

## So Much for Freedom of Religion

On January 27, President Obama called New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan to break the news. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) had announced that the proposed mandate, **requiring that all insurance plans pay for contraception, sterilization and some abortion drugs** is official, but, that some religious nonprofits would have an additional year to “adapt” to the mandate.

August 1, 2012, is the deadline for compliance by all religious entities, including churches, schools, and hospitals. Archbishop Dolan responded to President Obama’s news with: “In effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences.”

Part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly known as ObamaCare, is the requirement of all insurance plans to include **“preventative”** care for women. A very narrow exemption was included for, in essence, places of worship.

Religious groups that provide social services or engage in mission work to people of different religious faiths are not protected from such discrimination. **Never before has the government forced Americans to purchase a product that violates their religious beliefs.**

Friday evening, February 11, 2012, despite President Obama’s supposed compromise, HHS issued a regulation, **finalizing the rule first issued in August, 2011, “without change.”** The rule that created the uproar has not changed at all, but was finalized as is.

~~~~~

The Catholic Church does not stand alone. “I’m not a Catholic but I stand in 100% solidarity with my brothers and sisters to practice their belief against government pressure,” said **Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Church.** “I’d go to jail rather than cave in to a government mandate that violates what God commands us to do. Would you?”

As of February 10, **Richard Land, Southern Baptist Church,** agrees. The **Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops;** the **National Association of Evangelicals,** the **Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America;** the **Aqudath Israel of America;** and the **Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod** have all stated their opposition to the mandate.

The **EWTN Global Catholic Network** filed a lawsuit against the HHS, asking for a declaratory judgment that the mandate is unconstitutional. **Priests for Life,** an international organization of Catholic clergy and laity, also filed suit against the mandate.

Changes continue. At this time, Feb 15, the Senate bill on Rights of Conscience is being considered for a vote. At least one dozen state Attorneys General are preparing a lawsuit against the mandate.

**We strongly urge you to lobby our U.S. Senators with a request for their support of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179 and S.1467) along with U.S. Senator Marco Rubio’s bill, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2012.** (Rep. Doug Lamborn is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1179.)

U.S. Senator Mark Udall  
Hart S.O.B, # SH 328  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(866) 455-9866

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet  
458 Russell S.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(877) 768-3255

Rep. Doug Lamborn  
437 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-4422

## Amazing Things Learned in the Womb

Science is showing us that the nine months spent inside our mother's womb is a time we take cues from our mother and her environment, some of which will stay with us for our entire lives.

What about the baby carried, not by his or her own mother, but by a surrogate? No matter how much the genetic mother speaks to the baby from the outside of the womb, the baby will certainly prefer the surrogate's familiar voice which will suddenly disappear.

What about babies frozen as embryos and shipped overseas to be carried by women half a world away with a strange language and a totally different diet? How much stress and confusion do the babies feel after birth when, suddenly, the culture they "knew" is no longer there.

Of course, this is the norm for babies who are adopted. But adoption is making the best of a situation that is not ideal. With surrogacy, parents choose to put their child in a very confusing situation.

As we continue to learn, we should emphasize the right of a child to be conceived by, gestated by, and born to his or her genetic parents.

Excerpts: Taylor, Rebecca; "Unborn Babies Learn..."; LifeNews; 18 Jan 12  
Ms. Taylor is a clinical laboratory specialist in molecular biology.

## Parental Rights Invaded

A recent Zogby poll regarding parental rights, found that 93% of parents polled thought parental rights were a basic fundamental right established and protected by the Constitution and supported down through the history of the nation by the Supreme Court.

The shocking reality is that the majority of Supreme Court and lower court judges no longer support the rights of parents.

New trends are evolving to increasingly place the rights of the child above the rights of their parents in the U.S. This has been occurring in European countries, such as Holland, Sweden, Belgium and Germany for some time. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has not, thus far, been ratified by the United States.

Sections of the treaty are truly dangerous, as all things are done in the interest of the child (e.g. children can access any media they want without censorship) thus, making them vulnerable to all types of abuse.

A heartbreaking trend is now occurring, in which agenda-driven groups within society are quietly and stealthily altering the standards of our legal system, education system, and medical system. Their focus is the destruction of the family unit which is the essential glue in maintaining a healthy, unified country.

There are concerned parent groups that are working to correct this trend. We urge you to go to ParentalRights.org, for further information. We strongly recommend your viewing of the 36 minute video, overruledmovie.com – a revealing, shocking film with some of the actual cases in which parents were "overruled." It could happen to you!

### PPCFL Officers & Advisors

President – Mario Branciforte  
Vice President – Lynne Gilsdorf  
Secy – Bernadette Johnston  
Treasurer – John Combs  
At-Large – Matt Niedzielski

Development – Jack Johnston  
Newsletter – Cleta Jasper

Pikes Peak Citizens for Life  
