



Legal Tips

Volume XVI Number 5
May 2009

Obama's First 100 Days and the Impact on Pregnancy Resource Centers

Much talk has occurred in the media over the first 100 days of President Obama's administration and what has been accomplished in this time. Since the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt the first 100 days of a new administration has become a symbolic measure of where the new administration is taking the country.

In regards to the life issue it can only be said that Obama's first 100 days have been an unmitigated disaster.

When running for office President Obama announced that the first thing he would do as President would be to sign the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). See www.youtube.com/watch?v=pf0XIRZSTt8. Since taking office he has backed away from making FOCA a priority. However, his actions in regards to abortion indicate that he is totally committed to abortion as a social policy. This has grave ramifications for PRCs.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

During his first two months in office Obama nominated key Cabinet, White House and Justice Department personnel who are totally committed to a pro-abortion agenda. Among these people are Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a recent recipient of Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award, and Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of Health and Human Services. During her confirmation hearings it was revealed that Sebelius was strongly supported

financially by notorious late-term abortionist George Tiller. During her tenure as governor Sebelius vetoed bills that would have reduced abortions in Kansas. Now, as the chief public health officer in the country she will have a platform to continue to promote abortion in the upcoming healthcare plan that the Obama administration intends to promote.

The Obama administration has also aggressively pursued other pro-abortion/anti-life policies:

- They have moved to rescind the important conscience regulations put in place by President Bush to protect physicians and healthcare professionals from being coerced into participating in abortion.
- Obama issued an executive order canceling the longstanding Mexico City policy put in place under President Reagan that prohibits federal funds to be given to international family planning agencies (i.e. Planned Parenthood) that promote abortion as a method of family planning.
- The President has pursued in his proposed budget to Congress funding for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) that provides family planning funds services to China to support its brutal and coercive "one family one child policy," which has resulted in forced abortions in China.
- Obama signed an executive order forcing federal funding of embryonic stem cell research and the killing of tiny embryonic human beings.

- In March Obama's administration refused to invite pro-life groups to a White House-sponsored healthcare summit while Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business, and other pro-abortion groups participated.
- In April the Obama administration issued a publication claiming that pro-life people are "right wing extremists" and potential terrorists. In the new document the Department of Homeland Security warned law officials about a supposed rise in "rightwing extremist activity," saying the poor economy and presence of a black president could spark problems. According to the Washington Times, a footnote attached to the nine-page report from the Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis say the activities of pro-life advocates is included in "rightwing extremism in the United States."
- Obama is now poised to make his first appointment to the United States Supreme Court and all the names surfacing in the media are judges who are totally committed to upholding Roe v. Wade. (NIFLA will keep you informed on breaking events on this issue.)
- Obama's budget that has been submitted to Congress for approval provides for abortion funding in the District of Columbia. (Such funding must be approved by Congress, but remember – Congress is now controlled by abortion supporters.)
- Title X funding of Planned Parenthood (the greatest enemy to the PRC movement) in Obama's budget is increased by \$10 million to a total of \$317 million per year.
- The Obama budget governing funding for the Legal Service Corporation (LSC) is loosened to allow LSC grantees to conduct litigation in favor of abortion rights – all at the taxpayers' expense!

IMPACT ON THE WORK OF PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS (PRCs)

To date, there has been no new initiative coming directly from the Obama White House that would, if enacted, create problems for the operations of PRCs.

However, we must understand that the enemies of PRCs such as Planned Parenthood and NARAL have complete access and the sympathetic ears of White House policymakers. The first 100 days of this administration has indicated that the Obama White House intends to end the effectiveness of the pro-life movement, if at all possible. This means that certainly down the road restriction of PRCs will be in the sights of this administration.

All of this means that PRCs must be diligent in making sure that they are operating above reproach. All legal issues raised over the years by NIFLA for PRCs to address must again be looked at carefully to make sure that PRCs are in compliance.

Of course we believe that our movement is ordained by God to provide a safe haven for those who are considering abortion. Our movement is totally motivated by love and concern for others. Scripture reminds us that love is a fruit of the spirit and "against such there is no law." Our opponents may try to pass laws that will end our work but these efforts will fail. While there will continue to be efforts to restrict and even close down PRCs we will overcome as long as we continue to be faithful to our calling.

Let us continue on in the fight to save and redeem lives. Be encouraged that right makes might and in the end true justice and righteousness will win.

2009 – All Rights reserved. The contents of this "Legal Tips" are copyrighted. Any reproduction in whole or in part without written or verbal permission from Thomas A. Glessner is strictly prohibited; except for internal use by member pregnancy help centers.

NIFLA
PO Box 42060
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404