

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

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The Hippocratic Resource

(A Louisiana Organization of Life-respecting Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Therapists, Scientists, 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"

Dear Colleague!

To begin, we would like to wish one and all, a very Holy and

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010!

Although there remain problems aplenty in regard to Hippocratic issues, this is not the time to dwell on them inordinately. Rather, it is time to take a moment to hope and pray for Peace, Happiness and Prosperity for all men and women of good will and their families, and *that* we do. It must be admitted, however, that 2009 has not been an unpunctuated string of successes in the arena of promoting a genuine respect for all human life – thus far, anyway! Despite some significant progress in Louisiana, specifically in terms of safeguarding the right of a health professional to practice the Art in accord with his or her conscience, and of banning the abomination of animal-human hybridization in our State, the specter of health care reform involving taxpayer funding of abortions still looms at the federal level. It is *imperative* that we, as physicians and other health care professionals get informed and involved in the federal legislation by making our influential voices heard by Congress, in this case, specifically, now by the U.S. Senate. Without our input, we may well *encourage* a total re-manufacture of the practice of Medicine in the U.S., especially in regard to its foundation of Hippocratic Medicine, i.e. away from a profound respect for all human life!

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

Federal Developments

As a brief recap of federal developments: on November 7th, the House passed the Pelosi bill (H.R. 3692) by a hair, 220-215, but not before Congressmen Bart Stupak of Michigan (D-1st) and Joseph Pitts of Pennsylvania (R-16th) succeeded in attaching an amendment permanently to prohibit a federal government insurance program, the "public option," from paying for abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest; and permanently to prohibit the use of proposed new federal premium subsidies ("affordability credits") to purchase private insurance plans that cover abortion (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest). The 240-194 vote was the first truly bi-partisan action on health care reform, involving 176 Republicans and 64 Democrats in favor.

For its part, the Senate has undertaken debate on another reform bill, the Reid bill (H.R. 3590.). Unfortunately, as outlined by the National Right to Life Committee (www.capwiz.com/nrlc/issues/alert?alertid=13157881), "The Reid bill establishes a big new federal health insurance program, the public option . . . ***The bill authorizes (on page 118) the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services to require coverage of any and all abortions throughout the public option program.*** This would be federal government funding of abortion, no matter how hard they try to disguise it." Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said Senator Reid's bill "is actually the wors[t] bill we've seen so far on the life issues," and "completely unacceptable." Clearly we need to contact our Senators!

Latest Available Abortion Statistics

On November 27, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released final statistics for abortions reported in the U.S. during 2006. A summary table is attached, as are those for virtually completed statistics for Louisiana for 2006 and 2007 (released 10 & 11/2009). Please note information provided in the table footnotes, as they expand and complement our commentary in the last issue. Of interest in the U.S. data are: the stability (2005-2006) of all repeated statistics re total numbers, maternal age, marital status and gestational age; the continuing increase in "medical" abortions; and the high proportion (3.6) of maternal deaths due to *legal vs. illegal* abortions from 1972 to 2005.

Roster Change (new information *in italics*)

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