

## **Majority of Americans Oppose Most or All Abortions**

A new poll conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University shows a majority of Americans say abortions should either always be illegal or that abortions should be allowed in only very rare circumstances. In summary, most Americans oppose most abortions.

Asked which of three views on abortion comes closest to representing theirs:

- 12 percent of those polled said abortions should always be illegal.
- Another 44 percent said abortions should be allowed only in cases of rape or incest or when the pregnancy directly endangers the mother's physical health. Such cases constitute as little as 2 or 3 percent of all reasons for an abortion, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood.
- Just 39 percent in the VCU survey say abortions should always be legal.

That means 56 percent of Americans oppose approximately 97 percent of the abortions performed annually in the United States and fewer than 4 in 10 support abortion.

That squares with other recent polls. An August 2005 CBS News poll found 53 percent of respondents said all or most abortions should not be permitted and only 43 percent said all or most abortions should be permitted.

Also, an April 2005 Gallup Poll showed most Americans oppose most abortions. According to the poll, 59 percent of Americans say they oppose all or most abortions.

The Virginia Commonwealth University Life Sciences Survey conducted telephone interviews with 1,002 American adults from September 14-29. The margin of error in the poll is three percent.

*Printed from: <http://www.lifenews.com/nat1724.html>*

## **Parents' Right to Know Initiative**

The November 2005 election is now history. The people of California voted a solid "No" to all the state propositions, including Proposition 73, the Parents' Right to Know initiative. However before we lament our loss, let us remember that even having this initiative on the ballot was a step in the right direction.

Perhaps it was best summarized at the recent Life Legal Defense Foundation banquet soon after the election: California legislation for parental involvement in a minor's abortion has merely been delayed... we can be proud that the effort to pass Proposition 73 opened many conversations that otherwise never would have happened.

A special "THANK YOU" to all of you who assisted in the effort:

- Standing at BART stations and bus stops in the early morning and late afternoons distributing flyers to commuters.
- Contacting churches and stuffing bulletins with flyers, and a special thank you to all the priests and ministers who proclaimed the message of life from the pulpit throughout the campaign.
- Serving on phone banks, informing the general public of this initiative and asking for their support.
- Holding coffees and teas and inviting friends and neighbors to share the message of Parental Notification.
- Talking to other parents at the parking lot as you dropped off and picked up your child, especially at the intermediate school.
- Educating fellow motorists with bumper stickers or by writing on your car windows with glass chalk.
- Participating in rallies and informational pickets to get the word out.
- Whatever other creative methods you used.

Allow me to paraphrase the words from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew "When I was unborn and my teenage mother was considering aborting me you worked to make sure her parents were involved by trying to pass a Parental Notification Initiative."

I am reminded of the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "God doesn't call us to be successful, He calls us to be faithful."

## **Study: Abortion More Than Doubles the Risk of Child Abuse**

For decades, evidence has existed showing abortion contributes to a rise in child abuse. Now a new study by a post-abortion research institute and Bowling Green State University professors finds that women who have abortions are more likely to abuse their children.

Published in the medical journal *Acta Paediatrica*, the study found that women who have had abortions are 2.4 times more likely to physically abuse their children. Pro-life advocates say it proves the need for providing women with post-abortion counseling to help deal with the emotional trauma of the abortion.

Led by Priscilla Coleman, a professor at Bowling Green, researchers looked at data taken from a survey of 518 low-income women in Baltimore who were receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children and who had at least one child aged 12 years or younger.

The data compared rates of child abuse and neglect among women who had experienced either an involuntary (miscarriage or stillbirth) or voluntary (induced abortion) pregnancy loss.

Women who had a miscarriage or stillbirth were more likely to physically abuse their children as well, but the increase was much less significant than for women who had abortions.

The authors suggested that "emotional difficulties and unresolved grief responses" from pregnancy loss, whether voluntary or involuntary, could have a negative impact on women's mental health and lead to unhealthy parenting responses.

According to the Illinois-based Elliot Institute, which released information about the study's findings, prior surveys "have linked pregnancy loss to an increase in grief reactions, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, all of which can have a negative impact on parent/child relationships."

The post-abortion research group also points to a 2002 study published in the *Journal of Child Psychiatry and Psychology* that found abortion has been linked to an increase in substance abuse and thoughts of suicide, which could also contribute to child abuse.

The new study also found that women who had more than one miscarriage or stillbirth were more likely to engage in child abuse than women who had just one. However, women who had abortions were more likely to abuse their children whether they had one or more than one abortion.

"Regardless of the specific mechanisms at play, maternal history of one induced abortion does appear to be a marker for increased risk of physical abuse," the authors concluded.

According to Elliot Institute director Dr. David Reardon, who has worked on more than a dozen published studies documenting abortion's negative impact on women, many women either feel a need to keep the abortion a secret or are told to simply "move on" when they try to discuss their pain.

Reardon said that greater attention needs to be focused on the long-term effects of abortion on women and their families.

"The common perception seems to be that abortion solves the immediate problem of a crisis pregnancy and that therefore it must be a positive thing for women," he said. "However, more and more studies such as this one show that abortion can have a severe and lasting impact on women's lives, shaping their futures and the futures of their families for years to come."

