

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Adult Stem Cell Cure for Macular Degeneration

Several years ago one of our members called our office and asked if there was any stem cell research for macular degeneration. Ever since that I took that call, I've "had my radar out" watching for ethical cures for macular degeneration, and recently the following was reported.

Doug Oliver started losing his eyesight when he was 32. He describes his vision then as like "a honeycomb of blind spots." He could not discern his wife's face while walking alongside her; he could not read under normal lighting; he could not exercise. Eventually, he almost hit two pedestrians in a crosswalk while driving into town.

After being declared legally blind, Doug suffered both mentally and emotionally. He even considered ending his life. Doug suffered from maculopathy, which he was told had no known treatment or cure. But the same doctor who told Doug that there was no hope for a cure later told him, "If there is going to be a solution to your problem, it's not going to be in genetic therapy, it's going to be in stem cells."

Doug was treated with adult stem cells taken from his own bone marrow, and his vision was gradually restored.

Many others like Doug are currently being treated using ethically-derived, non-controversial adult stem cell transplants, which do not require the destruction of young "embryonic" human life. In fact, well over one million patients worldwide have been treated using adult stem cell transplants. In 2014 alone, nearly 20,000 bone marrow and umbilical cord blood transplants were performed in the United States, according to the national Health Resources and Services Administration's Blood Cell Transplant Report.

To learn about patient successes with adult stem cells and view videos, visit:

<http://www.stemcellresearchfacts.org/>

Legal Abortion in United States

At a recent information table for life we were approached by an inquiring gentleman who thought abortion was only allowed up to a certain point in pregnancy. Would you have been able to educate him on when abortion is allowed? Your choices are:

- A. Limited by trimester demarcations
- B. When fetus is viable
- C. When heartbeat / brainwaves are measurable
- D. Entire pregnancy – until fetus out of birth canal

As it stands today, abortion is legal in all 50 states, through all nine months of pregnancy, for virtually any reason at all. This has been true since the Supreme Court declared that autonomous abortion rights are built into the Constitution, and that legal barriers to abortion are unconstitutional. This ruling was arrived at on the premise that the [9th](#) and [14th Amendments](#), according to legal precedent established during the 1960's, guarantees a woman's "right to privacy"—a right that extends even to abortion.

This sweeping declaration came via two cases which presented constitutional challenges to state criminal abortion laws. The more familiar of the two cases is *Roe v Wade* ([Roe v Wade](#), 410 U.S. 113. Supreme Court of the United States. 1973) the 7-2 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, which ruled that though states have an interest in protecting fetal life, such interest was not "compelling" until the fetus was viable (placing viability at the start of the third trimester.) Third trimester abortions were thus declared to be legal only if the pregnancy threatened the life or health of the mother.

The *Doe v Bolton* verdict ([Doe v Bolton](#), 410 U.S. 179. Supreme Court of the United States. 1973) handed down on the same day however defined "health of the mother" in such broad terms, that any prohibitions to third trimester abortions were essentially eliminated. According to Justice Harry Blackmun's majority opinion, a woman's health

includes her "physical, emotional, psychological, (and) familial" well-being, and should include considerations about the woman's age. "All these factors may relate to health."

Thus, sadly, the correct answer to our opening question is that as it stands today, abortion is legal in all 50 states, through all nine months of pregnancy, for virtually any reason at all.

‘Conscience in Residency’ Project Supports Pro-Life Doctors in Training

Imagine you are a pro-life medical student, resident, or PhD candidate. You want to practice medicine in accordance with your moral values, and yet you realize there will be, or perhaps you are already experiencing hurdles because of your beliefs. You are not alone!

Conscience in Residency is an online network for medical residents. The website provides facts to use in situations when “Doctors in Training” are having a “challenging conversation” regarding one or more of their beliefs. Created and managed by a small group of residency students scattered across the country, Conscience in Residency (CIR) is a web-based project that provides a network for residents “who want to practice medicine according to logical, well-formed, evidence-based judgments,” the site explains. It also provides research on subjects ranging from contraception and sterilization to gender-identity issues and homosexuality.

All the contributions from Conscience in Residency are from medical students, residents, and PhD candidates.

Website: <https://conscienceinresidency.com/>

Report from the Sidewalk by Wynette Sills

As we each prepare for our participation in the upcoming 40-Days-for-Life campaign, or perhaps you are a regular “sidewalk vigil” participant.... We may never know the impact we have, just by showing up!

At the sidewalk Friday, in front of the Women's Health Specialists abortion business at 1442 Ethan Way, a young man drove by, just like hundreds of drivers each morning, but then he slowed down,

brought his car to a halt, backed up and pulled up alongside us, rolling down his window to talk. I approached the window.

