



William J. Murray

## The Chairman's

## Action Report

Religious  
Freedom  
Coalition

July 9, 2004

### Unborn Feel Pain of Abortion

The abortion industry is on the defensive on many fronts as more and more Americans become aware that abortion is not about women's rights, but about a multi-billion dollar a year business.

In the last year Congress has passed into law and President George W. Bush has signed, two major laws that limit the excesses of the abortion industry. The Partial Birth Abortion Ban to stop a gruesome and cruel form of abortion was passed into law. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act which recognized an unborn child as a separate person also became law.



RFC Executive Director Peggy Birchfield speaks at news conference on fetal pain bill

The abortion industry is fighting the Partial Birth Abortion Ban in court, but it now appears to have been a mistake on their part. Their lawsuits have given the Justice Department under Attorney General John Ashcroft the opportunity to question abortionists about the procedure on the witness stand. When the abortion doctors have been forced to detail the partial birth procedure, it has sickened those in the courtroom and caused even the liberal media to rethink the practice.

Now a new front has opened against the abortionists. It has been absolutely proven that unborn babies feel pain at least as early as twelve weeks. The Religious Freedom Coalition and other social conservative pro-life groups in Washington, DC are now working to pass a law that will force abortionists to inform pregnant women that their babies will feel pain during either a chemical or surgical abortion. The women would then be given the option of giving their child pain killing drugs before the abortion. This law will serve to make women aware that they are killing another human being, not just getting rid of a clump of cells.

## MARRIAGE AND POLITICS

The Religious Freedom Coalition continues to work with more than 100 other groups promoting traditional marriage between one man and one woman. On July 1st a law took effect in the Commonwealth of Virginia banning all forms of same-sex marriage and civil unions. The Religious Freedom Coalition promoted this law and I believe it should be the model for the nation.

There is virtually no value in banning same-sex marriage and then giving all the benefits of marriage through civil unions. As I have stated numerous times in the past these civil unions will be used more by heterosexuals seeking benefits of marriage without the responsibilities of marriage than by homosexuals.

The week of July 12th there will be a vote in the Senate on the Federal Marriage Amendment. The Religious Freedom Coalition is promoting the vote in the Senate even though I do not like the language as it stands because it would not stop civil unions.

If I don't like the FMA language as it is then why am I supporting a vote on it in the Senate? Because the vote has nothing at all to do with passing the FMA. There is no chance whatsoever that the FMA will pass next week in the Senate. We need 67 of 100 Senators to vote for the FMA and there are not even 50 votes for it as of today.

The vote is purely political .... we are trying to publicly identify those Senators who promote same-sex marriage and cater to the homosexual lobby. Once they are identified by their vote on the FMA American voters will know which Senators are for traditional marriage and which are for same-sex marriage. That information will be public well before the November elections. It will be most interesting to see how Senator John Kerry, the Democrat nominee for President, will vote. He may not show up at all. He has missed 85% of the Senate votes so far this year.

It is very important that you contact your Senator, particularly if you believe he favors same-sex marriage, and give him your opinion. On a separate enclosure you will find the names and phone numbers of both of your Senators.

### **EDUCATING CHRISTIANS ABOUT POLITICS**

In the fall of 2000 the Religious Freedom Coalition mailed tens of thousands of educational letters to Christian seniors in Florida. The letters, which arrived just prior to the presidential election, listed the differences between the major candidates for President on social issues including homosexual marriage and abortion. There were six presidential candidates on the ballot in Florida including then-Governor George W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore, Ralph Nader, Pat Buchanan, Howard Phillips and David McReynolds.

There is no way of knowing if our educational mailings to Christian seniors in Florida affected the voting pattern in the state. It turns out that the vote was so close that if anyone did influence even a few hundred voters, it actually would have affected the outcome. Our intention, of course, was purely educational much like our efforts to have Senators vote one way or another on same-sex marriage before the next election.

It is very doubtful that the Religious Freedom Coalition will be able to do educational mailings on the social positions of the candidates before the election in November unless our financial situation improves drastically.

It costs about 45 cents to prepare and mail an educational letter to probable voters. Each 100,000 letters mailed into battleground states, such as Florida, to educate Christian seniors on the social positions of candidates would cost \$45,000.

Yes ... \$45,000 for each 100,000 letters. One million such educational letters would cost \$450,000.

Because educational letters such as those we have used in the past do not ask for donations to our work, there is no chance to recover the expense.

As of today, July 9th, 2004 we do not have enough funds to mail even 100,000 such letters. In fact the Religious Freedom Coalition is actually in debt. We have been forced to borrow funds to operate four of the last six months. We are far from having funds available to educate the public on social issues before the election.

**INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

**Vacation Bible School**

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the Bethlehem area of the Holy Land went very well. The VBS was a real treat for the Palestinian Christian children who are forced to endure anti-American, anti-Semitic and anti-Christian propaganda in the Palestinian Authority Schools. I do not have the space here for a full report on the VBS; however, one will be posted at our Internet site at [www.rfcnet.org](http://www.rfcnet.org).

~~We~~ had one major problem with the VBS ... van rentals. We needed vans to transport the volunteers and the kids. The cost of a full size van in Israel is \$1,000 a week and gas costs over \$5.00 a gallon. We had to make an emergency appeal to our Internet supporters to get last minute funds and still did not receive all the funds required this year.

**Brussels and Kosovo**

In just a few weeks I leave for Brussels, Belgium for the Interparliamentary Conference on Religious Freedom. I am an invited speaker at this event and in addition I will be a discussion panel chairman. Immediately after the conference in Brussels several of the conference principles, including myself, will travel to Prestina, Kosovo to examine the conditions endured by Christians there. It is extremely important that the plight of Christians at the hands of extremist Muslims in Kosovo be publicized. I am making every effort to have a Senator participate in the fact finding mission. Please pray for our success and for the suffering of these persecuted Christians to be relieved.

Our work in Washington, DC fighting in Congress for religious freedom and the cause of Christ is vitally important, as is our aid to the few Christians remaining in the Holy Land. [This work cannot continue without the help of concerned Christians such as yourself.](#)

Please help this month.



William J. Murray, Chairman

***Religious Freedom Coalition, PO Box 77511, Washington, DC 20013***