

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XXXVIII No. 3

www.peopleforlife.org

October 2010

Yes, Kathy, ObamaCare funds abortion-on-demand

On March 23, 2010, the "*Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*" (PPACA) was signed into Law by President Obama (Public Law 111-149). The legislation was approved by the U.S. Senate on December 24 (Christmas Eve) by a vote of 60 to 39, then by the U.S. House of Representatives in March by a razor-thin margin of 219 to 212. A single vote would have stopped the bill in the Senate. Only four votes would have stopped the bill in the House.

The PPACA, better known as ObamaCare, requires the federal government to spend billions of taxpayer dollars annually to spend billions of taxpayer dollars annually to pay the premiums for insurance plans that cover abortion, making elective abortion more readily available to millions of insurance plan enrollees and increasing the number of abortions. Area Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper, a self-described "pro-life democrat," voted in favor of this legislation.

The PPACA is the most pro-abortion piece of legislation ever passed by Congress, and it represents the biggest setback to the pro-life cause since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade*

decision, which legalized abortion throughout pregnancy.

This is the assessment of every pro-life organization in the country whose top priority is legal protection for unborn children – including People for Life of Erie, PA. It is also the definite conclusion of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Dahlkemper nevertheless continues to claim that it "is simply not true," that "this bill is not pro-life and will allow for federally funded abortions" (March 29 e-mail to a constituent). But that's not all: She also makes the totally absurd claim that the PPACA will "do more to reduce abortions than anything that's happened in at least the last 30 years or more" (YouTube video accessible from peopleforlife.org).

Prominent and highly-respected pro-life organizations, including Americans United for Life and The Susan B. Anthony List, are currently using paid advertising in northwestern Pennsylvania to correct Dahlkemper's erroneous and irresponsible claims.

Dahlkemper's attorneys tried to stop local radio stations from running an ad produced

by Americans United for Life. The ad accurately notes Dahlkemper's vote "for the largest expansion of taxpayer-funded abortions ever." In a letter to the station managers, the attorneys claim that "there will be no public funding for abortion in this legislation." The letter was signed by Attorney Phil Friedman.

Friedman also represented the notorious late-term abortionist Dr. Steven C. Brigham during his campaign to establish a first- and second-trimester abortion facility in Erie.

Instead of responding in any coherent way to the substance of pro-life objections to her vote for the PPACA, Dahlkemper seems to prefer changing the subject to her personal virtuosity, the fact that she did not abort her first child, and her membership in the Catholic Church.

The front page of peopleforlife.org contains links to a number of excellent documents that fully detail exactly how the PPACA funds and promotes abortion, including a 23-page sworn affidavit produced by the National Right to Life Committee in support of The Susan B. Anthony List's advertising campaign.

Catholics United Backs Dahlkemper

Catholics United (CU) strongly supports Kathy Dahlkemper's vote for ObamaCare and her bid for reelection. On July 21, the group pledged \$500,000 to re-elect Dahlkemper and three other Catholic politicians who voted for the health care restructuring law. One of them, Tom Perriello (D-VA5), does not even pretend to support legal protection for the unborn.

On August 16, when the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List organization held a rally in Erie to protest Dahlkemper's vote, CU staged a counter-demonstration. CU's Director of Organizing James Salt came all the way from Washington, DC to lead it.

People for Life Director Tim Broderick and First Vice-President Marielle Lafaro both spoke during the rally and were heckled by

the CU people and called liars.

The handful of counter-demonstrators, including a local nun, are pictured on catholics-united.org. They are described as "local members of the group Catholics United."

CU adamantly denies that the PPACA funds abortion. Not that they necessarily think abortion funding is a bad thing: The group ran ads attacking Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) for attempting to *remove* abortion funding from the bill. (That was before Stupak flip-flopped and voted for the bill with the abortion funding still in-place.)

CU is affiliated with Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, a group co-founded by Perriello that has received funding from the pro-abortion billionaire George Soros.

The Catholic Archbishop of Denver Charles J. Chaput has denounced CU for having "confused the natural priorities of Catholic social teaching, undermined the progress pro-lifers have made, and provided an excuse for some Catholics to abandon the abortion issue instead of fighting within their parties and at the ballot box to protect the unborn."

