

1700 Oak Park Blvd., Annex • Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (510) 944-5351

# The Church as Delivery Site for Universal Healthcare

Missouri is now preparing to institute HR 546, a health care reform bill. Parts of the bill are similar to SB 256, the recently passed California bill that allows schools to be come Medicare providers with \$50+ million in federal matching funds. Because of the similar nature of the legislation, an examination of the provisions of Missouri's plan is useful in determining the likely outcome of the programs being instituted in California.

On October 28, 1993 The Wanderer, a newspaper for Catholics, published an article entitled: "Turning Churches into Clinics." The article described the process whereby Missouri's state Health Department forged an alliance with the Catholic Diocese of St. Louis, to "link Catholic parishes to local hospitals by means of "nurse ministers" and bring every Catholic into a computerized national health data system. "

The article establishes a link between the Archdiocese of St. Louis and Planned Parenthood. The Missouri Catholic Conference actively supported HR 546. That bill is Missouri's version of a comprehensive healthcare plan. Judith Widdicombe, a 20 year abortion advocate and one-time Planned Parenthood Director claims authorship of the bill. According to the Wanderer article, along with facilitating access to contraceptives for school age children, HR 546 "allows public and parochial schools to contract with local health care providers to ensure that all students receive any health services they need."

In a speech presented to healthcare providers, Ms. Widdicombe detailed some elements of the Missouri plan. The plan includes allowing nurses to "...take

care of primary care issues" and prescribe durgs after consulting by telephone with a doctor. The plan also provides for eliminating coverage of long term care. Ms. Widdicombe stated that "institutionalized custodial care" shouldn't be included because " it really does jack the price up." She also stated that "if schools want to do good teaching...they need healthy kids." Her definition of "healthy includes mental and social health services as part of a school health program and funded by MediCaid."

When asked about access to family planning services for students, Ms. Widdicombe stated, "... we set up a mechanism where they can be referred out. I'm willing (to institute) protections as long as whatever we put in doesn't restrict access (to family planning services); pass all the legislation you want, as long as it doesn't restrict access."

The Wanderer article indicates that the church-state partnership not only has the blessing of the local Bishop but also the **The Catholic Health Association**, headquartered in St. Louis. To substantiate this claim quotes were taken from a booklet published by the CHA entitled "Healthcare Facilities and the Parish: A Relationship between Communities."

Our office spoke with Mr. Bill Cox, a CHA Washington, D.C.-based lobbyist to get his reaction to the claims in the article. Mr. Cox responded by saying, "That paper never gets anything right." We further asked him if the CHA approved of such partnerships between church and state. He responded in a manner similar to Clinton administration officials by referring to the tragedy of the 37 million without health care, a figure that is hotly disputed.

We obtained a copy of the 25 page CHA booklet. The inside cover states that the Catholic Health Association of the United States, "is the national leadership organization of more than 1,200 Catholic healthcare services. It "enables its members to accomplish collectively what they could not achieve individually. The association participates in the life of the Church by advancing the healthcare ministry and by asserting leadership within the Church and rest of society through programs of education, advocacy, and collaboration."

Generally the booklet builds a claim for refocusing the purpose of the parish community from one of "spiritual healing emphasizing God as the divine Physician," to one that accepts the following definition of health: " Health in the biblical perspective, means wholeness-not only physical, but also spiritual and psychological wholeness; not only individual, but social and institutional wholeness."

It states further that "today's environment... calls for a merger of the medical facility and the church." It suggests that unused classrooms could be provided for medical clinics with funding from Medicaid. It would create a new position within the parish hierarchy referred to as the "Ministry of Care ... commissioned by the faith community."

Our office has obtained volumes of information from two Missouri pro-life women who have been documenting the whole development of Missouri's Comprehensive Health Care proposals. Their material very clearly shows that the parishes will be inviting a Clinton/Planned Parenthood universal health care delivery system into their midst.

The CHA represents California's church affiliated hospitals. In California, the California Catholic Conference, headquartered in Sacramento, has consistently supported state legislation calling for Universal Health Care which has included abortion coverage.

Recently, The Catholic Charities of the Oakland Diocese sponsored a Healthcare forum featuring pro-abortion Congressman George Miller at a Catholic Church in Concord. Accompanying Miller were representatives of two unions, the CNA, the Grey Panthers, and something called Health Access. All of them were supporting a Single Payer, universal health reform program which they admitted would be delivered through school site clinics, "but also somewhere else."

