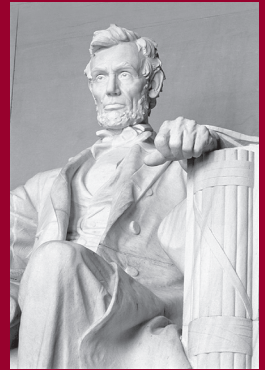


Illinois *Family* Institute



Upholding marriage & family, life & liberty in the Land of Lincoln

No Moratorium For Liberals

The normal political diatribe for years, from far too many politicians and pundits, has been that the focus of nearly every candidate and elected official is and ought to be the economy. No need to be “distracted” by or waste time on those pesky social issues. Usually, that line is thrown in the face of values voters who actually care about the culture. Seldom is it used against those whose “values” are different than ours.

from the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**

With New York state lawmakers legalizing so-called same-sex “marriage” this summer, the claim by any liberal politician or pundit, or anyone else for that matter, that the focus is and must be on economic issues amounts to nothing more than blatant hypocrisy. After all, during an economic meltdown in a state on the verge of bankruptcy, the Mayor of New York City, the Governor of New York and its entire state legislature were “distracted” for days debating homosexual marriage.

Simply put, the next time someone tells you that social issues are a distraction from what’s really important, they must be forced to answer the question, “What about New York?”

As we head into the Primary Elections of March 2012, that question isn’t just for us, it’s for the candidates as well. After all, as liberals across Illinois celebrate New York’s efforts at redefining God’s most basic institutions of marriage and family, candidates for the Illinois General Assembly (House and Senate) must be asked, “What about New York?”

Like New York, late last year Illinois state lawmakers focused significant time and energy to pass a bill to legalize homosexual “marriage,” under the name “civil unions.” It was rammed through the General Assembly by razor-thin majorities during the last two days of the Veto Session. This was done despite the crippling fiscal problems facing the state — problems that have resulted in Illinois being ranked near the bottom for fiscal policy. Yet our lawmakers failed to deal with important fiscal issues such as reforming Illinois’ workers’ compensation law, pension and retiree health systems.

You simply can’t have it both ways. If social issues like homosexual marriage are a distraction from the important economic issues, then every candidate in Illinois — regardless of political party — must reject what has happened in the Veto Session last year and what happened in New York this summer. If spending weeks to debate the definition of marriage is a waste of time, then every candidate in Illinois must be absolutely critical of their colleagues in New York State.

If you think the same-sex “marriage” issue is a distraction from what’s really important, try running for office on that in Central, Western and Southern Illinois. (By the way — every state lawmaker will be up for election in 2012.) ■



PRO LIFE. PRO MARRIAGE. PRO FAMILY.

Hope in the Midst of Growing Chaos by Joe Edwards

From Wallstreet to Mainstreet, from inside the Beltway to inside the church, the national conversation is ratcheting up its dire predictions of doom and gloom. Be they secular or sacred arguments, it seems there is a growing consensus of the imminent collapse of all we hold dear.

We see London and her sister cities in chaos, the Middle East’s Arab Spring turning into a regional game-changer both militarily and geopolitically with far-reaching ramifications. North Korea is saber-rattling; Iran is on the verge of going nuclear. Our economy is laden with debt. And the list goes on in a wide range of events that cause us to naturally flinch in fear and worry for our children and grandchildren.

But another voice is calling... a voice of faith, hope and love in the midst of uncertainty. The voice of the Master that says “perfect love casts out all fear” is calling us, urging us forward. (1 John 4:18) It’s a Voice that calls us to the courage of a lion yet the gentleness of a lamb. We reject America’s imminent collapse and say with a collective voice, “This won’t happen, by God’s grace, on our watch and we will return this nation to its rightful place as a beacon of liberty, of hope and of moral virtue to a chaotic hopeless world.”

Many Christians truly believe we cannot win — that all we can do is hold the fort while the godless take the earth. This perception can be cancerous and discouraging.

In the darkest hour of WWII when all seemed lost, a lone voice stood among the throng of naysayers and rallied a nation to victory. He warned early and went unheeded. He remained in the fray and ultimately succeeded. Winston Churchill got it right. The masses had it wrong. We will not, must not, cannot allow our fears to stymie us as others work to redefine our nation’s heritage and legacy. We must continue to work to fix it, by God’s grace. (John 15:5)

Remain steadfast, reject anything less than faithfulness. If the Lord returns during our season, it’s purely a bonus. Should He tarry, let us join Joshua who said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” ■



CHICAGO
SUN-TIMES

The *Chicago Sun-Times* recently reported that based on ACT scores, more than three-quarters of Illinois high school graduates aren’t ready for college. This is yet another compelling reason why our tax-payer funded government schools should focus like a laser beam on the core branches of education and completely abandon social engineering.

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AARP Alternative for Christians

Many conservative senior associations have appeared over the last few years to offer an alternative to AARP — a pro-homosexual group who has flip-flopped on its Obamacare stance. Unfortunately, while they might be conservative, there is a big difference between being “conservative” and being “Christian.”

Enter United Christian Adults (UCA), a Bible-based senior association. UCA provides members with an opportunity to belong to a genuine Christian conservative senior association that gives members peace of mind and confidence knowing that their Christian values and beliefs are respected and supported.

