

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

**Citizens Concerned for Human Life** sent the following letter with three-question survey to each of the May 18th primary candidates running for State Senate, State House of Representatives and State Committee.

*Many citizens in our county are concerned about the lack of protection for human life and want to be informed on the stand of candidates for public office on this issue. We are concerned with all issues regarding the protection of innocent human life. We believe a candidate's position on these issues reflects attitudes that may affect many other decisions made in public office.*

**Question 1**

*Do you affirm a pro-life position—protection of innocent human life from conception to natural death—and will you advance such protection if the opportunity arises in your role as a public figure?*

**Question 2**

*If the opportunity was presented to you in your political office, would you vote for an overturn of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court ruling of 1973, which allows abortions on demand throughout pregnancy?*

**Question 3**

*What have you done to advance the pro-life cause? Please explain in thirty (30) words or less (e.g., attended Life Chain, March for Life, supported pro-life legislation, wrote letters, etc).*

*Citizens Concerned for Human Life is not a political organization and does not endorse candidates for election. We have surveyed the candidates as a service to our members. If you need further verification on a candidate's stand on these or other issues, please contact the candidate directly.*

**See page 3 for the candidates' responses to this questionnaire.**

# News Notes

## Officials want no more abortions at Pennsylvania center where woman died

Officials in Pennsylvania have taken action to ensure no more abortions are done at the Philadelphia abortion center where a woman died from a botched legal abortion last year. Authorities investigated the Women's Medical Society after an abortion patient died last November.

Massive amounts of drugs found in the victim's system led authorities to suspect Gosnell was illegally prescribing pain-killers.

Abortion practitioner Kermit Gosnell, who runs the Women's Medical Society, lost his license in both Pennsylvania and neighboring Delaware.

During the probe, officials found dozens of unborn children killed in abortions who were frozen for decades. They are now determining whether or not they may have been victims of illegal late-term abortions.

Now, the Pennsylvania Department of Health took action to make it so no other abortion practitioner can do abortions at the Women's Medical Society. The Health Department is seeking an order prohibiting abortions at Gosnell's facility because of dangerous conditions found there.

—*LifeNews.com, March 19, 2010*

## Study confirms autism boom correlates with aborted fetal DNA in vaccines

A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has confirmed 1988 as a "change point" in the rise of Autism Disorder rates in the U.S.—a date that pro-life leaders say correlates with the introduction of fetal cells for use in vaccines.

While the EPA study does not speculate into the cause of the jump in autism rates, and makes no mention of aborted fetal cells, the researchers point out that it "is important to determine whether a preventable exposure to an environmental factor may be associated with the increase."

According to the pro-life group Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute (SCPI), which specializes in vaccine research, that "environmental factor" may well be the use of aborted fetal cells in vaccines. The group pointed out in its most recent newsletter that 1988 is the same year the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices began recommending a second dose of the MMR vaccine, which included cells derived from the tissue of aborted babies.

Analyses of autism rate data published by SCPI identify 3 clear change points in U.S. autism disorder trends: 1981, 1988 and 1995, all of which the groups claims roughly correlate with the use of vaccines (Meruvax, MMRII, and Chickenpox) that were cultivated with the use of tissue from aborted children. The group says that it has been unable to identify any other factor that might correlate to the change in autism rates.

"The only environmental event correlating with these statistical autism trend 'change points' which would impact almost all children was the introduction of vaccines produced using human fetal cells and containing residual human DNA and cellular debris," said SCPI.

Pro-life groups say that the research by EPA adds to an increasing body of evidence implicating the use of aborted fetal cell material in the nationwide vaccinations impacting nearly every child born in the United States.

American Life League has joined Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute in calling for a Fair Labeling and Informed Consent Act in light of the findings. "For years the evidence has pointed toward the link between vaccines using DNA from aborted babies and the rise of Autism Disorder rates," said Jim Sedlak, vice president of American Life League. "Parents need and deserve to know the risks associated with vaccinations made from lines derived from the bodies of aborted children."

SCPI has affirmed that they are continuing to study the impact of re-

sidual human fetal DNA in vaccines on the brain development and autism in children, and will present their studies at the International Society for Autism Research in May 2010.

*For more information:* Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute <http://www.soundchoice.org/>

To read Sound Choice's April 2010 newsletter, [http://www.soundchoice.org/Images/SCPINewsletter\\_April\\_2010.pdf](http://www.soundchoice.org/Images/SCPINewsletter_April_2010.pdf)

Environmental Protection Agency: *Timing of Increased Autistic Disorder Cumulative Incidence (10 July 2009)* <http://www.all.org/pdf/McDonaldPaul2010.pdf>

See related *LifeSiteNews.com* coverage: *Is Aborted Fetal DNA in Vaccines Linked to Autism?* <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/jul/09072106.html>

*Fetal Tissue in Vaccine Production May be Linked to Autism in Children Claims Campaign Group:* <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/jul/09070611.html>

*Abortion-Tainted New Flu Vaccine From Vaxin Uses Aborted Fetal Cell Lines* <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2005/feb/05020703.html>

