

Doctors Must Defend Human Life

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As if it wasn't already abundantly clear, the antihumanist agenda of the Left has been prominently on display recently, at least if you look outside the so-called mainstream media.

The "death panels" came back from the dead with news that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is going to pay for "end of life counseling" for Medicare beneficiaries as a separate service. What this really means is they are pushing these conversations by adding a financial carrot.

Such discussions naturally occur during the course of medical interactions on a daily basis and do not need specific encouragement. The government is clearly seeking to influence doctors and patients to "pull the plug," rather than spend money on the "last six months" of life. Of course, no one knows in advance when that six-month clock starts winding down. And don't we pay into insurance systems to have money to spend when we are truly ill? Medicare is facing bankruptcy because of massive overspending on routine care, not the extraordinary care that is associated with trying to save or prolong life.

This is another example of the statist Left's treatment of the elderly ill as burdens to society, as though we would all somehow be better off if they were just to go away quietly.

That is not to say there aren't times when opting out of advanced care is appropriate. Chemotherapy or radical surgery for metastatic cancer is likely to do more harm than good in many patients. Dialysis can also be a burden to the very elderly or infirm and may hasten death, in addition to impairing quality of life. I recently concurred with a patient's decision to stop dialysis in the face of unremitting metastatic prostate cancer when it became clear that dialysis was prolonging a painful demise.

Doctors, in close consultation with patients and families, must be the ones making these gut-wrenching decisions. There is no role for government, administrators, or other bureaucrats.

On the other end of the age spectrum, Planned Parenthood's selling body parts of aborted babies was exposed by a series of undercover videos. These videos shocked most who had the fortitude to watch them. But the Left went into a defensive crouch and pushed prosecution of the Center for Medical Progress for violating laws against surreptitious recording. A bill introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) to defund Planned Parenthood failed to get the 60 votes required for cloture.

Doctors must stand in defense of unborn human babies. Since 1973, when a few liberal lawyers on the Supreme Court discovered a "right" to abortion in the penumbras and emanations of the U.S. Constitution, more than 50 million human lives have been snuffed out in the United States. According to its 2013-2014 Annual Report, Planned

Parenthood alone performed more than 300,000 abortions that year!¹

A 1984 law outlaws receiving "valuable consideration" for human organs. Planned Parenthood is clearly in violation of this law and should be prosecuted. Incidentally, this law also prohibits consenting adults from selling a kidney, or a piece of the liver. This provision has created a huge organ shortage, fostered a black market, and should be amended.²

Proponents of abortion paint the pro-life movement as extreme for opposing the "rape, incest, life of mother" exceptions, while they themselves brook absolutely no restrictions, even up to term! The number of pregnancies due to rape and incest are at most a few thousand yearly, while there are almost zero cases where abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. And there is no scientific basis to claim that life begins at any time other than conception.

Where does the obsession with ending life come from? The abortion industry and Planned Parenthood originated in the population control and eugenics movements. Margaret Sanger, heroine of the Left and founder of Planned Parenthood, was heavily involved in both. Robert Zubrin calls this "antihumanism."³ Pushed by neo-Malthusians such as Paul Ehrlich (I remember being assigned his book, *The Population Bomb*, in public school), population control became official U.S. policy during the Cold War, and persists to this day. Worldwide it has been enormously successful, wiping out tens of millions of human beings through abortion, sterilization, and birth control. From Zubrin's excellent piece:

Around the world, the population control movement has resulted in billions of lost or ruined lives. We cannot stop at merely rebutting the pseudoscience and recounting the crimes of the population controllers. We must also expose and confront the underlying antihumanist ideology. If the idea is accepted that the world's resources are fixed with only so much to go around, then each new life is unwelcome, each unregulated act or thought is a menace, every person is fundamentally the enemy of every other person, and each race or nation is the enemy of every other race or nation. The ultimate outcome of such a worldview can only be enforced stagnation, tyranny, war, and genocide. The horrific crimes advocated or perpetrated by antihumanism's devotees over the past two centuries prove this conclusively. Only in a world of unlimited resources can all men be brothers.

The environmental movement is also riddled with antihumanism.⁴ Daniel Greenfield writes:

The idea that the way to protect insects, fish and animals is by preventing human beings from having children is part of an approach known as Population,

Health and Environment (PHE) which integrates population control into environmentalist initiatives.

PHE dates back to the 1980s and is practiced by mainstream organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund. The Smithsonian's Woodrow Wilson Center, which is funded partly by the U.S. government, aggressively champions PHE eugenics and USAID funds PHE programs and distributes PHE training manuals derived in part from Wilson Center materials.

PHE had been baked into congressional bills such as the Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Act of 2013 co-sponsored by Debbie Wasserman-Shultz and Sheila Jackson-Lee which urged meeting United Nations Millennium Development Goals by using birth control as, among other things, a means of "ensuring environmental sustainability."

The Left's agenda is clear. The Hippocratic ethic of the medical profession stands in the way of the antihumanist Left. We must continue to stand up for the rights of our individual

patients, including the elderly, the sick, and the unborn. We must speak out against the pseudoscience behind this evil movement, and reaffirm the noble goals of our profession to preserve life, to heal, and to soothe.

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