



## A New Year's Resolution for 2005: Pass a Parental Consent Bill in Texas

By Christopher Maska, Esq., President

Texas parents do not have the legal right to protect their minor daughters from abortion. Texas Alliance for Life is mounting a major effort to pass a parental consent bill when the state legislature meets this month. Governor Rick Perry supports parental consent and has indicated he would sign a parental consent bill.

This is an issue of basic parents' rights. Every year in Texas, physicians perform thousands of abortions on young girls, 17 years of age and younger — even as young as 12 years old. Tragically, parents have no legal right to intervene in any of these abortions to protect their daughters' health and well-being.

A school nurse must get the consent of a parent before giving a child an aspirin. Parents must give written consent before a child can get her ears pierced. But a physician at an abortion facility — who may have no other interest other than making money — doesn't need the consent of the little girl's parents before performing an abortion. Why should abortion be different?

Almost half of the other states (twenty-four) have laws for parental consent on the books. Why not Texas? Parents in Texas should have the same right to protect the well-being of their daughters as parents in states with parental consent laws. Texas needs a parental consent law.

Pro-abortion advocates will point out that Texas has a parental notification law on the books, and they

claim that the law is good enough. We know that is not true.

The truth is that Texas' parental notification law is inadequate.

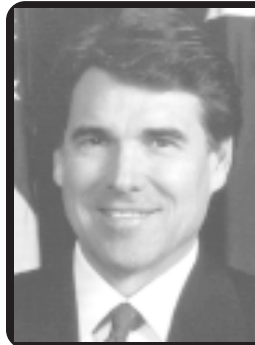
The law only requires the abortion doctor to notify, via phone or mailed letter, a parent of a minor before performing an abortion. Texans deserves better.

In 1999, Texas Alliance for Life, along with many other pro-life organizations, lobbied hard to make it law. The notification bill was the strongest we could possibly have passed at that time.

Now we have a better opportunity than ever before to pass a parental consent bill in Texas. With Governor Perry's support, this is the year that we can make it happen.

Abortion takes a terrible emotional toll on women, especially on very young girls. Please read the testimony of the tragic experience of one woman who had a secret abortion when she was sixteen years old. She bravely gave her testimony before the Texas Legislature in support of parental involvement laws. (See page 6: *In her own words.*)

*Austin attorney Christopher Maska is president of Texas Alliance for Life.*



Texas Rally for Life  
Protecting Texas Families  
  
Changing Hearts for Life

Guest Speaker: Governor Rick Perry

Show your support for a Texas  
Parental Consent Bill!

Saturday, January 22, 2005  
Austin, Texas

See page 8 for more details.

## Executive Director's Desk: Looking Ahead at 2005



Joe Pojman,  
Ph.D.

These are exciting times. The Texas Legislature begins meeting this month and will stay in Austin through May for their 79<sup>th</sup> regular session. Texas Alliance for Life needs your help. First, we need your financial support. Any donation — from \$5 to \$5,000 — makes a difference. Second, be prepared to contact your elected officials. We'll show you how, and we'll make it easy. Contact us at 512-477-1244 or [info@texasallianceforlife.org](mailto:info@texasallianceforlife.org) to be on our legislative alert list. And, of course, we need your prayers. While almost always anything can happen at the Capitol, here are some life issues likely to come up.

### Get Your Free Bumper Sticker!



Show your support for a bill to require parental consent for abortion in Texas. Email your mailing address to us at [info@texasallianceforlife.org](mailto:info@texasallianceforlife.org), and we'll send you our new bumper sticker free of charge!

**Parents' Rights.** Texas needs a parental consent law so that parents can intervene to protect their young daughters from abortion. (See article on p. 1.)

**Protecting Persons at Their Earliest Stages.** The Prenatal Protection Act protects unborn children in their mothers before birth — beginning at fertilization. But what about human embryos who reside outside the womb? We need to ensure that our tax dollars are not used for medical experiments that destroy human embryos, such as to harvest embryonic stem cells. We also need a comprehensive state ban on all human cloning, as we continue to work for a federal ban.

**Protecting Ethical Medical Providers.** No medical provider (physician, intern, nurse, or pharmacist) should be compelled to promote abortion or to participate in medical procedures that may cause abortions. Healthcare providers should not fear criminal and civil penalties or risk losing their jobs for following their consciences.

