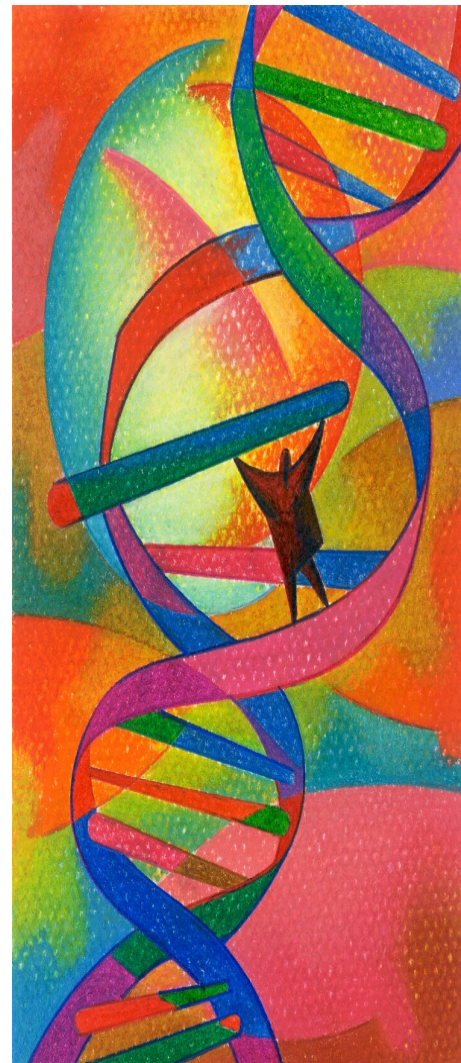


Dynamic Life Symposium 2010 Consequences of the Bio-Medical Revolution

CNES joins forces with five pro-life organizations* to explore the role of ethics in this technological revolution.

- ▶ Can Alzheimer's Be Delayed Or Prevented?
*Dr. Vincent Fortanasce, author of the book
The Anti-Alzheimer Prescription*
- ▶ Stem Cells And Cloning
Dr. Fritz Baumgartner, Professor of Surgery
- ▶ The New You: The Ethics Of Genetic Engineering
*Elizabeth Condon Odello, RN, BSN, MN
Professor of Philosophy*
- ▶ The Challenge Of Conscience Rights
*Dr. Christopher DeGiorgio
Professor of Neurology*
- ▶ To Die Or Not To Die, That Is The Question
*Kathleen Gaines Timm, RN, MS, CNS
Director of Mission Services & Spiritual Care*
- ▶ The Impact Of Documents People Sign
When They're Too Sick To Read Them
*William Anderson, JD
Drafted Archdiocesan form of the
Advanced Health Care Directive*
- ▶ The Duty Of Activism In Bioethics
*Senator Bob Huff
Senate Republican Caucus Chairman*

*California Nurses for Ethical Standards
Commission for Catholic Life Issues
Crusade for Life
International Life Services
Physicians for Compassionate Care
Scholl Institute of Bioethics



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From Our President...



Dearest Colleagues,

During the darkest days of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln reminded his fellow Americans that, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven." To live in a nation, a divine experiment of "one nation under God" as our founding fathers believed, is a privilege and responsibility of great magnitude. There are over 350,000 nurses in California. What a tremendous impact we could make if, in unison, we reminded our legislators of this, and held them accountable to the idea that our Creator has endowed us with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The passing of the Senate Health Care bill is ideological warfare. It is not legislating but an act of tyranny by overturning the rules and principles of government in a Republic. In this changing cultural climate, it is imperative as professionals, as advocates, to become actively engaged in this issue. In this Health Care bill, we face significant threats to our God given rights, particularly a possible threat of the elimination of conscience rights for the medical profession. The government funding of abortions, financial hardships created by higher taxes and the overall governmental healthcare takeover affects us all. The Health Care bill bars senior citizens from adding their own money, if they choose, to the governmental contribution and limits private sector medical care. It will make it difficult for private insurance companies to compete, therefore, causing their ultimate failure.

California Nurses for Ethical Standards will continue to be an educational and supportive organization to our nurses and community. In light of the cultural climate, we must become more proactive and vigilant in upholding high ethical standards through legislative watch and action. We must strategize and identify where our one voice will make a greater impact. We will actively reinforce the values and philosophy of why we entered this profession, that one word is "Advocate."

