



MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

October 2009

FOCUS: "HEALTH CARE REFORM"



Raise your Voice! Defend Life!

Pam Fichter, President

Thanks to all of you who made your voices heard this summer and fall! Thousands of Missourians attended town hall meetings, tea parties, and freedom rallies across the state to express their concern about the proposed health care reform bills.

The debate continues and various proposals will evolve as President Obama and Congressional leaders seek to attract enough votes to pass massive health care reform. It's impossible to know at this writing how the specifics will change in day-to-day negotiations, but we know that what we've seen so far represents the greatest expansion of abortion since Roe v. Wade and will lead to rationing of health care for the most vulnerable members of our society.

In examining the ongoing debate, we need to remember the following facts:

President Obama wants coverage for elective abortion.

As he told the Planned Parenthood Action Fund on July 17, 2007, "in my mind, reproductive care is essential care, basic care, so it is at the center, the heart of the plan that I propose." He states that "insurers are going to have to abide by the same rules in terms of providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care ... that's going to be absolutely vital." The Obama campaign confirmed that "reproductive services" include elective abortion.

Unless abortion coverage is explicitly excluded, it will be mandated.

The language of HR 3200 in the House, a Senate bill (unnumbered at this writing), and the Baucus "America's Healthy Future Act" all contain provisions that would mandate coverage for elective abortion. Whether creating a "public option" which would put the federal government in charge of operating a nationwide insurance

plan, subsidizing private health insurance, creating cooperatives -- or whatever other proposals are presented -- unless abortion coverage is explicitly excluded, it will be mandated.

The Hyde Amendment won't prevent government funding of abortion in the current proposals.

The Hyde Amendment prevents federal Medicaid funding of abortion (with few exceptions). It expires every year on September 30 and must be reapproved. The Hyde Amendment applies only to funds appropriated through the annual appropriations bill that funds the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). None of the funds that would be expended by either the proposed public plan or subsidize the purchase of private insurance plans will flow through the DHHS appropriations bill so they will never be covered by the Hyde Amendment.

Every pro-life amendment to date has been rejected by House and Senate committees.

These include amendments that would specifically exclude abortion coverage, that would prevent federal funds from subsidizing abortion, and that would prevent health care providers from being penalized for refusing to participate in providing abortions.

The Capps Amendment to HR 3200 is being misrepresented.

The Capps Amendment explicitly authorizes payment for all elective abortions. Every citizen who participates in the public plan would be compelled to purchase coverage for abortion on demand. It is a myth to assert, as Speaker Pelosi does, that it uses "private funds." It would, in fact, allow abortion providers to send their invoices to DHHS and receive payment checks drawn on a federal Treasury account. Funds spent by federal agencies are federal funds, and to assert otherwise is absurd. It is yet to be seen whether the leadership will allow amendments on the floor.

Current proposals will lead to health care rationing.

None of the proposals to date ensure a sustainable method of financing. President Obama proposes to help pay for this by cutting \$500 billion from Medicare over the next decade - at a time when over 70 million baby boomers

(continued next page)



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missourilifenews.wordpress.com/**

POINTS TO PONDER...

From the very beginning to the very end, life is threatened by provisions or exclusions from the proposed health care reform plans. Below are quotes from individuals who have studied these plans and have grave concerns about them. Included are websites where the entire articles containing these quotes may be accessed.

- “Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, health adviser to President Barack Obama, is under scrutiny. As a bioethicist, he has written extensively about who should get medical care, who should decide, and whose life is worth saving. Dr. Emanuel is part of a school of thought that redefines a physician’s duty, insisting that it includes working for the greater good of society instead of focusing only on a patient’s needs. Many physicians find that view dangerous, and most Americans are likely to agree.”

Betsy McCaughey, chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths and former lieutenant governor of New York state, in the Wall Street Journal’s “Obama’s Health Rationer-in-Chief.” <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203706604574374463280098676.html>

- “And what this really is, these healthcare reform measures, is a backdoor attempt to pass FOCA into law, at least by piecemeal, to bypass these pro-life spending restrictions like the Hyde amendment, and to force doctors to do abortions. I think most Americans are not aware that’s what’s in this healthcare reform.”

