



“THE PILL ~ GOOD OR NOT GOOD?” A CONVERSATION WITH DR. JAMES K. MATHESON, OB/GYN

Much has been written and debated about chemical contraceptives and how they affect the women who use them and the newly formed babies in the womb. The Lorain County Right To Life, in our ongoing efforts to bring to the public the truth about life issues, including contraception and abortion, was privileged to interview Dr. James K. Matheson, OB/GYN of Vermilion Ohio about chemical contraceptives and their effects. (Excerpts of the interview are presented here. The full interview is available on our website at

<http://www.loraincountyrighttolife.org/matheson.html>.

Dr. Matheson is a Board certified OB/GYN, practicing for 26 years in the Lorain County area. His special interest is in NaPro Technology (Natural Procreation and the care of women's reproductive issues in the natural way). He doesn't do abortions nor refer for them; nor does he do tubal sterilizations. Dr. Matheson is also included in our Right To Life Pro-Life Doctors' List.

Right To Life: Dr. Matheson, what does "abortifacient" mean and how does it relate to actions of chemical birth control pills and similar products used today by many women to prevent pregnancy?

Dr. Matheson: Abortifacients are chemicals that cause an abortion - i.e. the loss of a pregnancy - the loss of human life. The chemicals work as abortifacients by affecting the implantation of the (newly) fertilized egg - the embryo that is created at the moment of fertilization/conception. They cause the lining of the uterus to be very thin which disallows the embryo to be nourished satisfactorily. The embryo, then, stops growing.

RTL: When does conception occur?

JKM: According to the science of the beginning and growth of the embryo, there is no question that conception is when the egg and sperm come together, the moment when the genetic information of the man and woman merge - one cell that divides. At that moment, it's a human being and is when life begins.

RTL: How is it known that the fertilized egg is dying from the abortifacient?

JKM: It is not known for sure. One way of knowing, though, is that the menstrual flow can be analyzed every time women are on the pill or Depo-Provera. They can be evaluated to see if there is pregnancy tissue there and to see if it was normal or not in regards to its chromosomes. But those (particular tests) are never done. However, in the cases when women have repetitive miscarriages, many OB/GYNs will run chromosome analyses on the miscarried babies to determine whether or not the pregnancies were normal. If the uterus was too thin to nourish the baby and the baby's chromosomes were normal, about 25% of the time the miscarriages were probably caused by the woman's use of the pill or Depo-Provera. Furthermore, the pill's manufacturers come right out and say that they prevent implantation. It says that right on the package insert of the products.

RTL: What is the difference between the birth control pill and "Plan B", the so-called "Morning-after" pill?

JKM: The difference is the increase in the dose in "Plan B". The amount of hormone that you're getting is ten times higher than what is in the pill. If you look at the pill, the amount of progesterone is typically .15 mg per pill. In "Plan B", it's 1.5 mg per pill.

RTL: What are the predominant side effects of the pill?

JKM: The most common things are bleeding abnormally - that's the thing that causes most women to stop. Then there are headache, nausea, bloating, weight gain, skin issues, and loss of libido - these things have minor nuisance side effects. But then there are heart attacks, strokes, blood clots - those are the major things. They don't happen very often. The other thing is that the World Health Organization classified the pill as a Class 1 carcinogen, which means it causes cancer.

RTL: What are the viable alternatives to chemical and mechanical birth control products that prevent pregnancy?

JKM: Abstinence and fertility awareness (Natural Family Planning - NFP)

During the interview, Dr. Matheson very clearly shared his Pro-Life philosophy: "I think the defining issue for me is (when choosing for or against life), if you're pro-life, you err on the side of protecting life. You can't say that a one cell zygote is any less significant than a baby that's 20 weeks (in

the womb). It's still a human life and therefore, if someone is taking something that is potentially harmful to that baby and it may prevent implantation which causes the abortion, you can't do that. There's no logic there. If it's a zygote, an embryo, a 20 week or a 90 year old, it's still a human life."

