



MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

February 2010

Ultrasounds save lives, protect women

Missouri is a state that has some of the most wonderful pro-life resources in the nation. Counted among them are over sixty pregnancy resource centers that provide multiple services to women in crisis pregnancy situations who are feeling unsure, scared, pressured, or alone. And significant among those are the ones that offer ultrasound services to these women.

The pro-life bills this year that address the issue of women being offered the opportunity to view an ultrasound before undergoing an abortion are a priority for Missouri Right to Life. Pregnancy resource centers that are able to offer ultrasounds are a testimony to the impact this might have for a woman making the choice of life for her unborn child.

Two of these centers in southwest Missouri represent well the positive impact that can be accomplished with this service. Alpha House in Bolivar, MO, and LifeChoices in Joplin, MO, have kindly shared some client experiences with us (names changed to protect identity), and they do speak for themselves. As the director of Alpha House noted, "... we are giving them a 'peek at reality.'"

Read on. You, too, will understand how important enacting such legislation will be.

A young woman comes in for a pregnancy test with her live-in boyfriend, frustrated and upset because she is pregnant and they have few resources or family support. They are both unemployed, and her first child is already being raised by another member of her family. She doesn't know what to do and is considering abortion. By the grace of God, after interviewing her and offering her an ultrasound, she decides to have a scan. As their eyes fix on the screen showing the life inside her womb, both she and the father of her child change their expressions. They immediately begin using phrases that acknowledge this is a life. "Look at how much he moves," the dad comments. As we measure the baby's heartbeat, a smile creeps onto the young woman's face. "That is so neat, the way you can see

his heart," she whispers. They walk away from our clinic with pictures of their baby and a new hope. She is referred to a local doctor, and her mentor gets her signed up for our most supportive ministries. She decides to carry her baby to term and they are now parenting this child with help from their families.

A young girl arrives for a pregnancy test with an extended family member, and this person has somewhat encouraged her to get an abortion if she is pregnant. "It will ruin her life if she has a baby now," the person states. Because this young woman is uncertain about her last period and when she may be due, she is curious and wants to have an ultrasound. She comes back to the clinic with a different support person, who also gives her mixed messages ... one who has given up a child for adoption, but states that they are "going to support her no matter what choice she makes." As the ultrasound begins, it is obvious that this young girl is farther along in the pregnancy than she thought. Immediately, both the girl getting the ultrasound and the support person begin referring to the images as "the baby." They watch as the child kicks and moves and puts its hands up to its face, again and again. We see the heartbeat, and the young mother asks, "Can I have some pictures to take home?" She takes these pictures home to show her single parent, and in the follow-up call, that parent says, "we saw right away that we cannot go ahead with an abortion ... we are keeping this baby and I'll help her raise it."

Tera was back. Her demeanor was detached and her plan to abort determined. The first time Tera had come to us, she was 18 years old. She was scared of disappointing her parents and not sure how they would react when they found out she was pregnant. She now had an eight month old but her parents had made it very clear – "get pregnant again and you're out".

"I have a baby, I don't want another one, the father already has two – he doesn't want this one. I just want to know how far along I am so I can make the abortion appointment.

The ultrasound resonated the quiet "swoosh swoosh" of the little heartbeat. Undeniably, life was present.

The seven-week baby was nestled comfortably in the womb, oblivious to the outside world.

In the corner of the room stood Tera's friend – her face was devoid of any emotion. For two years she and her husband had tried to have children – they recently were told it would never happen.

One didn't want messy consequences. One stood motionless longing for life. As our client advocate and our RN went back in the room, Tera was asked to consider the greatest gift of all; the gift of a child for someone who couldn't have a child. An ultrasound follow-up was scheduled for the next week.

When Tera came the next week, the atmosphere could not have been more changed. The decision was clear. Abortion wasn't even a consideration – Tera wanted her baby to have life – she wanted her friend to have the greatest gift a mother could give or receive, the gift of mothering a child.

"My Dad said no! I asked him not to tell my Mom and just give me the money so I could get the abortion ... he said no!"

18-year-old Kami had just finished her first year of college when she realized she was pregnant. The only option she considered was to "make it go away." If no one knew, she could finish college, stay in sports, keep the athletic scholarship, not disappoint her Mom – just "make it go away."

Laying on the exam table, she watched her 13-week baby doing flips on the large screen monitor, Kami's mother was excited and crying at the same time. "I'm going to be a grandma ... oh, Kami look it's your baby ... it's perfect..." A huge smile covered Kami's face.

Just days before, she had barely survived finals. Her life was upside down. She moved back home for the summer. She needed to have "Daddy" help her figure things out. She never expected him to say "No!"

"Oh my gosh... I can hear the baby's heartbeat! What if Dad hadn't said No! I never knew it would be like this. My boyfriend's going to be so excited – he wanted the baby."

