

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 1 Number 1

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

September 2009



## LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 4, 2009 • 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Downtown Altoona

17th St. at Station Mall Medical Center

Across the U.S. and Canada, on National LIFE CHAIN Sunday, hundreds of thousands of participants will silently stand in peaceful, prayerful witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs we hold deliver the messages that *Abortion Kills Children*, *Adoption is the Loving Option*, *Abortion Hurts Women*, *Pray to End Abortion* and *Life—the First Inalienable Right*. This peaceful, prayerful event provides a visual statement of pro-life unity to passersby. Signs will be provided. Please join us!

**Will YOU stand  
with us?**

**For more information,  
call 814-946-0681**



## Legislative Contact Information

### President

#### **President Barack Obama**

The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Opinion Line 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5  
Fax Number: 202-456-2461  
[www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

### Pennsylvania U.S. Senators

#### **The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.**

United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-6324  
Toll Free: 866-802-2833  
[www.casey.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact/)

#### **The Honorable Arlen Specter**

United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4254  
[www.specter.senate.gov/contact](http://www.specter.senate.gov/contact)

### Pennsylvania U.S. Representative

#### **The Honorable Bill Shuster**

(9th District)  
U. S. House of Representatives  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2431  
[www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

### Governor of Pennsylvania

#### **The Honorable Edward G. Rendell**

225 Main Capitol Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-2500  
[www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us)

### Pennsylvania State Senator

#### **(Blair County-District 30)**

#### **The Honorable John H. Eichelberger**

P. O. Box 203030; Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-5490  
309 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-8386  
[www.senatoreichelberger.com/](http://www.senatoreichelberger.com/)

### Pennsylvania State Representatives

#### **(Blair County)**

#### **The Honorable Mike Fleck**

(District 81 - Snyder Twp.-part,  
Tyrone Borough-part, Tyrone Twp.-part)  
159A East Wing  
P.O. Box 202081; Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-3335  
[www.repfleck.com](http://www.repfleck.com)

Tyrone Office  
Snyder Township Municipal Building  
Tyrone, PA 16686  
814-684-5200

#### **The Honorable Richard A. Geist**

(District 79 - Allegheny Twp. (part),  
Altoona, Logan Twp.)  
144 Main Capitol Building  
P. O. Box 202079; Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-6419  
[www.rickgeist.com](http://www.rickgeist.com)

Gables Office Building  
1331 12th Avenue, Suite 104  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-946-7218

#### **The Honorable Jerry Stern**

(District 80 - Allegheny Twp. (part),  
Antis Twp. Bellwood Borough, Blair Twp.,  
Catharine Twp., Duncansville Borough,  
Frankstown Twp., Freedom Twp., Greenfield  
Twp., Hollidaysburg Borough, Huston Twp.,  
Juniata Twp., Martinsburg Borough, Newry  
Borough, North Woodbury Twp., Roaring  
Spring Borough, Snyder Twp., (part), Taylor  
Twp., Tyrone Borough-part, Tyrone Twp.-  
part, Williamsburg Borough, Woodbury Twp.

315A Main Capitol Building  
P. O. Box 202080, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-9020  
[www.jerrystern.com](http://www.jerrystern.com)

324 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-2398

## ObamaCare will put Planned Parenthood clinics inside your child's school Urgent: E-mail your representative and two senators today!

There are many reasons to oppose President Obama's push to take over the nation's health care system, but among the most important is this one: his plan will put Planned Parenthood clinics inside your child's school.

Yes, you read that right. Under an innocuous-sounding section titled "School-Based Health Clinics," H.R. 3200 will authorize Planned Parenthood, as a "sponsoring facility," to run a clinic during school hours on the grounds of public schools, with absolutely no accountability either to parents or school administrators.

Clinics would be accountable only to the Secretary of Health & Human Services, the radically pro-abortion Kathleen Sebelius, who was a fervent supporter of late-term abortionist George Tiller.

All this will be done at taxpayer expense. And unlike the rest of the bill, which isn't slated to go into effect until 2013, these clinics are scheduled to go into schools next fall.

As you know, Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider and the most dangerous purveyor of the mythical "safe sex" message which has deprived so many American teens of their sexual innocence and left them with diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

**ACTION ALERT:** The last thing we need is for President Obama to put these dangerous clinics inside our schools. Send an e-mail to your congressman and senators in Washington, D.C., today and urge them to vote "NO" on any health care plan that invites Planned Parenthood into our public school campuses.

