

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

**October 2010**

## **Embryonic Stem Cell Research Hurts Women**

“LIFE BEGINS AT FERTILIZATION” is one of our mantras. Whenever we do a media interview, especially one relating to stem cell research, we try to include that line, proclaiming that the life of the baby/embryo is terminated in the “creation” of an embryonic stem cell line. However the baby isn’t the only one harmed in the process of getting the “raw materials” for embryonic stem cell research; women’s health is compromised in the harvesting of eggs used to make the embryos that ultimately become the embryonic stem cell lines.

You've probably seen them—most of us have. Ads soliciting women to donate their eggs for in vitro fertilization are everywhere: on the Internet, on college campus bulletin boards and in newspapers. Young women all over the world are solicited by ads—via college campus bulletin boards, social media, online classifieds—offering up to \$100,000 for their “donated” eggs, to “help make someone’s dream come true.” But who is this egg donor? Is she treated justly? What are the short- and long-term risks to her health? The answers to these questions will disturb you . . .

It's rarely mentioned by the media that all the eggs that help make those embryos have to come from somewhere—that is, from these young women, young gals who are not being advised of the risks to their own health. And often the excess IVF embryos are sacrificed to create embryonic stem cell lines. It will only get worse because of the mania for embryonic stem cell research.

Most people don't even think twice about it; an opportunity for a young, altruistic woman to earn a little cash (up to \$100,000) and do something nice for an infertile couple, and after all, it's all supervised by doctors. What could be wrong with that?

Plenty, according a documentary entitled “Eggsplaiton,” produced by the Center for Bioethics and Culture (CBC), uncovering the dangers in the current quest for human eggs mainly for the in-vitro fertilization procedure.

The documentary goes behind the façade to show the dark side of egg donation. The CBC acknowledges that much of their evidence is anecdotal—because it had to be. One of their main points, in fact, is that it's deeply disturbing how little data has been collected about what has become a multi-billion-dollar industry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2007 “in the United States alone, over 17,000 reproductive technology cycles were performed using donated eggs.” And yet, in this massive business, no records are kept and no standard follow-up care is provided for the young women undergoing this procedure.

And the procedure itself is far more problematic than those upbeat ads would lead you to believe. The women involved are given hormones to force their bodies to produce far more eggs than they normally would — and that, as you might expect, has consequences.

The young women interviewed in this film talk about suffering from strokes, brain damage, internal bleeding, or infertility after the procedure. Some ended up with cancer, even those who had no family history of the disease. Others nearly died from complications of the surgery done to retrieve the eggs.

But the problems go beyond that. The women involved in egg donation are being exploited, essentially being turned into human commodities. “A woman has become a walking ovary,” is how one researcher puts it in the film. The ideal woman for the job, a so-called “elite donor,” is one with a high I.Q., a sense of altruism, and a need for cash—hence the plethora of ads on college campuses. For all intents and purposes, these women are used and then thrown away.



They are providing genetic material for their own biological children, whom they may never have a chance to know. If they express any concerns or reservations, according to the young women interviewed in the film, they are pressured and even guilt-tripped into continuing.

"I urge every young woman I know not to do this," says one young donor in the film who has good reason to regret what she did. We need to listen to her and other young women like her, instead of treating them like disposable objects in the fertility racket.

To purchase the DVD go to:  
<http://www.eggsploitation.com/purchase.htm>  
 or contact the Center for Bioethics and Culture at  
 The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network  
 130 Market Place, #146, San Ramon, CA 94583  
[cbcinfo@cbc-network.org](mailto:cbcinfo@cbc-network.org) We also have a copy in our library, available for loan. Contact our office for further information.

**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)**

## Test your Knowledge

*Our students are beginning mid-term exams. Perhaps all of us can pause and check our knowledge of pro-life facts.*

- 1) Abortion is legal in the United States:
  - A) During the first trimester of any pregnancy for any reason
  - B) Through the second trimester when approved by at least two physicians
  - C) For any reason, throughout the entire pregnancy
- 2) What percentage of pregnancies in the United States end in abortion?
  - A) 5%
  - B) 15%
  - C) Almost 25%
- 3) What percentage of abortions is for rape?
  - A) 1%
  - B) 5%
  - C) 10%
- 4) What percentage of abortions are performed for one of the following reasons: mother is not ready for the responsibility of parenting, family can't afford a baby right now, or family unwilling at this time to make lifestyle changes a baby would require?
  - A) Less than 15%
  - B) Over 20%
  - C) Over 55%
  - D) Over 75%
- 5) What percentage of women feel pressured by others into having their abortions?
  - A) 12%
  - B) 51%
  - C) 64%
- 6) What percentage of women felt uncertain at the time of their abortion?
  - A) 12%
  - B) 54%
  - C) 93%
- 7) How many women received no counseling by the clinic or other service provider who performed the abortion?
  - A) 0-10%
  - B) 45%
  - C) 67%
- 8) How many were informed by the abortion provider of available alternatives?
  - A) 50%
  - B) 33%
  - C) 21%
- 9) When does the fetal heartbeat begin?
  - A) 21 days after fertilization
  - B) 44 days after fertilization
  - C) Two months
  - D) Beginning of second trimester
- 10) What percentage of abortions is performed after this point?
  - A) 13%
  - B) 48%
  - C) 77%
- 11) When the Supreme Court overturns the Roe V. Wade decision...
  - A) Abortion will automatically become illegal in all 50 states immediately
  - B) Each state will determine the policy for abortion for that state
  - C) No one knows what will happen
- 12) What percentage of women have had an abortion by age 40?
  - A) 10%
  - B) 30%
  - C) Over 50%
- 13) What percentage of women having an abortion have had at least one previous abortion?
  - A) 14%
  - B) 32%
  - C) 48%
- 14) If a teenager has an abortion in the past six months, how much more likely is she to commit suicide?
  - A) No more likely
  - B) Twice as likely
  - C) Four times more likely
  - D) Six times more likely
  - E) Ten times more likely

