

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

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The Hippocratic Resource

(A Statewide Organization of Louisiana Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Therapists and Other Health Professionals)

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"I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked ... I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce an abortion"

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Dear Colleague:

The results of the presidential election are in, and, unfortunately, from the perspective of Hippocratic issues and a culture of life, the voters' choice of Barack Obama to be the next president of the U.S. is bound to have major and doubtless negative consequences, decreasing the already virtually non-existent protections of pre-born children even further. **With little doubt, totally non-productive research into hypothetical clinical use of embryonic stem cells (ESCs)** – as opposed to the demonstrably clinically useful adult, umbilical and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) – **will be approved, probably by Executive Order.** There is also a great danger that physicians and other health professionals will no longer be allowed to practice medicine according to our patient- and physician-protecting Hippocratic Oath, as **conscience-protecting regulations may be eliminated;** Catholic hospitals may be forced to close. Taxpayer funding of international organizations that perform even forced abortions and sterilizations will be re-instituted, and foreign assistance program funds may be diverted into so-called "reproductive health" services that include abortion, all by presidential order.

President-elect Obama has also promised to sign the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)," as a first priority. Should the U.S. Congress pass FOCA, 35 years of incremental melioration of the disastrous *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court mandates of 1973 will be wiped out at the stroke of a presidential pen. **FOCA would overturn all state restrictions on abortion – together with the ban on partial-birth abortion – and impose wide-open, aggressively pro-abortion policies on the entire nation.** Some of the latter include: forcing taxpayers to pay for abortions, elimination of regulations to protect women from unsafe abortion facilities, allowing abortions to be performed by non-physicians or non-licensed physicians, preventing women from being told the true biologic and medical facts about abortion, elimination of any pre-abortion waiting periods, disallowance of any parental involvement, and denying aborted infants all protections if born alive.

Unfortunately, although the above may sound purely alarmist, it is not; it is hard fact! Let us, therefore, urgently pray that, somehow, these dire consequences do *not* come to pass! In addition, we must individually stand strong for the culture of life, and let our U.S. Senators and Congressmen know that we expect them to support our traditionally Louisianan pro-life position, and vote *against* FOCA. **Please use the following Telephone / FAX Contact Nos.:**

Sen. Mary Landrieu: Tel. / FAX: (202) 224-5824 / (202) 224-9735.

Sen. David Vitter: (202) 224-4623 / (202) 228-5061.

Rep. Steve Scalise: (202) 225-3015 / (202) 226-0386.

Rep. Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D.: (202) 225-2031 / (202) 225-5724.

Rep. Charlie Melancon: (202) 225-4031 / (202) 226-3944.

Rep. Rodney Alexander: (202) 225-8490 / (202) 225-5639.

[*Congratulations to newly elected:* **Rep. Bill Cassidy, M.D., Rep. John Fleming, M.D., Rep. Anh Joseph Cao.** (Nos. available in January)]

On a related note, one of us (W.A.K.) returned recently from a conference in Rome of MaterCare International (*not* at *Resource* expense!), an organization of obstetricians and gynecologists who respect the cardinal tenets of the culture of life in their practices. The theme, chosen months before the U.S. election, was prophetic, and particularly important for the timing; it provided an antidote, in some ways, to the truly depressing awareness of the likely consequences of that election. "Hope in Motherhood and the Ethical Practice of Obstetrics" was the theme. Hope is something we all need - yet for which we must also pray!

W. "Al" Krotoski, M.D., etc. and Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S.

Welcome to New Member:

[Information removed per privacy assurance to members]

DHHS Conscience Regulations

Although passage of FOCA would nullify any rule promulgated by the Bush Administration in due course, DHHS Secretary Michael Leavitt is still trying to get a rational conscience rule completed and signed by President Bush before December 20. Not surprisingly, this is vehemently opposed by all pro-abortion organizations, including *NOW*, which has an "e-mail

your representative" letter ready on its website. To counteract this, we must request our representatives and senators – as physicians or other health professionals – to help speed up the rule-writing and signing process! **We also need to thank Secretary Leavitt for his outstanding efforts!** FAX: (202) 690-7203

Forthcoming Events

New Orleans' Proudly Pro Life Dinner, *Thursday, January 15th, 2009*. A Gala Banquet and presentation of the annual Honoree at a spectacular *fundraiser*, held at the Chateau Country Club in Kenner, 6:30- 9 p.m. \$100 donation for a filet mignon dinner, w/ trimmings, wine & red roses. (Contact W.A.K. for details).

