



*Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.*

October 2007



## Our Mission: *Cures Without Cloning*

**M**issouri Right to Life is part of a broader coalition working to support the Cures Without Cloning Campaign. The focus of this campaign is to place on the next statewide ballot, in 2008, an initiative that would totally ban all human cloning, prohibit taxpayer funding of research on cloned human embryos, and protect ethical cures.

Cures Without Cloning is a group of doctors and medical professionals who support a comprehensive prohibition on human cloning.

This initiative is necessary because human cloning is now legal in Missouri and protected in the state constitution. Opponents to the initiative want to conduct experiments on human embryos cloned through the same process used to clone Dolly the Sheep.

Missouri Right to Life enthusiastically supports the efforts of Cures Without Cloning and urges all of its members to actively work for passage of the initiative petition. For more information, visit our website at [missourilife.org](http://missourilife.org). or visit [mocureswithoutcloning.org](http://mocureswithoutcloning.org).

To get involved in helping to secure a position on the ballot for the initiative petition, contact the coordinator for your congressional district, city, or county. They are listed below.

<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Area or District</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bev Ehlen	St. Charles/Lincoln Counties	314-308-0168/636-932-4496	bevehlen@yahoo.com
Lucy Hannegan	St. Louis City	314-351-4590/314-367-3779	lucy@safeplace.net
Vicki Wiese	St. Louis City	314-351-9102	jjwiese@juno.com
Steve Rupp	St. Louis County	314-397-0847/314-838-3985	steve.rupp@the-team.biz
Abram Messer	District 3	314-779-8182	abram.messer@gmail.com
Contact MAHC	District 4	314-822-7742	info@nocloning.org
Linda Bond	District 5	816-868-6525	lbondmo0074life@yahoo.com
John & Mary Pat DeStefano	District 6	816-741-7043/816-718-8990	johndestefano@yahoo.com marypatdestefano@yahoo.com
Joey Davis	District 7	417-337-1300/417-334-1320	jdavis1320@yahoo.com
Sarah Greek	District 8	417-261-2321	excelsior.g@gmail.com
Mitch Hubbard	District 9	573-592-8161	mitchellhubbard@netzero.net



## Thought You'd Like To Know . . .

. . . "Bella," the heart-warming independent film that took the 2006 Toronto Film Festival by storm, has now officially secured a major distributor for US audiences. It is reported that Roadside Attractions has acquired the rights to distribute "Bella." While Metanoia Films has not marketed "Bella" as a strictly pro-life movie, many pro-life and pro-family groups across the country and internationally have embraced the film for its unapologetic celebration of life and the beauty of family and for its honest look at the difficult issue of what to do about an unplanned and "unwanted" pregnancy.

"Bella" takes place during a single day, and follows lead characters Jose, once a famous athlete, now a chef at his adopted brother's restaurant, and Nina, a young waitress at the restaurant, who is fired from her job after discovering near the beginning of the film that she is pregnant. Scared and alone, Nina seems to have decided that she cannot continue her pregnancy and abort the child, until Jose, spends an unusual day with her in New York City.

Metanoia films, which says its mission is to "make movies that matter and have the potential to make a meaningful difference in people's lives" is promoting "Bella" with a multimillion-dollar marketing campaign, including national TV ads for mainstream and Latino outlets. A grass-roots campaign is already helping to promote the film and pre-book tickets at theaters across America.

"The film is a crowd-pleaser about humanity, family, friendship and the unique magic of New York City," Roadside co-president Eric d'Arbeloff said.

LifeSiteNews August 31, 2007

. . . . A survey of doctors nationwide finds 52% said they oppose abortion and others wouldn't refer women considering an abortion to a place that does them. The survey also found some physicians believe it is appropriate to withhold information about abortion on moral grounds. University of Chicago researchers conducted the study with interviews of 1,144 doctors around the country. It is believed to be the first comprehensive survey of the moral attitudes of physicians.

