

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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## **Words and Phrases to Drop from Our Pro-Life Vocabulary**

by Erik Whittington, Director, Rock for Life

As personhood advocates, it is critically important that we use the correct terminology to describe preborn babies, their mothers, the very act of abortion and even the facilities in which abortions are committed. It doesn't matter if you are a full time pro-life advocate or a "normal" person who works, goes to school, takes care of your family, etc. We must all watch what we say in daily life—even in casual conversation.

So, the words we use are very powerful and can make the difference between life and death. You might be surprised to realize that even we pro-lifers often use terms and phrases that can be dehumanizing to the very people we are trying to save. That can cause confusion and that can hamper our efforts to obtain recognition of the human rights of all human persons. As we educate the public and advocate for the rights of all human persons, born and preborn, we must seriously examine the language we use and make some changes, if necessary.

With that in mind, I am going to share with you this short list of terms and phrases that we should drop from our pro-life vocabulary:

**Fetus, embryo**—These terms are generally used by abortion supporters, but I also notice pro-lifers using these terms often. Fetus and embryo are actually terms referring to stages of development. Their use begs the question, which animal species, during its embryonic or fetal development, are you referring to? For human beings, embryo describes human development from the very beginning of a human being's life through their eighth week of development. Fetus describes a human being's biological development from the beginning of their ninth week of development until birth. We should replace these terms with "human embryo," "human

fetus" or "human being during their embryonic (or fetal) development."

**Fertilized egg**—This is a dehumanizing term used as a form of pro-abortion propaganda. It is not a legitimate term, since it isn't scientifically accurate. Human women don't carry eggs; they have oocytes. Upon first contact of a human sperm and a human oocyte, a newly created human person now exists who is in his/her first embryonic stage of development. It has become popular with abortion advocates these days, in response to the state personhood initiatives cropping up around the country. We need to correct this whenever we see or hear it. Use correct terminology in its place, such as "human embryo."

**Mistake, accident, unwanted, unplanned**— These terms have very negative connotations and are very demeaning, especially for the child who happens to overhear some mention of the circumstances in which he or she came into being. Every child is wanted by someone and no one is an accident. God creates every single person with a special purpose in life. A positive-sounding term such as "surprise" should be used instead of terms or phrases that imply that God's creation of a baby is an unfortunate event.

***Pro-Choice:  
that's a lie;  
babies don't  
choose to die!***

**Pro-choice**—This term was developed by a marketing firm employed by the abortion lobby before abortion became decriminalized on January 22, 1973. It has been and still is a very effective term, but still very misleading. It begs the question, what is the choice? The child has no choice when threatened with an abortionist's suction device, knives and forceps. Replace this term with "pro-abortion" or "abortion advocate."

**Pregnant woman**—This term takes the child out of the equation and can make pregnancy sound like a disease. Abortion is often referred to as "terminating a pregnancy." Instead, use terms such as "mother," "pregnant mom" or "expectant mother."

**Health clinic/abortion clinic**—Health gives the impression that health is being restored to an

individual. Similarly, clinic normally denotes a respectable, morally legitimate health care facility. Abortion is murder, not health care, so we should not dignify it with such dignified terms. Replace such terms with “abortion business,” “abortion mill,” “abortion facility,” “abortion center” and so forth.

**The abortion issue**—Taxes are an issue. Paying for education is an issue. Abortion is not an issue; it’s a tragedy. Abortion is a violent crime that kills a human person and leaves his/her mother scarred for life. You can also replace issue with terms such as “question,” “matter,” etc.

**It**—A baby boy or baby girl is not an it. Yet that is how many of us refer to children in utero or even at the moment of their birth. I hear this so often: “It’s a (boy/girl)!” Instead, say, “He is a boy” or “She is a girl” or “My/our/their/his/her/the baby is a (boy/girl).”

**I’m going to be a \_\_\_!**—This phrase usually ends with “mother,” “father,” “grandparent,” “aunt,” “uncle,” etc., But it’s inaccurate and dehumanizes the baby, because actually, it’s a done deal! The person speaking is already a mother (or father, grandparent, etc.). If you catch someone (or yourself) saying this, quickly correct it by reminding them (or yourself) that the child already exists, so they (or you) are already a mother (or father, grandparent, etc.).

This is in no way an exhaustive list. It has been compiled to get you thinking and to start a conversation that will hopefully result in pro-life advocates being more effective in changing minds and hearts, which will eventually result in legal recognition of human personhood for all, born and preborn.

## Vaccine Report

### FDA Approves 6 Flu Vaccines for 2009-2010 Season – ALL Are Morally Produced

In response to several inquiries from the public regarding the FDA's recent announcement on its approval of several flu vaccines, Children of God for Life released the following statement: *All regular influenza vaccines approved by the FDA in July for the 2009-2010 flu season are morally produced using*

*chick embryos. These vaccines are for regular flu - not swine flu or avian flu.*

### FDA Approves 4 New Swine Flu Vaccines - None use aborted fetal cell lines

Children of God for Life, a pro-life watchdog group that reviews contents of vaccines has announced that four new H1N1 (swine flu) vaccines approved by the FDA do not use aborted fetal cell lines. The four vaccines are made by Sanofi Pasteur, Novartis, CSL and Medimmune, and all are using chick eggs.

"We are pleased that the pharmaceutical companies have chosen these cell lines for this year's H1N1 vaccines," stated Executive Director Debi Vinnedge. "There are enough concerns about public health and safety without compounding the problems with moral issues."

