

Nebraska Right to Life

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State Affiliate to
the National Right
to Life Committee

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Who Are The Pro-Life Regents And What Do We Need Them To Do?

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Baucus Healthcare Bill Includes Pro-Abortion Mandates

ABORTION MANDATES AND FEDERAL SUBSIDIES

The following statement may be attributed to Douglas Johnson, National Right to Life Federal Legislative Director, in reaction to Sen. Max Baucus' (D-MT) health care bill, introduced by the Senate Finance Committee.

The "America's Healthy Future Act," proposed today by Sen. Baucus contains an array of pro-abortion mandates and federal subsidies for elective abortion. National Right to Life strongly opposes the legislation in its current form. We will work in support of amendments to eliminate the abortion mandates and federal abortion subsidies.

The bill contains provisions that would send massive federal subsidies directly to both private insurance plans and government-chartered cooperatives that pay for elective abortion. This would be a drastic break from

longstanding federal policy, under which federal funds do not pay for elective abortions or subsidize health plans that cover elective abortions.

For example, current law prohibits any of the over 250 private health plans that participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program from paying for elective abortions, because these plans receive federal subsidies. These private plans cover over 8 million federal employees and dependents, including members of Congress.

Thus, under the Baucus bill, like the House Democratic leadership bill (H.R. 3200), federal funds would subsidize coverage of elective abortions. In addition, the Baucus bill requires that a specific charge must be included in the premiums paid by those who enroll in such subsidized plans, of at least "\$1 per enrollee, per month," which amounts

Action Alert

Senator Ben Nelson is the only pro-life Democrat in the Nebraska congressional delegation. He is in a position to negotiate. Call Sen. Nelson's D.C. and/or district office numbers and tell him to make sure the ban on abortion funding and expansion is in the Baucus Senate healthcare bill.

D.C. Office: 202-224-6551

Omaha: 402-391-3411

Lincoln: 402-441-4600

Kearney: 308-293-5818

Scottsbluff: 308-631-7614

So. Sioux City: 402-209-3595

to a surcharge specifically for elective abortions.

These bills are not consistent with President Obama's September 9 claim

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Former Employees of Bellevue Abortionist LeRoy Carhart Make Allegations Through Sworn Affidavits to Attorney General

"Serious allegations of criminal activity were presented to Attorney General Jon Bruning on September 3rd via sworn affidavits of three former employees of LeRoy Carhart's abortion facility," said Julie Schmit-Albin, Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life. "We were present at the meeting with the Attorney General and the three pro-life organizations which have been working to bring these allegations to light. We are hopeful that the AG will pursue a criminal investigation of Carhart and that other information turned over to the Nebraska



LeRoy Carhart's abortion facility in Bellevue.

Department of Health & Human Services will also work towards shutting down Carhart's abortion facility."

"Witnesses have come forward with sworn statements regarding what they saw and were asked to do inside Carhart's facility," Schmit-Albin said. "We expect DHHS will do its job with regard to concerns about regulatory and licensing violations and that the Attorney General will do his job with regard to criminal allegations. Having former employees willing to speak on record makes all the difference. It is what we should have had to pursue Planned Parenthood of Lincoln's abortion facility in 2002 when the former clinic director made anonymous allegations but refused to come forward publicly. We acknowledge that this cannot be an easy thing for Carhart's former employees but it is the necessary and right thing to do."

Columbus Area Right to Life's Annual Presence at Senior Citizens' Fair Shows Commitment to Life Through Entire Spectrum

Right to Life principles dictate that we advocate for the vulnerable and defenseless from fertilization through natural death. Columbus Area Right to Life (CARTL) lives up to this principle with its annual presence at the Columbus Senior Citizens' Fair.



This year CARTL had information this year on National Right to Life's version of an Advanced Directive, its Will to Life, tailored to Nebraska statutes. They also had hand-outs on the latest on rationing of life-saving medical treatment under proposed federal healthcare bills and handed out a lot of sheets with

Sen. Ben Nelson's phone numbers to contact regarding the legislation.

A special attraction was the drawing for free gift cards to area grocery stores and fast food restaurants which CARTL Co-President Barb McPhillips said was a big hit among the senior crowd.

Baucus Healthcare Bill Includes Pro-Abortion Mandates

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that "no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions," or with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius's September 13 affirmation that "no public funds would go to fund abortions." Funds spent by federal agencies are, by law, federal funds. The claim that under these bills, a federal agency would use "private funds" to subsidize abortions is absurd on its face -- a political hoax.

