

Nebraska Right to Life

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State Affiliate to
the National Right
to Life Committee



Inside This Issue

Other states look to pass laws similar to Nebraska's Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

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404 S. 11th Street • P.O. Box 80410 • Lincoln, NE 68501 • (402) 438-4802

Nebraska Walk For Life

Saturday, January 29, 2011

10 a.m. West Side, State Capitol, 14th & K Streets, Lincoln
11:30 a.m. UN-L Student Union, 14th & R Streets

Keynote Speech by

Melissa Ohden, Abortion Survivor

Join the annual commemoration of the 53 million unborn babies' lives who have been aborted since Roe v. Wade was foisted upon our nation in 1973. The Walk is a family-friendly, peaceful, legal event. We begin on the west side of the State Capitol with a short program at 10 a.m. By 10:30 a.m. we are lining up to walk eight blocks through downtown Lincoln to the University of Nebraska Student Union at 14th & R Streets, where we will head inside to the second floor Ballroom and Centennial Room. Inside the Union will be hot beverages, baked goods, tables representing pro-life groups AND our keynote speaker, Melissa Ohden, an abortion survivor. Dress warmly, bring the family and enjoy the camaraderie of getting together with thousands of other pro-life Nebraskans.

Donations are needed for the Bake Sale at the Student Union following the Walk. Proceeds help defray expenses of the Walk, which is paid for by Nebraska Right to Life. Please bring items to the Student Union South entrance beginning at 8 a.m. the day of the Walk, or call 438-4802 for pick-up on Jan. 28th.

Other activities: Holy Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, across the street from the Capitol. Parking for Mass in parking garage north of church. Parking for Walk around Capitol, south of Capitol and downtown public pay garages or metered parking between Student Union and Capitol.



Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life and being born alive at approximately six months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived. With a Master's Degree in Social Work, she has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence/sexual assault counseling, and child welfare.

In Melissa's own words, being an abortion attempt survivor encompasses so much more than just herself, or her fellow unborn brothers and sisters. Melissa has witnessed firsthand how her biological mother's abortion attempt not only impacted herself, and her adoptive family, but also her husband and his family, her friends and acquaintances, and now her own child, Olivia. They live in Sioux City, Iowa.



NRL's Julie Schmit-Albin met with representatives of Council Bluffs and Iowa pro-life groups in December as they work to keep LeRoy Carhart from moving his abortion business across the river from Bellevue.

Nebraska Right to Life Priority Legislation Has Abortionist Carhart Fleeing the State

Nebraska Right to Life's priority legislation, LB 1103, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, was passed by the Nebraska Legislature in April and has already met with success. The bill enacts a ban on abortion at 20 weeks and beyond due to medical documentation that unborn children of that gestation are capable of feeling pain. Speaker Mike Flood introduced the bill and worked with NRL's Executive Director Julie Schmit-Albin and National Right to Life State Legislative Director Mary Spaulding Balch in passing the bill. LB 1103 was enacted Oct. 15th and to date, the abortion industry has not mounted a legal challenge to the law. What has occurred is that Bellevue abortionist LeRoy Carhart is taking his later abortion business out of Nebraska due to the law.

Carhart was quoted in the Omaha World-Herald on 11/10/10: "This sort of forced us. We had to do it," Carhart said. "In Iowa and Maryland, we can do the later cases."

Carhart announced that he will be attempting to find a place in Council Bluffs, Iowa, just across the river to set up shop. He is also moonlighting in Germantown, MD and Indianapolis, IN.

Legislators in Iowa and Indiana have indicated that they are looking to replicate Nebraska's success by passing the unborn baby pain ban in their States. Schmit-Albin and Spaulding Balch spoke at the Kentucky Right to Life Conference in October and Kentucky legislators

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How Many Later Abortions & Abortionists Are There?

Reprinted with permission from Today's News & Views

By Dave Andrusko

Editor's note. This is excerpted from an NRLC analysis entitled, "Carhart Move Demonstrates Need for Protective Legislation"

In an interview with Colorado abortionist Warren Hern published online November 5, 2010, TIME Magazine perpetuated the prevalent myth that there are few, if any abortionists who perform abortions late in pregnancy. The Washington Post's Rob Stein also furthered the myth in a November 10 piece saying that LeRoy Carhart "is one of the few in the country to perform abortions late in pregnancy." The truth is, abortions in the fifth month of pregnancy and later are widely available.

