

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

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The Hippocratic Resource

(A Statewide Organization of Louisiana 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:

Since our last (pre-Easter) issue, in addition to time having passed, a number of events of note have occurred, not the least of which, was our 5th "Gathering" in Lafayette, in May. At this successful get-together, Dr. Francis Rinaudo, Jr. was awarded the "Louisiana Champion for Life Award – Born and Unborn" for 2008-9 [see story below]. Additionally, however, the Louisiana Legislature convened – in fact, by the time you read this, it will have adjourned for the year (!) – and, despite the fact that this was an "odd" year "fiscal + 5" session, it considered and/or legislated quite a number of issues of Hippocratic interest [story below]. Finally, notorious, late-term abortionist George Tiller of Kansas was murdered on May 31st, an act that, despite Tiller having been responsible for thousands of deaths by virtual infanticide, is, nevertheless, completely contrary to the principles of a respect for human life – and is counterproductive to boot. In fact, his murder has already prompted death threats against several pro-life groups, including "One of you is going to die for what you did to Tiller," and "You've killed him. Now I hope somebody comes and kills you all" (www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=16338, 6-20-09) – notwithstanding the fact that "within hours ... every major pro-life organization in the country had issued condemnations of the shooting and calls for the assailant's prosecution" (www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/july/2.16.html, 6-20-09). **As physicians and other health professionals who subscribe to the Hippocratic Oath's adage that "I will give no deadly medicine if asked," and who decry the cooperation of medical personnel in capital punishment, we concur in those condemnations.**

W. A. "Al" Krotoski, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. and Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S.

5th Gathering

The 5th "Gathering" of *The Hippocratic Resource* was held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Don's Seafood and Steak Restaurant in Lafayette. Approximately two dozen members and guests were in attendance. The agenda included a presentation by Dr. Wilton Bergeron, one of the original signatories of a physician advertisement that affirmed the Hippocratic proscription against abortion in the September 1973 Lafayette *Advertiser*, on "Where we were in 1973 Lafayette, and where we are today;" a presentation on "Victims of Abortion," by Cynthia Labutka of *Silent No More*; and a synopsis of bills of Hippocratic interest pre-filed for the Louisiana Legislature. The meeting culminated with the presentation to *Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S., of the "Louisiana Champion for Life Award – Born and Unborn" for 2008-2009*, for his steadfast and irreplaceable support of *The Resource*, through leadership, with spirit, and materially [photos on pp.2 and 4].

ROSTER CHANGES *(in italics)*

(Information omitted to preserve member privacy)



Dr. Wilton Bergeron, one of the signatories of a physician-sponsored advertisement in the September, 1973 Lafayette Advertiser that affirmed the Hippocratic proscript against abortion, addresses *Resource* members.



Dr. Francis Rinaudo, Jr. receives the 2008-9 “Champion for Life Award – Born and Unborn” from Dr. “Al” Krotoski. Mrs. Joan Dowd, R.N., last year’s recipient, is to Dr. Rinaudo’s left; Dr. Steve Gremillion, Treasurer, is at left of the group.

Louisiana Legislative Update

Despite 2009 being a “fiscal + 5” year for our Legislature (meaning that each legislator could introduce only 5 bills dealing with matters other than fiscal in this 6-week regular session), several significant “culture of life” issues were covered. Two were particularly important: **SB 115 (Martiny), to ban the production of animal → human or human → animal hybrids**, and **HB 517 (LeBas), to allow physicians and other health professionals to practice without violating their Hippocratic consciences (and to allow Catholic and other religiously based hospitals to be similarly protected)** [click on *Legislative Testimony* Section]. **SB 115 was passed by the Legislature, then signed as Act 108 by the Governor; HB 517 also passed** (although with troublesome language), **and was signed as Act 372** on 7-6-09. Additionally, two concurrent resolutions, **SCR 101 & 102 (Broome)**, to memorialize the U.S. Congress and President Obama, respectively, “to enact legislation to prohibit fetal torture and dismemberment,” cleared both chambers, and

were filed with the Secretary of State. A third, **SCR 57 (Long)**, “to designate May 18, 2009 as ‘Pro Life Day in Louisiana’,” also cleared both chambers, and with a **House amendment to declare the first week of June, annually**, as “Pro Life Week in Louisiana;” it, too, was filed with the Secretary of State. Ironically, SCR 57 almost assuredly came about as a result of two concurrent resolutions, **HCR 66 (Peterson)** and **SCR 46 (L. Jackson)** having been stealthily introduced into, and passed by their respective chambers. These were to “designate May 13 as ‘Planned Parenthood Day’” [3 days after Mother’s Day!], but didn’t make it to any subsequent Committee agendas. Finally, **SCR 5 (Crowe)**, to memorialize Congress to reject the “Freedom of Choice” Act, FOCA, was reported favorably by the Senate, but with insufficient time to complete the legislative process. Who could ever claim that Louisiana is not pro-life? (www.legis.state.la.us).