35th Annual March for Life, Washington, *Thursday, January 22nd, 2009*. This is a truly spiritual event to demonstrate a nationwide solidarity with the culture of life. Begins with a Catholic Mass on Wednesday evening at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (concelebrated by the nation's Catholic cardinals, bishops and priests), followed the next day by a mass Rally on the Oval with pro-life legislators and representatives of all the nation's clergy, then a peaceful, organized March to the Supreme Court steps. Several airlines have deep discounts (for example, as of this writing, SouthWest Airlines tickets for New Orleans-Baltimore-N.O. from \$71 each way) and bus travel is also being planned. More upon request: (Contact W.A.K. for details).

New Roster: Our new roster, updated as best we could from e-mail responses to the draft sent out recently, is included in this mailing. Should you find any errors, please let us know for 'pen-and-ink' changes.

Abortion and Depression

Three new studies refute the controversial recent statement of the American Psychiatric Association regarding the association between abortion and psychological disorders.

The first study by Coleman, et al (1) found that abortion was related to an increased risk for a variety of mental health problems (panic attacks, panic disorder, agoraphobia, PTSD, bipolar disorder, major depression with and without hierarchy), and substance abuse disorders after statistical controls were instituted for a wide range of personal, situational, and demographic variables. Calculation of population attributable risks indicated that abortion was implicated in between 4.3% and 16.6% of the incidence of these disorders.

The second study conducted in New Zealand (2), found that women who had abortions had rates of mental health problems about 30% higher than other women. The conditions most associated with abortion included anxiety disorders and substance abuse disorders. Abortions increased the risk of severe depression and anxiety by one-third. The

authors concluded that anywhere from 1.5 to 5.5 percent of all mental health disorders seen in New Zealand result from women having abortions.

The third study conducted by researchers in Australia (3) found that women who have an abortion or a miscarriage are three times more likely to experience a drug or alcohol problem during their lifetime. In this study, researchers from the University of Queensland examined 1,123 women born between 1981 and 1984. The women were assessed at the age of 21 to find out how many pregnancies, abortions, miscarriages and births they had experienced.

1. Coleman PK et al., Induced abortion and anxiety, mood, and substance abuse disorders: Isolating. *Journal of Psychiatric Research* (2008).

2. Fergusson D, et al. Abortion and mental health disorders: evidence from a 30-year longitudinal study. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 193: 444-451 (2008).

3. Dingle K. Pregnancy loss and psychiatric disorders in young women: an Australian birth cohort study. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 193: 455-466 (2008).

(As reported by Lifeneews.com)

Rob Chasuk M.D.

For President-elect Obama: Steps for the First 100 Days

[Extracted from a list provided to his transition team by over 60 pro-abortion groups, including Planned Parenthood of America, NARAL, NOW, and the ACLU. (http://otrans.3cdn.net/3b21d35e246c18a427_d7m6bw2o1.pdf.)]

Prioritize Prevention

Increase Funding for the Title X Family Planning Program to \$700 million.
Expand Coverage of Medicaid-Funded Family Planning Services.
Invest in Comprehensive Sex Education.
Restore Incentives to Provide Affordable Birth Control at College Health Centers and Certain Safety Net Providers.

Improve Access To Abortion Care

Strike Budgetary Restrictions That Block Women's Access to Abortion Care.

Support Healthy Pregnancies

Increase Funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant to \$850 Million.

Guarantee Access to Comprehensive, Quality, Affordable Health Care for All

Put Forward a Health Care Reform Plan That Guarantees Equal Access to Comprehensive, High-Quality, Affordable Health Care for All.
Reverse the HHS Federal Refusal Rule.

Reclaim America's Global Leadership on Reproductive Health

Rescind the Global Gag Rule.
Restore Funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
Provide \$1 Billion for International Family Planning Programs.

Restore Integrity to the Government's Public Health Decision-Making Processes

De-Fund Abstinence-Only Programs.
Review Policies that Restrict Access to Emergency Contraception (EC) and Eliminate Restrictions that Lack Scientific Support.

Select Judges and Executive Officials Who Are Highly Qualified and Committed to Individual Rights and Justice

Select Judicial Nominees with a Demonstrated Commitment to Fundamental Legal Protections and Civil Liberties, Including Reproductive Rights.
Reestablish a Standard of Excellence for Federal Appointees

Improve Access to Abortion Care

Strike Budgetary Restrictions That Block Women's Access to Abortion Care.

Bans on public funding for abortion services have severely restricted access to safe abortion care for women, disproportionately affecting poor women, women of color, and certain immigrant women. The President's budget should strike language restricting abortion funding for (i) Medicaid-eligible women and Medicare beneficiaries (Hyde amendment); (ii) federal employees and their dependents (FEHB program); (iii) residents of the District of Columbia; (iv) Peace Corps volunteers; (v) Native-American women; and (vi) women in federal prisons. The budget submitted to Congress also should omit language known as the Federal Refusal Clause (Weldon amendment) and call on Congress to reject this language in its annual health spending bill. The Weldon amendment denies federal funding if an "agency, program, or government subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions."²⁴

Guarantee Access to Comprehensive, Quality, Affordable Health Care for All

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Reverse the HHS Federal Refusal Rule.