A 2008 study, "Abortion in the United States: Incidence and Access to Services, 2005," released by the Guttmacher Institute (which was originally founded as a special research affiliate of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America) found that, in 2005, there were at least 1,787 abortion providers in the United States. (It is worth noting that submission for the Guttmacher study is voluntary. As a result, Guttmacher projects estimates

for non-responders meaning that the figures cited are estimated calculations and therefore most likely represent minimum numbers and calculations.)

Of the 1,787 providers, the study found that "[t]wenty percent of providers offered abortions after 20 weeks [LMP--Last Menstrual Period], and only 8 percent at 24 weeks [LMP]..." This translates to at least 300 abortion providers who will perform abortions after 20 weeks LMP, of whom 140 are willing to perform abortions at 24 weeks LMP.

Assuming that the 8percent of abortion providers willing to perform abortions at 24 weeks LMP would do so at 22 weeks LMP means that there are at least 140 abortion providers willing to abort a pain-capable unborn children at 22 weeks LMP (20 weeks postfertilization).

"That more than 140 abortion providers are willing to kill unborn children who are capable of feeling the excruciating pain of abortion is a tragedy – a tragedy that we can easily stop in the state legislatures," NRLC Director of State Legislation Mary Spaulding Balch commented.

It is also misleading to conclude that the abortions which Hern, Carhart

and their ilk are performing are "rare." According to a May 2010 briefing by the Guttmacher Institute, 1.5 percent of the estimated more than 1.2 million elective abortions performed annually in the United States are on unborn children at 21 weeks LMP (19 weeks postfertilization) or older. This translates to roughly 18,000 abortions annually – a substantial number of which probably occur at 22 weeks LMP or later, which is past the point that the best evidence indicates that the unborn child is fully capable of feeling pain (a point that may well occur earlier).

These findings are generally corroborated by the Centers for Disease Control Abortion Surveillance Report for 2006 (released November 27, 2009). In the 43 reporting areas for 2006 which reported gestational age to the CDC for its report, at least 1.3 percent, of abortions were performed at 21 weeks or later. (Three states – California, Louisiana and New Hampshire – did not submit any data for 2006. Six states – Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and Nebraska – either did not report gestational age or gestational age was reported as unknown for more than 15 percent of women.)

At the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities Banquet in October

NRL President Sandy Danek of Lincoln with her son Timothy who is a seminarian at St. Gregory the Great Seminary.



Dr. Alveda King, speaker at the BPPPA Banquet in October with Pat Adam of Omaha



Congratulations to one of our door prize winners

Helen Messenger of Burwell, (left) receives a door prize from NRL Board Member Janet Kaus of Morrill from the NRL Table at the BPPP Convention.





Nebraska law featured at NRLC Conference

From left, Jeff Meister, Maryland RTL; Anita Woudenberg, Indiana RTL; Jenifer Bowen, Iowa RTL; and Julie Schmit-Albin, Nebraska RTL at the National Right to Life State Legislative Strategy Conference Dec. 7th in Virginia. These are the three states to which LeRoy Carhart is running to evade Nebraska's new unborn baby pain ban. Julie spoke at the Conference, at which time states came together to learn how to pass the laws similar to Nebraska's Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, among others.

Legislation Has Abortionist Carhart Fleeing the State

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also are planning to introduce a similar law.

"When LB 1103 passed I said it would take off like wild-fire in the States," said Schmit-Albin. "I think we will see that come to fruition this next legislative cycle. State affiliates to NRLC are emboldened by the fact that our adversaries have not posed a legal challenge to the law. That speaks to the solidness of the legislative record laid down by Speaker Flood and his fellow pro-life senators when the bill was going through the Nebraska Legislature."

Nebraska Right to Life was the main proponent behind the passage of LB 1103. It was branded at NRL's Walk for Life last January as our priority legislation and was the centerpiece of our Pro-Life Legislative Day held in February. NRL worked with NRLC to bring in four expert witnesses for the LB 1103 hearing that same day and a press conference was held that morning. Throughout floor debate on the bill, opponents insisted it would be immediately challenged in the Courts. In fact, opponents asked Speaker Flood for a three month extension on LB 1103's enactment date, from July 15th to Oct. 15th, precisely because they wanted to give legal experts on their side additional time to mount a challenge. To date all of the usual suspects on the other side have been uncharacteristically silent about LB 1103's implementation without a legal challenge. The Center for Reproductive Rights merely says a challenge will come "when the circumstances are appropriate."

