A new pro-life bill to permanently prohibit federal funding of abortion was passed by the House of Representatives in a 251-175 vote on May 4th. The bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3), was sponsored by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-Il.). It was supported by 235 Republicans and 16 Democrats, while 175 Democrats opposed it.

The White House issued a veto threat on the bill shortly before the House voted to pass it.

“There are over one million Americans who are alive today because of the Hyde Amendment policy – but President Obama, although he claims to seek abortion reduction, continues to work against that policy,” said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. “The White House veto threat demonstrates yet again that President Obama is determined to expand federal subsidies for abortion on demand – despite his verbal smokescreens. The 175 House Democrats who voted against the bill will be firmly marked as supporters of federal subsidies for elective abortion.”

On Mother’s Day, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.), the former Speaker of the House, sent an email urgently requesting $50,000 to combat this pro-life bill. She wrote, “This week, Republicans voted unanimously on an extremist anti-choice bill that would deny millions of women access to reproductive health care.”

For many years, federal funding of abortion has been limited by a patchwork of laws – many of which expire annually, because they are incorporated into annual appropriations bills. The best known is the Hyde Amendment, but this law applies only to funds that flow through the annual Health and Human Services appropriations bill, and it expires annually. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (“Obamacare”), enacted in 2010, opened new pipelines for federal funding of abortion, which are not governed by the Hyde Amendment or any other statutory law. H.R. 3 would codify the principles of the Hyde Amendment on a permanent, government-wide basis, applicable to both longstanding federal health programs and to the new programs created by the PPACA.

House Passes Comprehensive Ban on Federal Abortion Funding

Obama Attends Dinner with Planned Parenthood President

After his May 10th campaign speech in El Paso, Texas, President Barack Obama attended a fundraising dinner with Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards. According to the Austin Statesman, more than 50 wealthy Democrats paid $35,800 per person and over $50,000 per couple to attend. Although the guests attending the event were not announced, after the event Cecile Richards excitedly tweeted, “Dinner with President Obama in my home town! Doesn’t get much [sic] better than that.”

President Obama has a long history of working with Planned Parenthood. In a 2007 campaign address to Planned Parenthood, then Senator Obama was received with thunderous applause and cheering. He said, “On the issue of choice… I will not yield and Planned Parenthood will not yield.” Mr. Obama also promised, “The first thing that I would do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). That’s the first thing I would do.” This act would nullify any state or federal law that would prevent access to abortion.

More recently, Planned Parenthood has been an adamant supporter of Obamacare, which promises to increase significantly the federal funds received by Planned Parenthood.
Amid many threats to life in Europe, Hungary adopted a new constitution in April which protects every person from the moment of conception. The new constitution was voted into effect on Easter Monday by a newly elected party majority which earned it the name ‘The Easter Constitution.’

Under the section entitled “Freedom and Responsibility,” the new constitution says, “Human dignity is inviolable. Everyone has the right to life and human dignity; the life of a fetus will be protected from conception.”

However, various European organizations and “human rights defenders” decry this renewed defense of vulnerable life. Amnesty International is among these opponents and objects that Hungary’s new constitution “violates international and European human rights standards.”

The Hungarian government has subsequently launched a new ad campaign which advocates adoption and reminds citizens that every baby has the right to life. The new ads feature a graphic of a baby in utero which says, “I understand if you aren’t ready for me… but rather put me up for adoption, LET ME LIVE!”

On Saturday, April 9th, Carol Tobias was elected president of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the national federation of 50 state affiliates and more than 3,000 local chapters. Tobias, who becomes the 9th NRLC president since Roe v. Wade, succeeds Wanda Franz, Ph.D. of West Virginia.

“I am extremely humbled and honored to be elected president by the National Right to Life board, which represents our nationwide network of state affiliates and local chapters,” said Mrs. Tobias. “As the late pro-life Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois said, National Right to Life ‘is the flagship of the pro-life movement.’ I’m looking forward to the opportunity to help our pro-life network in its continuing effort to educate the public and pass laws protecting mothers and their unborn children.”

A native of North Dakota, Tobias has served on the NRLC board of directors since 1987. From 1983 to 1991 she was executive director of North Dakota Right to Life and in 1991 was hired as NRLC Political Director, a position she held until 2005. During her tenure as NRLC political director, pro-life majorities were elected to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. In both 2000 and 2004, she oversaw the efforts of NRLC’s Political Action Committee on behalf of George W. Bush.

“The pro-life movement is the greatest social cause of our time,” added Tobias. “I am eager to continue National Right to Life’s educational, legislative, and political efforts to advance the right to life of the most vulnerable members of our human family – the unborn, the elderly, and the medically dependent and disabled.”

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July 3 – Today we celebrate our Declaration of Independence that states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. “Clearly, a nation that has legalized abortion on demand has not lived up to its stated beliefs.”

July 10 – “Nobody is a nobody; nobody is unwanted. All are wanted by God, and therefore to be respected, protected, and cherished by us.” This quote is a concise summary of our pro-life beliefs by Fr. Richard Neuhaus.

