



HEALTH CARE REFORM SIGNED INTO LAW WILL WIDELY EXPAND ABORTION

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the most abortion-expansive legislation that ever reached the floor of either house of Congress since *Roe v. Wade*. This new law will require federal agencies to subsidize and administer health plans that will pay for elective abortion and will undermine pro-life policies in other ways as well. Before passage of the H.R. 3590 Bill, NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson, stated, "...The Senate bill would allow direct federal funding of abortion on demand through Community Health Centers, would institute federal subsidies for private health plans that cover abortion on demand – including some federally administered plans – and would authorize federal mandates that could require even non-subsidized private plans to cover elective abortion." The executive order that the President signed to prohibit funding of abortion, cannot amend a bill and the federal courts will enforce what the law says. For the State of Ohio, 13th District Representative Betty Sutton and 9th District Representative Marcy Kaptur both voted **for** this legislation. The Ohio Representatives that voted **against** it were Jean Schmidt (R-OH-2), Michael Turner (R-OH-3), Jim Jordan (R-OH-4), Robert Latta (R-OH-5), Steve Austria (R-OH-7), John Boehner (R-OH-8), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH-12), Steve LaTourette (R-OH-14) and Zack Space (D-OH-18). (From *NRTL News Feb/March 2010*)

NEWS & NOTES:

CORN FESTIVAL – Lorain County Right to Life is planning to attend this year's Corn Festival in North Ridgeville, the weekend of August 13-15th, 2010. This will be our first time participation in this event. We hope to see you there!

ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: In just a few short months, Lorain County Right to Life will begin contacting and scheduling volunteers for our Information Booth for the **Lorain County Fair and Elyria Apple Festival**. We are currently looking for an Assistant Coordinator to help with the contacting and scheduling of volunteers. If you would be interested in this position, please call us at 440-322-0076.

BILL ON JUDICIAL BYPASS OF PARENTAL CONSENT FOR ABORTION. Sen. Tim Grendell (R, Chesterland) and Sen. Karen Gillmor (R, Tiffin) recently introduced S.B. 242, a bill to revise the process of judicial bypass under Ohio's Parental Consent for Abortion statute. The bill addresses the fact that some judges are giving virtual

"rubber-stamp" approval to judicial bypass requests. In a 2008 Columbus Dispatch article on bypass hearings, one Franklin County judge indicated that she had never denied a bypass request and another judge stated that she had denied only one request. For updates on the status of this bill, go to LorainCountyRightToLife.org.

PRO-LIFE CONTACTS NEEDED: Each fall we start working on our annual Signature Ad/Billboard Campaign, which concludes with the Signature Ad appearing in our local newspapers on January 22, the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. To help increase our participation and expand our outreach to more churches in Lorain County, we are seeking additional Pro-Life contacts from churches in Lorain County. If your church has not participated in the past and you think your church would be interested, please call us at 440-322-0076. In November we will mail out all the information you will need to participate.

"LOVING HANDS OF MERCY": We are pleased to announce that the "Loving Hands of Mercy" garden statues (shown below) will again be for sale at Kelly Anne Growers, 5913 Avon Belden Road, N. Ridgeville. (440) 327-0404. There are two sizes available. The larger size is \$29.99 and the smaller size is \$25.99. All proceeds from the sale of the garden statues are donated to Lorain County Right to Life.



"Loving Hands of Mercy"

"PAUL REVERE LIST" EMAIL ALERTS: To be kept apprised of "emergency" information such as upcoming Congressional votes on life issues, send your email address to jackcat@centurytel.net. You can play an important role in contacting our representatives to voice our prolife viewpoint.

UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BILL: On March 31, 2010, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed H.B. 102. The new law, which was sponsored by Rep. Todd Brook (D-McDermott), requires the Ohio Department of Health to place printable information on umbilical cord blood banking and donation on its website. The Department of Health also will encourage health care professionals to provide the information to

pregnant women. HB 102 passed the Ohio Senate by a vote of 32-0 on March 24, 2010. The Ohio House then voted 97-0 to concur in the Senate amendments. Umbilical cord blood is an ethical and non-controversial source of stem cells that can be obtained with no risk to the mother or child. Stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood have been used to successfully treat over 70 diseases including sickle cell anemia, leukemia, and lymphoma. Unfortunately, most umbilical cord blood is currently being discarded after birth. The new law takes effect on June 30, 2010. The Ohio Dept. of Health Web-Site is www.odh.ohio.gov, or go to LorainCoutyRightToLife.org.

WHEN HUMAN LIFE BEGINS

We found the following article from the *National Catholic Register*, 1/2/10, an excellent source on the subject of when human life begins. Because of its length we will have the beginning of the article in this issue and the rest in the next issue of the newsletter.