Oh, that more fathers would say, "No."

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

White House and top congressional Democrats are not giving up on passing a pro-abortion health care bill!

Editor's Note - At press time, this was the latest information available from National Right to Life. The legislative situation can change rapidly, so please check missourilife.org and nrlc.org frequently for up-to-date information on the health care bills.

WASHINGTON (Updated January 26, 2010) – The Obama White House and top Democratic congressional leaders, although shaken by the January 19 election of Republican Scott Brown to the Senate seat previously held by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), nevertheless are making plans to try to push broad health care legislation through Congress within a matter of weeks -- meaning that pro-life interests remain in grave jeopardy.

On January 25, the Associated Press reported the emergence of a new plan that involves House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.) seeking to muster enough support among House Democrats to win House passage of the health care bill (H.R. 3590) that was passed by the Senate on December 24. If the Senate bill passes the House *with no amendments*,

it would be sent straight to President Obama to be signed into law.

In recent weeks, National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) lobbyists have been busy educating members of the House about how enactment of the abortion-related provisions of the health care bill passed by the Senate (H.R. 3590) would constitute the biggest expansion of abortion by Congress since *Roe v. Wade*.

"The Senate bill would result in direct federal funding of abortion, federal subsidies for private abortion insurance, and federal pro-abortion mandates," said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. "This bill would be, by far, the biggest expansion of abortion ever approved by Congress since *Roe v. Wade*."

Johnson explained, "In contrast, the abortion-related provisions of the health bill passed by the House on November 7 [H.R. 3962], as it was amended by the NRLC-backed Stupak-Pitts Amendment, would preserve long-established federal policies -- preventing federal subsidies for abortion,

preventing pro-abortion federal mandates, and protecting the conscience rights of pro-life health care providers."

This is no time to relax: Each member of the House should be urged to oppose the Senate-passed health bill (H.R. 3590) because of the provisions that would result in abortion mandates and abortion subsidies. It is especially important that House Democrats who voted for the Stupak-Pitts Amendment on November 7, 2009, hear from constituents in opposition to the Senate bill. (Editor's note: Congressman Ike Skelton (D-4) voted for the Stupak-Pitts Amendment. He was the only Missouri Democrat House member to do so.)

Time is short! Please telephone the offices of your U.S. Senate members and your U.S. House member. The Washington offices of any member of the Senate or the House may be reached through 202-224-3121. Give your name and address, and tell the lawmakers' staff persons that you wish to be recorded as "opposed to the health care legislation, because the abortion language adopted by the Senate is unacceptable."



THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .



. . . International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) recently released its annual performance report for 2008-2009. Despite an economic downturn and a slight decrease in annual income, the abortion industry giant boasts of increased activity across all of its lines of work, including abortion services.

IPPF's overall income for 2008 was \$119.7 million, down from over \$120 million the previous year. While IPPF's total financial intake dipped, its abortion business boomed. The organization provided almost 428,000 "abortion services" to young people alone, with a staggering 1,134,549 total number of such services -- almost double the number from 2007 -- across the globe.

Despite an increase in abortion services, IPPF remains unsatisfied with the figure, arguing that "in comparison to other types of services provided by IPPF Member Associations, these figures remain low and indicate that much needs to be done in terms of future investment in this area if IPPF is to meet its objectives of providing women with the choice and right to safe abortion when faced with an unwanted pregnancy."

LifeSiteNews.com 1/2/10

. . . Four actors from the television series *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* have recorded a new video endorsing the nation's largest abortion business, Planned Parenthood. They specifically endorse its efforts to force Americans to pay for abortions in a government-run health care plan. Actors Eric Bogosian, Vincent D'Onofrio, Kathryn Erbe, and Julianne Nicholson lend their faces, voices, and names to the pro-abortion effort.

"Americans were promised that, under health care reform, no one would lose benefits we currently have. So why should women be left behind?" the actors say.

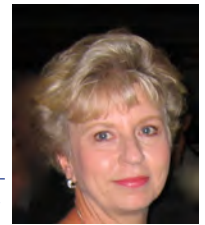
LifeNews.com 1/21/10



Missouri Right to Life News
P. O. Box 651
Jefferson City MO 65102
Pam Manning, Editor
573-635-5110

<http://missourilife.org/news/newsletters.html>

“Show Me Life”



Pam Fichter

One Sunday afternoon almost ten years ago, our son and daughter-in-law put a video tape in our VCR and, with great intrigue, asked us to guess what it was we were seeing. My husband and I stared intently at a little spot on the film that was regularly pulsing. Growing impatient with our bad guesses, they joyfully announced that we were seeing the heartbeat of our first grandchild. That marvelous ultrasound image of a tiny beating heart was our introduction to Madeline Danielle Fichter, now a beautiful 9-yr-old third grader. In the last nine years, we've been introduced to Michael, Matthew, Jack and Thomas through the magic of an ultrasound image. What a thrill it has been for us as grandparents to see the reality of these new lives even before we could hold them.

