

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

March/April 2006

The End Of Abortion On Demand Is In Sight!

By now you have probably heard that the **South Dakota** legislature passed and the governor signed a comprehensive ban on abortion. In addition to banning abortion in the state of South Dakota, the bill reports legislative findings based on testimony from doctors and other expert witnesses that life begins at conception, and that in order to protect the rights and health of mothers as well as to protect the rights and health of unborn children, abortion ought to be prohibited.

It is important to point out that in many accounts from the secular press, the bill is described as including a "life of the mother exception." However, a careful read of the bill reveals that it, in fact, contains no such exception.

The bill does contain language that addresses what a physician should do to preserve the health and life of the mother. In such a circumstance, the bill directs physicians to treat both the mother and the child and states that if the child accidentally or unintentionally dies in such a circumstance, the physician is not in violation of the statute. The exact clause is as follows:

No licensed physician who performs a medical procedure designed or intended to prevent the death of a pregnant mother is guilty of violating section 2 of this Act. However, the physician shall make reasonable medical efforts under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child in a manner consistent with conventional medical practice.

Medical treatment provided to the mother by a licensed physician which results in the accidental or unintentional injury or death to the unborn child is not a violation of this statute.

Legal protection of the unborn is predicated on the idea that all human beings are persons, and

therefore entitled to the recognition and protection of their inalienable right to life. When a law is written that permits abortion to save the life or health of the mother, the concept of inalienable rights is jettisoned. Instead of basing a child's right to life on an intrinsic, inalienable right, laws with exceptions further entrench the notion that the right to life is dependent on the circumstances of a child's mother. While exceptions might be politically expedient, they undermine the entire argument for why we should protect the right to life of every child.

The language in South Dakota's abortion ban is not an exception. It in no way allows abortion – which is the intentional killing of a child before birth – to save a mother's life. Furthermore, it does not compromise the basic premise that all human beings are entitled to the right to life as an inalienable right.

The South Dakota bill will face an uphill battle in the courts. Still, the bill itself makes a tremendous statement about rights and abortion in the state of South Dakota. In addition, it is important to mount continued legal challenges to *Roe v. Wade*. After all, it was an insignificant case from Texas that seemed to have little chance of success that began all of this in 1973.

The people of Mississippi and Missouri are lining up to pass similar laws. Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and others are rumored to be ready too. We can't put the proverbial genie back in the bottle. There's no way now to silence those who want to step out and protect the most vulnerable members of their states, the unborn, from the violence of abortion. And with so many women's groups popping up all over the nation saying that "abortion hurts women" and "women deserve better than abortion," we are seeing the signs of a nation that is fed up with abortion and has come to the realization that abortion is not the good it was sold as being.

Whatever happens this presents the chance to educate the country on abortion. What does *Roe v. Wade* actually say? (Abortion on demand throughout pregnancy for any reason). What is

the health exception? (Anything you want it to be.) Is killing others acceptable because it's done in private, in consultation with doctors, and after prayer? Do we really believe in a right to choose to hurt other people?

UN Data Show Banning Abortion Doesn't Increase Maternal Mortality

By Bradford Short

Nations with permissive abortion laws do not experience lower rates of maternal mortality compared to nations with restrictive abortion laws according to new data published by the United Nations Populations Division.

Pro-abortion radicals have long argued that the right to abortion should be guaranteed by international law because restricting abortion leads to high maternal mortality. But an examination and comparison of four countries of the developed world tells a far different story. The data are found in "The World Mortality Report: 2005" which was published by the UN Population Division at the start of this year. Completed over the course of 2005, it is the first report of its kind produced by the UN Population Division. It measures mortality, including maternal and infant mortality, for all the world's countries.

According to the report, Russia, where abortion is legal, has a maternal mortality rate of 67 deaths for every 100,000 births. The United States, where there are almost no restrictions on abortion, has a rate of 17 deaths for every 100,000 births.

Both Ireland and Poland, favorite targets of the pro-abortion radicals for their strong restrictions on abortion, have better maternal mortality rates than Russia and the US. Ireland has the lowest rate of the four countries with only 5 deaths for every 100,000 births. In Poland, which like Russia was recently freed from communism, the maternal mortality rate is 13 deaths for every 100,000 births.

Liberal abortion laws do not seem to decrease infant mortality either even if one does not consider abortion to be an instance of infant mortality. Ireland also has the lowest rate in this category with 6 deaths for every 1,000 live births. Both Poland and the US have an infant mortality rate of 7 deaths for every 1,000 live babies born. Russia has a much higher infant mortality rate, of 12 deaths for every 1,000 live births.

Because the state of record keeping and the regularity of government censuses is not uniformly advanced throughout the world, the report warns that "it is important [for readers] to be cautious about the comparability of the mortality estimates presented [therein]... for different countries." All the above figures quoted from the report are from tabulations recorded from the beginning of 2000 to the end of 2004. In all cases, the report uses the most current data that the UN Population Division was able to obtain at the time.

*February 17, 2006 Volume 9, Number 9
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Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?

Make sure they get the facts first!