That's for sure! CU routinely supports pro-abortion candidates for public office. It even strongly supported Obama's nomination of Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Sebelius is the intensely pro-abortion former-governor of Kansas who was a close personal friend and patron of George Tiller, an infamous third-trimester abortionist.

Election Information

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Political Action Committee has examined the voting records, public statements, and/or questionnaire responses of the candidates on the ballot in the General Election on November 2. The following evaluations and endorsements have been made.

NOTE: The designation “pro-life” is used here in the *conventional* manner: to designate candidates who support legal protection for unborn children and, of course, oppose the use of funds controlled by the government to pay for or promote abortion.

U.S. SENATE

In the race for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Arlen Specter, Republican Pat Toomey is pro-life and endorsed. Toomey has consistently supported pro-life legislation. He achieved a 100% pro-life voting record while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Democrat Joe Sestak is pro-abortion and endorsed by the National Abortion Rights Action League. Sestak thinks that abortion should be unrestricted and funded by the taxpayers.

Toomey supports and Sestak opposes: (1) the repeal of expanded government funding of abortion in the new health care law; (2) the “Hyde Amendment,” which prohibits government funding of abortion under the

Medicaid program; (3) protection for living human embryos from destructive scientific research; and (4) a ban on federal funds for organizations that provide or promote abortion in other countries.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In the 3rd Congressional District, incumbent Democrat Kathy Dahlkemper has a mixed voting record on human life issues. She voted for President Obama’s health care restructuring law, which includes massive government subsidies for abortion-on-demand and direct government payments for abortion.

Challenger Republican Mike Kelly is pro-life and endorsed. Kelly supports legal protection for unborn children and opposes the use of government money to support abortion.

PA GOVERNOR

Republican candidate for governor Tom Corbett is pro-life and endorsed. As PA Attorney, Corbett has been active in supporting parental consent laws in the U.S. Supreme Court. Corbett opposes the use of taxpayer money for abortion, supports funding for pro-life pregnancy counseling centers, and supports a ban on the use of PA tax dollars for embryonic stem cell research. Democratic candidate Dan Onorato opposes any further legal restrictions on abortion,

even if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. Pennsylvania law currently permits abortions during the first six months of pregnancy for any reason except sex selection.

PA SENATE

In the 50th State Senate District, incumbent Republican Bob Robbins, running unopposed, is pro-life and endorsed.

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 1 Patrick J. Harkins (D) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

District 2 Flo Fabrizio (D) Incumbent, Pro-Abortion (Unopposed)

District 3 John Hornaman (D) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed | Regina Smith (R) Pro-Life

District 4 Gerald Price (D) Pro-Life | Curt Sonney (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed

District 5 John Evans (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

District 6 Brad Roae (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life (Unopposed)

District 7 Mark Longiotti (D) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

District 8 Dick Stevenson (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

District 17 Michele Brooks (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

District 64 Scott E. Hutchinson (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (No Democratic opposition)

District 65 Kathy L. Rapp (R) Incumbent, Pro-Life, Endorsed (Unopposed)

Kelly at ND Obama protest

Last year when Notre Dame University decided to award an honorary doctor of law degree to the most pro-abortion President – and arguably the most pro-abortion politician – in the history of the United States, People for Life members Tim Broderick and Dr. Chuck Jackson traveled there to join the protest. So did Mike Kelly, the Republican who is now running for Congress here in Pennsylvania’s 3rd Congressional District.

Kelly is a Notre Dame graduate who attended the iconic Catholic university on a football scholarship.

After watching a report on the evening news about Notre Dame’s plans to pay tribute to Obama during its graduation ceremony the next day, Kelly decided to get in his car and make the trip to South Bend. There he joined Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life and hundreds of Notre Dame students and alumni, attending a pro-life Rally on the Quad and a Vigil for Life at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

All of us were deeply disturbed not only by Obama’s radical opinions about abortion, but by his previous anti-life *actions* (such as opposing legislation against infanticide) and the anti-life actions he had pledged to take in the future (such as making abortion the centerpiece of his health care reform).

Health Care Rationing

If the Obama Health Care Law is not repealed by 2013, before its most dangerous provisions come into effect, the result will be the rationing and denial of lifesaving medical treatment and consequent premature and involuntary death for many Americans.

Doctors and hospitals will no longer be free to determine, in consultation with the patient, what treatment and diagnostic tests are best suited to the patient’s condition. Instead, as a condition for being allowed to contract with qualified health insurance plans, all doctors and other health care providers will have to comply with “quality and efficiency” standards issued every two years by a powerful “Independent Payment Advisory Board.”