—*J. Jalsevac, LifeSiteNews.com, April 20, 2010*

★ **Come to a meeting** ★  
**Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County**

Tuesday, June 8th, 7:00 p.m.  
1701 5th Ave., Altoona  
Sullivan, Forr, Stokan, Huff and  
Kormanski Law Office

**All are invited to attend!**



*"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion is already born."*

~ Ronald Reagan ~

# BLAIR COUNTY



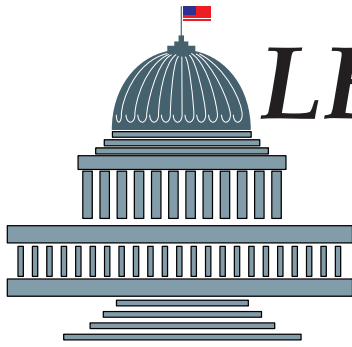
## Candidate Questionnaire Responses

KEY: Y = YES N = NO

CANDIDATE	QUESTIONS	1	2	3 (Comments)
<b><u>U.S. House of Representatives</u></b>				
Bill Shuster (R)				100% pro-life voting record; running unopposed at time of this publication
<b><u>State Senate</u></b>				
John H. Eichelberger (R)		Y	Y	I have for many years consistently attended pro-life events. I sponsor and co-sponsor pro-life legislation, chair the Family Caucus and am a member of the Pro-Life Caucus.
<b><u>State House of Representatives</u></b>				
Mike Fleck (R)				100% pro-life voting record; running unopposed at time of this publication.
Richard A. Geist (R)				100% pro-life voting record; running unopposed at time of this publication.
Jerry Stern (R)		Y	Y	I am currently the Pro-Life Caucus chairman in the House of Representatives. With a pro-life governor, I am looking forward to advancing many pro-life issues.
<b><u>State Committee</u></b>				
Bruce R. Erb (R)		Y	Y	1. I strongly affirm my pro-life position. I know that life begins at conception and that natural death is God's will. I will continue to advocate for these positions and candidates who support them if I am reelected to Republican State Committee. 2. I believe that <i>Roe vs. Wade</i> is wrong, and I would do anything in my power to help have it overturned. 3. I have used my RSC seat to advocate for endorsement of pro-life candidates. I have written letters to elected officials and newspapers over the years expressing that support and appealing to those who are in opposition to the right to life to change. My wife and I have participated twice in the March for Life.
Wade A. Kagarise (R)		Y	Y	I have attended Life Chains, supported pro-life legislation, proudly labeled myself pro-life in the past and as a Republican State Committeeman, actively campaigned for pro-life candidates.
Lois Kaneshiki (R)		Y	Y	I raised about \$10,000 for John Eichelberger in the Primary Election against Bob Jubelirer, and I am supporting Peg Luksik for U.S. Senate and Sam Rohrer for Governor.*NB
Patricia L. Raugh (R)		Y	Y	Supported legislation, wrote letters, discussed pro-life issues one-on-one with legislators, both pro-life and pro-choice elected officials. State Committee provides many opportunities to do this.
Judy F. Ward (R)		Y	Y	Always vote pro-life. Ask any political candidates I interview thru State Committee their views on "issues of life." Support pro-life candidates.
Jo Ann Nardelli (D)		Y	Y	Absolutely from birth to death is in God's hands. Attended pro-life rosary rallies, Precious Life Banquet, dinners; support pro-life candidates. As an elected official, I'm proud displaying my faith, values, belief in God in public by prayer.
Frank Rosenhoover (D)				No Response

*Editor's Note: Citizens Concerned for Human Life (CCHL) does not have a political action committee (PAC) to elect or to defeat candidates. However, we can publish candidate surveys. The responses to the survey questions are dependent on the honesty and integrity of the individual candidates. CCHL is not responsible for any candidate's responses that differ from his or her public stance on the issues. Any questions on discrepancies should be directed to the candidates.*

*\*NB This was the second questionnaire given to Lois Kaneshiki. The first response began with the following paragraph: "The abortion issue is a very important one for our society, and I take it very seriously. I am against abortion and would unequivocally support any policy initiative that did not involve the use of force by government but would help end abortion." As a result, Lois was asked to respond directly to the questions as to whether or not she affirmed a pro-life position and whether she would vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade* if given the opportunity.*



# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## 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

## Executive Order Won't Solve Abortion Problem in Health Care Reform

The health care reform plan passed by the U.S. House of Representatives could result in the largest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*. And President Barack Obama's Executive Order on the subject of health care reform will not solve the abortion funding problems in the legislation, according to a leading pro-life member of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation.

"This is a career-defining vote on the life issue. Any member of either party who votes for this bill will never again be able to claim they have always stood for the most important and fundamental of all human rights," Congressman Pitts (PA-16) said.

An executive order issued by the President cannot trump a law passed by Congress—and the health care reform law would clearly result in taxpayer funding of abortion.

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation commends Democratic Congressmen Tim Holden (PA-17) and Jason Altmire (PA-4) in particular for standing up against heavy pressure from pro-abortion Speaker Nancy Pelosi and for voting against the health care reform bill.