Carrie Gordon Earll, senior director of Issue Analysis for Government and Public Policy at Focus on the Family. <http://fota.cdnetworks.net/pdfs/jan028-2009-07-16-transcript.pdf>

- “Among the biggest red flags for pro-life legislators is the bill’s creation of a Health Benefits Advisory Committee that would determine what procedures are covered under a public plan. The bill requires every American to have insurance that meets certain standards. ‘According to the president, in his own words, central to the idea of health-care is the idea of reproductive health or abortion,’ said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa. ‘That will be considered a minimum benefit.’”

WORLDMag.com. <http://www.worldmag.com/articles/15729>

- “When doctors abide by bureaucratic rules in deciding the treatment to offer or withhold from patients, rather than treat patients as individuals, oppression and neglect will invariably follow.”

Wesley Smith’s “Obamacare: The Deadly Consequences of Rationing by Category.” <http://www.firstthings.com/blogs/secondhandsmoke/>

Raise Your Voice . . .

will become eligible for Medicare coverage. This will undoubtedly lead to rationing of health care for senior citizens.

The Baucus bill actually punishes doctors for treating Medicare patients by cutting their reimbursements by 5% if their claims are in the top 10% of medical use. This heavy-handed measure will pressure doctors to ration care to their elderly patients.

Concerns about end-of-life counseling are valid.

While the so-called “death panels” have supposedly been eliminated from current proposals, the Stimulus Bill (HR 1) allocated \$1.1 billion to establish The Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER). The CER philosophy is to encourage medical decisions based on a patient’s age, disability or “quality of life.” Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, advisor to the president and advocate of health care rationing, is a member of this council.

If mandatory counseling is included in any proposal, we can look to the Veterans Administration to see what that would look like. (See “The Death Book for Veterans”)

We must be vigilant, educated, and involved. We must raise our voices and defend life.

Please commit to the following action items:

***Call your Senators (202-225-3121) and Congressmen (202-224-3121). Urge them to oppose health care reform that doesn’t explicitly exclude abortion coverage and that doesn’t protect against any possibility of health care rationing.**

***Check our website, www.missourilife.org, or the legislation action center for National Right to Life at nrlcacioncenter.com for updates.**

***Circulate the enclosed petition and return it to our office as soon as possible.**

***Pray that God will protect us from government mandated abortion coverage and rationing of health care.**

Raise your voice! Defend life!

Thank you for your prayers, for speaking for life, and for supporting the work of Missouri Right to Life. With you, we change the world!

Obama's Dog Didn't Bark

by Ken Blackwell

Many of us remember the Sherlock Holmes story we read in high school. A famous racehorse is stolen from a barn at night. The barn was guarded by a dog.

Scotland Yard, England's famous police headquarters, sends Inspector Gregory to investigate, but Sherlock Holmes was on the case.

Inspector Gregory: "Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?" Holmes: "To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time." Gregory: "The dog did nothing in the night-time." Holmes: "That was the curious incident."

The dog didn't bark. That is what led Sherlock Holmes to conclude that the dog knew the perpetrator.

Now, we have a great national debate on the government takeover of health care. And one of the great questions in that debate concerns whether taxpayers will have to pay for killing unborn children. Or, as the liberals say: abortion services must be fully covered.



The Obama administration is going to great pains to deny that abortion is in their health care plan. The President himself says he prefers not to be "distracted" by this question.

As a candidate, Barack Obama went before Planned Parenthood. This evil enterprise annually kills 350,000 unborn children in the U.S. Its international arm gives powerful support to killing more than 50 million unborn children around the world every year.

In seeking Planned Parenthood's support, candidate Obama pledged that "the first thing" he would do is to sign what sponsors call the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). This misnamed legislation is often deceptively described as "codifying Roe v. Wade." That's like saying the Germans overran Luxembourg in World War II. They did that -- but so very much more.

FOCA would strike down every protective bill ever passed in Congress or in the states, every bill that even modestly protects unborn human life. Partial-birth abortion would be decriminalized. Waiting periods would be struck down. Parental notice would be banned. Funding restrictions would be overturned. Informed consent laws, laws mandating that young mothers be offered -- not forced -- the opportunity to see their unborn child on ultra-sound -- all these good, wise, and humane laws would be swept away by FOCA.

Well, we know that as President, Obama has not yet signed

FOCA. Congressional liberals have not even pressed hard to pass FOCA.

Instead, the President is giving his best effort to pass ObamaCare, which he assures us does not require taxpayers to support abortion-on-demand.

Back to the dog that didn't bark. So how come Planned Parenthood isn't barking?

