

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

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## **Choose Life!**

by Cecelia Cody

Recently I had the opportunity to have lunch with a friend and her daughter Rebecca (name changed to protect privacy). Rebecca became “with child” while engaged to be married. Rebecca commented, “I chose life, but...” and my ears perked up... But what? She shared a few thoughts regarding how various things had affected her throughout the pregnancy.

**What will my parents and family think?** Rebecca, smiling at her mother, began her reflections by recounting “The Talk” she and her parents had back when she was in high school, and how they had said, “We hope you will never be in this situation, but we want you to know that if you ever find yourself pregnant before marriage, we will always LOVE you and will do everything we can to support you; don't ever be afraid to come to us with any problem, we will always be there for you.” The moment she realized she was pregnant, she commented, she knew she could count on her parents’ support. Rebecca asked me to share with all parents how important it is to **EXPLICITLY** tell your children you will support and love them, no matter what. Rebecca mentioned several of her friends wondered if their parents would be as supportive, as so many parents have never explicitly said those words. One gal even commented that when someone has doubts, it makes it so much easier to rationalize an abortion.

**There is more than just a baby involved here...** Rebecca complimented our efforts and passion in defending and protecting the life of the preborn. However she wants to remind us there is more than just the unborn baby here; there is also the mother, father, and extended families impacted by an unanticipated pregnancy, and while she appreciated how forcefully we speak for the unborn who don't have a voice, if that is the sole focus, she felt we are somewhat missing the mark. She recounted how when she told her best friend that she was pregnant, her friend “went Wikipedia” spouting off fetal development statistics. Rebecca said she wanted to

desperately cry out, “Do you even care about how traumatically my life has changed? Do you care about my future, my dreams? How this is going to impact my wedding plans? What are you going to do to help me deal with this?” She admits it sounds selfish; however, she wanted to be honest and wondered if others might feel the same way. Nurturing the mothers and fathers, listening to feelings and concerns, is as important as providing information on the developing baby.

**Change the Language ...** Rebecca’s mom mentioned something I had never considered. A major reason a woman might choose the abortion option is because she is afraid of what people will think or say if they find out she’s pregnant. (Rebecca admitted at the beginning this was one of her biggest fears! Will I lose my job? What will the neighbors think? How can I get married with a belly?) Could we offset this fear through creating a language imbued with a culture of life slant, rather than one of gossip that nurtures the culture of death? Instead of saying “Did you hear who’s pregnant?” say “Did you hear who chose life?” Wow... what a different way to frame the same event! One sounds gossip driven, and one is life affirming and compassionate.

Finally, Rebecca had one last suggestion. She thanked us for including her and her daughter in our lunch plans, commenting that when the baby arrives, **EVERY** Mom, not just those who faced a difficult decision, can be overwhelmed. She recommended when we see a new Mom *seek out and affirm and encourage* her, once again including both baby and Mommy in your comments. Rebecca admitted sometimes she becomes so busy with work and motherhood, that she is overwhelmed she doesn't seem to have any time to invest in herself or even maintain friendships. She said when a friend calls, or even just texts or sends an e-mail with words of encouragement it brightens her day. It reminds her she is not forgotten.

Thanks, Rebecca. Congratulations on your recent wedding and best wishes on your continuing journey of Motherhood!

# California's New Vaccine Exemption Form

Camille Giglio

Dawn Winkler, California Co-Director of National Vaccine Information Center, is alerting the public's attention to the fact that the newly released vaccine exemption form, created following the 2012 passage of AB 2109, Communicable Disease: Immunization Exemption by Assemblyman Richard Pan, is quite possibly illegal.

She states that: "The form newly released by the California Department of Public Health has major problems."

She states: "The religious exemption is worded *"I am a member of a religion which prohibits me from seeking medical advice or treatment from healthcare practitioners."* This language is highly discriminatory and not in alignment with the Governor's signing message.

One's sincerely held religious beliefs may well preclude vaccinations but not all medical treatment, i.e. a visit to the emergency room after a car crash, broken bones, IV fluids, etc. Basically, the way the religious exemption is worded right now, only a very few select religions would "qualify" under this language. Whether or not a given school district, county health department or nurse would challenge an individual who signs said exemption is anyone's guess. The point is, it's unconstitutional and not within the state of California's business as to what religion you belong or don't belong to.

This new form was created as a direct result of Assemblyman Pan's efforts to mandate that all girls, regardless of parental objections, beginning with age 11, be vaccinated with Gardasil, a product of Merck Pharmaceuticals. Gardasil is advertised as a product that protects against HIV. Merck and Assemblyman Pan claimed being injected with Gardasil was far more important than any parental claims of significant negative side effects.

The bill was heavily opposed by parent and pro life groups across the state who presented significant data on known and successful legal claims on serious and life threatening side effects. This included discovery by some parents that their once healthy suddenly ill daughters, had during medical check-ups been injected without parental knowledge.