Nationally – FOCA

Although the so-called “Freedom of Choice Act” or FOCA (S. 1173, H.R. 1964) has largely slipped out of media coverage for now, it is by no means a dead issue. It was fully supported by, and a major campaign component of *Candidate* Barack Obama, who promised to sign it when presented to him, as president, by Congress. However, it would appear that there may have been some softening of his position; *President* Obama has now stated that it is not his highest priority issue. For this, we should be grateful, as, if passed, FOCA would immediately eliminate all of the already almost non-existent protections of pre-born children in the U.S., by wiping out 36 years of incremental progress toward restoring cultural sanity. This legislation goes far beyond the original *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* Supreme Court decisions of 1973 that imposed virtually unfettered abortion on Louisiana and all other states.

According to the National Committee for a Human Life

Amendment (NCHLA),

“It would eliminate a broad range of laws – informed consent laws; parental involvement laws; laws promoting maternal health; abortion [facility] regulations; government clinics and facilities that pay for or promote childbirth and other health care without subsidizing abortion; conscience protection laws; laws prohibiting ... partial birth abortion; laws requiring that abortions be performed only by licensed [medical degree holders]; and so on.”

Cardinal Rigali, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has stated that,

“Despite its deceptive title, FOCA would deprive the American people in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints ... on the abortion industry,” and would “counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country.”

Even with the possible relief, we must remain vigilant, as it has been predicted that FOCA’s component parts will be brought up piecemeal for passage, to stay below the radar.

OATH OF HIPPOCRATES

(as excerpted for House & Senate Health and Welfare Committee Testimony)

American Medical Association, 1968:

"I will follow that method of treatment, which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel. I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion."

National Catholic Bioethics Center, 1995:

"I will follow that method of treatment, which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patient and abstain from whatever is harmful or mischievous. I will maintain the utmost respect for every human life from fertilization to natural death, and reject abortion that deliberately takes a unique human life."

Louisiana State Medical Society (current):

"I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and judgment, and to please no one will I prescribe a deadly drug, nor give advice which may cause death. Nor will I give a woman a pessary to produce abortion."



Louisiana Champion for Life – Born and Unborn Award



Dr. Rinaudo making a brief presentation on integrity and courage



Resource members and spouses listen.



Eating and listening ...

SPECIAL ADDENDUM

Excerpt of ***The Hippocratic Resource***'s Response (6-10-09) to the IRS's May 2009 Request for Additional Information:

"This is to respond to your latest letter, dated 2-20-09, with due date stated to be 3-04-09, *but not sent until 5-07-09* by FAX (received beginning 3:03 p.m., CST), *repeated on 5-08-09* (received, beginning 10:26 a.m., CST); *the last part (two pages not received earlier) was received, by FAX, on 5-19-09 at 1:54 p.m.* **Thus, the complete letter was not FAXed to me until over 60 days *after* the response due date.**

Answers to specific questions (letter dated 2-20-09, received 05-08-09 through 5/19/09):

1. As was clearly stated in our response of 7-18-08 to a letter from agent Glenn Collins, there is only one website, but it is reachable by two addresses. As we responded in July, 2008, "In order to prevent any sense of discrimination or of not belonging among our members [who are in several different health professional categories], we have linked two website addresses (www.LaDocs4Life.org and www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org) to a single website; these we use as seems most prudent and appropriate to a given circumstance, although both are usually cited together in either order." To characterize it in any other way would be a misrepresentation or a gross error, one based on not examining the issue with appropriate care and/or knowledge of search engine characteristics, as has, apparently, been committed by whoever was alleging otherwise; quite frankly, it suggests a politically motivated agenda. The two website *addresses* listed on our letterhead, i.e. www.LaDocs4Life.org and www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org, link to a single website, that of *The Hippocratic Resource*. A simple "click" on either address, or entering either address into a web browser – as obviously was not done – would have shown this to be the case. Furthermore, your statement that "Alabama Physicians for Life, Inc. (APFLI) ... sponsors www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org" is totally in error. Again, this false and culpably erroneous misrepresentation was apparently never even tested! It is a fact that Alabama Physicians for Life is posted as a link on our "Links" page, completely in accord with your statement that "There is no prohibition against posting a link from your site to theirs." However, despite your allegations to the contrary, we have never claimed that "their website is part of [y]our own organization," simply because, to use your words, "in reality it is not" – and never has been so characterized, other than by your own erroneous statements. Given your provision of a "Google" page as apparent support for this allegation, it is obvious that whoever made the charge does not recognize that, simply because the listing "[Physicians for Life – Abstinence, Abortion, Birth Control ...](http://www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org)" on that page includes "lahealthprofs4life.org" within the captured description, this does not mean that there is a linkage. Furthermore, a characterization by one organization that is clearly inimical to the objective truth is listed on that page under the Google-found title, "Another LA anti-woman organization." This is a blatantly biased, yet inflammatory opinion from cyberspace, and has no place in this discussion. All these misrepresentations are instantly extraordinarily prejudicial to all further evaluation."