

# PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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St. Teresa of Avila Pro-Life Committee

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## Will the Federal Government Force Doctors to Perform Sex Reassignment Surgeries?

Following the federal government stating that doctors cannot decline performing sex reassignment surgeries, a group of states, doctors, and hospitals are suing in the name of medical ethics.

"The effect is that there are doctors all across the country that are going to be asked to perform gender transition procedures, even when they believe it is going to be physically and emotionally harmful to the patient and against their best medical judgment," Luke Goodrich, deputy general counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, told CNA.

"And this rule says if you follow your medical judgment, you can face massive liability," he added. Current health care law bans discrimination against patients on basis of sex. New regulations from the Department of Health and Human Services interpret such discrimination to include cases where requests for procedures involving gender reassignment are denied. The HHS would evaluate whether a denial of services meant discrimination on a "case-by-case basis," Goodrich explained — basically they would decide whether they thought a doctor didn't "have a good reason" for saying no.

The rule could affect doctors and hospitals everywhere: as many as 900,000 doctors, the Becket Fund claimed. The religious freedom law group is representing various religious health providers like the Franciscan Alliance hospital network and the Christian Medical & Dental Associations. Five states (Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Wisconsin) have joined the lawsuit.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/will-the-federal-government-force-doctors-to-perform-sex-reassignment-surge/>

## Illinois Law Threatens Conscience Rights, Crisis-Pregnancy Centers

A new law in Illinois weakens existing protections for religious liberty and conscience rights for hospitals, doctors and nurses — and could even force staff of crisis-pregnancy centers to promote abortion, according to local pro-life advocates.

At issue is a bill signed into law at the end of July by Gov. Bruce Rauner, that amends Illinois' Health Care Right of Conscience Act, mandating that pro-life doctors, nurses and staff at crisis-pregnancy centers present abortion as a legal treatment option by discussing its benefits with women who say that they want abortions and referring such women to medical professionals and facilities that perform the procedure.

Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois, said, "I think it's important to point out this is how Illinois has changed since 1997 to the present. We had ... widespread support for strong conscience protections, today? [It's] going the other way." <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/illinois-law-threatens-conscience-rights-crisis-pregnancy-centers/>

## Planned Parenthood Is Not Helping End Sexual Assaults

### CONSENT



- Freely Given
- Reversible
- Informed
- Enthusiastic
- Specific

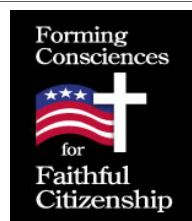
Planned Parenthood

Apparently, in the eyes of Planned Parenthood, consent is not a "yes" or "no" question. This organization would rather add in a bunch of abstract elements than teach young people that

consent is either 100 percent yes or it is not actually given. This should be a very simple concept, but Planned Parenthood would rather blur the lines and make something straightforward more confusing.

**Note the presence of the word "reversible" in this graphic.** Instead of teaching a young man to respect a woman's decision, PP is teaching men that a woman could change her mind. She might say no at first, but maybe if he keeps pushing her, she might reverse that unwanted decision. **Is this really the message we want to send young men and women?**

<http://www.all.org/planned-parenthood-is-not-helping-end-sexual-assaults/?CategoryId=6>



### CATHOLICS CARE. CATHOLICS VOTE

*We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."* Pope Francis, 9/16/13

Read [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm): A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States ([en Español](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm)), which provides a framework for Catholics in the United States at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm>



## PROJECT MUSTARD SEED ORASURE

Operations: **medical devices/diagnostics/ research** (Intercept, OraQuick, Q.E.D.), **medications/treatments** (skin: Freeze'n Clear Skin Clinic).

Please write to:

Mr. Douglas Michels  
President & CEO  
OraSure Technologies, Inc.  
220 E. 1st St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
www.orasure.com

Tell him to  
stop  
funding  
Planned  
Parenthood

OraSure has been on *The Boycott List* since November 2009 and we last wrote to them in July 2010.