Apparently our opponents do not find Carhart to be a sympathetic plaintiff and the fact that he stands to lose financially due to the law would not elicit much of a response from the American public. No doubt they are waiting to find the "hard case" as they did when they concocted the story around Norma McCorvey, the Jane Roe in Roe v. Wade. Also, Carhart has been a plaintiff twice in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. The first time when he prevailed in 2000 on Nebraska's partial birth abortion ban (Carhart v. Stenberg) and the second time when he lost in 2007 on the federal partial birth abortion ban (Carhart v. Gonzalez).

In the meantime NRL is working with pro-lifers in Iowa

to assist them in their efforts to keep Carhart out of Council Bluffs. Schmit-Albin attended a meeting there with representatives from several Iowa and Council Bluffs pro-life groups and is providing information on Nebraska's laws in the hopes that Iowa's Legislature will mimic Nebraska.

"We hope that any State Legislatures that pursue the NRLC/Nebraska model legislation will adhere to it as that is what is behind the success of getting Carhart out of Nebraska," said Schmit-Albin. "Clearly our Legislature did the right thing in following this model and if other States adhere to it, they will see abortionists shut down in their States too."

A Guttmacher Institute (see Page 2) study shows that out of 1,787 abortionists in the country, 300 of them do abortions up to 20 weeks gestation and 140 of them go beyond 20 weeks.

"Almost every State probably has at least one abortionist who would be impacted by passing this legislation," said Schmit-Albin. "Our opponents don't know what to do. They don't want State Legislatures discussing the fact that unborn children feel pain and suffer excruciatingly painful deaths by abortion. However, just as with the partial birth abortion ban debate, the baby will be back at the center of the debate and our opponents are fearful of that fact. This will not be an easy debate for them to deflect."

“ Our opponents don't know what to do. They don't want State Legislatures discussing the fact that unborn children feel pain and suffer excruciatingly painful deaths by abortion. ”

Between a Woman and Her Monitor

Planned Parenthood Using Web Cams for Chemical Abortions in Iowa

Reprinted with permission from NRL News
By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D.

It was long suspected, but recent press reports have confirmed that Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, one of the national organization's Iowa affiliates, has been facilitating chemical abortions via telemedicine (web cam) since July 2008. This first of its kind in the nation system is supposed to make it possible for women in remote areas to obtain abortions without ever having to actually physically meet a doctor.

About 1,500 women have used the video conferencing system for abortion so far. Other abortionists are taking a close look at the project and Planned Parenthood expects other states to follow in offering telemedicine abortions soon (Des Moines Register, 5/16/10; KCCI.com, 5/19/10). Sixteen of PP Heartland's 19 clinics offer these tele-

Photo courtesy of Vital Signs Ministries



New Planned Parenthood abortion facility now open near 93rd & Maple in Omaha.

medicine abortions.

How does this work? Planned Parenthood tells the Register that a woman comes in and takes a pregnancy test at the clinic and then, if the test comes back positive, has an ultrasound. The images are sent electronically to the doctor in another city.

Clinic staff counsel the woman about her options, give her printed information about the abortion pill, and then have her watch an eight-minute video prepared by Planned Parenthood (see <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-topics/abortion/abortion-pill-medication-abortion-4354.htm>).

The video talks about the abortion process and side effects such as cramping and bleeding, but tells women these are similar to what is experienced in a "heavy period." She is assured that the procedure is safe. Then the video offers a re-enactment of a follow up visit two weeks later. In it the clinicians tell the woman she is not pregnant anymore and she responds, "That's great. I really would like a baby sometime. But right now, we just can't afford it. I'm really glad we had this choice."

After watching the video, the woman is asked if she'd like to obtain the drugs using an electronic conferencing system. If she says yes, she is seated at a desk in front of a computer monitor with a camera where she can tele-conference with the doctor, who could be as many as 190 miles away.

The doctor goes over her medical history and talks to her about the pills she will be taking and how they will work. After giving her a chance to ask questions, the doctor enters a command on a computer keyboard and a drawer in the desk where the woman is seated opens to reveal two bottles of pills.

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Ask Your State Senator to Support Nebraska Right to Life's Efforts to Stop Web Cam Chemical Abortions Before They Start!

