



REVERENCE FOR LIFE

*A publication of the
National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life*

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ABORTION/BREAST CANCER LINK

There is a volume of evidence including eight reports describing twenty-four separate epidemiological studies which give specific data on induced abortion and breast cancer incidence. In 2003 the Association of American physicians and Surgeons issued a statement (over)

GUNS IN THE HOME

Most parents realize that guns in the home endanger their children; many parents still leave guns accessible to kids. Despite many parents' concern about the immediate dangers that guns left in the house pose to their children, they are failing to take the necessary steps to help ensure their children's safety. Many parents simply do not view guns as a personal threat to their children or their family whatsoever.

We hear of incidents where the parent drops off their child at a friend's house for an afternoon or a sleep-over party not knowing that the car ride would be the last time they would see their child alive. Parents rarely discuss the issue of guns in the home with the parents of their children's friends. The risk of gun violence in

the home increases dramatically in households with guns.

Child Access Prevention Laws (CAP Laws) require adults to either store loaded guns in a place that is reasonably inaccessible to children, or if they decide to leave their guns out in the open, to use a safety device to lock the gun. If a child obtains an improperly stored, loaded gun, the adult owner is criminally liable. CAP also reduces juvenile suicide and homicide by keeping guns out of the reach of children.

Presently the 18 states that have enacted this law are: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.



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Abortion & Breast Cancer Link (continued)

advising doctors to inform patients about a highly plausible relationship between abortion and breast cancer.

Like cigarettes, which cause lung cancer to form in 15% of those who smoke, abortion causes breast cancer in about 5 % of women who have an abortion. This results in approximately 10,000 cases of breast cancer attributable to abortion a year. The vast majority of smokers never get lung cancer yet we tell the public not to smoke.

Women considering abortion need to know about the abortion breast cancer link so they can give an informed consent.

Women who have had an abortion need to know they are at higher risk of showing symptoms of the disease earlier than other women so that they can be screened for breast cancer at an appropriate age.

Angela Lanfranchi, M.D.

VOTING RIGHTS OF FELONS

In many states, the prohibiting of former convicts from voting has become a form of government-sanctioned discrimination against felons who have completed their restitution to society. This is especially true for African-American males who constitute a disproportionate percentage of disenfranchised former felons. Congress and state assemblies must support legislation that reverses this unconstitutional practice.

An issue has surfaced regarding the Alabama constitution which bars individuals convicted of a “felony involving moral turpitude” (this refers to conduct that would be immoral even if it were not illegal) from voting.

Technically, those who commit felonies such as marijuana possession or drunk driving can still vote even if they are still in prison. In 1985 the United States Supreme Court voided the law on the grounds that it was racially discriminatory however; the moral-turpitude clause remained in tact. The problem is two-fold: public officials have hesitated to publicize or enforce the law. Secondly neither legislature nor the attorney

general has provided a list of crimes involving moral turpitude. According to an article in the March 2, 2008 issue of the New York Times there is an estimated 29,000 prison inmates in the state of Alabama, 3,000 of them are eligible to vote as well as the thousands that are on probation. Very few of them are aware that they are eligible to vote.

Alabama officials became aware of the law in 2005 when



Anna Reynolds, a former convict, voting in Dothan, Alabama
New York Times 3-2-08

a male on probation attempted to vote in St. Clair County. The attorney general responded to the parole board by providing an inaccurate listing based on court decisions.

Ms. Reynolds (in photo) was told that she could not vote because she was convicted for drug possession. Upon contacting the parole board she was informed that she had never lost her right to vote. The Sentencing Project, a research and advocacy group state that more than 60% of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities. One in every eight Black Male in their twenties is in prison or jail on any given day. At least sixteen states have made it easier in recent years for felons to have their voting rights restored.