

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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South Dakota 's True Grit

By Judie Brown –American Life League

It is clear by now that the state of South Dakota has a legislature and a governor willing to stand up to pro-abortion pressure and do the right thing. That is why the state became the first in the nation to pass an uncompromising ban affecting all surgical and medical abortions.

We also know that almost immediately after Gov. Mike Rounds signed the bill into law, ideologues from Planned Parenthood and other like-minded organizations took to the South Dakota streets to overturn the ban by collecting signatures for a ballot proposal. These abortion peddlers are convinced that if given the choice, voters in South Dakota would be against the abortion ban and would line up to repeal it this November.

Initial signs are that the abortion supporters are up against a tough crowd in South Dakota. In the primary elections that were held this past June 6, every legislator who voted in favor of the abortion ban and was challenged in the primary – and won. Four legislators who voted against the abortion ban were defeated – largely because they voted against the proposal to protect preborn babies once they implant in their mothers' wombs.

Something is going on in South Dakota that should give the willies to abortion proponents from one end of America to the other. Election results such as these don't lie; they happened because the people voted and it would seem that in South Dakota the people voted for life. That's the good news.

But Planned Parenthood is not taking this lying down. In fact Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood's national president, put it this way recently: "We're taking on the opponents of choice in the states and the districts where they live ...Planned Parenthood has got to become more political so that health care can become less politicized."

Richards claims that her organization is the most powerful force in health care today and that Planned Parenthood can "swing the vote" in every election. She seems to think that child killing is a form of health care, and that reproductive choices must include the decision to end another person's life – for any reason whatsoever. She further appears to believe that this newly defined power will alter the course of political history everywhere, including South Dakota.

While her view doesn't ring quite true if one examines the primary results in South Dakota, it could present a problem to pro-lifers if they rest on their well-deserved laurels and don't do the daily work that must be done to carry the momentum forward to a total victory for the babies.

There's something else about Richards' words that should give us cause for hope. For decades Planned Parenthood has been using its tax-deductible status to register voters, to quietly assist politicians and to lobby lawmakers for the types of funding bills that result in the millions they get each year from local, state and federal sources. It is no secret that Planned Parenthood has a financial interest, as well as a social interest in protecting the so-called right to abortion. Planned

Parenthood has made every effort possible to carry on founder Margaret Sanger's objective of "unlimited sexual gratification without the burden of unwanted children."

Planned Parenthood has soiled the innocent minds of millions of children; it has enabled unknown numbers of fathers to get off the proverbial hook by enabling the silent killing of the babies they have fathered.

Despite of all this, I get the distinct impression that Planned Parenthood, and its allies, are frightened by the very idea that a state legislature would actually take a principled stand in defense of human beings before they are born. After the decades of multi-million dollar advertising campaigns, self-promoting and sloganeering, Planned Parenthood's leaders are beginning to see a decline in public support for direct killing. They are worried; they are frantic and they have every right to be. The truth is beginning to have an effect.

That is why South Dakota has become a watershed event. In fact I dare say South Dakota is a do or die situation for those who make their living by selling killing. So what are the good people of South Dakota going to do, now that they have set the standard, raised the ante and voiced their support by tossing the pro-abort scoundrels out in the primary?

My gut feeling is that they are not going to back off the abortion ban. As Leslee Unruh, one of South Dakota's pro-life leaders said, "South Dakotans are proud of the bold legislation passed this past session. The incumbent legislators who voted in favor of women's health and babies' lives won their races. They are vindicated."

Now South Dakota's pro-lifers will be working to get that message out to every registered voter in the state because the abortion promoters, with their out-of-state funding and deceptive marketing, are going to be pressing hard for a popular vote to toss out the ban through a referendum that is expected to be placed on the November ballot. Pro-lifers will be busily engaging their fellow citizens in discussions, clearing away the myths that surround such red herrings as "abortion in the case of rape and incest." They will be using common sense to explain why sexual assault victims do not favor deadly assaults on innocent babies.

This is a great moment in America's history, and it is clear that we are witnessing a significant change in the way average citizens perceive the child before birth and his right to be protected under the law. This is a golden opportunity to advance consistent principles that have always been the foundation of pro-life efforts, not only in South Dakota but also around the nation. This is an exciting time to be pro-life.

But let's be clear. Nobody is taking it for granted that the pro-life side will score a slam-dunk without a fight in South Dakota. The bell has sounded; pro-lifers are up for the task ahead.

Judie Brown is president and co-founder of American Life League, the nation's largest Catholic pro-life educational grassroots organization. She is a recognized expert on the sanctity of human life, member of the Pontifical Academy for Life and the author of three books.

Stem Cells May Avert Amputation

Using a patient's own stem cells, Indiana University doctors are pioneering a new way to prevent amputations in people with severe peripheral arterial disease, known as PAD, a vascular disorder that affects the blood circulation in the feet, legs, kidney, stomach and arms.

In the only study of its kind in the United States, researchers have harvested adult stem cells from the patient's bone marrow and injected these adult stem cells into the diseased leg to prompt the development of new blood vessels and correct the problem.

Scientists believe that in healthy patients, stem cells from the bone marrow migrate to repair organs and arteries when they get injured. Stem cells in people with PAD cannot reach the legs in sufficient numbers to make a difference. Indiana University doctors decided to try transporting those potentially healing stem cells from the marrow to the leg for patients with advanced PAD.

Although only 10 patients to date have gone through the procedure, the results so far look promising, the researchers say. "The information that we're getting from this study is telling us this therapy does indeed work, and we're learning more and more about how to isolate this information," said Dr. Michael Murphy, an assistant professor of surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine and the principal investigator of the trial.