"A government big enough
to give you all you want
is big enough
to take it all away."
-Thomas Jefferson

LIFE SCENES

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CNES Purpose Statement

California Nurses for Ethical Standards encourages ethics and moral integrity as the foundation of all responsible health care and health education. We promote respect for the life and dignity of every person including the preborn, newborn, physically and/or mentally disabled, aged and dying.

Anna Cody

Office Manager/Newsletter Layout

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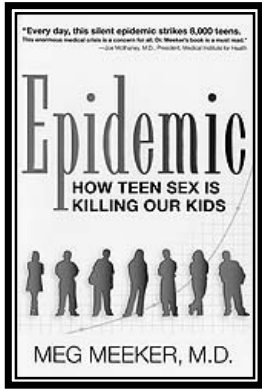
Now more than ever, let us challenge ourselves, to "action." As professionals, we must continue to define our profession as one of an Advocate. This organization needs your active participation and input in order to succeed. We welcome your questions and comments. Let us continue to fight to protect life, promote abstinence, protect the family unit, and uphold our Constitution. Thomas Jefferson said, "A government big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away."

God's blessings on you as you continue to stand for righteousness,

Zonya E. Townsend, RN BSN

Dr. Meeker: Teen Sex Is Killing Our Kids

Every year nearly 9 million people under the age of 25 get a new STI (sexually transmitted infection). The CDC estimates that overall there are more than 19 million new STD infections diagnosed every year.



In the 1980s, Dr. Meg Meeker was in pediatric training in a large inner city hospital when she began to observe that many of the kids coming to see her had problems that were centered around sex (STDs, pregnancy, and sexual abuse.) Although she was disturbed by this phenomenon, she thought it was peculiar to the inner city. Several years later she believed life would be better when she set up a private practice in a middle to

higher income suburban neighborhood in the Midwest. For awhile she took care of “red-faced babies who nursed beautifully,” but as these babies started entering their teen years, disturbing things began to enter the exam rooms in her quiet small town practice. She started seeing illnesses in her patients that, in her own words, “rattled me to the core.”

Teens started showing up with abnormal pap smears, herpes, pelvic inflammatory diseases, and HPV. This was not only happening in the “tough crowds,” but everywhere. Dr. Meeker has written about her experiences, the real dangers of the STD epidemic, its underlying causes, and her suggestions to try to help stem this tide. In her book you’ll be introduced to some of her patients and learn of personal, heart breaking stories, stories being repeated across the United States. As a pediatrician treating teens for over two decades, Dr. Meeker observed that STDs are now affecting about one-third of her patients. This was very disturbing. After consulting with colleagues around the country, she learned that she’s not alone, that they too are dealing with the problem.

The CDC estimates that there are 19 million new STD infections every year. Consider these facts that Dr. Meeker lists on p. 13 of her book:

- Nearly one out of four sexually active teen is living with an STD at this moment.
- Nearly 50% of African-American teenagers have genital herpes.
- Teens make up only 10% of the population yet account for 20–25% of all STD cases.

- Herpes (specifically herpes simplex virus type 2) has skyrocketed 500% in the past 20 years among white American teens
- One in five children over age 12 tests positive for herpes type 2.
- Nearly one out of ten teenage girls has chlamydia, and half of all new chlamydia cases are diagnosed in girls 15 to 19 year old.
- STDs accounted for 87% of all cases reported of the top-ten most frequently reported diseases in the U.S. in 1995.

Actual figures are many times higher because, as the AMA reported in 2002, the number of people who have no real symptoms with their disease probably *exceeds* those who have been diagnosed. Any wonder that CNES dubbed this the *Silent Epidemic* years ago and created our brochure with that name to alert people to the dangers out there?

In reading the book, you will begin to understand the depth of the emotional pain and physical destruction occurring to real teens as Dr. Meeker describes real situations. It’s terrifying to think that this is not only occurring in her one town, but multiplied many times over throughout our country. She describes it this way: “Picture a football stadium filled with teenagers. Start counting. One out of five of those cheering kids have herpes (at least that we know of). Every third girl in the stands has HPV, and one out of ten has chlamydia. If we pulled all the healthy kids out of there, leaving just the ones with an STD, the stadium would still be nearly full.” That is scary!

She describes the many forces at work that contribute to this epidemic among teens, and how teens need and seek connectedness. Through graphic illustrations she has experienced in her own practice, she allows the reader a glimpse of how the adolescent mind and body works, and how society preys on a teen’s vulnerability. Myths that abound in a teen’s world are dispelled, such as a popular one that you’re protected if you use a condom, or that oral sex is safe.

