

# RNC *For Life* REPORT

A Publication of the Republican National Coalition for Life

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## The Road to November . . . and Victory 2010!

The election cycle of 2010 already has been one for the history books! More than 3,400 candidates nationwide filed to represent “we the people” in Washington, D.C., more than any election since the Federal Election Commission started tracking filings 35 years ago.

About 1,500 of those candidates aspired to be Senators and 2,855 were hopefuls for the U.S. House. Of these candidates, in this Republican year-to-be, the GOP fielded the most, with **1,679 individuals running on our ticket**. Democrats could convince only slightly more than half that number to run, 961. Various third party and independent candidates made up the other 697 filers. Some Republican primaries saw double-digit numbers filing, such as TN districts 3 and 5, and voters got to choose among many good options in other states, such as Florida, with crowded primaries. Some GOP primaries were very close, such as MI 1 where **Dr. Dan Benishek\*** won by only 15 votes. Others were total surprises to mainstream media, such as Nevada’s Senate race where **Sharron Angle\*** won the nomination and TN 5 where **David Hall\*** outpaced 10 other Republicans to be selected by grassroots Republicans to try to unseat a four-term Democrat in November.

Nine Democrat incumbents saw the handwriting on the wall and chose to retire, leaving open seats which drew a plethora of candidates from both parties. In other districts, incumbent Democrats were so badly wounded by the radical Obama agenda that emboldened Republicans smelled blood and flocked

to unseat even long-time Representatives such as 16-term Ike Skelton (MO-4) who is on the brink of being upset by **Vicky Hartzler\***. Polls show them in a virtual tie at the time of this printing, with Vicky’s momentum on the rise. In Texas, Chet Edwards (TX-25) who has been in Congress for 20 years, is trailing in the polls to Republican **Bill Flores\***.

Additionally, there are dozens of one-term Democrats who were swept in during Obama-mania and who are now in great danger of losing those seats to Republicans who are polling well in many races.

RNC for Life questionnaires were sent to every Republican House candidate and we received a record number of responses which detail the candidates’ pro-life views. (The questionnaire and the response ratings are also on our website.) In fact, we had more than 150 responses, more than 3 times as many as we received in the 2008 cycle. And of those questionnaires, all were pro-life to

some extent, and nearly half were 100% pro-life. We have endorsed more than 60 candidates and are very hopeful of their victory in November.

*Real Clear Politics* (9-29-10) shows that the 435 House seats appear to be split as follows: 191 safe or leaning Democrat; 207 safe or leaning Republican, and 37 too close to call toss-up seats. (These numbers can change daily as new polling data is analyzed.) Among those toss-up or leaning races, there are about a dozen candidates who have been endorsed by RNC for Life. You can see the entire list at our website [www.RNCLife.org](http://www.RNCLife.org).

*\*endorsed by RNC for Life*



**T**hese races are very winnable but still need our help in these **critical last days of the campaign**. There is still time to donate to our PAC so that we can funnel funds to our conservative, pro-life candidates in tight races where our contributions can make the difference. Each person can donate up to \$5,000 to our PAC but every donation helps, no matter the amount. YOUR donation might make the difference in a close race! You can donate online at [www.RNCLife.org](http://www.RNCLife.org) or mail to **RNC/Life PAC** at P.O. Box 618, Alton, IL 62002.



Our e-mail address is [info@rnclife.org](mailto:info@rnclife.org)

Please visit our web site at <http://www.rnclife.org>

# Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Legal or Not?

The battle over research on embryonic stem cells, which destroys human embryos, has been an up-and-down proposition, frequently in the news in recent weeks. First came a good court ruling, then a temporary reversal of that ruling, and now the limbo of waiting for a definitive ruling on the appeal.

On September 28, 2010 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit reversed the preliminary injunction issued by Chief Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. on August 23. Judge Lamberth's ruling had halted federal funding for embryo-destructive research. The reversal decision allows federal funding of embryo destructive research to continue until the case is decided.

Two scientists working on alternatives to controversial embryonic stem cell research filed the original suit, and Judge Lamberth's ruling determined that the Obama administration's funding violated the Dickey-Wicker law which bars federal taxpayer dollars being spent for research using human embryonic stem cells.