—American Family Association  
September 10, 2009

### Efficient E-mail

E-mail is the most efficient way to get breaking news to you. Time-sensitive pro-life information and action alerts simply cannot be shared quickly enough by regular mail. Help us keep you on top of important pro-life information. If you have not e-mailed your e-mail address to us, please consider doing so. You can e-mail your address to us at [blair@centralpaprolife.org](mailto:blair@centralpaprolife.org).

# Every Pro-Life American Must Tell Congress Now:

**“Vote against any health care bill that does  
not explicitly exclude abortion!”**

**Health care bills in Congress could create the  
greatest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*.**

**1. Email now:** Go to [www.NRLactioncenter.com](http://www.NRLactioncenter.com). Follow the simple directions at the bottom of the web page to send urgent messages to your U.S. senators and your U.S. House member. (Messages can be altered if you wish.)

**2. Email now:** Copy this entire alert into a new email. Email it to all your pro-life friends and relatives.

**3. Copy & Distribute:** Pass this alert out at pro-life churches and meetings. To download this form, go to [www.stoptheabortionagenda.com](http://www.stoptheabortionagenda.com)

**4. Make Personal Contact with Your Senators and  
Congressmen:** Use every opportunity: office meetings, fairs, town meetings, and other public events.

**5. Telephone:** Call the offices of your two U.S. senators and your U.S. House member (through the Senate switchboard: 202-224-3121 and the House switchboard, 202-225-3121). Give your zip code and you will be connected to the correct offices.

*Give the senator's or representative's staff your name and address and tell them to relay a message:*

“I urge you to oppose Senator Kennedy’s health care bill (for Senate staff), or the House Democratic Leadership health care bill, H.R. 3200 (for House staff), because it would result in coverage of elective abortion in a new nationwide ‘public option’ health insurance plan, and would allow federal subsidies to go to other plans that also cover elective abortions. **I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO OPPOSE ANY HEALTH CARE BILL UNLESS ABORTION IS EXPLICITLY EXCLUDED!**”

**Check for updates at  
[www.NRLactioncenter.com](http://www.NRLactioncenter.com)**



PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE FREELY.

# Pearls of Wisdom

## PETA: Upset President Obama Would Hurt a Fly, But Abortion Another Story

By Thomas Glessner, JD

*LifeNews.com Note: Tom Glessner is a pro-life attorney who is the president of NIFLA, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. NIFLA is an organization that provides legal, medical and practical help for pregnancy centers across the country.*

On June 16 during an interview on CNBC, President Obama swatted at and killed a fly. The matter was treated with good humor by most. I, for one, wanted to say "Nice shot, Mr. President." However, the animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), felt differently and publicly chastised the President for his apparent cruelty to the insect.

"We support compassion for even the smallest animals," says Bruce Friedrich, VP for Policy at PETA. "We support giving insects the benefit of the doubt." Friedrich says PETA supports "brushing flies away rather than killing them." Later PETA sent to Obama a fly catching device that traps flies and then allows for their safe release back into nature.

Upon hearing of the compassion PETA has for the smallest of creatures, I wondered what position they took on abortion. After all, if this organization believes in the protection of the lives of flies, surely they would be adamantly opposed to the killing of the unborn. Hence, I immediately did a search on the Internet to find an answer to my question. I found out that PETA's compassion for unborn human babies falls far short of its compassion for flies.

In regards to abortion, PETA's official statement reads: PETA does not have a position on the abortion issue, because our focus as an organization is the alleviation of the suffering inflicted on nonhuman animals. There are people on both sides of the abortion issue in the animal rights movement, just as there are people on both sides of animal rights issues in the pro-life movement. And just as the pro-life movement has no official position on animal rights, neither does the animal rights movement have an official position on abortion.

Now let me understand this clearly. To PETA, the life of a fly deserves to be respected and must be treated with dignity, but the life of an unborn child subject to abortion is apparently of no concern. One can be a member of PETA and support the killing of the unborn as long as that person supports the right to life of a fly.

Even if one believes that humans are no more than a higher evolved form of animal life they must surely oppose the killing of unborn children if they oppose the killing of flies. But this logic escapes PETA. Apparently, it is politically correct to PETA for people to have com-

passion for animals (even flies), but it is not politically correct to stand against the killing of unborn children.