Pro-life Iowans not only have to contend with LeRoy Carhart trying to set up shop in Council Bluffs, they are also battling Planned Parenthood of the Heartland's Web Cam RU-486 chemical abortion scheme which was implemented across Iowa the past year. (See Dr. Randall O'Bannon's story on how Web Cam abortions are being promulgated.) Iowa Right to Life estimates over 1,500 of these abortions have been done since July 2008. Last year Planned Parenthood of Nebraska merged with Planned Parenthood of Des Moines and they recently engulfed Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa. So now we have a huge Planned Parenthood conglomerate which encompasses Nebraska, Iowa and some western Illinois counties, all under the name of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. They have used Iowa as a testing ground for their dangerous Web Cam abortion scheme, whereby young girls and women will be completing their abortions at home with the threat of not being able to access medical care or follow-up. Imagine a teenage girl hemorrhaging at home or school several days after she has started the RU-486 pill regimen, and delivering her tiny dead baby without any idea that she would be confronted with that image, pain and bleeding.

We must put a stop to this before PP Heartland brings their Web Cam scheme to Nebraska. This is the new frontier for PP which knows its major obstacles are "access" to rural areas and "lack of abortionists" to do surgical abortions. Always coming up with new ways to kill unborn children, you've got to acknowledge the abortion industry is on its toes. Nebraska Right to Life wants to nip this in the bud before we have 20 plus PP sites around the State sending young girls and women home on a dangerous chemical abortion regimen. We are visiting with several pro-life state senators about introducing National Right to Life's model legislation to Stop Web Cam Chemical Abortions Before They Start. Coming on the heels of the 2010 session's successful passage of NRLC's Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the subsequent running out of the State by LeRoy Carhart, we think the Legislature will want to address the next big threat to the health and safety of Nebraska women and the protection of their unborn children.

Action Alert!

Please contact your State Senator by accessing their phone or email at www.nebraskalegislature.gov and ask them to support the introduction of NRLC's [Stop WebCam Chemical Abortions Before They Start](#) model legislation. The Legislature convenes January 5th and bill introduction is confined to the first ten business days so time is short. Remember to ask them to support National Right to Life and Nebraska Right to Life's effort to impede Planned Parenthood from gaining access in our rural areas with Web Cam Chemical Abortions.



Nebraska Right to Life PAC Successful in Election

Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee got involved in the General Election by endorsing 34 candidates in 31 state races, with 26 of those endorsed candidates winning. 60,000 NRL PAC Voter Guides were distributed in both the General and Primary Election cycles by volunteers across the State.

Planned Parenthood Using Web Cams for Chemical Abortions in Iowa

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The first contains mifepristone, which she is instructed to take in the office while the doctor observes via the monitor. It will starve the child over the next couple of days. The second set of pills, which she is given to take later at home, are misoprostol, a prostaglandin that will stimulate powerful uterine contractions to dislodge and expel the tiny corpse.

Women are told in the video that they should feel normal a day after taking the misoprostol at home. If they are not, or if they are experiencing other problems, they are told to call Planned Parenthood's 24-hour hotline.

Planned Parenthood tells women the drugs are "safe and effective." There is no mention on the video or on the web site that at least 11 women are known to have died after taking the dangerous drugs or that at least a thousand women have suffered serious complications.

Nor does the video tell them that women have bled to death or that hundreds of women have hemorrhaged and required emergency medical care. Women are given something to help manage pain and told of other side effects like diarrhea and vomiting, but the video does not say that these have put women in the hospital.

Planned Parenthood mentions the possibility of infections, but the video does not explain how the symptoms of these are hard to distinguish from the bleeding, cramping, and gastrointestinal distress that often accompanies these abortions. They are told to contact Planned Parenthood if they have a fever, but the deadly infection that killed many of these women often comes without a fever.

Of course, women can call Planned Parenthood if they have a problem, but exactly what are they to do when the doctor is a couple of hundred miles away? Even if she makes it to a nearby emergency room, doctors there may be unfamiliar with the chemical abortion process or its risks or complications.

Even if they are fortunate enough to avoid hemorrhage or infection, for a certain percentage of women, these pills do not work. These women, if they are still determined to abort, will face a surgical procedure. Is Planned Parenthood expecting women from these rural areas to travel to Des Moines to complete their abortions?

Telemedicine (web cam) abortions generate buzz and open up a whole new customer base in locations where Planned Parenthood can't afford to post an abortionist. It gives some of their smaller offices a chance to bring in a very profitable product without having to make a lot of changes or buy a whole lot of new equipment.