The study found 14% of those surveyed do not believe they are required to tell a patient about all treatment options when it comes to morally objectionable procedures such as abortion. And 29% say they do not feel they must refer someone to another doctor for a treatment they oppose or were undecided.

Doctors who described themselves as strong Christians, whether Protestant or Catholic, were more likely to refuse a referral or more information about morally objectionable procedures like abortion.

Dr. Gary Smith, an ob/gyn at the Women's Health Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, is one such doctor. Smith does not do abortions or refer women to physicians that do, and he won't tell a pregnant woman that abortion is an option.

"They know it's an option," he told the Baltimore Sun newspaper. "They don't need me to tell them abortion exists. I was always taught I have two patients: the mother and the baby. Why would I want to send somebody out to hurt their baby?"

Dr. Farr Curlin, a University of Chicago ethicist and internist, led the study. Some 1,820 practicing U.S. family doctors and specialists chosen randomly from a database were mailed a survey and 63% of them responded.

LifeNews.com February 8, 2007



## WHO SAID THAT?

"Every single case of inherited defect, every malformed child, every congenitally tainted human being brought into this world is of infinite importance to that poor individual; but it is of scarcely less importance to the rest of us and to all of our children who must pay in one way or another for these biological and racial mistakes."

*Pivot of Civilization* 1922

"No more children should be born when the parents, though healthy themselves, find that their children are physically or mentally defective."

*Woman and the New Race* 1920

"It now remains for the United States government to set a sensible example to the world by offering a bonus or a yearly pension to all obviously unfit parents who allow themselves to be sterilized by harmless and scientific means. In this way the moron and the diseased would have no posterity to inherit their unhappy condition... Ask the government to first take off the burdens of the insane and feebleminded

from your backs. Sterilization for these is the remedy."

*The Function of Sterilization* 1926

"Anybody in this vast country is at perfect liberty to become a father or a mother! You may be diseased, you may be a mental defective, a moron, a pauper, a habitual criminal; you may be insane, irresponsible, with no knowledge of the laws of health, hygiene, or common decency; yet you may bring not merely one child into these United States. You are encouraged to bring a dozen . . . I, for one, believe that it is high time to recognize that if it is not right to import into our country individuals from whom we must later protect ourselves, it is even more imperative to protect ourselves and to protect American Society..."

*The Need for Birth Control in America* 1925

Answer: Margaret Sanger (1879 - 1966) was the founder of both Planned Parenthood of America and International Planned Parenthood Federation, the nation's and the world's largest provider of abortion.

## **Planned Parenthood Files Suit Again**

On August 20, 2007, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Western Missouri filed a lawsuit in federal court in Kansas City, seeking a ruling that the health and safety provisions of this year's HB 1055 violate the federal constitution. The provisions under attack require "any establishment operated for the purpose of performing or inducing any second or third trimester abortions or five or more first trimester abortions per month," to comply with the Missouri Department of Health's regulations for abortion surgical centers. Both chemical and surgical abortions are counted toward the monthly total. Planned Parenthood (PP) asserts that its clinic in Kansas City, Missouri cannot physically comply with the state's regulations and that its clinic in Columbia cannot comply without unreasonable cost and expense. The closing of these two facilities is claimed to violate women's constitutional right to abortion.

One defendant, Jane Drummond, M.D., the Director of the Missouri Department of Health, has engaged private counsel from Alliance Defense Fund to represent her in this lawsuit. Her attorneys have filed a brief pointing out that federal courts have long ruled that merely closing clinics and increasing the distance that women must go for abortions is not an undue burden on the right to abortion.

Planned Parenthood's initial pleadings also argued that regulations applicable to surgical abortions are unnecessary with respect to chemical abortions. Dr. Drummond's brief responded with a quote from a Planned Parenthood publication which states, "A small percentage of medical abortions fail. In these cases, surgical procedures are required to end the pregnancy." Her brief continued, "If Planned Parenthood recognizes that some medication abortions go wrong and require surgery, it cannot be irrational to make the facilities that provide medication abortion to be prepared for such problems."

