." Speech at Notre Dame by the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey

Suggested Prayers

July 4 - That we may use our country's freedom to defend the right to life of the elderly, the disabled, and the unborn, we pray

July 11 - That the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," become the law of the land in regard to unborn babies, we pray

July 18 - That all unborn children may be welcomed as a unique gift from God, we pray

July 25 - For all those involved in the pro-life movement that every action may begin and end with prayer, we pray

August 1 - For all those blessed with abundant riches that they may share their blessings in support of the pro-life movement, we pray

August 8 - For all families faced with an unexpected pregnancy that they may have faith in a God who loves and provides, we pray

August 15 - That the example of Jesus' mother Mary inspire those who are also faced with difficult pregnancies, we pray

August 22 - That more Americans be inspired to reach out with material help for women going through unexpected pregnancies, we pray

August 29 - For all those involved in the abortion industry that they may realize the destruction that they are causing, we pray

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May/June 2010

More News

John Cardinal O'Connor Memorialized at St. Patrick's Cathedral

On May 3rd, hundreds of people gathered in New York to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of John Cardinal O'Connor, who was one of our nation's greatest pro-life leaders. The event included a memorial Mass and remembrances from Archbishops Timothy Dolan, and Edmond O'Brian, Cardinal Edward Egan, Rabbi Moses A. Birnbaum, Mother Agnes Mary, superior general of the Sisters of Life, former NY Mayor Edward Koch, Cardinal O'Connor's sister, Mrs. Mary Ward, and Helen Alvare.

Speaker after speaker lauded the cardinal's passionate commitment to restoring a culture of life in American society and to protecting all innocent human beings. The cardinal was remembered as a leader who made pro-life concerns a consistent national issue.

One of many ways that the Cardinal put his pro-life beliefs into action was the founding of the Sisters of Life, which



Cardinal John J. O'Connor

is a religious order dedicated to pro-life ministries and promoting the pro-life cause. Mother Agnes Mary described the great assistance and inspiration that the Cardinal had given to the community.

NRLC's Director of Outreach Ernest Ohlhoff attended the event and commented, **"Cardinal O'Connor was one of us. He understood our movement, our goals and our needs. He always made himself available to us. His understanding and advice were greatly appreciated. He truly was a great pro-life leader both in the Church and the entire country."**

Toward the end of his life, Cardinal O'Connor struggled with cancer. Mrs. Ward commented that "The cardinal had often expressed that when he died he wanted to be like Christ—emptied of everything in this world, with total abandon to the will of the father."



Dr. Michael New

Research Confirms that Pro-Life Laws Save Lives

A law professor from Northwestern University, Andrew Koppelman, published an argument that "the Religious Right Promotes Abortion." Since support for legal abortion is losing ground politically, some defenders of abortion rights are attempting to claim that their policies are better for reducing abortions than the policies of the pro-life movement. However, the best research confirms that the policies promoted by pro-lifers are most effective in reducing the number of abortions.

Dr. Michael New of the University of Alabama, in an article in *Public Discourse* (4-13-10), refutes Koppelman with studies that show that pro-life parental involvement laws and informed consent laws are effective in reducing the number of abortions, and with a review of literature published by the Alan Guttmacher Institute which reports that 20 out of 24 academic studies found that state public funding restrictions lowered abortion rates.

Clearly states that provide greater legal protection for the unborn have the best strategy for lowering abortion rates, Professor New concludes. This conclusion is no surprise to pro-lifers, but is a reminder of the need to persevere in promoting laws at every level which provide greater protection for unborn children.