The National Institutes of Health, however, maintained that the Dickey-Wicker measure only applied to creating new embryos for research purposes, but that research using existing embryos was not prohibited.

The Obama administration appealed Judge Lamberth's ruling and on September 9, a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court temporarily lifted the injunction, pending further consideration. The September 28 decision means that experimentation on embryos can continue as the original lawsuit works its way through the courts.

In the meantime, your tax dollars are paying for the destruction of pre-born human embryos, and a recent Rasmussen poll showed that only about one-third of those polled approve of using tax money to fund this research. The case is expected ultimately to end up at the United States Supreme Court, and given the recent addition of ultra-liberal Justice Elena Kagan, pro-lifers have reason to be concerned about the eventual decision.

## But why not Adult Stem Cells?

It is really puzzling why the majority of stem cell research involves using embryonic rather than adult stem cells. Embryo-destructive research has produced no published successes in human patients. That's right: **THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL TREATMENT DEVELOPED FROM EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS!** In fact, a real downside to embryonic stem cells is that, when transplanted into human patients, they frequently cause tumors which must be removed or otherwise treated.

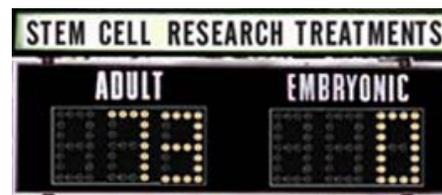
Conversely, adult stem cell treatments are already producing results addressing juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, various cancers, and over 70 other diseases and disabilities. Adult stem cells are harvested from cord blood, bone marrow, skin, and other body parts. In fact, adult hematopoietic, or blood-forming, stem cells from bone marrow have been used in transplants for 40 years.

Recently, scientists actually have restored sight in patients whose eyes had been injured by caustic burns, such as chemical or harsh cleaning agent accidents, using stem cells from the patient's own eye for the restorative treatment. This illustrates a distinct advantage of using adult stem cells: Often, these cells are the patient's own cells, and thus are much less likely to cause rejection issues.

Another medical advancement which does not require the death of an embryo uses induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), first reported in 2006. Functionally equivalent to embryonic stem cells, iPS cells do not have the ethical concerns of creating or harming human embryos or requiring the use of women's eggs. It also has the technical benefits of being a simple technique with a high success rate, producing a large number of both patient-specific as well as disease-specific stem cell lines. This procedure now is faster and more user friendly due to a new way to re-program the iPS cells reported just weeks ago by Dr. Derrick Rossi, a researcher at Children's Hospital Boston.

The iPSCs already are useful tools for drug development and modeling of diseases, and scientists hope to use them soon in transplantation medicine. This method has such potential that many stem cell researchers are turning over their entire iPS core to this new technique.

With all these adult stem cell advances and embryonic stem cell failures, why aren't the mainstream media telling us about them? We will keep you posted here at [RNC for Life!](#)



# “Ethics” Committees as Death Panels

by Jerri Lynn Ward

In 2005, Terri Schiavo was purposely dehydrated to death at the behest of her guardian-husband and the judicial system. In the months leading up to her judicially sanctioned death, “experts” on TV opined as she died that, because of her cognitive impairments, she was not a “person” and did not have a life “worth living.”

This represents a very troubling version of “medical ethics” overtaking the medical field. Foreshadowed by Dr. Leo Alexander in his seminal article “*Medical Science under Dictatorship*,” wherein he wrote about the state of medicine under Nazi Germany, Dr. Alexander then turned his eyes upon America and saw that Hegelian notions of utilitarianism were increasingly causing physicians to become “mere technicians of rehabilitation” and to treat those who were “incurable” as mere “ballast.”<sup>1</sup>

This foreshadowing is being played out, and not only in “Obamacare.”<sup>2</sup> Thirty-four states already have provided the framework for the “Death Panels” described by Sarah Palin. This framework rests upon hospital ethics committees.

