



Life Times

Fathers are Essential

Why Dads Matter by Father John Flynn, LC

Children need more than ever the presence and guidance of fathers in family life. According to a recent collection of essays, a significant body of scientific research clearly documents the vital role a father plays in the formative years of a child's life.

The book is titled *Why Fathers Count: The Importance of Fathers and Their Involvement with Children* (Men's Studies Press). Sean E. Brotherson and Joseph M. White, the editors and authors of the first chapter, set the tone for the book with an overview of arguments regarding the importance of fathers for children. The presence of a father has a positive impact in many ways, they note, as children with fathers have fewer behavioral problems, obtain better academic results, and are economically better off. The editors also stressed that they do not in any way wish to minimize the contribution made by mothers to family life. In fact, they stated, both parents count: fathers and mothers. Nevertheless, as statistics amply confirm, there has been a marked increase in fatherless families in recent decades; hence, the book's concentration on fathers.

Rob Palkovitz, a professor at the University of Delaware, wrote a chapter on men's transition to fatherhood. Men can become fathers in a biological sense, he noted, and yet not always make the psychological and behavioral adjustments needed to embrace the role of fathering.

Children need more than ever the presence and guidance of fathers in family life.

- Being a father will affect a man's choices, behavior and priorities in everyday life.
- "Connectedness" involves the building of a bond over time that is more than just the love a parent has for a child, but also the degree to which a child perceives this love and acceptance.
- A father's love for his children is often expressed in the sacrifices they make, whether in times of crisis or just in the everyday choices of family life.

Being a father, Palkovitz explained, carries a different type of responsibility to that of a husband and requires an additional commitment. This change will affect a man's choices, behavior and priorities in everyday life. This takes time, and fathering is a role that men gradually grow into. The transition to fatherhood is a monumental turning point in a man's life. If men are willing to undertake this relationship with their children, it is among the greatest changes in a man's life and development as a person, Palkovitz noted.

The Marriage Factor

The relationship between spouses and its impact on fathers was examined in a chapter by University of Arkansas professor H. Wallace Goddard. When couples have a strong relationship they can use their differences to complement each other, and draw on each other's strengths, and there is a much greater likelihood that both mother and father will be good parents, he argued.

Goddard also noted that in many ways the contemporary dating culture does little to prepare future couples for the commitment needed to nurture and protect a marriage. A culture that overemphasizes romance and quick fixes, he pointed out, does little to prepare couples for the inevitable difficult periods that every marriage goes through.

Brotherson, from North Dakota State University, examined what he termed "connectedness" in the relationship between fathers and children. This connecting involves the building of a bond over time that is more than just the love a parent has for a child, but also the degree to which a child perceives this love and acceptance.

Connectedness, Brotherson added, is developed in the details of loving another person and the trust and closeness that develops in that relationship. Citing various research sources on family life, Brotherson went on to explain that the more (*continued on page 2*)

(Why Dads Matter; continued from page 1) connection a child feels with his parents the more likely he or she is to trust others and enjoy stable relationships with peers and adults outside home. A close-knit family relationship is also more effective in protecting children from problems such as depression, suicide, precocious sexual activity or drug use.

The final part of the chapter offered suggestions for fathers on how they can connect with their children. Brotherson recommended playing together with children, and also helping them in their education. Being available to comfort them in times of need, expressing affection, and a shared spiritual activity such as praying together were among other points mentioned.

A Father's Love

Academics Shawn Christianson and Jeffrey Stueve wrote about the importance of a father's love for their children. The majority of social science research, they maintained, does not recognize sufficiently the bond parents form with children in their loving and caring of them. Not only is there little mention of

love in family theory, but many contemporary theories focus on self-interest.

A father's love for his children is often expressed in the sacrifices they make, whether in times of crisis or just in the everyday choices of family life. Obviously some fathers fail to take responsibility for their children, Christianson and Stueve acknowledged. At the same time, however, many do cooperate with their wives in raising their child. Most research in this area has been done on fathers of younger children. It has shown that fathers are indeed capable of being sensitive to a child's needs and can show affection.

Defining fatherly love is not easy, Christianson and Stueve noted. One way to do so is to demonstrate the way in which a father is present in a child's life, helping out in physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. The sharing of time, activities, conversation and self, means a constant support that children perceive as being enduring in their lives.