This kind of logic borders on insanity, but exists today because American culture no longer accepts the sanctity of life ethic upon which our nation was founded. This ethic, embodied in our Declaration of Independence, proclaims that all human beings are made in the image of God and as such are afforded the inalienable right to life. The Creator bestows this inalienable right upon humanity because humanity is made in His image.

In accepting abortion on demand and the killing of 50 million unborn children since 1973, the American nation has departed far from the principles of its founding.

I do believe that most Americans do not accept PETA's dogma that the lives of insects are more important than the lives of human unborn children. Yet, the American public tolerates the ongoing killing of 3,300 unborn children in abortion clinics everyday. How many more unborn will needlessly die until the American nation wakes up and demands an end to this carnage?

PETA boldly stands in the public arena for the protection of the life of a fly. When will the majority of Americans who call themselves pro-life stand up boldly in the public arena for the protection of the lives of the unborn?

Until this happens the killing of the unborn will continue.

—LifeNews.com, July 8, 2009

### Voice for Life

Watch for future articles from Bishop Guilloyle High School's pro-life youth club!



Thanks to St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville for its recent sponsorship of a Car Wash to benefit the pro-life cause!

### 40 Days for Life

Please check our website, [www.blaircountyprolife.com](http://www.blaircountyprolife.com) for the Prayer Calendar for 40 Days for Life, beginning September 23. Please join at any time.

# *Lighting the Way for LIFE!*

## **2009 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Conference**

**Hilton Scranton and Conference Center, 100 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA**

**Saturday, October 24, 2009**

Don't miss this opportunity to attend Pennsylvania's most important pro-life event of the year! This one-day gathering promises to be jam-packed with the latest information on a broad range of important life issues. You'll hear from people on the front-lines of the struggle for life as they share critical next steps in the fight against abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

Conference speakers include: **Charlene Bashore, Esq.**, Legislative/PAC Director, PA Pro-Life Federation; **Gary Cangemi**, Cartoonist, Umbert the Unborn; **Emily Parke Chase, MA**, Author, Speaker; **Michael Ciccocioppo**, Executive Director, PA Pro-Life Federation; **Carol Franz**, Adult Stem Cell Transplant Survivor; **Dr. David A. Prentice**, Senior Fellow for Life Sciences, Family Research Council; **Bobby Schindler**, Executive Director, Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation Center for Health Care Ethics; **Teresa Tomeo**, Author, Talk Show Host, Motivational Speaker; **Maria Vitale**, Education Director, PA Pro-Life Federation.

And don't forget to sign up for the evening banquet to hear from **Phill Kline**, the former Attorney General of Kansas. He's the prosecutor who took on Planned Parenthood, and his is a story still making headlines everyday.

You'll be inspired by real-life stories, challenged by people who are determined to make a difference and encouraged with renewed vision as hundreds of other committed pro-lifers join together to again—Light the Way for LIFE!

*Call 717-541-0034 or go online at [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org) to register today!*

---

## **Want to Know More About Adult Stem Cell Treatments for MS and Other Diseases?**

**SAVE THE DATE — November 14, 2009 — 10:00 a.m.**

**Location in Bedford to be determined**

*Call for information 623-1314 and to RSVP by November 11*

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~ NO CHARGE**



**Adult stem cells come from the patient - no risk of rejection!!!** Do you have or know of someone who has a disorder such as MS, Diabetes, or Parkinson's disease? Are you a caregiver or health professional caring for someone who has one of these debilitating diseases? Or, would you just want to find out more about adult stem cell treatments for a number of diseases? Please join us.

**James M. Rossetti, DO** is Associate Director of the Cell Transplantation Program and Director of the Apheresis Program at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Rossetti earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed an internship and internal medicine residency at St. Francis Medical Center of Pittsburgh. He did fellowship training in hematology and medical oncology at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology. He is an Assistant Professor at the Temple University School of Medicine and an Adjunct Clinical Instructor for the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Rossetti is a recognized expert in hematological malignancy with particular interest in myeloid malignancy, acute myelogenous leukemia, myelodysplasia, and cellular therapy. The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation recognizes Dr. Rossetti as a recommended specialist physician dedicated to treating disorders that inhibit healthy blood cell production. He is an accomplished clinical investigator with numerous publications in the scientific and lay literature and is a particularly sought after speaker.

