## Elective Abortions Eliminated for County Employees

Marietta, GA — The governing authority for a suburban Atlanta county Tuesday eliminated elective abortions from its health care program for county employees and dependents.

The same county commission gained international attention by ending public art grants when residents complained of gay themes in a stage play partly supported by tax money.

Anti-abortion activists appealed to the Cobb County commission on Aug. 24 to drop coverage for abortions. Commission Chairman Bill Byrne said Tuesday that a pregnant woman's selection of elective abortion was "not a health issue" but "a choice" for her to make.

The commission voted 5-0 to restrict abortion payments from the county's self funded health program to life threatening cases involving county employees and family members.

## Studies Link Abortion and Suicide

Many studies are revealing that killing her child via abortion significantly increases a young woman's suicide potential. A 1986 University of Minnesota study indicated that a teenage girl was 10 times as likely to attempt suicide if she had killed an unborn child within the last six months. The director of a Cincinnati suicide counseling group found that nearly half of the 4,000 women who had sought help for suicide had an abortion history. 1,800 had aborted and, of this number, 1,400 were between the ages of 15 and 24, the age group with the fastest growing suicide rate. A 1987 study of women suffering post abortion trauma found that 60% had suicidal tendencies. Twenty-eight precent had actually attempted suicide with 18% trying more than once.

## Holland Holocause "Advances"

In Holland, reports the Catholic magazine Semper Fidelis, "a Dutch psychiatrist was acquitted in April of assisting a woman, who was not sick but depressed by the breakup of her marriage and death of her two children, to commit suicide by lethal dosage of medication. Today, the Holland Pediatric Association has asked the parliament to allow euthanasia of born babies, infants, whose quality of life seems to them to be poor and 'not worthy.'"

## West Virginia Upheld Ban on Funding of Abortions

Charleston, WV — A West Virginia judge ruled that a new state law banning Medicaid funding of most abortions is constitutional.

Judge John Hey of the Kanawha County Circuit Court in Charleston issued his ruling on a suit brought by four state women's groups, including the West Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

The suit had questioned the constitutionality of a provision of a state Medicaid bill passed in June that prohibited state-funded abortions except in cases where the mother is the victim of rape or incest, the baby's life is in danger, or at least two doctors said the procedure was necessary.

Anti-abortion groups praised Hey's decision as a victory. The plaintiffs promised to appeal.

In issuing his ruling, Hey acknowledged that he expected the case would find its way at least to the state's Supreme Court.


**Stick with the Truth**

3 New bumper stickers can help you make your sentiments known

*Thought provoking messages for those behind you at red lights, tailgaters, and pro-aborts taking your license tag number at the local clinic.*

...but when the wicked rule, the people mourn

*Proverbs 29:2*

Stickers are in shades of
Red, White and Blue
Proverbs has Capital Dome Outline

**pro-choice**/ adj. Caring just enough for a woman in crisis to sanction the killing of her baby

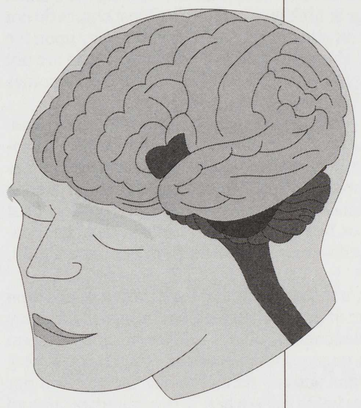
My disgust with the current administration cannot be summarized here

$2.00 each
$1.25 for 2-10
$1.00 for 11-100
Write for bulk prices over 100

Legal Action for Women PO Box 11061 Pensacola, FL 32524-1061

## Water = Medical Treatment

The Kentucky state Supreme Court has ruled that the family of a comatose woman "may direct that her food and water tube be disconnected," reports the Louisville Courier-Journal. In this decision, the provision of food and water was defined as medical treatment.



## "Brain Death" Debate Goes On

In a remarkable article on the brain stem and the debate over when brain death actually occurs and what it really is, doctors Paul A. Byrne and Richard Nilges make some extraordinary statements, such as "There are third party payers not willing to pay for prolonged intensive care given to a 'dead brain in a live body.'" The debate is spurred by the need for organ donations versus the actual death of a potential donor and the stress a family can be relieved of if the loved one simply becomes that donor, as "brain death" is pronounced on a living person who happens to be near death.