—Excerpted from *Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation News Release, March 23, 2010*

## Bill Would Amend Health Care to Exclude Abortion Funding

Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) has introduced bipartisan legislation that aims to apply the Hyde amendment to the recently passed health care law.

Rep. Pitts' bill would amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prevent federal funding for abortion or abortion coverage through government exchanges, community health centers, or any other program funded or created by PPACA. Additionally, the bill protects the right of conscience for health care professionals and ensures that private insurance companies are not forced to cover abortion.

H.R. 5111, the Protect Life Act, has 57 Republican and Democrat co-sponsors, and reflects the bill-wide ban of



**38<sup>th</sup> Annual  
national RIGHT TO LIFE  
Convention 2010**  
June 24, 25 & 26, 2010 ★ Pittsburgh, PA

National experts and seasoned community activists  
will educate and inspire you!

***Here are some of our speakers this year...***



**Steven Mosher**  
President, Population  
Research Institute



**Dr. Angela Franks**  
Author of *Margaret  
Sanger's Eugenic Legacy*



**Mark & LaRee  
Pickup**  
On a Couple's  
Post-Abortion Trauma



**Msgr. Jim Lisante**  
Author, Radio & Television  
Personality

To register, or for more information, contact NRLC at 202-626-8800, [nrlc.org](http://nrlc.org) or  
[stoptheabortionagenda.com/convention/](http://stoptheabortionagenda.com/convention/)

**See page 9 for special CCHL offer to pay your registration fee to attend this Convention!**

federal abortion funding once spear-headed by Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI), but that was not included in the final version of the health bill. The Protect Life Act would afford the same pro-life protections that were approved with bipartisan support in the House last year.

"Last fall a strong bipartisan majority in the House insisted that the pro-life principles of the Hyde amendment should apply to the new healthcare law. Unfortunately, the legislation ultimately signed by the President lacked these critical safeguards," said Pitts in a press release April 22.

—*LifeSiteNews.com, April 29, 2010*

### **Obama Nominates Pro-Abort Elena Kagan for Supreme Court**

President Obama announced U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan, who favors legalized and taxpayer-funded abortion, as his nominee to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens as "impartial guardian of the law" on the nation's highest court.

Kagan, a graduate and former dean of Harvard Law school, worked beneath the Clinton administration as as-

sociate White House counsel and is currently the U.S. solicitor general. Unlike every other member of the Supreme Court, she has never served as a judge.

Kagan is a supporter of taxpayer-funded abortion and has criticized *Rust v. Sullivan*, a case which upheld federal regulation that prohibited federal Title X funds from being used for abortion.

Dr. Charmaine Yoest of Americans United for Life said that Kagan "has strong ties to abortion-advocacy organizations and expressed admiration for activist judges who have worked to advance social policy rather than to impartially interpret the law."

—*Excerpted from LifeSiteNews.com  
May 10, 2010*



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## Seven Reasons to Boycott the March of Dimes

*continued from back page*

operations.<sup>4</sup> It was the birth of prenatal diagnosis, and it meant death to many pre-born babies. "Defective" fetuses with Down syndrome or Tay Sachs, among others, were identified using amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS), and as of 1973, liberal abortion laws allowed the second and third trimester abortions of these affected babies. But it didn't stop there.

3. MOD supported and funded research that most people would find reprehensible. In order to develop the procedures for amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling, doctors needed to practice their techniques. With MOD's knowledge and financial support<sup>5</sup>, these doctors practiced their skills on live fetuses scheduled for abortion, so that any "mistakes" would not threaten a baby that was wanted by its mother. In essence, they used fetal experimentation on live babies in the womb in order to develop procedures that would then be used to justify the killing of other pre-born babies.

As if that were not enough, MOD has also funded research in which aborted baby parts were used for experimentation.<sup>6</sup> Like abortion itself, the use of aborted baby parts for experimentation and the practicing of dangerous techniques on pre-born babies is a gross violation of the dignity of these tiny humans and has no place in a civilized society. And yet, these are the means that MOD is willing to employ in order to show progress in its fight against birth defects.

4. MOD's support of federally-funded embryo-destructive stem cell research is a matter of public record.<sup>7</sup> MOD also supports pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD),<sup>8</sup> a technique that encourages eugenics by providing the means for rejecting embryos that have undesirable genetic traits. This technique is used in conjunction with in-vitro fertilization, where several embryos are created in the laboratory and then genetically tested prior to implantation. Those with traits such as Down syndrome or Tay Sachs are

killed. Not only that, but because of a lack of regulation in this process, embryos can be selected based on sex, hair color and other physical traits, portending a frightening eugenics future.<sup>9</sup>

5. MOD's newest battle lines have been drawn against premature birth. However, despite strong evidence<sup>10</sup> that prior abortions are the third highest risk factor associated with premature birth, MOD completely ignores this connection. Their website<sup>11</sup> listing of risk factors for premature birth does not even mention abortion. MOD's exclusion of this vital information shows their dishonesty, and it unmasks their pretense of impartiality toward abortion. They are deliberately withholding information about abortion risks that women have a right to know.

