



Hawai'i State Legislative Update

From HRTL PAC
By Carol White

The 2007-2008 state legislative session is drawing to a close; bills that have not been acted upon will need to be re-submitted for the new 2009-2010 session. With November elections approaching, legislators are very cautious about acting on any potentially controversial bills.

Several bills that HRTL supports were introduced in 2007 and subsequently carried over into 2008 but were not acted upon. Among these was protec-

tion of a viable fetus (similar to the federal Laci & Connor Peterson's Law), parental notice and consent for abortion, and prohibiting



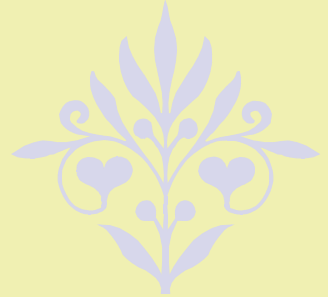
partial-birth abortion. This was also true of bills that HRTL opposes: emergency contraception, stem-cell research, physician-assisted suicide, and a bill aimed at

restricting funding of abstinence education. One bill supported by HRTL, S.B. 2301, may pass this session. It authorizes extended terms of imprisonment for felony offenses committed against pregnant women. While it does not include a penalty for harming the unborn baby, it is an "educational" bill. It recognizes that pregnant women may be especially vulnerable to violence, particularly abuse by partners or spouses. But, more importantly, it recognizes that the preg-

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Charitable Choice

Hawaii Right to Life Education Fund has again applied to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (federal employees/military) and Aloha United Way. We are so grateful to those who have designated our Education Fund for their contributions. Please watch for our listing when you receive information about these campaigns.



Defending Our Crisis Pregnancy Centers

By Carol White

Abortion advocates in Congress are continuing their campaign against pregnancy centers that offer abortion alternatives. In 2007, bills were introduced that called for investigations of pro-life pregnancy centers and that attempted to restrict these centers in advertising or in what they could tell pregnant women. U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) is a co-sponsor of House Resolution 2478, which

directs the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting "deceptive" (read: pro-life) advertising related to abortion counseling services. There is similar legislative activity in several states.

In response, House Resolution 232 was introduced during the current session in support of crisis pregnancy centers. In response to a request that she co-sponsor the bill, U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

declined, stating in her response, "I have a long record of supporting a woman's fundamental right to choose. House Resolution 232 supports pregnancy centers that are often anti-choice."¹

Sadly, this is the typical response to pro-life legislation by our current congressional delegation. Please pray for our representatives, and take the opportunity to educate them about the valuable efforts of our crisis pregnancy centers and their

dedicated volunteers.

To contact your representative in support of H. Res. 232, visit <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>.

In Memory

Dr. Richard E. Moore, HRTL Treasurer from 1997 to 2007. You inspired us by your passionate support of the right to life and by your unselfish dedication to the cause. We will miss you.



Abortion Link to Premie Births

By Carol White

Did you know that each week in Hawai'i, on average, 43 babies are born prematurely?² Research shows there may be a link between elective abortion and pre-term births.

Although never mentioned by abortion advocates or mainstream media, many studies have been conducted to determine whether a link exists between premature birth rates and elective abortion. Nearly 60 studies have shown a statistically significant increase

in pre-term birth or low birth weight in deliveries following an induced abortion.³

Dr. Byron Calhoun, Professor and Vice Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at West Virginia University, estimates that roughly a third of babies who are considered "very pre-term" result from a woman's decision to have a prior abortion.⁴

For information about this topic, contact the HRTL office at hrtlprolife@yahoo.com or 585-8205.

Calling All Nurses!

Do you know a pro-life nurse or nursing student? Let them know about the National Association of Pro-life Nurses (NursesForLife.org). NAPN



is a non-profit organization uniting nurses who seek excellence in nursing for

all, including the unborn, newborn, disabled, mentally and/or physically ill, the aged, and the dying. NAPN also promotes ethical values, supports healthcare personnel in discrimination cases, and promotes positive alternatives to abortion and euthanasia.

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HRTL Thanks Outgoing Board President

By Marcia Berkowitz

This issue of *Hawaii Right to Life Heartbeat* is dedicated to John McDermott, who served as executive director and, more recently, as board president. John was with HRTL from April 2007 to January 2008, when he left to enter a seminary in Connecticut.