NEWS AND NOTES:

COME PRAY: Please join us on the first Thursday of each month, at the Prayer Vigil at the Planned Parenthood in Lorain from 3-4 p.m. This facility is located in the YWCA Women's Center building at 200 W. 9th St. While this facility does not perform surgical abortions, they (like all Planned Parenthood facilities) encourage sexual promiscuity, and provide abortifacients, such as the birth control pill, even to minor children. Please join the Prayer Vigil each first Thursday afternoon. Prayer is the most potent weapon we have in the battle for life! Please call 440-322-0076 if you have any questions or would like additional information.



2015 SIGNATURE AD AND BILLBOARD

CAMPAIGN: Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Signature Ad and Billboard Campaign. We were again able to have 10 billboards on display in Lorain County and the Signature Ad was placed in several local newspapers, in both the print and electronic versions on or about January 22, 2015. If your church or organization would like to participate in next year's Campaign, please give us a call at 440-322-076, and we will provide you with any information you may need.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION: The U. S. House of Representatives has passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7) on January 22, 2015. The vote which occurred on the 42nd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* decision was 242-179. H. R. 7 would codify the principles of the Hyde Amendment on a permanent, government-wide basis, with respect both to longstanding federal health programs and to the new programs created by the Obamacare law. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), stated "In the most recent polling, a Marist poll released January 21, 68% of respondents oppose using taxpayer funding for abortion – including 69% of women and 71% of millennials," "Even 49% -- nearly a majority -- of respondents who identified as 'pro-choice' oppose the use of taxpayer funding." Rep. Smith co-authored the legislation with Democrat Dan Lipinski of Illinois and it currently has 171 co-sponsors, including 10 U. S. Representatives from Ohio.

LORAIN COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE ON

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email. In addition, we will also email other information updates. To get your email Newsletter and information updates, please send an email to info@loraincountyrighttolife.org or fill out the form on our Facebook page or on our website (<http://www.loraincountyrighttolife.org>).

PAIN CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION

ACT: The Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.B. 117 and S.B. 127) was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate on March 11, 2015. This will prohibit abortions in Ohio at the point at which pre-born babies can feel pain, which is as early as 20 weeks gestation. The legislation is sponsored by Representatives Kristina Roegner and Bob Cupp and Senators Peggy Lehner and Jay Hottinger. Thirty-three legislators signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation. In November 2014, The Quinnipiac University Poll found that 60% of Americans would support prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks, while only 33% opposed such legislation. Women voters strongly support such a law by 59-35%, while independent voters supported it by 56-36. Significantly, the legislation challenges the viability limit on abortion restrictions, commonly triggered at 24 weeks that the U.S. Supreme Court imposed in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. As of 2011, abortions in Ohio are prohibited at 24 weeks or the point of viability, which must be tested for at 20 weeks gestation. Since this legislation took effect, abortions after 19 weeks have declined almost 40 percent. (*Ohio Right to Life – 3/11/15*)

IN MEMORIAM - DR. JACK WILLKE

Dr. Jack Willke, founder of Ohio Right to Life, National Right to Life, and the modern pro-life movement passed away on February 20, 2015, at the age of 89. A Cincinnati obstetrician, Dr. Willke, along with his late wife Barbara, traveled the nation before and after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, teaching people about the right to life and helping establish some of the first state and local Right to Life groups. Dr. Willke is the past president of National Right to Life, and was president of the Life Issues Institute in Cincinnati. Dr. Willke's influence stretched worldwide in his role as president emeritus of International Right to Life Federation and an international speaker whose materials have been translated into 30 languages. His books, "Handbook on Abortion" and "Abortions, Questions and Answers: Why Can't We Love Them Both" were an invaluable resource. Lorain County Right to Life was honored to have Dr. Willke personally attend an event in our area many years ago and we were greatly encouraged. As remarked by Ohio Right to Life, his was a legacy of life.

We Would Like to Acknowledge the Gift Received

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A THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: We would like to thank the following sponsors who have recently provided business cards for our newsletter. We encourage

recipients of the newsletter to patronize these businesses when you have the opportunity. Again, thank you for your support of Lorain County Right to Life.

Community Corner

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PRO-LIFE DOCTOR'S LIST: A list of local Pro-life doctors, who do not practice abortion nor support its use, is available. Please call 440-322-0076 for a copy of the Pro-Life Doctor's List.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU: Our Speaker's Bureau can give a Pro-life presentation at a meeting of your church, school or organization. If you would like to arrange to have a speaker, please call 440-322-0076.

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