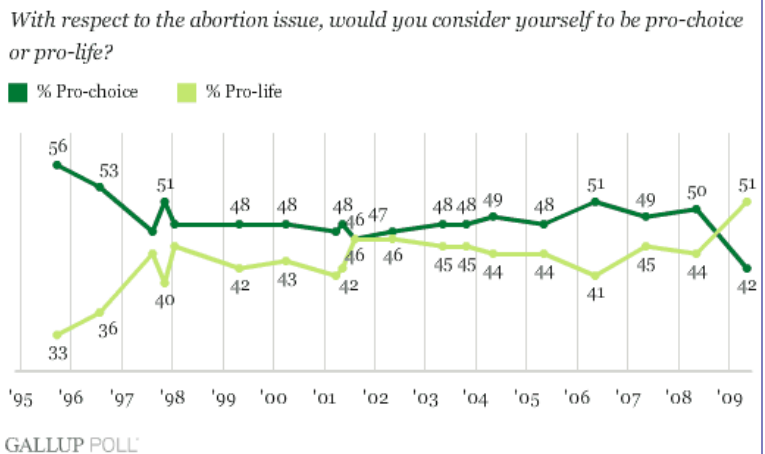
Brother, can you spare a dime?

by Sandra Naugle, President

That is the question the song asks. Well, we need a bit more than a dime in order to carry on the work of the Right to Life movement in this area. Could you spare \$10.00? If 150 people who believe in the sanctity of life would pledge just \$10.00 a month to Right to Life of Southern Indiana, we would be in much better shape to educate the citizens of our community to the sanctity of human life. Ten dollars may not seem like much, but to us it could be the difference between carrying on our work effectively and having to reduce our activities.

The new administration in Washington has been and will continue introducing legislation and appointing people to fill vacancies with a pro-choice agenda in mind. Not only pro-choice, but completely anti-life. The new president believes babies up to 9 months in the womb are fair game for the abortion butchers. Shortly after taking office he began the process of furthering the abortion agenda by negating the Mexico City Policy. As an affront to the pro-life movement, he signed this on January 22nd. This means your tax dollars and mine are once again flowing out of this country and into the coffers of overseas entities that will use it for promoting abortion.

Not only the unborn are in the sights of this administration, but the elderly and the infirm. If they succeed in passing the healthcare reform they are determined to force on the American people, there will be many who fall into categories that will preclude them from receiving needed medical care. Do you want the government telling your grandmother that she cannot receive needed care because she is elderly and she might not live long enough to justify the expense? It is quite possible, even probable, that this will be the case if this legislation passes into law. We cannot sit passively by and allow the most vulnerable in our society to be put at the mercy of those who do not



believe them to be worthy of life.

We seek to keep the truth before the citizens of our community. The Value of Life contest each March continues to grow and has upwards of 350 students who enter in one of the categories. This event is the largest expense we have during the year – usually \$2500 to \$3500. These students learn facts that will enable them to grow in their pro-life activities. How can future generations learn about the sanctity of human life if we don't teach them? They will not learn it in the public schools. If you agree that it is important that this God-given truth be kept in the forefront of society, please consider partnering with us by pledging \$10.00 (or more) to our cause on a monthly basis. We will be happy to provide you with 12 self-addressed envelopes in which to send your gift. If you believe the sanctity of human life should be preserved in this country and in our community, please put that belief into action with this small monthly gift to Right to Life of Southern Indiana, Inc. It might not make much of a dent in your budget, but it could make a huge difference in our efforts to educate the citizens of Southern Indiana. We pray that God will bless you as you consider this decision.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (SSM): Answering the Toughest Questions (www.nationformarriage.org)

Strong majorities of Americans oppose gay marriage. Supporters of SSM therefore seek to change the subject to just about anything: discrimination, benefits, homosexuality, gay rights, federalism, our sacred constitution. Our goal is simple: Shift the conversation rapidly back to marriage. Don't get sidetracked. Marriage is the issue. Marriage is what we care about. Marriage really matters. It's just common sense.

I. THE MOST EFFECTIVE SINGLE SENTENCE:

Extensive and repeated polling agrees that the single most effective message is: "Gays and Lesbians have a right to live as they choose, they don't have the right to redefine marriage for all of us."

This allows people to express support for tolerance while opposing gay marriage. Some modify it to "People have a right to live as they choose, they don't have the right to redefine marriage for all of us." Language to avoid at all costs: "Ban same-sex marriage." Our base loves this wording. So do supporters of SSM. They know it causes us to lose about ten percentage points in polls. Don't use it. Say we're against "redefining marriage" or in favor of "marriage as the union of husband and wife" NEVER "banning same-sex marriage."