A LIFE depends on it...

1-800-395-HELP (4357)

Readers Corner

Anyone interested in reviewing a book they have read relating to a life issue, send to callife@calright2life.org or to P.O. Box 4343 Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Jodi Picoult pulls the theme of this novel right from today's headlines, one filled with ethical conundrums and ambiguities. Medical advances seem to have put us in the position of playing God (but without the infinite wisdom) and often have no easy solutions.

Kate has been diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia and her parents decide to conceive a "perfect match" for Kate and use the umbilical cord blood to hopefully put her into remission. The result is Anna, genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. At birth Anna "donates" her umbilical cord blood and Kate goes into remission for several years. Eventually however Kate shows signs of the leukemia returning and Anna is put on a merry go round of "donating" to extend Kate's life: from platelets and blood to bone marrow. As the story

begins Kate needs a kidney and Anna, now 13 years old, sues her parents for “medical emancipation” the right to make her own decisions about how her body will be used.

Picoult shows that umbilical cord blood, (something that is so often thrown away as medical waste) can save lives, as Anna’s cord blood did Kate’s. However the novel makes us pause and consider such issues as “designer babies” (genetic planning, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis) and how far do you go in “using” one child to extend the life of a sibling? Most of us would have no problem “using” blood and blood products, which the body replenishes. What about asking a child to undergo bone marrow extraction, a painful process? While this is a bit more painful for Anna, it did extend the life of her sister Kate. However when we get to the level of “extra organs” (Anna could survive with only one kidney, but should she be asked to sacrifice a kidney if it might lengthen her sister’s life?) How do we balance the life saving opportunity of Kate receiving Anna’s kidney against the risk for Anna?

The novel does not answer many of these questions, however it raises some that will have you thinking of possible answers long after you have finished reading the book.

Umbilical Cord Blood Banks

Following the birth of a baby, the umbilical cord is usually discarded. However it has been proven that blood retrieved from the umbilical cord is a rich source of stem cells. Stem cells from umbilical cord blood are unspecialized blood cells that produce other cells, including blood-clotting platelets and red and white blood cells. Like donated bone marrow, umbilical cord blood can be used to treat various genetic disorders that affect the blood and immune system including leukemia and various disorders of body chemistry. To date, more than 45 disorders can be treated with stem cells from umbilical cord blood.

For further information see

http://www.marlow.org/DONOR/cord_blood_faqs.html

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you have any pro-life events you would like us to publicize, send the announcement via e-mail callife@calright2life.org or call (925) 944-5351.

Sunvalley Mall Tables Saturday April 1 & 29

California Right to Life Education Fund will be at Sunvalley Mall in Concord on Saturdays April 1 and 29 from 10:00AM-4:00PM. Anyone interested in helping staff the table call us at 925-944-5351. If you are in the area stop by and say “Hi” and see what your donation dollars are allowing us to provide to the general public.

First Resort 22nd Annual Fund Raising Banquet Friday April 21

Come see and hear how God is changing the Bay Area culture, one life at a time through the work of First Resort, and hear speaker Lauren Winner, Author of Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity (and Girl Meets God)
Westin St. Francis Hotel, Union Square
335 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
RSVP by April 10 510-569-1200

National Pro-Life T-Shirt Day *Sponsored by American Life League* **Tuesday April 25, 2006**

Every year in America the plague of abortion takes the lives of more than 1.2 MILLION human beings. On April 25 warn the world. Wear a shirt with a pro-life message, and join thousands of children, teens and adults in the fight to cure abortion!



Official shirt of National Pro-Life T-shirt day available from American Life League for \$5 each plus shipping. Sizes available: Youth- YS / YM / YL Adults- military green S / M / L / XL / XXL <http://stores.yahoo.com/americanlifeleague/natproiltshir.html> or by calling 866-Let-Live
Last day to order to insure delivery is April 17.

Around the Office

February was a busy time! The media called for interviews regarding the Joe Scheidler Supreme Court decision, and the South Dakota legislation, and we were able to share the pro-life position.

Spring is always a busy time for student projects. For the second year in a row we are working with students from St. Patrick/St. Vincent High School in Vallejo on a social justice/pro-life project. We received several letters from students at an East Bay middle school requesting information on abortion and answers to several questions. We also got requests from the Sacramento and San Diego area recently. We are truly serving a need as a statewide **CALIFORNIA** Right to Life Education Fund.

Your contributions are what allow us to continue these efforts, and so many others. We run on a budget of \$2,000 a month and so far in 2006 we are running at a deficit of \$900 a month. While we hope to continue working on our key projects, without the financial resources you provide we may not be able to continue this important work. A news reporter commented that it is getting harder to locate a pro-life spokesperson; so many of the phone numbers they have in their rolodex are no longer answered. Your donations ensure we will be there to counter the message of the likes of Planned Parenthood and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Can you spare a few dollars to allow us to proclaim the message of life, from the single-cell stage to natural death? **All donations, large or small, are gratefully accepted** and prayerfully put to good use in the cause of Life. And as described in the box below, all donations are tax deductible.

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.