Why is it that the entire kennel of pro-abortion groups and abortion traffickers are not baying, yelping, yipping, and growling? Hasn't President Obama obviously failed to deliver on signing FOCA as "the first thing?" They are quiet. Instead, they all wag their tails for ObamaCare.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins weeks ago challenged Planned Parenthood's boss -- Cecile Richards -- to debate. My friend Tony does not ask Richards to debate the entirety of ObamaCare, just the one point: Is abortion funding in there or not? So far, Richards has limited herself to howling for passage of the bill. She won't come out and debate.

Question: Why would Richards and Planned Parenthood support any health care takeover if it did not include abortion-on-demand? Don't they really believe that, as Hillary told a congressional committee earlier this year, that reproductive health care includes "abortion services?"

We can look to the actions so far of congressional committees. Eleven times, pro-life amendments were offered in committee, amendments that would have specifically ruled out abortion funding. Eleven times these amendments were voted down. Pro-life Democrats joined Republicans in voting for these protective amendments. But they could not prevail.

Yet we still have some religious writers and leaders who protest that unless they see the word abortion in the bill, they won't believe it's covered. They won't see appendectomy, hysterectomy, or colonoscopy in the bill, either. Do these religious doubters doubt that those procedures are fully covered?

Too many writers and commentators have arrived on scene like a new inspector from Scotland Yard. It's as if they've never heard of these matters before. We have 33 years of experience fighting to keep American taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortion. We have learned under which shell they hide the marble.

Back to the barn. We know the reason the pro-abortion kennel is quiet is that if they get ObamaCare, they will get FOCA and everything else they want. And that's why we must continue to bark.

Ken Blackwell is a senior fellow at the Family Research Council and a visiting professor at Liberty University School of Law. Originally published 9/1/09 in The American Thinker. Reprinted with permission.

THEY SPOKE FOR LIFE!

The 2009 Missouri State Fair was a perfect opportunity to let people know the dangers of the proposed health care acts. Missouri Right to Life - Sedalia Chapter was once again at the Fair, speaking for life. During the fair, over 2000 signatures were gathered on the petition to oppose “Health Care Reform” unless pro-life provisions are enacted. The petition is included in this *MRL News*, on the next page. Please take the opportunity to gather as many signatures as possible!

Pictured at the right are Rozanne Coble and Gail Fritz, both of Sedalia, serving a shift at the MRL State Fair booth.



AND YOU DO, TOO.



Carl Schimek & Dave Plemmons set up an information table and greeted participants at the Springfield McCaskill Town Hall meeting at the Gillioz Theatre. At least 1100 people were able to get into the theatre to hear and question Sen. McCaskill. Following the meeting, Dave & Carl walked to Sen. McCaskill’s office and left two rolls of “butcher” paper filled with over 1,000 signatures and comments from visitors at the MO. Right to Life booth during the Ozark Empire Fair. The comments asked Sen. McCaskill to support life.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE PETITION

To Senators Claire McCaskill and Christopher Bond, and Missouri U.S. House Members:

We, the undersigned, oppose health care legislation that promotes or provides federal government funding for abortions, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. We also oppose measures that would lead to rationing of health care. We urge you to vote against any proposed federal measures unless they explicitly exclude any government funding of abortions and any measures that would lead to rationing of health care.

Print Name	Address (City, State, Zip)	Phone	E-Mail
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Signature: _____

Missouri Right to Life will use these petition names to continue the fight against government funding of abortions and any measures that would lead to rationing of health care.

Please copy as necessary and ask like-minded voters to speak and stand for life! Circulate this petition among friends, family members, neighbors, associates, and others and return by November 1 to:

**MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
PO BOX 651
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102**