In 1973, the year of the infamous Roe and Doe decisions legalizing abortion on demand for the full nine months of pregnancy, use of ultrasound imaging in obstetrics was in its infancy. This “window to the womb” was not routinely available nor used. Over the last thirty-seven years, the technology and availability of ultrasound imaging has tremendously advanced. With rare exception, parents today see an ultrasound of their child at the very early stages of life and follow the growth of their baby throughout her development in the womb. With the advent of 3D and 4D technology, the ultrasound images are near photographic quality and show with exquisite clarity the unborn child sucking a thumb, smiling, yawning -- gloriously and indisputably a living human being.

Those of us who acknowledged that fact of

life in the womb even without the ultrasound image are amazed that this technology has not brought about an immediate end to abortion on demand. Didn't the Supreme Court in deciding Roe say that the question of when life began was undetermined? Do any of the justices who support abortion have grandchildren? Have none of them seen the early days of that child's life documented in an ultrasound? How can they watch a child in the womb sucking her thumb and allow the holocaust against unborn children to continue?

The power of technology and the wonder of scientific discovery have given us incontrovertible evidence that unborn children are living human beings. Ironically, the abortion mills use ultrasounds to destroy those lives. Ultrasounds are routinely used by abortionists to ascertain the development of the child in order to determine the method of destruction -- suction, dismembering, or saline poisoning. For later term babies, abortionists use ultrasound to guide them as they inject a “feticide” (lethal injection) into the unborn baby's heart.

Even though the ultrasound is common procedure in abortion clinics, abortionists routinely keep the screen showing the child's image turned away from the mother. They know what you and I know and what common sense tells us -- if the mother sees her child -- heart-beating, thumb-sucking, yawning, smiling child -- she is much more likely to choose life and leave with her child safely in her womb and her cash in her wallet.

Time and again, ultrasounds have changed

hearts and minds. Just recently, the director of a Texas Planned Parenthood abortion mill, Abby Johnson, viewed an ultrasound of a child being aborted and immediately decided she could no longer be involved in the abortion business. A picture was worth a thousand words. She saw the truth and chose life.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, abortionist and owner of the first abortion clinic in the U.S., founder of NARAL, and who, according to his own words, aborted 75,000 babies, including two of his own children, had a change of heart because of the ultrasound technology. As director of obstetrics of a large New York hospital, he headed a prenatal research unit. His involvement in producing “The Silent Scream,” a film depicting the ultrasound image of a child being aborted, was the turning point for his conversion to pro-life. Dr. Nathanson, a converted abortionist, is surely one of the strongest arguments for the power of ultrasound images and its “window to the womb.”

This year, for the third year in a row, the Missouri legislature will take up legislation that requires abortionists to offer all mothers an ultrasound image of their child twenty-four hours before performing the abortion. The last two years, it has passed the House and died in the Senate. Isn't it time to pass this legislation? What on earth are legislators waiting for? Doesn't a mother have a right to see the truth? Speaking for the mothers of Missouri, “Show Me Life!” Will the legislature finally hear them?

Can We Change America? A Follow Up

In the December *MRL News*, we talked about leveraging the awful truth about what actually happens in an abortion. And we talked about leveraging you, the tens of thousands of Missouri Right to Life supporters. And about leveraging the mood of Americans who are sick of the “change” happening in our country. And about leveraging pro-life candidates running for office in 2010. And about leveraging the press. Sound tough, confusing and even impossible? What if:

What if the tens of thousands of Missouri Right to Life supporters made tens of thousands of phone calls to their pro-life candidates running for office in 2010? That would certainly get their attention.

What if those thousands of calls **strongly** en-

couraged those candidates to tell what actually happens in an abortion, every time abortion came up in their campaign?

What if, in every interview, speech and debate, those candidates said, “I'm pro-life because I know that in a saline abortion, they take the amniotic fluid out of the womb and replace it with a strong salt solution that burns the baby's lungs with every breath until the baby goes into convulsions, and dies. I'm not okay with that. That's why I'm pro-life.” (Any type of abortion could be described.)

What if the press heard that message over and over and over and over? They would have a difficult time not reporting the candidates words if those words were heard every day across the entire state of Missouri. The audacity of the

truth would be news itself. And with that success, candidates across the country would be strongly encouraged to follow Missouri's lead and do the same.

What if millions of Americans who never heard what actually happens in an abortion, heard that message? Millions of hearts would be changed. Millions of Americans would not be okay with voting for someone who would do those things to a child in the womb.

America would change.

More information on how we can make this happen will be in the next newsletter. For now, pray!



Steve Rupp

If a mother sees . . .

If a mother sees, then . . .