*Study Citation: Priscilla K. Coleman, Charles D. Maxey, Vincent M. Rue, and Catherine T. Coyle, "Associations between voluntary and involuntary forms of pregnancy loss and child maltreatment among low-income mothers," Acta Paediatrica 94, 2005.*

*Study Link:*

<http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=xr05355225rk21wk>

### **RIGHT TO LIFE ACT OF 2005:**

*"The terms 'human person' and 'human being' include each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, including, but not limited to, the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being." See <http://www.RightToLifeAct.org> for details.*

On February 2, 2005, Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) introduced the **Right to Life Act of 2005** which would amend the U.S. Constitution to provide for the right to life for each born and pre-born human person. This legislation would literally STOP abortion in America – ALL abortion – because the Constitution would guarantee the right to life for the pre-born.

***Women who have abortions are more likely to abuse their children***

As the situation now stands, even if Supreme Court Justices are appointed that overturn Roe v. Wade, the so-called "right" to an abortion would then revert to each state. Some states would certainly outlaw abortion, but many states including California already have laws on the books to make sure that abortion on demand continues unabated. That is why control of the Supreme Court, while critically important, is only a partial answer to seeing the scourge of abortion forever removed from our nation.

The **Right to Life Act** is nothing new to the US Congress. Former Rep. Bob Dornan, the firebrand pro-lifer from Orange County, California when he served in Congress in the 1990s, introduced it yearly. When Dornan was defeated in 1997, Congressman Duncan Hunter of San Diego County agreed to continue to submit this legislation each year, but each year no hearings were scheduled and the bill languished in obscurity and neglect. However, this year is different...

The culture in America is undergoing a remarkable change and is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with abortion on demand. The Pro-life Movement is especially making great gains among the younger generation, which is more pro-life than ever before. In fact, for the first time in decades, the majority of Americans consider themselves pro-life (see article on page one.)

The last presidential election was a watershed moment in American history when a president was elected primarily by citizens who wanted to see the Supreme Court move to the right and overturn Roe v. Wade. Abortion has become "THE" issue in the current debate over the next Supreme Court justice. Americans want and need a public discourse on abortion and the question of when life begins.

With the current debate on abortion surrounding the recent Supreme Court vacancies, more and more people are seeing that the courts are only part of the answer. The document to which all our laws must comply, the U.S. Constitution, must be amended to clearly and unequivocally protect the lives of all our pre-born brothers and sisters. The Right to Life Act of 2005 would do just that! Political and cultural conditions are the most favorable they have ever been for legislation that would amend the Constitution and restore the legal protections of personhood to the pre-born.

When the Congress held hearings on the partial-birth abortion ban, the entire nation became aware of the heinous nature of late-term abortions. They began to

understand that there are some things civilized people JUST DON'T DO. The attitudes of Americans were changed as a result and now the overwhelming majority of our citizens oppose late-term abortions.

A similar debate concerning the personhood of the pre-born could further enlighten our nation as to the heinous nature of ALL abortion, and could be the next step in reclaiming the right to life for all Americans, regardless of their age or stage of development. We must get America talking about the personhood of the pre-born and the all-important question of when life begins. This is a debate the abortion lobby fears more than anything because they know it is a debate they will always lose! But most importantly, if we have to wait another year, the lives of 1.3 million innocent children will be needlessly taken by abortion! That's right. The lives of 1.3 million children are snuffed out by the crime of abortion every year in our country founded on the principle of LIFE, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Contact this office for ways you can become involved in bringing this legislation to reality and protect future generations.

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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

**Sunday January 15, 2006 7-8 PM**  
**Fifth Annual "Lights for Life" Prayer Vigil**  
Location to be announced

**Friday January 20, 2006 7:30PM**  
**Interfaith Committee for Life: Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Sanctity of Life and the Victims of Abortion.**  
Locations to be announced

**Saturday, January 21, 2006**  
**Walk for Life West Coast**  
**11:00 AM – Embarcadero Center**  
**San Francisco**

If you joined us last year you know what an experience it was. If you missed it, put this event on your calendar right away and join us for the biggest pro-life event on the West Coast! Meet at Embarcadero, dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a bag lunch. For further information, please visit [www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com).

## **Progress on Stone Soup**

*Several of our donors commented on our recent newsletter article on "Stone Soup." As newsletter space allows, we will update our membership on our financial situation and actions required to keep the organization viable.*

**As always, a big "Thank You" to all of you who have contributed, especially our monthly donors.** Once again in October expenses exceeded donations. Year to date as of October 31, 2005 is a loss of \$3,200. A comparison of 2005 to 2004 shows a decrease in donations of over \$2,800, and a \$600 increase in our newsletter costs, mainly due to the cost of printing and mailing the January Walk for Life newsletter. As we have reported before, we have cut costs as far as we can and still remain viable. We will be forced to cut vital works if the trend in declining donations continues.

### ***Donation ideas:***

To mail a newsletter to one address for an entire year costs us at least \$10 in printing and postage. We send copies of our newsletters to local churches and students who request. Can you **send a donation to allow us to continue to send newsletters** to those who can't afford to pay even the \$10 cost?

One generous member is paying for our white rubber "Life is Precious" type bracelets, which are a major drawing item handout at our mall table. One of our best tools, the "What they never told you about the facts of Life," an eight-fold

pamphlet that colorfully illustrates and describes the developing baby, costs \$.75 each, and we distribute 25-60 per mall table day. **Would you consider sending \$20-50 so we can replenish our quickly dwindling supply?**

Please remember us in your year-end giving, and send your tax-deductible contribution today using the enclosed envelope... if we all contribute even a few dollars, we can make this deficit a memory.

God bless you for your sacrifice and generosity!

### **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.