II. MAIN MESSAGE THE 3X5 CARD.

- Marriage is between a husband and wife. The people of [this state] do not want marriage to be anything but that. We do not want government or judges changing that definition for us today or our children tomorrow.
- We need a marriage amendment to settle the gay marriage issue once and for all, so we don't have it in our face every day for the next ten years.
- Marriage is about bringing together men and women so children can have mothers and fathers.
- Do we want to teach the next generation that one-half of humanity—either mothers or fathers—are dispensable, unimportant? Children are confused enough right now with sexual messages. Let's not confuse them further.
- Gays and Lesbians have a right to live as they choose; they don't have a right to redefine marriage for the rest of us.

III. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are you a bigot? "Why do you want to take away people's rights?" "Isn't it wrong to write discrimination into the constitution?"

- "Do you really believe people like me who believe mothers and fathers both matter to kids are like bigots and racists? I think that's pretty offensive, don't you? Particularly to the 60 percent of African-Americans who oppose same-sex marriage. Marriage as the union of husband and wife isn't new; it's not taking away anyone's rights. It's common sense."

2. Isn't the ban on gay marriage like bans on interracial marriage?

- "Bans on interracial marriage were about keeping two races apart so that one race could oppress the other. Mar-

riage is about bringing two sexes together, so that children get the love of their own mom and a dad, and women don't get stuck with the enormous disadvantages of parenting alone." "Having a parent of two different races is just not the same as being deprived of your mother—or your father."

3. Why do we need a constitutional amendment? "Isn't DOMA enough?"

- "Lawsuits like the one that imposed gay marriage in Massachusetts now threaten marriage in at least 12 other states so far. We need a marriage amendment to settle the issue once and for all, so we don't have this debate in our face every day. The people get to decide what marriage means. No-end run around the rules by activist judges or grandstanding San-Francisco-style politicians."

4. What's the harm from SSM? "How can Adam and Steve hurt your marriage?"

- "Who gets harmed? The people of this state who lose our right to define marriage as the union of husband and wife, that's who. That is just not right."
- "If courts rule that same-sex marriage is a civil right, then, people like you and me who believe children need moms and dads will be treated like bigots and racists."
- "Religious groups like Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army may lose their tax exemptions, or be denied the use of parks and other public facilities, unless they endorse gay marriage."
- "Public schools will teach young children that two men being intimate are just the same as a husband and wife, even when it comes to raising kids."
- "When the idea that children need moms and dads get legally stigmatized as bigotry, the job of parents and faith communities trying to transmit a marriage culture to their kids is going to get a lot harder."
- "One thing is for sure: The people of this state will lose our right to keep marriage as the union of a husband and wife. That's not right."

5. Why do you want to interfere with love?

- "Love is a great thing. But marriage isn't just any kind of love; it's the special love of husband and wife for each other and their children."

6. What about benefits? Don't gay couples and their kids need the benefits and protections of marriage?

- "If medical proxies aren't working, let's fix that problem. If people need health care, let's get them health care. Don't mess with marriage."
- "The issue isn't benefits, it is marriage. Local folks can decide benefits. This is about the meaning of marriage, our most basic social institution for protecting children."

7. Isn't divorce the real threat to marriage?

- "High rates of divorce are one more reason we should be strengthening marriage, not conducting radical social experiments on it."

8. Are you saying gays cannot be good parents?

- "Two men might each be a good father, but neither can be a mom. The ideal for children is the love of their own mom and dad. No same-sex couple can provide that."

9. What about older or infertile couples? If they marry why not same-sex couples?

- "Every man and woman who marries is capable of giving any child they create (or adopt) a mother and a father. No same-sex couple can do this. It's apples and oranges."

Right to Life of Southern Indiana, Inc.
1819 State Street, Suite 202
New Albany, IN 47150

812-945-1116
 Email: rtlsoin@att.net
 Website: <http://righttolifeofsouthernindiana.com>

Join us for our Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 pm at Holy Family Catholic Church, 129 W. Daisy Lane, New Albany. For information, please call the office at 812-945-1116.

MISSION STATEMENT
 To educate citizens regarding the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death

THE CRISIS

316 abortions were performed at the EMW Women’s Surgical Clinic in Louisville for April 2009.. The count listed below does not include the abortions performed at area hospitals. For the year the number of abortions is **1,397.** **1/3** of the women who enter EMW have cars with Indiana license plates. *Source: Right to Life of Louisville*

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Can you partner with us by being a monthly donor?