He said, "I wanted to let you know that I drive by here frequently and see you guys out here... I go to school at the nearby Med-Tech program around the corner. Recently my fiancée told me she is pregnant. At first, we were thinking we're too young, we're not finished with school yet, maybe it would be better if we waited until we're more settled, you know...." without really finishing his sentence specifically, but the significance of his quandary was enormous and obvious to us both. Then, he started tearing up with emotion as he continued, "As we were thinking about what we would do, one thing came to mind. I've seen a sign here you people have that says, 'Take my hand, not my life.' I told my fiancée about that sign. That sign saved my child's life."

He just wanted to stop by and offer encouragement to everyone who stands out there in the cold, the rain, the wind, and the heat of summer. Without even saying a word, without even passing out a pamphlet, just your presence saved a child's life, a child who is a son or daughter, a grandchild, a niece or nephew and who will someday likely grow up to have a family of their own. So many people's lives will be impacted by just this one child.

Library Corner

Racketeer for Life: Fighting the Culture of Death from the Sidewalk to the Supreme Court by Joseph Scheidler

Joseph Scheidler, a stalwart pro-life activist, often referred to as the “Godfather of the Pro-Life movement” recently wrote a book recounting his experiences and the history of the evolution of the pro-life movement in the United States, placing the struggle against abortion within the backdrop of other major movements and events in the history of the country. Readers will learn about how the vibrant pro-life movement came to be through this wonderful analysis of the efforts of so many to end this modern day holocaust of abortion through peaceful, non-violent efforts.

Mr. Scheidler has fought for the unborn since the Supreme Court allowed abortion on demand in the

1973 Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton rulings. He was the target of a lawsuit brought by the National Organization for Women under federal racketeering laws. Found guilty in 1998, Scheidler triumphed twice in appeals before the Supreme Court in 2003 and again in 2006.

Racketeer for Life explains how this former Benedictine monk and journalism professor was drawn into pro-life activism and describes his part in the history of the pro-life movement in the United States. Conversations, protests, and battles with clinic directors, doctors, politicians, judges, media personalities, and even other pro-lifers are woven together in this engaging account of the efforts of Scheidler and other activists to publicize the horrors of abortion, influence legislation, and, ultimately, to save lives.

Pro-life work has taken Scheidler around the globe. He has crossed paths with some of the most famous leaders in recent decades, from President Ronald Reagan to St. John Paul II, as well as several local activists in California, including a few who have been long time members of California Right to Life Educational Fund.

While reading the book you will: join sit-ins at abortion clinics, take part in rallies, listen to heated debates, and sit in a federal courtroom with one of the most dedicated warriors in the fight for the unborn as he shares his energy, wit, and faith in this engaging memoir.

To get your own signed copy go to <http://pro-life-action-league-store.myshopify.com/products/racketeer-for-life-by-joseph-m-scheidler>. To borrow our copy, contact our office. Also available for the Amazon Kindle.

Around the Office

Our e-mail address has changed. **Our new e-mail address is info@calright2life.org** ALSO... are you getting our e-mails? E-mails sent to several long time members have come back as undeliverable. Did you recently switch e-mail providers? Let us know by sending us an e-mail at info@calright2life.org

Financial Recap 2017 – As for many charities, the past two years have been especially difficult for California Right to Life Educational Fund, making it increasingly difficult to maintain our current level of projects. We exist on a budget of \$25K per year. In 2016 our expenditures exceeded donations by over \$7K. (In 2015 expenses exceeded donations by over \$3K, excluding several bequests.)

One of our larger expenditures continues to be publishing the newsletter; it costs about \$4,000 per year to print and mail the newsletters, or about \$13 per “addressee,” many of whom are churches and other pro-life groups that share our messages. Would you be able to “sponsor a newsletter addressee”?

Information Tables for Life and providing materials to students for class presentations costs \$50 to \$100 per event; would you like to sponsor a table or classroom presentation? There are also the ongoing routine expenses like phone bills, internet access, office supplies, and payroll expenses.

As we begin 2017, please prayerfully consider how you might be able to assist our efforts as we continue to be a voice for the voiceless in our society.

THANK YOU to our ongoing donors!

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see www.calendarforlife.org

NATIONAL PROTEST OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD - February 11, 2017. For more information, and to find a vigil site near you visit: <http://protestpp.com/>

40-DAYS FOR LIFE – March 1 – April 9, 2017
See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.

Through the 19 coordinated campaigns since 2007

- 12,668 babies (that we know of) have been saved from abortion.
- 141 abortion workers have been converted
- 75 abortion centers have been closed.