As an adult stem cell transplant physician, Dr. Rossetti has a keen interest in debunking the myths that surround the stem cell debate. He has spoken widely in support of adult stem cells, which preserve life at all levels of development.

*Sponsored by the Bedford County Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group  
Learn more about successful stem cell therapies at [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org)*

# News and Notes

## Belmont Abbey College Would Close Before Giving in to Obama Administration

The president of Belmont Abbey College, a Catholic school, says he will close the college before it gives in to an Obama administration ruling forcing it to provide contraception coverage in its insurance plans for employees. The EEOC ruled the school must provide the coverage, even though it violates Catholic teachings. Belmont Abbey College removed coverage for abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization in 2007 after learning that its plan had accidentally included them.

Responding to the decision, eight faculty members filed complaints with the EEOC and the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The EEOC determined that Belmont Abbey discriminated against women by denying coverage of contraception. Now, BAC president William K. Thierfelder tells *The Washington Times* he would rather see the school shut down than violate its moral precepts. "I hope it would never get this far but if it came down to it we would close the college before we ever provided that," he said.

—*LifeNews.com*, August 17, 2009

## Death of Terri Schiavo's Father

The Schindler family and pro-life advocates are paying their respects to Robert Schindler, the father of Terri Schiavo—the woman whose life and death has been a rallying cry to protect the disabled. Schindler and his family have taken it upon themselves to help other disabled patients and their families.

Bobby Schindler commented on his father's death with moving words. "I am heartbroken over the loss of my father and yet I know at this moment he is rejoicing with my sister, Terri," he said. "My dad was a man of integrity, character and compassion who was blessed with a close and loving family. He taught all three of his children to respect and value life and to love our fellow man," he added.

—*LifeNews.com*, September 1, 2009

## Real Alternatives

The nation's first and largest state-funded program providing women with alternatives to abortion set a record last year in helping nearly 20,000 women. Real Alternatives, statewide administrator for the Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Services Program helped a record 19,747 women. The women were provided with comprehensive counseling, mentoring and support throughout their entire pregnancy and for one year following the birth of their baby. "We are striving for the day when no woman in the Commonwealth feels that she must have an abortion—that is what the program is about," Kevin Bagatta, an attorney who is the head of the program, says. There is a center within an hour's drive of every Pennsylvania woman and the centers provided services to 19,747 women at 83,263 visits last year.

—*Real Alternatives* - <http://www.RealAlternatives.org>

## Crisis hotline numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call *Birthright*, 2706 7th Ave., Altoona, 814-943-8185; or *Precious Life, Inc.*, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona, 814-944-2669.

For information on Natural Family Planning, go to [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org) or [www.familyplanning.net](http://www.familyplanning.net).

For post-abortion counseling, call *Project Rachel*, 814-884-8000 or [www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org).

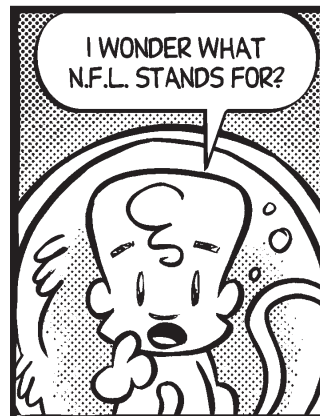
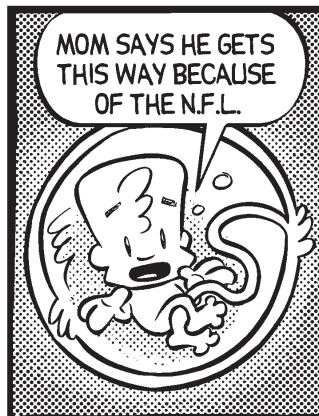
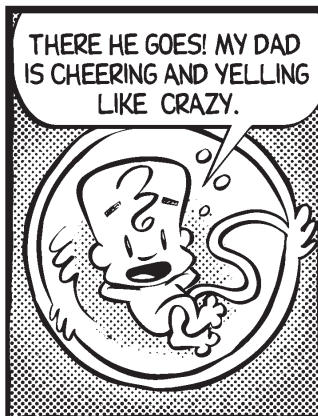
For those with life-limiting illnesses, contact *Home Nursing Agency*, 201 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona 16603, 814-946-5411, 1-800-445-6262 or email: [help@homenursingagency.com](mailto:help@homenursingagency.com).