In the ongoing struggle to give women a real "choice," the use of ultrasound helps ensure that mothers in crisis pregnancies make truly informed decisions. Several states have laws requiring an abortion provider to give a mother an opportunity to view an ultrasound prior to undergoing an abortion. The women of Missouri deserve the same care.

Be at the Capitol. Speak with your Senator and your Representative about this important legislative priority:

- Require that women be offered the opportunity to view an ultrasound before an abortion
- Inform a pregnant mother about the stages of development of her baby



PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY

"Show Me Life"

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 Missouri State Capitol 1st Floor Rotunda

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Noon Rally with music by Renaissance

sponsored by Missouri Right to Life

**For more information, please call 573-635-5110 or visit www.missourilife.org.
Watch our website for a contact list of transportation information for your area.**

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

STAND UP FOR LIFE STUDENT ACTION DAY

March 30, 2010

**Selinger Center
St. Peter's Church
(across from the Capitol)**

Open to all Missouri High School Students

Workshop begins at 11:00 a.m.

- **Talking to your legislator about the Right to Life**
- **Status of pro-life legislation**
- **How a bill becomes law**

Workshop followed by Rally and lobbying at:

**Missouri State Capitol
First Floor Rotunda
12:00 noon**

Registration deadline March 9

**Call Missouri Right to Life, 573-635-5110,
for registration packet**

Space is limited, so register early

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

Did You Know?

40% of all women who have
an abortion will have two or more.

Alan Guttmacher Institute

PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY

Transportation Information

Do you need a ride to Jefferson City for Pro-Life Action Day? Or would you like to carpool?

The following is contact information for various areas of the state; also, watch the MRL website, missourilife.org, for additional locations around the state or call the MRL State Office, 573-635-5110.

Hannibal/Northeast Missouri

Tina Boltinghouse 573-795-4617
tina_marie@mywdo.com
Sue Wortmann 660-291-8585

Kansas City Metro Area

Western Region Office 816-353-4113
mrl-wr@att.net

Maryville Area

Deanna Sporleder 660-562-2559
stand4life@live.com

Sedalia Area

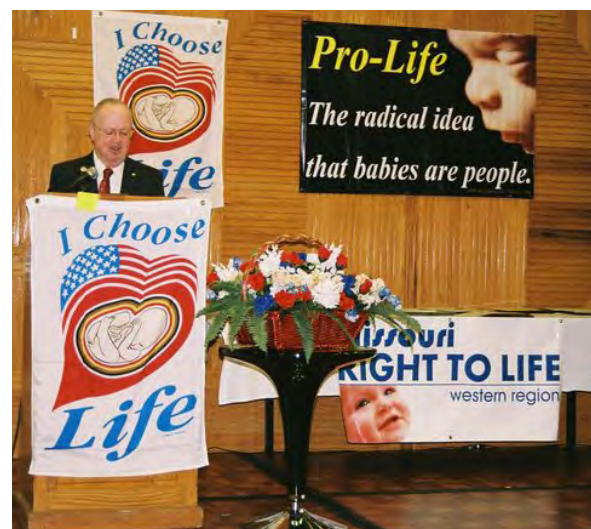
Bonnie Diefendorf 660-343-5773
bdiefshs@yahoo.com

Springfield Metro Area

Dave Plemmons mrl.springfield@yahoo.com

St. Louis Metro Area

Eastern Region Office 314-434-4900
mrl.eastern@yahoo.com



Tom Fitzpatrick, Missouri Right to Life-Johnson County Chapter Chairman, emceed MRL Western Region's Stand Up For Life Awards and Benefit Banquet held November 17.

How The Media Have Mangled The Pro-Life Story

by Jack Cashill

This past year, I found myself chief chronicler of two of the year's most important stories involving the pro-life movement.

One was the inspiring saga of the 2009 March For Life, the largest in its 36-year history. The second was the dispiriting saga of the recently murdered late-term abortionist Dr. George Tiller.

What the two stories have in common is that each was consciously and completely mistold by the major media. The media did this for one particular reason: they want their audiences to envision the face of the pro-life movement not as young, diverse, passionate, and idealistic, but as old, weary, cruel, and demented.

On January 22, 2009, I got to see the true face of the movement. I had come to Washington to shoot a documentary to be called *Thine Eyes*, the first-ever high-end production centering on the annual March For Life.

I was commissioned to create this video to set the media record straight. Although I had not attended the March before, I knew enough about the way the media works to suspect that a little straightening was in order. The media did not disappoint. Their coverage confirmed my most paranoid suspicions and shocked even the apolitical among our crew.

The March itself proved to be as colorful, diverse, and good-spirited a gathering as I have ever seen. We identified contingents from Poland, Italy, Germany, France, Mexico, Canada, and others. We found Rabbis for Life, Anglicans for Life, Lutherans for Life, and even a contingent of black hip-hoppers for life -- "Yo mamma/Chose life!"