It is shocking to learn that most states do not protect patients and families from denial of treatment based on “quality of life” opinions by providers. In fact, 22 states offer no protection at all.<sup>3</sup>

One of the worst laws is what pro-life advocates call the “Texas Futile Care Law,” which allows physicians to withdraw life-sustaining treatment against the will of patients and families. An Advance Directive indicating that the treatment is wanted is ignored. Physicians are allowed to withdraw treatment they deem to be “inappropriate,” against the wishes of families and patients, if the hospital ethics committee approves the doctor’s decision and the family cannot obtain a transfer within ten days. (Virginia has a similar and equally onerous law. Other states’ laws vary in their severity.)<sup>4</sup>

The term “futile care” does not mean that the treatment is “futile”; it means rather that the life which the doctor is preserving, in his subjective opinion, is not of a quality to justify continuing. It is notable that most ethics committees are comprised of those connected in some way to the hospital. This is a serious threat against the authority and responsibility of the individual and the family. In fact, the statute was written

so that doctors, hospitals, and ethics committees are empowered to resolve disputes between health providers and families over allegedly “futile” treatments through a mechanism which keeps courts out of the matter and grossly overpowers patients and families.

The Texas statute gives hospitals and doctors complete immunity for withdrawing treatments — if they follow the procedure laid out in the statute — absolving them of responsibility even in the case of negligence in making the decision. This immunity precludes outside scrutiny of the soundness of the physician’s judgment, other than the conflict-ridden evaluation of ethics committees that are creatures of the hospital.

During the past few Texas legislative sessions, dedicated pro-lifers have sought to change its law to force treatment pending transfer and to restore authority over such decisions to patients and families and will continue their efforts in the 2011 session. You can check the status of your state’s legislation and then work with pro-life groups to repeal or rewrite it, or pass protective legislation if none exists.<sup>3</sup>

“Obamacare” has demonstrated that nationwide effort will be needed in this endeavor. It is important that conservatives realize that this is a clash between the authority and responsibility of individuals and families against the encroachments by so-called “experts” in a brand of bio-ethics which rebels against God and His Word.



Jerri Lynn Ward

1. “Medical Science Under Dictatorship,” *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 241, No. 2, 14 July 1949.
2. H.R.3590 — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
3. <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/AdvancedDirectives/WillYourAdvanceDirectiveBeFollowed.pdf>
4. Section 166.046, Subsection (e), Texas Health & Safety Code.

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Co-founder of Garlo Ward, P.C., **Jerri Lynn Ward** provides legal representation in the areas of business and commercial litigation, including complex healthcare and regulatory litigation, and health facility operational matters. She has assisted families in dealing with hospitals who seek to withdraw care under the Texas Futile Care Statute.

## Many Republican Pro-Life Women Running Thanks to Phyllis and Colleen for 20 years!

It's been 20 years since RNC for Life was formed in order to counteract the pro-abortion Republicans who were trying to remove the pro-life plank from our national platform. And the results of those 20 years are evident as we approach the November elections.

In an awesome tribute to the work that Phyllis Schlafly and Colleen Parro Baillargeon have done for the past two decades to keep the Republican Party the Party of Life, we are pleased to report that virtually all the Republican top tier female challenger candidates running this year are pro-life! A staffer with the Republican National Congressional Committee could only think of one such candidate who didn't describe herself as pro-life.



Because of Phyllis and Colleen's hard work at each national convention and their unwavering support of pro-life candidates in each election cycle, these women candidates are running strong and hopefully will be elected to join other pro-life Republicans in Washington.

Among them are RNC-Life endorsed female candidates *Star Parker* (CA-37), *Sandy Adams* (FL-24), *Vicky Hartzler* (MO-4), *Teresa Collett* (MN-4), *Anna Little* (NJ-6), *Diane Black* (TN-6) and *Dr. Donna Campbell* (TX-25). Also, two female incumbents responded to our questionnaire and are endorsed as well: *Congresswomen Michele Bachmann* (MN-6) and *Jean Schmidt* (OH-2). (Others may also be pro-life but did not return our questionnaire required to be included in our ratings and endorsements.)

**Your support is needed now** to ensure that the crucial issues still facing life advocates will continue to be addressed correctly by the Republican Party: embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and end-of-life decisions as well as abortion itself. Please help us continue to support life at every level from the National Platform to individual candidates. Thank you in advance as we head into the next 20 Years for Life!



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