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org).



## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



# Pushing Veterans to the Grave

By Bradley Mattes

First there were angry senior citizens at town hall meetings, literally fearing for their lives. They're worried that under the President's proposed health care plan they'll be denied critical life-saving services because of their age. There's good reason for their concern. And what's come to light since then won't make them sleep any easier.

The Obama administration now seems to have our nation's veterans in the crosshairs. Perhaps you've heard about the booklet *Your Life Your Choices*—also known as the Death Book for Veterans. This book is particularly alarming, so I want to share some detail you may not have heard.

I have the book on my desk. Part of it consists of reasonable dialogue on the importance of sharing your wishes regarding potential future medical treatment with trusted family members or friends. I agree that communication before a health crisis arises is key.

But look at one section titled "What makes your life worth living?" It lists 18 potential physical conditions, and the veteran is required to check which column reflects his outlook on life. One of those columns is "not worth living." I'm all for personal autonomy in choosing appropriate health care, but this booklet clearly crosses the line.

Keep in mind it's designed for veterans, some who've recently returned from the Middle East, missing limbs or sight. Others may be dealing with paralysis or traumatic brain injuries.

Many are looking at months or years of rehabilitation—facing a future that's dramatically and often permanently altered. The physical wounds are accompanied by the infliction of psychological damage: depression, the fear of being dependent on others or financial concerns.

It is in this context that some of our war heroes will read *Your Life Your Choices*. After each of the 18 scenarios on page 21, a veteran is to ask himself or herself if life would be worth living. But a scant few actually reflect life-threatening situations.

Most indicate less critical burdens like being confined to a wheelchair, incontinence or not being able to "shake the blues." Some don't reflect the physical condition of the veteran at all, but instead how others will be af-

ected: being a financial burden, not able to contribute to the family well being, or causing stress for other family members. These make me wonder—whose suffering is this booklet designed to alleviate?

The "instructions" that follow sent a chill up my spine. If the veteran more than once checked the column called "worth living, but just barely," he or she is asked what combination of those would it take to make his or her life "not worth living"? If the veteran checked "can't answer now" he or she is asked what would it take to "help you decide"?

The obvious purpose of this booklet is to be an advance directive of sorts for medical treatment. Several of the pages even asked for the veteran's initials and date. But at the back of the booklet where resources are listed, the only group indicated under "advance directives" is Choice in Dying, formerly known as the Euthanasia Society. The purpose of this organization is solely to advocate euthanasia.

The Veterans Administration might as well abandon all subtleties, dig a grave and push our nation's heroes into it. We owe a debt of gratitude to America's veterans that we can never repay. The VA has not only brought shame upon its department but also on our whole nation.

After the group Aging with Dignity brought this booklet to light, a disclaimer has been added that a revision is in the works. But no amount of change can take away the stain of the intended purpose—to nudge America's war heroes toward the grave in an effort to protect limited government resources.

If you'd like to see the entire publication, [go to <http://www.lifeissues.org/breakingnews.html> - an option is given within the article to open this document].

Please contact the Veterans Administration:

[vhaethics@va.gov](mailto:vhaethics@va.gov)

Phone: 202.501.0364

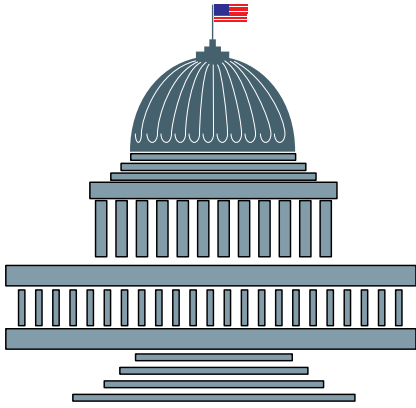
Mail: National Center for Ethics in Health Care  
Veterans Health Administration (10E)

810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20420

Tell them America's veterans deserve better.

—Life Issues Institute, August 28, 2009

Bradley Mattes is the executive director of Life Issues Institute, a national pro-life educational group. Mattes is a veteran of the pro-life cause, with over 33 years of educational, political and humanitarian experience.



# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## Health Care Bills Could Result in 300-600K More Abortions, Scrap Pro-Life Laws

By Maria Vitale

So-called health care reform could become the worst thing to happen to abortion rates since *Roe v. Wade*.