When the abortion drug, mifepristone, was approved by the FDA for abortions in 2000, the FDA indicated that one woman out of every twelve who tested the drug had to have surgery for such dangerous conditions as heavy bleeding, incomplete abortions, and continued pregnancies. Accordingly, the FDA limited the dispensing of the drug to doctors who could "provide surgical intervention in cases of incomplete abortion or severe bleeding, or have made plans to provide such care through other qualified physicians, and are able to assure patient access to medical facilities equipped to provide blood transfusions and resuscitation, if necessary."

In light of the FDA requirement, one wonders how the State of Missouri violates women's rights by requiring abortion facilities to comply with surgical center regulations.

On August 27, 2007, Judge Ortie Smith of the U. S. District Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO), in effect a legal "freeze" on enforcement of the law, until he could hold a hearing on PP's motion for a preliminary injunction on September 10, 2007. (The TRO was erroneously reported in the press as a preliminary injunction.) A preliminary injunction is usually converted into a permanent injunction without any further evidence being heard. Thus, the hearing on September 10 may well decide the case at the trial court level. The losing party can appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

On August 29, 2007, the owner of an abortion facility in St. Louis filed a motion to intervene in the action in order to press the same constitutional claims for his clinic. The owner, Dr. Allen S. Palmer, D.O., asserted in his affidavit that he performs 10-

12 abortions per week along with other surgical procedures. He claims that these abortions are done in a "private office setting" that is not an "ambulatory surgical center." Because, as he alleges, his abortions are very safe, it is unconstitutional to make him comply with the new regulations. Dr. Drummond has filed her objection to Dr. Palmer's motion, and PP has until September 17 to file its reply to it. As we go to press, the next court date is September 24, 2007.

## **Allowing Midwives to Perform Abortions**

On August 9, 2007, a circuit judge ruled that the provision of HB 818 that had the effect of allowing midwives to perform abortions was adopted in violation of the Missouri Constitution. The provision, which was added to the bill at the last minute, focused on health procedures, while the rest of the lengthy bill focused on health insurance. The court ruled that the amendment offended clauses of the Missouri Constitution that require a bill to be devoted to only one subject and to contain a description of the bill's provisions in the bill's title. A permanent injunction against the offending provision was imposed.

The remainder of HB 818 went into effect on August 28, 2007. The Attorney General announced that he would appeal the ruling. The appeal is likely to take most of a year to complete. There is now no need for corrective legislative action, as Missouri Right to Life had requested the Governor to undertake during the recent special legislative session.

MRL has no opposition to midwives' services per se, but the wording of the midwifery provision in HB 818 had the effect of permitting midwives to perform abortions, which MRL does oppose.

## **MRL Corrects Legislative Scorecard of Rep. Sander**

The vote taken on May 8, 2007, (vote 14 in our Special Edition Newsletter) to adopt the Conference Committee Report on SCS HCS HB 7 was corrected by Rep. Therese Sander by the following letter. We apologize for the incorrect posting in our Special Edition Legislative Issue of the *Missouri Right to Life News*.

"I, State Representative Therese Sander, District 22, hereby state and affirm that my vote as recorded on Page 1676 of the House Journal for May 8, 2007 showing that I voted Aye was incorrectly recorded. Pursuant to House Rule 89, I ask that the Journal be corrected to show that I voted No. I further state and affirm that I was present in the House Chamber at the time this vote was taken, I did in fact vote, and my vote or absence was incorrectly recorded."

**Save These Dates!**



**Monday, January 21, 2008 -**

**March For Life trips**

**Originating in several areas around the state.  
Extended trips may depart on alternate dates.  
Check in the next edition of *MRL News*.**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008 -**

**MRL Lobby Day Jefferson City**

# Presidential Candidates Where Do They Stand on Life?

## Democrats

All presently declared Democrat candidates are pro-abortion, pro-cloning, and in favor of embryonic stem cell research.