Although the media would have you believe that the typical pro-lifer is an angry, red-faced fat man of late middle age, some three-quarters of the marchers were under 25. Our rooftop cameramen estimated about 350,000 marchers in all.

In search of drama, I instructed our six-camera crew to shoot and, if possible, interview all pro-abortion counter-protesters they could find. I had expected to see these people lining the street, especially since so many abortion-supporters had attended the inaugural of Barack Obama two days prior.

I saw none. At day's end, I conferred with the crew, and they, too, had seen none. I was disappointed. I had hoped to capture a little conflict on camera.

Somehow, however, *USA Today* managed to find all the pro-aborts they needed. Page

totally silent as well.

Compared to their coverage of George Tiller's rise and fall, the media treatment of the March was a model of journalistic integrity. For the record, in May 2009, a man named Scott Roeder walked into the vestibule of Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kansas and shot and killed Tiller.

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, called Tiller "the epitome of high quality medical care underscored by deep compassion for his patients." A *Los Angeles Times* editorial eulogized Tiller as "gentle George, a mentor to so many doctors and a hero to so many patients."

Major media reporting gave credence to the Tiller eulogists. Almost universally, the media claimed that whether one liked Tiller's practice or not, he was following Kansas law.

I knew otherwise. Living in Kansas City, I had been

asked first by Kansans for Life and later by Focus on the Family to chronicle Tiller's thoroughgoing subversion of the rule of law. The truth was there for anyone to see.

For the six years that she governed the state, current Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius enabled Tiller to flout the state's tough abortion laws and get away with it. With Sebelius's help, Tiller turned this reddest of red states into the late-term abortion capital of the world.

On Tiller's web site, he boasted of having aborted 60,000-plus "fetuses over 24 weeks." In 2008, Tiller's last full year of operation, 98 percent of the late-term abortions performed in Kansas were performed on women from out of the state or out of the country.

Throughout Sebelius's tenure, the media refused to ask a basic question: Did Kansas become the world's abortion capital because it had uniquely liberal abortion laws? Or did it maintain this status because the governor was uniquely resistant to the law's enforcement? The answer was inarguably the latter.

(cont. next page)

"The photo led the reader to believe that there were hundreds, if not thousands, of abortion supporters in attendance. In fact, there could not have been more than a pathetic handful. We saw none, and we were looking."

three of its Jan. 23, 2009 edition featured an article on the March illustrated by two photos: one generic group shot and one close-up.

The close-up featured two women holding large signs. One read, "My Body My Choice." The second read, "Keep Abortion Legal." A small "We Choose Life" sign could be seen in the background. The caption read, "Two sides of issues: Abortion rights supporters and opponents mix outside the Supreme Court on Thursday."

The photo led the reader to believe that there were hundreds, if not thousands, of abortion supporters in attendance. In fact, there could not have been more than a pathetic handful. We saw none, and we were looking.

It also created an impression, altogether false, of *USA Today's* journalistic balance.

To its humble credit, *USA Today* at least covered the March. *The New York Times* could not be bothered. Neither the size of the crowd nor the radical shift in abortion policy stirred the alleged "paper of record" to print a single word. The networks were

How the Media . . .

In Kansas, an abortion can be performed on a baby capable of living outside the womb only if the pregnancy would cause the mother to die or suffer "a severe and irreversible impairment to a major bodily function." Tiller ignored the law.

As the Kansas state reports show, in the last ten years of Tiller's practice, not one single late term abortion was performed to save the life of the mother. This life-saving hokum was pure liberal media myth.

The reports also show that of the 192 late term abortions on healthy babies performed in 2008, none were performed for a legitimate "medical emergency." Every single late-term abortion where there was no fetal anomaly (and anomalies included twins and cleft palates) involved a temporary mental health diagnosis -- made, of course, by Tiller, who was no one's idea of a mental health expert.

These "irreversible impairments" included anxiety about missing a prom, a rodeo, or even a rock concert.

To keep his practice alive, Tiller had learned to game the system. His money worked well enough until Republican Phill Kline was elected Kansas Attorney General in 2002 and attempted to enforce the law, which he had helped to write as a legislator.

Sebelius engineered the deal that kept Tiller in business. She persuaded Paul Morrison,

the popular Republican district attorney of the state's most affluent county, to switch parties and run against Kline.

With Tiller's massive financial backing behind him -- some \$1.2 million indirect dollars -- and the full-throated support of the local media, Morrison ousted the "theocrat" Kline and killed the case that Kline had brought against Tiller.

In shooting Tiller, Roeder managed to alchemize the unholy dross of this corrupt late-term abortionist into martyr's gold. In the entirely apt words of Dan McLaughlin, "Even before anything was known about Roeder, the left side of the blogosphere reacted to Dr. Tiller's murder as if it was Christmas morning and they just got a pony."