6. In fact, MOD's endorsement and promotion of the abortion industry is revealed by their contributions to Planned Parenthood.<sup>12</sup> MOD's justification is that the money does not go toward abortions, but in reality, such contributions free up other funds which Planned Parenthood can use for more lethal purposes. Whether or not the money pays for abortions, it supports an organization that is the country's largest abortion provider, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of pre-born babies every day. MOD's financial sponsorship of Planned Parenthood gives explicit approval to what that organization does, including abortions.

7. The reality of MOD's neutral stance on abortion is this: by not opposing abortion, MOD implicitly accepts it as a viable option and has the freedom to allow abortions without publicly condoning them. Clearly, their acceptance of the abortion option lays the groundwork for their strategy.

In summary, while there is certainly some good work done by MOD, it is not an organization that values each and every life. Its associations with abortionists and the abortion industry, its support of procedures that allow and encourage eugenics, its dishonesty concerning abortion risks, and its lack of respect for the dignity of the pre-born child all make support

for this organization objectionable from a pro-life point of view. This is why pro-lifers boycott MOD. This is why pro-lifers support organizations like The Michael Fund, [www.michaelfund.org] whose mission is to help children with birth defects while respecting the dignity of every human being from conception until natural death.<sup>13</sup>

—July 2009

Notes:

1. *March of Dimes Global Report on Birth Defects; March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, White Plains, New York, 2006; Executive Summary, Services For Care and Prevention of Birth Defects, p. 41. Accessed at: [http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/871\\_18587.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/871_18587.asp) Download "Report."*

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 46-48.

3. Engel, Randy, *March of Dimes: A Time For Reassessment; United States Coalition for Life, March 2002*, p. 3. Accessed at: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=4421&CFID=4546930&CFTOKEN=38860112>

4. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

5. Engel, Randy, *A March of Dimes Primer, the A-Z of Eugenic Killing; The Michael Fund*, p. 4. Accessed at: [http://www.michaelfund.org/index.php?pr=A\\_MOD\\_Primer](http://www.michaelfund.org/index.php?pr=A_MOD_Primer)

6. Engel, Randy, *March of Dimes: A Time For Reassessment; United States Coalition for Life, March 2002*, p. 3.

7. "Letter from the Research Community to Representative John Porter," July 29, 1999, p. 3. Accessed at: <http://www.lifeissues.org/cloningstemcell/escrletter.html>

8. Engel, Randy, *March of Dimes: A Time For Reassessment; United States Coalition for Life, March 2002*, p. 6.

9. "Designer baby row over US clinic, BBC NEWS, March 2, 2009. Accessed at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7918296.stm>

10. Ertelt, Steven, "National Academies of Science: Abortion Linked to Premature Birth Problems," *LifeNews.com*, July 27, 2006. Accessed at: <http://www.lifeneews.com/nat2453.html>

11. *March of Dimes Website; Prematurity Campaign; Premature Birth*. Accessed at: [http://www.marchofdimes.com/printableArticles/21239\\_5810.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/printableArticles/21239_5810.asp)

12. "Planned Parenthood—March of Dimes," Letter from Todd Grantham, State Director of Communications, March of Dimes, April 4, 2002. Accessed at: <http://www.lifeissues.org/marchofdimes/index.html>

13. *The Michael Fund Website; Accessed at: [http://www.michaelfund.org/index.php?pr=Home\\_Page](http://www.michaelfund.org/index.php?pr=Home_Page)*

—Susan W. Enouen, P.E., has a B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Ohio State University. Her professional experience includes work in data analysis and research for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Dupont, and Battelle Memorial Institute. She and her husband, Robert, live in Cincinnati, OH. They have three children.

## Technological Morality

### The top ten bioethics stories of the decade

By Wesley Smith

As we come to the end of the first tenth of the 21st century, pundits are making lists about the decade just past: the biggest stories, the worst movies. In that spirit, here's a list of the top ten stories in bioethics. This isn't an idle exercise. Bioethics matters. The field exerts tremendous influence over the most important questions of public policy and moral values: How should we treat the most vulnerable and dependent among us? What makes us human? Indeed, is it even morally relevant that one is human? Trends in bioethics, thus, illuminate where we are as a society and the nature of the culture we are creating for our progeny.

**10. The ascendance of an anti-human environmentalism.** Deep ecology, the most radical expression of environmentalism, maintains that human beings are the world's enemy—the AIDS of the Earth, as one advocate put it—and that saving the planet will require depopulating the Earth to under 1 billion. It is easy to dismiss such misanthropy as the radical fringe. Alas, during the last decade, vocal and unapologetic support for draconian depopulation has become a part of the environmental mainstream, and is now almost universal within the global-warming movement. China's one-child policy is not considered anathema by many global-warming alarmists, and is even extolled by influential leaders. The head of the U.K. Green party, Jonathon Porritt, who chairs the U.K. government's Sustainable Development Commission, said that curbing population growth through contraception and abortion must be at the heart of policies to fight global warming. Radical environmentalism appears to have morphed into anti-humanism, the result of which could be a new impetus for eugenics and radical population control.