After much prayer and careful

consideration, the association’s steering committee determines where funding best supports and advances Christian members’ beliefs and values — Jesus is God and was crucified on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins; the United States of America was founded on Christian values; funds applied to senior programs should only be used for those senior programs and not reallocated; no forcing health insurance plans on seniors; no cuts in social security or Medicare/Medicaid benefits to seniors. UCA gives members an opportunity to support the advancement of Christian values and beliefs at both the state and federal levels, while potentially saving hundreds or thousands of dollars with incredible membership benefits, including



a FREE Prescription Card which can save members up to 75% off all FDA-approved drugs at 56,000 locations and a FREE Pet Medication Card.

More information is available online at: www.unitedchristianadults.org. ■



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A Christian's Highest Ministry—Their Spouse

‘Visionary Marriage’ by Rob and Amy Rienow

Can a Christian man and a Christian woman be married to one another, but not have a Christian marriage? Absolutely. Two Christians can say “I do,” but not have a shared, compelling, Bible-driven vision for their life together.

Find a Christian engaged couple. Ask them, “Why are you getting married?” You will likely hear responses such as, “We love each other.” “He completes me.” “She makes me laugh.” The answers are frequently the same as those given by atheist couples! The lack of truly Christian marriages is hindering the Great Commission, stagnating our churches, and robbing faith from the generations to come.



True Unity

In Genesis 2:24 God says that for the reason of marriage, “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” We leave, cleave, and become one. The order is vitally important. Satan has accomplished a great victory in shaping our culture so that many couples do the exact opposite. They start having sex, then build a relationship, and finally move out of their parents’ house.

How far we have fallen from a truly Christian vision of the nature and mission of marriage! If a person is married, the vast majority of that man or woman’s need for relationship, community, and support can be and should be met in the supernatural unity of marriage. Yet, even in some churches, married men and women are taught to find their community, purpose, and support in Christian friendships rather than with their spouse. We hear the constant message to find a prayer partner, or join a Bible study, all the while most Christian couples struggle deeply in worshipping God together at home.

Shared Ministry

When a couple begins to experience supernatural unity, the word “ministry” is redefined. If someone were to ask you, “What kinds of ministry are you involved in?” they are expecting an answer having to do with the things you do to volunteer at church. Ministry at church is wonderful, but the Christian mission to “make disciples” and “love your neighbor” begins at home. If a person is married, their calling from God to make disciples begins with the soul of his or her spouse.

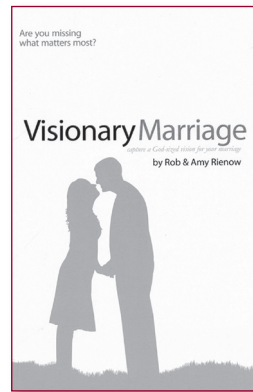
In Ephesians 5:25-26, God gives a husband his divine job description: to love, serve, and to nurture faith in the heart of his wife. Her soul is to be his most important ministry. In Genesis 2 and Ephesians 5, God gives a wife her calling: to help, respect, and submit to her husband. Her most important ministry in the world is helping her husband become the man that God created him to be.

We hope that the next time someone asks you, “What kind of ministry do you do?” that you will respond by telling the person about all the ways that you are seeking to bless and encourage your spouse. Don’t ever allow your spiritual opportunities to overshadow your spiritual responsibilities.

Shared Mission

Why is this supernatural unity so vital? Why does God want husband and wife to live and think less as two, but as one? He tells us in Malachi 2:15. In speaking of marriage God says, “Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”

God brings men and women together in marriage for a shared mission — to raise the next generation for the glory of God. God’s call for marital unity is not primarily about creating a happy relationship. The faith of the next generation and with them the expansion of the Gospel around the world is determined in large degree by the spiritual unity of their parents. If we are serious about the Great Commission, we will be serious about living and building supernaturally unified Christian marriages.



Visionary Marriage
by Rob & Amy Rienow

Suggested Donation of \$25 or more

A Bible-driven, Gospel-expanding, Christian marriage begins when a man comes to a woman and says, “Let me tell you why I think God made me. He made me to glorify Him, and the most important way that He wants me to do that is by loving you, serving you, and nurturing faith in your life. I believe that God has brought us together for Kingdom purposes! My prayer is that God will bless us with many children, through whatever means He chooses, and that we might partner together in the mission of raising the next generation for the glory of God. My dream is that our family would impact this world for Christ for generations to come. *Will you help me succeed?*”

To this, the heart of the Christian woman cries, “Yes!” The man understands that his ministry in the world begins with the soul of his wife, and then the souls of his children. The wife enthusiastically joins him as an equal and vital helper in the mission — all for the glory of God!

The First Step

What is the first step toward this kind of visionary marriage? Prayer. Ask God today to turn your heart to your spouse, and to your children. Repent if your best efforts in ministry have gone to other people rather than your family. Be prepared for God to answer this prayer, for Him to bring supernatural unity to your marriage, and for your entire family to become a transformational force for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ■



Rob and Amy Rienow believe their primary ministry is encouraging faith in one another, and seeking to impress the hearts of their six children with a love for God. They are the founders of Visionary Family Ministries (www.Visionaryfam.com) and are the authors of the books *Visionary Parenting*, *Visionary Marriage*, and *When They Turn Away*.