KEY POINTS ON PRO-ABORTION AND HEALTH CARE RATIONING PROVISIONS IN OBAMA-BACKED HEALTH CARE BILLS *

- Both houses of Congress are pushing towards votes on sweeping “health care reform” bills that currently contain far-reaching pro-abortion provisions. Despite public statements by President Obama that “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortion,” all of the major bills under consideration would put the federal government into the business of subsidizing elective abortion on a huge scale – which would be a drastic break from long-standing federal policy.
- In the House of Representatives, three committees have approved a massive bill (HR 3200) that would create a federal government insurance plan (the “public plan”) that would be explicitly authorized to fund all abortions, with federal funds. In addition, the bill creates a premium subsidy program to help tens of millions of Americans buy health insurance, which would also use federal funds to subsidize the purchase of private insurance plans that cover elective abortion.
- Pro-abortion committee chairmen and majorities *rejected* amendments to keep elective abortion out of the “public plan” and to prevent federal subsidies from going to private plans that cover elective abortion.
- In the Senate, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved the “Affordable Health Choices Act” (as yet unnumbered) on July 15, on a 13-10 party line vote. The committee *voted down* all pro-life amendments.
- On September 16, 2009, Senator Max Baucus (D-Mt.), the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, released a draft health care bill called the “America’s Healthy Future Act.” The bill contains an array of pro-abortion mandates and subsidies, and also provisions that could greatly endanger the lives of senior citizens.
- The Baucus bill does contain language to prevent the use of “comparative effectiveness” analysis in a discriminative manner to deny treatment because of age, disability, or terminal illness; however, this language would not affect a financial incentive to ration care.
- There are other places in the bill where the Secretary of Health and Human Services is given discretion to regulate the treatment that healthcare providers can give to their patients.
- There is no protective language in the Senate HELP Committee bill, or House bill to guarantee that the government cannot use “comparative effectiveness” research using “quality-adjusted life years” or other measures to compel or encourage denial of lifesaving medical treatment, food, or fluids based on the patient’s age, disability or so-called “quality of life.”
- Pressuring patients to forgo treatment is a means of rationing. Efforts to push patients and older people to prepare advance directives may, in practice, not center on respecting an individual’s wishes, but rather on persuading or pressuring them to agree to less treatment as a means of saving money.

*Information and documentation from National Right to Life Committee



The legislative situation can change rapidly, so check <http://www.nrlcactioncenter.com/> or www.missourilife.org regularly for the latest status of health care reform legislation or for additional information and documentation.

September 23, 2009

The Death Book for Veterans

- by Jim Towe

If President Obama wants to better understand why America's discomfort with end-of-life discussions threatens to derail his health-care reform, he might begin with his own Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He will quickly discover how government bureaucrats are greasing the slippery slope that can start with cost containment but quickly become a systematic denial of care.

Last year, bureaucrats at the VA's National Center for Ethics in Health Care advocated a 52-page end-of-life planning document, "Your Life, Your Choices." It was first published in 1997 and later promoted as the VA's preferred living will throughout its vast network of hospitals and nursing homes. After the Bush White House took a look at how this document was treating complex health and moral issues, the VA suspended its use. Unfortunately, under President Obama, the VA has now resuscitated "Your Life, Your Choices."

Who is the primary author of this workbook? Dr. Robert Pearlman, chief of ethics evaluation for the center, a man who in 1996 advocated for physician-assisted suicide in *Vacco v. Quill* before the U.S. Supreme Court and is known for his support of health-care rationing.

"Your Life, Your Choices" presents end-of-life choices in a way aimed at steering users toward predetermined conclusions, much like a political "push poll." For example, a worksheet on page 21 lists various scenarios and asks users to then decide whether their own life would be "not worth living."

The circumstances listed include ones common among the elderly and disabled: living in a nursing home, being in a wheelchair and not being able to "shake the blues." There is a section which provocatively asks, "Have you ever heard anyone say, 'If I'm a vegetable, pull the plug?'" There also are guilt-inducing scenarios such as "I can no longer contribute to my family's well being," "I am a

severe financial burden on my family" and that the vet's situation "causes severe emotional burden for my family."

When the government can steer vulnerable individuals to conclude for themselves that life is not worth living, who needs a death panel?

One can only imagine a soldier surviving the war in Iraq and returning without all of his limbs only to encounter a veteran's health-care system that seems intent on his surrender.

“*This hurry-up-and-die message is clear and unconscionable.*”

I was not surprised to learn that the VA panel of experts that sought to update "Your Life, Your Choices" between 2007-2008 did not include any representatives of faith groups or disability rights advocates. And as you might guess, only one organization was listed in the new version as a resource on advance directives: the Hemlock Society (now euphemistically known as "Compassion and Choices").

This hurry-up-and-die message is clear and unconscionable. Worse, a July 2009 VA directive instructs its primary care physicians to raise advance care planning with all VA patients and to refer them to "Your Life, Your Choices." Not just those of advanced age and debilitated condition—all patients. America's 24 million veterans deserve better.

Many years ago I created an advance care planning document called "Five Wishes" that is today the most widely used living will in America, with 13 million copies in national circulation. Unlike

the VA's document, this one does not contain the standard bias to withdraw or withhold medical care. It meets the legal requirements of at least 43 states, and it runs exactly twelve pages.