July 17 – “Since the Roe v. Wade decision, the number one cause of death in the African American community is abortion. We have lost over 13 million lives. To put that in perspective, that is one third of our present Black population. 1,452 Black children are lost each day to abortion.” Bishop Martin D. Holley, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on African American Affairs

July 24 – In 1896, a frightened 13 year old rape victim ran away from home to avoid being forced to abort her baby. To date, 101 people were given the gift of life because of Lilly Clarke’s heroic decision. Her descendents have made great contributions to our nation and world.

August 7 – Americans are called, as the U.S. Catholic Bishops have urged, to remind all government leaders “of their duty to exercise genuine moral leadership in society. [This is done] not by unthinking adherence to public opinion polls or by repeating empty slogans but by educating and sensitizing themselves and their constituents to the humanity of the unborn child.” Living the Gospel of Life, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

August 14 – “Pennsylvania is not a third world country,” the grand jury investigating Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell insists, “yet the clinic he ran bears a closer resemblance to the killing fields of one-child China than to a legitimate medical facility in the U.S.” Stephen W. Mosher,

August 21 – Writing a tribute to a Down Syndrome child who died at 16, Lisa B. Laughlin made these profound observations, “I believe she came to Earth to teach us a lesson – the lesson of unconditional love…She needed to remind us not to judge one another but to accept one another exactly as we are.” Lisa B. Laughlin, NRL News, 6/09

August 28 – The life of Dr. Bernard Nathanson reminds us that change is always possible, even profound change. Science prompted him to publicly profess in 1974 that as director of “the largest abortion clinic in the Western world,” I had “in fact presided over 60,000 deaths.” He presented that reality in his film, “The Silent Scream” that captured the image of an unborn child shrinking from the surgical instruments of an abortionist, an image that Nathanson called, “the silent scream of a child threatened immi nently with extinction.”

September 4 – On Labor Day, let us celebrate those who work to support their families and whose dedicated labor also supports our nations growth. Especially let us remember those who work in support of protection the right to life of the unborn, the elderly and the medically dependent.

September 11 – “The life issues (abortion, euthanasia, embryonic cell research) put us in touch with one aspect of humanity: They show what we are capable of when we lose our moorings, when we are not guided by clear thinking on right and wrong.” (Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

September 18 – “Abortion has become a personal and social eraser of choice for our unwanted, ill-timed, and ‘defective’ offspring. With mainstream mental professional associations…advising that abortion is psychologically safe, women and men have embraced abortion as a stress reliever. Yet the evidence is mounting that abortion carries serious and significant mental health risks.”

September 25 – “This is the paradox of America’s unborn. No life is so desperately sought after, so hungrily desired, so carefully nurtured. And yet no life is so legally unprotected, and so frequently destroyed.” New York Times columnist Ross Douthat’s reflection on infertility and unwanted pregnancy, 1/3/11

Suggested Prayers

July 3 – That this nation may re-commit itself on this holiday to the recognition and protection of all people’s inalienable right to life, we pray

July 10 – That the seeds of truth sown by pro-life people may find deep roots in the hearts of those with ears to hear, we pray

July 17 – That all those touched by abortion may turn to our merciful God for forgiveness and peace, we pray

July 24 – That pregnant women may realize that the child in the womb is a priceless treasure, we pray

July 31 – That an ever growing number of people may listen heedfully to the Biblical teachings about the sanctity of life, we pray

August 7 – For those facing difficult situations involving the right to life of another, that they may place their trust in God, we pray

August 14 – That those in active pro-life ministry rely on prayer and sacrifice to help them achieve their goals, we pray

August 21 – That those in the abortion industry may seek God’s truth to lead them out of darkness, we pray

August 28 – That more religious and political leaders may courageously speak out in defense of life, we pray

September 4 – That educational institutions at all levels may fairly and adequately present the pro-life issue, we pray

September 11 – For women who have undergone abortions may find forgiveness in the Christian community, we pray

September 18 – For those who labor in the pro-life vineyard, that they may persist with patient endurance, we pray

September 25 – For all those involved in the abortion business, that they may be led to abandon their deadly profession, we pray
Dirty Little Secrets, The Truth Behind the Door Called Choice by Vera Faith Lord

Dirty Little Secrets takes the reader behind the scenes of an abortion clinic and shares experiences women face who seek abortions. It dispels the myth about the clichés used by abortion peddlers to convince women that abortion is a “simple” and “safe” procedure when in fact it is medically and emotionally dangerous and has life changing affect on women.

Dirty Little Secrets is a must read for anyone who works in the abortion alternatives area and should be given to any women who is thinking about abortion.

Vera Faith Lord is a nationally known speaker, an Associate Member of the National Prolife Religious Council, a regular presenter at the National Right to Life Convention. Dirty Little Secrets is available through Vera’s website. Go to www.verafaithlord.com and click on “Store” for details.