

State-Funded Abortion

Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2270*)

Church teaching

- ★ The commandment of God is formal: "You shall not kill" (*Ex. 20:13*). Life is at the same time a gift and a responsibility. It is received as a "talent" (*cf. Mt. 25:14-30*); it must be put to proper use. In order that life may bring forth fruit, many tasks are offered to man in this world and he must not shirk them. More important still, the Christian knows that eternal life depends on what, with the grace of God, he does with his life on earth. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration on Procured Abortion*)
- ★ When the sense of God is lost, the sense of man is also threatened and poisoned...Man is no longer able to see himself as "mysteriously different" from other earthly creatures; he regards himself merely as one more living being, as an organism which, at most, has reached a very high stage of perfection. Enclosed in the narrow horizon of his physical nature, he is somehow reduced to being "a thing", and no longer grasps the "transcendent" character of his "existence as man". He no longer considers life as a splendid gift of God, something "sacred" entrusted to his responsibility and thus also to his loving care and "veneration". Life itself becomes a mere "thing", which man claims as his exclusive property, completely subject to his control and manipulation. (*Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life*)
- ★ The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the State: they pertain to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his of her origin. Among such fundamental rights one should mention in this regard: every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death; the rights of the family and of marriage as an institution and, in this area, the child's right to be conceived, brought into the world and brought up by his parents. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, The Gift of Life*)

Resources

- ★ **Texas Catholic Conference** Abortion page (www.TXcatholic.org/abortion.asp)
- ★ **US Conference of Catholic Bishops** Abortion page (www.USCCB.org/prolife/issues/abortion/)
- ★ **Second Look Project** (www.SecondLookProject.org)
- ★ **National Catholic Bioethics Center** (www.NCBCenter.org)
- ★ **Pontifical Academy for Life** (www.AcademiaVita.org)

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The Texas Catholic Conference supports an end to all state funding for abortion providers, to ensure that tax payer dollars do not go toward the killing of innocent human life. We do support the funding of abortion alternatives providers.

Federal Funding for Abortion

Currently Texas only provides direct funding for abortion from federal Medicaid dollars. This is because of provisions set forth in the Hyde Amendment that require states to use federal Medicaid dollars to fund abortions in cases of incest, rape, or life endangerment.ⁱ Texas is one of 26 states that fund Medicaid funding at the minimum set by the Hyde Amendment—the remaining states have expanded Medicaid funding for abortion.ⁱⁱ

South Dakota, however, passed the South Dakota Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act in 2006, which limits the use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion to only as needed to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child. The law specifically prohibits a "procedure upon a pregnant woman with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn human being." It also included the statement that a "physician shall make reasonable medical efforts under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child in a manner consistent with conventional medical practice." The law however was repealed in a voter referendum later that year.

Fund Abortion Alternatives

Rather than fund abortion, which hurts a mother and her child, we support funding for abortion alternative providers, social service agencies that offer alternatives to abortion. They generally provide free pregnancy tests, unbiased options counseling, referrals to obstetricians and gynecologists as well as material support in the form of baby clothes, furniture, formula, diapers and maternity clothes. These providers offer true guidance to women in crisis pregnancies and aid in decreasing the number of abortions in Texas.

ⁱ Boonstra, Heather D. "The Heart of the Matter: Public Funding of Abortion for Poor Women in the United States." Guttmacher Institute. Winter 2007. <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/10/1/gpr100112.html>>.

ⁱⁱ State Funding of Abortion Under Medicaid." Guttmacher Institute. 1 Aug. 2008. <http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_sfam.pdf>.