Republicans	Stem Cell Research	Roe v. Wade	Partial-Birth Abortion
Rudy Giuliani Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 25%	“As long as we’re not creating life to destroy it, as long as we’re not having human cloning, and we limit it to that...I would support [embryonic stem cell research] with those limitations.”	“The present state of the law on these issues is not something that I would seek to change.”	“I support the ban on partial-birth abortion...but ultimately I think when you come down to that choice, you have to respect a woman’s right to make that choice.”
Fred Thompson Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 24%	“I’m for adult stem cell research not stem cell research where embryos of unborn children are destroyed...there’s...promising developments [with] adult stem cell[s]...we don’t need to go down that other road.”	Voted to oppose Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.  “I think Roe v. Wade was bad law and bad medical science.”	Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.  “The very idea that we could even have a debate over whether or not that atrocious activity should be allowable is very unfortunate...”
Mitt Romney Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 14%	“I will not create new embryos through cloning or through embryo farming because that would be creating life for the purpose of destroying it.”	“I do believe...that Roe v. Wade does not serve the country well...[it’s] an example of judges making the law instead of interpreting the Constitution... I would like to see the Court return the issue to the people to decide.	“[The] Court reaffirmed the values of life in America by upholding a ban on a practice that offends basic human decency.
John McCain Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 11%	Voted in favor of funding research that requires killing human embryos.  “I do support embryonic stem cell research...”	Voted to oppose Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason. “...We would be better off by having Roe v. Wade return to the states...”	Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.  “Today’s Supreme Court ruling [in Gonzales v. Carhart*] is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of human life.”
Mike Huckabee Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 3%	“I don’t think it’s right to create a life to end a life. That’s not a good health decision.”	“My convictions regarding the sanctity of life have always been clear and consistent, without equivocation or wavering. I believe that Roe v. Wade should be overturned.”	Signed the Arkansas Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act into law.  “I applaud the Court’s action which also send a strong reminder that we must stay vigilant in our cause to protect those who cannot protect themselves.”
Sam Brownback Rasmussen Poll August 6, 2007 2%	Voted against funding stem cell research that requires killing human embryos.  “I oppose destructive embryonic stem cell research because it results in the untimely termination of a young human life.”	Voted to oppose Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.  “[The day Roe v. Wade is repealed] would be a glorious day of human liberty and freedom.”	Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.  “[The Court’s decision in Gonzales v. Carhart*] is a great step forward for our nation’s citizens, born and unborn.”

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**National Right to Life Committee, Inc.**

[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

\* Gonzales v. Carhart is the April 2007 Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

# Mary Wilt



In 1991, a life-threatening blood clot in her lung prompted Mary Wilt to join in the work of the pro-life movement, and the Northeast Region of Missouri Right to Life has been a better, stronger place for pro-life people ever since then.

“God gave me a second chance at life. I think babies should have a first chance at life,” Mary explains.

Since that time, Mary has served as Chairman of Shelby County Right to Life and on the Northeast Region board. She is also on Missouri Right to Life’s state board of directors.

Last year’s debate over Amendment 2 only heightened Mary’s resolve in her pro-life work. As a person with multiple sclerosis, she was angered by the false promises made by the clone-and-kill proponents.

“Amendment 2 supporters told people that it was a total ban on cloning and would help find cures for diseases,” Mary notes. “It does not help find cures for my disease or any disease. It makes me angry that people use people to make money and to give false hope.”

Mary is a member of First Christian Church of Shelbina.

To those who know Mary, she is an example of strength, involvement, and dedication that we all strive to emulate. Thanks, Mary, for all you do for *life!*

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*Philippians 4:8-9*

*Sometimes in the rush to do all that must be done in our fight for life, we stop and remind ourselves of how important all of you are to Missouri Right to Life. You and we together are Missouri Right to Life, and without you the work would be so much more difficult.*

*So . . . thank you for all of the efforts that you make in defending life, keeping this special mission in your prayers, responding to our pleas, and making the donations that keep the doors open. God bless you!*



## A Note From Erica . . .

I’m very thankful for everything you all have done. Your speech contest opened up a world of passion I didn’t know about before. I wanted to take a slice of time to thank you for the prize money, plaque, opportunity, and knowledge. I’m looking forward to next year’s contest.