The pro-abortion crowd had a new pro-life poster boy.

Jack Cashill is an Emmy award winning writer and documentary producer. He is also, on a contractual basis, the executive editor of Ingram's Magazine, a Midwest business publication. He has a Ph.D. in American studies from Purdue and has taught as a Fulbright professor in France.

His writing has appeared in Fortune, The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and other national publications.

Reprinted with the author's permission and the permission of American Thinker.com. Published 1/10/2010.

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



Twice Blessed Resale Shop

3302 Meramec St. Louis

Offering women's and children's clothing, accessories, and small home decor.

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Benefits Our Lady's Inn

an emergency shelter for homeless pregnant women and their children



Memorials



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

In Memory of:

Ann Barvick

Fred Park

Earlene Coleman

Margaret Kehoe

Given by:

Mrs. Pat Cormaci
Gloria & John Crume
Frances Yanez

Ellen & Greg Carter
Shiloh Garies
Kathleen & Leo Halloran
Mary & Michael McNamara
Kristi & Christopher Powell
Colleen & Douglas Schieber
Martha & Kevin Schieber
Mary Jane & Doug Weishar

Pat Filley

Gail & Robert Clarke

Jerome Bud Kopp

Debbie Marshall

Frances Palmer

Mark Patton

Betty Pritchett

Mary Margaret Weber

Sr. Mary Lila, RSM

In Honor of:

God bless all babies

Jerome & Rosie Reinsch

Melanie & Dave Kaplan

Nancy Roberts

Delia Davis

Barbara & Bernard Greenwell

Monica Patton

Donald Ross

Dorothy Rosenberger

Dianne Sullivan

Nina Lu Em Bailey

Jason & Abby Struempfh

Norman & Joan Herren

Missouri Right to Life encourages you to consider a gift in memory of or to honor a family member or a friend.

National Cancer Institute researcher reverses position, finally admits abortion raises breast cancer risk

An April 2009 study by Jessica Dolle et al. of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center examining the relationship between oral contraceptives (OCs) and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) in women under age 45 contained an admission from U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) researcher Louise Brinton and her colleagues (including Janet Daling) that abortion raises breast cancer risk by 40%.

Additionally, Dolle's team showed that women who start OCs before age 18 multiply their risk of TNBC by 3.7 times and recent users of OCs within the last one to five years multiply their risk by 4.2 times. TNBC is an aggressive form of breast cancer associated with high mortality.

"Although the study was published nine months ago," observed Karen Malec, president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer, "the NCI, the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and other cancer fundraising businesses have made no efforts to reduce breast cancer rates by issuing nationwide warnings to women."

Brinton was the chief organizer of the 2003 NCI workshop on the abortion-breast cancer link, which falsely assured women that the non-existence of the link was "well established."

Dolle's team reported a statistically significant 40% risk increase for women who have had abortions. They listed abortion among "known and suspected risk factors."

Brinton and Daling had previously studied this population from the Seattle-Puget Sound area in the 1990s and reported risk increases between 20% and 50% among women with abortions. In the 2009 study, they and their co-authors wrote that their findings concerning induced abortion, OC use and certain other risk factors, "were consistent with the effects observed in previous studies on younger women."

"Obviously, more women will die of breast cancer if the NCI fails in its duty to warn about the risks of OCs and abortion and if government funds are used to pay for both as a part of any healthcare bill," said Mrs. Malec.

- from Christian News Wire

California's Proposition 71 Failure

Bioethics: Five years after a budget-busting \$3 billion was allocated to embryonic stem cell research, there have been no cures, no therapies and little progress. So supporters are embracing research they once opposed.

California's Proposition 71 was intended to create a \$3 billion West Coast counterpart to the National Institutes of Health, empowered to go where the NIH could not — either because of federal policy or funding restraints on biomedical research centered on human embryonic stem cells.

Supporters of the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, passed in 2004, held out hopes of imminent medical miracles that were being held up only by President Bush's policy of not allowing federal funding of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) beyond existing stem cell lines and which involved the destruction of embryos created for that purpose.

Five years later, ESCR has failed to deliver and backers of Prop 71 are admitting failure. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the state agency created to, as some have put it, restore science to its rightful place, is diverting funds from ESCR to research that has produced actual therapies and treatments: adult stem cell research. It not only has treated real people with real results; it also does not come with the moral baggage ESCR does.

To us, this is a classic bait-and-switch, an attempt to snatch success from the jaws of failure and take credit for discoveries and advances achieved by research Prop. 71 supporters once cavalierly dismissed. We have noted how over the years that when funding was needed, the phrase "embryonic stem cells" was used. When actual progress was discussed, the word "embryonic" was dropped because ESCR never got out of the lab.