John blessed HRTL in many ways. He helped secure new donations in support of the organizational mission and solidified our outreach. He did an outstanding job of helping to organize the 2008 March for Life at the Hawai'i state capitol building, and he directed HRTL PAC's legislative agenda for 2008. He was

instrumental in the decision to move our office from its former location on University Avenue its new home on Hotel Street.

All of us at HRTL offer our sincere thanks to John for his service, and we wish him the very best in his ministry.

You Can Be a Friend for Life!

Enclosed is my one-time monthly gift of \$ _____. Please use my gift for education (tax deductible) political action (**not** tax deductible)

Check enclosed

Charge my (circle one) VISA/MC _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ exp _____

Signature (for credit card charge) _____

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to Hawaii Right to Life, 81 S. Hotel St., Rm. 200-B, Honolulu, HI 96813. Thank you.



Meet Your New Board Members!



Board members, left to right, Luci Nelson, Marie Kuhn, Carol White.

2008 Board of Directors:

Marcia Berkowitz,
Vice President

Kin Borja

Karen DiCostanzo

Marie Kuhn,
Treasurer

Phillip Moore,
President

Dr. Ronald Nelson

Lucille Nelson

Carol White,
Secretary



Board members, left to right, Ron Nelson, Phil Moore.

By Karen DiCostanzo

HRTL would like to introduce its 2008 board of directors, which includes five new members. In the wake of former board president John McDermott's departure, current board member Phil Moore has stepped into the lead position. Present board member Marcia Berkowitz will continue to serve in the role of vice president. Current member Kin Borja continues to serve for 2008. HRTL does not have an executive director at this time; instead, the duties previously handled in this position will be shared by the various board members.

New board member **Karen DiCostanzo** joined HRTL as a volunteer in August 2007, just two weeks after having moved to O'ahu from Kansas City. She has been an active supporter of the right-to-life movement for over 20 years.

Karen has an MBA and a background in business administration and human resources. She lives with her physician husband and their Shetland sheepdog in Kailua. A self-described "news junkie", Karen enjoys reading, walking, and cooking.

Marie Kuhn has returned to the HRTL board, after some time away, as treasurer for 2008. She has been involved with pro-life ministries such as HRTL and the Pearson Foundation of Hawaii since

1983. Her involvement in the pro-life movement began shortly after participating in a January March for Life event, when she heard an inner voice saying, "You can't just stand up for life once a year." In 1999, Marie started Pearson's abstinence program, which was used in both public and private schools. Marie previously served HRTL as board secretary from 1987 to 1996. She is a longtime Hawai'i resident and has six children.

Like Marie, **Dr. Ronald Nelson** also returns to the HRTL board in 2008; his first time as a board member was during the early 1990s. A dentist, Ron served in the U.S. Navy for 26 years and is now retired from military service. Ron currently serves as a deacon in the Catholic Church and is assigned to Mānoa Punahou Catholic Community (MPCC).

Ron's wife, **Lucille Nelson**, also joins the board, but as a first-time member. An experienced healthcare worker with multiple graduate degrees, Luci works as a family nurse practitioner. She is a parish nurse for MPCC as well as to the Korean community.

Both Ron and Luci are board members and certified counselors for Hope Alive (hopealive-hawaii.com), which offers healing to those suffering from childhood abuse, neglect, or pregnancy

loss. They have four children, 15 grand children and four great-grand children.

Many of you who are familiar with HRTL already know our new board secretary, **Carol White**. Years ago, Carol lived in central Florida and was an active volunteer in a humane society there. She realized that only when people stopped killing innocent babies could society prevent cruelty to animals.

Carol was instrumental in starting Lake County (FL) Right to Life, serving as the first president. She later served as president of Central Florida Right to Life and sat on the (state) board of Florida Right to Life. Carol participated in radio and TV debates and was a sidewalk counselor outside Orlando abortion clinics during this time.

When she moved to Hawai'i in 1986, Carol began volunteering for HRTL and helped found Lutherans for Life. Since 2006, Carol has worked in the HRTL office as an administrative assistant.

Carol also serves as volunteer registrar at Hawaii Theological Seminary. She has two bachelor's degrees, in history and allied legal services, and a master's degree in library science. Carol lives in Makiki with her musician husband and their cat. She enjoys hiking, discussing politics, and camping on the North Shore.