In the last legislative session, the California Catholic Conference supported AB 887, which if passed, would have established a California Children's Bill of Rights. This bill supported by Children Now and the California Council of Churches would have au- 2

thorized the State Health and Welfare Director to be the guarantor of all children's' rights which would include "adequate food and shelter, economic security, quality education, comprehensive health care, a safe environment and affordable child care."

We are very concerned about church involvement in the public policy debate especially when it results in a compromise of the Church's moral leadership. Righteousness is not served by delivering the congregation into the hands of a State bureaucracy.

We pray that church leadership is not deceived by their own lobbying efforts to remove abortion services in the healthcare reform package. Abortion, artificial birth control and sterilzation are integral parts of the proposed Health Insurance coverage.

#### Who are the Uninsured?

by S.R. Walsh, Publicist

According to Webster, "to debate" is to discuss an issue by considering opposing arguments. Given this, the national healthcare "debate" has sounded more like a monologue. Americans have a problem: 37 million of them are uninsured. The Clintons have a solution: Universal Healthcare.

Whenever I hear someone say that 37 million Americans are uninsured, my mind conjures up images of people who are extremely ill, who cannot find a doctor to treat them or a hospital to admit them. Essentiallythe assumption is if you don't have health insurance, you must not be receiving health care.

However, a study conducted in 1988 by the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research found this assumption to be blatantly false. The findings of this study indicate that the uninsured access the system almost as much as the insured do. In other words, even though 37 million Americans may not have health care insurance, by and large they are receiving health care.

In addition, the uninsured are not a stagnant population. The same people do not go without health insurance year after year. According to researchers at the Urban Institute, 50% of the uninsured obtain health insurance in less than 5 months, 85% in less than 24 months. Thus, for most Americans, a lack of health insurance is a temporary situation.

And just who are the uninsured? The uninsured includes the sick and the poor (no surprise there) but also includes the young and the working (really). In fact, according to the National Center for Policy Analysis, the majority of the uninsured, 60%, are people between the ages of 18 and 30. This is significant because this group tends to be healthier than any other group in our society. This group does not access health care as often as other groups because they don't need to.

In regards to the working: 85% of the uninsured live in households headed by someone who is working. 1991 Census Bureau figures indicate that 25% of the uninsured live in households whose income is between \$25,000 and \$50,000; 10% live in households whose income exceed \$50,000. These findings clearly indicate that many of the uninsured are not helpless or destitute. Obviously some people are choosing not to spend their money on health insurance.

### **Subsidizing Abortion**

Excerpted from The Abortion Report, 11/29/93

Writing in the Wall Street Joiurnal, Greg Erlandson, Editor-in-Chief of Our Sunday Visitor, warned that those prolife organizations, churches and foundations that have been most critical of abortion might have to "choose between closing their doors for good and subsidizing what they understand to be the destruction of human life ...." By making abortion coverage a part of their health benefits plan and by requiring employers to provide these benefits for their workers, the Clintons would subject these organizations to the employer mandate and put them in a position where they might be required to pay for an abortion obtained by an employee or a member of theof the employee's family.

Erlandson suggests that "churches, companies and organizations objecting to this coercive attempt to revolutionize the nation's abortion policy would do well to ban together and speak out now, when the final shape of the healthcare reform is still in flux."



### IN MEMORY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED BY LEGAL ABORTION SINCE ABORTION WAS LEGALIZED IN 1973

United States 33,400,000 California 7,400,000 Bay Area 1,600,000 Concord 34,500

Walnut Creek 18,800

# January 22, 1993 Memorial of Flowers Saturday, 11:00am-1:00am

Queen of All Saints Catholic Church 2390 Grant Street, Concord

Bring a fresh flower or bouquet.

Join with other concerned citizens to sorrowfully memorialize the death and pain of victims since the 1973 Roe v. Wade Decision allowing Abortion on Demand. We will pray together, intercede, share victories and repent for our National Sin. Sponsored by California Right to Life Education Fund.

#### Dr. Death

Jack Kevorkian, better known as Dr. Death, has long had an infatuation with death and medical research on the dying. according to an interview with Kevorkian by *Newsweek Magazine*. dated 11/28/93. The magazine said that it had obtained scientific articles by Kevorkian in which he called for advancing 'knowledge about the essence of human death' through 'research on living human bodies' according to Reuters News Service 11/28/93.