Do you have creative skills, marketing or advertising skills? We need your help creating bumper stickers, yard signs, tshirt designs, ads.

Do you have communication skills? We could use your help getting pro-life talk shows on the radio.

Do you have an interest in teens, college students? We need liaisons with the Students for Life groups.

Can you write letters to the editors? We have drafts and ideas.

Do you have ideas to get the pro-life message in the public view? Give us a call or email.

PRO-LIFE EVENTS IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

June
 2nd Board Meeting
 18th-20th National Right to Life Convention

July
 7th Board Meeting
 11th-18th Clark County 4-H Fair
 12th-19th Crawford Co 4-H Fair
 26th-Aug 1 Harrison Co 4-H Fair

August
 4th Board Meeting

September
 1st Board Meeting
 11th-13th Lanesville Heritage Weekend

Inside this issue:

Why Dads Matter (<i>continued page 1</i>)	2
Brother, can you spare a dime?	2
Same-Sex Marriage (SSM): Answering the Toughest Questions	3
The Crisis . . . What Can I Do to Help? . . .	4
Calendar of Events	4

Every legitimate objective of gay and lesbian people can be met without redefining marriage.

Dr Jennifer Roback Morse

Editor: Donna M. Ulrich
Reporter: Dianna Meinecke
Staff: Jessica Smith

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 06
 JUNE 2009

More News and Notes:

Abortion Linked to Higher Rates of Domestic Violence: New Research

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/apr/09042005.html>

Life Site News

When a woman gets an abortion, the couple is more than twice as likely to argue when discussing future children, and nearly three times as likely to experience domestic violence, compared with women who carry the pregnancy to term and raise the child, according to a study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Public Health* on Mar. 24. "Abortion may play a vital role in understanding the aetiology [cause] of relationship problems," the authors stated. The study said that abortion within a current relationship causes 116 percent more arguing when discussing future children, and 196 percent more domestic violence. The researchers found that abortion affected future relationships as well. "For both men and women the experience of an abortion in a previous relationship was related to negative outcomes in the current relationship," they wrote. "Men whose current partners had an abortion were more likely to report jealousy (96% greater risk) and conflict about drugs (385 percent greater risk).

Gardasil vaccine linked to nerve disorder

<http://www.webmd.com/cancer/cervical-cancer/news/20090430/gardasil-linked-to-nerve-disorder>

News Source

Girls and women who receive the Gardasil vaccine to prevent cervical cancer may be at increased risk of a rare but serious disorder of the nervous system in the first few weeks after getting their shots, researchers report. "There is clear evidence from our database of an increased incidence of Guillain-Barre syndrome in the first six weeks, especially the first two weeks, after vaccination," says Nizar Souayah, MD, of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

Children's Author Judy Blume Seeks Donations to Planned Parenthood Abortion Biz

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- Famous children's author Judy Blume is no stranger to controversy, but she's



added to herself to a list of people who will be remember for something more devastating. Blume has lent her name the solicitation of donations for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business. In a new missive ironically celebrating mothers day, Blume suggests sending a donation to the pro-abortion group to honor mothers. "Say thanks this Mother's Day with a gift that honors her courage by making a donation to Planned Parenthood in her name. I guarantee you that she'll be pleased. I know I would be," Blume writes. "There is no organization that I know of that supports motherhood and all that it means more than Planned Parenthood. That's why I'm honoring moms everywhere with my gift to Planned Parenthood today," Blume adds. Blume notes how more woman are seeking abortions from

Planned Parenthood because of the difficult economy and she urges readers of the email to use that as a reason to support the abortion business. **ACTION:** Contact Judy Blume with your complaints about her support for Planned Parenthood at Judy Blume, c/o Tashmoo Productions, 1841 Broadway, Suite 711A, New York, N.Y. 10023. You can also email Judy at JudyB@judyblume.com and leave a message on her public guestbook by [going here](#). [Full story at LifeNews.com](#)

Abstinence Education Backers Present Evidence of Success to Congress

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- Abstinence education backers took their positive message to Capitol Hill last week



to tell the success stories of abstinence programs to lawmakers. In Congressional hearings on April 29, leading experts presented evidence showing these programs use an evidence-based approach that works for young people. The hearings featured new evidence-based analysis called Abstinence Works, which identifies 40 national studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of abstinence education among students. Lawmakers heard about a study by nationally known researcher Dr. Stan

Weed which debunks the myths about abstinence education and shows that abstinence programs actually outperform "comprehensive" sex education programs. Two students spokes about the positive effects of abstinence education that extend to all areas of their lives. Valerie Huber, the director of the National Abstinence Education Association, told LifeNews.com that the goal of the hearings was to bypass the major media's generally negative portrayal of authentic abstinence education. She wanted to deliver the truth directly to lawmakers as they gathered evidence for future funding decisions. "After today, it can no longer be said that the so-called comprehensive sex education has more research of effectiveness, nor can it be said that abstinence education is a failed approach," she said. [Full story at LifeNews.com](#)

Every legitimate objective of gay and lesbian people can be met without redefining marriage.