In addition, the Baucus bill provides \$6 billion in federal funds for the establishment of health insurance cooperatives, without any limitation on the use of these funds to pay for abortions or to subsidize plans that pay for elective abortions.

In addition, the Baucus bill contains language that would allow the federal government to declare abortion to be a "mandated benefit as part of a minimum benefits package" in any circumstances in which the federal Medicaid program could pay for an abortion. Currently, the federal Medicaid program pays for abortion only in three limited circum-

stances: to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest. But that limitation depends on language, the Hyde Amendment, that expires every September 30, and that must be renewed annually as part of the Health and Human Services appropriations bill.

Under the Baucus language, if one house of Congress, and/or the President, blocked renewal of the Hyde Amendment, many private insurance plans could be forced to include abortion on demand as a mandatory benefit in the minimum benefits package. This would be another major departure from the status quo. Currently, only 13 percent of all abortions are billed directly to private insurance, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

HEALTH CARE RATIONING

In addition to the abortion funding provisions described above, the bill also contains important elements that would greatly impact the ability of patients to receive unrationed medical care. The following statement may be attributed to David N. O'Steen, Ph.D., NRLC executive director:

With respect to rationing, the

proposal contains a Medicare provision that, beginning in 2015, would severely financially penalize physicians who are in the top 10 percent of medical resource use. This provision does not link funding to outcomes or quality; instead, it will force a "race to the bottom" with relentless pressure on doctors to limit health care for their older patients. On top of the significant Medicare cuts in the bill, this will gravely endanger the lives of America's senior citizens.

The bill does contain language to prevent the use of comparative effectiveness analysis in a manner that would discriminatorily deny treatment because of age, disability, or terminal illness; however, this language would not affect the financial incentive to ration care as described above.

There are other places in the bill where the Secretary of Health and Human Services is given discretion to regulate the treatment that health-care providers can give to their patients. NRLC will continue to review the bill and provide further analysis.

Who are the Pro-Life Regents and What Did They Agree to on the Nebraska Right to Life PAC Survey When They Ran for Office?

The following three questions have been on the Nebraska Right to Life Political Action Committee (NRL PAC) survey of candidates since approximately 2000 when it was discovered that aborted fetal brain tissue was being used in research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The following Regents have been endorsed by NRL PAC (in some cases, twice) over that period of time when they ran for the position. In order to get an NRL PAC endorsement they had to respond in the affirmative to the following three questions on the survey. In some cases personal interviews were also held or they had a prior voting record on the Board of Regents which assisted in confirming the continuation of the endorsement.

MEDICAL ETHICS QUESTIONS

Note: For Questions 9, 10 & 11, the term "use" means: "the sale, purchase, research and/or transplantation of."

9. Would you support banning the

"use" of aborted fetal tissue for medical research?

10. Would you support banning the "use" of human embryonic stem cells, either multiple frozen embryos created through in vitro fertilization or embryos created for the express purpose of medical research?

11. Would you support banning the "use" of cloning of human embryos either for therapeutic research or for reproductive purposes?

The following Regents responded in the affirmative and were endorsed by NRL PAC, with the exception of Bob Phares, who responded too late in the cycle to receive an endorsement.

TIM CLARE, DIST. 1

HOWARD HAWKS, DIST. 2

RANDY FERLIC, DIST. 4

JAMES MCCLURG, DIST. 5

BOB PHARES, DIST. 7

These other three Regents have either not responded to the NRL

PAC survey or responded in a manner which did not qualify them for endorsement:

Chuck Hassebrook, Dist. 3

Bob Whitehouse, Dist. 4

Kent Schroeder, Dist. 6

As you can see, there is a pro-life majority now sitting on the Board of Regents. The policy adopted by the Board of Regents said its entities would follow the policy of the current federal government administration. At the time it was passed George Bush had implemented a federal policy of limiting the amount of embryonic stem research to 60 past stem cell lines created as of August, 2001. Now with the new Administration which is bent on expanding federal funding for unethical medical research, the Regents need to determine whether they will allow an expansion of destructive embryonic research at entities it oversees, such as UNMC, or whether it will remain with the type of policy in place during the Bush Administration.

Action Alert

ACTION NEEDED: The Regents meet Friday, Oct. 23 in at Varner Hall, 3500 Holdrege St., in Lincoln, starting at 1:30 p.m. At that time a Resolution asking the Regents to vote to retain the current policy of no expansion of ESCR, will be on the agenda.