**Prenatal Protection.** Last session, the Prenatal Protection Act put into state law a definition of an individual person that includes, for the first time in Texas history, "an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization to birth." Unborn babies are now protected from crimes of assault and homicide, and parents have a right to sue when their unborn baby is wrongfully killed. However, the Texas Medical Association added on an amendment excluding physicians from civil responsibility, even if the physician is grossly negligent.

**Ensuring Women's Rights.** Texas law requires abortion providers to give women considering abortion certain information about the medical risks, the characteristics of their unborn child, and agencies that provide abortion alternatives. Too frequently, however, women never get the information they have a right to. At the same time, some women are coerced into an abortion under the threat of violence.

**Protecting Taxpayers from Abortion Subsidies.** The Texas Legislature has banned public funding or subsidizing of abortion-on-demand. However, Planned Parenthood challenged that law in federal court, and we are awaiting a decision from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

**"Choose Life" Specialty License Plate.** Texas has more than a hundred specialty license plates, including "Animal Friendly" and "Read To Succeed," but no "Choose Life" license plate to promote adoption. Other states have it; why not Texas?

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# What One Person Can Do

Meet Dick Jacobs, Director of *Gifts for the Unborn*

*Gifts for the Unborn* is an international pro-life charity in the business of changing hearts and saving lives. The person behind the family-run outreach operation is Austinite Dick Jacobs. He and his wife Lorelle have been instrumental in saving many unborn babies by reaching the hearts and minds of women confronted with crisis pregnancies.

While recovering from major cancer surgery in 1995, Mr. Jacobs read an article about the idea of putting something tangible — like a pair of baby booties — into the hands of a new mom who might be inclined to consider abortion. “The gift would not only turn her away from abortion but would also be a first gift for her unborn child and would begin the bonding process between mother and child,” said Jacobs. He took the idea and ran with it.



Nearly ten years later, *Gifts for the Unborn* has given more than 62,000 gift packages to newly-expectant mothers at more than 400 pregnancy help centers throughout the U.S. and five countries abroad.

Special gift packages include baby care products such as baby washcloths, bibs, soap, lotion or shampoo, baby booties, and newborn picture frames. These small gifts help a new mom understand she is carrying a human life within her womb that should not be destroyed by abortion.

*Gifts for the Unborn* received the following letter from a pregnancy help center:

*Dear Cindy (at Gifts for the Unborn),*

*Thank you so much for this wonderful ministry to the unborn. It has been a blessing to my life and I am sure for many women that come to our clinic.*

*I have a testimony to share of this woman that came into our clinic with abortion on her mind. After I gave her the gift for her baby she started to cry.*

*She left and we did not see her again. The number she left was not the right one. She came back months later with a beautiful baby girl and she told us when she saw the gift for her baby, she knew then and there that she could not have an abortion.*

For more information on *Gifts for the Unborn*, visit their website: [www.geocities.com/giftsfortheunborn](http://www.geocities.com/giftsfortheunborn), call 512-345-2885, or email [giftsfortheunborn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:giftsfortheunborn@sbcglobal.net).

Baby booties needed! Please consider donating small gift items or make a tax-deductible financial contribution to: Gifts for the Unborn, 11305 Alhambra Drive, Austin, TX 78759-4902.



## Texas Alliance for Life

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# Taxpayer-Funded Embryonic Stem Cell Research?

## Sen. Hutchison's Plan Draws Criticism from Pro-Life Community

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison found herself in the hot seat after urging Governor Perry to make Texas taxpayers fund controversial research that creates and destroys human life.

Embryonic stem cell research is controversial because it requires the intentional destruction of living, human embryos to harvest embryonic stem cells. (See box at left.)

Speaking to the University of Texas regents and medical college presidents, Hutchison said Texas was being "left in the dust by California." She was

referring to California's \$3 billion taxpayer-funded program for stem cell research that includes the use

of embryonic stem cells, and she suggested that Texas develop a stem cell research policy like California.

Her comments drew criticism from the pro-life community and social conservatives who oppose embryonic stem cell research.

In response, Governor Perry's spokesperson Robert Black said, "Unlike Senator Hutchison, who supports embryonic stem cell research, Governor Perry supports President Bush's position that we must strike a balance between science and the protection of life."

Texas Alliance for Life issued an open letter to Senator Hutchison condemning her support of a taxpayer-funded embryonic stem cell research program.