In spite of the bad news, Dr. Meeker holds out hope that things can get better. She believes teens are really smart and armed with true knowledge about dangers they might face, they can make the right personal choices regarding their futures. If in addition, they can be imbued with strong character they will be strong enough to hold fast to those choices in the face of the culture’s sexual blitz.

Epidemic: HOW TEEN SEX IS KILLING OUR KIDS, Meg Meeker M.D. LifeLine Press: A Regnery Publishing Company, Washington, D.C, 2002
www.lifelinepress.com

As a pediatrician treating teens for over two decades, Dr. Meeker observed that STDs are now affecting about one-third of her patients.

My First Experience Staffing a CNES Info Table

By Theresa Dampf RN, CNES member

It started with a message left on my answering machine asking if I would be willing to man the CNES booth at the California Republican Assembly convention. One of the scheduled nurses had an important change of plans and a replacement was needed. Reflecting, I thought, "I would love to do that!" But at the same time I hesitated, wondering if a fairly new member like me could adequately represent such a fine organization as CNES. Without another thought I agreed knowing that this would be a great opportunity to put my beliefs into action. I chose the Saturday afternoon time slot and worked along with Annette, another brand new member of CNES. We were going to sink or swim together.

Our booth was in a room filled mostly with hopeful candidates for the upcoming election. The hubbub in the room was how to get California out of its financial difficulties. I suppose that "ethical nursing" must have appeared to most convention attendees to be the least pressing issue we Californians needed to concern ourselves with.

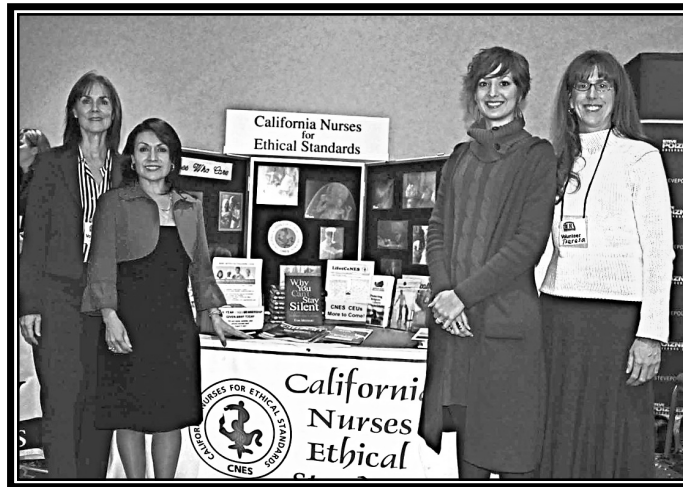
Our table was set up with a colorful tri-fold display board with the CNES motto and vintage pictures of nurses, along with several 3-D images of an unborn child in the womb. We had lots of pamphlets, books and past newsletters on display. As people passed by our table, I would ask them if they had any questions. Most responded with questions like, "What is ethical nursing?" or "What are you about?" My first few attempts at giving a polished answer fell short of my expectations. At that moment, I wished there had been more time to be thoroughly coached on what to say. I stumbled through, saying something like "We care about giving ethical care to all people from the moment of conception to natural death." Annette saved my feeble attempts. "We also support conscience rights for health care workers," she said. The questions usually stopped there. I wanted to say more. I wanted to make more of an impact.

It was then I decided to get people's attention by bringing up something more controversial – the so-called "brain death" diagnosis. I started asking, "Did you know that there are no standard criteria for determining brain death, and people are sometimes being declared brain dead when they still have some brain function?" That

question immediately raised eyebrows! "What do you mean?" I continued on. They listened! I shared with each the knowledge I had gathered from articles I had read on the subject by Human Life Alliance and Nancy Valko, RN to name a few. But most of all I shared with them the knowledge I had obtained from first hand experience working as a nurse.

To my surprise and pleasure the people with whom I was able to engage in conversation with in this room were hungry to learn more. They wanted more resources on the topic. They were genuinely concerned with what they were hearing and the implications it had on all of us. Many of these individuals would like to hold public office. These are people who could one day affect public health by authoring legislation which values the dignity of the human person.

It saddens me to think of how the public, as well as many health care workers, has been misled to believe that all transplants are being done ethically. Even those I know personally who are adamantly pro-life are not aware that they have been deceived regarding the "brain death" diagnosis. They often find it hard to believe that what I am saying is true. After being told over and over again in the media that signing a donor card is one of the easiest and selfless things we could do, it has become an accepted fact.