When you hear the phrase “health care reform,” you might think of cutting costs, eliminating arcane rules, and ensuring coverage for the hard-to-insure. Raising abortion rates would not seem to be a logical part of the equation.

Yet, consider this quote from one of the primary experts in abortion law, National Right to Life Legislative Director Douglas Johnson: “The Kennedy bill would result in the greatest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*.”

That’s because the Senate proposal would result in federally mandated coverage of abortion in nearly all health plans. The feds would also mandate recruitment of abortionists by local health networks—a scary thought. Abortion would be federally funded on a gargantuan scale.

We know from experience that taxpayer funding of abortion results in more abortions. It’s been estimated that the health care reform plans now on the table could increase abortions by 300,000 to 600,000 a year because of federal subsidies for abortion. The more lives that are sacrificed, the more trauma for families, the more pain for women, the more costs for society. So much for the “cost-cutting” aspects of health care reform.

The Senate plan could also mean the nullification of many state abortion laws. This is a critical point.

For instance, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the abortion rate was cut in half after the landmark Abortion Control Act went into effect. This ground-breaking law ensured parental consent, informed consent, and 24-hour waiting periods for abortion. Each life lost to abortion is undoubtedly a tragedy, yet, Pennsylvania has been able to save legions of its citizens through its protective abortion law.

Yet, such a law could be wiped out under the guise of health care reform. This is an insult to the citizens of the state, who, through their elected representatives, placed common sense curbs on abortion. If, for no other reason, in the interests of states’ rights, the Kennedy bill should be nixed.

Our founding fathers knew it was a mistake to place too much power in the hands of the federal government. Federal power comes from the will of the people, and it should not be abused, even in the name of health care reform. National public opinion polls consistently have shown that people don’t want their tax dollars to pay for abortions.

Abortion needs to be specifically excluded from health care reform, or else our money could be used to support the taking of innocent human lives and the emotional wounding of thousands of American women.

With health care reform, we are in the fight of our lives—and so are our unborn brothers and sisters.

—*LifeNews.com*, August 18, 2009

Maria Vitale is an opinion columnist for *LifeNews.com*. She is the Public Relations Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and has written and reported for various broadcast and print media outlets, including National Public Radio, CBS Radio and AP Radio.

Maria Vitale will be a speaker at the PA Pro-Life Federation Conference. See page 5.

## Baucus Health Care “Reform” Bill Pushes Doctors to OK Rationing for Seniors

The Baucus health care “reform” bill that is quickly becoming the potential alternative to the Kennedy bill and HR 3200 includes abortion subsidies and mandates. Additional analysis also shows the legislation includes health care rationing that would cause problems for senior citizens.

Burke J. Balch, an attorney and the director of the medical ethics center at the National Right to Life Committee, has examined the entire bill. He points to language on pages 80-81 regarding Medicare physician payments as a concern.

“Beginning in 2015, payment would be reduced by five percent if an aggregation of the physician’s resource use is at or above the 90th percentile of national utilization,” the Baucus bill says.

“After five years, the Secretary would have the authority to convert the 90th percentile threshold for payment reductions to a standard measure of utilization, such as deviations from the national mean.”

Balch says the language clearly makes it so doctors are pushed financially into providing less care for seniors by being urged to purchase cheaper medical tests and phase out costly treatments.

“The provision penalizing doctors establishes that for at least five years, Medicare physicians who authorize treatments for their patients that wind up in the top 10% of per capita cost for a year will lose 5% of their total Medicare reimbursements for that year,” he explains to *CBN News’* David Brody.

“This means that all doctors treating older people will constantly be driven to try to order the least expen-



sive tests and treatments for fear that they will be caught in that top 10%," Balch adds.

**ACTION:** Contact members of the Senate Finance Committee and urge them to support amendments to make sure abortion funding and coverage are specifically excluded from the Baucus bill. You can find members of the panel here: <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/committee.htm>

## Opposition to Pro-Abortion Health Care Plan

Opposition to the pro-abortion government-run health care plans has hit a new high following the introduction of the Baucus bill that the senator has billed as a compromise.

Like HR 3200 and the Kennedy bill, the measure from the Montana Democrat also includes abortion subsidies and mandates.

The Baucus bill also includes financial incentives for physicians to promote rationing of health care.