Joe Pojman, Ph.D., TAL's Executive Director, wrote:

"You point to California as the model of state-funded embryonic stem cell research and suggest that Texas follow its lead. California will soon begin spending billions in state taxpayer dollars for stem cell research. However, California does not represent mainstream America; nor does it represent Texas values. What may be popular in California is not necessarily good for Texas.

We enthusiastically back Governor Perry's support for ethical and nondestructive medical research. He supports stem cell research, as does the pro-life community, when the stem cells are obtained without harming the donor — as from bone marrow and blood from adults.

Medical research on adult stem cells has proven to be very fruitful. The list of diseases treated with adult stem cells is over 100 and growing. Many Texans, including leukemia patients, are alive today because of adult stem cell transplants. This proven track record contrasts with the fact that no disease today is treated with embryonic stem cells. Many believe that the success of adult stem cell research makes embryonic stem cell research unnecessary.

Please do not force Texans to pay for the destruction of human life. Each of us was once a human being at the stage of embryo, a basic biological fact. Texas law recognizes this and protects unborn children as individuals from violent crimes of murder and assault from a third party.

**See Stem Cell Plan, continued on p. 6**

### Embryonic Stem Cell Cultivation



Embryonic stem cells are harvested by destroying a human embryo. (1) After fertilization, the embryo develops into a ball of cells. (2) Scientists extract the inner mass of embryonic stem cells (thus destroying the embryo), (3) and the cells are deposited (4) on a thin blanket of feeder cells, which allow the stem cells to proliferate. (Illustration courtesy of the University of Wisconsin-Madison & NIH)

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# VICTORIES TO BE WON!

## 2004 Annual Banquet Photos

October 12, 2004



Photos clockwise, from left to right: Joe Pojman, Ph.D, TAL Exec. Dir. and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott; Baby James Trainor and Lucy Trainor; Janet Folger, Faith2Action; Members of the Diocese of Austin Office of Pro-Life Activities.

### We thank the sponsors of our October 2004 Banquet

#### San Jacinto \$5,000

Rev. Msgr. Edward Jordan  
Terry & Shannon McDaniel  
John O'Sullivan  
Joe & Marilyn Williams

#### Sam Houston \$1,000

Ron Butler Builder, LLP  
Office of Pro-Life Activities and Voices for Life  
The O'Keefe Group  
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(Visit [www.texasallianceforlife.org](http://www.texasallianceforlife.org) for a complete list.)

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Rick & Ann Guerra  
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## Life Matters

is the newsletter of Texas Alliance for Life, Inc., and the Texas Alliance for Life Trust Fund. We are a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, pro-life organization of people committed to protecting innocent human life from conception through natural death through peaceful, legal means. TAL is a statewide organization based in the Texas Capital.

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**Stem Cell Plan, continued from p. 4**

Our law now states that a person is 'a human being who is alive, including an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth.'

. . . We cannot, in good conscience, support your position on using Texas taxpayers to foot the bill for controversial embryonic stem cell research.

As U.S. Senator, you are charged to represent Texas in Washington. Let Governor Perry and the state legislature do their job of running the state of Texas and setting state policy."

As of this printing, Senator Hutchison has not responded to our letter. For the complete text of Texas Alliance for Life's open letter to Senator Hutchison, please visit [www.texasallianceforlife.org](http://www.texasallianceforlife.org).

You can voice your opposition to her plan. Send her a letter at The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or email her via her website at [hutchison.senate.gov](mailto:hutchison.senate.gov).

## Show Your Support for a Texas Parental Consent for Abortion Bill

Sign our statewide petition! Visit [www.texasallianceforlife.org](http://www.texasallianceforlife.org). For hard copies, call 512-477-1244. The petition will be presented to state elected officials during the 2005 legislative session.

## In her own words: One woman's story

By Dee Dee Alonzo



I'm here to give witness to the scars I still bear from my experience. I was sixteen years old and my teacher seduced me. It began with flirting, flattering, and giving me the attention I so desperately desired... I was vulnerable, however, and was seeking love, attention, and approval.

He took gross advantage of my immaturity and my innocence. When I became pregnant, he protected himself by telling me my only option was abortion. This secret, legal abortion that he paid for allowed this abuse to continue for more than a year, and gave him even greater emotional control over me. It sent me right back into the hands of the abuser. I went to the abortion clinic alone and no one knew what I was about to do, except for the adult male seducing me.