This, of course, is only one of several common medical practices/therapies which pose ethical problems and which many in our profession and society readily accept without realizing or caring about the broader implications on the sanctity of life. The view of utilitarianism has become widespread in our society, often even affecting the religious among us.

It would seem more and more that common sense, morality, and lessons that use to be handed down from generation to generation have largely been replaced by and entrusted to "the experts." This is not always entirely bad considering the "experts" advice comes from a position of high morals. But if the "experts" opinions come from selfish motives, following their advice can bring disastrous consequences to a society.

I joined CNES because I was tired of standing up, often times on my own, against this utilitarian view that I find so prevalent in the workplace and in society at large. I was tired of having my views usurped by nursing organizations who often promote views which are harmful to those we serve. I found in CNES a voice of reason, a return of sanity to health care. *(continued)*

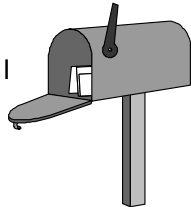
My First Experience *(continued)*

With the passing of universal health care we are now on the defensive in this battle. Some may say it is too late. What is clear is that the American people have wakened up. They are hungry for solutions. They are listening! But who will they listen to?

Nurses continue to be highly respected and trustworthy professionals. I personally experienced this sentiment from those attending the convention. I realized that when it comes to using my nursing skills, no longer can I be content with following my conscience and calling it a day. No longer can I just expect a few at CNES to do the work of reaching out to the public and public officials. Yes, it means exiting my comfort zone as well as giving up precious free time. The beautiful thing is that I no longer have to stand alone! Belonging to CNES has given me a voice. But for CNES to truly accomplish its mission it will require all of us to become involved. Will you join me? The time for activism is now!

From Our Mailbox

Thank you so much for your newsletter. I attach the latest edition of *our* newsletter.



We have an appointment with the Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) on 16 March. (*The RCN changed their position on assisted suicide to a neutral stance-Ed.*)

I will keep you and your important work in my prayers at this critical time as I trust you will for me and our group.

With all best wishes
Yours sincerely

Teresa Lynch RN
Nurses Opposed to Euthanasia

*(A division the Society for the
Protection of Unborn Children)*
London, England

Teresa's follow up letter...

The meeting with the Royal College of Nursing was a reasonable chance for us to express our views on Assisted Suicide and the Director of Public Prosecutions Policy on this. The College has commissioned a piece of work on guidance for nurses on this topic and we await this with interest, which hopefully will be out soon.

My aim was to know why the Nursing and Midwifery Council no longer has a conscientious objection clause within the Nursing Code of Professional Conduct. I was promised this would be taken up immediately with the NMC by the Royal College.

Apropos the situation of nurses being unable to comply with bad laws such as the Mental Capacity Act (2005), we were informed that a 'test' case may be required to allow a review of this law (where assisted food and fluid is now considered as medical treatment) in particular relation to nurses' conscientious objection.

All best wishes

Yours sincerely

Teresa Lynch RN

Nurses Opposed to Euthanasia

I'm so proud of you and of all of the nurses who are members of **California Nurses for Ethical Standards**.

I'm so glad I came upon your organization while reading different articles on the Internet. I was honored to help staff the table representing this fine organization during the 75th California Republican Assembly held March 5-7, 2010.

We shared our information with so many interested and concerned citizens of our great country. I thought we had a very positive response. I was so pleasantly surprised to have so many people asking questions about life issues, seeking knowledge and clarification.

Annette M.

CNES Members

What experiences have you had?

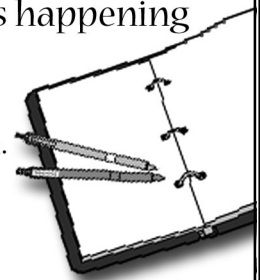
Submit *your story*.

Let us know what's happening
in your area.

Share an article
you've written.

Or tell us about
an important
book.

We would love to hear from you!



"An informed nurse is a community asset."



NEWS CAPSULES



Ventura, CA HS Sex Survey

The school newspaper at Ventura High School distributed a sexual survey to 1,000 students including every class at the school. Some of the questions included were: "What grade were you in when you lost your virginity?" "What is your overall number of partners you have engaged in sexual activity with?" "Were you sober the first time you engaged in sexual activity?" "How often do you engage in sexual activity?" "Are your parents aware of your sexual activity?" "Have you or your partner ever had an abortion?"

