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Enclosed Envelope – We've included a donation envelope inside this issue of the Right to Life News. Will you consider a generous donation today? Your gifts help us save lives. ☹

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Sign Up for Email Legislative Alerts – Stay up-to-date on important life-issue legislation – sign up to receive our E-mail Legislative Alerts through our website, www.rirtl.org. On our site, click Legislation, then Legislative Action, then Legislative Alerts, and enter your email address in the box.

Share this Newsletter with Friends and Family – Pass the Right to Life News along to your pro-life friends and family. We send this quarterly newsletter to all of our members. If anyone you know would like to receive this newsletter, they can easily become a member by filling out the short form on the Contact Us page on our website, www.rirtl.org. ☹

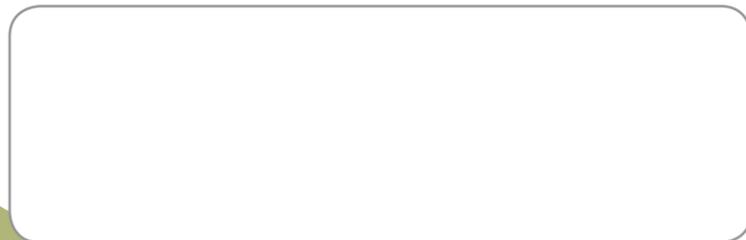
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Summer 2007



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Providence, RI 02908

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Endowed by our Creator with the inalienable right to life...
We hold these truths to be self-evident. But not everyone does.



Right to Life News

Summer 2007

Vol. 6, No. 2

A Small Yet Significant Victory Supreme Court Upholds Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

Rita Parquette, Executive Director

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act signed into law by President Bush in 2003 is a victory won by the continuous efforts of the pro-life movement, especially by the expert lobbying of the National Right to Life Committee in the U.S. Congress. During the past 14 years, pro-life groups around the country used the partial-birth abortion issue to educate the public about the humanity of the unborn person. Even though the ban only prevents a small percentage of abortions, it's something to celebrate. This is the first time an abortion procedure has been outlawed, and the education about this issue has changed the hearts and minds of millions of Americans about what happens during an abortion and what the baby experiences. The battle is hardly over, but we have won a significant victory.

In addition, the fact that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was voted on and passed by a majority of the members of the U.S. Congress is also a victory. This is how regulating abortion should occur in America, through discussion and decisions made by our elected officials – not through judicial fiat. We hope this decision will continue to create a positive momentum for the eventual overturning of Roe v. Wade and will help to bring decisions about abortion back to the American people and their elected officials in each state.

Story continues on page 2

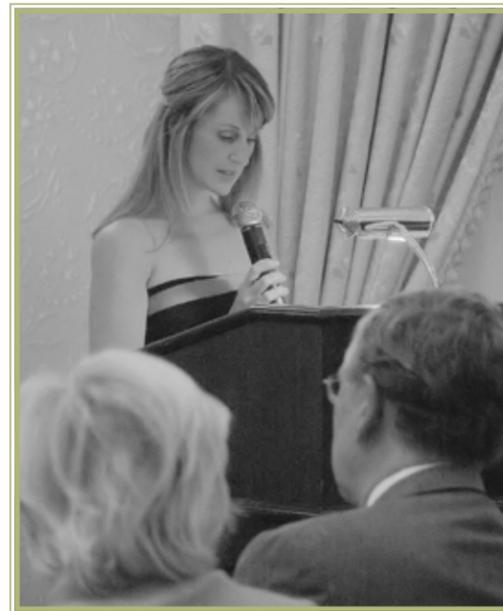


photo by Kim Kiely

Chantel O'Neill reads a poem at the Gala for Life as Gov. and Mrs. Carcieri look on.

First Gala for Life a Success

On June 23rd, RI Right to Life held our inaugural black tie Gala for Life at the Hotel Providence. We were honored to have two pro-life governors and first ladies present, Gov. Donald and Suzanne Carcieri and former Gov. J. Joseph and Marguerite Garrahy. Guests enjoyed the perfect summer evening during a cocktail reception on an outdoor terrace, then sat down to

an elegant dinner indoors. After a powerful video presentation about the life issues, Patrick Lynch, an active pro-life advocate, gave the keynote address. His speech, "The Courage to Hope," is available online at <http://web.mac.com/patrick.lynch/iWeb/Site%20/>. The evening concluded with dancing to the Bob Saraceno Band. RIRTL hopes to make this an annual event. ☹

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The language used by Justice Kennedy in his writing of the majority decision is most often associated with pro-life speakers. Justice Kennedy reaffirmed the Casey decision of 1992 when he said, "The government may use its voice and its regulatory authority to show its profound respect for the life within the woman." Most notable was the emphasis in the majority opinion on the implication of abortion's "ethical and moral concerns." Justice Kennedy also dared to say that "abortion hurts women" and that "such a grave decision should be well informed." He also spoke about the "bond of love" that occurs between the mother and her unborn child.