I was so afraid because he had told me not to tell anyone... I didn't know anything about the risks of abortion. I did not know of the depression and grief I was to experience, to say nothing of the emotional trauma I was to undergo. I was about to make an irreversible decision and a grave choice. I was about to kill my baby.

I didn't even give my parents the chance to help me. There was no way for me to know, at 16 years old, that decades later, I would still be dealing with the consequences of a decision that I made totally independent of any counsel from my parents. Now 17 years later, I'm telling the world about a tragedy that could have been avoided.

*Mrs. Alonzo, a resident of McAllen, gave this testimony before the Texas Legislature.*

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## 2004 Election Analysis: Texans Elected Pro-life Candidates Statewide

In 2004, Texans elected a majority of pro-life candidates statewide. To educate voters, Texas Alliance for Life distributed a record number (60,000) of voters guides to families and organizations throughout Texas. Our 2004 election analysis shows that our efforts payed off.

### U.S. President

With the help of millions of pro-family, pro-life individuals like you, President George W. Bush was re-elected to a second term. In Texas, Bush took over 61% of the vote, compared to 38% for Kerry.

President Bush carried nearly 60% of Texas Hispanic voters compared to 43% four years ago. Pro-abortion U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-El Paso) attributed the president's strong showing among Hispanics to effective campaigning. "One of the things they really pushed was the abortion issue," he told the *El Paso Times*.

The single biggest issue voters cited in the presidential elections was "moral values" (22%), followed by "economy/jobs" (20%) and terrorism (19%), according to CNN.com.

### U.S. Congress

Texans elected an overwhelming majority of pro-life candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives this election. Texas' new Congressional delegation is decidedly pro-life. According to our analysis, Texas pro-lifers helped elect four additional pro-life representatives, bringing the total to 20 (of 32). Nationally, there were seven new pro-life U.S. Senators elected.



### Texas State Senate

All of the pro-life state senators were reelected this year. We've maintained our pro-life majority of at least 21 (of 31) state senators.

### Texas State House

Despite numerous challenges from pro-abortion candidates, the Texas House retains an overwhelming pro-life majority of at least 92 (of 150) pro-life members. As this goes to press, three house races are still contested.

## New and improved website! [www.texasallianceforlife.org](http://www.texasallianceforlife.org)

Texas Alliance for Life is proud to announce its new and improved website. Our Communications Director, Christine DeLoma, has been working on the site to improve online accessibility.

Several features new to the site include: archives of the *Life Matters* newsletter and our monthly *Write For Life* publication.

Visitors to the site can read about our legislative priorities for the up-

coming legislative session and sign our parental consent for abortion petition.

Most importantly, you can now make donations online to Texas Alliance for Life and contribute to the pro-life cause.

Stay informed. Check out [www.texasallianceforlife.org](http://www.texasallianceforlife.org)! Let us know what you think. Email [christine@texasallianceforlife.org](mailto:christine@texasallianceforlife.org).



Christine DeLoma  
Communications  
Director

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## Texas Alliance for Life

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# Texas Rally for Life

## Protecting Texas Families



*Changing Hearts for Life*

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Austin, Texas

Guest Speaker: Governor Rick Perry

***Commemorate the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade and show your support for a parental consent law in Texas!***

1:00 p.m. Gather at Republic Square & march to State Capitol  
2:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Rally at State Capitol

For more information, call 512-477-1244, email us at [rally@texasallianceforlife.org](mailto:rally@texasallianceforlife.org), or visit [www.texasrallyforlife.org](http://www.texasrallyforlife.org).

### Rally Steering Committee:

Capital of Texas Democrats for Life  
Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas  
Coalition for Life  
Crisis Pregnancy Services of El Paso  
Democrats for Life of Texas  
Free Market Foundation  
Houston Coalition for Life  
Justice Foundation  
Kerr County Christian Action Council  
Life Advocates of Houston  
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Texas Black Americans for Life  
Texas Christian Coalition  
Texas Eagle Forum  
Texas Lifechain  
Texas Physicians Resource Council  
Waco Right to Life  
Walker County Coalition for Life  
(Still forming)

(Special thanks to the Diocese of Austin Office of Pro-Life Activities for their organizational assistance)