

Children of God for Life

World leaders in the Campaign for Ethical Vaccines,
medicines and consumer products

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May 6, 2015

Senator Joel Anderson
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Anderson,

Our organization is writing to you regarding SB277 which seeks to remove both personal and religious exemptions to immunizations in the State of California.

As the recipient of the official correspondence from the Pontifical Academy for Life, (PAFL) Children of God for Life would first like to clarify erroneous testimony given by Senator Allen and Senator Pan on the issue of aborted fetal material that is most certainly present in several childhood and adult vaccines, as evidenced by the manufacturers, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control.

First and foremost, the NCBC is not the "National Catholic Bishops' Council" as stated by Senator Allen. It is actually the National Catholic Bioethics Center, an organization that does not have Papal or any other type of Church authority. They simply offer opinions on various issues.

The actual document that the NCBC opined about, *Moral Reflections On Vaccines Prepared From Cells Derived From Aborted Human Foetuses*, was sent directly from Rome to Children of God for Life in June 2005 as a response to questions we raised for people who wish to abstain from aborted fetal vaccines in conscience. In their response, the document clearly upholds this right of conscience for parents stating:

"They should take recourse, if necessary, to the use of conscientious objection with regard to the use of vaccines produced by means of cell lines of aborted human foetal origin." (pg 6)

"Such a duty may lead, as a consequence, to taking recourse to "objection of conscience" when the action recognized as illicit is an act permitted or even encouraged by the laws of the country and poses a threat to human life. The Encyclical Letter Evangelium Vitae underlined this "obligation to oppose" the laws which permit abortion or euthanasia 'by conscientious objection' (pg 7)

"It is up to the faithful and citizens of upright conscience (fathers of families, doctors, etc.) to oppose, even by making an objection of conscience, the ever more widespread attacks against life and the "culture of death" which underlies them." (pg 6)

"[T]here is a grave responsibility to use alternative vaccines and to make a conscientious objection with regard to those which have moral problems." (pg 7)

"Therefore, doctors and fathers of families have a duty to take recourse to alternative vaccines (if they exist), putting pressure on the political authorities and health systems so that other vaccines

without moral problems become available. They should take recourse, if necessary, to the use of conscientious objection with regard to the use of vaccines produced by means of cell lines of aborted human foetal origin. Equally, they should oppose by all means (in writing, through the various associations, mass media, etc.) the vaccines which do not yet have morally acceptable alternatives, creating pressure so that alternative vaccines are prepared, which are not connected with the abortion of a human foetus, and requesting rigorous legal control of the pharmaceutical industry producers." (pg 6-7)

However, even this document is insufficient in authority as it is not considered formal doctrine. Therefore, in order to understand the magnitude of moral conscience in its application to religious teachings, one must turn to the Catechism of the Catholic Church which contains the tenets of the faith, as attested to and signed by Pope John Paul II as he states in the opening pages:

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church, which I approved June 25th last and the publication of which I today order by virtue of my Apostolic Authority, is a statement of the Church's faith and of Catholic doctrine, attested to or illumined by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition and the Church's Magisterium. I declare it to be a sure norm for teaching the faith and thus a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion." (Apostolic Constitution Fidei Depositum pg 5-6)

The teachings contained therein on moral conscience are clear. For example:

1776 *"Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey..... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."*

1777 *"Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil. It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking."*

1778 *"Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his conscience that man perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law... Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ".*

Further, Catholics are taught through the teachings of Papal Encyclicals that conscience is the Divine Law which is inscribed into the heart and soul of man by God. For example:

"The natural law is written and engraved in the soul of each and every man, because it is human reason, ordaining him to do good and forbidding him to sin...But this command of human reason would not have the force of law if it were not the voice and interpreter of a higher reason to which our spirit and freedom must be submitted." (Leo XIII Libertas Praestantissimum, 597)

*"On his part, man perceives and acknowledges the imperatives of the divine law through the mediation of conscience. It is through his conscience that man sees and recognizes the demands of divine law. He is bound to follow this conscience faithfully in all his activity so that he may come to God, who is his last end. Therefore he must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters. The reason is **that the exercise of religion, of its very nature, consists before all else in those internal, voluntary and free acts whereby man sets the course of his life directly toward God.** Acts of this*

kind cannot be commanded or forbidden by any merely human authority." (Dignitatis Humanae, Pope Paul VI, 1965)

Synod of Bishops' address to the United Nations October 2, 1979:

"The practice of religion by its very nature consists primarily of those voluntary and free internal acts of conscience by which a human being directly sets his course towards God. No merely human power can either command or prohibit acts of this kind"

Pope Paul VI, 1965 Gaudium et Spes:

"For its part, authentic freedom is an exceptional sign of the Divine image within man. For God has willed that man remain "under the control of his own decisions, so that he can seek his Creator spontaneously, and come freely to utter and blissful perfection through loyalty to Him. Hence man's dignity demands that he act according to a knowing and free choice that is personally motivated and prompted from within, not under blind internal impulse nor by mere external pressure."

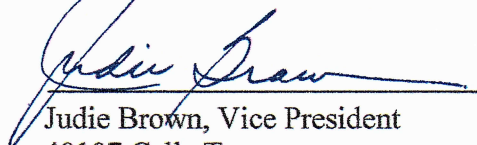
Fourth Lateran Council:

"The Divine Law," says Cardinal Gousset, "is the supreme rule of actions; our thoughts, desires, words, acts, all that man is, is subject to the domain of the law of God; and this law is the rule of our conduct by means of our conscience. Hence it is never lawful to go against our conscience; as the Fourth Lateran council says, 'Quidquid fit contra conscientiam, aedificat ad gehennam.'" ["Whatever is done in opposition to conscience is conducive to damnation."]

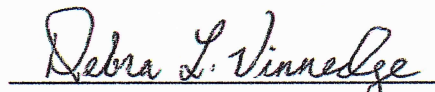
To deny the religious right of conscience in abstaining from these vaccines is to deny Catholics their absolute duty to follow the instruction God has imprinted in their hearts. Such action clearly violates both Catholic Church teaching and religious freedom.

Therefore, we the undersigned urge all members of the California Assembly and Senate to oppose SB277 which clearly threatens religious freedom not only for Catholics, but for all faiths who in good conscience cannot comply with this mandate .

Sincerely,



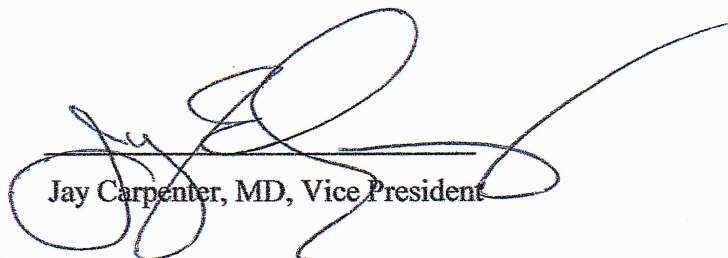
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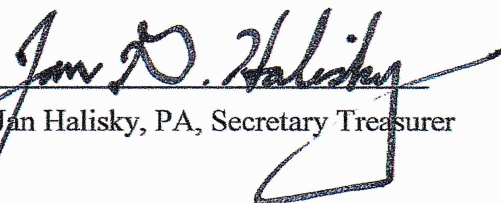
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