The Consequences of “Choice”

Science shows that without intervention, 105 boys (plus or minus one) are born for every 100 girls. In an era of relative truth, this is nonetheless a rare and undisputed biological fact. Scientists concur; any greater deviation is a result of unnatural causes.

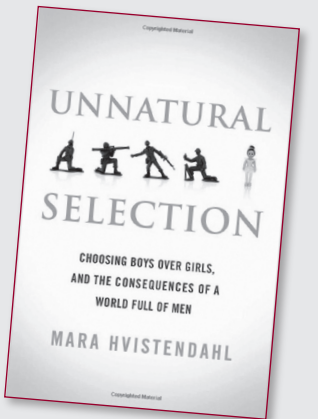
Consider this: the ratio in India is 112 boys to 100 girls, 120 in Armenia, and 121 in China. According to *The Wall Street Journal*’s report of **Mara Hvistendahl**’s book entitled *Unnatural Selection*, “there have been so many sex-selective abortions in the past three decades that 163 million girls, who by biological averages should have been born, are missing from the world.”

Scientific developments in the 1970s brought amniocentesis, or the in utero “sex test,” which has been replaced in recent years by the ultrasound. Costing an average of \$12 in India or China, sex tests have become popular in preventing the birth of unwanted girls. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that an Indian clinic advertises, “Better 500 rupees now than 5,000 later” in reference to the cost of a sex test versus a dowry. An article in *The Economist* entitled “The Worldwide War on Baby Girls” states, “In one hospital in Punjab, in northern India, the only girls born after a round of ultrasound scans had been mistakenly identified as boys, or else had a male twin.”

Journalist **Jonathan Last** gives this compelling example: “Take South Korea. In 1989, the sex ratio for first births there was 104 boys for every 100 girls — perfectly normal. But couples who had a girl became increasingly desperate to acquire a boy. For second births, the male number climbed to 113; for third, to 185. Among fourth-born children, it was a mind-boggling 209.” Similar patterns can be found among Chinese, Indian, and Korean parents in America as well.

Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider, has not distanced itself from using abortion as a form of birth control, but rather, embraced it. Discussing developing nations, Malcom Potts, a past medical director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, stated that abortion was preferable to birth control: “Early abortion is safe, effective, cheap and potentially the easiest method to administer.” A slight variation on gender-selective abortion, race-selective birth control is what motivated **Margaret Sanger** in part to found Planned Parenthood. True to its eugenic roots, even in recent years, Planned Parenthood has accepted donations earmarked for the abortion of black babies. Earlier this year, Planned Parenthood fought legislation that ultimately passed in Arizona which criminalized performing or coercing a woman into receiving an abortion on the basis of race or gender selection.

These results are the consequences of choice. Jonathan Last closes his article, “For if ‘choice’ is the moral imperative guiding abortion, then there is no way to take a stand against ‘gendercide.’ Aborting a baby because she is a girl is no different from aborting a baby because she has Down syndrome or because the mother’s “mental health” requires it. Choice is choice ... this is where choice leads. This is where choice has already led ... there are only two alternatives: Restrict abortion or accept the slaughter of millions of baby girls and the calamities that are likely to come with it.” ■



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Cheating and Government Schools

by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D., National Home Education Research Institute, nheri.org

Consider the following three items:

At the root of the Christian attitude is a profound consciousness of the majesty of the moral law. But the majesty of the moral law is obscured in many ways at the present time, most seriously of all in the sphere of education. There is something radically wrong with our public education, it is said; an education that trains the mind without training the moral sense is a menace to civilization rather than a help, and something must quickly be done to check the impending moral collapse. [1]

Award-winning gains by Atlanta students were based on widespread cheating by 178 named [government] teachers and principals, said Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal on Tuesday. His office released a report from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation that names 178 teachers and principals - 82 of whom confessed - in what's likely the biggest cheating scandal in US history. [2]

“What I did was wrong, but I don’t feel guilty about it,” said a veteran Philadelphia English [public/government school] teacher who shared her story with the *Notebook/NewsWorks*.But she was adamant that she did not care about boosting test scores. Instead, she described her cheating as an act of self-styled subversion, motivated by loyalty to her students. [3]

One might think the first item above was written in response to the second and third items — written in the year 2011 — but it was not since the first item was written over three-quarters of a century earlier, in 1925, by J. Gresham Machen.