This should give a legal boost to the many states that are working to pass legislation limiting abortion. Even Justice Ginsburg, who wrote the dissenting opinion, said that in order for women to make an "autonomous decision" about abortion, they should be told everything about the procedure. ♣

Staff

- Rita Parquette, Executive Director
- Peg Lavallee, Services Coordinator
- Becky Miller, Education Coordinator
- Terri Sylvestre, Accountant
- Alison Corcoran, Executive Assistant

Board Members

- Diane Manning, Chairperson
- Pat Lafreniere, Secretary
- Michael Motta, Treasurer
- Diane Caracciolo
- Joseph Clossick
- Catherine Graziano
- Jack Parquette
- Robert Sullivan
- Pilar Tasca
- Lisa Torrado

Advisors

- Eduardo Birbuet
- Robert Duffy, Esq.
- Kevin McDevitt

Contact

Street Address:
266 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 28285
Providence, RI 02908

T: 401.521.1860
F: 401.521.1876
Email: info@rirtl.org

Interview with Wesley J. Smith

Becky Miller, Education Coordinator

I talked with bioethicist Wesley Smith at the 2007 National Right to Life Convention about stem cell research. To learn more about this issue, see the Stem Cell Research section of our website, www.rirtl.org. Hear Smith speak on this and other pro-life topics at our Oct. 20 banquet.

Q: Why is there so much promotion for embryonic stem cell research?

A: The pressure comes from two areas. First is that a lot of states believe they have to get biotech companies into the state for business and that the primary way to do so is through embryonic stem cell research and cloning. However, most biotechnology isn't involved with that. In fact, most of the private funding is going into the non-contentious areas of biotechnology. So because the morally controversial areas are having a hard time getting funding from the private sector, there's a big drive to get it from the public sector. Second is an ideology contest over which moral value system is going to prevail in our society, whether it's going to be the sanctity/equality of life ethic or the utilitarian/quality of life ethic.

Q: What is the biggest falsehood being perpetuated about this issue?

A: That embryonic stem cell research is the best promise. You can't say that yet because it hasn't been demonstrated. You might be able to claim that in theory, but you can't say it assertively. Those modifiers are important in people determining their ethical views on these issues.

Q: If you had just one minute to sit down with an average American who doesn't know much about stem cell research, what would you say?

A: Biotechnology can go forward with tremendous benefit for humankind without transforming human life into a harvestable crop. Our value system on this issue will also determine other issues. For example, if it's okay to take an embryo's life and use its body parts, is it also okay to take the life of someone who is in a persistent vegetative state for the same purposes? The real question is whether we're going to sacrifice our humanity for cures. In our desperate desire to be well, will we cast aside the ethic that protects all of us, the weak as well as the strong? ♣

Save the Date!

Walk-A-Thon, Saturday, September 22, 2007, 10 a.m.

Starting at the Right to Life office, 266 Smith Street, Providence. Call the Right to Life office to register.

Annual Awards and Speakers Banquet

October 20, 2007, Providence Marriott

Featured Speaker: Pro-life bioethicist Wesley J. Smith
Annual Pro-Life Awards: Fr. Marcel Taillon and the Hendricken High School Pro-Life Club; Christine Athaide
Call the Right to Life office at 521-1860 for tickets.

Right to Life Services Report

Peg Lavallee, Services Coordinator

Between Jan. and May 2007, Right to Life Services has helped 363 families. We've supplied 80 newborn packages, 169 bags of clothes for toddlers, 162 packages of diapers, 80 boxes of wipes, and 148 assorted toiletries. ♣



Rev. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke on the RI State House steps during the RI Right to Life rally in January 2007. "Abortion is the premiere civil rights issue of our time," she said.

Legislative Updates and Action Alerts

State Updates

Women's Right to Know Bill Receives Hearing - On May 29, the Women's Right to Know Bill received a hearing in the RI House Health, Education, and Welfare committee. The bill would provide women with information about fetal development, possible physical and emotional side effects of abortion, and alternatives to abortion, 24 hours before they could schedule an abortion. Similar legislation in 27 other states has reduced the number of abortions in those states. Sixty-one percent of Rhode Islanders support this type of legislation.

Dr. Chad Lamendola, a family practitioner from East Greenwich, testified for the bill. He refuted the "incomplete, misleading, and intellectually dishonest" pre-abortion information Planned Parenthood distributes. Post-abortive women also testified about the suffering they experienced after their abortions and their wish that they had been given this information.

The HEW committee voted to study the bill further rather than sending it to the House floor. RI Right to Life will continue its efforts to push the bill onto the House floor for a vote. Thank you to all of you who contacted your RI Representatives to encourage passage of the bill.

Federal Updates

• **Federal Funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research Vetoed** - Pres. Bush vetoed S. 5, which would have federally funded the type of stem cell research that kills human embryos. He also issued an executive order in support of providing federal funding for adult stem cell research.

• **"Clone and Kill" Bill Defeated** - The U.S. House of Representatives voted 213-204 against H.R. 2560, falsely called a "ban on human cloning." It did not actually ban cloning, but rather allowed cloning for research and stem cell production and then mandated that all cloned embryos be destroyed.

• **U.S. Funding for International Abortion Providers Passed in House** - Rep. Lowey (D-NY) put language into a State Department appropriations bill that would give U.S. funding to international organizations providing abortions, overturning the "Mexico City policy" that prohibits such organizations from receiving American aid. Reps. Smith (R-NJ) and Stupak (D-MI) wrote an amendment to void that language, but their effort was voted down 218-205. Pres. Bush has said he will veto the appropriations bill because of Lowey's addition.