Given those problems, a new Rasmussen poll finds opposition to the three plans has increased to a record high in its surveys. The new poll released today finds 56 percent of voters nationwide now oppose the health care reform proposed by President Obama and congressional Democrats.

That's the highest level of opposition yet measured and includes 44% who are strongly opposed. Just 43% now favor the proposal, including 24% who strongly favor it.

Pollster Scott Rasmussen says there was a slight bounce toward supporting the pro-abortion health care proposals after Obama's speech, but the numbers have returned to the levels they have been at for some time—with a clear majority of Americans opposing the plans.

—*LifeNews.com, September 19, 2009*

### Informative Website

[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)

Maintained by the Library of Congress, Thomas offers a searchable database of congressional activity from 1969 to the present.

# Facts on Health Care Reform

1. Both Senator Ted Kennedy's health care reform bill in the U.S. Senate and HR 3200 in the U.S. House would result in a public plan covering all elective abortions.

2. Under the Senate plan, private health plans would also be required to pay for and provide access to "essential benefits" and **those benefits could include abortion.**

3. The Senate plan could invalidate state laws regulating abortion. **That could mean no more parental consent, informed consent or 24-hour waiting periods for abortion!**

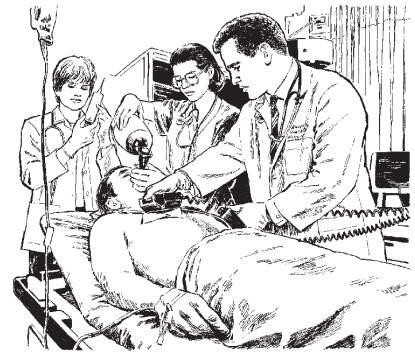
4. Under the House plan, a federal agency will collect premium money, receive bills from abortionists and **pay them out of the U.S. Treasury.**

5. If the House bill passes, the federal government will be running a **nationwide abortion-on-demand insurance plan.**

6. If public funding of abortion occurs under health care reform, **the abortion rate will skyrocket.** It is estimated that public funding of abortion would result in an increase of 300,000 to 600,000 abortions each year nationwide.

7. Unless there is adequate financing of health care reform, rationing will occur, meaning that **the elderly and people with disabilities could be denied care.**

8. **Call your Congressman and Senators Casey and Specter and urge them to keep abortion and medical rationing out of health care reform!**



## IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Current health care reform plans would result in public funding of abortion.

Under health care reform, abortionists could be paid out of the U.S. Treasury!

If public funding of abortion occurs, the abortion rate will skyrocket!

Health care reform could result in rationing, leaving the elderly and people with disabilities without life-saving care!

**Call Senator Casey at (202) 224-6324 and Senator Specter at (202) 224-4254 and urge them to vote against any health care reform bill that does not specifically exclude abortion!**

—*Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation*  
4800 Jonestown Rd., Ste. 102  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
717-541-0034  
[www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)



## 2010 Central PA Essay Contest

Students residing in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties are invited to write an essay on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research from a pro-life perspective. Enter the Regional and State Essay Contests!

### Awards: Cash or Scholarship

Sr. High (Grades 10-12) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 750

1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Jr. High (Grades 7-9) Essay Contest

Word Limit: 500

1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

### Regional Essay Contest

**Due: January 11, 2010**

**Mail to:**

**Pro-Life Essay Contest**

**c/o Janet Creighton**

**3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522**

with 2010 Essay Contest Entry Form

(available online at [www.centralpaprolife.org](http://www.centralpaprolife.org))

### State Essay Contest

**Due: March 1, 2010**

Entering the Regional Contest does not automatically enter you into the State Contest and visa versa. The region runs its contest before the state does so that the student can use feedback from the Regional Contest to improve their essay for the State Contest. These are two separate contests. Entries to the state Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Essay Contest must be postmarked by March 1, 2010. Go to [www.PaProLife.org](http://www.PaProLife.org) for more information.

Mail essay to State Contest:

**PA Pro-Life Federation, 4800**

**Jonestown Rd., Suite 102, Har-**

**risburg, PA 17109.** Essays for

the State Contest can also be e-

mailed to: [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org).

Winners will be announced

in April 2010.



### National Right to Life Pro-Life Essay Contest

Entries must be submitted between December 21, 2009 and January 16, 2010. Please refer to the National Essay Contest details at [www.NRLC.org/EssayContest](http://www.NRLC.org/EssayContest).