**9. The growth of biological colonialism.** Desperate and destitute people are increasingly being exploited for their body parts and functions. For example, a black market has developed in human organs, in which well-off Westerners avoid transplant waiting lists by traveling to countries such as India, Bangladesh, or Turkey to purchase kidneys. The exploitation got so out of hand in the Philippines that the government was forced to outlaw organ-transplant surgery for non-citizens. Matters were even worse in China, where it was credibly charged that prisoners—perhaps practitioners of Falun Gong—were executed and their organs sold.

Organ buying wasn't the only growth sector in biological colonialism. The *Daily Mail* reported that women in Ukraine were being paid to get pregnant and have abortions to create stem cells for use in beauty treatments; the BBC reported the practice might even include infanticide. Poor women in India are renting their wombs to rich women for gestation, and some Westerners are buying Indian IVF embryos because it is cheaper than having them made at home.

**8. The increase in American pro-life attitudes.** In the last decade, polling showed a dramatic increase in the number of people who identify themselves as pro-life. For example, in 2000, a Gallup poll found that 48 percent of respondents were "pro-choice" and 43 percent "pro-life." In 2009, those numbers had more than reversed, with a majority identifying as pro-life (51 percent) and only 42 percent pro-choice. These changed attitudes were reflected in public policy, for example the passage of the federal ban on partial-birth abortion and the Born Alive Infant Protection Act. If this trend continues, it could eventually shake the *Roe* regimen off its foundation.

**7. The struggle over Obamacare.**

The political brouhaha over Obamacare was the bioethics story of 2009, not only in the U.S. but throughout much of the developed world. The strong victory of Obamacare opponents in the political debate—which may not prevent the bill's becoming law—demonstrated that the majority of Americans do not want European-style health care, nor, for that matter, health-care rationing (thus the resonance of Sarah Palin's "death panel" remark). The debate will not end with the passage or failure of a bill, and health-care reform will likely be one of the most important stories of the coming decade.

**6. Legalization of assisted suicide in Washington.** Though some thought it inevitable, legalized assisted suicide faced very rough sledding after Oregon passed its breakthrough law in 1994. After many years of failure, in 2008, an abundantly financed initiative campaign, fronted and partially paid for by a popular ex-governor, finally succeeded in Washington. Interestingly, as soon as the law went into effect, so did the pushback: Many Washington doctors and health-care systems publicly opted out of participation. A month later, a Montana trial judge declared a constitutional right to assisted suicide; the Montana supreme court eventually vacated the decision, but also ruled it legal under the living-will law for doctors to write lethal prescriptions for their terminally ill patients. Then, in 2009, the old stalemate reemerged, with legislatures in states as widespread as Hawaii, Arizona, Wisconsin, Vermont, and New Hampshire refusing to follow Washington's lead. Still, the Washington victory boosted the morale of assisted-suicide activists, who promise to wage an energetic legalization campaign in the coming decade.

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## Top Ten Bioethics Stories

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**5. The success of adult-stem-cell research.** When the embryonic-stem-cell debate first emerged at the end of the Clinton presidency, bio-scientists and their media acolytes insisted that embryonic stem cells offered the “best hope” for developing regenerative medical treatments and cures. At the same time, the potential for adult stem cells was downplayed, for example because they can’t become every type of cell in the body, a capacity known as “pluripotency.” But things didn’t turn out as expected. Embryonic stem cells proved difficult to harness and are still not approved for use in any human trials due to safety concerns, although two studies may begin next year. In contrast, adult stem cells have shown remarkable capacities. For example, in early human trials, adult stem cells have helped diabetics get off insulin, restored sensation to paralyzed people with spinal-cord injuries, helped heal unhealthy hearts, and provided hope to patients with autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis. These and other amazing advances in adult-stem-cell research provided one of the few pieces of truly good news in a sour decade.

**4. “Suicide tourism” in Switzerland.** Over the last decade, Switzerland became Jack Kevorkian as a country, its suicide clinics catering to an increasingly international clientele—mostly from the United Kingdom—with the victims ranging from the terminally ill, to people with disabilities, to even a double suicide of a terminally ill elderly woman and her frail husband, who wanted to die rather than be cared for by others. Alas, as was the case with Kevorkian in the 1990s, audacity was rewarded. In the face of a wave of high-profile suicide-tourism stories, England’s head prosecutor published guidelines that, in essence, decriminalized family and friends’ assisting the suicides of the dying, disabled, and infirm. Others

mimicked the Swiss. In the U.S., the Final Exit Network appears to have created mobile suicide clinics, leading to the indictment of several of its organizers. Meanwhile, the Australian “Dr. Death,” Philip Nitschke, traveled the world holding how-to-commit-suicide clinics. Still, as the decade came to a close, there was a sense that the tide could be turning: The Swiss government appears poised to shut down the suicide-tourism industry, perhaps even—although this is less likely—outlawing assisted suicide altogether.

