

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

January 2014

Contraceptive Pill Doubles Glaucoma Risk

Women who take the contraceptive pill for more than three years are twice as likely to suffer from glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness, a study has found. The hormone estrogen, a crucial component of oral contraceptives, could play a role in the development of the condition which causes irreversible damage to the optic nerve.

The contraceptive pill has previously been linked to a host of eye conditions, with some studies suggesting estrogen could play a role in the development of glaucoma, which is caused when fluid pressure builds up in the eye.

In a new study, researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, studied data collected between 2005 and 2008 on 3,406 women aged 40 or above who were questioned about their reproductive health and vision, and given eye tests.

Those who had used oral contraceptives of any type for a three-year period or longer were 2.05 times more likely to report that they had been diagnosed with glaucoma.

While the findings do not prove conclusively that long-term use of the pill causes glaucoma, they suggest that people who use oral contraceptives for three years or more should be screened for the condition, researchers said. Doctors should include the pill alongside other factors such as a family history of the condition, black ethnicity, a history of high eye pressure or short-sightedness when calculating a patient's risk of the condition, they claimed.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/10458175/Contraceptive-pill-doubles-glaucoma-risk.html>

Pope Francis says, "Abortion Teaching Cannot Change"

Pope Francis has reiterated that the Catholic Church's teaching that abortion is always wrong and can never be acceptable is not something that can or will change. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), the Pope addressed the question of the new evangelization and outlined some of his plans for his pontificate. He devoted two paragraphs to the defense of the unborn.

Writing about the importance of concern for the vulnerable, Pope Francis wrote that "[a]mong the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this. Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church's effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist and conservative. Yet this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be. Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, "every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual".

"Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question. I want to be

completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or “modernizations”. It is not “progressive” to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations?”

To read Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) visit:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html

Planned Parenthood’s 2012-2013 Annual Report – Fact Sheet (1)

As this newsletter is going to press, Planned Parenthood has just released their 2012-2013 Annual Report. Below are a few highlights:

- ⑤ During fiscal year 2012-2013, Planned Parenthood **reported receiving \$540.6 million in taxpayer funding, or nearly \$1.5 million per day (2)** in the form of government grants, contracts, and Medicaid reimbursements, 0.3% drop from 2011.
- ⑤ In 2012, Planned Parenthood **performed 327,166 abortions**, a 2% drop from 2011. (3) In 2002, Planned Parenthood performed 227,385 abortions, meaning they perform 100,000 more abortions than they did 10 years ago. (4)
- ⑤ Over the past three reported years (2010-2012), **Planned Parenthood has performed nearly one million abortions (990,575).** (5)
- ⑤ In 2012, **abortions made up 93.8% of Planned Parenthood’s pregnancy services**, while prenatal care and adoption referrals accounted for only 5.6% (19,506) and 0.6% (2,197), respectively. **For every adoption referral, Planned Parenthood performed 149 abortions** (6) Prenatal care services have dropped 32% in one year, and 52% since 2009. Adoption referrals are also down 4.5% in one year. (7)
- ⑤ Planned Parenthood reported a total of three million clients in 2012, **meaning that 11% of all Planned Parenthood clients received an abortion** (8)

- ⑤ **Cancer screenings provided by Planned Parenthood continue to drop, dropping 14% in one year and 39% since 2009 (9)**
- ⑤ Planned Parenthood reported **\$58.2 million in excess revenue**, and **more than \$1.3 billion in net assets** (10)

1Planned Parenthood 2012-2013 Annual Report,http://issuu.com/actionfund/docs/ar-fy13_111213_vf_rev3_issuu.

2Planned Parenthood 2012-2013 Annual Report, p. 18

3Planned Parenthood 2012-2013 Annual Report, p. 15. Planned Parenthood performed 333,964 abortions in 2011.

4Planned Parenthood 2002 abortion stats:

<http://www.lifenews.com/2003/12/12/nat-241/>

5According to annual reports, abortions performed by Planned Parenthood: 329,445 in 2010, 333,964 in 2011, 327,166 in 2012

6Planned Parenthood 2012-2013 Annual Report, p. 15.

7Planned Parenthood reported 28,674 prenatal services in 2011 and 40,489 in 2009.

8Planned Parenthood reports approximately 3 million patients in 2012 in citation at bottom of p. 14 of annual report.

9According to annual reports, cancer screenings performed by Planned Parenthood: 1,830,811 in 2009, 1,307,570 in 2011, and 1,121,580 in 2012.

10Planned Parenthood 2012-2013 Annual Report, p. 19.