In her paper "*When Does Human Life Begin? A Scientific Perspective*," Maureen Condic, a senior fellow at The Westchester Institute for Ethics & the Human Person, spells out the simple scientific facts. It's available at Westchestei-Institute.net.

In a conversation with the Register's Sue Ellin Browder, Condic, who is, also associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Utah School of Medicine, explained how these facts can help all people of good will deepen our nation's dialogue about the beginnings of life.

You said the first step to understanding when a human person begins is to understand how a whole living being (an organism) differs from a clump of cells.

Yes. Living beings exist, and we all recognize them - dogs, cats, mosquitoes, oak trees, people. As living beings, we're all integrated, functioning wholes. We have parts that all work together in order to do the job of life. Sometimes diseases, injuries or defects - birth defects, for example - can compromise the functioning of the whole being. But even if a little baby is born without arms, a very unfortunate birth defect, we all recognize it's still a baby.

So a living being differs from a clump of cells in that the organism has interacting parts working together as a coordinated whole?

Yes. Although collections of human cells are alive, they fail to work together in an interdependent coordinated way to "carry on the activities of life."

So when do you first see an embryo behaving in this way - as a whole being with integrated parts all working together in a coordinated way?

The scientific evidence on this is very clear. You see this kind of holistic functioning from the moment when a new cell, distinct from the sperm and the egg, comes into existence.

How quickly does this fusion between sperm and egg take place?

It's a very rapid event. In less than a second, an entirely new human cell comes into existence. This new human cell (known as a zygote) has a unique molecular composition that's distinct from either the sperm or the egg. And its behavior also differs, radically from that of either sperm or egg.

In what way?

Well, for example, the zygote's first act is to change its composition so no other sperm can bind to its surface. This happens within the first 30 minutes following sperm-egg fusion.

So you're saying this little single cell biologically acts as a coordinated whole "in its own interest," so to speak?

I would say that even at the one-cell stage, the zygote is directing its own development. About five or six days later, at about the time of implantation, the embryo produces a hormone that can be detected in the mother's blood or urine to tell her she's pregnant.

This human zygote seems to be very busy. Why do so many people believe a human person's life begins at a later stage?

Many people think that because the embryo isn't fully formed, it's not a new individual. A colleague recently told me that the embryo is merely "a unique human cell in the process of becoming a new human, but not there yet."

This way of thinking is compelling because it's similar to our thinking about the much more familiar process of manufacturing. A car isn't a car until it rolls off the assembly line. Until then, it's just a bunch of parts in the process of becoming a car.

But you said a profound difference exists between manufacturing a car and embryonic development. And what is that?

The difference is who (or what) is doing the "producing." The embryo is not being passively built by some external "builder" controlling the assembly process. Rather, the embryo is manufacturing itself. There is actually no endpoint to the "building" of a self-organizing human being. It's an ongoing process that continues from sperm-egg fusion - the "moment of conception" - through -birth, maturation and aging and ends only in death.

If a person begins at fusion (fertilization), what does this say about "emergency contraception" pills like Plan B?

The manufacturer says Plan B doesn't kill a person because it doesn't disrupt an implanted pregnancy.

Well, I think the jury is still out on whether Plan B kills an implanted embryo. But my concern is that, once an embryo has been conceived even preventing implantation is killing it.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists actually redefined "pregnancy" in 1965 as beginning not at fertilization but at implantation. Some say it was done to get around the fact an intrauterine device could cause abortions. What do you think of that?

I think it was done for political reasons. But, that said, I think defining "pregnancy" as implantation makes perfect sense both medically and biologically.

(Continued on Last Page)

A THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS: We would like to thank those who have recently provided business cards for advertising in the newsletter. .

We encourage recipients of the newsletter to patronize these businesses when you have the opportunity. Again, thank you for your support of Lorain County Right to Life



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Interesting. Why?

Because "pregnancy" is the state of the woman, and a woman does not become pregnant until she's gestating an embryo or fetus. That requires implantation.

But that's irrelevant to the life of the individual conceived at fertilization. I actually think a fairly strong legal argument can be made that taking a lethal action against a human being prior to implantation steps outside the whole Roe v. Wade jurisprudence entirely.

In what way?

The whole basis of the "right" to an abortion is that a woman has a right to control her own body.

Ah. But prior to implantation, the self-organizing human embryo isn't attached to her body.

Right. It's not involving your body if you're taking lethal action toward an embryo prior to implantation.

In Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court declined to decide when a human person begins. Could these new biological facts challenge Roe v. Wade at its very foundation?

Let's put it this way: We need to define what we're actually taking lethal action against because the biology is unequivocal. You can't argue with the biology. Anybody who tries will be blown out of the water. There's no argument about the fact that embryos are human beings from a scientifically well-defined "moment of conception." That's what they are.

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