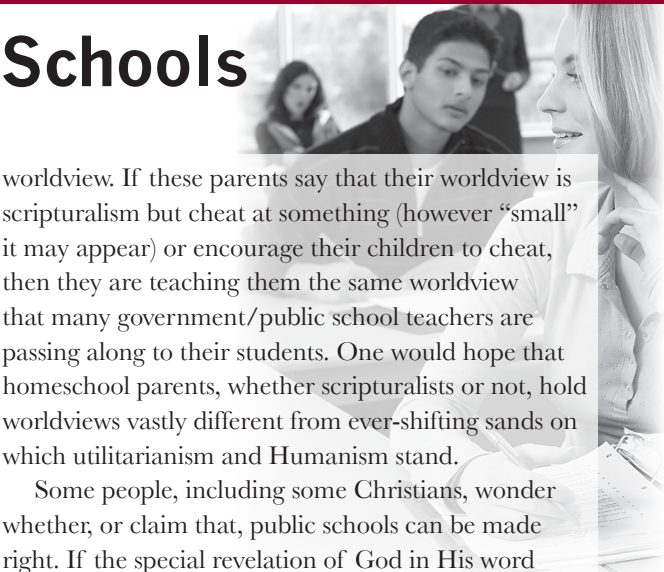
If State-school teachers are acting out on their beliefs that the end justifies the means, then they are transmitting the worldview of utilitarianism to students. If they are teaching them that a pre-born child is part of a woman’s body and she has a right to destroy the pre-born child they are teaching children and youth that the majority public or State’s opinion (in the form of law or judges’ decisions) holds a higher ethical position than does the law of God, and are therefore transmitting Secular Humanism to their students.

Throughout the past 100 years, advocates of government schooling have promoted morality based on “American values.” For example, one program stated the following:

The teacher ... presents the Children’s Morality Code as a reliable statement of the conduct which is considered right among boys and girls who are loyal to Uncle Sam, and which is justified by the experience of multitudes of worthy citizens who have been Uncle Sam’s boys and girls since the foundation of the nation. [4]

Problematically, however, from year to year and decade to decade, “American values” change, even if one could know with certainty the essence of those values. Whatever they are, one can be sure that they are not based on biblical scripturalism and they are being transmitted to children and youth in government-run schools. Further, if parents daily send their children away from home to be taught, trained, and indoctrinated into utilitarianism, Humanism, or any other worldview, then they are guilty of endorsing that weltanschauung over scripturalism.

One of the top key reasons parents give for engaging their children in home-based education is to teach them a particular set of values and beliefs, a



worldview. If these parents say that their worldview is scripturalism but cheat at something (however “small” it may appear) or encourage their children to cheat, then they are teaching them the same worldview that many government/public school teachers are passing along to their students. One would hope that homeschool parents, whether scripturalists or not, hold worldviews vastly different from ever-shifting sands on which utilitarianism and Humanism stand.

Some people, including some Christians, wonder whether, or claim that, public schools can be made right. If the special revelation of God in His word is the standard of all of life’s practices, then it seems unlikely government schools can be made right. Why? As J. Gresham Machen wrote:

A code [of morality] which is the mere result of human experimentation is not morality at all (despite the lowly etymological origin of our English word), but it is the negation of morality. And certainly it will not work. [5]

It would be difficult to effectively argue against the concept that the “morality” taught in State schools is “the mere result of human experimentation”? Further, from a biblical perspective, consider what Machen had to say:

An authority [such as the morality taught in government schools] which is man-made can never secure the reverence of man; society can endure only if it is founded upon the rock of God’s commands. [6]

The scandals involving cheating by State/government school teachers in the United States that have emerged recently are likely one more explanation for why more of the general public is considering the option and value of parent-led home-based education. ■

Footnotes:

- ¹ Machen, J. Gresham. (1987, 1995, 2004). *Education, Christianity, and the state*. Unicoi, TN: The Trinity Foundation. This quote is from an article or speech given by Machen in 1925; see page 60 of the book.
- ² Jonsson, Patrik. (2011, July 5). America’s biggest teacher and principal cheating scandal unfolds in Atlanta. *Christian Science Monitor*, retrieved August 5, 2011 from <http://news.yahoo.com/americas-biggest-teacher-principal-cheating-scandal-unfolds-atlanta-213734183.html>.
- ³ Herold, Benjamin. (2011, July 28). Confession of a cheating teacher. Retrieved August 5, 2011 from <http://www.thenotebook.org/blog/113913/confession-cheating-teacher>.
- ⁴ Machen (see above), page 61.
- ⁵ Machen (see above), page 62.
- ⁶ Machen (see above), page 63.

Blood Donations vs. Tolerance

Soon after the AIDS pandemic began in the 1980s, people such as hemophiliacs who received frequent blood transfusions or blood products began to become infected with the AIDS virus. As a result, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned using blood donations from anyone engaging in homosexual sex.

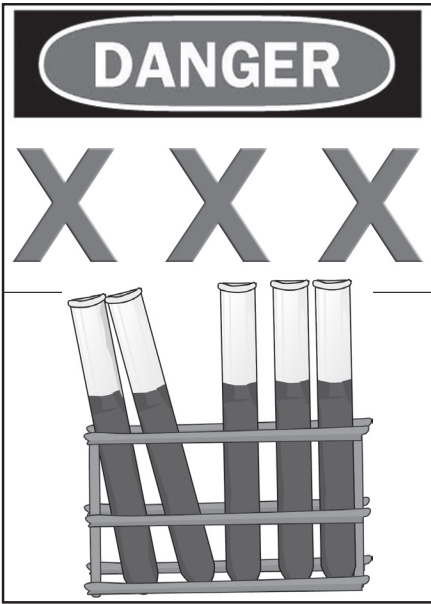
U.S. Senator **John Kerry** (D-MA) is pushing hard to end this reasonable and common sense prohibition. In March 2010, he sent a letter to the FDA urging that they “review and appropriately modify the current law.” The letter was signed by 17 other senators — including Illinois’ **Dick Durbin**.

In June 2010, Kerry sent another letter, this time to the FDA’s parent agency, the Department of Health & Human Service (HHS). In this letter, Kerry complains that “[b]y keeping discriminatory policies on the books, and denying willing donors the opportunity to help others, we put the integrity of the blood donation system at risk.” This letter was signed by 40 members of both Houses of Congress, including Illinois’ own **Mike Quigley** (D-Chicago) and **Jan Schakowsky** (D-Chicago).

In response, the HHS recently announced a plan to “study” the policy banning homosexual blood donations — a move Quigley called a concrete step to changing the rule. This should alarm all of us.

Homosexual activists and their liberal allies are trying to force acceptance and legitimacy of their sexual proclivities at every level of our society: the media, military, legislatures, schools, courts, academia, and now health care — even if it means sacrificing our health.

Men who have sex with men are the group most likely to be HIV positive. A report released by the CDC on March 17, 2010, found 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 range was 522-989 cases of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 for MSMs versus 12 per 100,000 for other men and 13 per 100,000 for women. This comes from a very small but politically powerful group that makes up, at most, 1-3 percent of the entire population.

A perfect example of why this ban should remain in place, and a good reason why this ban should be expanded to organ donations occurred in Chicago in late 2007. The media simply reported it as a “troubling case.”

Four patients who received organ transplants in Chicago area hospitals contracted Hepatitis and the AIDS virus from one donor, who was medically identified as a person who lived a “high risk” lifestyle. It was later confirmed that this donor’s “high risk” lifestyle was homosexual behavior.

It’s the team of doctors who weigh the test results and life-style risks against the risk of not operating, not the patient.

Doctors knew that the donor of the diseased organs had been engaged in homosexual behavior. At least one patient

was not in “imminent danger of death” and was doing well with her current treatment. Back in January 2007, before her surgery, she was told only that the donor was a strong, healthy young man. Then on November 13, 2007, it was disclosed that the donor was actually a “38-year old gay man who lived a high-risk lifestyle.” This information was new only to the patient, known as Jane Doe, not to the doctors. She has filed a lawsuit.

According to Jane Doe’s attorney, the CDC guidelines were violated twice — by not fully informing her about the level of risk in her donor and by not following up with HIV testing.

This is exactly why the FDA reaffirmed their ban on homosexual male blood donations last year, but the ban isn’t limited to homosexuals. They also restrict other “high risk” categories such as prostitution and intravenous drug use, in an effort to minimize the chance that HIV or other infectious agents are introduced into our blood supply.

Even the CDC recognizes that sex between men and intravenous drug use are “high risk.” The CDC takes it even a step further by recommending in their

Tolerance, our generation’s golden calf, demands many sacrifices and requires a willing ignorance of the obvious.

guidelines that “gay men who are sexually active should not be used as organ donors unless the patient is in imminent danger of death...”

Tolerance, our generation’s golden calf, demands many sacrifices and requires a willing ignorance of the obvious. Innocent organ receivers who do not choose to further risk their health are sentenced to suffer the consequences of others’ high-risk lifestyles. ■

While you’re reading this newsletter, keep in mind that we here at IFI are doing our best to conserve our resources, scrutinizing every project and expense in light of how the struggling economy affects our goals. If you are in a place where you are able to give an extra gift, please consider donating to our work and ministry.

Thank You!



Mandated Funding of Abortion Drugs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is implementing a new mandate under the provisions of President Barack Obama's federal health care legislation which will require all health insurance policies to pay for free contraception without co-pays or co-insurance, including every "birth control" drug or device approved by the Food and Drug Administration.



This means that every health insurance plan will cover abortifacients such as Plan B, often marketed as so-called "emergency contraceptives," or "morning-after pills." These abortifacient drugs act to break down the lining of the uterus so that it is either unreceptive to implantation by a fertilized ovum, or unable to sustain an implanted embryo — and in the process kills a newly conceived human life.

The contraceptive mandate is the result of an anti-life amendment added to the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" by pro-abortion U.S. Senator **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD). That amendment empowers the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to determine what "preventative health care services" would be required as basic coverage in all health insurance plans. Mikulski made clear at the time that her intention was to include so-called "reproductive health care;" code words for abortion services.

Anna Franzonello of Americans United for Life says the new mandate violates the conscience rights of all

Americans. "No American will be able to choose an insurance plan that does not include the abortion-inducing drug Ella. That drug will be part of the health care coverage that every American will be forced to buy. Despite the fact that Ella can kill a human embryo even after implantation, the Food and Drug Administration has labeled the drug as emergency contraception."

Jeanne Monahan, Director of the Center for Human Dignity of the Family Research Council, strongly condemned the new health care mandate. "The conscience rights of millions of Americans will be violated, including issuers of plans, providers who contract with such plans, and Americans who will pay for the cost of such services."

"There are no conscience protections for health care plans that object to such coverage, or for health care providers in insurance plan networks who object to prescribing such drugs. The Department of Health and Human Services should focus on items and services that prevent actual diseases, and not include controversial services just to placate the abortion industry."

Not surprisingly, the Obama administration allowed Planned Parenthood to play a leading role in formulating the new requirements. Planned Parenthood was invited by the Institute of Medicine to help the agency develop its so-called "evidence-based" recommendations.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed strong opposition to the contraceptive requirement. "Pregnancy is not a disease, and fertility is not a pathological condition to be suppressed by any means technically possible," says Cardinal **Daniel DiNardo**, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "We can only conclude that there is an ideology at work that goes beyond any objective assessment of the health needs of women and children."

Cardinal DiNardo is correct. The

primary purpose of contraception is not to treat any disease or illness, but to prevent the creation of human life. There is no justification for its forced inclusion in every package of basic health care benefits. Regardless of one's views on the morality of contraception, it is unjust for the government to compel citizens to pay premiums to subsidize a practice many find morally objectionable. When that forced subsidy supports the destruction of human life through abortifacients, the government's edict becomes unconscionable.

Media reports claim that the Obama administration has incorporated an amendment to the new regulations that permit religious institutions that provide health insurance coverage to exempt themselves from the contraceptive mandate. But if you don't happen to work for a religious institution, you have no individual conscience rights.

A bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to protect the conscience rights of Americans who do not want their health insurance premiums to pay for abortion-inducing drugs. The "Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011" (H.R. 1179) was introduced by U.S. Representative **Jeff Fortenberry** (R-NE) in mid-March of this year. It is co-sponsored by 36 other Congressmen, including Illinois' **Jerry Costello** (D-Belleville), **Daniel Lipinski** (D-Chicago), **Randy Hultgren** (R-Geneva) and **Robert Schilling** (R-Belleville). ■

Take ACTION: Please take a few minutes to call your Congressman to urge him/her to support H.R. 1179, the "Respect for Rights of Conscience Act." The switchboard phone number for the U.S. House of Representatives is (202) 225-3121.

Note: IFI recently sent a letter to the pro-life Illinois Congressional Delegation asking them to sign on as co-sponsors of the bill.



The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that states may not restrict access by minors to video games that include sexual assault and graphic violence. The Court, in a 7-2 decision, struck down a California law that prohibited the sale or rental of violence-laden video games to anyone under the age of 18.

The language of the California statute included video games that depicted "killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being."

"Video games qualify for First Amendment protection," wrote Justice **Antonin Scalia** on behalf of the court. "Like books, plays, and movies, they communicate ideas...Government has no

Video Game Restrictions Struck Down

power to restrict expression because of its content."

Justice Scalia went even further to say, in alarming fashion, that government cannot regulate most any commercial speech directed at children. "The state wishes to create a wholly new category of content-based regulation that is permissible only for speech directed at children. That is unprecedented and mistaken."

Scalia argued that children have long been fed a diet of violence. "There is no tradition in this country of specially restricting children's access to depictions of violence. Certainly the books we give children to read, or read to them, have no shortage of gore. Grimm's Fairy Tales, for example, are grim indeed."

Dissenting Supreme Court Justice **Stephen Breyer** argued that the Court was being inconsistent with its other rulings upholding laws restricting the sale of sexually explicit materials to minors. "What kind of First Amendment would

permit the government to protect children by restricting sales of extremely violent video games only when a woman in the game who is being bound, gagged, tortured, and killed, is also topless?"

Proponents of the California law claimed that the brains of juveniles have not matured to the point that a minor is able to handle behavior control. The California Legislature relied on various studies that point to a link between violent video game use and an increase in aggressive thoughts, anti-social behavior, and desensitization to violence in both minors and adults.

Free speech is an important American right, but it is important that we safeguard our children. Laws aimed at protecting children do not violate the rights of adults from purchasing these materials. It's tragic that the courts continue to disregard compelling evidence about the negative impact of consuming violent material — especially for children. ■

Massive Gambling Increase for Land of Lincoln?

In May, the Illinois General Assembly passed SB 744 — a massive predatory gambling bill to add five new casinos (Chicago, Danville, Rockford, Park City, and in south suburbs) to the state.

Sponsored by State Senators **Terry Link** (D-Lincolnshire), **Dave Syverson** (R-Rockford) and Rep. **Lou Lang** (D-Skokie), this bill would also create "racinos" — video slot machines at the state's six horse race tracks and at Chicago's two airports.

Unfortunately, 27 Republicans voted in favor of this massive anti-family gambling bill despite the fact that the Illinois Republican Platform identifies gambling as being harmful to "Illinois' families and our state's business climate."

Pro-family and anti-gambling activists from both sides of the political spectrum

have contacted Governor **Patrick Quinn** asking him to veto this monstrosity. Quinn made it clear he is not excited about SB 744. On June 1, 2011, Quinn told reporters he thought this gambling bill was "excessive."

Opposition to SB 744 seems to be growing. During *Chicago Tonight* on July 20th, Illinois Gaming Commission Chairman **Judge Aaron Jaffe** was interviewed. Jaffe gave a stark evaluation of this anti-family legislation, calling it "a pile of garbage."

On August 3rd, the Chicago Crime Commission warned that scandal and corruption were to be expected if the gambling expansion becomes law. **Arthur J. Bilek**, Executive Vice President of the Commission said, "The bill is a set-up for disaster. If passed, law enforcement



can expect the entrance of the Crime Syndicate into legalized gambling through a variety of ruses and deceptions. Federal prosecutors should plan for a constant stream of federal corruption indictments."

As of the publishing of this newsletter, Illinois Senate President **John Cullerton** has had a legislative hold on SB 744. Once Quinn receives the bill, he will have 30 days to sign or veto the bill. Call the Governor today at (800) 642-3112 to ask him to **veto SB 744**. Respectfully tell him that creating losers is a terrible way for the state to gain revenue. ■



Federal DEA: No Acceptable Medical Use for Marijuana

by Mike Heath

Americans who form their worldview by getting their news from the media may be surprised to learn that marijuana isn't a good thing. The media's promotion of marijuana as a social good has increased in recent years.

Notwithstanding all of this, the Federal Government blackened pot's media-burnished reputation by declaring there is no acceptable medical use for marijuana. In a final decision that was nine years in the making the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration ruled in June that marijuana must remain classified as a highly dangerous drug. Heroin has the same classification.

Marijuana has a "high potential for abuse," said DEA Administrator **Michele M. Leonhart** in a June 21 letter to the organizations that filed the petition requesting that the drug's classification be changed. According to the *LA Times* Leonhart also observed in her letter that marijuana has no currently accepted medical use in treatment, and it lacks accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

The Heritage Foundation published a paper on the topic entitled "Legalizing Marijuana: Why Citizens Should Just Say No." Charles Stimson, the author of the comprehensive analysis begins the paper, "The scientific literature is clear that marijuana is addictive and that its use significantly impairs bodily and mental functions."

While advocates for medicinal marijuana use point to new research that may indicate the drug can help with nausea, loss of appetite, pain and insomnia, Stimson has discovered that Marijuana use is "associated with memory loss, cancer, immune system deficiencies, heart disease, and birth defects." Additionally Stimson points out that even when marijuana is decriminalized



"trafficking remains a source of violence, crime, and social disintegration."

With strong support from movies and the media, advocates have been successful in persuading some Americans to believe that marijuana is a "soft" drug like alcohol. They contend that it isn't as bad as "hard" drugs like heroin or cocaine.

Stimson allows that marijuana isn't the most dangerous of commonly used drugs but hastens to add that it shares more in common with "hard" drugs than it does with alcohol.

Alcohol and marijuana are different in important ways. Marijuana is more likely to cause addiction and is usually consumed to the point of intoxication. It has no known general healthful properties, is toxic and can bring about a decline in overall mental and physical health.

Illinois lawmakers should take their cue from the Federal government on this one. The public good is best served by reaffirming our culture's rejection of marijuana as a dangerous and highly addictive drug. Illinois doesn't need the proliferation of over-the-counter "pot shops" where teens can obtain marijuana at age 18. ■

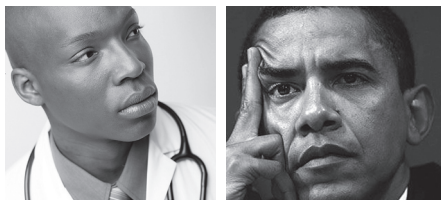
Take ACTION: State lawmakers will be back in Springfield for a week in October and a week in November. Please take a moment to call, email or write your local state representative to urge him/her to vote against any "medical" marijuana proposal.

Christian Doctors Call for Return of Conscience Protections

The nation's leading Christian medical organization is calling on the Obama administration to restore conscience protections for medical personnel with pro-life convictions.

The Christian Medical Association has forwarded a petition to the White House signed by over 61,000 health care workers demanding that President **Barack Obama** uphold and enforce conscience rights for medical professionals.

The Obama Administration acted in February to revoke medical provider



DOCTORS VS. OBAMA

conscience regulations implemented in the waning months of the George W. Bush Administration. Those regulations provided legal protections to health care employees who have moral or religious objections to certain medical procedures or the administration of certain drugs.

The federal Department of Health and Human Services issued new regulations eliminating protections for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who object to the dispensing of Plan B and other forms of so-called "emergency contraception" that function as abortifacients.

"Weakening conscience rights threaten to eliminate vast numbers of life-affirming, conscientious, and compassionate health care professionals from medicine...Removing these conscience protections thus risks severe shortages of health care access," wrote **Dr. David Stevens**, President of the

Despite Liberal Media Claim, Same-Sex Households Have NOT "Skyrocketed"



On August 4th, the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* reported in bold letters "**Same-sex households skyrocket in Illinois,**" claiming a 40% increase in this demographic over the past 10 years.

Sounds impressive, right? But a closer look at the data belies the Tribune's "skyrocket" claim. The Census Bureau reports that there are 4,836,972 total households in the Land of Lincoln. The Census also reports there are 32,469 same-sex households in Illinois. Doing the math reveals that this "skyrocketing" population is less than a full percent of the total. In fact, it is only 0.67% of the total.