### Pro-Life Dinner

All winners will be invited to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner as our guests.

## 2010 Central PA Oratory Contest



Open to all 9th-12th graders in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.

★ Top Two Regional Varsity Winners Go to States

★ Winner of States Goes to Nationals

★ All Expenses Paid!

Prepare a five to seven minute talk on Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, or Embryonic Stem Cell Research from a Pro-Life Perspective

### AWARDS

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12) Oratory Contest

1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Novice (Grades 9 & 10) Oratory Contest

1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

Mail a written copy of your speech along with the 2010 Oratory Contest Entry Form

(available online at [www.centralpaprolife.org](http://www.centralpaprolife.org)) to:

**Pro-Life Oratory Contest, c/o Janet Creighton,**

**3495 Business 220, Bedford, PA 15522**

### Oratory Contest Dates

**Written Copy Due: January 11, 2010**

**Regional Competition: February 7, 2010**

**State Competition in Harrisburg: April 2010**

**National Competition: June 2010**

Speech must be from a pro-life perspective, delivered as written, but need not be memorized.

The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures, but may not use props.

### Pro-Life Dinner Invite

All winners will be invited to the

Bedford County

Annual Pro-Life Dinner

as our guests.



The top two Varsity winners will be invited to speak at the Dinner, preceding the guest speaker.

A Great Dress Rehearsal For States!

The State Oratory Contest will be in Spring, 2010. The specific date will be announced.

## Donations have been made—

*In loving memory of:*

**Theodore Konopka**

Given by: Marge and Doug Bradley

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Human Life Education Fund, Inc. in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Human Life Education Fund, Inc., will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts.

Send your tax-deductible donations to Human Life Education Fund, Inc., P. O. Box 73, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

### **Blair County Life News Blair County Chapter Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.**

*September 2009; Vol. 1, No. 1*

*Published four times a year*

*President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.*

*Vice-President: Chet Kowalski*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Head*

*Editor/Layout/Design: Marge Bradley*

*Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.*

**2715 Third St.**

**Altoona, PA 16601**

**Phone: 814-946-0681**

**Email: Blair@CentralPaProlife.org**

**www.BlairCountyProLife.org - coming soon!**

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday, my family and I visited Gettysburg for a tour of the battlefield. We learned, among other things, that 7,000 soldiers lost their lives there and 44,000 were wounded or missing during those tragic three days.

The number of those killed in three days of horrific battle was less than the estimated 7,200 unborn babies aborted in two days in our peaceful, civilized society.

We are in a battle—a spiritual battle—for the lives of our future.

We are fortunate in Blair County to have so many pro-life allies to assist us in this battle.

We have been blessed with pastors and priests who speak out for the unborn.

We have been blessed with radio announcers and callers who support life.

We have been blessed with organizations such as Precious Life, Birthright, Counselors for Life, the Human Life Education Fund and our own group, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, to help and assist the least of our brethren.

We have been blessed with Pro-life public servants and representatives in the State House and Senate and U.S. Congress.

We have been blessed with prayer and rosary groups who sacrifice their time for the lives of the unborn.

We have been blessed to have local hospitals and physicians who respect life.

But most of all, we have been blessed with you, who are willing to speak out, write letters to the editor, call your local, state and federal representatives anytime the unborn are threatened with a new plan to eliminate more of these little ones.

Thanks for being so courageous like those brave men at Gettysburg.

—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President  
Blair County Chapter

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

P.S: Thanks for our news editor, Marge Bradley, who was the inspiration and guiding light for this, our first issue, of *Blair County Life News*.

### **Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. Membership Form**

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership      \$ 10.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior Member      \$ 5.00

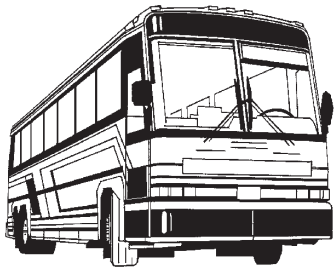
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601**. For more information, call **814-946-0681**. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

# *March for Life*

*Washington, D.C.*

*Friday, January 22, 2010*



*We will have  
buses available!*

*Will you join us?*

For more information, call 814-946-0681

***SAVE THE DATE!***

BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER  
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.  
2715 Third St.  
Altoona, PA 16601

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Altoona, PA  
Permit No. 150