

03/12/07

Good morning Senator Harris and members of the Human Services Committee. I'm speaking this morning in opposition to the Bill # 1343, An Act Concerning Compassionate Care For Victims of Sexual Assault.

The number of "necessary" abortions is ZERO. Rape and incest are similar in the sense that both are criminal acts. In our system of justice, we punish the criminal. We do not punish the victim, nor do we punish the criminal's children. We are told, however, offering the victim a post-rape drug is the compassionate thing to do. And Connecticut subsidizes the post-rape drug.

Planned Parenthood of Connecticut also urges healthcare providers to actively enhance access of the post-rape pill by including it in all rape kits.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America has a monetary interest in this bill as five of their affiliates made equity investments in Plan B with the maker of the post-rape drug, Barr Pharmaceuticals, and have made millions in profits.

This bill is also a setback in religious freedom. Where are the rights of the taxpayers, not to pay for unhealthy and morally objectionable services? And there is no refusal clause for contraceptives in Connecticut's law's and policies addressing contraception. So where are the rights of individual Christian physicians and Catholic healthcare facilities not to provide or refer for morally objectionable services. And where are the rights of Catholic healthcare providers to participate in the market of health services by providing morally acceptable and ethical healthcare alternatives without the threat of being shut down by losing state and federal funding if they don't comply?

The post rape drug treatment does not 'prevent abortion.' That statement is an illusion. If the woman is near ovulation, the hormones do not consistently stop ovulation. Therefore, informed practicing Christian physicians will not give "the post rape pill" in any circumstances. Emergency contraception (EC) changes the lining of the uterus. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the five- to seven- day old human embryo to attach to the lining of the uterus, where it would receive the nourishment needed to grow. If the baby does not successfully attach to the lining of the uterus, she dies and is expelled from the body during menstruation. This process is known as a chemical abortion and is why the post rape pill is known as a chemical killer.

And what about the breast cancer links to the pill?

Every child is a gift of God and the value and dignity of human life do not change according to health or other circumstances. If the woman gives birth to the baby conceived, she has something beautiful and positive to hold in her hands.

Here's what an Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual Assault in Springfield, IL had to say: In virtually every case, those people who claim to represent our interests have never taken the time to actually listen to us or to learn about our true circumstances, needs, and concerns," they wrote. We are deeply offended and dismayed each time our difficult circumstances are exploited for the public consumption to promote the political agenda of others."

Geri Riggs of Sturgis, South Dakota just published her story. Raped not once, but twice Geri writes:

TRUTH: Being a victim of rape did not exempt me from the devastation of abortion. It added to it.

If I could do one thing over again in my life, it would be to go back and save my child's life! There is no excuse to ever take an innocent life. As one woman asked, "Does a child conceived

in rape look any different in ultrasound than a child conceived during consensual sex?" How can we say that the innocent have to die for their fathers' sins?

"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."-Thomas Jefferson

We are not some casual or meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."(Pope Benedict XVI Homily, Mass of Instillation, April 24, 2005)

This is a bad bill with the intent of shutting down Catholic hospitals, the life-saving alternatives and positive, awesome options to PPC.

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