

# RNC *For Life* REPORT

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## Obama Appoints Health Care Rationing Advocate

Using a legal but obviously politically-motivated recess appointment, President Obama has named health care rationing advocate Donald Berwick to become the director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The office will oversee implementation of the massive government-run health care plan which pro-life advocates say will foster rationing and also contains taxpayer funding of abortions.



Donald Berwick

His penchant for rationing was clear in a June 2009 interview with the journal *Biotechnology Healthcare*, where Berwick said, “The decision is not whether or not we will ration care — the decision is whether we will ration with our eyes open.”

Also of concern to pro-lifers, Berwick is an ardent admirer of the British National Health Service and its rationing arm, the National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness (NICE), which is anything but nice for those deemed “not eligible” for Britain’s socialized medical service. He has called it “generous, hopeful, confident, joyous, and just.”

Pro-life Republican senators have been appalled by Berwick’s views and would have made much of them during Senate hearings on his confirmation under the normal appointment process. But the President’s recess appointment circumvented those hearings, so much of the public is unaware of the new director’s radical views.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell blasted the recess appointment. “As if shoving a trillion-dollar government takeover of health care down the throat of a disapproving American public wasn’t enough, apparently the Obama administration intends to arrogantly circumvent the American people yet again by recess-appointing one of the most prominent advocates of rationed health care to implement their national plan,” McConnell said.

## Remember the Executive Order That Got Obamacare Passed?

Well, Republican Minority Leader Boehner remembers it, too, and he has been looking for more information on President Obama’s disputed executive order. Boehner asked to be provided with a progress report on abortion, health care and the alleged prohibition on tax-payer funding. In order to give “pro-life” Democrats political cover to vote for Obamacare, the President issued a controversial executive order supposedly taking the abortion funding issue off the table. Speaker Nancy Pelosi then was able to ramrod the controversial health care bill through Congress.



John Boehner

While the government is moving ahead quickly with some “popular” portions of Obamacare, there has been no such haste in implementing the executive order regarding tax funding of abortion, Boehner noted.

A recent decision by New Mexico to allow coverage of elective abortion in a newly launched, federally funded program covering high-risk uninsured people provided the final impetus to get the Health and Human Services Department to issue its no-abortion statement on July 14. At first glance, it appears to be good news, as it sent Planned Parenthood into a tantrum.

“The Obama administration has decided that no woman in the new high-risk insurance pools will be allowed to obtain abortion coverage beyond limited cases (rape, incest, endangering the life of the woman),” ranted an irate Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. “We need to make sure the Obama administration knows this is unacceptable,” she insisted. So — if Planned Parenthood is upset, we probably should be happy.

Accolades go to Leader Boehner for his persistence and to NRLC for confronting the issue of states which were trying to pay for abortion with our tax dollars. We will keep a watchful eye on future developments in this arena.

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## **GOP Uses Discharge Petitions To Seek Repeal of Obamacare**

House Republican Minority Leader John Boehner (OH) and Whip Eric Cantor (VA) have announced that they will sign discharge petitions promoted by Reps. Steve King (IA) and Wally Herger (CA) that would force votes in the House on legislation seeking to undermine the pro-abortion health care bill President Barack Obama signed into law, according to LifeNews.com. 218 signers are needed to force a bill to the floor of the House for a vote. Many other House Republicans also have agreed to sign one or both petitions.

“The American people asked Congress and President Obama not to pass the massive health care overhaul, and they were ignored. Three months later, they remain opposed to it, worried about the consequences it is having for job creation, the national debt, and the cost and quality of their health care,” Boehner and Cantor said in a statement. “The House should immediately vote on and pass legislation that would implement the will of the American people with respect to the president’s health care law,” they emphasized.

King’s petition would force a vote on his bill, which would repeal the portions of Obamacare that originated in the Senate and clear the way for Congress to start over with new legislation, such as the one Republicans sponsored with no abortion funding.



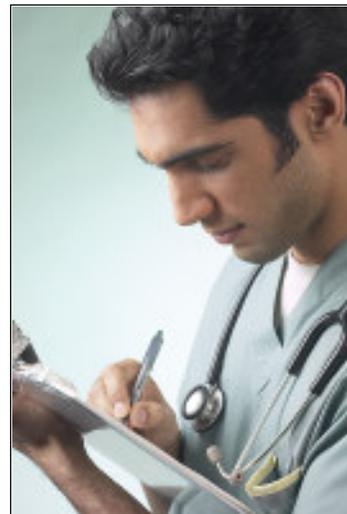
As of early July, he had 109 signers, half the signatures needed. To get an update on which Members of Congress have signed, go to [steveking.house.gov](http://steveking.house.gov) and click on the button for press releases to see if your Congressional representative has signed.

Herger’s discharge petition would force a vote on his bill, which would repeal all of Obamacare, including the provisions enacted through the reconciliation process, and replace it with the pro-life health care bill the GOP put forward.

“Either course of action would begin to implement the will of the people with respect to Obamacare. Accordingly, we will be signing both discharge petitions, and encouraging our colleagues to do the same,” the GOP leaders said.