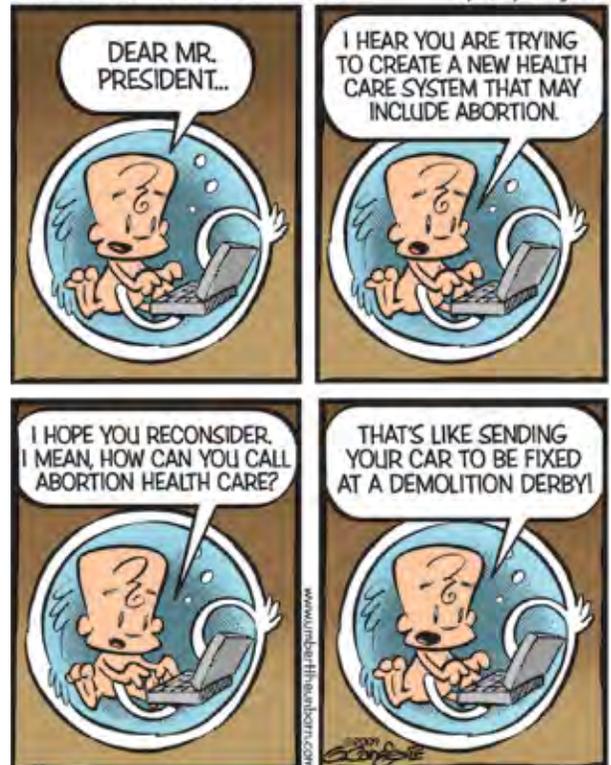
After a decade of observing end-of-life discussions, I can attest to the great fear that many patients have, particularly those with few family members and financial resources. I lived and worked in an AIDS home in the mid-1980s and saw first-hand how the dying wanted more than health care—they wanted someone to care.

If President Obama is sincere in stating that he is not trying to cut costs by pressuring the disabled to forgo critical care, one good way to show that commitment is to walk two blocks from the Oval Office and pull the plug on "Your Life, Your Choices." He should make sure in the future that VA decisions are guided by values that treat the lives of our veterans as gifts, not burdens.

Jim Towe, President of Saint Vincent College, was director of the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives (2002-2006) and is founder of the nonprofit Aging with Dignity. Published in the Wall Street Journal, 8/18/09 and reprinted with the permission of the author.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





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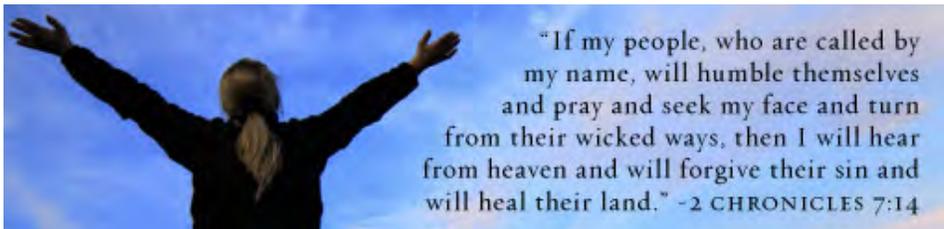
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Join "40 Days for Life" Now Underway



The fall campaign for "40 Days for Life" began on September 23 and will run until November 1. This is the largest, most widespread, coordinated pro-life outreach ever! Events are planned in more than 200 cities in 45 American states, 5 Canadian provinces and Denmark.. Two Planned Parenthood locations in Missouri are sites. They are:

Planned Parenthood
4251 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63108

Contact: info@40DaysForLifeSTL.com
Or: Missouri Right to Life, 314-434-4900
mrl.eastern@yahoo.com

Planned Parenthood
711 Providence Rd.
Columbia, Missouri
Contact person: Kathy Forck
573-491-3522, kathythebo@hotmail.com

Vigil hours are from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. **Missouri Right to Life will fill those hours at the St. Louis location on Saturday, October 24.** Please call the St. Louis number or email (above) to join MRL members on that day.

This is the fourth nationwide campaign. In past campaigns, participants witnessed countless blessings, including shutting down three abortion facilities, eighteen abortion workers leaving the industry, and documented reports of 1,561 lives spared from abortion, including nine in St. Louis.

You may reach
Missouri Right to Life

at

Missouri Right to Life

P. O. Box 651

Jefferson City MO
65102

573-635-5110

or visit our website at
www.missourilife.org