— Dr Jennifer Roback Morse

California Man Symbolically 'Adopts' Wife's Two Aborted Babies

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,517503,00.html>

Lisa Musil, now 45, had her first abortion at 19 because she was too frightened to admit her pregnancy to anyone — including her then live-in boyfriend, the Assist News Service reported. But terminating the pregnancy caused her so much pain that she tried to cover it with "drugs, alcohol, partying and a promiscuous lifestyle," she told radio host Rich Buhler in an interview with KBRT AM-740. "The world tells me that it was only a blob of tissue, but my heart tells me otherwise," Musil told FOXNews.com by e-mail. "The grief often times was more than I could bear." To try to cope with that pain, Lisa Musil turned her efforts to honoring those who have gone through abortions. "It's been a desire of mine to establish a memorial where post-abortive women can go to have the names of their aborted children engraved to honor their remembrance," she said. "As this is coming to fruition, I was wondering what last name I would put on this memorial, and my sweet husband asked if we could find some way he could legally adopt my babies and then they could take his name."

Fr. John Corapi writes about the moral obligation for all Christians to stand for what is true without equivocation in [To Bear Witness To The Truth](#). He states that although this is nothing new, it is something we need to remind ourselves. Fr. Corapi is right - in light of the false public witness among prominent Catholics today. Too many Catholic lawmakers aggressively advocate for unrestricted abortion rights, and Sunday, May 14th, we watched an abortion rights president receive an honorary degree from a prestigious Catholic University. This is the "antithesis of Catholic and Christian witness to the truth," writes Fr. Corapi. But we must not lose heart, rather, let us continue working to plough the fields giving faithful witness to the Gospel and building a *city of God*. www.OneNationUnderGod.org

Congressman Files Bill to De-Fund Schools Giving Morning After Pill to Teenagers

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- A member of Congress has introduced a bill that would yank federal funding for any school that gives teenagers the morning after pill. The bill comes after the Obama administration [removed protections](#) making it so 17-year-old girls can now purchase the morning after pill over the counter. Wanting to restore some of the protections for older teens and wanting to make sure younger teens do not get the drugs without a doctor's consultation and parental approval, Congressman Doug Lamborn has filed new legislation. The Colorado Republican has sponsored the Schoolchildren's Protection Act, which has 40 original co-sponsors. "The so-called morning after pill can induce abortion, if conception has taken place, and has no place in our public school health clinics," Lamborn said in a statement. "This bill would prohibit federal funds from going to any school that distributes or provides emergency contraception or a prescription for such contraception." [Full story at LifeNews.com](#)



South Dakota Planned Parenthood Wants to Stop Law Telling Women Abortion Kills

Pierre, SD (LifeNews.com) -- Planned Parenthood of Minnesota and the Dakotas is asking a judge for an injunction to stop a law the South Dakota state legislature approved. It requires the abortion business to tell women before an abortion that the procedure will destroy a human life -- that of an unborn child. Specifically, Planned Parenthood is required to tell women, which it would not otherwise, that "the abortion will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being." The state legislature approved modifications to the informed consent law in 2005 with that instruction and information on the plethora of medical and psychological problems associated with abortion. But Planned Parenthood, which runs the only abortion business in the state in Sioux Falls, claimed making them tell women the truth about abortion's problems would infringe on the free speech rights of abortion practitioners and filed suit against the law. [Full story at LifeNews.com](#)



CNN Poll: Interested Americans Oppose Obama's Pro-Abortion Record Nearly 2-1

Washington, DC (LifeNews.com) -- A new CNN poll released earlier this week has some news for President Barack Obama. For Americans who are interested in his abortion position, they oppose Obama's extensive [pro-abortion record](#) since taking over the White House by nearly a 2-1 margin. The CNN survey, conducted for the news outlet by the Opinion Research Corporation and released on Monday, found that 57 percent of Americans say Obama's position on abortion has no effect on their opinion of his presidency. But, for the 41 percent of Americans for whom his abortion position is relevant, they're not happy with how he is promoted abortion at every turn. Some 27 percent of Americans said Obama's pro-abortion position makes them feel less favorably about him while just 14 percent say his abortion advocacy makes them feel more positive about his presidency. Looking just at the group of 41 percent of Americans interested in the abortion issue, 65.8 percent of those voters are opposed to Obama's pro-abortion views while just 34.1 percent support his record. [Full story at LifeNews.com](#)

Will Catholic Lawmakers Support FOCA-like policy in Health Care Reform ?