She noted that there are two methods of possibly producing flu and H1N1 vaccines: chick embryo or cell culture. Chick embryo is the standard method that has been used to produce all flu vaccines for several years. The problem with this method is that every time a new batch of vaccines is needed, fresh eggs must be used, making it more difficult to get vaccines to the market in a timely manner for the flu season each year.

Because of this, the pharmaceutical industry has been working on a method that would speed development and processing time by using an established cell FDA approved and then frozen for future use so production time is considerably shorter.

Several pharmaceutical companies such as Medimmune, Protein Science and Novavax are developing these future flu vaccines using a moral cell culture, such as MDCK or insect cells. But some manufacturers like Sanofi

Pasteur and Vaxin are developing their cell culture vaccines using aborted fetal cell line, PER C6.

"It is completely unnecessary to use aborted fetal cell lines," said Vinnedge. "If these companies truly cared about the health of the public they would take into consideration the moral concerns of millions of families who are going to refuse their products."

Vinnedge has been keeping a close watch on the cell culture process and early clinical trials show the

All regular influenza vaccines approved by the FDA in July for the 2009-2010 flu season are morally produced using chick embryos.... four new H1N1 (swine flu) vaccines approved by the FDA do not use aborted fetal cell lines.

morally produced vaccines may hit the market first - a welcome relief for both parents and medical professionals who have been urging the industry to use ethically produced cell lines.

(See [www.cogforlife.org/cmastatement.pdf](http://www.cogforlife.org/cmastatement.pdf) and [www.cogforlife.org/cmdapress.htm](http://www.cogforlife.org/cmdapress.htm) )

She noted that earlier this year, the FDA also approved [regular flu vaccines for the 2009-2010 season](#), which likewise are morally produced on chick eggs. Long term, it is a matter of waiting to see which company's cell culture vaccine will win FDA approval first. If the Centers for Disease Control and FDA want to ensure as many people as possible receive these future vaccines, it would be wise to encourage the drug companies to use moral cell lines.

"There is no reason why anyone should have to compromise the health and safety of their families because of their deeply held moral and religious beliefs," Vinnedge stated. "It's high time our government and the pharmaceutical industry start listening to the public!"

## 200-Fold Boost in Efficiency for Ethical Stem Cells

US researchers have found a way to increase dramatically the harvest of stem cells from adult tissue. It's a practical step forward in techniques for producing large numbers of stem cells without killing embryonic humans. Using three drug-like chemicals, the team made the procedure 200 times more efficient and twice as fast, the journal *Nature Methods* reported.

Scientists hope stem cells will be in wide use one day to repair tissue damaged by diseases and injuries. Much of the work on stem cells has focused on those taken from embryonic humans because they're pluripotent, i.e., they can become any of the 220 types of cells in the human body. But this has caused controversy, and some campaigners have objected to the use of embryonic humans because it is unethical to kill them.

The creation of stem cells from human adult skin cells was first reported in 2007 by Japanese and US researchers, opening the way for new sources of stem cells. The latest research builds on that process by adding specific chemicals to improve it. The Scripps Research Institute team had already boosted the

number of cells created with two compounds that triggered a naturally occurring process that moves the cell closer to a stem-cell like state.

But now they have discovered that adding thiazovivin, a small molecule involved in cell survival, doubles the yield to 200 times the number of transformed cells. Plus, the final process takes two weeks, compared with a month for the original method. Dr Keisuke Kaji, a stem-cell researcher at the Medical Research Council Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Edinburgh, called the technique a "great advance" in cell reprogramming technology. *BBC. October 18.*

<http://www.familyandlife.org/Abortion-and-Embryo/1352/9/15.html>

## Around the Office

**The Congressional Health Care Initiatives** has been the focus of our special projects the past few weeks. A special thank you to all who responded and took action based on our e-alerts asking our members to become involved in this important moment in history of health care in our nation. Are you part of our e-alert network? If not, and if you have access to e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. We will add you to our network of informed pro-lifers.

In early November tens of thousands of people, in 212 cities in 45 states, five Canadian provinces and Denmark completed another successful **40-Days-for-Life** Campaign. The news media reported these events in over 100 news stories. To date 589 lives have been documented as being saved from abortion, just from this campaign, and since inception over 2,150 lives have been saved! Eight abortion workers have quit their jobs, including the director of the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Byran/College Station Texas – the city where 40-Days-for-Life began. Dozens of abortion facilities have cut back days and hours of operations during the 40-Days-for-Life campaigns. The abortion facility in Pensacola, Florida closed on Day 38 of the Fall 2009 campaign, and the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Kalispell, Montana closed on November 20.

Since inception there have been five coordinated campaigns, covering 282 cities in all 50 states and numerous other countries. Well over 225,000 people have participated in one or more of the campaigns. Have you? More than 5,000 church congregations have been involved...Has yours? Successes include over

2,150 lives known to be saved, 26 abortion workers have quit, and five abortion facilities have closed.

40-Days-for-Life Campaigns planned for 2010:  
Lent/Spring: February 17-March 28 and Fall:  
September 22-October 31. For more information on this growing effort see [www.40daysforlife.org](http://www.40daysforlife.org). Click on "locations" for a listing of cities that held Fall 2009 campaigns. Is there a city listed near you? If not, are you being called to start one in your area? Pray and discern how you may be being called to serve in this fast-growing movement to save lives on the front lines of the battle for pre-born life.

**Mark your calendars: Saturday, January 23, 2010 –Justin Herman Plaza, San Francisco.** Join upwards of 30,000 pro-lifers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life at Justin Herman Plaza on the Embarcadero in San Francisco as we peacefully proclaim our message that abortion hurts women and we all deserve better than abortion. For more information, visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com). To volunteer or to arrange buses call (415) 586-1576, or



## 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.