If there are problems, they become other people's problems, because there is no doctor and the clinic isn't equipped to do surgery or handle some of the more serious complications.

Chemical abortions, even in locations where there is a live doctor present, are a much neater, cleaner enterprise—for the clinic, at least. Though women bleed profusely and cramp violently and pass the

child's emaciated body, they generally do so at home, not the clinic.

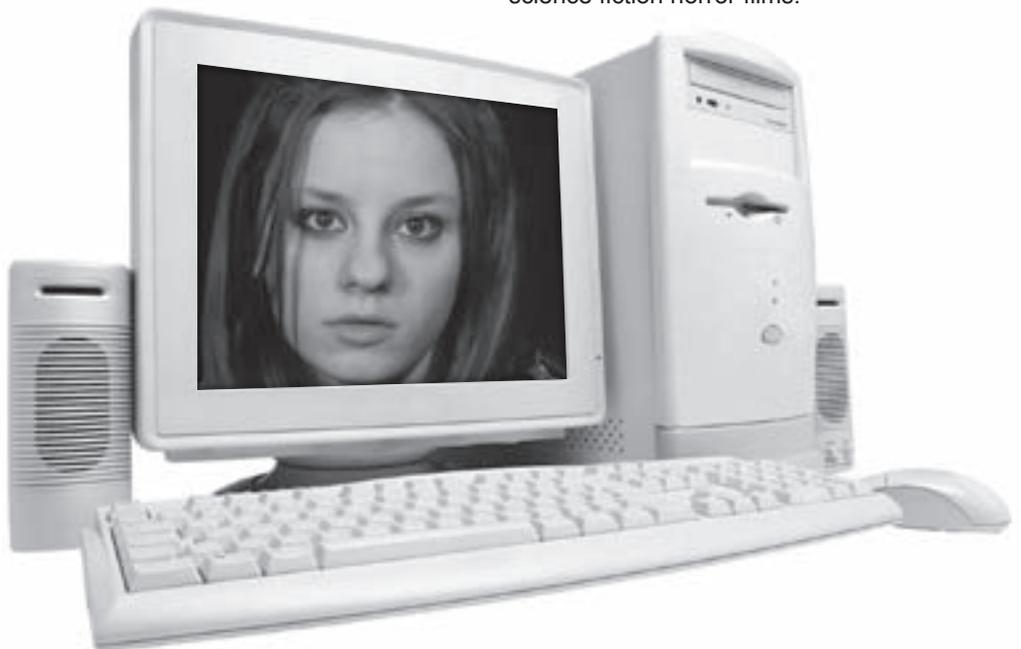
Planned Parenthood's Iowa affiliate participated in U.S. clinical trials of RU486 and was one of the early adopters of the method after its approval in September of 2000. And the numbers show the impact.

According to Iowa Right to Life, Planned Parenthood did nearly 2,000 more abortions in 2008 than in 2002 (4,492 versus 2,898), and chemical abortions in 2008 exceeded surgical ones (2,582 abortions with RU486, against 2,210 surgical abortions).

Those numbers will certainly get worse with the advent of telechemical abortions.

The illusion of an abortion decision made "between a woman and her doctor," her concerned personal physician, is shattered by the new telechemical abortion. Now, a woman's life is in the hands of a person she never meets and the death sentence of her child is handed down when a distant doctor who, miles away, merely clicks a button.

This isn't progress. It's one of those science fiction horror films.



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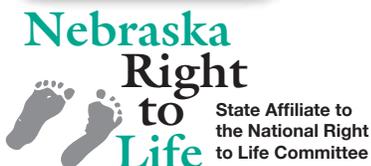
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Shirley & her husband Jack



Bernadine & her husband Don



Agnes (left front) with her family

Three women were honored by the Catholic Bishops of Nebraska for their pro-life activism at the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities Banquet in October.

Shirley Lang of Lincoln is a former President and Lobbyist for Nebraska Right to Life. She had been the MC for the Walk for Life since its inception and served locally on Lincoln Right to Life.

Bernadine Overman of Scottsbluff is the founder and longtime volunteer of Birthright in that region.

Agnes Schleppebach of Pierce is a founder of Pierce Right to Life and former board member of Nebraska Right to Life, Norfolk Birthright as well as a longtime parish pro-life volunteer.

Three Longtime Pro-Life Activists Honored by State's Catholic Bishops