OF GREATEST NEED: pro-lifers who want to picket outside Varner Hall that day along Holdrege St. from 9:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. Picket signs should

reference "No expansion of destructive embryo research" and stay in that vein. No signs are allowed inside the Regents' meeting room for any picketers who want to go inside at 1:30 and listen to the discussion.

CONTACT: Nebraska Right to Life at 402-438-4802 or nebraskartl@gmail.com if you plan to picket and/or attend the meeting so we can keep a head count. Anyone wishing to speak before the Board of Regents that day must sign up with the Secretary of the Board at least 24 hours in advance by calling the NU Board of Regents office at 472-3906 and asking



District 1
Tim Clare
(402) 475-5100
tclare
@nebraska.edu



District 2
Howard Hawks
(402) 938-1604
hhawks
@nebraska.edu



District 5
Jim McClurg
(402) 477-2030
jmclclurg
@nebraska.edu



District 7
Bob Phares
(308) 532-3180
bphares
@nebraska.edu



District 8
Randy Ferlic
(402) 397-2837
rferlic
@nebraska.edu

to be put on the Agenda during the public comment period. Your remarks should be limited to a minute or two and you should limit them for redundancy if hearing others before you. Please note that representatives of several pro-life groups will probably also speak on behalf of the pro-life movement.

OTHER ACTION: Make sure you have called or written your Regent prior to Oct. 23rd asking him to vote FOR the Resolution which holds NU system to the current policy and does not expand the ability to do destructive embryonic research.



Jim Conroy & Ron Gross, both of Lincoln, worked Labor Day morning.



Nebraska Right to Life President Brenda Eller of Butler County Right to Life and her family worked a Saturday morning.



A large screen TV has been rented the past several years to run continuous DVD of 4-D ultrasound of fetal development.

**Nebraska
Right
to
Life**
has had a
booth at the
State Fair
for the past
36 years



Eddy Sanders and daughters of Seward County Pro-Life Concern bag free fetal models which depict the development of an 11-12 week unborn baby. Thousands of these are given to children and adults alike.



Jan Ortmeier of Fremont Area Right to Life assists a fairgoer.



Pat Tvrdy of Lincoln and Joyce Lanik of Davey with Cheryl Winter and her family of Lincoln.

THREE UPCOMING PRO-LIFE EVENTS IN NEBRASKA

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

RUNS SEPT. 23rd THROUGH NOV. 1st

Come out to the LeRoy Carhart abortion facility at 1002 W. Mission Ave. in Bellevue and the Lincoln Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3705 South St. in Lincoln for 40 days of peaceful, prayerful witness. In Lincoln the hours run from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

LIFE CHAIN

SUNDAY, OCT. 2nd, Most run from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lincoln, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Check this National Life Chain site for Nebraska communities participating:

<http://www.lifechain.net/>

BISHOPS PASTORAL PLAN FOR PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES CONVENTION

LINCOLN, OCT. 2nd & 3rd

Go to this link to pre-register. Pass the word to teens to register for teens portion with Lila Rose, undercover sting operator of Planned Parenthood facilities.

<http://www.nebcathcon.org/Conference%20File%2011%2009.pdf>

Fetal Development Posters Spark Interest

Carmen Melliger sent this e-mail which goes with the photos:
"In July, this young boy stumbled across the group of us setting up the Columbus Area Right to Life booth at the Platte County Fair. First he sat looking at the large display pictures. Then he found a brochure on the development of a child. He closely compared the brochure and the large pictures. It was awesome to see the interest that he had in the stages of human life. He did not say a word to us, but studied our booth for almost ten minutes."



Nebraska Right to Life Board of Directors

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Vice-President: Sandy Danek, Lincoln
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PAC Director: Denise Ashby, Lincoln
Janet Kaus, Morrill
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Member to National Right to Life:**
Julie Schmit-Albin, Lincoln



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pages.



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Fremont Area Right to Life Honors Volunteers

Fremont Area Right to Life hosts a picnic for its volunteers every September. FRTL President Wade Frink spoke about current issues at the picnic as did Paula Keller of Life Choices CPC and Julie Schmit-Albin of Nebraska Right to Life.

From left, Paula Keller of Life Choices CPC, Jan Ortmeier, Gloria, Lanny & Schuyler Schmid.

