

# RIGHT TO LIFE ACTION COALITION OF OHIO

## POLICY DOCUMENT

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### THE HUMAN FAMILY

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio (RTLACO) believes in strengthening the culture of life through allowing each new life the human right to be nurtured and raised within the family unit consisting of his/her mother and father. Such family is sacred and is consistent throughout the ages. It is the place in which each human life can be properly welcomed and protected from harm and can develop into his/her full authentic human growth. Thus, the family is the very heart of the culture of life which we strive to protect and defend.

### ABORTION

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes abortion at any point of gestation, as it destroys a living, growing human life. We oppose the RU 486/prostaglandin abortion technique because it kills unborn babies whose hearts have begun to beat and has injured, and even killed, women. In the rare case that the mother's life is indeed endangered by a continuation of the pregnancy, sound medical practice would dictate that every effort be made to save both lives. Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and/or a Life at Conception Act, which would guarantee the right to life of all persons from the moment of fertilization until natural death.

### RAPE/INCEST

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes abortion for pregnancy resulting from rape or incest. While we understand the trauma involved in such situations, the unborn child conceived is no less human than one conceived under more favorable circumstances. Instead of furthering the violence of abortion, we believe women should be provided compassionate and competent life-affirming health care.

### PARENTAL CONSENT

Until our goal of total protection for the unborn is reached, Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports legislation requiring the pregnant minor's mother's and father's consent before an abortion is performed on a that minor. The involvement of the family is crucial to helping a pregnant minor during the stressful time when she is making decisions regarding a problem pregnancy.

## DEFINITIONS

### **ABORTION NOTIFICATION**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio's goal is the total protection for the unborn child. Until this is achieved, we support legislation requiring that both parents of a minor child be notified before an abortion is performed. We likewise support legislation requiring that the fathers are notified before the mother undergoes an abortion.

### **ADOPTION**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports adoption as one possible, positive solution for a woman bearing a child she is unable to parent. We support legislation designed to facilitate the adoption process, thus making it easier to place children with eligible couples.

### **AMNIOCENTESIS/CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING/GENETIC SCREENING**

Although Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio recognizes the many positive values of these procedures, we know that according to medical facts these tests, along with chorionic villus sampling, may cause miscarriages. These tests are usually done for diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities of the baby, which presently are not treatable. We oppose any non-therapeutic invasive procedures for non-treatable genetic disorders and handicaps if the results of the diagnosis encourage abortion. We recognize the rights of parents who may wish the information to prepare themselves for future care of their baby.

### **CONTRACEPTION**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes any drug, method, or procedure that kills human life from earliest beginnings in fertilization. Whereas: 1) one of the modes of hormonal contraception is thinning the lining of the uterus preventing implantation; 2) intrauterine devices also act with that same mode of action; 3) the morning after pill also prevents implantation and decreases tubal motility increasing the risk of ectopic pregnancy, one of the major causes of maternal mortality; 4) an increase in contraceptive and barrier method use increases the demand for abortion; 5) any form of contraception separates the unitive and procreative intrinsic nature of the marital act; RTLACO cannot support any form of contraception. The synthetic estrogen and progestin in contraceptives have been classified as Group 1 carcinogens by the World Health Organization and are dangerous to women. As pregnancy is the natural outcome of conjugal relations within marriage and not a disease to be prevented, RTLACO supports natural family planning methods as ethical options for postponing pregnancy.

**EUTHANASIA**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes the intentional killing of a dependent person for his or her alleged benefit, whether by active intervention or by omitting treatment. We approve the accepted medical practice of administering pain-relieving drugs with the dosage necessary to alleviate a terminally ill patient's suffering as long as there is no intent to administer, overdose, or withhold treatment to cause or hasten death. We oppose legislated surrender of a patient's right to life to an agent, committee, or court through measures such as "death with dignity," "right to die," "living will," "medical aid in dying," "natural death without comfort care," or "medical orders for life sustaining treatment" (MOLST, MOST, POLST) acts.

**HUMAN CLONING**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports state and national legislation to ban all human cloning, including experimentation on human embryos, which treats human beings as products or commodities.

**INFANTICIDE**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes the killing of newborn infants either directly or by withholding necessary care to cause or hasten their death.

**INFORMED CONSENT**

Until our goal of total protection for the unborn is reached, Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports legislation designed to help women make decisions concerning abortion based upon full knowledge of the development of her unborn child, the physical and psychological complications which could result from the abortion, and the availability of alternatives to abortion.

### **IN VITRO FERTILIZATION**

While Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio empathizes with the many couples who turn to IVF as a treatment for infertility, we oppose IVF because IVF entails the creation of multiple embryos which results in selective abortions after implantation. Furthermore, cryopreservation is incompatible with the respect owed to human embryos. IVF screens human embryos for genetic disorders, handicaps and sometimes gender. The “undesirable” embryos are often discarded and thus their dignity is reduced to that of a commodity, lacking the preservation of the dignity due to all human life. Whereas IVF is used for surrogate pregnancy, RTLACO supports adoption and other legitimate and morally ethical and life affirming technologies and procedures that do not violate the intrinsic nature of the marital act nor treat human beings as commodities.

### **POPULATION CONTROL**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio views human beings as producers and problem solvers rather than mere consumers and problems. We accept the conclusion of experts who find the earth's resources and agricultural lands capable of supporting two to ten times the earth's present population. We reject population control programs that rely on the promotion of contraception, sterilization and abortion.

### **RESEARCH AND FETAL EXPERIMENTATION**

Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio opposes any fetal experimentation, which requires or results in the death of an unborn child. Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio supports research that can save lives of human beings without causing harm to other lives. Stem cell research, where adult stem cells, cord blood, or other sources are used receive the support of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio. We oppose all forms of research through which living human embryos are destroyed, including destructive embryonic stem cell research, as well as aborted fetal tissue research.