The objective is to suppress private health care spending.

Doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers will be told by Washington exactly what diagnostic tests and medical care are considered to conform with the latest “quality and efficiency” standards and under what circumstances a medical service may or may not be provided to patients.

These standards will be specifically designed to limit what ordinary Americans may choose to spend on health care.

For more information about health care rationing: nrlc.org/healthcarerationing

Brigham license suspended

Steven Brigham, the notorious doctor who brought abortion to Erie in 2003, had his medical license suspended by New Jersey officials on October 13. Brigham had been running a secretive late-term abortion service in which he initiated second and third-trimester abortions in Voorhees, New Jersey and completed them in Elkton, Maryland. Neither Brigham nor his five New Jersey facilities are qualified to conduct abortions past 14 weeks, and Brigham has never been licensed to practice medicine in Maryland.

The interstate abortion scheme came to the attention of authorities after one of Brigham’s patients, an 18-year-old in her 21st week of pregnancy, was severely injured at Elkton. She was eventually airlifted from a local emergency room to a hospital in Baltimore with a perforated uterus and injured small intestine.

Brigham is also under investigation in Maryland, where he is alleged to have done at least 50 abortions, falsifying medical records to indicate that the procedures were done by other physicians.

When police raided the Elkton facility, they discovered 35 babies in a freezer, “several just a few weeks shy of full-term,” according to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Abortion records were found for a 33-

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Brigham

week-old unborn baby with Down Syndrome and a 25-week-old set of twins. The parents had the twins aborted because they were feeling "stress" due to the babies being conceived with donated sperm.

In July the Pennsylvania Department of Health ruled that Brigham could no longer own abortion facilities in the commonwealth because he repeatedly employed unlicensed medical personnel over the last 13 years.

Brigham's former Pittsburgh and Allentown locations remained open, however. He transferred ownership to a non-profit corporation called Rose Medical Services Company on January 1 of this year. The

president is a 70-year-old woman who lives in Toledo, Ohio. There are indications that Brigham might still be closely involved with the two facilities, but we have no direct evidence.

Brigham still owns the five suites at 1611 Peach St., Erie where abortions were done from 2003 to 2007. No activity has been observed there in several years.

Community Outreach

People for Life's community outreach season spanned 14 events in 2010, from the March 13 Erie County Home School Conference to the Conneaut Lake Pumpkin Festival, October 8-10. We also had booths at the following events: WCTL Women's Conference, Erie Wild Rib Cook Off, Lake

City Fire Company Carnival, CorryFest, North East Cherry Festival, Dan Rice Days, Celebrate Erie, Wattsburg Fair, Waterford Fair, F5 Youth Rally, Albion Fair, and North East Wine Festival.

As always, we enjoyed sharing the pro-life message with people of all ages from all walks of life. We thank our dedicated volunteers including our many lively high school and college students. Most especially, we thank Mark Lichtenberger for devoting six-to-eight hours per event to help with the set-ups and tear-downs.

Obama: Anti-Life?

Yes.

For NINETY-SIX reasons why, see: lifenews.com/obamaabortionrecord.html.

Memorials

Table with 4 columns: Given by, In Memory of, Given by, In Memory of. Lists names of donors and the individuals they are memorializing.

People for Life is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-sectarian, citizen's organization committed to affirming the intrinsic value of human life. We are dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives, whatever the age, race, sex, physical condition, economic status, or place of residence (including the womb). We encourage local involvement through

education and by fostering political awareness. We advocate loving alternatives to the primitive and violent "solutions" of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. Working together, we are determined to achieve a society in which all human lives are considered sacred. The Erie Echo is published in Erie, PA by People for Life, Inc., Tim Broderick, editor.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM. Includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, ZIP, E-mail, Phone, Fax, Work/Profession, Membership Dues (New, Renewal, Individual \$10, Family \$20, Senior Citizen \$5, Student \$5, Group \$25, Patron \$50, Benefactor \$100, Other Amount), General Donation, Memorial Donation (In Memory Of or In Honor Of), and Volunteer Opportunities (Outreach Booths, Phone Calling, Office Attendant, Newsletter Mailing, Sidewalk Counseling, Literature Distribution, Public Demonstrations, Pro-Life Breakfast Worker, March For Life Bus Trip Worker, Mother's Day Carnation Project, Erie March & Motorcade Worker, 'Call when you need an extra hand.').