Clinton, Obama Avoid Assisted-Suicide Question

By Steven Ertelt
LifeNews.com Editor
April 14, 2008

Washington, D.C. – During the faith debate at Messiah College, pro-abortion Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama largely avoided a question about whether patients should be allowed to have a right to assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Clinton was asked if she “believe[s] it is compassionate, that it is appropriate to let someone who is really suffering choose to end their life.”

“Again, this is one of those incredibly challenging issues,” she responded.

“You know, the Terri Schiavo case in Florida posed that for many people,” Clinton added, referring to the case of a disabled woman whose former husband won the legal right to subject her a painful 13-day starvation and dehydration euthanasia death.

She called the Schiavo case one where “there were people of good faith and people of strong feelings on both sides about what should happen to that woman’s life.”

Ultimately, Clinton said she was unsure whether government should allow assisted suicide or euthanasia.

“I don’t know that any of us is in a position to make that choice for families or for individuals, but I don’t want us also to condone government action that would legitimize or encourage end-of-life deci-

sions,” she said.

Clinton appeared to ask more questions than give answers to the bioethics concerns.

“Somehow there has to be a framework for us to determine how...people who are...able to make these decisions on their own do so? Or if they are not, how best do we create a decision process for their families to try to decide?” she added.

Clinton also appeared to touch on issues like embryonic stem cell research and human cloning in her final comment on the issue but remained noncommittal.

“And now we are being faced with a lot of these difficult decisions because of the world we live in today with modern technology and so much else. And we’re going to have to come to grips with them one way or another,” she said.

Meanwhile, Obama was asked about patients who “wanted to take active steps to end his or her own life.”

Obama said society has to be “very careful in making end-of-life decisions” and he promoted patients having a living will to register their treatment choices.

The Illinois senator said he wanted to make sure patients can relieve their own pain but said that opened up other questions.

“What happens then is you start getting into a gray area where relieving pain and suf-

fering may accelerate death in some situations and that’s a decision that should be made by the individual, the family and the doctor,” he said.

“I don’t think that it’s appropriate to empower doctors themselves to make that decision,” he added, appearing to oppose involuntary euthanasia.

Yet, Obama, like Clinton, appeared noncommittal on the assisted suicide question, and again repeated he wanted terminally ill patients to be able to control their pain—something the pro-life community has never opposed.

Asked in a follow-up if that meant he would be open to patients hastening the end of their lives, he said that has to be distinguished from euthanasia.

“I think that there has to be very strict guidelines to ensure that somebody who is making a decision to relieve their pain that might take a week away from their life just because they are—they are slipping into a coma quicker, for example,” Obama said.

“That that is distinguished from—or at least there’s a possibility that they slip into a coma. That that’s distinguished from euthanasia in which someone else is making the decision for them,” he concluded.

Source: www.lifenews.com/bio2408.html (accessed April 20, 2008). LifeNews.com is an independent news agency that reports news affecting the pro-life community.

“...relieving pain and suffering may accelerate death in some situations and that’s a decision that should be made by the individual, the family and the doctor.”



Education and Legislation Cause Abortion Decline

From The National Right to Life Committee
January 17, 2008

Washington, D.C. – In January, National Right to Life cited an increase in pro-life educational outreach and legislative initiatives as central to a new report issued by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the special research arm of Planned Parenthood, showing the annual number of abortions reaching their lowest level in nearly 30 years.

“Today’s numbers confirm what we have known for years – if women seeking abortion are fully informed about the risks surrounding abortion, the development of their unborn child, and public and private assistance available in their area, they are more likely to reject the idea of abortion,” said Randall K. O’Bannon, Ph.D., NRLC director of education and research. “Women’s Right to

Know laws, parental involvement laws, bans on partial-birth abortion – all of which continue to be enacted by the states – not only help women facing crisis pregnancies, they also raise the public’s awareness about abortion and the humanity of the unborn child.”

