

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OPERATION MORNING STAR

NEWSLETTER

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"OPERATION MORNINGSTAR"

Get organized for State/Federal Legislative Blitz

After the highly contentious campaign season we have just finished, we can expect to see a flurry of legislative activity both in Congress and the state legislatures. Now is the time to organize email and phone trees, so that you can reach members quickly and so that they will be able to respond effectively as legislative bills progress.

Build email trees: Gather email addresses at every meeting, and create lists so that legislative alerts can travel quickly from the state court to the local courts to the members. Then organize those names into groups. A state legislative chair should have groups such as CDA state legislative chairs, CDA regents, and CDA state members. A local legislative chair should have a group for CDA local members. Everyone should go through their contacts' list and build their own email groups, such as "pro-life group," so that they can quickly relay information to their friends and relatives.

Get ready for session: Get a list of legislators and their email addresses from the Secretary of State website or your state Legislative branch website, and email the list to members. If members don't know who their state senator and representatives are, there is often a link to type in their address and find out their district number on the Secretary of State's website. It's useful for members to have all legislators' contact information because sometimes they will want to contact certain members of particular committees.

Learn the legislative system: Every state has a computerized bill tracking system. The state chair should spend time learning the system now. If you have questions, call the Legislative librarian, as he or she is used to helping people find legislative information.

Meet your legislators: If possible, introduce yourself to your legislators. Making personal contact early will help build a good rapport for later in the session.

Pick your battles: Don't ask too much of our members. Keep track of the top 10 or fewer most important bills. Follow their progress weekly, telling members when important committee hearings are coming, and when and whom to call at each stage. Keep members informed of events, too, such as Catholics Day at the Capitol or March for Life.

Inform yourself: Read books, magazines and websites so that if you are called upon to give testimony or background, you are prepared.

Network with non-affiliated groups: No one can do it alone, especially in the heat of a state legislative session. It is most important to get to know like-minded people and organizations in your state and community, so that you can learn what they are tracking. Examples of networking groups: Catholic Conference, Concerned Women for America, Family Alliance, American Life League, Right to Life, and Eagle Forum.

Contact legislators on a timely basis: Timeliness is everything. Bills can come out of committee one day and be voted on the next, so it is important to track legislation daily, especially toward the end of the session, and keep members informed.

Mobilize people to action: Make phone calls, visit legislators, attend town hall meetings, inform friends and neighbors, call talk shows, and network! You'll be amazed how a few informed citizens really can make the difference!

Margaret Sitte was elected to the North Dakota State Senate, so she is taking a leave of absence from National Legislative Chair.

Mary Ann Rowe will replace Margaret as National Legislative Chair. Her email address is martardel@aol.com. Her phone number is (703) 671-1277, and her address is 4638 31st Road South, Arlington, VA, 22206.

Welcome Mary Ann!

Bishops urge Health and Human Services against sterilization and contraception in health care plans

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) not to require group and individual health plans to cover contraception or sterilization. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is deliberating the requirement as part of “preventive” services for women.

“These drugs, devices and procedures prevent not a disease condition, but the healthy condition known as fertility,” said Anthony Picarello, USCCB general counsel, and Michael Moses, associate general counsel, in a September 17 letter to HHS. They added that contraception and sterilization “pose significant risks of their own to women’s life and health; and a federal program to mandate their inclusion would pose an unprecedented threat to rights of conscience.”

Contraception cannot be considered “preventive” on the grounds of preventing abortion because “abortion is not itself a disease condition, but a separate procedure that is performed only by agreement between a woman and a health professional.”

“Studies have shown that the percentage of unintended pregnancies that are ended by abortion is higher if the pregnancy occurred during use of a contraceptive.”

They noted that at least one drug already approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for “emergency contraception” can actually cause early abortions.”

They also noted that such a mandate would threaten “rights of conscience for religious employers and others who have moral or religious objections to these procedures. They added that this “would also contradict longstanding federal precedents on respect for conscientious objection to such procedures and such coverage.”

“Blood Money” exposes abortion sales pitch

Blood Money is a new documentary film narrated by Dr. Alveda King that examines the history of abortion in America and shows how Planned Parenthood and abortion clinics prey on vulnerable young women. It’s shocking to see how the women are coerced into abortion and how much money is involved in the abortion industry. Order this powerful film for \$20. It should be seen by every adult. For more information, go to <http://bloodmoneyfilm.com>.

Obamacare expands abortion coverage three ways
(from Population Research Institute 10-20-2010)

Steven Mosher, president of Population Research Institute, wrote his October 20 weekly briefing on the ways that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) funds abortion. Here is his analysis:

“Money for so-called “Community Health Centers”: Many of these Community Health Centers will be run by Planned Parenthood and other groups that see abortion as an essential service and, without abortion-restricting language in the bill, money that goes to these centers will be used to pay for abortions.

“Money for federal insurance plans: Obamacare will provide two or more state-sponsored insurance plans. According to the bill, only one of these plans actually needs to have restrictions on abortion—meaning that federal dollars will almost definitely be paying for abortions in the other state plan. And even this restriction is limited, and will have to be renewed every year.

“Money for “temporary high-risk pools”: Obamacare provides 5 billion dollars for “temporary high-risk pools” that will cover people with pre-existing conditions until the actual health care exchanges kick in 2014. This money goes straight to the states and is administered by them. Without abortion restrictions, the states are free to use this money to fund abortions if they feel like it. And in fact, some of them tried to do just that ... until complaints by National Right to Life forced HHS to promise it would actually enforce Obama's executive order. This will last only as long as it takes to file a court challenge, however.

“Vice President Biden has been going around the country saying that Obamacare is wonderful, but that it is simply “too complicated” to explain to the rubes out in the hustings. We disagree on many grounds, but most of all because it will force us—and all Americans—to pay for the execution of our unborn brothers and sisters.”

No ideology can erase from the human spirit the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and a woman, who by mutual personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, tend toward the communion of their persons. In this way, they mutually perfect each other, in order to cooperate with God in the procreation and upbringing of new human lives.

—Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith