

SHOULD ABORTION BE CONSIDERED ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHER ISSUES WHEN VOTING?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' publication "The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" says this:

"There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed."

Between January 1973 (the month *Roe v. Wade* was decided) and the last day of 2011 (the 2012 data are not in yet), figures from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (a pro-choice organization which acts as Planned Parenthood's research arm) indicate that a total of

55,089,320 legal abortions occurred in the United States (over 55 million)

If you divide that by the number of days in this time span (don't forget to count leap days) you get an average of **3,868 abortions each day over this 39 year period.**

All other social problems in the U.S. combined do not account for this many daily deaths. Isn't it time to vote to end this legal killing?

For some comparison, we might consider the following:

- **Total Deaths in the U.S.** In 2008, the U.S. government reported there were 2,471,984 resident deaths in the U.S. from all causes: disease, accidents, suicide and homicide. The Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that there were 1,212,200 legal abortions in that year. Adding the two together, we get 3,684,384 human beings dying in the U.S. in 2008. Hence, **almost one-third (32.9%) of the human beings dying in the U.S. in 2008 were killed by abortion.**
- **Capital Punishment.** The U.S. Department of Justice reports that from 1930 through 2011, 5,296 persons were **executed** in the U.S., which includes 160 persons executed by military authorities. That amounts to **65.4 persons** per year over the 81 year period. **In 2011, with 1,158,600 legal abortions, we executed 66.1 innocent human beings by abortion every half hour.**
- **U.S. War Casualties.** According to Wikipedia, the total U.S. war deaths (both combat and non-combat war-related) including every conflict from the American Revolutionary War through 2011 (and on all continents except Antarctica) over the 236 years are 1,343,812. **Currently, we kill as many innocent unborn human beings in 13.9 months.**

What do the Democratic and Republican Party platforms say about the life issues?

The Democratic Party Platform states: "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay." [*The last phrase reflects code words for tax-paid abortion. Our parentheses.*] "We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right."

The Democratic Platform does not address the topics of conscience rights for healthcare workers, embryonic stem cell research, or euthanasia and assisted suicide. However, President Barack Obama's administration began to weaken pro-life conscience protections for healthcare workers, promoted or funded embryonic stem cell research some 19 times, and allowed the pro-euthanasia group Compassion & Choices to play a role in crafting that part of the health care law having to do with end-of-life consultations. Under Section 1303 of the health care law called "Segregation of funds," most insurance plans must collect a minimum of \$1 per month surcharge from policy holders to fund elective abortion. Only one plan within a system need not include abortion coverage. The abortion surcharge will be a part of the larger premium payment. The government has instructed insurers not to disclose whether it pays for abortions or not prior to the individual's enrollment. Furthermore, the Health and Human Services Mandate of April 16, 2012 (part of Obamacare) requires most health insurers to offer women "free" coverage (the cost inevitably being paid by the individual or organization that buys the health plan) for contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization, in spite of any moral objections the purchaser might have to these drugs, devices and procedures. Only churches and associations of churches are exempt from this mandate, but not the thousands of Catholic and Christian schools, hospitals, publishing houses, and social service agencies which provide health insurance for their workers. The latter organizations must pay for these "services" against the dictates of their consciences, drop their employees health care coverage, or face bankrupting fines for non-compliance. *(For more detailed information on President Obama's positions on these issues, go to LifeNews.com and search for "President Obama's Pro-Abortion Record." For more on the role of Compassion & Choices, go to the website of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio, click on Issues, and then on "Are Death Care Panels Part of Health Care?")*

The Republican Party Platform states: "... we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage."

The Republican Party Platform also supports conscience rights for healthcare workers, and adult stem cell research but not embryonic stem cell research (which requires that human embryos be destroyed). It opposes "the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from people with disabilities, including newborns, as well as the elderly infirm, just as we oppose active and passive euthanasia and assisted suicide."

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