A proposed HHS rule published on August 26, 2008 would obstruct access to reproductive and other health services, counseling, and referrals and could open the door for more widespread health service refusals. Federal law has long protected the rights of health care professionals to refuse to provide abortion services, while ensuring patient access to needed care. This new, expansive interpretation of existing law not only takes patients' health care needs

out of the equation but also conflicts with accepted medical standards of health care and treatment and creates possible conflicts with state laws designed to enhance access to reproductive health services. If not withdrawn, the Secretary of HHS should take immediate steps to reverse this policy.

Reclaim America's Global Leadership on Reproductive Health

Rescind the Global Gag Rule.

On his second day in office, President Bush issued an executive order, known as the "global gag rule," that forces foreign recipients of U.S. family planning aid to stop using their own funds for legal abortion-related services or to advocate for safe abortion laws and policies. The global gag rule has stifled the public debate in developing countries where clandestine abortion takes an enormous toll on women's health and lives.³⁶ It has also led to dramatic cutbacks in services, closures of clinics, and serious shortfalls in contraceptive supplies. The President should immediately rescind this dangerous policy, restore cut funding, and remove this politically motivated obstacle to health care for women around the world.

Restore Funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The United States has failed to support the critical work that UNFPA does to promote voluntary family planning and maternal health in 150 countries. Over the last seven years, the Bush Administration has distorted the application of the Kemp-Kasten law to justify its political decision to withhold the funds that Congress has consistently appropriated for this critical partner agency. The President should make available to UNFPA as soon as possible all funds appropriated by Congress for FY 2009. Further, he should include \$65 million within the International Organizations and Programs Account for a U.S. contribution to UNFPA in his FY 2010 budget request to Congress.

Provide \$1 Billion for International Family Planning Programs. In the last decade, U.S. funding for international family planning programs has declined by almost 40 percent.³⁷ Today, more than 200 million women in the developing world wish to delay, space, or complete childbearing, but do not have access to modern contraceptives.³⁸ The President should increase investment in international family planning, including programs to help ensure that those displaced by conflict and natural disasters have full access to life-saving reproductive health care. In addition, it is particularly important that reproductive health services be integrated into programs addressing HIV/AIDS and vice versa. Current funding is \$461 million for USAID's overseas family planning program; the Bush Administration, for the seventh consecutive year, blocked any U.S. contribution to UNFPA. We urge the President to include \$1 billion for international family planning programs, including \$65 million for UNFPA, in his first budget submitted to Congress.

Restore Integrity to the Government's Public Health Decision-Making Processes

De-Fund Abstinence-Only Programs. The Bush Administration has promoted dangerous, ineffective abstinence-only programs that contain inaccurate information about sexual and reproductive health. Since 1998, federal policymakers have allocated more than \$1.3 billion taxpayer dollars for abstinence-only programs, despite overwhelming evidence that this massive federal expenditure has failed completely to achieve its stated goals. The President's budget should de-fund abstinence-only programs by (i) abolishing the abstinence-only program within the Title V MCH Services Block Grant; (ii) abolishing the Community-Based Abstinence Education program; (iii) de-linking the Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) from the A-H definition in the Title V abstinence-only program; and (iv) tightening AFLA program eligibility in order to end funding for all programs that promote an abstinence-only approach.

Review Policies that Restrict Access to Emergency Contraception (EC) and Eliminate Restrictions that Lack Scientific Support.

We urge the President to direct relevant agencies to reexamine Bush Administration policies that have blocked or limited women's access to EC. The President should direct the Secretary of Defense to add EC to the military's basic core formulary; the Department of Justice should include discussion of EC in its guidelines for hospital treatment of sexual assault survivors; and USAID should include the medication in its Commodities Program. Finally, the President should direct the Secretary of HHS to instruct the FDA to review and evaluate the scientific data underlying the age restriction on over-the-counter access to EC to ensure that the FDA's policy is based on sound science rather than politics.

Select Judges and Executive Officials Who Are Highly Qualified and Committed to Individual Rights and Justice

Select Judicial Nominees with a Demonstrated Commitment to Fundamental Legal Protections and Civil Liberties, Including Reproductive Rights.

It is critical that only fair and independent judicial nominees with a demonstrated commitment to fundamental legal rights be appointed to the federal courts, including the Supreme Court and lower courts. The President should nominate individuals who, in addition to meeting the requirements of honesty, integrity, character, temperament, and intellect, demonstrate a commitment to justice, civil rights, equal rights, individual liberties, and the fundamental constitutional right to privacy, including the right to have an abortion.

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