About 8 million to 10 million people suffer from PAD, a hardening and clogging of the arteries that can lead to poor circulation, pain, and numbness on the legs and feet. In about 10 percent of the patients, the disease will eventually become so bad that amputation may be their only standard treatment option, Murphy said.

Currently, angioplasty and/or bypass surgery are the only ways to ward off that eventuality, Murphy said. But not every patient is eligible for one of these procedures. This study offers an alternative to those who have no other choice.

Soon Murphy plans to begin a second study on PAD, comparing the efficacy of stem cells isolated from a patient's fat tissue to those that come from the bone marrow.

If either or both techniques prove successful, he said, he wants to explore whether they might also help prevent hardening of the arteries throughout the body.

"We're hoping to expand this information to rebuilding the heart after a heart attack, the brain after a stroke, and maybe even the kidney or liver with the complications of diabetes," Murphy said.

For further information on the PAD trial, call (317) 630-7989 or send e-mail to mipmurph@iupui.edu.

HPV Vaccine—Another Deception of the Culture of Death

Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer,
President, Human Life International

The big news recently is that the FDA has just approved a new vaccine supposedly to inoculate women against cervical cancer. Predictably, the media and health professionals are touting this as the greatest thing since the Salk vaccine, but they are also engaging in a propaganda campaign aimed at distorting the public's perception of it. I for *one* will stand against what I consider this newest marriage of the culture of death with junk science, and I believe we all should. In the next few weeks I intend to examine a number of aspects of this Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the benefit of parents who may some day be coerced into getting their kids vaccinated with it.

Let me start by pointing out a few basic elements of this vaccine and its service as a tool of the culture of death. First of all, did you ever wonder why all of a sudden we need a vaccine for just one sexually transmitted disease? Just to give you a little perspective: in the nineteen sixties, before the advent of the birth control pill and other forms of abortion-causing drugs, there were only three sexually transmitted diseases which at that time were known as venereal diseases, a name derived from Venus, the pagan goddess of sexual promiscuity. Because of the exponential increase in illicit sexual activity in the past four decades, the number of distinct sexually transmitted diseases has risen to over thirty, not to mention the multiple strains of the distinct diseases. The Human Papilloma Virus, for example, is just one sexually transmitted disease, but it has over 100 different strains! Only a small number of these strains actually lead to cancer and most of its victims don't know they have it and cure themselves over time.

Now, to put it into even clearer perspective: the much-touted HPV vaccine treats only *two* strains of HPV and *two* strains of genital warts. This is a tour-de-force against HPV, isn't it?

The most wretched hypocrisy of the promoters of this vaccine, however, is that, rather than calling it a vaccine against a couple strains of one of the dozens of sexually transmitted diseases; they are calling it a vaccine against cervical cancer. Well, it will certainly protect *some* women from cervical cancer in the future but that's not the point. The point is that there are overwhelming numbers of diseases, strains and even cancers that this vaccine does not protect from, all of which are gotten by the very same sexual act. Thinking that this vaccine gives blanket protection against cervical cancer (which of course is how it's perceived because that is how it's being promoted) is like believing that thirty people jumping out of the same airplane will all be protected because one of them is wearing a parachute.

This HPV vaccine, my friends, is a classic case of the culture of death playing fast and loose with people's lives. They use junk science to hook our terribly un-reflective culture on a promise that will benefit only a miniscule portion of the population, and then the false perception of security surrounding their newest ruse hooks everyone else into behaviors and lifestyles that perpetuate the damage and decay our decency.

Don't fall for it, because pretty soon they will be forcing you—and your kids—to drink their potions to the dregs.

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Around the Office

Physician Assisted Suicide – For over a year we have been educating everyone, via literature on our mall tables, several press statements, newsletter articles and e-mail updates to our membership, on the Pandora's box called "Physician Assisted Suicide" (also known as "compassionate dying" or "death with dignity"). We are happy to report that the end of June the California Legislature defeated AB-651, the Physician Assisted Suicide bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. A special thank you to all who helped in this effort, through contacting your legislators in both the Assembly and Senate and through our education outreach.

Our opponents have stated they will not give up the fight; however, the Californians Against Assisted Suicide (website <http://www.CA-AAS.com>), a coalition of organizations, including disability groups, medical professionals, the Latino community as well as various pro-life organizations, will be there to continue the battle to protect the most vulnerable of our society, in this case those with terminal illness.

Parental Notification Initiative has once again qualified for the November 2006 ballot. More than one million signatures were collected, from throughout all of California's 58 counties, in a little over three months!

The initiative, officially designated as Proposition 85, will ensure that parents are notified 48 hours in advance of a minor child – as young as age 12 – receiving an abortion. Like its predecessor Prop 73, which was only narrowly defeated in a special election last year, Prop 85 will allow parents to protect their daughters.

Mall Tables – are in full swing! During the summer months we have added several weekday time slots, usually four hour blocks of time somewhere between 11:00AM and 7:00PM. If you have an hour or two and would like to "Meet us at the Mall," contact this office for the upcoming

schedule (925-944-5351 or e-mail callife@calright2life.org).

And finally... a word from our sponsors... A special thank you to all who continue to send in contributions large and small which allow us to continue our work with so many people, educating everyone towards a greater respect for all life. We run on a budget of about \$2,000 a month. Distribution of the newsletter alone costs us \$500 a month. Can you spare a few dollars to allow us to proclaim the message of life, from the single-cell stage to natural death? As little as \$5 provides a packet of pro-life materials to a student or teacher; 30–100 students are then presented with the message of life through classroom presentations. **All donations, large or small, are gratefully accepted** and prayerfully put to good use in the cause of Life. As detailed in the box to the right, all donations to California Right to Life EDUCATION FUND are fully tax-deductible.