Prop 71 had a 10-year mandate and by 2008, as miracle cures looked increasingly unlikely, a director was hired for the agency with a track record of bringing discoveries from the lab to the clinic. "If we went 10 years and had no clinical treatments, it would be a failure," says the institute's director, Alan Trounson, a stem cell pioneer from Australia. "We need to demonstrate that we are starting a whole new medical revolution."

The institute is attempting to do that by funding adult stem cell research. Nearly \$230 million was handed out this past October to 14 research teams. Notably, only four of those projects involve embryonic stem cells.

Among the recipients, the Los Angeles Times reports, is a group from UCLA and

Children's Hospital in Los Angeles that hopes to cure patients with sickle cell disease by genetically modifying their own blood-forming stem cells to produce healthy red blood cells. Researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center will use their grant to research injecting heart-attack patients with concentrated amounts of their own cardiac stem cells that naturally repair heart tissue.

Dr. Bernadine Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health under Bush 41, wrote in her U.S. News & World Report column recently that "embryonic stem cells, once thought to hold the cure for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes, are obsolete."

Even worse, they can be dangerous. They are difficult to control, to coax into the specific type of tissue desired. Unlike adult stem cells taken from a patient's own body, ES cells require the heavy use of immunosuppressive drugs. Their use can lead to a form of tumor called a teratoma.

Real promise is held in what are called induced pluripotent stem cells. In 2006, researchers led by Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Japan's Kyoto University were first able to "reprogram" human skin cells to behave like embryonic stem cells. They can do everything stem cells from destroyed embryos can do.

The National Institutes of Health has said that this type of stem cell offers the prospect of having a renewable source of replacement cells and tissues to treat diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, to name a few.

It is ESCR researchers who have politicized science and stood in the way of real progress. We are pleased to see California researchers beginning to put science in its rightful place.

Reprinted from Investor's Business Daily website, Investors.com 1/12/2010.

Proceed Cautiously When Funding New Technologies

Definitions can help protect life or can promote unethical practices

David Prentice, Ph.D.

Science and technology keep bringing us exciting new discoveries. Hardly a day goes by without a news story of the latest breakthrough, and promises of wonderful outcomes. But when funding initiatives in science and technology, taxpayers need to pay attention to how new technologies are defined, and whether protections for all human life are incorporated.

The citizens of Missouri are no strangers to “definition manipulation” — the debate on Amendment 2 in 2006 was really about the definition of “cloning.” Amendment 2 claimed to ban human cloning, but redefined cloning as putting the cloned embryo into the womb and gestating it. However, the recognized scientific definition of cloning of a new organism (termed “somatic cell nuclear transfer”) is technically completed once the single-celled embryo is formed; the cloned embryo can then be placed into a womb in an attempt at a born clone, or used for experiments in which the clone is destroyed. With the linguistic somersaults of Amendment 2, cloning is allowed but the clone must be destroyed by law to fit the newly minted definition.

The Missouri legislature is now considering funding for areas of science and technology investigation. Science and innovation funding can encompass many areas, including “biology”, “biochemistry”, and “biotechnology.” These areas as broadly defined can include areas of concern, in particular involving research with embryos, embryonic stem cells, and cloning.

Other areas of particular focus for potential funding include “nanotechnology” and “biomaterials.” In these cases, definitions as well as limits are particularly important to focus the research on ethical methods and ethical ends. Generally, nanotechnology would be the study of sub-microscopic particles (smaller than the size of a single cell). In the biological realm, such research may have valuable applications for diagnosis or drug delivery. But nanotechnology can also be used in the growth or tracking of stem cells. And the question then becomes, which stem cell — ethically challenged embryonic stem cells, or adult stem cells? For example, nanoparticles have been used to mark bone marrow adult stem cells, and show that they can indeed transform into heart cells.¹ But nano-

technology can also be used in the growth of human embryonic stem cells,² or even for growing embryos in the laboratory.³

Likewise, biomaterials in general would be defined as nonliving materials, whether derived from living or nonliving sources, and would normally include areas such as construction of artificial joints, cartilage for scaffolding, and other structural support, etc. And again, they can be used in conjunction with stem cells, raising the same question as before. For example, biomaterials can be targeted for valuable research, such as stimulating repair of spinal cord injury by encouraging the body's own cells to regenerate.⁴ But again, biomaterials can be used in human embryonic stem cell research, for the growth and selection of the embryonic stem cells.⁵

In the end, the only way to protect human life from unethical research with certainty is to specifically and narrowly define the areas of investigation that receive funding, or specifically to prohibit unethical uses of the technology.