In 1958 Kevorkian "presented a paper to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in which he proposed allowing condemned convicts to volunteer for 'painless' medical experiments that would begin while they were alive and eventually be fatal," Reuters continued.

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In a 1960 pamphlet entitled "Medical Research and the Death Penalty" Kevorkian said that experiments on humans could provide far greater benefits than those on animals and that killing condemned convicts without experimenting on them was a waste of healthy bodies according to Reuters. Years later, Kevorkian "again advocated experiments on convicted criminals in an obscure German journal Medicine and Law, Newsweek said. He suggested including anyone facing imminent death such as 'all brain dead, comatose, mentally incompetent or otherwise completely uncommunicative individuals," Reuters continued.

# March for Life/Nellie Gray Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately over the the past two decades prolifers as a movement have failed to make the case properly that a preborn human being is in existence at fertilization, that abortion kills a baby and that there is no justification for deliberately killing a preborn human being — No Exceptions, No Compromise!

The theme for the Jan 21-22 Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. is "Yes America The Intent of Abortion is to Kill a Baby!

The "YES, BUT" strategy has been: YES abortion kills a preborn baby, BUT the prolife movement must use a strategy to chip away at abortion and not confront abortion evil directly.

"YES,BUT" brought a weakened prolife defense and is not aggressive. Politicians learned and used "YES, BUT" to everyones' detriment. "Yes I am personally opposed to abortion but I don't impose my morality on anyone."

The abortionists use a hard line that "The woman must decide—no exceptions! no compromise". For years, abortionists incrementally solidified their abortion position among public elected and appointed officials while the Right to Life "YES,BUT Strategy" of a little bit of abortion, incrementally eroded the prolife principle that there is no justification to murder even one preborn human being.

Friday Jan. 21, 1994

Noon Rally and March to Capitol Hill

7:30pm Keynote Program

Sat. Jan 22 9:00am-5:00pm -Convention, Rose Dinner For Information call California Right to Life or March for Life Education Fund (202) LIFE- 377.

#### **RU-486**

The plans to bring RU 486 to the U.S. market remain stalled. Several different medical and women's groups have been working on strategies to push **Roussel-Uclaf** to contract with Population Council, a non-profit research group in N.Y. to find an American manufacturer for the drug.

A laboratory called Abortion Rights Mobilization, now closed, has manufactered 90 doses of the abortion pill for test purposes. Lawrence Lader, the founder of the New York-based abortion rights group said he hoped to win state approval for testing those pills under an obsure N.Y. law giving the State Board of Pharmacy the power to authorize tests of drugs that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. "We believe that if we can test on a couple thousand women in N.Y., Roussel would look so ridiculous they would move with the Population Council or someone else., and if they still don't move, we could try to get the patent taken for the public good."

excerpted fro m the The New York Times 10/13/93 Prolife Forced tSubsidy for Abortion

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **New Prolife Group in the State**

Veteran's Coalition for Life PO Box 7232 San Buenaventura, CA 93006 Director of Activities —Adrian Rosales

#### 1% of Travel Can be Contributed to CRLC

UniGlobe Travelwise, Walnut Creek has negotiated a program whereby 1% of air tickets, hotels, rental cars, cruises, or railroad, purchased through the agency, can be designated to this organization. Let's take advantage of this benefit and receive fine service at the same time!

Contact **UniGlobe Travelwise, Walnut Creek**, 1620 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, (510) 943-6161 or FAX (510) 943-6504

#### **Professor Frank Ellis**

Respected professor in the Department of Philosophy, St. Mary's College, Moraga. and dedicated educator and prolife advocate passed on 12/1/93.

### LIFE LINE CALENDAR

A comprehensive Contra Costa/Alameda County Calendar of pro-life, pro-family events is being compiled monthly in this office. Please contact us with contributions to the calendar and to receive. No charge.