Two-thirds of a percent and the *Chicago Tribune* assigns a misleading headline that suggests that this demographic is "skyrocketing." Despite their obvious exaggeration, the fact remains, 0.67% is a statistically insignificant number and not a news-worthy story, much less a front page headline — that is, unless there is a blatant

Counties	Total Households	Same-Sex Households	Percentage
Cook County	1,966,356	17,077	0.86%
Suburban Cook Co.	2,870,616	15,392	0.53%
DuPage County	337,132	1,740	0.51%
Lake County	241,712	1,323	0.54%
Will County	225,256	1,198	0.53%
McHenry County	109,199	561	0.51%
Winnebago County	115,501	659	0.57%
Sangamon County	82,968	584	0.70%
Peoria County	75,793	472	0.62%
Effingham County	13,515	44	0.32%
St. Clair County	105,045	533	0.50%

Cities	Total Households	Same-Sex Households	Percentage
Chicago	1,045,560	11,715	1.12%
Aurora	62,564	463	0.74%
Evanston	30,047	347	1.15%
Oak Park	22,670	361	1.59%
Springfield	50,714	389	0.67%
Galesburg	341	1	0.29%
Bloomington	31,663	237	0.74%
Rockford	59,973	391	0.65%
East St. Louis	10,119	32	0.31%
Deerfield	6,638	25	0.37%
Arlington Heights	30,919	129	0.41%
Crystal Lake	14,421	70	0.48%
Morris	5,501	31	0.56%
Carbondale	11,035	63	0.57%

attempt to bolster and advance a dubious political agenda.

Mainstream media and academia, for the most part, want us to believe this is a much bigger demographic than it is. The reality is encouraging; this isn't a lost effort and we do not face insurmountable odds. Despite the homosexual

cheerleading by liberal institutions, we must remain steadfast in this cultural battle. Moreover, we need to remember that God is sovereign, and He is in the business of changing hearts and minds. Homosexuality is changeable, just like any other sinful behavior. ■

Christian Doctors Call for Return of Conscience Protections *continued from page 10*

Christian Medical Association.

"The gutting of the [conscience] regulation threatens the health care access of the many life-affirming patients who value the freedom to choose professionals who share their moral values. I urge you to consider the voices and values of these many Americans," Stevens added.

The position of the Obama

Administration is clearly at odds with the overwhelming sentiment of the American public. A survey commissioned by the Christian Medical Association found that 77% of Americans believe it is important "to make sure that health care professionals are not forced to participate in procedures or practices to which they have moral objections."

The need for strong conscience protections was illustrated by the recent case of a pro-life nurse in New York. Catherine Cenzone-DeCarlo was forced under threat of termination to participate in an elective late-term abortion. A federal court recently ruled that Mt. Sinai Hospital did not violate DeCarlo's conscience rights. ■



The men who established our nation laid a foundation of law based on biblical principles. They recognized the need for a common standard of decency and morality.

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” ~ 1 Corinthians 3:11

John Adams wrote, “...it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand.” **George Washington** proclaimed, “...And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

Fifteenth century French philosopher **Blaise Pascal** referred to a God-shaped vacuum or void in our hearts needing to be filled by God. **St. Augustine** said our hearts are restless for God. Yet, in today’s pluralistic society heavily based on tolerance and self, godly standards are being replaced with wood and chaff. Those restless hearts and God-shaped vacuums are filled with politically correct substitutions that do not satisfy—humanism, promiscuity, homosexual behavior, abortion, disobedience, success, riches—all things that elevate self to the throne of one’s heart.

Please pray for our state and nation, that we turn back to God, who is not only our foundation, but our protection, our refuge and our fortress.

Please Pray...

- and praise God for the godly heritage we share as Americans. Pray that Americans would awaken to the threats to their basic freedoms and remain involved with the legislative process through activism, informing others, and persevering in prayer.

...for the sanctity of marriage

- for endurance and strength in the continuing battle to protect marriage nationwide.
- that Christians would remember that this battle is being fought in heaven—an unseen battle in the spiritual realm—and can be won only through prayer.

...for the protection of life

- for children in the United States and Illinois, who have been caught in the web of human trafficking and prostitution. Praise God that measures protecting these vulnerable children have passed the legislature and have been signed into law.
- that the culture of abortion and euthanasia, markedly present in our government officials, media outlets, and public schools, would fade and be replaced by ideals that value life at all stages.
- for teens and young adults who have been indoctrinated with a false “safe-sex”/pro-condom message. Pray for those who are now suffering the consequences with sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, abortion, and psychological and emotional problems. Pray that the tide will reverse, and more young people will be exposed to and embrace an abstinence message.

...for Illinois families

- that families will take advantage of the opportunity to visit legislators in their home districts this fall. Pray that legislators will be receptive to constituents who make an effort to connect with them.
- for legislators and their staffs during the Veto Session that runs Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 8-10. Pray that legislators would conclude the year with honesty and integrity.
- that Gov. Quinn recognizes gambling as being harmful to the families of Illinois. Pray that Gov. Quinn understands how gambling leads to an increases in foreclosures, bankruptcies, unemployment, crime and other social ills. Pray that the pleas of local mayors and other greedy politicians will be unpersuasive. Pray that Gov. Quinn will do the right thing for the families and culture of Illinois.
- that Illinoisans will recognize society’s downward spiral in morality and embrace a biblical worldview, putting man in right relationship with God and the world.
- for young people confused by the prevalence of pro-homosexual messages in the media, in their schools, and among their peers.

...for Illinois Family Institute

- for IFI’s continued efforts to serve God – by working to transform the laws and culture of Illinois. Please pray for God’s provision to fulfill what He desires of IFI.

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the Alliance Defense Fund, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Liberty Counsel and Thomas More Society.

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