Thirty-four (34) Catholic politicians co-sponsored FOCA when introduced in 2007; Senators Kerry, Mikulski, Menendez, Murray and Cantwell, and twenty-nine (29) Catholic representatives.

Last year during his presidential campaign Barack Obama made a promise when speaking to the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act." FOCA has yet to be introduced in this Congress, but thirty-five Catholic members of Congress co-sponsored this direct assault on life in 2007 and thirty-four of these Catholic lawmakers remain in office. Many pro-life advocates believe attempts to pass FOCA may be done stealthily and incrementally. One vehicle to do so would be through health care reform. Health care reform bills have now been introduced in both the Senate and the House by abortion rights advocates.

The Dangers of FOCA

Recently the Catholic Church and the pro-life movement launched efforts to educate the public on the dangers of FOCA as an egregious assault on the unborn and to religious freedom. Writing to all members of Congress on September 19, 2008, Chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities Cardinal Justin Rigali warned against enactment of the proposed "Freedom of Choice Act." Despite its deceptive title... FOCA would deprive the American people in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. And FOCA would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country. There is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion.... No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on how to reduce abortions.

The National Right to Life reported that FOCA would "invalidate all laws requiring parental or judicial notification or consent for abortions performed on minors, laws that permit health care providers to opt out of participation in abortion on conscience grounds, laws prohibiting non-physicians from performing abortions, and waiting periods."

FOCA and Health Care Reform

President Obama and leaders in Congress have listed health care reform as a legislative priority. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledged that the Obama administration regards abortion as "reproductive health" care and that women everywhere should have access to an abortion. This should be no surprise, as it is consistent with her efforts as First Lady in her husband's administration when she led the task force on health care reform. Had it been implemented, the Clinton administration health care policy would have granted access to an abortion in all states regardless of a women's age, thereby allowing minors to obtain abortions even if states had parental notification laws.

Douglas Johnson, Federal Legislative Director for the National Right to Life, warned of a real possibility of FOCA-like policy being accomplished through a national health care bill. Johnson writes of the dangers of sweeping abortion mandates being imposed by Congress and the Obama administration in health care reform in, *Abortion at the Heart of the Abortion Plan*. "A health care bill that mandates access to abortion, and that invalidates all state laws that impede such access, would be basically the so-called 'Freedom of Choice Act' under a different title," Johnson commented.

Catholic Members of Congress Supporting Freedom of Choice Act

On April 18, 2007 the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Act. Pro-abortion lawmakers quickly responded with the introduction of the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) the very next day. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) sponsored the bill in the Senate. It had 20 co-sponsors, five of them Catholic. The bill was introduced in the House by Congressman Jerold Nadler (D-NY 8th). Of the 109 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives twenty-nine co-sponsors were Catholic. Whether an individual FOCA bill is introduced or whether it's done through the health care reform bill - Catholic legislators must have full understanding of the consequences of their support for such a blatant assault on life. OneNationUnderGod.org sent letters to Cardinal Rigali and the bishops of the thirty-four Catholic lawmakers who signed on to support FOCA in the previous Congress, asking that they meet with these legislators to assure they understand that supporting it would make them willful participants in a grave evil. In his column in the *Catholic Sentinel*, "those who profess to love God, but back abortion, are liars," Bishop Robert F. Vasa, wrote of Catholic politicians supporting FOCA. Bishop Vasa also wrote: I do not see how any Catholic senator or representative could vote for the passage of FOCA without recognizing that such a vote would constitute a direct and intentional declaration of their disdain for Catholic teaching. Such a vote would be tantamount to a public declaration of their intention to abandon the Catholic faith.

We cannot rely solely on -select bishops to enlighten these Catholic lawmakers. The responsibility is also ours. Each of us has the individual responsibility to communicate truth, both directly and charitably, to our Catholic brothers and sisters.

[View Catholic Senators and Representatives who co-sponsored FOCA](#)