The survey was administered during a second class period regardless of the subject being taught at the time, and was administered with the knowledge and help of the high school.

The Cougar Press (name of the newspaper) went on to publish the results of the survey. Along with the sex survey results, the paper included a page of photographs of students revealing what songs put them "in the mood," a sex crossword puzzle and other advocacy for being sexually active.

Some parents were outraged that this was done without prior parental notification and went to the Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) for help. PJI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties. "By facilitating the newspaper to conduct the survey, we felt the school was complicit in violating the rights of the parents," said Julie Wilson, a parent of a high school student. "The parents have tried to reason with school officials about this, but so far administrators have failed to grasp that giving the students this survey without prior written notice and consent was illegal," said Brad Dacus, president of PJI, reported on their website.

Emergency at Riverside, CA Abortuary

In early April, an ambulance, fire truck, and a police car with sirens blaring, entered the parking lot at the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Riverside, CA. Three women have already died from failed abortions at this particular center. Pro-life observers outside the center saw the abortion practitioner appear about 10 minutes later and escort a woman into the ambulance. The ambulance left the property and the other emergency response vehicles vacated shortly thereafter. No details about the woman's condition has been released, but one of the observers said she has seen ambulances come to the center before, and this is the first time she witnessed sirens being used.

CDC Reports – STDs Still on Rise

About 1 in 6 Americans (16.2 percent) between the ages of 14 and 49 is infected with herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2), according to a national health survey released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HSV-2 is a lifelong and incurable infection that can cause recurrent and painful genital sores. The highest prevalence in the U.S. is seen particularly among women and African-Americans.

Gay and bisexual men are also feeling a disproportionate impact of HIV and syphilis. The data, presented at CDC's 2010 National STD Prevention Conference and reported on their website, finds that the rate of new HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men (MSM) is more than 44 times that of other men and more than 40 times that of women. The rate of primary and secondary syphilis among MSM is more than 46 times that of other men and more than 71 times that of women, the analysis says.

"As the studies presented at this conference show, the disparities in STD rates among women, African-Americans, and gay and bisexual men remain stark," said Kevin Fenton, M.D., director of CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention. "Given everything we know about how to prevent, diagnose and treat STDs, it is unacceptable that STDs remain such a widespread public health problem in the United States today."

Big Bucks for *Intelligent* Women's Eggs

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine's (ASRM) has recommended that a \$10,000 compensation limit be applied to compensation given to human oocyte donors. Compared to other developed countries, this practice is not heavily regulated in the United States. Aaron Levine reported on some research he did regarding advertising for human egg donors. (*Hastings Center Report* 40, no 2 (2010): 25-36.) Almost half of the ads offering payment for eggs exceeded the recommended levels. Many ads offered \$20,000, several offered \$35,000, and one was as high as \$50,000. Interestingly, the analysis indicated that a strong predictor of the amount of compensation offered was tied to the average SAT scores at the college or university where an ad was placed. This practice suggests, "donor agencies and couples valued specific donor characteristics and based compensation on those preferences." This is also in violation of the ASRM's guidelines.

"...**"We the People,"** who are the political sovereign in this constitutional democracy, have not gotten over it, we have not gotten used to it, and we will never, we will never ever, agree that the culture of death is the unchangeable law of the land."

-Fr. John Neuhaus



NEWS CAPSULES



Oregon PAS Report Troubling

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) released their report on physician-assisted suicide (PAS) for the year of 2009 on March 3, 2010. Physicians for Compassionate Care (PCC) say the report shows more conspiracy and control. There were several areas of concern. First of all the report was very brief which is not consistent with their "surveillance" responsibility, and there was no true investigation of the deaths. None of the 59 patients killed by PAS were referred for psychiatric evaluation. At the time of the ingestion of the lethal drugs, the prescribing physician was present in only 3 of the 59 deaths, and was present at the time of death for only one patient. Many patients have the lethal drug prescription written by a doc who is not their personal physician, and some patients had no prior relationship with the prescribing physician. In fact, the average time of the patient-physician relationship was only 9 weeks. The organization, Compassion & Choices, proponents of PAS, were responsible for 97% of the deaths. In the PCC press release of March 4, 2010, they say that *The Oregonian* newspaper editorial board correctly stated in 2008 that "a coterie of insiders run the [assisted suicide] program, with a handful of doctors and others deciding what the public may know." That same newspaper stated earlier "the initials 'C & C' of this organization more properly reflect its repeated public behavior – that is, 'Conspiracy and Control.'