#### **DECEMBER**

11,18 Every Saturday, 8:00am-9:00am. Intercessory Prayer, non-denominational, at Concord Church of the Nazarene, room 101 (behind the multi-purpose room). Info: 827-3892

18 Saturday, 6:00pm. Caroling at abortionists' homes, Castro Valley Community Life Coalition. Info: 944-5351

#### **JANUARY**

- 7 First Friday of every month, 9:00am Mass followed by Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 7:00pm In Honor of Respect Life, St. Bonaventure's Church, Concord.
- **1,8,15,22,29** Every Saturday, 8:00am-9:00am. **Intercessory Prayer**, non-denominational, at Concord Church of the Nazarene, room 101 (behind the multi-purpose room). Info: 827-3892
- 17 Monday to Friday 1/21, 6:30-9:30pm, Touch of Love Training Pregnancy Center Administrative office, Concord Cost \$25.00, Register 827-0104
- 17 Monday, 7:00pm-9:00pm
  "The Cultural War", video by CBN, **Traditional**Values Coalition Meeting at Fair Oaks Baptist
  Church, Adult Learning Center, Concord, Info: 827-3892
- 18 Tuesdays, Noon to 2:00pm or 7:00pm -9:00pm; PACE groups (Post Abortion Counseling and Education) Free childcare available at day class, Golden Hills Church, Antioch. Info: The Pregnancy Center, 827-0104.
- **22** Saturday, 11:00am-1:00am **Memorial of Flowers,** Service/Prayer in remembrance of the Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade Decision*, Queen of All Saints Multi Purpose room, Concord. Everyone bring at least one flower. Coordinated by California Right to LIfe Committee Inc., 944-5351.
- **22** Neighborhood Literature Drop, Call Lynn Weber for information and supplies, 933-1282
- **22** Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm **Rally/Conference in Sacramento,**"A Woman's Right to Know, Unmasking the Truth" CA Pro-Life Council, 1 (800) 924-2490
- 17 Monday, 7:00pm-9:00pm
  "The Cultural War", video by CBN, **Traditional**Values Coalition Meeting at Fair Oaks Baptist
  Church, Adult Learning Center, Concord, Info:
  827-3892
- 24 Monday, 10:00am CWA video "Education Reform" on **The Socialization of Public Education**, Sponsored by Concerned Women of America, Danville Chapter. To

be held at Rolling Hills Community Church, 1565 Green Valley Road, Danville, Contact Marilyn Mahaffey 838-9790

#### **FEBRUARY**

Date to be announced Saturday, 9:00am-2:00pm Pro-Life Gathering for Communication/Understanding and Mutual Support Location to be confirmed.

21 Monday, 7:30 pm Traditional Values Coalition Meeting at Fair Oaks Baptist Church, Adult Learning Center, Concord, Info: 827-3892

> Request:by Contra Costa Chapter of California Coalition for Life:

## A Presence for Life at Clinics on Killing Days

You are needed to Pray or Sidewalk Counsel or Picket

lease help by committing with prolife friends within our church to one block of time a month. Share this eed/information with others. Call Lynn Weber (510) 33-1282

Walnut Creek Planned Parenthood--Fridays 'til Noon Concord Planned Parenthood --Tues. Friday, Saturday am

# Your Contributions Make Our Work Possible

In 1991 Planned Parenthood received \$124 million in tax money (Source: 1991 Annual Report of Planned Parenthood Federation). In 1991 our office received \$25,000 in donations. We cannot be a presence in the state without your generous donations. For example, the printing and mailing of this newsletter costs about \$500.00 so we mail every other month instead of monthly to our expanding membership.

We keep informed of state and national developments through many publications. Please consider donating the cost of a subscription for us. We greatly appreciate your support.

All About Issues \$12.95

Legal Foundation for Medically Dependent and

Disabled \$69.00

California Journal \$59.00 Communique \$13.95

The Institue on Religion and Public Life, FIRST

THINGS \$18.00

Hasting Center Report\$\$65.00 Life Insight

### We Are Working

#### Educating

Students, the media, civic groups and churches
Disseminating information through speak ers, publications, references and library Researching statistics, public records and proposed legislation

#### Serving

Referring support for unplanned pregnancy Parents of pregnant minors Caregivers of elderly/ill/dependent

#### Networking

Compiling multi-county resources Supporting grassroots efforts statewide Building pro-family, prolife identity through press conferences and seminars Publishing a county-wide prolife Calendar

#### Advocating

Affecting legislation Educating our representatives Monitoring local government

#### **RESPONSE FORM**

YES I want to contribute financially to the impact of California Right to Life!!

Name Address	
Pleaseuse	this donation towards
	A Publication Subscription
	Newsletter and Postage Costs
	General expenses
38 8	Purchase of printing of brochures

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Suzanne Beigel	.Administrative Assistant
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Office Phone (510) 944-5351 FAX (510) 944-5449

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