I learned more in those couple of months before the speech than I learned in any class I’ve taken. Currently, I’m trying to influence a sister of mine to do the contest next year. Thank you, once again, for everything.

Always, Erica Rivera

Erica is one of MRL’s 2007 State Oratory Contest winners, and she is from Shiloh in the Northeast Region MRL. We wanted to share her note with all of you.

## Memorials

*In memory of a loved one or friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
John Romano	Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Rodefeld
David Cunningham	Josephine Cunningham
Kitty Flood	Northeast Region MRL
Jase Bradley York	Dr. & Mrs. R. M. Thornsberry
Gladys Walker	Kathy Stevenson
Jack Winkler	Shelby County Chapter MRL
Robert N. Miller, M.D.	Mr. & Mrs. William Dean
	Hazel Samsel
	Winston & Merlyn Lindley
	Harry Langenberg

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Robert N. Miller, M.D.	Dorothy Massot
	Michael Kearney
	Maurice Lonsway, M.D.
	Wes & Jane Hummel
	Arlen Dykstra
	Warren Keinath, Jr.
	Margaret Campbell
	Jeanne Lau
	Ruth Sprague
	Humes & Barrington, LLP
	Marion Kluepfel
	Rieta O’Neal
	Catherine Clapper
	Emilie Sommer

*Missouri Right to Life encourages you to consider a gift in memory of a family member or friend. Your gift will support pro-life work to restore respect for the sanctity of life.*

# The Joy Comes from Doing the Right Thing

by Brenda Hanson

I love my early morning walks. My mind travels far even if my body is merely walking around our yard. Today, my memories were of 11 years ago -- 11 years, mid-May, 1996. I was eight months pregnant.

It had been a happy and healthy pregnancy and I was scheduled for a routine ultrasound at my upcoming ob/gyn appointment. We were excited. My husband and I agreed, "Let's find out whether we are going to have a son or a daughter!"

The technician led us back to a small and darkened room that held the ultrasound equipment. And thus began our unexpected adventure and our equally unexpected maturing.

The technician ran the ultrasound scope over my abdomen for a few moments, took some still pictures and measurements, and then said she would be right back. She returned -- with the doctor.

The doctor gently said, "There are some problems with your baby. Your baby is going to be born with hydrocephalus. A shunt will probably be surgically placed shortly after your child's birth." I started to cry. My husband was silent, unsure what to say. Appointments with specialists were scheduled.

Oh, and the sex of our baby to be? A precious little girl.

More doctors. More ultrasounds. Multiple amniocentesis. More tough news: an atrial-ventricular canal heart defect; Down syndrome.

On June 19, 1996, Sarah was born at our local Children's Hospital via a C-section. I didn't know what to expect; none of us did really.

Would she live? Would she need immediate medical intervention?

And then came that beautiful sound -- a high-pitched cry.

I started to cry. A nurse carried our little girl, all swaddled up, and held her for me to see. Sarah couldn't stay long, the intensive care nursery was waiting for her arrival but there she was. Big, dark eyes wide and alert. Lots of dark hair (that eventually turned blond). I just adored her.

She was indeed beautiful. Perfect really -- despite the extra chromosome and the enlarged head size due to hydrocephalus and the heart defect soon needing surgical attention. A perfect miracle in spite of, and to some extent maybe even because of, the birth defects.

In that moment, I understood and deeply believed that God makes no mistake. Sarah was no mistake. She was God's perfect plan for our lives, and the purposes He designed uniquely for us were going to come to us through her. What a gift!

Since that wonderful day in 1996, there have been many hurdles to jump, deep waters of medical diagnosis to struggle through, and crosses to bear.