Have Some U.S. Docs Euthanized Kids?

A study published in Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine (Vol. 164 #3, Mar. 2010) suggests that when parents have requested euthanasia for their child, some physicians may have complied. A palliative pain specialist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital in Boston, Dr. Joanne Wolfe, interviewed 141 parents of children who died of cancer about considering or asking about hastening their child's death. 19 of the 141 considered it; 13 discussed it, 5 reported as requesting it, and 3 reported their child's life was intentionally ended with morphine. Pain, not coma, was principally responsible for considering euthanasia.

Pro-Abort Named EEOC Commissioner

Chair Feldblum couldn't overcome the 60-vote threshold needed to overcome a bipartisan filibuster when she was nominated to serve on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. So while the Senate was on Easter recess, Pres. Obama used a weekend recess appointment to give her the position. This is not good news since her position could impact abortion as it relates to employment issues. Feldblum worked for the pro-abortion Human Rights Campaign Fund, and was a legislative counsel for the ACLU. She also clerked for Harry A. Blackmun, the infamous Supreme Court judge who handed down the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Pro-life Rep. Lipinski Splits from Stupak Dozen

Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Illinois) stood his ground when Rep. Bart Stupak caved and voted for Obama's health care bill. "It was rather lonely, yes," he told the Chicago Tribune, "But I could not vote for a bill that would change the status quo on funding for abortion." He also indicated he doesn't believe the executive order Obama signed will truly ban abortion funding and will eventually be overturned in court. ". . . The order does not trump the law," he said. Kudos to Rep. Lipinski.

M.D. Group Files Lawsuit Against Health Care Bill

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) has filed suit in federal court against the health care reform law, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). This national doctor's group is the first medical society to do this. "If the PPACA goes unchallenged, then it spells the end of freedom in medicine as we know it," Jane Orient, M.D., the director of AAPS, said in a statement. "Courts should not allow this massive intrusion into the practice of medicine and the rights of patients." "There will be a dire shortage of physicians if the PPACA becomes effective and is not overturned by the courts," Dr. Orient added. AAPS says the new government-run health care system, which will likely fund and promote abortions despite an executive order Obama signed last week, requires most Americans to buy government-approved insurance starting in 2014, or face stiff penalties.

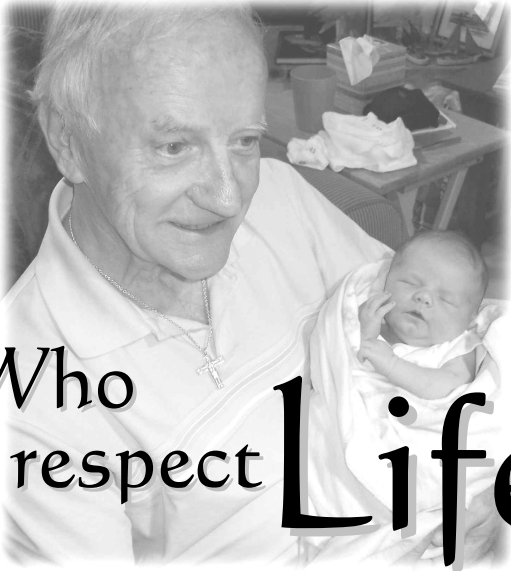
The doctors group says that requirement violates the Fifth Amendment protection against the government forcing one person to pay cash to another. (LifeNews.com 3/29/2010)

Iowa Abortions by Video

A formal complaint has been filed with the Medical Board of Iowa regarding a new method that Planned Parenthood (PP) has started to use when they dispense abortion drugs. Operation Rescue wants an investigation into PP's new practice which the group says has abortion practitioners instructing women on how to use the dangerous RU 486 abortion pill protocol by video conference rather than assisting them in person. They are asking officials to stop allowing abortions without a licensed physician on site.

The group filed a separate complaint against Susan Haskell and her employer PP of the Heartland saying that it is a violation of Iowa law which states only licensed physicians, not staffers in their stead, may do abortions. The group says PP protocols aren't following FDA-approved protocols since they eliminate visits along with other safety measures. The complaint also asserts that insurance companies may be getting bilked by PP because they are "overbilled at twice the price of cash patients, which is an unethical financial practice that raises the cost of health care."

WANTED: NURSES*



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defending conscience,
and promoting a
“Culture of Life” are important, so...



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*CNES welcomes past, present and future nurses, and all who share our values.

“Re-lighting the lamp”

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