- 15) What is the #1 killer of pregnant women?  
 A) Breast cancer  
 B) Heart disease  
 C) Homicide  
 D) Suicide
- 16) Abortion increases the risk of a future miscarriage by how much?  
 A) Less than 10%  
 B) 10-25%  
 C) 33-50%  
 D) 60%
- 17) Based on recent polling data, what percentage of Americans DO NOT support “abortion on demand?”  
 A) 46% B) 64% c) 75%
- 18) Partial Birth Abortion is legal for the following reason:  
 A) When necessary to save the life of the mother  
 B) When approved by two physicians  
 C) Never
- 19) Planned Parenthood – the largest provider of abortion in the United States receives how much of their revenues from taxpayer dollars? (based on latest available data as of 2006)  
 A) No taxpayer dollars  
 B) 6.2% or \$55.8 million  
 C) 33.8% or \$305 million

**TRUE or FALSE:**

- 20) Umbilical cord stem cells are embryonic stem cells.
- 21) Embryonic Stem Cells have cured people with Parkinson’s disease, and spinal cord injuries.
- 22) Fat cells can be used to create adult stem cells.
- 23) Bone Marrow transplants are adult stem cells.
- 24) Men suffer from post-abortion syndrome.

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

- 25) You hear of a woman who is contemplating abortion. You want to give her a phone number to get help. What number would you give her? What agency is this number?
- 26) A woman (or man) is regretting an abortion. Where can they call to get help?

- 27) You want to provide written instructions for your final care, should you be unable to voice your preferences. What document would you want? Where can you get the document?

**Support CA Right to Life Educational Fund through workplace campaigns!**

If you are a federal civilian employee, employed by the postal service, or in the U.S. Military, please consider contributing to California Right to Life Educational Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign.

**Our CFC number is 49743.**

Corporate employees may participate in the United Way campaign, and those in other areas may be able to write us in. Ask your on-site campaign coordinator for more information.

**Please share this opportunity with coworkers, family, and friends** who share our vision to educate, counsel, and protect all innocent human life from fertilization to natural death.

**Answers to Quiz**

<b>1-C</b>	<b>7-C</b>	<b>13-C</b>	<b>19-C</b>
<b>2-C</b>	<b>8-C</b>	<b>14-D</b>	<b>20-F</b>
<b>3-A</b>	<b>9-A</b>	<b>15-C</b>	<b>21-F</b>
<b>4-C</b>	<b>10-C</b>	<b>16-D</b>	<b>22-T</b>
<b>5-C</b>	<b>11-B</b>	<b>17-C</b>	<b>23-T</b>
<b>6-B</b>	<b>12-B</b>	<b>18-C</b>	<b>24-T</b>

#25 See box on p.2

#26 The Silent No More Awareness Campaign  
<http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/>

#27 DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE  
 available from International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide  
 PO Box 760 - Steubenville, OH 43952  
 Phone: 740-282-3810 Toll Free: 800-958-5678  
<http://www.internationaltaskforce.org/advdir.htm>

## Calendar of Events

**September 22-October 31 - Fall 40-Days-for-Life**

Please visit <http://www.40daysforlife.com/>

### **Saturday November 13 San Francisco Medical Guild Mass and Banquet**

Mass 5PM - St. Thomas More Church 1300 Junipero Serra Blvd. SF. Banquet to follow at Alma Via of San Francisco, 1 Thomas More Way, San Francisco.

Dr. Ronald G. Connolly will speak on "A Physician's Fight for his Conscience" and his book I Bet My Life on It.

Donation \$25 (students \$10) For further information contact Dr. George Maloof, M.D.

[gemaloof2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gemaloof2003@yahoo.com) or 415-305-2408.

**Saturday - January 22, 2011 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life.** Mark your calendars now (if you haven't already) for the largest gathering of Pro-Lifers on the West Coast. For further information visit:

<http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>

### **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.