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?
Make sure they get the facts first!
A LIFE depends on it...
1-800-712-HELP (4357)
Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>**

Return of the Prop 71 Monster

Remember Proposition 71, the \$3 BILLION boondoggle initiative (\$6 Billion if we include interest payments) that brought us the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, that was sold to voters on the premise based on the hype of cures through embryonic stem cell research. Well, stay tuned; it may be making a comeback!

And guess what? Most of the grants CIRM makes are no longer for embryonic work—as a Bloomberg story lightly discusses:

Since then, other types of stem cells have been shown to act like embryonic cells, relieving some of the debate over the ethics of destroying human embryos to use the cells. The agency’s funding decisions have included a

grant of \$20 million to a team led by Irv Weissman at the Stanford University School of Medicine, seeking a cure for cancer.

Induced pluripotent stem cell and adult stem cell research constitute the bulk of CIRM funding, that and hundreds of millions into fancy buildings.

However the more important point is that the CIRM is scrambling to entice voters so as to borrow *billions more* to pay its administrators' high salaries and to give tens of millions in grants to university research labs—many of which, it should be noted have huge endowment funds—with taxpayers' money!

Let us remember, this is all *borrowed* money.

California is still swimming in deep red ink. We don't have the money—and it really isn't a state function, at least in lean times—to fund stem cell research of whatever kind or nature. So, fellow Californians, let's not be fooled. When this proposal comes up for election again in 2014: Kill it!

Around the Office

We would like to thank all our donors who made it possible for us to be there for so many people in 2013, both those facing critical life decisions from the desperate teenager who is pregnant and doesn't want to be, to the family standing next to an elderly relative trying to discern the best course of treatment.

We would like to briefly report on our stewardship of your donations. Total donations (as of writing of newsletter) for 2013 are trending towards \$30,000. We spend less than 8% of donations on administrative and fund raising, with the remainder going to program expenses: purchasing the materials distributed (precious preborn, precious feet pins, literature on everything from fetal development to stem cells to end of life issues like Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care) as well as to pay the phone bill so we are there 24/7 when a family faces a life crisis moment, and internet access where students can e-mail us questions for assistance on class projects. Almost 20% of our budget is spent publishing this newsletter. It costs us \$6 a year per newsletter we distribute.

Fortunately in 2013 the majority of our time was NOT spent addressing “urgent” life altering matters like the phone call asking “How much do you charge for an abortion?” but rather on our core mission of “going

upstream” and educating to avoid many of these issues, through information tables – especially the ever expanding network of “information tables in the Quad” wherein various high school and college pro-life clubs set up a table in the school quad and hand out literature to their peers, as well as student presentations and class projects. Your contributions provide the materials distributed at these venues, giving people the resources and materials to think about various scenarios before it becomes “their life issue.” While we hope our youth will not find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy, what a great resource we are able to provide, perhaps at a mall table or school presentation where the youth picked up a pamphlet on fetal development and a card with the phone number of the national pregnancy center hotline, and when it does become a “life issue” it is our hope they will remember and still have the pamphlets and/or our card.

Or perhaps you are talking to a friend and she mentions the doctor has just diagnosed her husband with Macular Degeneration, and you can say “I seem to remember reading an article in the Right to Life newsletter about some progress being made with adult stem cells in treating macular degeneration. Let me see if I can find that article.” We hope to work on indexing the articles on our website in the coming year.

We also maintain a vibrant e-mail network, wherein we try and keep our members informed of events of interest (occasionally job opportunities in the pro-life community) and late breaking news or action items that require quick action.

Another one of our projects is the almost 100 people who participate in the “Mustard Seed Project,” writing one letter a month to a corporation that currently donates to Planned Parenthood. Our “Mustard Seed” coordinator sends out the information on the corporation being targeted the first of the month, including corporate contact, mailing address and a bit about products as well as link to corporate website. No meetings to attend, If you are interested in joining this group, send us your e-mail (or if you don't have e-mail we can send you a postcard each month) and we will provide you with a start-up kit, including sample letters. Once a letter is drafted, many of the members of “Project Mustard Seed” use the same one each month, changing the addressee. To date, at least 295 corporations have ceased funding of Planned Parenthood, due to the efforts of these faithful letter

writers, which has cost the abortion-committing Goliath more than \$40 million!

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see

www.calendarforlife.org



Walk for Life West Coast 2014:

Join fellow Pro-Lifers from all over California at the 10th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on **January 25, 2014**.

The pre-walk rally begins at **12:30PM in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza**, and the Walk for Life, down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30. Last year's Walk drew 40,000+ people. Visit

www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

Newsletter printed by HMR Printing

1920 Monument Blvd. Concord, CA

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WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.