707R N Nevada  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Ph – 630-1999; Fax – 630-8880  
e-mail: [contact@ppcitizensforlife.org](mailto:contact@ppcitizensforlife.org)  
web – [www.ppcitizensforlife.org](http://www.ppcitizensforlife.org)

### Thanks & Blessings!

We are most blessed to receive both prayer and financial support for the love of Life. Both are vitally important and most welcome.

### An Ongoing Proposition...

If you have e-mail, would you like to receive your newsletter by that mode?

If so, e-mail your name and address (for positive identification) to "join the crowd!"  
[contact@ppcitizensforlife.org](mailto:contact@ppcitizensforlife.org)

### The United Nations & Human Rights

Recently, the UN Secretariat released – and endorsed – a report from the UN Human Rights Council calling on all nations to accept...

...that women and girls must be granted access to legal abortion in order for them to fully enjoy their human rights.

And what about the babies?  
Sylva, Douglas; C-Fam, 22 Sept 11

## Europe - From Horror to Hope

Good news from Europe. On 25 January, 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution stating that:

“Euthanasia, in the sense of the intentional killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit, must always be prohibited.”

According to Gregor Puppinck, the director of the European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), this Resolution is a major victory for life and dignity, coming a year after the European Court asserted that there is no right to euthanasia or assisted suicide under the European Convention.

Because of the growing concerns around euthanasia, the Assembly estimated that it is necessary to recall explicitly the basic principle that **intentional killing must always be prohibited**.

This Resolution is a clear indication that the growing majority of Europeans is opposed to euthanasia. Though this resolution is not legally binding on Member states, it has a real influence on both legislation and the judicial process in the European Court of Human Rights.

Excerpts: Puppinck, Gregor; “Victory:...” LifeNews, 1/26/12  
Beltramo, Carlos; “Euthanasia...” LifeSiteNews, 2/8/12

## Hungary - A New Family Law

Hungarian leaders have passed a law protecting the traditional family, defying ongoing criticism that their new constitution would curtail abortion and homosexuality.

Under this new law, the family, based on marriage of a man and a woman whose mission is fulfilled by raising children, is an “autonomous community” and the State must respect it as a matter of national survival.

Hungary is the last Central European nation to pass a post-communist constitution.

This new constitution calls for the protection of life from conception; and, also bans torture, human trafficking, eugenics, and human cloning.

It recognizes marriage as the “conjugal union of a man and a woman.”

Excerpts: Yoshihara, Susan; “Hungary Defies...” C-FAM, 27 Jan 12

## Susan G. Komen for the Cure & Planned Parenthood.

To the astonishment of many pro-lifers, the Komen Foundation is “halting its partnerships with Planned Parenthood affiliates” (AP, David Crary).

The major reason given was the impending Congressional investigation of the Planned Parenthood abortion business.

Immediately after the uproar from the pro-abortion community, Koman reversed course, saying that PP would be eligible for their grants.

The Denver Komen affiliate said they would continue partnering with the local Planned Parenthood no matter what.

They *claimed* that Planned Parenthood in Colorado used Komen dollars to pay for 601 clinical breast examinations and 57 mammograms.

The time range of those exams... **and most assuredly...** the mammograms are questionable.

The group, LiveActionFilms, tried to schedule (by phone) mammograms at dozens of PP facilities throughout the country. In **all** cases, clinic workers stated **they did not provide mammograms**. In most cases, PP had trouble even making referrals.

Pro-lifers have been encouraged to contact the Komen Foundation and thank them for no longer funding Planned Parenthood.

**Good news:** On November 30, 2011, Komen’s website quietly added a new statement: they [now] support research on stem cells “**derived without ...destroying a human embryo.**” [Emp. Added]

The Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer is a major organization educating the public on how abortion and oral contraceptives raise the risk of breast cancer.

**Bad news:** The Coalition’s president, Karen Malec, tells us the Komen Foundation **still has not acknowledged the link between abortion and breast cancer.**

Instead of immediately jumping back into support for the Komen Race, it appears to be wiser to sit back and wait for solid proof of Komen’s ending their funding of Planned Parenthood.

**"October Baby"**  
**A Story To Remember**

In January, a screening of the latest pro-life film, "October Baby," was held in Colorado Springs. The movie will be in local theatres this month.

The main character, Hannah, while going to college, learns she was adopted after a failed abortion attempt. She embarks on a journey to discover her hidden past...and find hope for her unknown future.

Rated PG 13, *October Baby* is not a movie for young children. Go to [ProvidentFilms.org](http://ProvidentFilms.org) to view the trailer from the film, along with stories and scenes from the movie.

**Do watch for the opening in our city;** take your spouse or a friend and see...

...“a profoundly beautiful story and a powerful testament to the importance of every human life,” according to Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the Susan B. Anthony List.

**The Democrat 2012 Caucus**

Coming up on March 6 are the Colorado precinct caucuses for Democrats.

Again, we are urging all pro-lifers who are registered Democrats to attend their caucus and carry pro-life resolutions regarding the sanctity of human life, the right of conscience, and the ban of embryonic stem cell research.

We learned that quite a few pro-life Republicans attended their caucus and proposed pro-life resolutions. Most of the people who called us, in the days following, reported a good response to those resolutions.

A special word of thanks to those who got “involved for an evening – for Life!” Quite a few stepped out of their comfort zone to do so.

As in all elections, we look forward to all who read this newsletter to promote and support pro-life candidates for the upcoming 2012 elections.