The new form requires parents to sit through lectures on the importance of protecting society against the individual child's risk of HIV infection, thereby implying that all girls were presumed to be sexually active. Plus this opt-out form could require costly and time consuming signature gathering from a consenting physician or health care provider including requiring the parent to take time off of work to get the signature(s) and pay for a medical visit.

Below is the press statement issued by Anita Gore and Heather Bourbeau of the California Department of Public Health.

## New Personal Belief Exemption Form for Childhood Vaccination to Encourage Health Education

*Sincerely held religious beliefs that preclude vaccination may not necessarily preclude medical advice or treatment.*

*SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today made available the Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) form parents or guardians are required to use to exempt their children from childhood vaccinations as required by a new State law that takes effect January 1, 2014.*

The PBE form must be signed by both a health care professional and a parent or guardian when seeking an exemption from required vaccinations. The new form also allows for a religious exemption if the family's religion does not permit members to get medical advice or treatment from a health care practitioner.

"The Department of Public Health encourages parents to get their children vaccinated as it is the best and safest way to prevent many serious, often deadly, diseases in children," said Dr. Ron Chapman, CDPH director and State health officer. "It is important that parents make an informed decision, and this new form encourages education about vaccinations while protecting an individual's constitutional rights."

The form acknowledges that a health care professional has provided information to the parent or guardian regarding the benefits and risks of immunization, including the health risks to the student and the community resulting from declining the recommended immunizations. The health care provider and the parent must each sign the form before the form is turned in to the school. The form also allows for constitutional freedom of religious expression.

All students newly admitted to a California school, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students advancing to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and children newly admitted to a childcare facility, who wish to be exempt from one or more required immunizations because of their personal beliefs must provide this form to their school or childcare facility.

Children transferring from one grade school in California to another school in California, and not starting kindergarten or the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time, do not need to provide a new exemption form. Exemptions from the prior schools should be part of the records transferred to the new schools.

The form is available for your review at <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/CDPH-8262.pdf> Information and resources about the Personal Belief Exemption (AB 2109) are available on the CDPH's Shots for School website: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/>. Also visit: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

**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/>**

## **Investors Shun Embryo Research for Ethical Alternatives**

A new report examining funding for stem cell research in California and Maryland has found that funding trends reflect the scientific community's view that the best hope for disease treatment and therapies lies with morally unproblematic, non-embryonic stem cells.

"For decades, stem cells obtained by destroying unique, living human beings were heralded for their potential ability to cure numerous diseases and conditions. However, while funding for this morally objectionable research initially boomed, efficacious therapies did not," said Chuck Donovan, president of the Charlotte Lozier Institute, which produced the report.

"Tracking of funding trends both at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and in the state of Maryland shows a decisive change in strategy. Money talks – and our new report shows a growing preference to fund ethical stem cell projects

nationwide. This reflects the scientific community's belief that the best hope for rapid medical advances lies with morally unproblematic alternatives."

This is the second report in a Lozier Institute series analyzing stem cell funding trends across a variety of states. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the State of Maryland have both been strong advocates for embryonic stem-cell research.

For full article and links to previous CIRM research see: <http://www.lozierinstitute.org/marylandstemcell/>

## **40-Days for Life Wrap-Up**

From September 25-November 3, 2013, at 306 sites throughout the world, pro-lifers gathered to participate in the semi-annual 40 Days for Life campaign. As of the writing of this article, during the history of this effort (Fall 2007-Fall 2013) we have received reports of **8,245 babies saved from abortion** (that we know of) **88 workers have quit, 42 facilities have closed**, since the inception of 40 Days for Life! Nine of those clinics that have closed have been since the end of the Spring 2013 campaign! The momentum is building; the Lord has truly heard and answered your prayers!

The Spring 2014 campaign will run Wednesday, March 5, to April 13, 2014. (Campaign registration opens January 7, 2014)

## **Around the Office**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors who make publication of this newsletter and all our other activities possible. As we approach the end of the year we ask you to consider California Right to Life Educational Fund in your year-end giving. It has been a "lean year" and while Cecelia seems to be a master at stretching the dollar, we could do so much more if we had the funds.

We continue to touch many lives throughout the year with our information tables for life, as well as providing materials to several student groups for their on campus "Quad Tables for Life."

Another of our major activities are the numerous phone calls we receive asking questions covering the full spectrum of life issues, from the sad beginning of life question, "How much does an abortion cost?" (Answer: Call 1-800-712-HELP or 4357) to "Where can I get a 'Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care' form? (Contact Patients Rights Council 800-958-

5678 <http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/> )

Another frequent question is, "What vaccines contain aborted fetal tissue?" (For the most up-to-date information visit:

<http://www.cogforlife.org/vaccineinfo.htm> )

The news media often calls looking for statements on current events, legislation, and research breakthroughs.

As well as our monthly newsletter, we continue to be a conduit disseminating information to our members through our e-alert network. (Is your e-mail address up to date? Are you part of the network?)

## Calendar of Events

*For the latest updates of events see*

**[www.calendarforlife.org](http://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](http://www.walkforlifewc.com) or call 415-658-1793.

## 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.

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