(Endnotes)

1 Rota M *et al.*, Bone marrow cells adopt the cardiomyogenic fate *in vivo*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 104, 17783-17788, November 6, 2007

2 Salli U *et al.*, Propagation of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells with nanoliposomal ceramide, *Stem Cells and Development* 18, 55-66, February 2009

3 Urbanski JP *et al.*, Noninvasive Metabolic Profiling Using Microfluidics for Analysis of Single Preimplantation Embryos, *Analytical Chemistry* 80, 6500-6507, 2008

4 Researcher finds natural hydrogel helps heal spinal cord, September 17, 2009, <http://www.physorg.com/news172404620.html>

5 Chayosumrit M *et al.*, Alginate microcapsule for propagation and directed differentiation of hESCs to definitive endoderm, *Biomaterials* 31, 505-514, January, 2010

Dr. David Prentice is Senior Fellow for Life Sciences at Family Research Council. Until July 2004, he had spent almost 20 years as Professor of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, and Adjunct Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics, Indiana University School of Medicine.

Is This What You Mean?

We offer another statement from the Priests for Life project, “Is This What You Mean?” It makes use of the words of the abortionists themselves. Quoting these words, simply ask abortion supporters, “When you say the word ‘abortion,’ is this what you mean?”

Those who engage in this project are not being asked to debate the morality or legality of abortion, nor to refute any slogans or arguments. Rather, this project seeks to establish the starting point. “What are we talking about when we say abortion?” The whole effort is as simple as reading an abortionist's quote and asking, “Is this what you mean?”

Here's this issue's question for pro-abortion advocates you may encounter:

Ask, “When you say the word abortion, is this what you mean?”

Then read:

“And typically when the abortion procedure is started we typically know that the fetus is still alive because either we can feel it move as we're making our initial grasps or if we're using some ultrasound visualization when we actually see a heartbeat as we're starting the procedure. It's not unusual at the start of D&E procedures that a limb is acquired first and that that limb is brought through the cervix ... prior to disarticulation and prior to anything having been done that would have caused the fetal demise up to that point.”

(Sworn testimony given in US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin (Madison, WI, May 27, 1999, Case No. 98-C-0305-S), by Dr. Martin Haskell, an abortionist. He describes legal activity.)

*... let us
run with
endurance
the race
that is set
before us,*



Above - Missouri Right to Life's presence at the March For Life in Washington, DC was again evidenced by the thousands who attended from across our state.



Above - Betty Westhoff, MRL-Lincoln County Chapter, spoke to those gathered in Washington, DC at the Missouri legislative meeting. Betty was one of many attending who has been in Washington for more than 25 March for Life events. Several spoke poignantly of their experiences at the March and of the profound witness for life they have seen among the hundreds of thousands attending. Pictured with Betty is Rev. Msgr. Gregory Schmidt, Spiritual Director of the Respect Life Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.



Above - Bells tolled and prayers were offered as 200 pro-lifers from MRL-Western Region gathered on a cold and blustery Ilwaco Plaza in Kansas City to remember the lives lost since the 1973 decision.



Above (left to right) - Dot Windisch and Holly Brewer of Jefferson City and Leah Sutterer and Sandra Price of St. Louis were participants in this year's Washington, DC March for Life.

Below - Parkview Christian Church was the site of MRL-Centralia Chapter's Roe v. Wade Memorial Service. Pro-lifers gathered to celebrate life, provide inspiration and motivation, and remember the loss of 52 million babies aborted since the 1973 Supreme Court decision.



Left - As happens each year, Missouri Right to Life distributed red roses to Missouri legislators at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. Pictured are some of the pro-life volunteers who help make this project possible.

Right - Natalie Shively, daughter of Joe & Nancy Shively, attended MRL-Monroe County Chapter's interdenominational prayer service and candlelight march. Pro-lifers, young and old, carrying crosses and candles walked in witness to the sanctity of life.



*looking to Jesus,
the founder and
perfector of our faith,
who for the joy
that was set
before him
endured the cross . . .*

Hebrews 12:1-2



P. O. Box 651
Jefferson City MO 65102

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JEFFERSON CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 206

Inside -

- Pro-Life Action Day Flyer
- New Technologies - Pro-life?
Or more double talk?
- Healthcare Reform Update

Take a look!



Have you returned your membership for 2010? You know that we depend on you! If you haven't yet done so, please return your recent membership mailing or use the envelope enclosed with this MRL News. Thank you, thank you so much for joining us in supporting LIFE!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

40 Days for Life is the largest, most widespread, coordinated pro-life outreach ever! It consists of:

- 40 days of prayer and fasting
- 40 days of peaceful vigil
- 40 days of community outreach

The spring campaign for "40 Days for Life" is February 17 through March 28. Two Planned Parenthood locations in Missouri are sites:

*PLANNED PARENTHOOD
711 Providence Rd.
Columbia MO 65203*

*Contact:
Mike and Kathy
573.491.3522 or 573.821.5130
kathythebo@hotmail.com*

*PLANNED PARENTHOOD
4251 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63108*

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

Missouri Right to Life will be at the St. Louis site on March 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. Contact the MRL-Eastern Region office to join MRL members on that day.

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 28