Semantics play a large part in the euthanasia debate, and this article clarifies what brain death is, and what it is not.

## Pro-lifer Charged with Stalking

Omaha, NE — An anti-abortion activist has been accused of stalking an abortion doctor whom she met at the airport on several occasions.

Sharon McKee of Omaha was arrested Wednesday and released after posting $350 bond, a Douglas County Court clerk said Thursday. Her arraignment was set for September 10.

Her lawyer, Peter Bataillon, said McKee was innocent, but declined to comment further.

Dr. James T. Howard of Bloomington, Indiana claims McKee had been following and intimidating him for more than a year. Howard, who commutes weekly to Omaha to perform abortions, said McKee met him at Omaha's Epply Airfield on April 15, April 30, July 16 and August 6.

McKee, 37, told the Omaha World-Herald that she frequently meets Howard at airports or at the abortion clinic where he works, but said she has never threatened him.

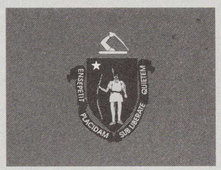
Nebraska enacted an anti-stalking law this year that makes a first offense a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine. Subsequent offenses are felonies.

McKee has been convicted of trespassing and other charges for pro-life activities, Assistant City Attorney Mike Tesar said.

## D.C. Abortion Money a "Go"

On July 27, the United States Senate voted to allow the District of Columbia to pay for all abortions for poor women without exception.

## Massachussetts Governor Meets with Boston Rescue Leaders.



Boston, MA — After meeting on June 30 for the first time with members of Operation Rescue, Gov. Weld directed his chief legal adviser to review whether sentence reductions are justified for 10 members of the anti-abortion group who were imprisoned for defying court orders against blocking entrance to abortion clinics.

Among the three Operation Rescue members meeting with Weld was William Cotter, who was released two weeks prior after serving 19 months of a 2 1/2-year jail sentence on criminal contempt charges for blocking the entrance to a Brookline clinic.

Cotter, 41, said he found Weld, who is known for strong support for abortion rights, to be "receptive to our arguments" and open-minded. He said he told Weld that the 10 Operation Rescue members who are still in jail are political prisoners who received harsh sentences because of their views. After the meeting, Weld indicated that he found Cotter's argument at least partly persuasive. The governor said Cotter told him the Operation Rescue members had received sentences ranging from 18 months to 2 1/2 years for violating court injunctions, which Weld said is "an unusually long sentence."

"If the sentences on these contempt cases are disproportionately long, then perhaps an inference could be drawn that this group is being addressed because of its position as a group," said Weld. "If true - and I'm not saying that's true - if true, that would be a bad jurisprudential precedent."

Weld said he told his legal adviser, Robert Cordy, to review the 10 cases to see whether any of the prisoners are eligible for early parole or pardon or commutation of their sentences. The governor also agreed, at the group's urging, to review whether an abortion clinic access bill before the Legislature is too "vague" or constitutes "double jeopardy." The bill would make it a crime, punishable by prison, to block access to abortion clinics.

## ABA Reaffirms Support of Abortion Rights

New York, NY — On August 10, the American Bar Association voted decisively to stick with its strong stand in favor of abortion rights, a position that has created dissension in its ranks for three years.

Nearly 5,000 members have resigned in protest since the nation's largest organization of lawyers first took the abortion rights stand in February 1990. Led by the State Bar of Texas, opponents of the stand sought to put the issue to a referendum of the group's 370,000 members, an extraordinary measure used only twice in the ABA's 115-year history.

The referendum proposal fell far short of the 266 votes required in the ABA's policy-making House of Delegates, where the vote was 128 in favor and 313 opposed.

"I would hope that after losing three votes (in the past three years), today's by a 3-to-1 margin, that opponents of the ABA choice position will give this issue a rest," said Washington lawyer Estelle Rogers, one of the sponsors of the abortion rights stand.