### Martin Luther King, Jr's Niece Blasts Abortion: "If Black Lives Matter, They Should Matter in the Womb"

Dr. Alveda King, a pro-life advocate and the niece of the famous civil rights leader, spoke on "The Jim Bakker Show" recently about how abortion has become the No. 1 killer of black lives in America. King brought up the social justice rallying cry "Black Lives Matter," which often is connected to the shooting deaths of black men by police, and questioned why it does not also apply to unborn babies who are victims of the violence of abortion.

She pointed to research showing that Planned Parenthood targets black women by placing the majority of abortion facilities in minority neighborhoods. One study found that 79 percent of Planned Parenthood's surgical abortion facilities are within walking distance of black and Hispanic neighborhoods. As a result, abortions among black women are disproportionately high in the U.S. and have been for many years. New research from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute indicates that this has not changed in the past six years.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/08/25/martin-luther-king-jrs-niece-blasts-abortion-if-black-lives-matter-they-should-matter-in-the-womb/>

### Not 'Born That Way': New Scientific Analysis Questions 'LGBT' Orthodoxies

A new report that examines nearly 200 peer-reviewed studies on sexual orientation and gender identity concludes that science hasn't confirmed key theories about these subjects, including the belief that homosexuals are "born that way." And it rejects surgical and hormonal interventions for children who identify as "transgender," on the grounds that the large majority of such children outgrow identities that conflict with their biological sex.

"Examining research from the biological, psychological and social sciences, this report shows that some of the most frequently heard claims about sexuality and gender are not supported by scientific evidence," reads an introductory note by Adam Keiper, editor of *The New Atlantis*, a leading journal of science, technology and ethics that published the report, "Sexuality and Gender."

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/not-born-that-way-new-scientific-analysis-questions-lgbt-orthodoxies/>



### New Federal Rules Would Put Transgender Policy Over Privacy, Safety Concerns at Homeless Shelters

In September, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is expected to rule that homeless shelters receiving federal funds must accept clients according to the gender they currently self-identify with, and allow them "equal access" to facilities like beds and bathrooms. The proposed rule is titled "[Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs](http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/new-federal-rules-would-put-transgender-policy-over-privacy-safety-concerns/)."

Thus, clients who are biologically male, but who identify as female would be housed with women; those who are biologically female, but identify as male would be housed with men.

Both Catholic Charities USA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops commented on the proposed rule in January. They expressed serious concerns both for the privacy and safety of homeless persons, as well as the religious freedom of faith-based groups that provide emergency shelter and transitional housing.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/new-federal-rules-would-put-transgender-policy-over-privacy-safety-concerns/>



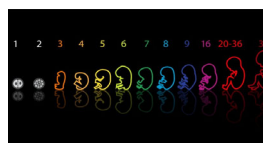
### Woman Holds Euthanasia Party Before Killing Herself in an Assisted Suicide

A woman in California held a euthanasia party celebrating her decision to take her own life before becoming one of the first people under California's assisted suicide law to kill herself with a lethal cocktail.

Ironically, the bill was passed during a special session of the California State Legislature, which was originally called to address cost savings for the state's MediCal program. Indeed, there are many who would see doctor-prescribed suicide as a "cost-savings" measure.

Disability rights groups, many in the medical community, pro-lifers and others are upset by the new law because of the potential for horrendous abuses of human life. One of their concerns is that doctors are not required to be present when the patient takes the deadly medicine; therefore, there is no way of knowing whether the person is taking the medicine of their own free will.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/08/12/woman-holds-euthanasia-party-before-killing-herself-in-an-assisted-suicide/>



### Education, Not Propaganda

Abortion ends the life of a unique human being. Children in Oklahoma public schools will learn that lesson beginning this fall.

Governor Mary Fallin signed the [Humanity of the Unborn Child Act](http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/not-born-that-way-new-scientific-analysis-questions-lgbt-orthodoxies/) into law on June 6, and the provisions of the law are scheduled to go into effect beginning on November 1. The law, which is aimed at fostering a scientifically accurate understanding of embryology, fetal development, and alternatives to abortion on the part of both students and the general public, aspires to "the purpose of achieving an abortion-free society."

<https://lozierinstitute.org/education-not-propaganda/>