## **Students for Life Launches New Medical Students for Life Program**

Pro-Life Medical Students often face pressure to learn abortions, despite their personal beliefs. A new and unique national outreach program, Medical Students for Life, is being launched by Students for Life of America (SFLA) to give support to these pro-life medical students.



The aim of the program, according to Kristan Hawkins, the director of Students for Life of America, is both to unite the students as well as to provide them with resources to help spread the pro-life message among their peers. “Medical professionals are on the front lines of the pro-life movement, and it is important for us to train the next generation of pro-life physicians,” Hawkins told LifeNews.com.

Dominique Monlezun, who will enter Tulane University’s School of Medicine in 2011, will serve as the National Coordinator for Medical Students for Life and will lead the initiative to network and train pro-life med students. He believes the greatest impact he can make in the pro-life movement is by joining the medical profession, and looks forward to supporting his pro-life peers in medical schools across the country.

“We as members of society expect our medical professionals to be safeguards of life,” says Monlezun. “I am passionately committed to helping other young adults study medicine and cultivate the original Hippocratic Oath’s pledge to respect the dignity of every human life, including the unborn.”

Medical Students for Life is preparing for the fall school year and invites pro-life medical students to learn more about its new program. Contact them at: <http://www.medsfl.org>.

# The Personhood Amendment Is a Mistake . . .

by Phyllis Schlafly

The “Personhood” Amendment is a gimmick that wastes money and harms pro-life candidates. It lost by a nearly 3-to-1 margin in Colorado in 2008, bringing down good pro-life candidates Bob Schaffer and Marilyn Musgrave. Not long ago, Colorado had many pro-life congressmen. With misguided strategies such as the Personhood Amendment, Colorado is now represented by pro-abortion politicians. Time, money and effort should be focused on electing pro-life officials, not on a ballot initiative that will not save a single unborn child.

Nearly every reputable pro-life leader has criticized the approach of the Personhood Amendment, which will simply give more power to pro-abortion judges. Giving the current pro-abortion Supreme Court another crack at the abortion issue would be very dangerous; the Court might adopt the Ruth Bader Ginsburg rationale, which would be worse than *Roe v. Wade*. The pro-abortion courts might even find a way to twist a personhood law into requiring taxpayer-funded abortion as “health care” for “defective” unborn children. There is no way the Supreme Court will do anything to stop abortion as long as Obama is President.

The Personhood Amendment approach has been almost uniformly rejected throughout the nation. No one should put an initiative on a ballot without enough funding to defend it against opponents. Experience with Personhood Amendments shows that having it on the ballot defeats good candidates.

Pro-life laws are sweeping the nation in Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and elsewhere. We REJECT the failed approach of the Personhood Amendment and instead work to elect pro-life politicians to pass pro-life laws. If the backers of the personhood approach are truly pro-life, then why aren't they providing more support to pro-life candidates who are passing good laws? Please listen to those who really do support pro-life candidates.



Phyllis Schlafly

## . . . But Texas Case Proves Personhood Laws Can Work Well

In another victory for Texas’ “personhood law,” the Prenatal Protection Act, the state’s highest criminal court unanimously upheld the conviction of a San Antonio man for murdering a pregnant girl and her “thirteen-week-old unborn child.”

The groundbreaking Prenatal Protection Act recognized, for the first time in the history of Texas, the personhood of “an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth” and made it possible to prosecute for violent crimes of assault and murder against unborn persons.

In its opinion, delivered on June 16, the nine-member Texas Court of Criminal Appeals relied heavily on an *amicus curiae* (friend-of-the-court) brief submitted by Texas Alliance for Life (TAL). TAL’s brief defended the constitutionality of the Prenatal Protection Act, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2003. This is the fourth time the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld the Prenatal Protection Act.



In 2005, Adrian Estrada, a youth director at a San Antonio church, murdered through “multiple stab wounds and strangulation” 17-year-old Stephanie Sanchez, who was carrying a child fathered by him. It was the third time she was impregnated by Estrada, with the first pregnancy ending by abortion and the second by miscarriage.

The Court noted that *Roe v. Wade* permits states to criminalize the homicide of an unborn child so long as the law does not restrict the mother’s right to terminate her pregnancy.

“Once again the legal personhood of the unborn child has been upheld in Texas so that our legislature can protect mothers and unborn babies from violent crimes,” says Joe Pojman, Ph.D., TAL’s executive director. “Although the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* opinion forbids Texas from protecting unborn children from abortion, we believe the Prenatal Protection Act creates a foothold for someday overturning *Roe*.”

## Most Voters Don't Want Abortion In Government Health Care Bill

Recent results from a Rasmussen poll reveal that 60 percent of likely voters say they favor repealing the pro-abortion health care law that contains massive abortion funding. Some 49 percent say they strongly favor repeal. Just 36 percent want to keep the pro-abortion government-run health care system that the Democrats in Congress approved and President Obama signed into law, with only 24 percent strongly opposing repeal. This intensity of voter sentiment is an important part of pre-viewing how likely voters are to follow through with a vote reflecting those opinions.



Despite the ongoing support for repeal, just 41% believe the law is even somewhat likely to be repealed while another 45 percent say repeal is unlikely. In April, however, 51% considered repeal unlikely, so the prospects of pro-life Republican candidates winning in November and floating a repeal bill apparently seems more likely to American voters.

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