Heart surgery at one month. A shunt placed at two months. A gastrostomy tube for feeds before coming home from the intensive care nursery (at day 88). A stroke from a rare vascular disease (moy-

amoya syndrome) at 20 months. Acute lymphocytic leukemia diagnosed at age 7. Three years of chemotherapy (which ended nearly a year ago).

No, it has not always been an easy journey. But is it supposed to be?

During my walk this morning, I was thinking about the first emotion that came over me when we learned of Sarah's diagnosis. Can you guess what it was? It was a deep and overwhelming desire to protect her. I never had a feeling like that before for anyone else. I just wanted to keep her safe, even in the womb.

Now I hear of earlier and earlier prenatal tests. Often these tests are specifically developed to determine whether or not a baby will be allowed to be born with Down syndrome. When the mainstream media report this, they attempt to clothe these stories in the garb of "medical advances" (something "good") and as an "opportunity" for prospective parents to "prepare."

But, as the mother of a child with Down syndrome, I know in my heart of hearts that the real reason for such early prenatal testing has virtually nothing to do with preparation and almost everything to do with "termination." And, I am sad. When the choice is made to abort a child based on a medical diagnosis, be it Down syndrome or any other number of medical issues, it is more than quietly "terminating" flesh and tissue. It is ending a God-given life.

And it may also represent the end of what was a uniquely designed purpose for the lives of the parents. Maybe not the purpose they had in mind. But uniquely designed none-the-less and potentially more fulfilling than anything they could have imagined for themselves.

Lots of people will never know that blessing. And, I am sad for them.

Joy comes not from an easy journey. The joy comes from doing the right thing, trusting in the Lord to find strength to do the work and to do it well -- and every day making a choice.

Yes, a choice.

Every day I must wake up and choose. To be sure, there are days of despair, but I still can choose hope and purpose even on those days. It is meaningful to do so. And, yes, it is possible to do so.

The world lies to us sometimes and tries to convince us that having our plans and lives disrupted or inconvenienced is not necessary and to be avoided at all costs. But truly it is in these very disruptions and supposed inconveniences that the purest blessings may arrive.

The deepest pain sometimes creates the deepest purposes and the deepest designs for our lives. God knows what He is doing, even when we don't understand the big picture.

And there are moments when I get glimpses, small as they may be, of the big picture, and there is nothing more exhilarating!

*This article first appeared in National Right to Life News June 2007*

*... as the mother of a child with Down syndrome, I know in my heart of hearts that the real reason for such early prenatal testing has virtually nothing to do with preparation and almost everything to do with "termination."*

*As always, your donation in the enclosed return envelope would be so appreciated!*

# Biological Research Fraud at University of Missouri

For the second time in recent years, the preeminent journal, *Science*, has published a retraction of an earlier article on embryonic stem cell research because of fraud in the original article. This time, the scientific fraud was perpetrated by a researcher at the University of Missouri.

The fraud involved doctoring digital photographs of mouse embryos. The original article, authored by four researchers at Mizzou in 2006, was controversial because it asserted that mouse embryos of only two cells in size showed “markers” that indicated whether a particular cell would develop into placental tissue or develop further into the body of the mouse. After another scientist cast doubt on the authenticity of the photographs supporting that conclusion, the University of Missouri conducted an internal investigation.

The University’s investigation concluded that the fraud had been committed by one author of the article, Dr. Daushik Deb. Dr. Deb left Columbia shortly after the investigation began, and the University was unsuccessful in efforts to contact him.

On July 26, 2007, *Science* published a letter of retraction from the other three authors of the article, including Dr. R.M. Roberts, the head of the University of Missouri laboratory where the research was done. The three were cleared of any personal involvement in the fraud by the University’s Research Responsibility Committee.

In 2004, *Science* published its retraction of a 2002 article in which South Korean scientists led by Dr. Hwang Woo Suk claimed to have cloned human beings. Dr. Suk’s data and conclusions were

subsequently shown to be false.