The Guttmacher Institute report finds just over 1.2 million abortions in the United States in 2005, down nearly 25% from their high of 1.6 million in 1990, and the lowest reported total since 1.179 million in 1976. Additionally, the report shows the abortion rate (the number of abortions per every thousand women age 15-44) down to 19.4 per thousand – the lowest since 1974. The Guttmacher report speculates that the lower abortion rates may be due to “more women carrying unintended pregnancies to term,” implicitly acknowledging that

attitudes toward abortion and pregnancy may have substantially changed.

Much of that attitudinal shift can be attributed to the efforts of National Right to Life and



its state affiliates in passing legislation at the federal and state levels to protect unborn children and equip their mothers with information.

Twenty-three states have women’s right to know laws that provide women seeking abortion with information about abortion and its risks, biological information about the development of their unborn child and available alter-

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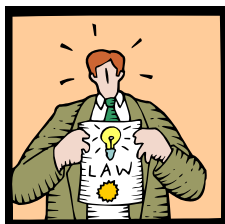
“If women seeking abortion are fully informed about the risks surrounding abortion, the development of their unborn child, and public and private assistance available in their area, they are more likely to reject the idea of abortion.”

LEGISLATIVE (Continued from page 1)

nant woman is the guardian of another human life besides her own and therefore deserves special protection.

Perhaps the most important bill, introduced by Senator Mike Gabbard this year, was S.B. 2928, the “right of conscience” bill. HRTL supports this legislation as well, which originated from former HRTL

board president, John McDermott. The bill would establish a right of conscience for healthcare providers, institutions, or payers who do not want to participate, provide, or pay for medical services that violate their consciences. The intent is to protect individuals and entities from forced participation in abortion or physician-assisted suicide. It is contro-



versial among abortion advocates and was deferred from a committee hearing this session. HRTL PAC will push for reintroduction of the bill during the new legislative session, 2009-2010. In the meantime, as you meet your legislators or new candidates, ask them how they would vote on a right of conscience bill.

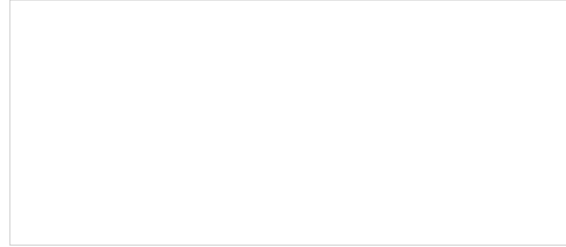




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“Falling abortion rates are a sure sign that, given truthful information about abortion, about its impact on their lives, about the child growing inside them, and given even the slightest help and encouragement, many women will choose life.”

ABORTION NUMBERS (Continued from page 5)



natives to abortion, including, significantly, the types of both governmental and private assistance available if they choose to bear their child. Eleven states

also make provisions for women to view ultrasound footage of their unborn child.

Twenty-eight states have laws providing for parental involvement in a minor daughter's abortion decision. Other data show that teen abortion rates have fallen further and faster than abortion rates as a whole.

Also significant has been the enactment of partial-birth abortion bans at the federal and state level. Public debate surrounding these laws has further increased the public's awareness about abortion and the development of

unborn children in utero.

Educational outreach has also played a significant role in changing the public's attitude about abortion. Every year, thousands of pieces of literature are distributed at fair booths and events nationwide. Furthermore, polling trends continue to show that the majority of Americans oppose the vast majority of abortions.

“What the pro-life movement has done, and continues to do, has saved hundreds of thousands of lives,” Dr. O’Bannon added. “Falling abortion rates are a sure sign that, given truthful information about abortion, about its impact on their lives, about the child growing inside them, and given even the slightest help and encouragement, many women will choose life.”

Source: www.nrlc.org/press_releases_new/Release011708.html (accessed April 20, 2008). NRLC is the nation's largest pro-life group with affiliates in all 50 states.

Endnotes

1. Mazie Hirono, letter to author, August 29, 2007.
2. Susan K. Sunderland, “Marching for Dimes and Keiki,” *Midweek Friday*, page 19, April 11, 2008.
3. “Preterm Birth and Abortion” *Association for Interdisciplinary Research in Values and Social Change*, 20, No. 3 (Fall 2007).
4. Ertelt, Steven, “New Study Finds Abortion Linked With Pre-Term Births, Cerebral Palsy,” *LifeNews.com*, November 1, 2007, <http://www.lifenews.com/nat3420.html> (accessed April 17, 2007).