**3. IVF anarchy.** The story of Nadya Suleman—better known as “Octomom”—epitomized all that has gone wrong in the assisted-reproduction industry. With the field virtually unregulated in the U.S. (and many other countries), oftentimes, anything goes. Because there were no regulations on the number of embryos that could be made during an IVF procedure, we now have 400,000 “spare” embryos on ice, looked upon by some as being akin to a crop ripe for the harvest. The lack of regulations has also led to a market in human eggs, in which eugenically correct college-age women are paid huge fees to donate their eggs—a procedure that can leave donors dead, infertile, or seriously ill. IVF has led to childbirth as manufacture, with our progeny chosen for their genetic makeup. It is likely that babies will soon be created with three parents. What comes next is anybody’s guess.

**2. The Bush embryonic-stem-cell funding policy.** When Pres. George W. Bush signed an executive order restricting federal funding of embryonic-stem-cell research to lines already in existence on Aug. 9, 2001, he set off a nearly decade-long firestorm. It wasn’t that the NIH didn’t fund ESCR during the Bush years: It did to the tune of nearly \$200 million. California passed Proposition 71, authorizing \$3 billion in bond money to be spent on ESCR and human-cloning research over ten years. Other states and private philan-

thropies also funded the research. Indeed, a study published by the Rockefeller Institute reported that \$2 billion-plus was put into ESCR from private and public sources during the Bush years. So what was the fuss all about? Yes, the policy inconvenienced researchers, requiring, for example, that experiments on “Bush qualified” ESC lines be segregated from non-qualified research. And yes, the limited number of authorized lines may have dissuaded some researchers from entering the field. But the real poke in the eye for the Science Establishment and liberal media was that Bush’s policy sent a clarion message that embryos—which are, after all, nascent human life—matter, thrusting his policy into a buzz saw involving our most touchy cultural issues, particularly abortion.

Ironically, Bush repeatedly expressed his confidence that scientists could find ways to obtain the benefits of ESCR without destroying embryos. That prediction appeared to come true in 2007 with the creation of induced-pluripotent stem cells, which are made from normal skin or other tissues. With the potential of iPSCs to do most of what scientists said they wanted from ESCR, the stem-cell issue lost its political potency. Thus, when President Obama revoked the Bush policy, it was something of an anticlimax. But look for the issue to be revived in all its emotional force in the next decade if scientists learn to reliably clone human embryos.

**1. The dehydration of Terri Schiavo.** The emotionally wrenching tug of war over the life of Terri Schiavo, covered sensationally by the international media and culminating in her slow death, was—hands down—the decade’s most important story in bioethics (as well of one of the most important stories of the early 2000s). Who hasn’t heard her name? Who doesn’t have an opinion about what happened? For a seeming eternity, the world groaned and argued bitterly about the weighty moral question of whether it is right



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Thirty-one years ago, Ann Zelnosky asked if I would attend the National Right to Life Convention in Covington, Kentucky, with my expenses to be covered by Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Blair County. I accepted and flew to the Cincinnati airport and was taken by van to a nearby motel, near the Convention Center.

Upon entering the Convention Center, I wandered the hallways and came upon a presentation by a group of young women from Cleveland who described what occurred at a so-called "summit" of pro-abortion and pro-life leaders in Washington that was sponsored by the National Organization of Women to seek "common ground."

The young ladies described how one of their members discovered the body of a discarded unborn baby girl in a dumpster outside an abortion clinic and took the baby to the "summit" with the goal of causing everyone to focus on the reality of abortion.

During the exchange of rhetoric, one of the ladies, to the astonishment of the press and the representatives of NOW, took the perfectly formed body of Baby Jane Doe from her purse and interjected that the dead body of this beautiful baby was what the debate was really about.

The meeting ended abruptly, and all of a sudden I knew that God wanted me to become involved in this great movement.

On June 24th through the 26th, the National Right to Life Committee will be holding its convention in Pittsburgh.

On behalf of Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Blair County, I extend an offer to assist you with your expenses for the convention by paying for a registration fee of \$98 prior to June 11—if you promise to go where God leads you afterward.

—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President  
Blair County Chapter  
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

to deprive a human being of food and water because he or she is profoundly cognitively impaired. Nearly five years after her death, we are not over it yet. Whenever a "miraculous awakening" story is reported, our minds and the media's pens immediately come back to the question of whether that case is somehow "different" from Terri Schiavo's.

It hasn't stopped there. With Terri dead and buried, and with majority poll support, some of the most notable voices within bioethics and transplant medicine openly argue that persistently unconscious patients should, with consent of family, have their organs harvested—which results in death—or be used in research as if they were actually dead. And with Obamacare coming full throttle, the question of whether the expenses required to care for these most helpless patients will continue to be borne has become a subject of acute bioethical attention.

Hubert Humphrey (among others) once said that a society is judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens. That truism explains why the Terri Schiavo case was far more than a personal and family tragedy: It was a modern-day passion play from which we are still reeling.

What do these stories tell us about ourselves and our society? The signals are mixed. First, we are in danger of supplanting human exceptionalism—belief in the intrinsic dignity and equality of human life—with a "quality-of-life ethic" in which some of us are deemed to matter more than others. But the path to such a brave new world is proving to be neither straight nor unimpeded. Indeed, there are encouraging signs the sanctity of life could make a comeback. This much is sure: Bioethics will continue to matter profoundly in the years and decades to come.

— Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and consults for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and the Center for Bioethics and Culture. His book *A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy* is published by Encounter Books.

—National Review Online, [www.nationalreview.com](http://www.nationalreview.com)  
January 8, 2010

### 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, contact *Project Rachel*, 814-884-8000; [www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org); or *Rachel's Vineyard*, 877HOPE4ME (877-467-3463); [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.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).



CCHL, Blair County Chapter, at March for Life, January 22, 2010



## **Congratulations, 2010 Central PA Essay Contest Winners!**

Students residing in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton,

Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties were invited to write an essay on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research from a pro-life perspective and enter the Regional and State Essay Contests.

The winners in the Regional Senior High Essay Contest are:

- 1st (\$200) Thomas Sicree of Boalsburg**
- 2nd (\$125) Alexander Sicree of Boalsburg**
- 2nd (\$125) Kelsey Ingold of Cresson**
- 3rd (\$75) Nicholas Adams of Tyrone**
- 3rd (\$75) Brea Neri of Windber**
- Honorable Mention (\$20 each):**
- Grant DeArmitt of Bellwood**
- Mark Ishler from Curwensville**
- Allison Haney of Johnstown**

The winners in the Regional Junior High Essay Contest are:

- 1st (\$150) Jacqui Meredith of Johnstown**
- 2nd (\$100) Olivia McCafferty of Philipsburg**
- 2nd (\$100) Hannah Grimes of Bedford**
- 3rd (\$50) Kirstyn Vitovich of Johnstown**
- 3rd (\$50) Mackenzie Barbin of Johnstown**
- Honorable Mention (\$20 each):**
- Olivia Murphy of Johnstown**
- Dan Formica of Johnstown**
- Christopher Michelone of Altoona**
- TOTAL AWARDS \$1,995**

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is pleased to announce the winners of the **2010 Pennsylvania State Pro-Life Essay Contest**. 729 entries were received, making it the largest contest yet! The winners are:

### Senior High Division

- 1st place—Hannah Victor of Cheltenham**
- 2nd place—Andrew Schreiber of Downingtown**
- 3rd place—Sarah Livengood (Bethlehem Catholic)**

### Junior High Division

- 1st place—Olivia McCafferty of Philipsburg**
- 2nd place—Cecilia Bruno of Harrisburg**
- 3rd place—John Coppa of Newtown Square**

Congratulations to all the winners! Keep up the good work and remain dedicated to the pro-life cause. Thank you to all who promoted these essay contests!

**Visit [www.BlairCountyProLife.com](http://www.BlairCountyProLife.com)  
to read the winning regional  
essays and speeches!**

## **And the Winners are... Teens Win Oratory Contest!**

Three local teens won cash prizes in the 2010 Central PA Pro-Life Oratory Contest sponsored March 7 by the Central Pennsylvania Region of Citizens Concerned for Human Life. The contest is held annually on the first Sunday in March and includes both a Varsity section (grades 11 and 12) and Junior Varsity section (grades 9 and 10). Contestants prepare a 5-7 minute talk on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research.



This year's winners in the Regional Varsity competition are:

- 1st place (\$200) Nicholas Adams of Tyrone**
- 2nd place (\$125) Brea Neri of Windber**
- 3rd place (\$100) Grant DeArmitt of Bellwood**
- Honorable Mention (\$75 each) Alexander Sicree of Boalsburg and Kelsey Ingold of Cresson**



*Brea Neri, Nicholas Adams, Grant DeArmitt, Kelsey Ingold and Alexander Sicree, Regional Varsity Winners in Oratory Contest*

The winners in the Regional Junior Varsity Oratory Contest were:

- 1st place (\$150) Hannah Grimes of Bedford**
- 2nd place (\$100) Thomas Sicree of Boalsburg**

The top two Regional Varsity Winners were invited to compete in the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation State Oratory competition in Harrisburg, on April 25.

The winners of the State Competition are:

- 1st place Reginald Johnson of Philadelphia**
- 2nd place John-Paul Heil of Camp Hill**
- 3rd place Anthony Saraceno of Bethlehem**
- Honorable Mention: Nicholas Adams of Tyrone, Katie Ahrens of Erie and Rose Behe of Bethlehem**

First-place winner, Reginald Johnson, will go on to compete in the national contest at the National Right to Life Convention in Pittsburgh, in June.

Students interested in entering the contests should set aside March 6, 2011 for next year's regional competition ([www.CentralPaProLife.org](http://www.CentralPaProLife.org)).

Thanks to all the participants for making these worthwhile events very successful and congratulations to all the winners on their outstanding contributions to the pro-life message! The pro-life youth of today give hope to our future.

## Physically Disabled People Deserve a Chance at Life, Not Condemned to Abortion

The couple had been anxiously awaiting the birth of their baby. There was no sonogram picture of him, so their first glimpse occurred after he had been delivered.

They were shocked by what they saw.