Please make your check payable to: PEOPLE FOR LIFE, Inc. P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Pro-Life Breakfast

The special guest speaker for People for Life's 33rd Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on January 15, 2011 will be Joel Brind, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Endocrinology at Baruch College of the City University of New York.

Dr. Brind is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the connection between abortion and breast cancer. His famous research paper on the subject, written in collaboration with colleagues at the Penn State College of Medicine, was published by the British Medical Association in 1996.

Educational Presentations

People for Life offers age-appropriate *Overview of Abortion* presentations for schools, churches, and other organizations.

To arrange a free educational presentation for your class, group, or organization, call Tim Broderick at (814) 882-1333.

Christmas Party Invitation

People for Life's annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 5 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the St. Joseph Church Community Center, 139 W. 24th St. Call Stan or Shirley at (814) 452-3395 by December 1 for reservations.

All members and friends of People for Life are invited.

If possible, bring a dish to share and a toy or item of children's clothing for distribution to needy families through the Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System, a local charitable organization.

If you can help with the preparations, serving, or cleanup, let us know when you call in your reservation.

Student Oratory Contest

Area high school students are invited to compete in the National Right to Life High School Oratory Contest.

Students from Erie,

Crawford, Venango, and Mercer Counties will compete in a regional contest sponsored by People for Life in Erie on April 16, 2011.

Contestants will prepare and deliver a five-to-seven-minute pro-life talk on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell research.

The contest will feature two levels of competition: one for grades 9-10 and one for grades 11-12. The winner from each level will be awarded \$100. The winner and first runner up from the 11-12 grade level will also have an opportunity to compete in the statewide contest, which will be held in Harrisburg.

Interested students (and teachers) are encouraged to contact People for Life for more information.

Erie March for Life

The annual Erie March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 8, two weeks before the January 22 anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. The March will begin at 11 am at Perry Square and take just an hour or so. Church and student groups are strongly encouraged to participate in this important community testament to the Sanctity of Human Life. Please plan now to attend.

March for Life Bus Trip

The Washington, DC March for Life will take place this January on Monday the 24th.

Reservations for People for Life's 38th Annual March for Life Bus Trip are now

being accepted.

Early reservations are strongly encouraged. By making your reservations now, you can help us make sure that we charter a sufficient number of buses to accommodate everyone.

Send \$40 per seat to People for Life, P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512 and please include your telephone number and a first and last name for each seat being reserved. If the cost is a problem, please call. To pay by credit card, call or visit peopleforlife.org and click the "donate" button.

Now would be a great time to start encouraging friends, family members, fellow students, and fellow church members to sign up for the bus trip. Help make this January's March for Life the biggest-ever. And remember: Local news coverage of our bus trip also sends a powerful message, especially when we can report that our numbers have increased since last year.

People for Life would be happy to send you a free DVD to help get others excited about the March for Life. The 48-minute documentary, titled *Thine Eyes: A Witness to the March for Life* and narrated by actress Jennifer O'Neill, was filmed at the 2009 March.

Needed: Bus Trip Sponsors

Due to continuing economic difficulties, a larger-than-usual number of deserving students and families will be in need of some financial help in order to attend the March for Life this year. The \$40 cost of a bus seat can be a significant obstacle for a student or family on a tight budget.

Please consider helping someone with a strong desire to attend the March by being a March for Life sponsor. In some cases even a partial sponsorship of \$10 or \$20 could make the difference between marching in DC or having to stay home. ☺

2010 PRO-LIFE DATE BOOK 2011

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| Nov. 2 | Election Day |
| Nov. 15 | Membership Meeting - 6:45 pm, Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St. |
| Dec. 5 | People for Life Christmas Party - 1:30 pm |
| Jan. 8 | Erie March for Life - 11 am, begins at Perry Square |
| Jan. 15 | 33rd Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast - 9:00 am |
| Jan. 24 | Washington, DC March for Life |
| Feb. 21 | Membership Meeting - 6:45 pm, Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St. |
| March 21 | Membership Meeting - 6:45 pm, Main Office, 1625 W. 26th St. |
| April 16 | N.W. PA Regional High School Oratory Contest - Erie |