Although the Missouri research fraud did not involve human embryos, it illustrates the extreme pressure that is felt by researchers to produce results that justify the extravagant promises by the cloning industry that miracle cures will come soon from embryonic stem cells.

In a press interview, Dr. Roberts said he would continue his research on mouse embryos, as well as conducting research into the conversion of human embryonic stem cells into placental stem cells. There is no evidence known to Missouri Right to Life that the University is destroying human embryos to obtain the embryonic stem cells that are being used by Dr. Roberts. Many lines of human embryonic stem cells are available from elsewhere.



## Amnesty International Calls for Abortion “Decriminalization”

In a policy adopted by its International Executive Committee in April but only slowly becoming public, Amnesty International has abandoned its longstanding neutrality on abortion and now embraces abortion for “particular circumstances,” according to a letter by Karen Schneider, chair of the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Working Group, found on Amnesty International’s web site.

A June 14 Amnesty International press release spelled out the new policy, which is “to support the decriminalization of abortion, to ensure women have access to health care when complications arise from abortion and to defend women’s access to abortion, within reasonable gestational limits, when their health or human rights are in danger.”

While the abortion issue may be discussed at Amnesty International’s International Council Meeting August 11, the group’s secretary general told Reuters July 30 that the policy is already in place and will not be changed.

“The purpose of the Council meeting is not to endorse this policy because this policy already exists,” Irene Khan told Reuters.

The policy has angered many supporters who embrace Amnesty International’s traditional focus on ensuring human rights but who oppose abortion, the denial of the ultimate human right, the right to life.

“The Church teaches that it is never justifiable to kill an innocent life. Abortion is murder,” Cardinal Renato Martino told the National Catholic Register. “To selectively justify abortion, even in the cases of rape, is to define the innocent child within the womb as an enemy, a ‘thing’ that must be destroyed. How can we say that killing a child in some cases is good and in other cases it is evil?”

The executive committee’s policy change was deliberately kept quiet, according to Ryan T. Anderson, a junior fellow at First Things magazine, who found the information in early May on a members-only section of Amnesty’s web site.

The site includes a letter to volunteer leaders, stating, “This policy will not be made public at this time.”

Sections spell out Amnesty’s call for “decriminalization,” which it defines as “the removal of all criminal penalties (including imprisonment, fines, and other

punishments) against those seeking, obtaining, providing information about, or carrying out abortions.”

In addition, the group states that it calls on countries to: “Ensure access to abortion services to any woman who becomes pregnant as the result of rape, sexual assault, or incest, or where a pregnancy poses a risk to a woman’s life or grave risk to her health.”

Anderson points to the language that seems to contradict Amnesty’s contention that it is not advocating for an abortion “right.” “Wait a minute,” he writes in First Things. “We’ve just gone from ‘decriminalizing’ abortion to calling on states to ‘ensure access.’ And, when you throw in the language of a risk to life and health, even if you include the obligatory word ‘grave,’ all of a sudden every abortion becomes ‘ensured.’ If you doubt this, just look at the way Roe’s health exception and Doe’s broad definition of the word have been used.”

*Liz Townsend*

*National Right to Life News August 2007*

Note: At Amnesty International’s August 11 meeting, as referenced in the above article, it confirmed its decision to back abortion.



**MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE**

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Jefferson City MO 65102  
[www.missourilife.org](http://www.missourilife.org)

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*Essential  
Events  
for  
a  
pro-life  
summer*



Rummage sales are a big fund raiser for chapters in the Northeast Region. A great way to raise money for pro-life projects and raise awareness about pro-life issues. This one in Hannibal is in its 27th year! Kudos to all who work hard to make these a success!



Summer fair booths are just part of the pro-life experience. Our hats are off to those who spend hours and days manning these tables, just like Tom and Joyce Jones, shown here, at the Ozark Empire Fair. The folks you reach may be touched forever!



March two, three, four! Hold your head and your banner high to proclaim the sanctity of life! Agnes Piontek and Diane Glosemeyer from the East Central Chapter MRL did just that as they marched in a Washington, MO, parade.