He had been born without arms and with shortened legs. This was not what they had expected.

The doctor had worked heroically to ensure that the baby would be born and that his mother would survive. However, after the physician determined to himself that the baby would be "better off dead," little Chet McDoniel was placed in a crib in a corner of the room and left to die.

But Chet survived. In fact, he thrived.

During a recent appearance at a fundraising banquet benefiting Morning Star Pregnancy Services in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he remarked, "The doctor made a decision he didn't have the right to make."

Chet's parents were told that he would never walk, but he proved the doctors wrong.

"I've enjoyed the life I've been given," Chet says.

Granted, he does face challenges. He cannot walk long distances, so he uses a wheelchair. He must use his feet to drive and to type—but for him, that's normal.

He fully recognizes that, in this age of extensive prenatal testing and ultrasounds, someone like him could easily be aborted. But, as he told the hundreds of people gathered at the Pennsylvania pregnancy center banquet, "We cannot know what life will bring."

Chet has made a fascinating life for himself, giving inspirational speeches and running his own travel agency. He has a wife and a daughter, and he graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Texas with a degree in radio, television and film production.

In a blog entry, he noted how he had given motivational talks recently at two middle schools:

"I challenged each school to participate in 'Smile Day' on Monday. Each student in the two schools has been given the task of smiling all day long this coming Monday in an effort to act their way into feeling happy.

I give them this challenge to experiment with on a Monday because that's the hardest day to smile, and if you

can be happy on a Monday, you can be happy all week long. Happiness is a choice that each and every one of us has to make every day, and these students will CHANGE the attitudes in their schools if they succeed in smiling all day on Monday."

State authorities labeled Chet McDoniel catastrophically handicapped because of his disabilities. But with each speech he gives and each connection he makes, he proves himself to be a catalyst for positive change.

Before his appearance at Morning Star, a rainbow appeared in the sky above the hotel—an appropriate sign of hope for a man who demonstrates that disability should never be a disqualifier for life.

—Maria Vitale, *LifeNews.com* Opinion Writer, April 23, 2010

Note: 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.

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

Spring 2010; Vol. 2, No. 2

Published four times a year

President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.

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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.*

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[www.BlairCountyProLife.org](http://www.BlairCountyProLife.org)

### 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.



# Seven Reasons to Boycott the March of Dimes

By Susan W. Enouen, P.E.

Although pro-lifers have been boycotting the March of Dimes since the 1970s, the general public seems unaware of the boycott and continues to support MOD. To help educate more people on the facts, we have provided a list of seven good reasons for boycotting MOD:

1. **Their emphasis on pre-natal diagnosis of birth defects, for which abortion is often the "treatment"**
2. **Their close ties to the eugenics movement**
3. **Their support of experimentation on live babies in the womb and on tissue from aborted babies**
4. **Their support of federally-funded embryo-destructive stem cell research and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD)**
5. **Their dishonesty in ignoring the connection between prior abortions and premature birth**
6. **Their grants to Planned Parenthood**
7. **Their "neutral" stance on abortion, which accepts and encourages abortion by its silence**

The March of Dimes is a well-known organization that arrays huge resources for the purpose of reducing the incidence of birth defects. MOD has improved the lives of many by striving to improve prenatal care and by providing treatment to children born with birth defects. This is what the public sees and supports, and it helps MOD to maintain a positive image as it organizes battalions of volunteers to raise money at the grass roots level. However, as our list indicates, there is a lot more going on behind this public face:

1. As part of their strategy, MOD strongly promotes pre-natal diagnosis and treatment. When birth defects are diagnosed prenatally and no medical cure is available, parents are forced to re-evaluate the pregnancy, often under the guidance of genetic counselors or doctors for whom "treatment" means abortion. In this way, MOD's emphasis on pre-natal diagnosis purposefully guides people to consider aborting babies with birth defects.

How do we know this is purposeful? For one thing, MOD reveals their true intention in their *Global Report on Birth Defects*.<sup>1</sup> In it they indicate a prevention strategy "to reduce the number of children born with birth defects." They cite programs in various countries that use prenatal diagnosis in combination with "pregnancy termination." These are noted as successes because they have reduced the incidence of children born with certain birth defects.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, MOD considers the killing of afflicted pre-born children as a successful strategy in the battle against birth defects.

In this way, MOD allows and even encourages the systematic killing of an entire class of human beings that they claim to help: pre-born babies with birth defects or disabilities. This is eugenic abortion. The fundamental premise of eugenics, supported by people like Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, is that certain people should never be born, and any efforts to prevent these births are for the betterment of society and families. To Margaret Sanger, some classes of people were worthy of life and some were not.

2. In truth, MOD's association and collaboration with nationally known eugenic abortionists began in the 1960s, when these doctors were given positions on various Advisory Committees for Medical Services, Basic Research, Clinical Research and Basil O'Connor Starter Research Grants.<sup>3</sup> Under such guidance, MOD established "genetic hygiene" or "genetic counseling" centers, later known by pro-lifers as "Screening to kill programs" or "Search and Destroy"

*continued on page 6*

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